

Top things to do in Seattle

Tucked in the Pacific Northwest corner of the United States, Seattle is a forward-thinking city that's as diverse as it is beautiful. Whether you're looking to explore the Emerald City's iconic sites and history, head into the great outdoors, lean into the spirit of innovation, or dive deep into the food scene, you'll find that a trip to Seattle is simply unforgettable.



VISIT
seattle



Seattle Center Monorail and MoPOP

Iconic Sites

Visiting the city's world-famous attractions, landmarks, and historic sites make for the quintessential Seattle experience.

Pike Place Market

With more than a century of history, Pike Place Market is the oldest continuously operating farmers market in the country. Enjoy fresh produce, artisan goods, art, and more from over 200 independently owned businesses and 150 craftspeople.

Space Needle

Stand on the world's first and only revolving glass floor or gaze out at downtown, Puget Sound, and the surrounding mountains from the open-air observation deck.

Chihuly Garden and Glass

Containing the most comprehensive collection of local artist Dale Chihuly's work, explore the dazzling medium of glass throughout eight galleries, a glasshouse, and a garden at this museum.

Ride to the top of the Smith Tower

Take the historic Otis elevators up to the 35th floor Observatory for drinks, food, and views at the speakeasy-style bar at the top of Smith Tower, also known as Seattle's first skyscraper.

Visit

Bruce Lee's Gravesite

Visit the gravesite next to Volunteer Park to see where legendary Chinese American martial artist and film star Bruce Lee was laid to rest in 1973. Afterward, enjoy one of his favorite places in the Chinatown-International District, Tai Tung, which opened in 1935.

Grab lunch at the Seattle Center Armory

Fuel up at a variety of local eateries at the Armory Food & Event Hall, located right at the heart of Seattle Center.

Museum of Pop Culture

Music, science fiction, and pop culture all come together at this fascinating museum, also known as MoPOP.

Ride the Seattle Center Monorail to Downtown

This icon from the World's Fair links Seattle Center to downtown's Westlake Center in just a two-minute ride.

Seattle Aquarium

Head to the waterfront's Pier 59 to learn all about salmon, meet adorable sea otters, and greet the various sea creatures of the Pacific Ocean, from puffers to giant clams.

Seattle Art Museum

The center for world-class visual arts in the Pacific Northwest since 1933.

Take in the iconic views from Kerry Park

Be sure to bring your camera to capture views of the downtown skyline, Space Needle, and Elliott Bay. Don't miss visiting on clear days for a chance to spot Mt. Rainier.

Discover Pioneer Square

Take a look at Seattle's first neighborhood with Beneath the Streets or Bill Speidel's Underground Tour. Take a trip back in time to the subterranean streets of Seattle before the city was rebuilt after the Great Fire in 1889 and learn more about the city's early days.

The original Starbucks

Starbucks changed the way the world does coffee, and it all started right here in Seattle. Opened in 1971, visit the first Starbucks store right in Pike Place Market.

Pier 57

Take to new heights onboard the Seattle Great Wheel, one of the largest Ferris wheels in North America, offering sweeping views of Elliott Bay and the city skyline. Right next door, soar across the state at Wings Over Washington, the immersive flying theater, then step into Sasquatch Mountain, a newly opened virtual reality adventure that sends guests on a thrilling search for the legendary Bigfoot inspired by Pacific Northwest folklore.

Strolling on Seattle Waterfront

Enjoy an easy walk along Seattle's beautifully reimagined waterfront, where salty sea air and sweeping views of Elliott Bay create a classic Pacific Northwest experience. Watch ferries passing, take in majestic mountain views, explore historic piers lined with seafood restaurants and public art, or hop aboard Argosy Cruises for a narrated sightseeing cruise that showcases the city skyline, waterfront landmarks, and surrounding waters from a unique on-the-water perspective.



Photo: Nick Hall Photography | West Point Lighthouse in Discovery Park

Outdoor

Surrounded by the unmatched beauty of secluded lakes, rugged mountains, and urban parkland, there is no wonder Seattle is nicknamed the Emerald City.

Gasworks Park

Explore one of the first postindustrial landmarks to become a park and enjoy the views of South Lake Union from one of Seattle's most unique sites.

From the Water on South Lake Union

See Seattle from a whole new perspective on South Lake Union, where calm waters invite easy exploration by kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Glide past houseboats and modern architecture, spot seaplanes taking off, or unwind on a floating sauna boat for a uniquely Pacific Northwest experience with skyline views all around.

The Center for Wooden Boats

This maritime museum encourages visitors to touch, build, sail, and learn. Take sailing lessons or rent a classic wooden sailboat or rowboat.

Kayak around Alki Point

Rent a sea kayak for a quintessential experience on Elliott Bay with views of the Seattle skyline and the majestic Olympic Mountains.

Hop on a bike share and ride the Burke Gilman Trail

This 27-mile multi-use recreational trail stretches from Ballard to Bothell, passing through the University of Washington and hugging the northwest shore of Lake Washington.

Alki Beach and Golden Gardens

Enjoy a Pacific Northwest summer sunset by a bonfire on the beach (only allowed after Memorial Day, May 28).

Explore Snoqualmie Falls, Mount Rainier, or Olympic National Park with Evergreen Escapes

Follow expert guides to some of the region's most beautiful natural landscapes whether it be the 270-foot Snoqualmie Falls; snowcapped Mount Rainier; or the rainforests, rugged peaks, and coastal beaches of Olympic National Park.

Snowshoe, dine, and wine taste at Crystal Mountain Resort

Located just a 2-hour drive from downtown Seattle, drink in the crisp mountain air while enjoying activities and scenic vistas at this outdoor mecca.

Explore trails less than an hour away like Mount Si, Mount Teneriffe, and Little Si

Trailhead Direct makes it easy to experience Seattle's surrounding natural beauty with a seasonal shuttle service that picks up passengers in Capitol Hill and Downtown Seattle.

Discovery Park in Magnolia

Explore 534-acres of diverse landscape and trails that wind throughout the park. Make your way down to the beach to discover West Point Lighthouse (built in 1881) one of 18 active lighthouses in the state of Washington.

Ferry to Bainbridge Island

A scenic 30-minute ferry ride from Downtown Seattle brings you to the charming island community of Bainbridge. Spend the day shopping, winetasting, and more.

Whale Watching

Cruise Puget Sound with outfitters like [FRS Clipper](#) or [Puget Sound Express](#) to sight whales while out on the water or try whale watching from the shore at Alki Beach in West Seattle, just a short drive or water taxi trip away from downtown (tours with outfitters run seasonally).

University of Washington cherry blossoms

Pass through the campus quad to view the city's greatest concentration of cherry blossoms (season: mid-March to early April).

Magnuson Park

Stroll over four miles of walking trails, grassy fields, and wooded areas along the shores of Lake Washington while enjoying a refreshing beer and snacks from Magnuson Park Brewing.

Seaplane tour from South Lake Union

Watch planes take off and land on South Lake Union before heading up to the skies for your own scenic seaplane tour with [Kenmore Air](#).



Crab and Lobster Roll from Pike Place Chowder

Food & Beverage

Visitors from across the globe travel here to sample the local fare and savor the fresh, creative, and delicious spirit of Seattle and Washington State.

Taste the market on a Pike Place Market food tour

Learn all the behind-the-scenes flavors, sights, and smells of the Market while getting the inside scoop from merchants, chefs, and store owners. By the end, you'll know all the best places to go in Pike Place Market.

Breakfast at Dahlia Bakery

A downtown Seattle favorite from local chef Tom Douglas, Dahlia Bakery is best known for its iconic Triple Coconut Cream Pie. The cozy Belltown spot also turns out artisan breads, flaky pastries, cookies, and hearty breakfast and lunch sandwiches, everything baked daily in small batches.

Woodinville wine tastings

Enjoy a remarkable experience in Woodinville Wine Country. Sip wine from more than 100 wineries located only a 30-minute drive from Seattle on the east side of Lake Washington.

Burgers at Dicks Drive-In

Opened in 1954, the homemade fries, great burgers, and hand-dipped shakes quickly became a Seattle institution.

Westward and Taylor Shellfish

No matter if it's lunch, happy hour, or dinner, the best place to gather is at an oyster bar. Experience fresh shellfish and seafood at these Seattle mainstays.

Chinatown-International District

Made up of three unique districts—Chinatown, Japantown, and Little Saigon—experience the rich cultural history of this neighborhood through delicious food, artisan shops, and lively festivals and events throughout the year.

Ballard Brewery District

Raise a glass at over a dozen breweries within a one-mile radius and taste several award-winning craft beers brewed in Seattle.

Dinner at Ivar's Salmon House

Housed in a replica of a Northwest Native American longhouse, this iconic Seattle restaurant creates favorite daily entrees and fresh alder-smoked dishes.

Beecher's Cheese

Observe cheesemakers creating the signature flagship cheddar and other freshly made cheeses through the glass-walled cheese makers' kitchen. Then head inside to indulge in their grilled cheese, mac and cheese, or hot soups.

Honest Biscuits

Visit Pike Place Market to experience a "fluffy cloud of goodness." Enjoy these homemade biscuits warm for a comforting experience or take some to go and heat them up to eat for later.



Photo: The Museum of Flight | Stearman PT-13A Kaydet (A75) & Gee Bee Z "City of Springfield" Reproduction

Aviation & Tech

As a hub of innovation, Seattle buzzes with museums and attractions for aviation, tech, and science-minded visitors.

The Museum of Flight

Marvel at one of the largest air and space collections in the United States.

Eat Seattle Food Tour in South Lake Union

Experience the city's vibrant food scene in the heart of Seattle's tech center while hearing the stories behind the renowned businesses in this neighborhood.

Self-guided Amazon audio tour

Plug in and learn about Amazon's history and how its campus, made up of over 30 office buildings, is deeply connected to the surrounding community.

Lunch at Willmott's Ghost in the Amazon Spheres

Dine inside Amazon's unique glass spheres while enjoying delicious pizza and seasonal salads created by Chef Renee Erickson.

Boeing Future of Flight Aviation Center Tour

View daily flight operations and discover exciting new products and services being explored by Boeing.

Pacific Science Center

Created in the spirit of innovation for the 1962 World's Fair, this family-friendly museum is where science lessons come to life.

Cruise through the Ballard Locks with Argosy Cruises

This fully narrated one-way trip takes you through the historic Ballard Locks where boats big and small transition from fresh water to salt water in this "boat elevator."

Seattle Pinball Museum

Admission grants visitors unlimited play of around 50 pinball games from the 1960s to present at this one-of-a-kind museum.

Gates Foundation

Located near Seattle Center, the Gates Foundation offers interactive exhibits and compelling stories that highlight global efforts to improve health, education, and opportunity around the world. Visitors can explore innovative solutions to major challenges, learn about the Foundation's impact, and leave inspired by how individuals and communities are making a difference. Admission is free.

Discover Seattle history at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)

This museum on the shores of Lake Union encapsulates what Seattle is all about, with a dash of smart history, a dose of technology, and quirky artifacts around every corner.



Sports

Seattle is a city that loves its sports teams. Join the loyal fans here to experience the atmosphere of these lively arenas and open-air stadiums for yourself.

UW Game Day Sailgate

Cruise up to Husky stadium in style! Beat the traffic on land and dock your boat close to the endzone, anchor in Union Bay, or take one of the [local charters](#) down for this floating celebration.

T-Mobile Park

Home of the Seattle Mariners (MLB). This 19.59-acre ballpark features the largest scoreboard in the MLB, real grass, and a retractable roof.

Lumen Field

Home of the Seattle Seahawks (NFL), Seattle Sounders FC (MLS), OL REIGN (NWSL), and Seattle Sea Dragons (XFL) Soccer enthusiasts and football fans alike will learn something new about Lumen Field in this up close and personal tour while enjoying the sweeping Seattle skyline, sparkling Puget Sound, and Olympic Mountain views.

Climate Pledge Arena

Home of the Seattle Kraken (NHL), Seattle Torrent (PWL), and Seattle Storm (WNBA). Let the excitement pulse through you as you walk in the footsteps of the greats from Seattle's professional hockey and women's basketball teams while learning about the most sustainable arena in the world.

Rough & Tumble

Seattle's first sports bar dedicated to women's sports, offering a lively, welcoming place to watch games from leagues around the world. Located in the Ballard neighborhood, the pub features multiple screens, elevated pub fare, and a strong sense of community, making it a great spot for visitors looking to experience Seattle's passionate sports culture beyond the stadiums.

Local brews and mini golf at Flatstick Pub

This unique pub experience combines the timeless game of mini golf and local beers for a memorable experience that will keep you coming back for more.

Cheer on the Seattle Seawolves at Starfire

Feel the thrill of rooting for Seattle's Major League Rugby team at their homefield just 30 minutes from downtown.

Golf and grub at Five Iron Golf

Whether you're a golf novice or a PGA champion, this indoor urban golf experience is a must and allows you to practice your swing rain or shine.

Seattle Dog in Seattle's Stadium District

Gameday isn't complete without indulging in one of the most famous street-eats in the city: a Seattle dog. This specialty includes a grilled hot dog on a toasted bun piled high with sauteed onion and the special ingredient, cream cheese.



Photo: Natali Wiseman | Seattle Art Museum (SAM)

Arts & Culture

In a trend-setting cosmopolitan city like Seattle, you can truly embrace your love of arts and culture, whether your heart delights in live music, centuries-old masterpieces, or electrifying dance.

Olympic Sculpture Park

Pack a picnic lunch or grab a bite at Seattle Art Museum's eatery, MARKET, during the summer months to enjoy this free, open-air park.

National Nordic Museum

An internationally recognized museum that preserves the values, traditions, art, and spirit of the Nordic peoples.

Wing Luke Museum

Established in 1967, The Wing is the only pan-Asian Pacific American community-based museum in the United States. Enjoy exhibits focused on culture, art, and history and partake in a guided tour like the popular food tours through the Chinatown-International District.

Seattle Museum Month

Soar through aviation history, explore the best of pop culture, dive into PNW marine life, and so much more during the month of February when guests staying at participating downtown hotels receive half off admission to select museums across the region.

Fremont

A walking art tour in this neighborhood just north of downtown includes the Fremont Troll, Statue of Lenin, Center of the Universe, Waiting for the Interurban, and the Fremont Rocket.

Volunteer Park

This beautiful green space in Capitol Hill features the [Seattle Asian Art Museum](#) and the [Volunteer Park Conservatory](#). Climb the steps of the 75-foot-tall Volunteer Park Water Tower Observation Deck for a 360-degree view of the city and a history of the creation of the tower and the park.

Live music at local venues

Enjoy a variety of genres—from hip hop to jazz to rock—performed by world-famous and emerging artists at venues across the city like [The Crocodile](#) in Belltown, [Tractor Tavern](#) in Ballard, or [Neumos](#) on Capitol Hill.

Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture

A research museum located on the University of Washington campus, Burke Museum showcases a myriad of unique objects from dinosaur fossils to Northwest Native art to cultural pieces from around the world.

Refract: The Seattle Glass Experience

Discover why Seattle is the epicenter for studio glass art in the United States over four full days of demos, open artist studios, exhibitions, and more at the Refract glass art festival in October.

Catch the latest theater production

Venues like the [Paramount Theatre](#), [The 5th Avenue Theatre](#), and [ACT](#) bring Seattle's performing arts scene center stage with world-premieres, original works, and award-winning interpretations of the classics.