



SAVOR THE WILD

— *tours* —

Crazy for Chanterelles Hunt



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# Introduction

Embark on a thrilling forest escapade with our Crazy for Chanterelles Hunt, where you'll discover these golden treasures hidden beneath the forest canopy, filling the air with their earthy aroma. After the hunt, indulge in a steaming hot gourmet lunch in the heart of the woods, where the rich flavors of your foraged chanterelles will dance on your taste buds!

The golden princesses of the forest floor, chanterelles are one of the most sought-after culinary treasures. Every Fall, we anxiously await the rain to motivate those vibrant funnel-shaped caps to pop through the mossy carpets. Renowned for their rich, nutty flavor, chanterelles offer a versatile culinary experience like no other.

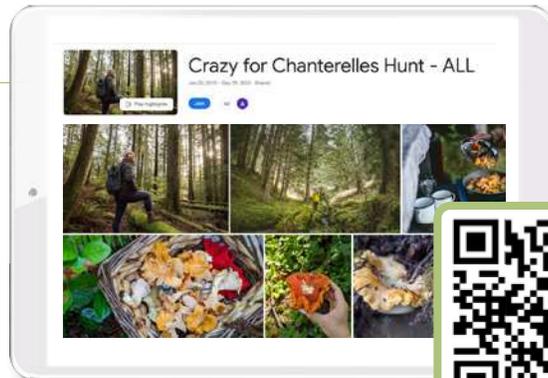
Our hunts take place just south of Mt. Rainier in Randle, WA and Packwood, WA in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The secret areas we go to are known for their abundance of chanterelles, along with other tasty edible varieties like lobster mushrooms, cauliflower, russulas, and boletes. Be prepared to bring home a bounty of colorful finds that flex your recipe chops and keep your freezer full!



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# Itinerary

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We will meet in either downtown Randle or Packwood, WA. From there, we will caravan for 20-25 minutes to the hunt location. We will not have cell service after leaving downtown, so please plan to arrive early to the meet up point so you don't miss us!

Upon arrival, we will do a mushroom basics overview, discuss safety protocols, and distribute all gear and equipment for the hunt. We will then break into smaller groups of up to 8 guests per guide and begin exploring the woods for mushrooms for about an hour and forty minutes. This will be followed by a hot gourmet lunch and conclude with mushroom cleaning, cooking, and storage tips. Guests who have pre-signed up for an additional hour of guided foraging time will do so. Those who are interested in joining at the last minute may also do so, pending availability. At the end of the hunt, guests will transfer all their mushroom finds into paper bags to bring home with them.

If you have attended a mushroom foraging class or hunt with us before, you may be able to bypass the mushroom overview and start foraging earlier, pending guide availability.





# What to Expect

## Gear & Supplies

We provide all the supplies you will need for your mushroom foraging adventure including: high visibility vest, walking stick, walkie talkie, whistle, specialty mushroom foraging knife with embedded brush, mesh bag, disposable nitrile gloves, reference materials, and a paper bag to bring your mushrooms home in.

## Food & Beverages

This foraging experience includes a hot gourmet lunch cooked in the woods, showcasing chanterelles of course! You'll also savor a variety of snacks, a dangerously delicious dessert, fruit, coffee, and tea.

Have dietary restrictions? No problem! We can accommodate most restrictions including: vegetarian, seafood or shellfish allergy, and gluten-free. Please note that there is not always an "out of this world" second-best option, but we will do our absolute best. We also cannot accommodate last minute changes given the complexity and limitations of being in the great outdoors prepping and cooking only what was planned for.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding!



## Sample Menu Items

### LUNCH

- Seafood and Chanterelle Chowder
- Crusty Sourdough Bread
- Dangerously Delicious Chocolate Brownies
- Strawberries

### SNACKS

Assortment of chips, granola bars, crackers, squeeze pouches

### BEVERAGES

Coffee, tea, and water



## What to Expect

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### Weather & Terrain

Mushrooms love water and so do we! Our hunts operate rain or shine. Rarely do we cancel a trip, unless weather conditions are extreme or there are unexpected road closures and we aren't able to reroute to a secondary location.

We will be hiking off-trail through mixed terrain, underbrush, trees, logs, changes in elevation, and often wet and slightly muddy conditions. Please refer to the packing list for recommendations to maximize your comfort and warmth!

The last 2-3 miles of the drive may be on unpaved forest roads. We **strongly recommend** an SUV, AWD, or high clearance vehicle or carpooling with someone who does. If you're meeting up with a group of friends, you can elect to carpool once at the meetup point in downtown Randle or Packwood, WA. Particularly in November, conditions are often wet and even snowy on the mountain roads. It is common to encounter fallen branches, deep potholes, and large rocks.

### **Fitness Level**

**A certain level of physical fitness and stamina is recommended to fully enjoy this experience.**

You will be on your feet for up to 3 hours, hiking up and down hills (sometimes steep ones), over and around fallen logs, through trees and underbrush. You will be crouching down and standing up frequently as you revel in your mushroom finds! You will be carrying a small backpack with water and snacks, along with a mesh bag filled with a growing quantity of mushrooms. We have hiking sticks available, but recommend that you bring a hiking pole if you have one.

We do our best to group guests with similar fitness levels together to ensure everyone has the best experience possible.





## What to Expect

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### Safety

**We take physical safety seriously and take multiple safety and backup measures for wayfinding and wildlife encounters (which we've never had!).**

At the beginning of the experience, we review safety protocols and expectations. We also provide each guest with a high visibility vest or hat, walkie talkie, and whistle. Each guide is in communication with one another with long range walkie talkies, and we have a Garmin inReach Mini 2 for every hunt in case of emergencies. Every guide carries a first aid kit, extra snacks, and water.

Please download and practice using a GPS-tracking app like Gaia, AllTrails, onX, or Strava prior to your hunt. You will be using it during your time in the woods as another backup safety measure in the event you need to backtrack to the starting location.

In advance of your trip, please also download offline maps that cover navigating to and from your start and end locations and all of Randle and Packwood, WA. There will be intermittent cell service during your drive to the meet up point and no service once we are at the foraging location.

Please notify any necessary caregivers that you will not be reachable during the majority of the time.

This experience requires a certain degree of comfort being outdoors navigating in the woods. Our guide to guest ratio is a max of 1:8, so feel free to stay extra close to your guide if that makes you feel more comfortable!

Regardless of whether you are a seasoned outdoor navigator or forager, it is important to always stay within line of sight of your buddy and guide and abide by all safety protocols. This is for the safety and well-being of everyone in the group, not just your own.

Along with that, please leave all recreational drugs, alcohol, and Fido at home.

## COVID & Health

**We are committed to keeping staff and guests healthy and safe.**

We follow all safety directives and best practices put out by government and health organizations. We work hard to ensure that our guests and staff feel at ease when joining and leading the trips.

Along with additional and enhanced health and hygiene measures, this experience has the added benefit of taking place entirely outdoors. Wind, fresh air, and sunshine all work in our favor to reduce the risk of spreading illnesses.

If you are unwell and will not be able to attend, you are welcome to send someone else in your place. We also offer ticket insurance for \$10/person at time of registration to make your ticket refundable up to 72 hours prior to your hunt date.





## Must-Do's in Advance of the Trip

- Each person in your group must complete a **Digital Waiver and Release**
- Apply for and print a **mushroom foraging permit**  
**NOTE:** This website is not compatible with Internet Explorer
- Download offline maps for the entire area that covers your start location and navigating to all parts of Randle and Packwood, WA.
- Download and practice using a GPS-tracking app like Gaia, AllTrails, onX, and Strava.
- Determine how long it will take to get to the meeting location. It is usually a 2-hour drive from downtown Seattle without traffic and pit stops.
- Plan for a buffer of 15-30 minutes for the drive itself and arrive 15 minutes early to the meeting location. Allow for bathroom breaks and unexpected traffic and road closures. If you are more than 10 minutes late, we will not be able to wait for you. We will then text you the coordinates to the hunt location and it will be your responsibility to meet up with the group there. Sorry, we cannot offer refunds for guests who are late, lost, or no-show.

# What to Wear

- **Waterproof hiking boots with strong ankle support are required**

We will be off trail navigating mixed terrain, elevation changes, and large fallen logs. Even if it isn't raining, conditions in the forest are typically wet and will be slippery and occasionally muddy.

- **Waterproof rain jacket and pants**

A rain jacket and waterproof pants (e.g., snow pants, rain pants). Even if it's not raining on the day of, trees, branches, and underbrush are typically wet from days prior. Unless it has been dry the entire week leading up to the hunt, we recommend bringing waterproof outer layers.

- **Layered clothing for the weather, a warm hat (brimmed preferred), and lightweight gloves**



## Packing List

- ✓ **Small backpack**
- ✓ **Water bottle**
- ✓ **Light snacks (e.g., granola bars)**
- ✓ **Hygiene/bathroom supplies**

There are no bathrooms, so be prepared to use the "facilatrees" for personal relief breaks. Bring any hygiene products you may require and just remember to pack out what you pack in!
- ✓ **Printed copy of a mushroom foraging permit**

The Forest Service requires that you have a printed copy on your person. A digital copy on your phone may suffice, but it depends on the Ranger!

- ✓ **Dry clothes to change into after the hunt**
- ✓ **Hiking stick (optional)**
- ✓ **Headlamp (optional)**
- ✓ **Foraging basket (optional)**



## Travel Planning

### Meeting Location

**Meet us at Bear Country Espresso, 9802 US Highway 12 Randle, WA 98377**

This is 110 miles from downtown Seattle, located south of Mount Rainier, approximately a 2-hr drive without traffic or pitstops.

Plan for a buffer of 15-30 minutes. Allow for bathroom breaks and unexpected traffic and road closures. If you are more than 10 minutes late, we will not be able to wait for you. We will then text you the coordinates to the hunt location and it will be your responsibility to meet up with the group there. Sorry, we can't honor refunds for guests who are late, lost, or no-shows.

You will be met by a Guide and then will caravan together in your vehicles to the final foraging location (~20-25 minute drive). We strongly recommend driving or carpooling with an SUV, AWD, and/or high clearance vehicle to safely navigate the last 2-3 miles of unpaved forest roads.

If there is a change of venue (we go where the mushrooms are most prevalent!), we will email you with an alternate meeting location in Packwood, WA. This alternate location is only a 16-minute drive from the standard location in Randle, WA.



## Accommodations

### Not an early riser? Don't want to drive so much in one day?

Some guests find it more relaxing to spend the night before and/or the night after the hunt in the Randle or Packwood, WA area. We recommend Airbnbs so that you can cook breakfast and savor your fresh mushrooms for dinner. And frankly, a hot tub is always nice!



## Gratuities

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While customary, tipping is voluntary. These trips require a high level of skill to execute due to the complexities of elevated food preparation, scouting prior to the trip, and ensuring guests of all abilities have equally enjoyable experiences foraging in the woods. If you feel your guide and mushroom expert/chef did an outstanding job and you would like to reward them for their efforts, a suggested guideline is 18-20% of the trip cost, split at your discretion via cash or Venmo.



## What Our Guests Say

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### Worth every penny!

I was initially skeptical that the premium price would be worth it, but boy was I wrong! Our guide must have had some kind of mushroom radar because we immediately found a treasure trove of chanterelles, lobsters, coral, and even cauliflower. We went home with more mushrooms than I thought was possible, and I still salivate just thinking about that hot seafood chowder with chanterelles we had for lunch!

— ANGELA R.

### Great activity for the whole family

Unlike other mushroom forays I've been on, I loved that Savor the Wild keeps the groups small with a maximum of eight guests per guide and it feels fair. Our guide went out of her way to make sure that slower people in our group still "found" lots of mushrooms and made sure everyone left with hefty bags of chanterelles, regardless of mobility and adeptness at spotting them ourselves. This was a fantastic all-ages activity that made for incredible family memories!

— JORDAN M.

### CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the trip prior to booking, please email [info@savorthewildtours.com](mailto:info@savorthewildtours.com) or call 206.898.4418

  
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