

RELOCATION GUIDE

KITSAP COUNTY



LIVING IN
KITSAP



kw WEST SOUND
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY

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Why Kitsap County?



Are you considering making Kitsap County your new home?

Nestled between the waters of Puget Sound and the natural beauty of the Olympic Peninsula, Kitsap County offers a lifestyle that blends coastal scenery with welcoming communities. From vibrant waterfront towns to peaceful wooded neighborhoods, it's no surprise so many people are drawn to this unique part of Washington.

Unlike the fast pace of Seattle or other major metro areas, Kitsap County strikes an ideal balance between convenience and tranquility. Whether you're looking for ferry access from Bremerton, the charm of Poulsbo, the amenities of Silverdale, or the small-town feel of Port Orchard, there is a community here to match your lifestyle.

With incredible outdoor access, strong local employers, and a true Pacific Northwest atmosphere, Kitsap County offers an enriching place to live, work, and explore. If you're ready to discover everything this region has to offer, now is the perfect time to make your move.

Where Natural Beauty Meets Small-Town Charm

Kitsap County, home to over 275,000 residents, is a scenic treasure in the heart of the Puget Sound region. Known for its waterfront lifestyle, evergreen landscapes, and strong community roots, Kitsap County offers a high quality of life supported by diverse industries including military, healthcare, education, and maritime trades.

The area provides a rich cultural mix, from the historic downtowns of Bremerton and Port Orchard to the Nordic charm of Poulsbo and the island atmosphere of Bainbridge. Whether you're exploring local marinas, hiking forested trails, or enjoying ferry rides across the Sound, Kitsap County delivers an experience that is both peaceful and connected.

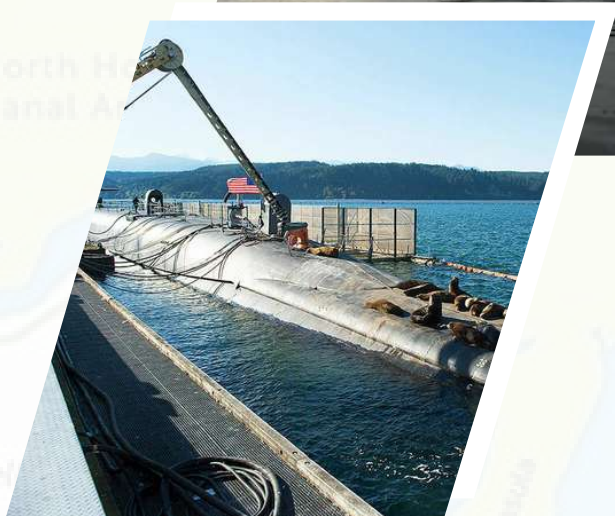
With its mild climate, stunning shoreline, and welcoming neighborhoods, Kitsap County is an ideal place for those seeking a balance of relaxation, opportunity, and natural beauty. It's no wonder more people are choosing to call this remarkable region home.



Kitsap County Factoid

Did You Know?

Kitsap County is home to one of the largest naval installations in the world, Naval Base Kitsap, supporting thousands of service members and making the region one of Washington's most stable and resilient economies.



Where to Live in Kitsap County:

Finding Your Perfect Community

Kitsap County is a region of diverse communities, each offering its own unique character and appeal. From lively waterfront cities to peaceful rural retreats, there's a perfect place for everyone looking to settle in this scenic area.

POPULAR CITIES

01 Bremerton

The county's urban hub and ferry gateway to Seattle, Bremerton offers a revitalized downtown, waterfront parks, and strong military roots with access to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

02 Silverdale

Central Kitsap's commercial and medical center, Silverdale is known for convenience, shopping, newer developments, and proximity to St. Michael Medical Center.

03 Poulsbo

A growing South Kitsap city with marina access, small-town atmosphere, and a mix of affordability and long-term potential.

04 Port Orchard

A growing South Kitsap city with marina access, small-town atmosphere, and a mix of affordability and long-term potential.

05 Seabeck

A quiet waterfront community along Hood Canal, Seabeck is ideal for those seeking privacy, nature access, and a slower pace of life.

Whether you're looking for a cozy home near the water or a spacious property surrounded by evergreens, Kitsap County's communities cater to a wide range of lifestyles and preferences.

Watch on YouTube

Moving to Kitsap County in 2025?!

Everything You Must Know BEFORE Deciding.

Watch neighborhood tours and relocation videos on my YouTube channel:

Ranking EVERY Bremerton WA AREA From WORST to BEST



SCAN ME



If I Was Moving to Bremerton WA in 2026, I'd Move Here



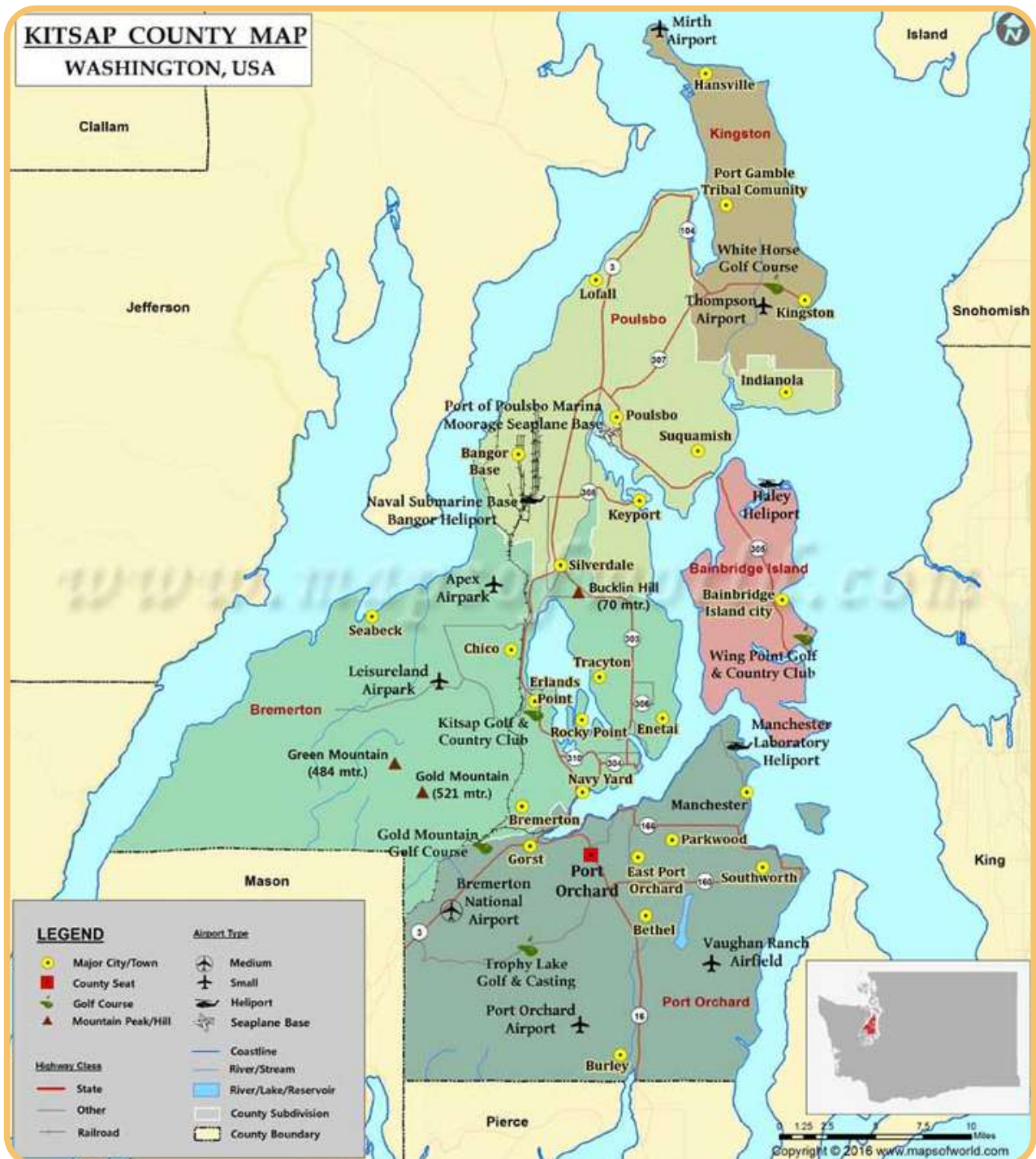
SCAN ME



Explore Kitsap County

Cities, Commute Hubs, and Local Highlights

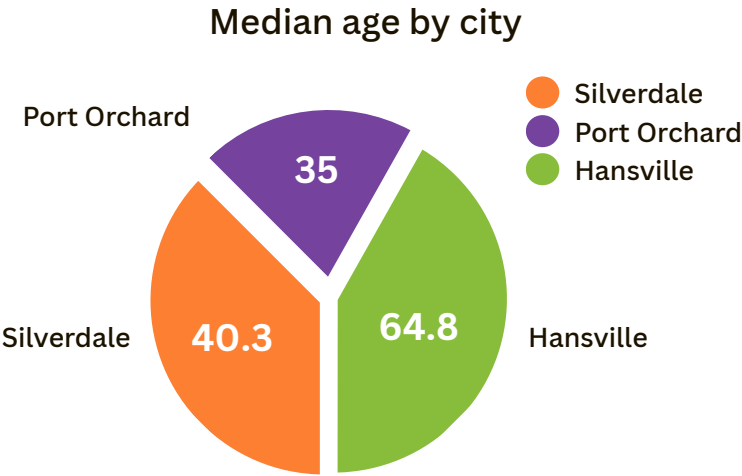
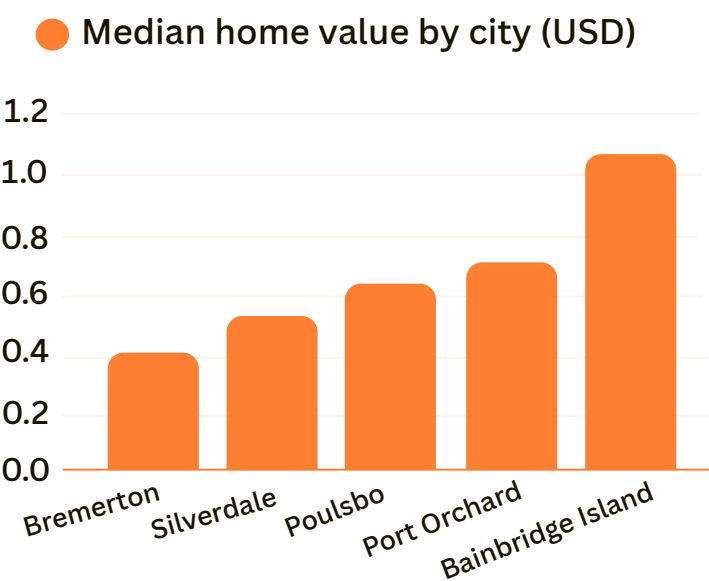
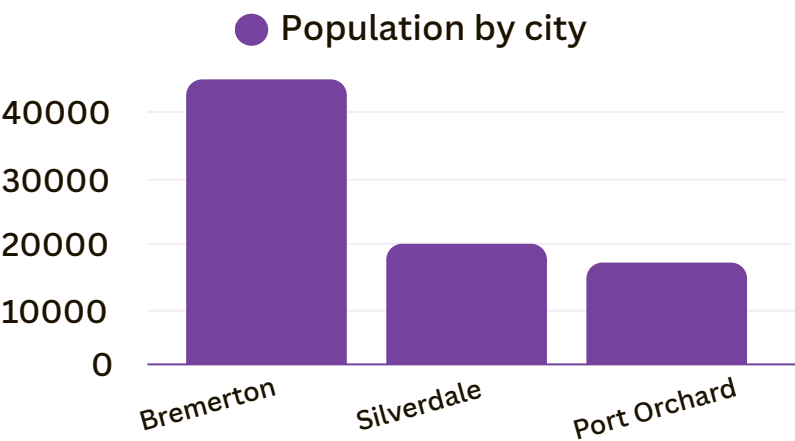
Kitsap County sits across Puget Sound from Seattle and offers a mix of waterfront cities, evergreen neighborhoods, and easy access to naval bases, ferry terminals, and outdoor recreation. Use the map to visualize where each community is located, identify commute options, and get a feel for the county's layout.



www.mapsofworld.com

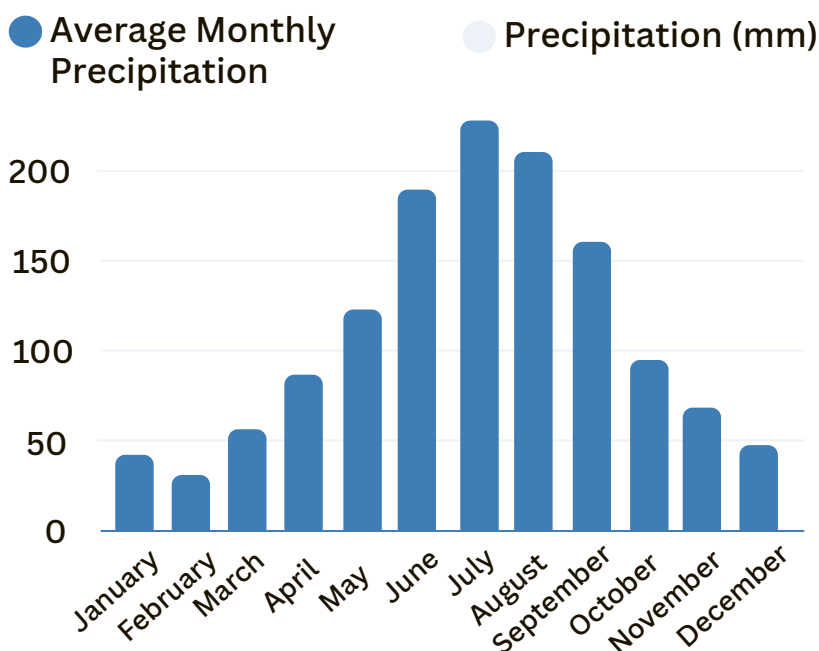
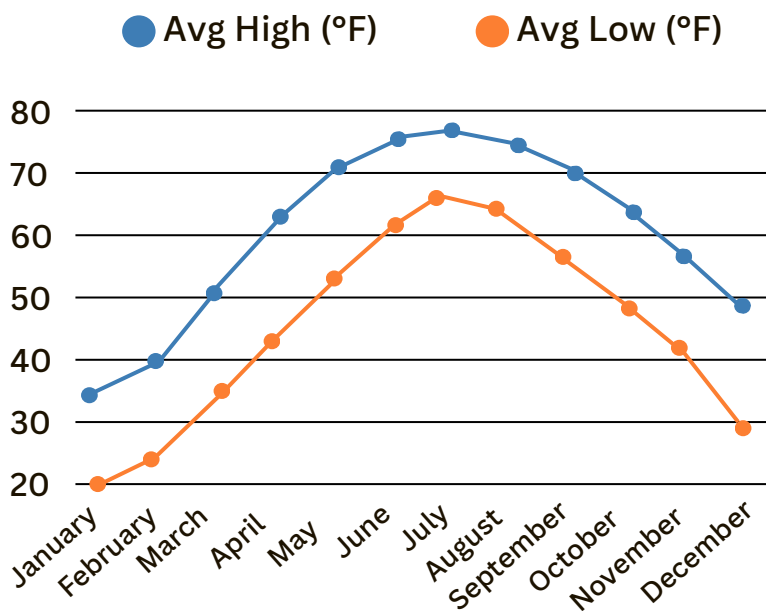
Kitsap County

Demographics



What's the Weather Like in Kitsap County?

Kitsap County has a classic **marine Pacific Northwest climate**: mild temperatures, greener seasons, and more cloud cover in fall through spring. Summers tend to be comfortable rather than hot, with longer daylight and generally lower rainfall. Because the county is surrounded by water, conditions can vary slightly by neighborhood and shoreline exposure, but overall the climate stays moderate year-round.



Shopping Around Kitsap County

From big-box convenience to local main streets, Kitsap County has a practical retail mix, plus strong small-business shopping districts in waterfront downtowns.



Kitsap Mall

(Silverdale)

County's largest indoor mall with national retailers and nearby big-box shopping. ([Wikipedia](#))



The Trails at Silverdale

A major shopping corridor near Silverdale with everyday essentials, dining, and services.



Downtown Bremerton

(Pacific Ave + waterfront area)

Local shops, services, restaurants, and walkable waterfront access.



Poulsbo

(Front Street + Liberty Bay area)

Boutique shops and specialty stores in a Scandinavian-themed downtown.



Bainbridge Island

(Winslow)

A high-walkability shopping district near the ferry terminal with local shops, galleries, and dining.



Dine Like a Local

Kitsap County may be best known for its natural beauty, but its food scene is just as captivating. From waterfront dining to cozy local favorites, the region offers a delicious mix of flavors and experiences.



SPIROS(SILVERDALE)

A longtime local favorite known for Greek-inspired dishes and warm hospitality.

AXE & ARROW (BREMERTON)

A modern gastropub offering elevated comfort food in a stylish setting.



DALLA BAIA (POULSBO)

An intimate Italian spot featuring fresh pasta and a true downtown Poulsbo atmosphere.

THE BOAT SHED (MANETTE)

A beloved waterfront-adjacent café with local charm and casual bites.



JOSEPHINE'S(PORT ORCHARD)

An quaint coffee bar that doubles as an antique shopping destination offering a vintage experience in the heart of South Kitsap.

Whether you're in the mood for fine dining or casual local flavor, Kitsap County's culinary scene promises something for every palate.

Local Events & Festivals

Kitsap County comes alive throughout the year with community events, food festivals, and seasonal celebrations. Here are a few local favorites:

1

Taste of Kitsap

A showcase of local restaurants, chefs, and regional flavors.



2

Kitsap Wine Festival

Enjoy Washington wines in a beautiful waterfront setting.

3

Blackberry Festival (Bremerton)

A classic summer celebration with food, music, and family fun.



4

Poulsbrew Fest

A popular craft beer festival highlighting local breweries.

5

Farmers Markets & Night Markets

Seasonal markets throughout the county featuring produce, crafts, and community gatherings.



These events are a perfect way to experience Kitsap County's welcoming culture and local spirit.

Kitsap County

Lifestyle Factoid

Kitsap County: where you can catch a ferry to Seattle in the morning, hike through evergreen forests in the afternoon, and enjoy waterfront dining at sunset—all while living in one of the most scenic regions of the Puget Sound!

Did You Know?

Kitsap County has more shoreline per capita than most counties in Washington, making waterfront recreation a defining part of life here.



Photo: greatpeninsula.org

Things To Do

Outdoor Adventures:

Puget Sound Waterfront Parks

Enjoy beaches, marinas, and scenic walking paths throughout the county.



Hood Canal Recreation (Seabeck Area)

Kayaking, paddleboarding, and peaceful shoreline exploration.

Kitsap Forest Trails

Miles of hiking and biking trails through lush Pacific Northwest landscapes.



Illahee State Park

A favorite for wooded hikes and waterfront relaxation near Bremerton.

Local Attractions:

Poulsbo Waterfront & Marina

Stroll Liberty Bay and enjoy the town's signature charm.

01

02

03

04

Bainbridge Island Ferry Day Trip

Explore shops, dining, and views just minutes from Seattle.

USS Turner Joy Museum Ship (Bremerton)

A unique naval history experience on the waterfront.

Downtown Port Orchard

A growing hub of local shops, dining, and marina life.

Education, Schools, and Learning

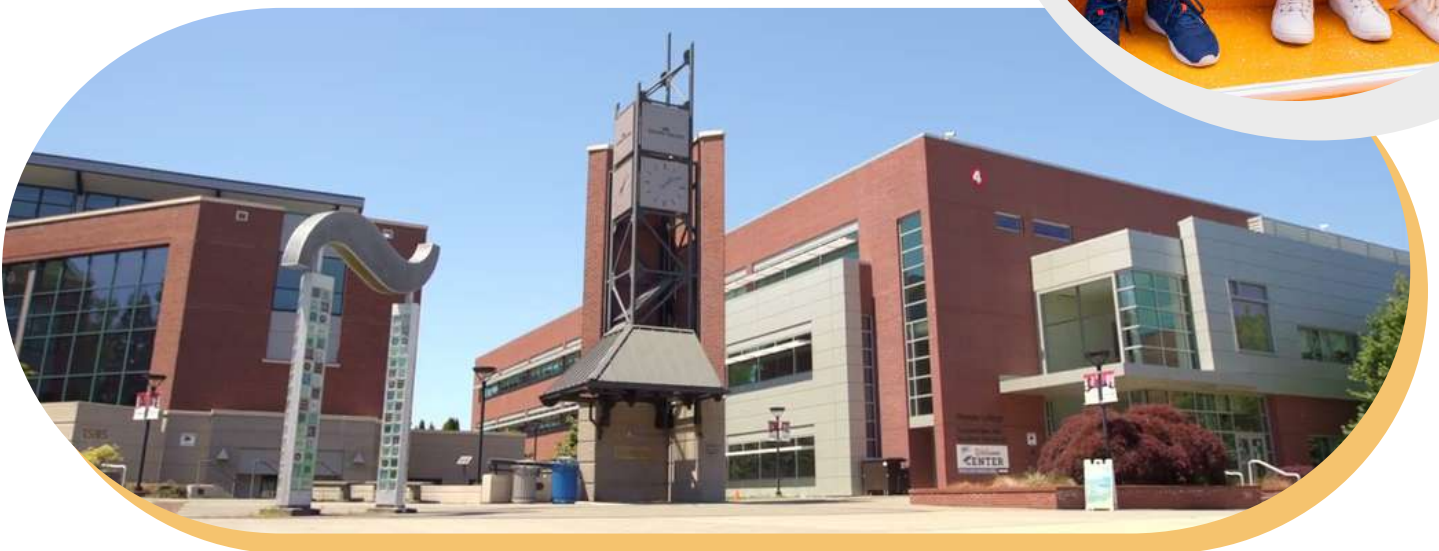
Kitsap County is known for its family-friendly communities and strong educational opportunities.

The region is served by several **respected school districts**, including **Bremerton School District**, Central Kitsap School District, South Kitsap School District, North Kitsap School District, and **Bainbridge Island School District**.

Families also have **access to private school options** and specialized programs throughout the county.

For higher education

Olympic College provides affordable pathways for degrees, workforce training, and continuing education, with campuses serving Bremerton and surrounding areas. Kitsap's focus on lifelong learning and community investment makes it an appealing region for families and retirees alike.



Employment & Healthcare

Kitsap County offers stable employment opportunities across a variety of industries. Major employers include

- Naval Base Kitsap
- Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
- Local government agencies
- School districts
- And a growing healthcare sector.



Many residents also work remotely in tech and professional fields, drawn by Kitsap's quality of life and access to Seattle.



Healthcare is a major strength of the region.

- St. Michael Medical Center (Silverdale): state-of-the-art care
- Comprehensive medical services: Kaiser Permanente, Franciscan clinics, and numerous specialty practices throughout the county.

With continued growth and strong infrastructure, Kitsap County remains one of the most resilient and desirable places to live in the Puget Sound region.

Kitsap County

Bremerton



Amenities

Bremerton offers a true “city hub” feel for Kitsap County with waterfront dining, parks, marinas, and a growing mix of apartments, condos, and single-family neighborhoods. You’ll find everyday conveniences, medical services, and strong regional connectivity through the ferry system.

Notable Attractions

The Bremerton waterfront and ferry corridor is a focal point for events, dining, and access to Seattle. The city is also closely tied to the naval shipyard and military history, which shapes the local economy and community character.

Why Residents Love It

Residents like Bremerton for the combination of waterfront lifestyle, commute options, and relative value compared to other areas. It’s a practical choice for naval families, Seattle commuters who want ferry access, and buyers looking for a range of home styles.

Community Vibe

Working waterfront energy meets residential neighborhoods. Expect a mix of long-time locals, military households, and newcomers who want Puget Sound access without the big-city pace.



POPULATION

45,291

(Census.gov)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$439,400

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bremerton School District

(plus portions of Central Kitsap SD in surrounding areas)

(bremertonschools.org)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

Kitsap Transit buses + Bremerton Fast Ferry to Downtown Seattle

(kitsaptransit.org)

Kitsap County

Silverdale

Photo: www.hwy420.xyz



Amenities

Silverdale is Kitsap’s primary retail and service hub, with a concentration of shopping, restaurants, medical offices, and day-to-day conveniences. It’s also positioned for easy access to Bangor, Bremerton, and Poulsbo.

Notable Attractions

Kitsap Mall and the surrounding shopping corridor make Silverdale a central destination for errands and dining. Waterfront pockets near Dyes Inlet add a scenic element to an otherwise highly practical town.

Why Residents Love It

People choose Silverdale for convenience. It’s especially popular for military households and families who want proximity to schools, services, and commuting routes without being far from outdoor recreation.

Community Vibe

Busy, functional, and family-oriented. Silverdale feels like the “everything is close” option in Kitsap County.



POPULATION

20,477

(Census Reporter)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$555,300

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Central Kitsap
School District**

(Wikipedia)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

**Kitsap Transit Central
Kitsap routes**

(kitsaptransit.org)

Kitsap County

Poulsbo



Amenities

Poulsbo blends small-town walkability with strong access to Silverdale’s services. Residents enjoy a lively downtown, local dining, and easy access to the water.

Notable Attractions

The historic downtown along Liberty Bay is the heart of the community, known for its Scandinavian identity and waterfront setting.

Why Residents Love It

Poulsbo appeals to buyers who want charm without sacrificing convenience. It’s popular with families, retirees, and people who want a “town center” feel.

Community Vibe

Warm, scenic, and community-driven. It’s the kind of place where local events and small businesses shape the lifestyle.



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$620,100

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

**North Kitsap
School District**

(nkschools.org)



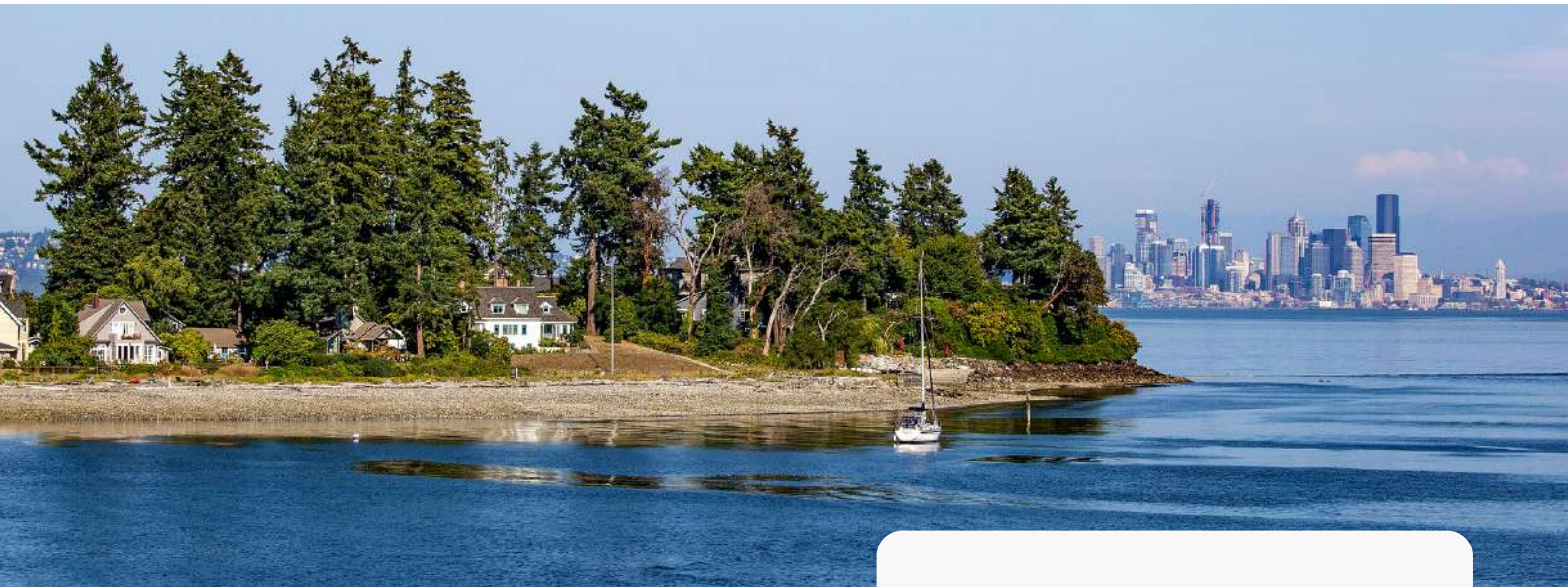
PUBLIC TRANSIT

**Kitsap Transit routes
connecting Poulsbo,
Kingston, Bainbridge,
and Silverdale**

(kitsaptransit.org)

Kitsap County

Bainbridge Island



Amenities

Bainbridge offers a polished island lifestyle with a strong local food scene, galleries, shops, and parks. Winslow provides a walkable town center close to the ferry terminal.

Notable Attractions

The ferry corridor and waterfront views define the island experience. Outdoor access, beaches, and forested trails are a major draw for residents who want nature built into daily life.

Why Residents Love It

Bainbridge is popular for its lifestyle, schools, and commuter access to Seattle by ferry. Many residents value the blend of privacy, community, and high-quality amenities.

Community Vibe

Upscale, outdoorsy, and arts-forward. Bainbridge feels calm and curated, with strong community engagement.



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$1,155,900

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Bainbridge Island
School District**

(Wikipedia)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

**Washington State Ferry
access to Seattle + local
transit options on-island**

Kitsap County Kingston

Photo: www.kayak.ae



Amenities

Kingston is a compact ferry town with a small downtown core, local dining, and quick access to Highway 104. It's a strategic location for people who want a direct route toward the Edmonds area and Seattle connections

Notable Attractions

The waterfront and ferry terminal area are the center of activity, with walkable access to shops and views.

Why Residents Love It

Residents like Kingston for its ferry-town practicality, coastal feel, and access to both Kitsap and the Peninsula.

Community Vibe

Quiet and coastal, with commuter functionality. It's a small town that stays connected.



POPULATION

2,496

(Census Reporter)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$585,300

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

**North Kitsap
School District**

(nkschools.org)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

**Kingston Fast Ferry to
Downtown Seattle
(seasonal patterns vary)**

(kitsaptransit.org)

Kitsap County

Hansville

Photo: www.rsir.com



Amenities

Hansville is an unincorporated community known for privacy, trees, and shoreline access. It's a "get away from it" location while still being within driving distance of Kingston and Poulsbo.

Notable Attractions

Beaches, coastal viewpoints, and natural areas are the main draw. The landscape feels more rural-residential than suburban.

Why Residents Love It

People choose Hansville for space, quiet, and the slower pace. It's especially appealing for retirees and buyers who want a more secluded home setting.

Community Vibe

Peaceful, nature-heavy, and low-density. Hansville feels like a retreat.



POPULATION

3,384

(Census Reporter)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$597,000

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

North Kitsap
School District

(nkschools.org)



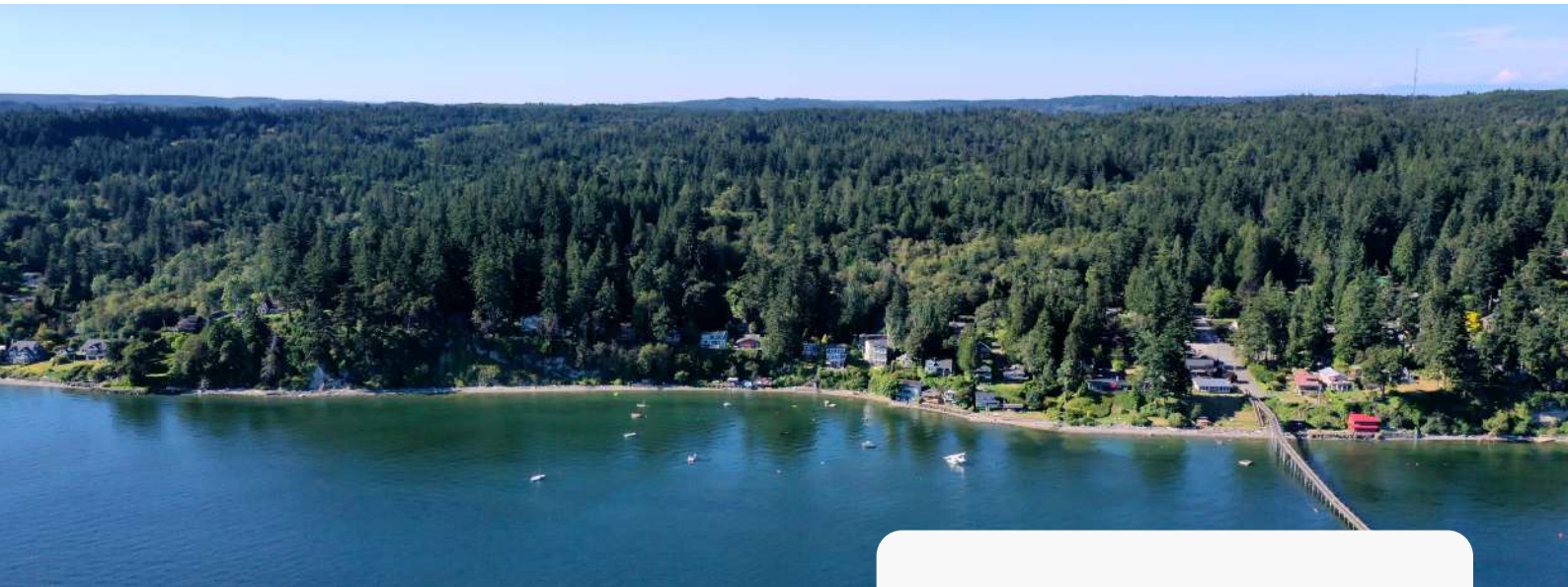
PUBLIC TRANSIT

Primarily car-dependent;
Kitsap Transit coverage is
limited compared to city hubs

Kitsap County

Indianola

Photo: wikipedia



Amenities

Indianola is a small waterfront community with a relaxed residential feel. Many homes are tucked into wooded streets, with pockets of water views and beach access nearby.

Notable Attractions

The shoreline and neighborhood beach culture are highlights, plus nearby access to north-end Kitsap amenities.

Why Residents Love It

Residents love Indianola for the quiet coastal setting, community feel, and proximity to Kingston without being in the center of ferry traffic.

Community Vibe

Low-key, neighborly, and beach-oriented. A true “small community” feel.



POPULATION

3,517

(Census Reporter)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$478,100

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

North Kitsap
School District

(nkschools.org)



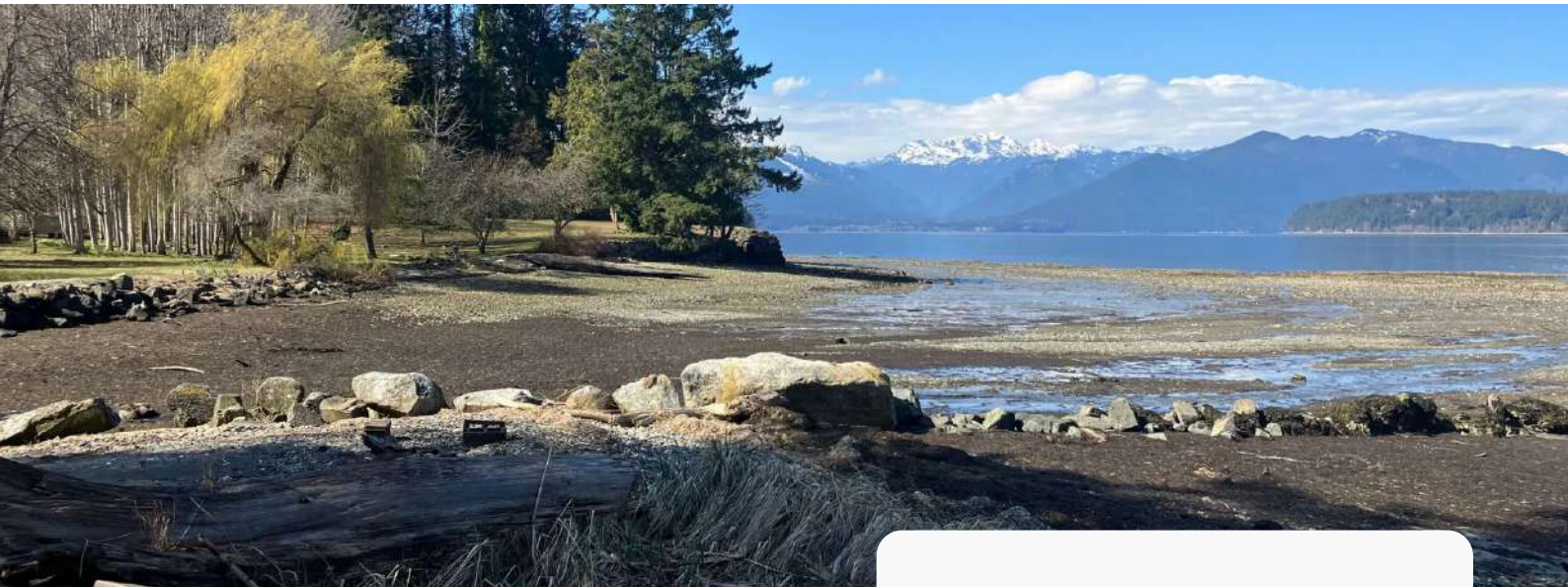
PUBLIC TRANSIT

Limited; residents typically commute by car, with access toward Kingston/Poulsbo routes

Kitsap County

Seabeck

Photo: greatpeninsula.org



Amenities

Seabeck is known for shoreline scenery, wooded properties, and a quieter pace. It's close enough to Silverdale for shopping and services, but feels noticeably more rural.

Notable Attractions

The waterfront setting and nearby parks make Seabeck a strong choice for buyers who prioritize nature and views.

Why Residents Love It

People choose Seabeck for privacy, greenery, and the sense of being “away,” while still staying within reach of work and services.

Community Vibe

Rural-coastal and scenic, with a calm residential tone.



POPULATION

787

(Census Reporter)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$657,400

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central Kitsap School District (varies by exact address)

(Wikipedia)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

Limited; most residents drive to Silverdale/Bremerton

Kitsap County

Port Orchard

Photo: marinas.com



Amenities

Port Orchard offers a waterfront downtown, a growing mix of neighborhoods, and strong access to both Bremerton and Highway corridors. It's a practical home base with community events, parks, and everyday services.

Notable Attractions

The waterfront and downtown core provide a classic small-city feel, with marinas, dining, and local shops.

Why Residents Love It

Residents like Port Orchard for livability, neighborhood variety, and easy access to Bremerton via the foot ferry. It's popular for families and commuters who want a calmer pace.

Community Vibe

Friendly, practical, and community-centered with a strong small-town identity.



POPULATION

17,149

(Census Reporter)



MEDIAN HOME VALUE

\$539,700

(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

South Kitsap
School District

(MapQuest)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

Port Orchard foot ferry
to Bremerton + Kitsap
Transit routes

(kitsaptransit.com)

Kitsap County

Olalla

Photo: olallabaymarket.com



Amenities

Olalla is a quiet, unincorporated area known for larger lots, privacy, and a rural-residential feel. Many buyers are drawn to the space and the “country close to town” lifestyle.

Notable Attractions

Natural scenery, small waterfront pockets, and the slower pace are the main draws, with easy access into Port Orchard for services and shopping.

Why Residents Love It

Residents love Olalla for peace, room to breathe, and the ability to live more privately while still being within reach of commuter routes and daily necessities.

Community Vibe

Rural, calm, and low-density. Olalla feels like a retreat without being isolated.



MEDIAN HOME VALUE
(ZIP 98359)

\$610,500
(Census Reporter)



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Typically South Kitsap
School District (varies
by exact address)

(MapQuest)



PUBLIC TRANSIT

Limited; most residents
drive to Port Orchard, Gig
Harbor, or Highway routes

Ready to Make Kitsap County Home?

Whether you're ready to make the move
or just exploring what life in Kitsap County has to offer,
I'm here to help.



www.loopnet.com

Call, text, or email anytime with questions or to discuss your relocation options.

I'll provide quick answers, schedule tours of homes that match your vision, and keep you updated as new listings and opportunities become available.

Don't miss out on finding your perfect home—connect with me today, and let's start planning your move to beautiful Kitsap County!

Living in ***Bremerton***

360-710-6641

realestatebycl@gmail.com

homesforsaleinkitsap.com

LICENSE #22022733

PCS CHECKLIST GUIDE

Permanent Change of Station | Stay Organized & Ready

ORDERS

- ☒ Receive official orders (soft & hard copy)
- ☒ Verify all details (dates, locations, dependents)
- ☒ Make multiple copies (digital & physical)
- ☒ Contact gaining unit/sponsor

DEPENDENTS

- ☒ Ensure EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) is updated
- ☒ Coordinate school transfers and records
- ☒ Arrange pet travel requirements
- ☒ Inform child care services

HOUSING & MOVE

- ☒ Apply for on-base housing or research off-base options
- ☒ Schedule TMO (Transportation Management Office) appointments
- ☒ Decide on PPM (Personally Procured Move) vs. Government Move
- ☒ Inventory and schedule pack-out/pickup dates

PACKING

- ☒ Declutter and organize belongings
- ☒ Separate "do not pack" items (essential documents, valuables)
- ☒ Create a personal essentials box for immediate arrival
- ☒ Label all boxes clearly by room and contents

FINANCES

- ☒ Create a PCS budget
- ☒ Notify bank and credit card companies
- ☒ Understand entitlements (DLA, Per Diem, TLE)
- ☒ Set up new banking (if needed)

TRAVEL

- ☒ Book travel arrangements (flights, hotels, car rental)
- ☒ Plan travel route and stops
- ☒ Pack travel kits (snacks, entertainment, chargers)
- ☒ Review travel regulations and allowances

MEDICAL

- ☒ Obtain medical and dental records for all family members
- ☒ Ensure vaccinations are up-to-date
- ☒ Refill prescriptions for travel
- ☒ Transfer TRICARE enrollment

OUTPROCESSING

- ☒ Complete unit clearing checklist
- ☒ Turn in equipment and gear
- ☒ Finalize out-processing appointments
- ☒ Receive final clearance

ARRIVAL

- ☒ Keep documents with you
- ☒ Save all receipts
- ☒ Take photos before move
- ☒ Stay flexible



SCHOOL DISTRICT GUIDE!

DISCOVER KITSAP COUNTY: A PERFECT BLEND OF STUNNING NATURAL BEAUTY, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES, AND TOP-RATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS, MAKING IT AN IDEAL DESTINATION FOR FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS SEEKING AN EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE.

NORTH KITSAP



Known for its rich cultural heritage, historic sites, and outdoor recreation, encompassing Poulsbo and Kingston.



8 Schools



5,200+ Students



4.25 Star Rating

Graduation Rate: 91%

Best For: Families seeking a balance of cultural charm, strong community, and quality education.

www.nkschools.org

CENTRAL KITSAP



Centered around Silverdale and Bremerton, offering diverse academic programs and urban convenience.



12 Schools



11,500+ Students



4.5/5 Star Rating

Graduation Rate: 93%

Best For: Residents prioritizing education options, including specialized programs and easy access to amenities.

www.ckschools.org

SOUTH KITSAP



The largest district in the county, covering most of Port Orchard and surrounding areas with strong vocational pathways.



14 Schools



9,800+ Students



4.0/5 Star Rating

Graduation Rate: 89%

Best For: Families interested in a wide range of programs, including 3 specialized educational programs, in a growing community.

www.skschools.org

BREMERTON



A vibrant urban district focusing on innovation, community partnerships, and diverse student needs.



6 Schools



4,100+ Students



3.8/5 Star Rating

Graduation Rate: 86%

Best For: Individuals and families seeking an urban environment that combines community engagement and innovative learning.

www.bremertonschools.org

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND



Highly acclaimed district renowned for academic excellence and strong community support.



4 Schools



3,700+ Students



4.9/5 Star Rating

Graduation Rate: 98%

Best For: Those prioritizing top-tier academics, smaller class sizes, and a close-knit supportive community.

www.bisd303.org

Quick Buyer Insights

- Kitsap County offers a diverse range of school districts catering to various family needs and preferences.
- School district ratings are a low consideration for home buyers; Bainbridge is known for its highly academic excellence.
- Central Kitsap and North Kitsap provide strong options for those seeking a balance of quality education and community life.
- Consider not only test scores but also specific programs, community atmosphere, and commute times when choosing a district.
- Property taxes can vary between districts, influencing the overall cost of homeownership.



Kitsap County School District Map

