

Welcome to Seattle!

Seattle's quirky neighborhoods make it a city well worth exploring. Add in its thriving arts scene, world class coffee and microbrews, great food, history, and culture, and you'll begin to see why the locals love it. The city is home to over 400 parks perfect for exploring. If the city parks aren't enough, there are three National Parks within a couple hours' drive of the city, Puget Sound offers a variety of beaches to explore and the mountains have multiple trails to hike.



The City

Located just north of Lake Union, the **University of Washington Campus** is home to the **Burke Museum**, the **Henry Art Gallery**, and marvelous views of Mt. Rainier. Be sure to visit the **Suzzallo Library**, replete with sweeping architecture and a reading room straight out of Harry Potter. For bookworms, the selection at the **University Bookstore** is not to be missed.

No visit to Seattle is complete without a visit to the **Space Needle**, with its unparalleled views of Mt. Rainier, the Cascade Mountains, and the Olympic Mountains, as well as the city itself. Seattle Center is also home to **Chihuly Garden and Glass**, **Pacific Science Center**, and the **Seattle Repertory Theatre**, as well as many other attractions. From there, take the Monorail to **Westlake Center** for a little shopping in the city center.

Pike Place Market, now more than 100 years old, was designed to bring regional farmers and consumers together. Today, Pike Place Market is one of the oldest continuously operated public farmers markets in the United States, and has also grown into one of the most popular places to visit in Seattle. The Market is a feast for the senses, with salmon flying, flowers in a riot of color, and the heady aroma of freshly baked goods. Browse stalls, restaurants and stores for one of the best eating experiences in the city; don't miss the fresh donuts near the Pike Place Pig! In the lower levels of the market you can window shop a wide variety of stores including antique dealers, comic book shops, collectibles, and more. There's something for everyone at Pike Place Market.

Museums, Parks, Zoo & Aquarium

Get inspired at the **Seattle Art Museum**, the **Seattle Asian Art Museum**, or the **Olympic Sculpture Park**.

Stroll through the history of rock 'n roll at **EMP (Experience Music Project)**, then visit other worlds at the attached **Sci-Fi Museum**.

Learn about local history and culture at the **Museum of History and Industry**, the **Wing Luke Asian Museum**, the **Nordic Heritage museum**, or the **Boeing Air Museum**.

Catch a Mariners baseball game at Safeco Field.

Take in the views on the waterfront, then get up close & personal with some of our neighbors in Puget Sound at the **Seattle Aquarium**; or study animal behavior at the **Woodland Park Zoo**.

www.zoo.org,

<http://www.seattleaquarium.org/>



Discovery Park is 534 acres of bluffs, beaches, and wooded trails. If you want to feel like you've left the city without leaving the city, Discovery Park is the place to go.

For an urban oasis experience, **Green Lake Park** has a 2.8 mile loop trail, and is surrounded by restaurants and bars for mid-walk refreshments. Stop by **Chocolati** for the best hot chocolate in the area.

The **Arboretum** is one of Seattle's favorite parks, with botanical gardens, Japanese gardens, and wetlands.

Kayak

Rent a kayak at **Agua Verde Paddle & Café** for a peaceful paddle through the arboretum, a tour of Seattle's houseboats and skyline, or a visit to **Gas Works Park**. <http://aguaverde.com/>

Tours

For some quirky and highly entertaining local history, check out the **Seattle Underground Tour**. <http://www.undergroundtour.com/>

Looking for something more modern and technical? Try a tour of the **Boeing factory!** <http://www.boeing.com/company/tours/>



Dining

Getting a true taste of Seattle is as easy as dining out. With 37 Zagat celebrity chef restaurants and 13 James Beard award-winning chefs, Seattle has a proven track record for mouth-watering cuisine. With eateries specializing from seafood and steak to vegetarian and gluten-free, from Classic American, Italian, and French to the exotic

tastes of Asia, Mexico and the Mediterranean, there's something for every taste. Whatever the cuisine, many of our restaurateurs pull flavors from straight from the great Pacific Northwest, working with farm fresh ingredients or shellfish and salmon pulled straight from local waters. That's Seattle's style.

Thirsty? Check out one of Seattle's many craft breweries:

<https://www.thrillist.com/drink/seattle/best-breweries-in-washington-state-washington-breweries-seattle-breweries> or Distilleries: <http://www.washingtondistilleries.com/seattle>

Coffee can be found any and everywhere. In spite of their ubiquity, Starbucks is not the favorite. For a better brew, try **Espresso Vivace** or one of our many other independent coffee houses.

The Surroundings

Seattle is surrounded by natural parks, encompassing beaches, rainforest, and one of the highest peaks in the country. Visible throughout Seattle, Mt. Rainier is home to hundreds of miles of hiking trails that wind through dense trees past placid lakes and cascading waterfalls.

<http://www.nps.gov/mora>

From Seattle's downtown waterfront, it takes only 35 minutes to arrive at Bainbridge Island. The ferry ride itself is worth the journey! Once on Bainbridge Island, it's easy to walk to a quaint "downtown" strip that features some shops, eateries and coffee spots. The island also features wineries, an organic distillery and other popular destinations.

Just a 30-minute drive outside of the Space Needle's shadow, sip into a slower pace of life in Woodinville wine country. Park the car and peddle along paved trails and side roads to the 90 wineries and tasting rooms that put Seattle's nearby vines on the map. Pouring some of Washington State's top-rated wines, you'll find a full-bodied blend of mega operations and boutique tasting rooms only selling their small-batch wines on-location.

If you have more time, here are a few longer trips worth considering:

- Leavenworth: dining, festivals, wineries, theatre, hiking.
website: <http://www.leavenworth.org/>
- Port Townsend: Parks, boating, sailing, kayaking, hiking, horseback riding, golf, shopping, music, festivals
website: <http://www.cityofpt.us/>
- San Juan Island: Beaches, hiking, parks, bicycling/mopeds, camping, boating, fishing, kayaking, whale watching
website: <http://www.sanjuanisland.org/>
- Washington Coast: beach, hiking, camping, birdwatching, surf kayaking, surf fishing, beachcombing
website: <http://www.washingtoncoastchamber.org/>

Transportation from Out-of-Town

[Seattle-Tacoma International Airport](#) (sea-tac) is about 20 miles south of downtown Seattle.

- Most major rental-car agencies serve the Sea-Tac airport. Counters are located in the baggage claim area
- A taxi from the airport to the Silver Cloud Inn (Lake Union) will run about \$40.00
- The Shuttle Express (425-981-7000) drops off passengers at hotels and residences
- Public transportation: All of Seattle Metro's schedules and time tables are online as well as on printed schedules you'll find at bus stops and on bus lines. Fares are \$2.75. If you're going to ride the bus, consider using the trip planner either online or on the Seattle Metro app. It allows you to enter your starting and ending point to find bus routes

Seattle is accessible by car from Oregon and California via Interstate 5. From Boise and other points east, Interstate 90 leads to Seattle.

There is daily train service between King Street Station in Seattle and several major West Coast cities, including Portland, Spokane, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Transportation within Seattle

Seattle is a great city for walking and bicycling. Bike share programs are available, just look for the lineups of green Pronto bikes that you can rent on the spot and return to any station around town.