

# departures

places to go / things to do / sights to see

PLAY

## Branching Out

TREETOP TOURS  
HEIGHTEN  
THE VIEW AT  
DECEPTION PASS

WALKING AROUND THE BASE OF A MASSIVE DOUGLAS FIR is always an impressive experience. But if you've ever stood back and wondered what squirrels see when they scale a 200-foot-tall tree, now you have a chance to find out. From April through October at Deception Pass State Park, you can slip into a harness and learn the basics of rock-climbing gear and techniques with AdventureTerra ([adventureterra.com](http://adventureterra.com)), which offers half-day and sunset recreational tree-climbing tours for those at a moderate fitness level, ages 7 and up. The company's well-trained, safety-conscious guides draw from extensive backgrounds in arboriculture, rock climbing and wilderness first response, to help you learn the inchworm-like movements needed to creep 20 stories into the canopy on one of the park's massive coastal Douglas firs. Your muscles will burn, but your fear of heights will vanish, replaced by awe when you take in a bird's-eye view of the rugged cliffs of Deception Pass or a brilliant sunset behind the Olympic Mountains. —JEFF LAYTON