

A Curated Guide to Things to Do and See in Seattle

Restaurants

- [Agrodolce](#), 709 North 35th Street (Fremont), Seasonal selections of fresh, handmade pasta and other classic Southern Italian dishes crafted by James Beard Award-winning chef Maria Hines in the quirky Fremont neighborhood. (Amy Fulford recommends)
- [Aqua](#), 2801 Alaskan Way, Located right near the Edgewater hotel and a perfect spot for happy hour. Bright, airy, waterfront seafood restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows & an extensive wine list. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Boat Street Kitchen](#), 3131 Western Avenue (near Edgewater, Lower Queen Anne), Warm, intimate dining room turning out local & seasonal French classics, including brunch dishes. (Lynn Hubbard likes atmosphere and menu isn't fussy) (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Bitterroot](#), 5239 Ballard Avenue NW (Ballard), Rustic BBQ joint with back bar offering house-smoked meats paired with sides such as cheesy grits. (Amy Fulford recommends)
- [Canlis](#), 2576 Aurora Ave N (Queen Anne), Where old Seattle celebrates. Fine-dining and formal in a mid-century house with a view. (Lynn Hubbard recommends if you are looking for a dressy and more formal evening; Joanne Gordon Berk had a 40th birthday party here. Lynn Hubbard had a 50th birthday party here).
- [Crow](#), 823 5th Ave N (Queen Anne), Cool atmosphere, comfort food, delicious half chicken. Casual. (Per Lynn Hubbard: if you find yourself around the Seattle Center/Queen Anne, do NOT go to Toulouse Petite which is really unsanitary. Do go to Crow.)
- [Dahlia Lounge](#), 2001 4th Ave (Downtown) Local restaurateur Tom Douglas – one of his classics. Nice NW décor, organic ingredients. (Lynn Hubbard recommends)
- [Green Leaf Vietnamese Food](#), 418 8th Ave S, (International District). Good Asian comfort food. Casual. Pleasant. (Lynn Hubbard enjoys)
- [How to Cook A Wolf](#), 2208 Queen Anne Ave N (Queen Anne), Locale star chef Ethan Stowell, provides Italian-inspired small plates. “Hygge”, charming, lovely wait staff. Reservations recommended or go late and sit at the bar. (Lynn Hubbard likes).
- [Hi-Life](#), 5425 Russell Avenue NW, Located in Ballard's historic Firehouse No. 18 built in 1911, the Hi-Life serves up a quarterly rotating American Grill menu that features the best of the four seasons here in the Pacific Northwest. Spacious and casual. (Amy Fulford recommends)
- [Homegrown](#), Located all over Seattle, Recommend for healthy “fast food”. Good sandwiches, bowls and salads. (Lynn Hubbard recommends the Za'atar Smashed Chickpea sandwich, the Turkey, Bacon, Avocado sandwich and the Chermoula Roasted Veggie Bowl)
- [Intermezzo Carmine](#), 409 1st Avenue, (Pioneer Square) Comfy spot with banquette sofas serves Italian dishes both classic & modern. An offshoot of Il Terrazzo Carmine. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Il Terrazzo Carmine](#), 411 1st Avenue, (Pioneer Square) Upscale Italian fine dining, large wine selection and the home of many a marriage proposal and business deal. (Suzanna Darcy recommends).

- [Goldfinch Tavern](#) in the Four Seasons Hotel, (downtown, near SAM) 99 Union Street. A great spot for happy hour and people watching in the heart of the city. Local ingredients & Puget Sound views are on offer at this elegant eatery. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)(Lynn likes the view).
- [Lark](#), 952 E Seneca St (Capitol Hill), Locally-produced and organic cheese, charcuterie, vegetables, grains, fish, and meats, all prepared in season in an elegant casual space. (Lynn Hubbard recommends).
- [Lola](#), 2000 4th Ave, (Downtown), Tom Douglas restaurant. Greek menu, but Lynn Hubbard recommends it for breakfast. Casual and cozy vibe.
- [Mamnoon](#), Located on Capitol Hill, this restaurant offers traditional Middle Eastern cooking gets modern tweaks at a popular eatery in a former warehouse. (Jessica Shapiro recommends) (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends)
- [Maximilien Restaurant](#), Located in the heart of the Pike Place Market. A romantic and cozy white-tablecloth spot offers water views & classic French fare like duck & onion soup (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Mbar](#), 400 Fairview Ave N, 14th Floor (South Lake Union), A rooftop bar and restaurant with a great view and Mediterranean food. Seattle meets Euro-chic. (Lynn Hubbard recommends although the rooftop deck can be cold so dress warmly).
- [The Nest](#), 110 Stewart Street, Thompson Hotel, (Downtown) Top-shelf hotel bar with expansive views, large-format cocktails & gourmet nibbles. (Suzanna Darcy recommends) (Lynn Hubbard agrees - good bar scene on roof – not a lot of space if weather bad)
- [Nirmals](#), 106 Occidental Ave S, (Pioneer Square). Eclectic Indian food from several regions. Brick walls and lots of space. (Lynn Hubbard likes).
- [Omega Ouzeri](#), 1529 14th Avenue, Classic Greek dishes, prepared with a modern spin, are served at this casual & festive eatery. (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends)
- [Palace Kitchen](#), 2030 5th Ave (Downtown, near shopping), Another Tom Douglas, known for trout and ravioli. (Lynn Hubbard likes it)
- [Palisade](#), Elliot Bay Marina, Enjoy a great meal with breathtaking views of Elliott Bay and impeccable service Complimentary Town Car service available to/from Downtown Seattle Hotels. (Amy Fulford recommends)
- [The Pink Door](#), 1919 Post Alley, Located in the heart of the Pike Place Market. Italian restaurant with burlesque shows & trapeze entertainment plus terrace with Elliott Bay views. (Lynn Hubbard recommends sitting on the shaded deck if you go. Great for lunch in the area of Pike's Market). (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Starbucks Reserve Roastery & Tasting Room](#), 1124 Pike St, Immersive, theatrical shrine to coffee passion, where Master Roasters ply their craft to coax perfectly flavorful expression from each of our small-lot coffees. This is the first Starbucks Reserve Roastery and it offers an experience found nowhere else in the world to enjoy coffee and small bites. (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends)
- [Storyville Coffee Company](#), top floor of the Corner Market building at 1st & Pike in the Pike Place Market, Cozy spot for artisanal coffee & baked goods in stylish wood-clad digs with fireplace. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)

- [Sushi Kappo Tamura](#), 2968 Eastlake Avenue East, Some of Seattle's best sushi! Tamura is a Kappo style restaurant where very fresh seafood is prepared in an open kitchen and served quickly in a lively environment (Jessica Shapiro recommends)
- [Terra Plata](#), 1501 Melrose Avenue, (Capitol Hill, near downtown) Window-lined & stylish eatery features a menu of locally sourced dishes & a rooftop patio. (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends) (Convenient to Paramount. Energetic Atmosphere Lynn Hubbard seconds this one).
- [The Estates Wine Room](#), 307 Occidental Ave South, Wine tasting in Pioneer Square. Northwest wines from Double Canyon & Archery Summit poured by the glass, flight & bottle. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [The London Plane](#), 300 Occidental Avenue South, Located in Pioneer Square, this spot is part café, part specialty foods grocery, and part floral workshop. It's the perfect place for simple, fresh midday fare ranging from Mediterranean-inspired entrées to pastries baked in-house. (Suzanna Darcy recommend) (Jessica Shapiro recommends)
- [Tilikum Place Café](#), 407 Cedar St, (Belltown, near Space Needle). "Go-to" for a cozy, light-filled atmosphere and fresh ingredients (Lynn Hubbard recommends)
- [Tilth](#), 1411 North 45th Street, (Wallingford) Featuring New American cuisine prepared with certified-organic or wild ingredients sourced from local farmers. The first in America to be certified organic by the Oregon Tilth organization and the executive chef, Maria Hines, is a James Beard award winner. (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends)
- [Wild Ginger](#), 1401 3rd Ave (Downtown), A Seattle classic with Asian-fusion cuisine. It is big but comfortable and not overwhelming. (Lynn Hubbard recommends. Also, check out the Triple-Door downstairs for live music).

Sweets (Many of these can be found all over the city.)

- Mighty-O Organic Donuts
- Top Pot Donuts
- Molly Moon Ice Cream
- Cupcake Royale
- Hello Robin

The Arts

- [Chihuly Glass Museum and Garden](#), 305 Harrison Street, Right near the Space Needle and home of the amazing Dale Chihuly glasswork. You'll enjoy both the interior museum and the gorgeous outdoor gardens. (You will get to see this on Friday night before dinner)
- [Fountainhead Gallery](#), 625 W McGraw St (Queen Anne), contemporary art, all over the place - hit or miss. (Lynn Hubbard likes and owns a couple).
- [Harris Harvey Gallery](#), 1915 First Avenue (Belltown/Market), contemporary West Coast artists (Lynn Hubbard recommends).
- [Frye Art Museum](#), 704 Terry Avenue. Located in the First Hill neighborhood, the museum emphasizes painting and sculpture from the nineteenth century to the present.

- [Henry Art Gallery](#), 15th Ave NE & NE 41st St University of Washington campus, The first art museum to open in Washington State, and has shown major names such as Chuck Close, Paul McCarthy, and Ann Hamilton.
- [MOHAI](#) (South Lake Union) History of Washington State with artifacts and photographs. You may see planes taking off from Lake Union while outside. (Lynn Hubbard recommends for those curious about Washington State history).
- [Museum of Flight](#), 9404 E. Marginal Way (south of Georgetown), This is the biggest nonprofit air and space museum in the world. Tons of aircraft including JFK's Airforce One, a Concorde, and a [de Havilland Comet](#). If you are into planes, it is a great place to visit. (Lynn Hubbard recommends).
- [Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Museum](#) (Everett), If you are really, really into planes, head up north to Everett and check out Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Museum. While you are there, you can also see the [Museum of Flight Restoration Center](#).
- **Olympic Sculpture Park**, 2901 Western Avenue, Offers unrivaled views of Elliott Bay. Designed by New York City-based firm Weiss/Manfredi, the park contains three separate sites connected by a Z-shaped grass platform and sculptures and installations by Richard Serra, Teresita Fernández, and Alexander Calder. (Nancy Bearg recommends) (Lynn Hubbard agrees. Don't miss this. It is right next to the Edgewater. Also, this is a nice place for a walk or a jog).
- [Patricia Rovzar Gallery](#), 1111 1st Avenue, Contemporary, at times eclectic, always well curated painting and sculpture from Northwest artists and beyond. Ask to see encaustic florals by local favorite Joyce Gehl. (Joanne Gordon Berk has three in her home!) (Lynn Hubbard – ditto, nice gallery)
- [Seattle Art Museum](#), 1300 1st Avenue, SAM's global collections bridge cultures and centuries in the heart of downtown Seattle. SAM Gallery in the basement rents and sells art by Northwest artists (Lynn Hubbard has a few).
- [Steinbrueck Gallery](#), 2030 Western Avenue. Located at the north end of Pike Place Market, this gallery is a favorite for Pacific Northwest Coastal Native American Art. Pieces range from jewelry and cards to wall hangings and sculpture. (Lynn Hubbard recommends).
- [Wing Luke Museum](#), 719 S. King Street, (International District), Museum of Asian-American culture, art and history. (Lynn Hubbard recommends).

Shopping

- [Alhambra](#), 2127 1st Avenue, High-end specialty women's boutique with a warm, inviting atmosphere and an incredible luxury Slow Fashion shopping experience. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Baby & Co](#), 1936 1st Avenue, Unique, luxury clothing, shoes and accessories for men and women by artisan designers. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [DeLaurenti](#) – 1435 1st Avenue, Italian food & wine shop located in the heart of the Pike Place Market selling cheeses, meats & imported groceries plus a cafe for light bites. (Per Lynn Hubbard, this is good for a quick counter/standing lunch at Pike Place Market too)

- [Farinaz](#), 1302 5th Avenue, Elegant shirts, luxury fabrics, and one-of-a-kind apparel. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Essenza](#), 615 North 35th. Carefully curated selection of boutique fragrances, fine jewelry, quality body and skin care and handcrafted home goods located in the Fremont neighborhood. (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends)
- [Fox's Gem Shop](#), 405 University Street, Third-generation family owned jewelers offering a mix of classic, contemporary, and vintage pieces. Best known for unexpected treasures and one-of-a-kind gems. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Fran's Chocolates](#), 1325 1st Avenue, Family owned confectioner well known for their divine gray and smoked salted caramels. (Phyllis Campbell recommends) (Lynn Hubbard seconds)
- [Isadora's Antique Jewelry](#), 1601 1st Avenue, Jeweler featuring vintage estate items from the 19th & early 20th century. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Luly Yang](#), 1218 4th Avenue, Showroom of high-end custom fashion for wedding and evening. A huge dose of prettiness! (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Mario's](#), 1513 6th Avenue, Family-owned upscale boutique offering European and American designer apparel, shoes, and accessories. (Jessica Shapiro recommends)
- [Nordstrom](#), 500 Pine Street. This is the store that started it all. The downtown Seattle Nordstrom is the chain's flagship shop, opened by John W. Nordstrom in 1901.
- [Pike Place Market](#), 1531 Western Avenue, Quintessentially Seattle outdoor market filled with fresh produce, flowers, seafood, and an incredible view of Puget Sound. A tour is being offered through BG tour guide. There are other tours available.
- [REI](#), 222 Yale Avenue North (North part of Downtown), This is the flagship store including a climbing wall.
- [Silberman Brown Stationers](#), 417 University Street, Locally owned, boutique stationer who has a love for the finest paper, pens, and desk accessories. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Totokaelo](#), 1523 10th Avenue, Purveyor of beautifully designed and thoughtfully curated fashion and objects.
- [Turgeon Raine](#), 1407 5th Avenue, A range of luxury jewelry including highly creative custom designs and well-known designer jewelry and timepieces. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Twist](#), Pacific Place, downtown, One-of-a-kind, wear-it-everyday jewelry from local and international designers. Affordable and unique. Warning: Enter prepared to purchase for yourself or a gift. I rarely leave empty-handed. Elegant and playful. Gems gems gems! \$100-\$20,000. <http://www.twistonline.com> (Joanne Gordon Berk recommends) (Lynn Hubbard also recommends)
- [Oska](#), 1322 5th Avenue, structural, comfortable fashion that is sophisticated and individual. (Suzanna Darcy recommends)
- [Watson Kennedy Fine Living](#), 86 Pine Street, Upscale boutique for home and bath goods a block up from the Pike Place Market. (Jessica Shapiro recommends)

Corporate & Non-Profits

(Note: none of us have been to these spots, but we thought you'd want to know about them.)

- [Amazon Spheres](#), 2111 7th Avenue, Three spherical [conservatories](#) on the headquarters campus of [Amazon](#). You must arrange for a [public tour in advance](#). These tours are offered two Saturdays per month. The domes, which range from three to four stories tall, house 40,000 plants as well as meeting space and retail stores.
- [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center](#), 440 5th Avenue North, Explore interactive exhibits and powerful stories highlighting how the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and its partners are working to improve the quality of life for billions of people around the globe. Guided tours at 2pm every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. (Nancy Bearg recommends.)

Outdoors & Outings

- [Kayak, paddle board and sail on Lake Washington.](#)
- Enjoy the best of Washington wines with [Wine Tasting in Woodinville.](#)
- Tour the beautiful [Japanese Garden.](#)
- Take a spectacular [WA State Ferry](#) ride anywhere.
- Enjoy a [20-minute sightseeing flight over the Seattle in seaplane.](#)
- Visit [Snoqualmie Falls](#) at [Salish Lodge.](#)
- [Re-energizing Walks](#) by the water
 - [Discover South Lake Union](#)
 - For runners, it is 6.3 miles around Lake Union. This is a fun run early on weekend mornings. Later it gets too congested and loud.
 - [Green Lake](#)
 - [Discovery Park](#) (see below)
 - [Kerry Park](#) and then walk west along W Highland to Betty Bowan park to see the Olympic Mountain Range. Great photo ops!
- [Rent a LimeBike, Spin, or Ofo](#) bike and then tour around Lake Washington on the [Burke Gilman Trail](#) (Lynn seconds this)
- Play Golf at [The Golf Club at Newcastle](#) which is open to the public and has 2 beautiful courses about 10 miles East of the City Center. Tee times can be obtained by calling 425-793-4653. (Phyllis Campbell recommends).
- Take a one-hour [Harbor Cruise](#) or the [longer cruise](#) through the locks (and see houseboats from the water). It is touristy, but a fun way to see Seattle from the harbor and learn a little history as well. (Lynn enjoyed it a few years ago)
- Check out the [Old Ballard neighborhood](#) just a bit north of downtown. There are boutiques for shopping, great restaurants, many breweries and other places to check out like the [Nordic Heritage Museum](#) (none of us have seen it as of June 15) and the [Ballard Locks](#). September is the best time to see salmon swimming up the fish ladder. [Café Besalu](#) at 5909 24th Ave N.W. in the Ballard neighborhood is one of the best local bakeries around. Ballard Ave is loaded with shops and restaurants. (Lynn recommends)
- Go to the top of the Space Needle if it is a clear day. You can ride there on the monorail from Westlake Center after checking out Nordstrom's headquarters. Near the Space Needle is the Mo-Pop Museum for those into pop art and music.

- Check out the galleries and shops in Pioneer Square. This is the new home to Weyerhaeuser, the renovated King Street Station and a short walk to the International District. Pioneer Square is also known for its underground tours. Check out the galleries and shops listed in this link : <https://www.pioneersquare.org/about>
- If you want a nature experience without leaving Seattle, check out Discovery Park on the Western tip of Magnolia. You can walk the loop trail and then go down to a beach that winds around a point. The park used to be a big army base, Fort Lawton. It was mostly decommissioned in the 60's and 70's, and it has been allowed to revert to its natural state, but there are still some old landmarked officers quarters. Sweeping views of the sound and the Olympic peninsula. A great urban escape.
- Other fun areas for strolling are Alki Beach in West Seattle which feels like a boardwalk area and around Fremont where you can find the Troll, as well as shops and restaurants. Check out the neon Rapunzel on the drawbridge tower. You can also cross over to Bellevue and Kirkland. Kirkland is particularly cool for strolling around. Capitol Hill from Broadway down to Seattle University and through the Pike and Pine Corridor is also a spot for restaurants and shops.
- Full day outing: **Mount Rainier**. <http://www.nps.gov/mora/index.htm> The Mountain can be seen in a day trip to either Paradise Campground or Sunrise, but it's nice as an overnight (2-3 hours each way). If you're going to take a day trip, consider going to Crystal Mountain Ski Area instead (just outside the Sunrise entrance to the park) and take one of the many hiking trips to the summit, where there's a drop-dead view of the mountain (or take the gondola up and hike back down). There are many places to stay on the Sunrise side (including near Crystal Mountain - <http://www.altacrystalresort.com>). On the other side, the Paradise Lodge is the most distinctive. <http://www.mtrainierguestservices.com/accommodations/paradise-inn> But while there are a few heavily traveled day hikes from Paradise, some of the best hikes start from Sunrise Campground (near Crystal) on the other side of the mountain. Burroughs Mountain is Lynn's husband's very favorite hike around Mt Rainer. <https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/burroughs-mountain> You can't find many better vantage points without being in a plane. By the way, if you like hiking, the Washington Trails Association website and books (www.WTA.org) are a fantastic resource.
- Anyone into hunting – it is likely the season for some elk, deer and bear. Local outfitters can connect you if you are interested.
- For fishing – September is known for several varieties of Salmon fishing.
- If you are into county fairs with animals and games and carnival food, the Washington State Fair in Puyallup will be in full swing. Great people watching. <http://www.thefair.com/>

Road trips

If you like cowboy country, this is a good weekend road trip. Drive to the Methow Valley ("**Methow**" is **pronounced** with silent "h" and the syllable breaks at the "e" and "t" as in

"Me-tow" where the "e" in "Me" sounds like the "e" in "meth" and the "tow" rhymes with "brow"). Go via the North Cascades highway, one of the most spectacular drives in America. The North Cascades are known as the American Alps. On the way, you can take a guided lunchtime boat tour of Diablo Lake and see the power company that surrounds the dam creating the lake. http://www.seattle.gov/light/tours/skagit/sk5_ross.htm. (Sats and Suns only in late Sept). Also on the way is a spectacular hike: Maple Pass Loop, close to the summit of the pass. <http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/seasonal-hikes/hikes-of-the-week/maple-pass-loop> This is for experienced hikers in good shape. There are other beautiful and shorter hikes as well. Check out wta.org if you need ideas. On the other side of the mountains you'll find Mazama and the Mazama County Store, that is charming. (The end of Mazama rhymes with the end of Alabama). Then you reach Winthrop, a town that tries to keep its old western identity without being too overbearing about it. (If you want overbearing – go to Leavenworth, a fake Bavarian city in the Cascades about a half hour past Stevens Pass on Route 2. Decent beer and brats, but very odd cultural experience.) There are many nice places to stay near Winthrop, but the best is Sun Mountain Lodge. (www.sunmountainlodge.com). Beyond the town, there is a ton of fun stuff to do there in the late summer, from floating on inner tubes down the beautiful Methow River, to guided fishing trips, fantastic hiking of all types (and for all ages and abilities), horseback riding, and Sun Mountain even has its own little lake where you can swim and rent small boats for an afternoon. Don't forget to explore the small town of Twisp (the "Cinnamon Twisps" from the Twisp Bakery are outstanding). You can return to Seattle by heading south and returning on Route 90 for a less-scenic, but still scenic, route. Stop in at Basecamp Books & Bites in Roslyn (where Northern Exposure opening scene was filmed) if you are needing a break an hour or so out from Seattle. <https://www.basecampbooks.com/>

If you have a few days, check out **Walla Walla** and its myriad vineyards and home to Whitman College. It has been described as Napa Valley 20 years ago. Drive to the Columbia River and check out Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. https://www.destinationhotels.com/skamania?utm_source=google-local&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=gmb. Stop at Maryhill Museum along the way with its Rodins and eclectic collections and nearby fake-Stonehenge. <http://www.maryhillmuseum.org/visit>. Beautiful state and national parks all around. Across the river, Hood River, Oregon is cute. This is a kite surfer mecca. Also, cool in northern Oregon are Portland, Bend (high desert) and nearby Sisters, Oregon and the Timberline Lodge on Mt Hood.

Victoria, BC and near-by: An alternative to the San Juans, if you're looking for the same experience plus an interesting city, is Victoria, BC. Take the float-plane there, rent a car, see the many picturesque sights of Victoria, have high tea at the Empress Hotel, and then drive up the coast. It gets pretty wild quickly, with essentially the same seaside terrain as you find in the San Juans. Lots of places to stay, ranging from B&Bs, luxury resorts, and camping. And one of the best coastal day hikes in North America. http://www.eastsookepark.com/east_sooke_park.htm. Sooke Harbor House is charming. <https://sookeharbourhouse.com/>. You can always take the Victoria Clipper back to Seattle, if you want the experience on the water.

Misc.

If you haven't bought your plane ticket, Lynn recommends **Alaska Airlines**. They actually usually (highly qualified) have pretty good airplane food. If you are in business, I've found the meals more often than not to actually be tasty. Alaska has direct flights from all over the U.S. to Seattle.