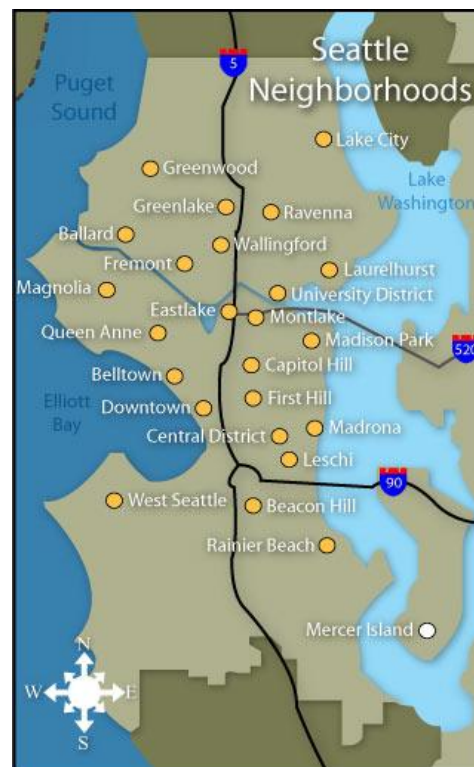


# A Local's Guide to Seattle

Welcome to Seattle! As a visitor, you're probably overwhelmed with options for spending your time, so I've made this guide to help you choose wisely. Look through the headings for categories that interest you, and for each you'll find a few of the best suggestions.

When something is within the city of Seattle, the neighborhood is listed to help you get your bearings and combine activities in the same area.



## Highly Recommended

These attractions have something for everyone, and show some of the best Seattle has to offer.



### The Ballard Locks

In one place, you'll find a fish ladder with spawning salmon passing through, a botanical garden, fascinating locks that connect two bodies of water (differing in elevation by 20 feet), and wildlife such as great blue herons and sea lions.

Hiram M. Chittenden Locks  
3015 NW 54th St., Seattle, WA 98107  
<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=lwsc&pagename=visiting>  
Cost: free

*Ballard and Magnolia neighborhoods*



### Olympic Sculpture Park

This stunning park features interesting sculptures of all sizes in a downtown park setting that overlooks Elliott Bay. People of all ages will enjoy wandering around, checking out the art, trains on the adjacent railroad tracks, and the scenic beauty of the water and mountains.

Events include a farmers' market on Thursdays, free yoga class at 10am on Saturdays, and public tours on Saturdays and Sundays (12pm and 1pm).  
  
2901 Western Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121  
<http://www.seattleartmuseum.org/visit/OSP>  
Cost: free

*Belltown neighborhood*



### Woodland Park Zoo

One of the best zoos in the country, Woodland Park Zoo is "a beautiful 92-acre zoo featuring more than 300 different animal species." Even when it's raining, you can enjoy the zoo's many indoor exhibits.

750 N. 50th Street, Seattle, WA 98103  
Phone: 206-548-2500  
<http://www.zoo.org/>  
Cost: \$16.50 + parking

*Greenwood/Phinney Ridge neighborhood*

## Don't-Miss Tourist Spots

Yes, all the tourists go to these places, but unlike many local tourist traps, these are worth visiting.

### Pike Place Market

"A feast for the senses, the market offers a dazzling array of arts, crafts, and curios; a soundscape of street musicians, hawking produce vendors, and extroverted fishmongers; and a melting pot of international cuisine and ingredients."

You can also see the very first Starbucks store there (1912 Pike Place). Note: everyone will know you're a tourist if you call it "Pike's Place Market".

*Downtown neighborhood*

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

85 Pike St

Seattle, WA 98101

Cost: free



### Space Needle

The 360-degree view of Seattle from the observation deck is dazzling and informative. Note: the SkyCity restaurant above is not recommended. You may bring your own food to the observation deck. To visit from downtown, take the monorail.

*Lower Queen Anne neighborhood*

<http://www.spaceneedle.com/>

400 Broad St., Seattle, WA 98109

Cost: \$15

### Underground Tour

"As you roam the subterranean passages that once were the main roadways and first-floor storefronts of old downtown Seattle, our guides regale you with the stories our pioneers didn't want you to hear."

*Pioneer Square neighborhood  
(downtown)*

<http://www.undergroundtour.com/>

608 First Ave.

Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: 206-682-4646

Cost: \$15

## Interesting Neighborhoods

Downtown you'll mostly encounter tourists and people who work there. To see where the locals hang out, walk around in one of our unique neighborhoods. These are some of the most intriguing.

### Ballard

Originally a Scandinavian fishing community, Ballard is now a thriving and hip neighborhood packed with restaurants, shops, and pubs. Visit on Sunday and you can experience the Ballard Farmers' Market with vendors and live entertainment.

Start walking near NW Market St. & Ballard Ave. NW. Both of these streets are worth exploring.

Take a car, cab, or bus (17, 18).

### West Seattle

Across Elliott Bay from downtown, West Seattle is a vibrant community that prides itself on its distinct culture. Go to Alki for a laid-back strip of beach and restaurants with a killer view of Seattle. For a more eclectic mix of locally-owned shops and restaurants, walk along California Ave. SW. near SW. Alaska St. (called "The Junction").

On the second Thursday of the month, there's an Art Walk in the evening, featuring local artists and hosted by neighborhood businesses.  
(<http://wsartwalk.com/>)

You can take the Water Taxi (see "Get out on the Water" section), followed by a free shuttle, to get to these areas. Route 775 goes to Alki, and route 773 the Junction. A car would make your West Seattle visit easier.

### Capitol Hill

Just up the hill from downtown, Capitol Hill is the center of Seattle's alternative and gay/lesbian community. In addition, it's one of Seattle's fastest growing and trendy neighborhoods, filled with music (live and DJ), restaurants, coffeehouses, and shops of all kinds.




Turn a corner, and you might find yourself in an elegant, tree-lined street of old houses, or in the peaceful and scenic Volunteer Park.

Walk along Broadway Ave. E. (between E. Roy St. and E. Pike St.), or up and down E. Pike St. and E. Pine St. (between Melrose Ave. and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.).

It's possible to walk to Capitol Hill from downtown if you're feeling ambitious. Otherwise, take a bus (10, 11, 49) or cab. Parking can be tight.

## Photography / Skyline

You can get beautiful shots of the city from several angles. Here are three popular vantage points to see and shoot the city from.

 <p><b>Kerry Park</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W. &amp; W. Highland Drive <i>Queen Anne</i> neighborhood</p>	 <p><b>Alki</b> Harbor Ave. SW. (1000-2000 blocks) <i>West Seattle</i> neighborhood</p>	 <p><b>Gasworks Park</b> N. Northlake Way &amp; Burke Ave. N. <i>Wallingford</i> neighborhood</p>
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## Get out on the Water

Seattle has water in every direction you look, and a visit to Seattle isn't complete without at least one boat ride. Here are some options (and don't forget kayak rental, listed in the *For The Active* section).

<p><b>Washington State Ferries</b></p> <p>Our public ferry system is an inexpensive way to soak up the scenery and sea air. Orcas are occasionally spotted. From downtown, you can ride to Bainbridge Island (30 min) or Bremerton (1 hour).</p> <p><a href="http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/">http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/</a> Cost: \$7 round-trip</p> <p>Seattle Ferry Terminal 801 Alaskan Way (Pier 52) Seattle, WA 98104</p> <p><i>Downtown</i> neighborhood (waterfront)</p>	<p><b>Argosy Tours</b></p> <p>If you spend a bit more, you can get live narration and the option to see more parts of the city (depending what tour you choose).</p> <p><a href="http://www.argosycruises.com/">http://www.argosycruises.com/</a> Cost: \$22-40 +</p> <p>1201 Alaskan Way (Pier 56) Seattle, WA 98101 Phone: 888-623-1445</p> <p><i>Downtown</i> neighborhood (waterfront)</p>	<p><b>Elliott Bay Water Taxi</b></p> <p>This quick passenger ferry will whisk you to the West Seattle neighborhood.</p> <p><a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/WaterTaxi/WestSeattleRoute.aspx">http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/kcdot/WaterTaxi/WestSeattleRoute.aspx</a> Cost: \$7 round-trip (exact change only)</p> <p>801 Alaskan Way (Pier 50) Seattle, WA 98104</p> <p><i>Downtown</i> neighborhood (waterfront)</p>
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## Nature

You don't have to leave the city to experience the beauty of nature. Seattle has many great parks – here are a few of the best for a scenic stroll.

<b>The Arboretum</b> This botanical garden features an astounding collection of plants and trees. There is also a Japanese garden at the south end.  <a href="http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/gardens/wpa.shtml">http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/gardens/wpa.shtml</a> 2300 Arboretum Drive E Seattle, WA 98112 Cost: free (\$5 for Japanese garden)  <i>Montlake</i> neighborhood	<b>Volunteer Park</b> This park has a conservatory with five greenhouses, plus great views of downtown, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, a children's play area, and lots of green space.  <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=399">http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=399</a> 1247 15th Ave. E Seattle, WA 98112 Cost: free  <i>Capitol Hill</i> neighborhood	<b>Green Lake</b> Reminiscent of New York's Central Park, this park surrounds a pretty lake. Joggers, walkers, and rollerbladers crowd the trail on sunny days, and it's a great place to jog or people-watch.  <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=307">http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=307</a> 7201 E Green Lake Dr. N Seattle, WA 98115 Cost: free  <i>Green Lake</i> neighborhood
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## Beer and Wine

The Seattle area is home to many wineries and breweries that welcome visitors for tastes and tours.

<b>Woodinville Wine Country</b>  Only 30 minutes from Seattle, you'll find over 50 wineries/tasting rooms in the Woodinville area. They range from big names like Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia Winery to small boutique cellars.  While you're in Woodinville, take a hot air balloon ride over the countryside!  Woodinville, WA  <a href="http://www.woodinvillewinecountry.com">http://www.woodinvillewinecountry.com</a> <a href="http://www.bonvivanttours.com/tour_description.html">http://www.bonvivanttours.com/tour_description.html</a> <a href="http://www.letsloballooning.com/Seattle/seattle.html">http://www.letsloballooning.com/Seattle/seattle.html</a> (book tours & balloon rides ahead)	<b>Redhook Brewery</b>  If beer is more your taste, check out Redhook Brewery in Woodinville. "The beautiful facility features expansive grounds and the Forecaster's Public House, where you can indulge in all of the Redhook ales and pub-style meals." Tours daily.  <a href="http://www.redhook.com/Default.aspx?p=36">http://www.redhook.com/Default.aspx?p=36</a> 14300 NE 145 <sup>th</sup> St. Woodinville, WA 98072 Cost: \$1	<b>Seattle Breweries</b>  <u>Pyramid Alehouse</u> <a href="http://www.pyramidbrew.com/alehouses/seattle">http://www.pyramidbrew.com/alehouses/seattle</a> 1201 First Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98134 <i>Pioneer Square</i> neighborhood  <u>Hale's Ales</u> <a href="http://halesbrewery.com/brewery.htm">http://halesbrewery.com/brewery.htm</a> 4301 Leary Way NW., Seattle, WA 98107 <i>Fremont</i> and <i>Ballard</i> neighborhoods  <u>Pike Brewing Company</u> <a href="http://www.pikebrewing.com/">http://www.pikebrewing.com/</a> 1415 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98122 <i>Downtown</i> neighborhood (Pike Place Market)
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## Dining

The best way to find a good place to eat in Seattle is by using **Urbanspoon**, a restaurant website founded locally. You can browse the website (<http://www.urbanspoon.com/c/1/Seattle.html>), or use their mobile apps for Blackberry, Android, or iPhone. Urbanspoon is particularly useful for travelers because you can use the site to get instant same-day reservations to almost a hundred of Seattle's best restaurants. Here's a link to see what's available tonight: <http://www.urbanspoon.com/rz/1/Seattle-reservations.html>

A few select restaurant recommendations:

<b>Canlis</b> The penultimate Seattle dining experience at Canlis is highly recommended, if you can afford it. Everything is pitch-perfect, from the retro ambience, to the view, to the food and world-class service.  <a href="http://www.canlis.com/">http://www.canlis.com/</a> 2576 Aurora Ave N Seattle, WA 98109  <i>Queen Anne</i> neighborhood	<b>Poppy</b> Hard to categorize, this restaurant presents food in thali format (an Indian style featuring many small portions of different items), although the food is not necessarily Indian food. The creative and award-winning chef is constantly inventing new dishes. Don't skip the dessert thali!  <a href="http://www.poppyseattle.com/">http://www.poppyseattle.com/</a> 622 Broadway E Seattle, WA 98102  <i>Capitol Hill</i> neighborhood	<b>Salumi</b> This tiny meat and sandwich shop is owned by celebrity chef Mario Batali's father, Armandino. "Traditional house-cured meats, offbeat sandwiches and bargain prices make this unique shop a local favorite." Expect a long line at lunchtime (but it's worth it).  <a href="http://www.salumicuredmeats.com/">http://www.salumicuredmeats.com/</a> 309 3rd Ave S Seattle, WA 98104  <i>Pioneer Square</i> neighborhood
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## Culture

Seattle has a vibrant arts community. Here are a few ways to catch a glimpse:

<b>Visual Art</b>  You can visit the Seattle Art Museum downtown for a standard museum experience. For a look at our local art scene, walk around the galleries in Pioneer Square or visit the Henry Art Gallery.  <u>Seattle Art Museum</u> <a href="http://www.seattleartmuseum.org">http://www.seattleartmuseum.org</a> 1300 First Ave., Seattle, WA 98101 Cost: \$15 <i>Downtown</i> neighborhood  <u>Pioneer Square galleries</u> <a href="http://www.firstthursdayseattle.com/map.php">http://www.firstthursdayseattle.com/map.php</a> Cost: free <i>Pioneer Square</i> neighborhood  <u>Henry Art Gallery</u> <a href="http://www.henryart.org/">http://www.henryart.org/</a> 15th Ave NE & 41st St, Seattle, WA 98195 Cost: \$10 <i>University District</i> neighborhood	<b>Performing Arts</b>  Options include: the Seattle Symphony, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Repertory Theater (locally produced plays), Fifth Avenue Theatre (travelling productions), On the Boards (modern dance).  Current theatre schedule: <a href="http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/entertainment/#type=theater">http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/entertainment/#type=theater</a>	<b>Movies</b>  Seattle has several cinemas that play independent/art movies along with the usual Hollywood fare.  Landmark Theatres: <a href="http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Market/Seattle/Seattle_Frame_set.htm">http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Market/Seattle/Seattle_Frame_set.htm</a>  Big Picture: An extra-comfortable theater that feels like someone's living room, where you can order food and drinks during the film. <a href="http://www.thebigpicture.net/movies/">http://www.thebigpicture.net/movies/</a> 2505 1st Ave., Seattle, WA 98121 <i>Bellevue</i> neighborhood
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## Pop Culture

Seattle has been home to many famous icons over the years. Here are a few you can pay tribute to:

<b>Jimi Hendrix's Grave</b>  <a href="http://www.jimihendrixmemorial.com/">http://www.jimihendrixmemorial.com/</a> Greenwood Cemetery 350 Monroe Ave. N.E. Renton, WA 98056 (About 45 minutes from Seattle)  <b>Bruce Lee &amp; Brandon Lee's Graves</b>  Lake View Cemetery 1554 15th Ave. E. Seattle, WA 98112 Capitol Hill neighborhood	<b>Film Locations</b>  <u>"Sleepless in Seattle" Houseboats</u> The best way to see the houseboats is from the water. See the "For the Active" section for kayak rental information. Eastlake neighborhood  <u>"Singles" Apartment Building</u> E Thomas St & 19th Ave E. Seattle, WA 98112 Capitol Hill neighborhood	<b>Nirvana Landmarks</b>  <u>Viretta Park</u> : informal Cobain memorial site, next to the house where he last lived. 151 Lake Washington Blvd. E Seattle, WA 98122 Madrona neighborhood  Re-Bar: location of "Nevermind" release party in 1991. 1114 Howell St., Seattle, WA 98101 South Lake Union neighborhood  <u>Crocodile Cafe</u> : this club was a grunge hotspot, and all the bands played here at some point. 2200 Second Ave., Seattle, WA 98121 Belltown neighborhood
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## Geek Landmarks

Seattle is a serious technology town, from the early days of Microsoft, through the dot-com bubble days, to today's thriving startup scene. Here are a few major tech landmarks. For more, visit the Geek's Guide to Seattle: <http://www.seattletechtour.com/>

<b>Microsoft Visitor Center</b>  "Inside, you can explore the vision, products, culture, and history of Microsoft. Our exhibits display everything from the latest Microsoft Research innovations to the very first personal computer. Explore hands-on exhibits featuring some of the company's most exciting technologies for home and business."  <a href="http://www.microsoft.com/visitorcenter">http://www.microsoft.com/visitorcenter</a> Microsoft Building 92 Near NE 36 <sup>th</sup> St. & 150 <sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Redmond, WA 98052 Cost: free	<b>Nintendo of America Headquarters</b>  "The customer service center at the Japanese video-game giant's North American headquarters features a small museum of classic Nintendo consoles, games and memorabilia."  Nintendo Customer Service Center 4820 150th Avenue NE. Redmond, WA 98052 Phone: (425) 882-2040 Cost: free	<b>Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame</b>  "An homage to science fiction TV shows and movies. Its current collection has plenty of must-sees for nerds, including Captain Kirk's chair from the Starship Enterprise; Darth Vader's helmet; and Dr. Zaius' costume from Planet of the Apes."  The museum shares a space at Seattle Center with the Experience Music Project (basically a rock and roll museum), in a you-won't-believe-your-eyes building designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry.  <a href="http://www.empsfm.org">http://www.empsfm.org</a> 325 5th Ave. N. Seattle, WA 98109 Phone: 877-367-7361 Cost: \$15  Lower Queen Anne neighborhood
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## Airplanes

Seattle has a long history of aviation, and Boeing Corporation was founded here. If you're interested in airplanes, here are some places to visit:

<p><b>Museum of Flight</b></p> <p>"The Museum of Flight holds a collection that includes 131 air- and spacecraft and over 19,000 other artifacts, including a Concorde, SR-71 Blackbird, F/A-18 Hornet, and America's first presidential jet, Air Force One."</p> <p>Georgetown neighborhood</p> <p><a href="http://www.museumofflight.org/">http://www.museumofflight.org/</a> 9404 East Marginal Way S. Seattle, WA 98108-4097 Phone: 206.764.5720 Cost: \$15</p>	<p><b>Boeing Field</b></p> <p>If you don't want to pay admission to the Museum of Flight, go to this park near the airfield to watch various general aviation and cargo planes take off and land.</p> <p>Georgetown neighborhood</p> <p>Unnamed park S. Hardy St. &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.</p>	<p><b>Boeing Factory Tour</b></p> <p>"Experience the marvel of commercial jet aviation. See the future of powered, winged flight. Digitally design and test your own jet. Watch the world's largest jets assembled in the world's largest building." Note: advance ticket purchase recommended.</p> <p>Everett (city 30 min. north of Seattle)</p> <p><a href="http://www.futureofflight.org/">http://www.futureofflight.org/</a> 8415 Paine Field Blvd. Mukilteo, WA 98275 Phone: 888-467-4777 Cost: \$15.50</p>
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## For the Active

A defining characteristic of Seattleites is our love of being active. Here are a few ways to get a taste of that while you're in town:

<p><b>Kayak / Canoe Rental</b></p> <p>Rent a kayak or canoe and paddle around exploring our waterways at your own pace.</p> <p><u>Northwest Outdoor Center</u> 2100 Westlake Ave N., Seattle, WA 98109 <a href="http://www.nwoc.com/rental/">http://www.nwoc.com/rental/</a> 800-683-0637 Cost: \$13-20/hour Queen Anne neighborhood</p> <p><u>Agua Verde Paddle Club</u> 1303 NE Boat Street, Seattle, WA 98105 <a href="http://www.aguaverde.com/paddle_rates.shtml">http://www.aguaverde.com/paddle_rates.shtml</a> 206- 545-8570 Cost: \$15-18/hour Bonus: also an excellent Mexican restaurant! University District neighborhood</p>	<p><b>Rock Climbing</b></p> <p><u>Stone Gardens</u> (indoor) 2839 NW Market St., Seattle, WA 98107 <a href="http://www.stonegardens.com/">http://www.stonegardens.com/</a> 206-781-9828 Cost: \$16/day + equipment rental Ballard neighborhood</p> <p><u>Vertical World</u> (indoor) 2123 W. Elmore St., Seattle, WA 98199 <a href="https://www.verticalworld.com/?page_id=39">https://www.verticalworld.com/?page_id=39</a> 206-283-4497 Cost: \$15/day + equipment rental Magnolia neighborhood</p> <p><u>Mountaineers Magnuson Park Wall</u> (outdoor) 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 <a href="http://www.seattlemountaineers.org/">http://www.seattlemountaineers.org/</a> 206-521-6000 Cost: free Laurelhurst neighborhood</p> <p><u>REI Pinnacle</u> (indoor, good for beginners) 222 Yale Ave N., Seattle, WA 98109 <a href="http://www.rei.com/stores/seattle/climbclass.html">http://www.rei.com/stores/seattle/climbclass.html</a> 888-873-1938 Cost: \$20/climb for non-members South Lake Union neighborhood</p>	<p><b>Bicycling</b></p> <p>Rent a bike and cruise around town.</p> <p><u>Play It Again Sports</u> 1304 Stewart, Seattle, WA 98109 <a href="http://playitagainsportsdtseattle.com">http://playitagainsportsdtseattle.com</a> 206-264-9255 South Lake Union neighborhood</p> <p><u>Recycled Cycles</u> 1007 NE Boat St., Seattle, WA 98105 <a href="http://www.recycledcycles.com">http://www.recycledcycles.com</a> 877- 298-4683 University District neighborhood</p> <p><b>Places to Ride:</b></p> <p>Burke-Gilman Trail <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/burkegilmantrailmaps.htm">http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/burkegilmantrailmaps.htm</a></p> <p>Other options <a href="http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/bikemaps.htm">http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/bikemaps.htm</a></p>
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## Day Trips

If you have a spare day, here are some good options for going further from Seattle.



### Mount Rainier

Seattle's crown jewel is only visible on sunny days, but you can visit anytime. The beautiful views and wildlife are abundant, and there are walks/hikes to suit any fitness level. Driving time (one-way) is 2.5 - 3 hours.

National Park website:  
<http://www.nps.gov/mora/>

Gray Line Tour:  
[http://www.grayline.com/Grayline/destinations/us/seattle.go?mode=activityDetail&ap\\_id=1610&sid=542](http://www.grayline.com/Grayline/destinations/us/seattle.go?mode=activityDetail&ap_id=1610&sid=542)  
Cost: \$68



### Leavenworth

This nearby mountain town reinvented itself as a Bavarian village, and is a quaint and funny place to discover. Driving time (one-way) is 2.5 hours.

<http://www.leavenworth.org>



### Victoria, British Columbia (Canada)

This small city on Vancouver Island is the capital of B.C., and has a distinct British flavor.  
<http://www.tourismvictoria.com/>

Don't miss High Tea at the Empress Hotel, the quintessential Victoria experience.  
<http://www.fairmont.com/empress/GuestServices/Restaurants/AfternoonTea.htm>

The easiest and quickest way to get to Victoria is on the Victoria Clipper, a high-speed ferry that goes right from downtown Seattle to downtown Victoria. Sailing time is 2 hours and 45 minutes (one-way).  
Cost: \$145-155 round trip  
<http://www.clippervacations.com/ferry/>

## Shopping

People's shopping tastes vary widely, so instead of particular store recommendations, here is a guide to the various shopping options in Seattle: <http://www.nwsources.com/>

## Nightlife

Your best resource for nightlife information is the local alternative weekly newspaper The Stranger. Pick up a free copy all over the city (look for newspaper boxes or coffeeshops), or browse their website.

Live music: <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Music>  
Bar guide: <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Search?search=bars&category=184089>

## More Seattle information

Visitors' Guide: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/html/visitor/>  
Events: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/html/visitor/weekend.htm>

### Bus information

Trip planner: [http://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov/cgi-bin/itin\\_page.pl?resptype=U](http://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov/cgi-bin/itin_page.pl?resptype=U)  
General info: <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/bus/howride.html>