

## **Bingen .**

Latitude 45.715 and longitude -121.465

Elevation: 1131 feet.

Bingen appears on the White Salmon U.S. Geological Survey Map.

Area Code: 509

Zip Code: 98605

Population: 680

Bingen is nestled at the base of the White Salmon cliffside just 60 miles east of Portland, Oregon along the Columbia River. Incorporated in 1924, the town site was platted in 1892 by Theodor Suksdorf who named that town after Bingen-on-the-Rhine, Germany.

Three of Klickitat County's largest employers are located in Bingen. Long-time corporate residents, SDS Lumber Company (since 1946) and Underwood Fruit, are in the city limits. Insitu, maker of small robotic aircraft for reconnaissance and surveillance, has been based in Bingen since 1994. Because it is such a fast-growing company, Insitu has offices in White Salmon too.

Bingen continues to thrive and adapt as it has moved into the 21st century. A new fire hall was dedicated in 2003 and a beautifully executed downtown revitalization project was completed in the summer of 2004. A new community center/civic complex is the next planned update for the City.

Bingen is located on State Route 14 with one of only two Amtrak stops between Vancouver and Pasco. The Columbia River is accessed in Bingen through the Port of Klickitat at Bingen Point, a great little site for windsurfing among other things. There is a lovely riverside park with trails down to the river. Picnic tables and portable toilets are available to the public.

One-hundred four acres of land at Bingen Point comprise the Bingen Point Business Park. Forty-two acres are designated for light industrial, commercial and retail business. Located in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, the spectacular natural setting is remarkable.

Downtown Bingen is home to several restaurants, tasting rooms, small shops and the very large fruit and vegetable stand of Dickey's Farm. Discovering Bingen (pronounced bin-jin) is a lot of fun away from the tourist-trap atmosphere of many places.

Most of Bingen's businesses are located along State Route 14, the main east-west highway along the northshore of the Columbia River.

One exception is the Gorge Heritage Museum which exhibits historic and Native American artifacts from western Klickitat County, (the area between Mt. Adams and the Columbia River) A country store, antiques, logging and farming tools, pioneer clothing, household utensils, as well as photos of early settlers and Native Americans are included in the museum's collection.

The museum is housed at 202 E Humboldt, in the former Bingen Congregational Church, dedicated in 1912.

There is no admission charge, but donations are always welcome. For 2008, hours are 11:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Thursday thru Sunday, May 23rd thru Oct. 24th. Visits to the museum during other hours can be scheduled by appointments. Please call 509-493-3228 or email [ghm@gorge.net](mailto:ghm@gorge.net) or [cccs@gorge.net](mailto:cccs@gorge.net), or [etta@gorge.net](mailto:etta@gorge.net). More information about the museum is available online at: <http://community.gorge.net/ghmmuseum/>

And come September each year, don't forget about the Huckleberry Festival, it's designed to be fun for the whole family. Carnival, parade, food, talent show, and entertainment, compliment this bratwurst and micro brewfest. There are pies and other products made from the local wild huckleberry available for purchase. (Yes, huckleberries are a real fruit!) Email

[huckleberryfest@yahoo.com](mailto:huckleberryfest@yahoo.com) or call Sally Tallman at 509-493-5294, or the Mt Adams Chamber of Commerce at 509-493-3630 for more information.