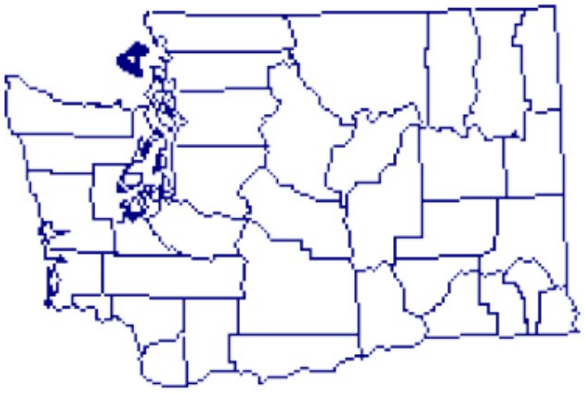

San Juan County was organized in 1873 from Whatcom County. It was named for Juan Francisco de Eliza who explored Puget Sound in 1791. The county is the state's smallest in area and is made up of a small cluster of islands located east of Vancouver Island in Puget Sound. The county's most significant historical event was the dispute between Great Britain and the United State over the islands' sovereignty known as "The Pig War." The dispute was arbitrated by Germany and settled in favor of the United States. Today the primary economic pursuits in the county are produce farming and tourism.

Bounded by: Whatcom County (N), Skagit and Island counties (E), Jefferson (S) and British Columbia (W).

County Seat: Friday Harbor

Chamber of Commerce:

San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce, (www.sanjuanisland.org) PO Box 98, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Phone 360-378-5240. Fax 360-370-5055.

County Government: (www.co.san-juan.wa.us) 350 Court St, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Courthouse hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Assessor: PO Box 1519. Phone (360)378-2172. Fax (360)378-4729.

Auditor: PO Box 638. Phone (360)378-2161. Fax (360)378-6256.

Clerk: 350 Court St. #7. Phone (360)378-2163. Fax (360)378-3967.

Treasurer: PO Box 639. Phone (360)378-2171. Fax (360)378-8853.

Genealogical Society:

Health Department: San Juan County Health Department, (www.co.san-juan.wa.us/apages/health.html) PO Box 607, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Phone 360-378-4474. Fax 360-378-7036.

Historical Societies:

San Juan Historical Society, (www.sjmuseum.org) PO Box 441, 405 Price St, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Phone 360-378-3949. Fax 360-378-3949. Email curator@sjmuseum.org.

Shaw Island Library & Historical Society, PO Box 844, Blind Bay Rd., Shaw Island, WA 98286-0844. Phone 360-468-4068.

Libraries - Academic:

Libraries - Public:

Libraries - Special:

San Juan Washington Family History Center, 1013 Lampard Road, Friday Harbor, WA. Phone 360-378-4162.

Museums and Historical Sites:

Crow Valley School Museum, 2274A Orcas Rd, Eastsound, WA 98245. Phone 360-376-4260. Fax 360-376-3318.

Lopez Island Historical Museum, PO Box 163, 28 Washburn Pl, Lopez Island, WA 98261. Phone 360-468-2049. Email lopezmuseum@rockisland.com.

Orcas Island Historical Museum, (www.orcasisland.com) PO Box 134, 181 North Beach Rd, Eastsound, WA 98245. Phone 360-376-4849. Fax 360-376-2994. Email orcasmuseum@rockisland.com.

San Juan Historical Museum, (www.sjmuseum.org) PO Box 441, 405 Price St, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Phone 360-378-3949. Fax 360-378-3949. Email curator@sjmuseum.org.

San Juan Island National Historic Park, (www.nps.gov/sajh/home.html) PO Box 429, 125 Spring St., Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Phone 360-378-2240. Fax 360-378-2615. Email sajh@nps.gov.

The Whale Museum, (www.whale-museum.org) PO Box 945, 62 1st St. N, Friday Harbor, WA

98250. Phone 360-378-4710. Fax 360-378-5790. Email whale@rockisland.com.

State Archives Branch:

Northwest Region (https://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_northwest.aspx) (Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties). Washington State Archives; Northwest Regional Branch; Western Washington University, MS-9123; Bellingham, WA 98225-9123; E-mail: NWBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov Phone 360-650-3125. Fax: 360-650-3323. Hours: 8:30am to 4:30pm Closed 12 to 1pm Monday through Friday (excluding state holidays)