



The Best of Seattle in One Day

Seattle, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: One of the safest and most compact big cities in the country, Seattle is easy—and just plain fun—to navigate on foot. This sampler-platter tour roams from one end of town to the other. But don't worry too much about tiring yourself out. There are plenty of places to rest your weary feet while enjoying the eclectic street scene.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Seattle

DAY NOTE: Space Needle: Part retro, part futuristic, and more than a touch eccentric, the Needle is the perfect symbol for Seattle. It was built for the World's Fair in 1962 after an artist sketched out a space-age focal point for the event on a placemat at—where else?—a local coffee shop. Lines for the glass elevator ride up to the observation deck can be long in summertime, but it's worth the wait—just try not to get shoved to the back, or you'll miss the view on the way up. If you go in the winter and it happens to be snowing (a rare event), you'll be moving faster than the flakes, which will seem to be falling upward. If, more likely, it's raining, don't let that stop you. The typical Seattle mist only makes the view from the top that much dreamier. You can also have lunch or dinner at the revolving SkyCity restaurant (reservations highly recommended) and rotate around the town while you dine. Best of all, your elevator ride to the top is free if you're dining at SkyCity.

Pike Place Market Main Arcade: Here it is: home of those famous flying fish, which you can't help but see (better duck!) right behind Rachel, the beloved porcine statue. With 1 day in town, you won't have time to go Down Under, but there's plenty to overwhelm the senses on the Market's top floor. Street musicians turn junk into instruments, farmers hawk a spectacular assortment of locally grown produce—much of which you'll enjoy at Seattle's finest restaurants—and local artists display their eclectic talents. The Market is a great place to pick up high-quality souvenirs to suit any budget. But my weakness is the enormous bouquets of flowers, fresh from the fields in nearby lush valleys, and costing half what you'd pay at a grocery store for a punier spray.

Pike Place Bakery: It's almost impossible to walk through the Market without sampling some of the wares. Go ahead, give in to the urge! Bite into a creamy blueberry Danish or a spicy cinnamon crispy at this popular bakery. Be sure to check for the daily special.

Occidental Park and Pedestrian Walkway: From the waterfront, walk or take the free Route 99 bus (it's the one that's painted to look like a trolley) to Jackson St. and Occidental Ave. The bricked walkway occupies 1 block; the park claims the block to the north. In this area you'll find a sampling of Seattle's avant-garde art galleries; Victorian-Romanesque buildings constructed hurriedly during the Gold Rush; and Glasshouse Studio, where you can watch skilled glassblowers at their craft. Several totem poles tower over visitors, and the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial pays tribute to those who have lost their lives battling fires throughout Seattle's history.

Seattle Art Museum: SAM's eclectic global collections include Northwest Native American, Pan-Asian, African, European, and American modern art. The special exhibits are always worth perusing, and there are lots of activities for kids in conjunction with the displays. Despite its world-class reputation, this museum

has a friendly feel, and a staff that is passionate about art and treats visitors as honored guests. The gift shop is one of the best you'll find. SAM's permanent collections are on display free the first Thursday of every month; and they are free for teens the second Friday of each month.

Seattle Aquarium: Recently expanded to the tune of \$41 million, this is a sealife-lover's dream come true. The aquarium's pride and joy, a 40x20-foot (12x6m) viewing window, gives visitors a glimpse of the creatures that swim in the Puget Sound. Divers interact with fish in the tank several times a day, while volunteers explain what's going on. The aquarium, by the way, is perched on a pier overhanging the Sound, so many of these animals are also swimming under your feet. Don't miss the giant Pacific octopus—the largest in the world—as well as the entertaining sea otters and the Underwater Dome, which gives you a 360-degree view of an enormous tank filled with sharks and other interesting creatures.



Seattle Aquarium



Pike Place Market



The Space Needle

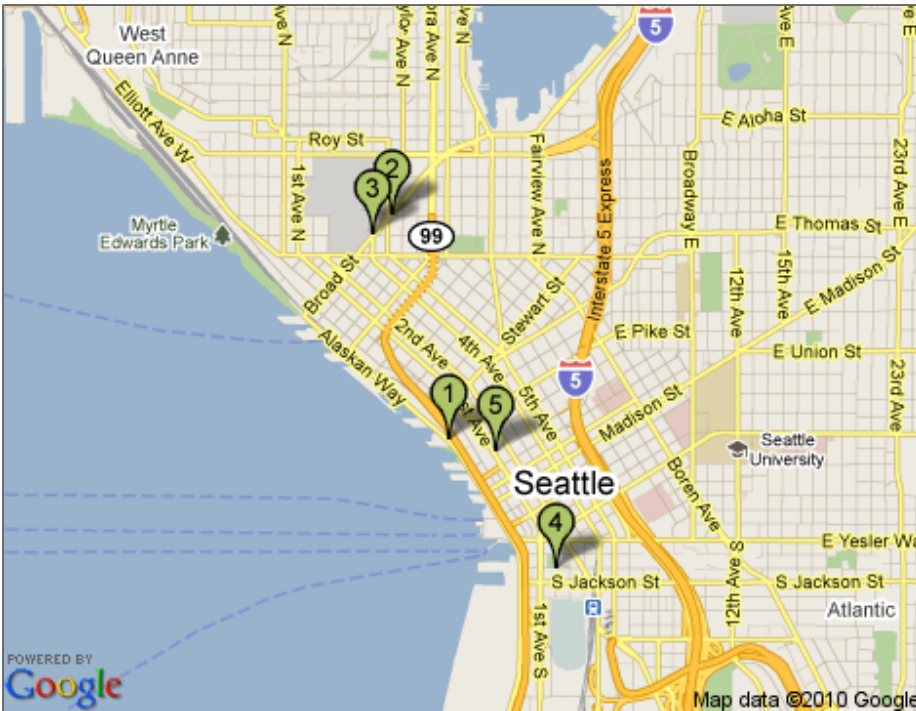


Glasshouse Studio



Seattle Art Museum (SAM)

Day 1 - Seattle



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contact:
tel: 206/386-4300
www.seattleaquarium.org

location:
1483 Alaskan Way
Seattle WA

hours:
Daily 9:30am-5pm

1 Seattle Aquarium

DESCRIPTION: Although it's not nearly as large and impressive as the Monterey Bay Aquarium or the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the Seattle Aquarium is a fabulous introduction to the sea life of the Northwest. The "Window on Washington Waters" exhibit, a huge tank just inside the entrance, is a highlight of a visit, especially when divers feed the fish. There's also a tank that generates crashing waves, and, in the Life on the Edge tide pool exhibit that focuses on life along Washington's shores, you can reach into the water to touch starfish, sea cucumbers, and anemones (kids love these tanks). The aquarium's main focus is on the water worlds of the Puget Sound region, but there are also fascinating exhibits of sea life from around the world, including a beautiful coral-reef tank. The star attractions, however, are the playful river otters and sea otters, as well as the giant octopus. From the underwater viewing dome you get a fish's-eye view of life beneath the waves, and each September you can watch salmon return up a fish ladder to spawn. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of the Seattle Aquarium

contact:
tel: 206/682-7453
www.pikeplacemarket.org

location:
Seattle WA

hours:
Pike Place/First Ave.
businesses Mon-Sat
10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm;
Down Under stores daily
11am-5pm; many produce
vendors open at 8am in
summer; restaurant hours
vary

2 Pike Place Market

DESCRIPTION: Pike Place Market, originally a farmers market, was founded in 1907 when housewives complained that middlemen were raising the price of produce. The market allowed shoppers to buy directly from producers and thus save on grocery bills. For several decades, the market thrived. However, World War II deprived the market of nearly half its farmers when Japanese Americans were moved to internment camps. With the postwar flight to the suburbs, the market was never able to recover from the war years, and by the 1960s, the market was no longer the popular spot it had been. When it was announced that the site was being eyed for a major redevelopment project, a grass-roots movement arose to save the 9-acre market and, eventually, the market was declared



Photo courtesy of Flickr.

a National Historic District. These days the market bustles from dawn to dusk, but the 100 or so farmers and fishmongers who set up shop on the premises are only a small part of the attraction. You'll also find more than 150 local craftspeople and artists selling their creations as street performers serenade milling crowds. Hundreds of small specialty shops are scattered throughout the market, plus dozens of restaurants, including some of the city's best. At the **information booth** almost directly below the large PIKE PLACE MARKET sign, you can pick up a free map and guide to the market. Keep an eye out for low-flying fish at the **Pike Place Fish** stall, and be sure to save some change for **Rachel**, the market's giant charity piggy bank. **Victor Steinbrueck Park**, at the north end of the market at the intersection of Pike Place, Virginia Street, and Western Avenue, is a popular lounging area for both the homeless and those just looking for a grassy spot in the sun. In the park, you'll see two 50-foot-tall totem poles. To get a glimpse behind the scenes at the market and learn all about its history, you can take a 1-hour guided **Market Heritage Tour** (tel. **206/774-5249** for information and reservations). Tours are offered Wednesday through Friday at 11am; the cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors and children under 18. Reservations are required and should be made at least a day in advance. Tours depart from the market's **Information Booth** at the corner of Pike Street and First Avenue. There are also free tours on Saturday at 9am. These tours leave from Rachel, the market piggy bank, and reservations are not required. The market's "**Gum Wall**" is a bit of a sticky subject. No one can agree whether it is art or just a disgusting form of litter. Maybe you'll have to decide for yourself. You'll find the chewing-gum-covered wall just down Pike Street (actually a cobbled alley) from the market information booth. The wall is across the street from the Alibi Room bar. Also, if you're going to be in town in October, consider attending the annual Feast at the Market (tel. **206/548-3063**; www.pikemed.org/feast), a showcase for food from market restaurants. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: 206/905-2100
www.spaceneedle.com

location:
400 Broad St
Seattle WA

hours:
Sun-Thurs 9am-11pm; Fri-Sat
9am-midnight

3 The Space Needle

DESCRIPTION: From a distance it looks like a flying saucer on a tripod, and when it was built for the 1962 World's Fair, the 605-foot-tall Space Needle was meant to suggest future architectural trends. Today the Space Needle is the quintessential symbol of Seattle, and at 520 feet above ground level, its observation deck provides superb views of the city and its surroundings. Displays identify more than 60 sites and activities in the Seattle area, and high-powered telescopes let you zoom in on them. You'll also find a pricey restaurant, SkyCity, atop the tower. If you don't mind standing in line and paying quite a bit for an elevator ride, make this your first stop in Seattle so that you can orient yourself. (However, cheaper alternatives exist if you just want a view of the city.) © Frommer's

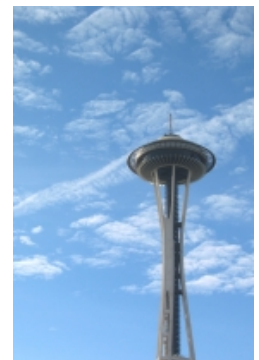


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

contact:
tel: 206/682-9939
www.glasshouse-studio.com

location:
311 Occidental Ave. S
Seattle WA

4 Glasshouse Studio

DESCRIPTION: In the Pioneer Square area and founded in 1972, Glasshouse claims to be the oldest glassblowing studio in the Northwest. In the studio, you can watch hand-blown art glass being made, and then, in the gallery, you can check out the works of numerous local glass artists. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Glasshouse Studio

contact:
tel: 206/654-3100
www.seattleartmuseum.org

location:
1300 First Ave
Seattle WA

hours:
Wed-Sun 10am-5pm; Thurs-
Fri 10am-9pm

5 Seattle Art Museum (SAM)

DESCRIPTION: This large museum verges on world-class and should not be missed on a visit to Seattle. With acres of gallery space and cutting-edge exhibit designs, this is definitely not your typical, stodgy art museum. Before you even step inside the museum, you'll come face to faceless silhouette with Jonathon Borofsky's shadowy Hammering Man, an animated three-story steel sculpture that pounds out a silent beat in front of the museum. Inside the museum, white cars go tumbling through the air with colored lights shooting out of them in Cai Guo-Qiang's sculpture Inopportune: Stage One. Once you finally get inside the museum proper, you'll find one of the nation's premier collections of Northwest Coast Indian art and artifacts, and an equally large collection of African art. The museum is particularly strong in modern and contemporary art, but there are also good collections of European and American art ranging from ancient Mediterranean works to pieces from the medieval, Renaissance, and baroque periods. Of course, the Northwest contemporary art collection is also quite extensive. (The museum also has a smattering of Asian art, but the city's major collection of Asian art is at the affiliated Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park.) © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Seattle Art Museum

Seattle Snapshot

Local Info

Scan the Seattle skyline, and it's easy to see from all the high-rise construction cranes that the city is booming. Glance out across the waters of Elliott Bay and you're as likely to see a massive cruise ship as a car ferry or freighter. Seattle is slowly growing from regional metropolis into the Pacific Rim powerhouse that it has long wanted to become. Of course, Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is playing a big roll in these changes. Having already transformed Seattle Center with the Frank Gehry-designed Experience Music Project and the south end of downtown with Qwest Field and other adjacent developments, he is now busily transforming the long overlooked neighborhood between downtown and Lake Union. Highlighted below are some of the significant developments that have taken place in Seattle over the past year.

Accommodations

One of the first high-rises to open in Paul Allen's new South Lake Union neighborhood is home to luxury condominiums and the **Pan Pacific Hotel**, 2125 Terry Ave. (tel. **877/324-4856** or **206/264-8111**; www.panpacific.com/seattle), a luxury hotel that feels unlike any other hotel in Seattle. The floor-to-ceiling walls of glass flood the guest rooms with light, and the courtyard entrance gives the hotel a feeling of being removed from the bustle of the city.

Down at the opposite end of town, you'll find the **Silver Cloud Hotel-Stadium**, 1046 First Ave. S. (tel. **800/497-1261** or **206/204-9800**; www.silvercloud.com), which, if not nearly so upscale and luxurious, has rooms that are every bit as comfortable and contemporary. This hotel is also the best place to stay if you are in town to catch a Mariners or Seahawks game.

If you're having a hard time finding a vacant room for your Seattle vacation, try the **Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers**, 1400 Sixth Ave. (tel. **800/325-3535** or **206/621-9000**; www.sheraton.com/seattle). Recently expanded, this hotel now has

1,258 rooms and is the biggest hotel in the city. Of course, with the Washington State Convention & Trade Center right next door, this hotel does a booming convention business.

Dining

I have added quite a few new restaurants this year, and probably the one most worthy of attention is Seattle celeb-chef Tom Douglas's **Serious Pie**, 316 Virginia St. (tel. **206/838-7388**; www.tomdouglas.com). With this little hole-in-the-wall, Douglas has set his sights on making perfect wood-oven pizzas.

Downtown, be sure to check out **Purple Café and Wine Bar**, 1225 Fourth Ave. (tel. **206/829-2280**; <http://thepurplecafe.com>), which is the most dramatically designed downtown restaurant and also has one of the most extensive and diverse menus of any downtown restaurant.

In the Ballard neighborhood in north Seattle, I discovered a wonderful little Italian restaurant. **Volterra**, 5411 Ballard Ave. (tel. **206/789-5100**; www.voltterarestaurant.com), is set on one of the prettiest streets in Ballard and does not only dinner but also a great, inexpensive weekend brunch. Also, on this same street, you can pick up great gourmet to go at **Dish D'Lish**, 5136 Ballard Ave. NW (tel. **206/789-8121**; www.kathycasey.com)

If you love sushi, check out **I Love Sushi** on Lake Union, 1001 Fairview Ave. N (tel. **206/625-9604**; www.ilovesushi.com), which is on the shore of Lake Union and does not only great sushi but fun cocktails as well.

Seattle seems to be crazy for Vietnamese food, and when it comes to the traditional noodle soup called pho, many Seattleites swear by Capitol Hill's **Pho Than Brothers**, 516 Broadway E. (tel. **206/568-7218**). In fact, so popular is this restaurant that it has numerous locales around the city.

Want to try your Vietnamese food in a chewy, crunchy slice of baguette? Head to Capitol Hill's **Baguette Box**, 1203 Pine St. (tel. **206/332-0220**; baguettebox.com), and

try the drunken chicken sandwich or the grilled lemongrass skirt-steak sandwich.

Sightseeing

If you have any lingering doubts that Seattle is rapidly becoming a world-class city, spend an afternoon at the **Seattle Art Museum**, 1300 First Ave. (tel. **206/654-3100**; www.seattleartmuseum.org). Reopened in 2007 after a major expansion, the museum now has seemingly endless large galleries in which to display both its permanent collection and traveling exhibits.

Even before the art museum reopened, Seattle had a brand new art space worthy of a visit in the **Olympic Sculpture Park**, 2901 Western Ave. (tel. **206/654-3100**; www.seattleartmuseum.org). With monumental sculptures by Alexander Calder, Richard Serra, and Claes Oldenburg, this terraced park overlooks both Elliott Bay and the Olympic Mountains. It's just a beautiful space and an amazing utilization of an old industrial site.

Jack Block Park, 2130 Harbor Ave. SW (tel. **206/728-3654**), near West Seattle's Alki Beach, is a hidden gem that should be on any family itinerary of Seattle. For much of the year, you can get to the park by water taxi from the Seattle waterfront. There's a children's play area and a short paved path that leads to a viewing deck that looks out over both Elliott Bay and the always-busy port facility where giant freighters are loaded and unloaded by huge cranes. Definitely a must for little boys.

Nightlife

Elysian Brewing Company, my favorite Seattle brewpub, has opened in a third location. The newest pub, **Elysian Fields**, 542 First Ave. S. (tel. **206/382-4498**), is adjacent to both Qwest Field and Safeco Field.

For superbly crafted cocktails with heritage, grab a seat at downtown's stylish **Vessel**, 1312 Fifth Ave. (tel. **206/652-5222**; www.vesselseattle.com), which is located next door to the 5th Avenue Theatre.

In Belltown, you can drink amid even more cutting-edge surroundings at **Qube**

Seattle Snapshot continued

Restaurant, 1901 Second Ave. (tel. 206/770-5888; www.quberestaurant.com).

For a much more laid-back place for a drink or two, search out **The Sitting Room**, 108 W. Roy St. tel. 206/285-2830; www.the-sitting-room.com), a relatively undiscovered little Euro-bar in the Lower Queen Anne neighborhood.

Side Trips

On San Juan Island, in the town of Friday Harbor, the **Backdoor Kitchen**, 400 A St. (tel. 360/378-9540; www.backdoorkitchen.com), long one of my favorite lunch spots on the island, has now become a full-fledged restaurant and bar and serves some of the most creative fare on the island.

Roche Harbor Resort has added more luxury suites, as well as the **Afterglow Spa at Roche Harbor** (tel. 360/378-9888; www.rocheharbor.com), while the **Lavendera Day Spa**, 440 Spring St. (tel. 800/349-0337 or 360/378-3637; www.lavenderadayspa.com), has moved in from the Pelindaba Lavender Farm and is now located right in Friday Harbor.

On Orcas Island, **Turtleback Mountain Preserve** (tel. 360/378-4402; www.co.san-juan.wa.us/land_bank/turtle_back.html), was saved from private development by a massive fundraising drive and is now open to the public. The preserve offers what I think is the single best hike in the Puget Sound region. Spectacular views of the San Juan archipelago and Orcas Island's idyllic Crow Valley are the payoff for an hour's strenuous uphill hiking.

If you want to do some sea kayaking along the shores of Lopez Island, try **Cascadia Kayak Tours** (tel. 360/468-3008; www.cascadiakayaktours.com).

If you are heading out to Sequim to visit the lavender fields or on an excursion to Olympic National Park, be sure to have a meal at the delightful **Alder Wood Bistro**, 139 W. Alder St. tel. 360/683-4321; www.alderwoodbistro.com), which was an instant hit with locals when it opened.

If you're headed to Mount Rainier National Park, be aware that **Paradise Inn** (tel. 360/569-2275; http://

rainier.guestservices.com), the park's premier historic lodge, is scheduled to reopen for the 2008 summer season. The historic lodge has been closed for two years for a major reconstruction.

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Hotel Insights

Best Historic Hotel: Built in 1924, the **Fairmont Olympic Hotel**, 411 University St. (tel. 800/223-8772 or 206/621-1700; www.fairmont.com/seattle), is styled after an Italian Renaissance palace and is by far the most impressive of Seattle's historic hotels. **Best for a Romantic Getaway:** Though Seattle has quite a few hotels that do well for a romantic weekend, the **Inn at the Market**, 86 Pine St. (tel. 800/446-4484 or 206/443-3600; www.innatthemarket.com), with its Elliott Bay views, European atmosphere, and proximity to many excellent (and romantic) restaurants, is sure to set the stage for lasting memories. **Best for Hipsters:** The **Hotel Andra**, 2000 Fourth Ave. (tel. 877/448-8600 or 206/448-8600; www.hotelandra.com), has given Seattle a boldly contemporary lodging. Best of all, it's on the edge of the trendy Belltown neighborhood, which makes this an ideal base for club-crawling night owls. **Best for Families:** Just across the street from Lake Union, the **Silver Cloud Inn-- Lake Union**, 1150 Fairview Ave. N. (tel. 800/330-5812 or 206/447-9500; www.silvercloud.com), is far enough from downtown to be affordable-- but not far from Seattle Center. Plus it has a great location overlooking the lake. There are indoor and outdoor pools and several restaurants right across the street. **Best Budget Hotel:** With a hip vibe, rates that are easy on the wallet, and a great location in the heart of the Belltown restaurant-and-nightlife district, the **Ace Hotel**, 2423 First Ave. (tel. 206/448-4721; www.acehotel.com), is the best budget hotel in town. The only drawback is that you really need to be young and into staying up late to appreciate both the hotel and the location. **Best B&B:** Set in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, the **Gaslight Inn**, 1727 15th Ave. (tel. 206/325-3654; www.gaslight-inn.com), is a lovingly restored and maintained Craftsman bungalow filled with original Stickley furniture. Lots of public spaces, very tasteful decor, and a swimming pool in the backyard all add

up to unexpected luxury. **Best Location:** On a pier right on the Seattle waterfront, **The Edgewater**, Pier 67, 2411 Alaskan Way (tel. 800/624-0670 or 206/728-7000; www.edgewaterhotel.com), is only 5 blocks from Pike Place Market and the Seattle Aquarium, and 3 blocks from the restaurants of Belltown. Ferries to Victoria, British Columbia, leave from the adjacent pier. **Best Views:** If you're not back in your room by sunset at the **Westin Seattle**, 1900 Fifth Ave. (tel. 800/WESTIN-1 or 206/728-1000; www.westin.com/seattle), you may not turn into a pumpkin, but you will miss a spectacular light show. Because this is the tallest hotel in the city, the Westin boasts fabulous views from its upper floors, especially those facing northwest. **Best Health Club:** The **Bellevue Club Hotel**, 11200 SE Sixth St., Bellevue (tel. 800/579-1110 or 425/454-4424; www.bellevueclub.com), has a huge private health club complete with an indoor pool and tennis courts. **Best Pool:** Most hotels in the city center stick their swimming pool (if they have one at all) down in the basement or on some hidden terrace, but at the **Sheraton Seattle Hotel and Towers**, 1400 Sixth Ave. (tel. 800/325-3535 or 206/621-9000; www.sheraton.com/seattle), you can do laps on the top floor with the lights of the city twinkling all around you. **Best Room Decor:** If you plan to spend a lot of time in your room, then the **Bellevue Club Hotel**, 11200 SE Sixth St., Bellevue (tel. 800/579-1110 or 425/454-4424; www.bellevueclub.com), is the place to be. The rooms are plush enough to please the most demanding of hedonists. **Best for Pets:** If you're traveling to Seattle with your pooch and don't mind shelling out big bucks for top-end accommodations, then the **Alexis Hotel**, 1007 First Ave. (tel. 866/356-8894 or 206/624-4844; www.alexishotel.com), should be your home away from home. Special pet amenities include designer doggie beds, dog treats, a dog bowl with distilled water, pet-sitting services, and even in-room dining for your pooch.

The Best Splurge Hotels

The Edgewater, Pier 67, 2411 Alaskan Way (tel. 800/624-0670): For a sense of being immersed in all things Seattle, there is no better hotel choice than The Edgewater, which is located on a pier on the Seattle waterfront. The hotel is also only 5 blocks from Pike Place Market and the Seattle Aquarium and 3 blocks from

Seattle Snapshot continued

the restaurants of Belltown. **Fairmont Olympic Hotel**, 411 University St. (tel. 800/223-8772): Built in 1924, this classic grande dame hotel is styled after an Italian Renaissance palace and is by far the most impressive of Seattle's handful of historic hotels. The grand lobby is unrivaled.

Grand Hyatt Seattle, 721 Pine St. (tel. 800/233-1234): Stylish without being trendy, this luxury downtown tower hotel provides not only the finest room amenities but also the best service. **Hotel Andra**, 2000 Fourth Ave. (tel. 877/448-8600): This is a city that likes to keep up with the trends, and the Hotel Andra is a boldly contemporary lodging that competes directly with the W Seattle. Best of all, it's on the edge of the trendy Belltown neighborhood, which makes this an ideal base for club-crawling night owls. **Inn at the Market**, 86 Pine St. (tel. 800/446-4484): Though Seattle has quite a few hotels that do well for a romantic weekend, the Inn at the Market, with its Elliott Bay views, European atmosphere, and proximity to many excellent (and romantic) restaurants, is sure to set the stage for lasting memories. **Woodmark Hotel, Yacht Club & Spa on Lake Washington**, 1200 Carillon Point, Kirkland (tel. 800/822-3700): If you're here on Microsoft business or simply want to stay in the most luxurious waterfront hotel in the Seattle area, head for this waterfront hotel not far from Bill Gates's Xanadu. Most rooms have water views.

The Best Moderately Priced Hotels
University Inn, 4140 Roosevelt Way NE (tel. 800/733-3855): Located close to the University of Washington and several museums, this hotel has been attractively renovated in recent years and is an exceptional value. There's a small pool, and guests get to use the exercise room at a nearby sister property. **Comfort Suites Downtown/Seattle Center**, 601 Roy St. (tel. 800/424-6423): Only about 4 blocks from Seattle Center and the Space Needle, this modern budget hotel offers spacious rooms and a convenient location. Throw in some good restaurants within walking distance and you have a little gem in a well-hidden corner of the city. **Silver Cloud Inn-Lake Union**, 1150 Fairview Ave. N. (tel. 800/330-5812): Situated across the street from Lake Union and close to Seattle Center, this hotel is just far enough from downtown to be affordable-- and, best of all, it has a great location overlooking the lake. There's an indoor pool and several

restaurants right across the street. **Gaslight Inn**, 1727 15th Ave. (tel. 206/325-3654): Set in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, this B&B is in a lovingly restored and maintained Craftsman bungalow filled with original Stickley furniture. Lots of public spaces, very tasteful decor, and a swimming pool in the backyard all add up to unexpected luxury for a Seattle B&B. **Hotel Deca**, 4507 Brooklyn Ave. NE (tel. 800/899-0251): This hotel is surprisingly reasonably priced for what you get-- it's one of the most stylish contemporary accommodations in Seattle. Ask for a room on an upper floor and you'll also get good views.

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Restaurants Insights

Cascadia Restaurant, 2328 First Ave. (tel. 206/448-8884): Chef Kerry Sear can do wondrous things with local produce and fresh Northwest ingredients. Throw in martinis made with Douglas fir sorbet, a variety of tasting menus, and, in summer, beautiful light filtering in through the restaurant's front wall of glass, and you have the quintessential Seattle eatery. **Salumi**, 309 Third Ave. S. (tel. 206/621-8772): Squeeze your way into this Pioneer Square hole-in-the-wall, stand in line, and then savor the finest, freshest artisan-made salami in the Northwest. The fact that this place is owned by celeb-chef Mario Batali's father guarantees that the lines are always long. **Rover's**, 2808 E. Madison St. (tel. 206/325-7442): Want to feel like you've just discovered the best little hidden gem of a restaurant in Seattle? Book a table at chef Thierry Rautureau's Madison Valley neighborhood restaurant. Rautureau combines his love of local ingredients with his classic French training to produce his own distinctive take on Northwest cuisine. **Elliott's**, Pier 56, 1201 Alaskan Way (tel. 206/623-4340): The Northwest produces an astonishing variety of oysters, and locals are almost as obsessive about their bivalves as they are about coffee and beer. Elliott's almost always has the biggest and best selection of oysters in the city. Just remember that local oysters are less available in the summer than in other months. **Dahlia Lounge**, 2001 Fourth Ave. (tel. 206/682-4142): You can't say that you've "done" Seattle if you haven't eaten at one of Tom Douglas's restaurants, and for my money, the Dahlia Lounge is the

place to go if you're only going to dine at one of Tom's places. A dinner of crab cakes followed by coconut-cream pie captures the absolute essence of this place. **The Herbfarm Restaurant**, 14590 NE 145th St., Woodinville (tel. 425/485-5300): The Herbfarm is actually 30 minutes north of Seattle, but it is so famous and serves such unforgettable meals that people plan Seattle vacations around dinner here. This place is an absolute must for foodies, but be sure to make your reservation months in advance. **Best Waterfront Dining:** While the Seattle waterfront has plenty of touristy, in-your-face restaurants, you'll find the best waterfront dining experience in The Edgewater hotel. **Six-Seven Restaurant & Lounge**, Pier 67, 2411 Alaskan Way (tel. 206/269-4575), can claim not only superb food, but also very cool decor, a fabulous little deck, and one of the best views from any restaurant in the city. **Best View:** Without a doubt, **SkyCity at the Needle**, Space Needle, 400 Broad St. (tel. 800/937-9582 or 206/905-2100; www.spaceneedle.com), has the best views in Seattle-- 360 degrees worth of them. Sure it's expensive, but there's no place in town with views to rival these. **Best Outdoor Dining with a View:** Across Elliott Bay from downtown Seattle, **Salty's on Alki Beach**, 1936 Harbor Ave. SW (tel. 206/937-1600; www.saltys.com), has a gorgeous view of the Seattle skyline. During the summer, you can get here by water taxi. **Best Budget Eatery with a View:** Of course, you could shell out big bucks to dine at Salty's, but you can get the same view at a fraction of the cost at the adjacent **Alki Crab & Fish**, 1660 Harbor Ave. SW (tel. 206/938-0975). Okay, so the menu is pretty limited and none too memorable, but that view-- wow! **Best Value:** While **Wild Ginger** usually gets all the accolades for its Pan-Asian cuisine, Belltown's little **Noodle Ranch**, 2228 Second Ave. (tel. 206/728-0463), is every bit as good and much less expensive. The menu, however, is more limited. **Best Service: Canlis**, 2576 Aurora Ave. N. (tel. 206/283-3313; www.canlis.com), is a Seattle tradition, the perfect place to close a big deal or celebrate a very special occasion. When you want to feel pampered, this is the place to dine. **Best French Cuisine:** Hidden away in the lower level of an artists' loft building at the north end of Belltown, the **Boat Street Cafe**, 3131 Western Ave. (tel. 206/632-4602; www.boatstreetcafe.com),

Seattle Snapshot continued

is a casual little restaurant that serves superb farmhouse French fare. Every last morsel on a plate here is given more attention than most restaurants give entire entrees. **Best Northwest Cuisine:** At **Rover's**, 2808 E. Madison St. (tel. 206/325-7442; www.rovers-seattle.com), Chef Thierry Rautureau combines his love of local ingredients with classic French training to produce a distinctive take on Northwest cuisine. **Best Seafood:** Chef Tom Douglas can do no wrong, and at **Etta's Seafood**, 2020 Western Ave. (tel. 206/443-6000; www.tomdouglas.com), he focuses his culinary talents on more than just his famed crab cakes. **Best Place to Slurp Down Raw Oysters:** The Northwest produces an astonishing variety of oysters, and locals are almost as obsessive about their bivalves as they are about coffee and beer. For the best selection, head to **Elliott's**, Pier 56, 1201 Alaskan Way (tel. 206/623-4340; www.elliottsosterhouse.com). **Best Sushi:** If the sight of so much fresh fish in Pike Place Market has you craving sushi, then head up to the north end of Belltown to **Shiro's**, 2401 Second Ave. (tel. 206/443-9844). All the Japanese businessmen here should give you a clue that this place is the real deal. **Best Steaks: Metropolitan Grill**, 820 Second Ave. (tel. 206/624-3287; www.themetropolitangrill.com), in downtown Seattle, serves corn-fed, aged beef grilled over mesquite charcoal. Steaks just don't get any better than this. **Best Burgers:** We all have our own ideas of what constitutes the perfect burger, and Seattle has plenty of worthy contenders. I split my vote between the burgers at **Two Bells Bar & Grill**, 2313 Fourth Ave. (tel. 206/441-3050), and those at the **74th Street Ale House**, 7401 Greenwood Ave. N. (tel. 206/784-2955; www.seattlealehouses.com). **Best Desserts:** The **Dahlia Lounge**, 2001 Fourth Ave. (tel. 206/682-4142; www.tomdouglas.com), has long been one of the best restaurants in Seattle, and while the food is reliably tasty, the triple coconut-cream pie is absolutely divine. The rest of the desserts are pretty good, too. **Best for Kids: Ivar's Salmon House**, 401 NE Northlake Way (tel. 206/632-0767; www.ivars.net), resembles a Native American longhouse and is filled with cool stuff sure to fascinate kids. In sunny weather, the waterfront deck has a great view of Lake Union and the Seattle

skyline. **Best Late-Night Dining: Palace Kitchen**, 2030 Fifth Ave. (tel. 206/448-2001; www.tomdouglas.com), is an urbane palace of food that serves tasty specialties from the grill and rotisserie until 1am. The bar here is also a happening place. **Best Espresso:** Everyone in Seattle seems to have an opinion about where to get the best espresso drinks. My vote goes to **Caffe Vita**, 813 Fifth Ave. N. (tel. 206/285-9662) and 1005 E. Pike St. (tel. 206/709-4440). The lattes served here have beautiful little works of art drawn onto the foam with espresso.

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Nightlife Insights

It's true that Seattleites spend much of their free time enjoying the city's natural surroundings, but that doesn't mean they overlook the more cultured evening pursuits. In fact, the winter weather that keeps people indoors, combined with a longtime desire to be the cultural mecca of the Northwest, has fueled a surprisingly active and diverse nightlife scene. Music lovers will find a plethora of classical, jazz, and rock offerings. The Seattle Opera is ranked one of the top companies in the country, and its stagings of Wagner's Ring series have achieved near-legendary status. The Seattle Symphony also receives frequent accolades. Likewise, the Seattle Repertory Theatre has won Tony awards for its productions, and a thriving fringe theater scene keeps the city's lovers of avant-garde theater contentedly discoursing in cafes and bars about the latest hysterical or thought-provoking performances.

Much of Seattle's evening entertainment scene is clustered in the **Seattle Center** and **Pioneer Square** areas. The former hosts theater, opera, and classical-music performances; the latter is a bar-and-nightclub district. Other concentrations of nightclubs can be found in **Belltown**, where crowds of the young and hip flock to the neighborhood's many trendy clubs, and in **Capitol Hill**, with its ultracool gay scene. **Ballard**, formerly a Scandinavian enclave in North Seattle, attracts a primarily middle-class, not-too-hip, not-too-old crowd, including lots of college students and

techie. It's not the hipster Belltown scene, it's not the PBR-swilling blues scene of Pioneer Square, and it's not the sleek gay scene of Capitol Hill. It's just a comfortable neighborhood nightlife scene.

While winter is a time to enjoy the performing arts, summer brings an array of outdoor festivals. These take place during daylight hours as much as they do after dark.

To find out what's going on when you're in town, pick up a free copy of **Seattle Weekly** (www.seattleweekly.com), Seattle's arts-and-entertainment newspaper. You'll find it in bookstores, convenience stores, grocery stores, newsstands, and newspaper boxes around downtown and other neighborhoods. On Friday the **Seattle Times** includes a section called "Ticket," a guide to the week's arts-and-entertainment offerings.

Bowled Over in Seattle-- A hip bowling alley? Why not? Up on Capitol Hill, you can do a little bowling, shoot some pool, and take in the hipster scene at **Garage**, 1130/1134 Broadway (tel. 206/322-2296; www.garagebilliards.com). When the weather gets warm, the garage doors roll up to let in the fresh air. Definitely not your small-town bowling alley.

The Club & Music Scene

Whether you want to hear a live band, hang out in a good old-fashioned bar, or dance, **Pioneer Square** is the best place to start. Keep in mind that this neighborhood tends to attract a very rowdy crowd (lots of frat boys) and can be pretty rough late at night.

Belltown, north of Pike Place Market, is another good place to club-hop. Clubs here are way more style-conscious than those in Pioneer Square and tend to attract 20- and 30-something trendsetters.

Seattle's other main nightlife district is the formerly Scandinavian neighborhood of **Ballard**, where you'll find more than a half dozen nightlife establishments, including taverns, bars, and live-music clubs.

Capitol Hill, a few blocks uphill from downtown Seattle, is the city's main gay nightlife neighborhood, with much of the

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action centered on the corner of East Madison Street and 15th Avenue East.

Easy Listening-- Some of the best music to be heard around Seattle isn't played in nightclubs; it's played in restaurants. Many of the city's restaurants feature live music on the slower nights of the week or after the dinner business quiets down. The music played in such restaurants tends to be less obtrusive and more low-key than in nightclubs, and is often instrumental or acoustic. On a foray around the Pike Place Market area, you might encounter bossa nova, Django Reinhardt-style gypsy jazz, or Irish music.

Some of my favorite places to catch live music include **Café Campagne**, 1600 Post Alley (tel. 206/728-2233); **Wasabi Bistro**, 2311 Second Ave. (tel. 206/441-6044); **The Pink Door**, 1919 Post Alley (tel. 206/443-3241); **Le Pichet**, 1933 First Ave. (tel. 206/256-1499); and **Serafina**, 2043 Eastlake Ave. E. (tel. 206/323-0807).

Pioneer Square-- The Pioneer Square area is Seattle's main live-music neighborhood, and the clubs have banded together on Friday and Saturday nights to make things easy for music fans. The **Pioneer Square Club Stamp** plan lets you pay one admission to get into six clubs. The charge is \$10. Participating clubs currently include The Central Saloon, the Last Supper Club, the New Orleans Creole Restaurant, Tiki Bob's, Fuel, and the J&M Cafe. Most of these clubs are short on style and hit-or-miss when it comes to music (which makes the joint cover a great way to find out where the good music is on any given night).

So Who Needs Cirque du Soleil, Anyway?-- Visiting Seattle without seeing this show would be like going to Las Vegas without seeing Cirque du Soleil. According to **Teatro ZinZanni**, 22 Mercer Street (tel. 206/802-0015; www.zinzanni.com), a European-style cabaret of the highest order, circus acts aimed at the upper crust should be accompanied by gourmet cuisine. Staged in a classic spiegel tent (mirror tent) imported from Belgium, this evening of comedy, dance, theater, and fine food (catered by Seattle's celeb chef

Tom Douglas) offers clowns, acrobats, illusionists, and cabaret singers. In fact, there's more entertainment packed into a night at Teatro ZinZanni than anywhere else in Seattle. Tickets are \$104 Sunday and Wednesday through Friday and \$120 on Saturday (premium seating, \$125 Sun and Wed-Fri and \$155 Sat). Reserve well in advance!

The Gay & Lesbian Scene

Capitol Hill is Seattle's main gay neighborhood; consequently, it has the city's greatest concentration of gay and lesbian bars and clubs. Look for the readily available **Seattle Gay News** (tel. 206/324-4297; www.sgn.org), in which many of the city's gay bars and nightclubs advertise.

Movies

Summertime in the Fremont neighborhood always means **Fremont Outdoor Movies** (tel. 206/781-4230; www.fremontoutdoormovies.com), a series that features modern classics, B movies (sometimes with live overdubbing by a local improv comedy company), and indie shorts. Films are screened on Saturday nights in the parking lot at North 35th Street and Phinney Avenue North. The parking lot opens at 7:30pm; there is a \$5 suggested donation.

There are also summer outdoor movies shown in the newly designated South Lake Union neighborhood, which is basically a huge mixed-use development being created by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. The **Cinema on the Lawn** (tel. 206/342-5900; cinemaonthelawn.com) series is held in July and August on the lawn beside the South Lake Union Discovery Center at Denny Way and Westlake Avenue. There's live music before the movies, so try to arrive before dark.

Want to sip a martini while you watch the latest indie film hit? Find out what's playing at Belltown's **Big Picture Seattle**, 2505 First Ave. (tel. 206/256-0566; www.thebigpicture.net). This little basement theater below El Gaucho steakhouse is the coolest little theater in the city and a favorite of fans of indie films.

Only in Seattle

While Seattle has plenty to offer in the way of performing arts, some of the city's best after-dark offerings have nothing to do with the music. There's no better way to start the evening (that is, if the day has been sunny or only partly cloudy) than to catch the **sunset from the waterfront**. The Bell Street Pier and Myrtle Edwards Park are two of the best and least commercial vantages for taking in nature's evening light show. Keep in mind that sunset can come as late as 10pm in the middle of summer. Want the best view of the city lights? Hold off on your elevator ride to the top of the **Space Needle** until after dark. Alternatively, you can hop a ferry and sail off into the night.

Want to learn to dance? Up on Capitol Hill the sidewalk along Broadway is inlaid with **brass dance steps**. Spend an evening strolling the strip and you and your partner can teach yourselves classic dance steps in between noshing on a piroshki and savoring a chocolate torte.

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Things to Do Insights

Eating Your Way through Pike Place Market: Breakfast at Le Pichet, espresso at what was once the only Starbucks in the world, lunch at Cafe Campagne, a martini at The Pink Door, dinner at Chez Shea, Celtic music at Kells, and a nightcap at Il Bistro-- that's how you could spend a day at Pike Place. Between stops on this rigorous itinerary, you can people-watch, listen to street musicians, and shop for everything from fresh salmon to tropical fruits to magic tricks to art glass. **Joining the Underground:** Rome has its catacombs, Paris has its sewers, and Seattle has its underground. Now, some people, including my own brother, think I'm nuts for enjoying the Seattle Underground tour, but corny sewer jokes aside, this tour is fascinating and a great introduction to the seamier side of Seattle's early history. **Spending an Afternoon in the Ballard Neighborhood:** Watch the salmon climb the fish ladders and swim past viewing windows at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. Check out the exhibits at the Nordic Heritage Museum, and then stroll the shady streets of old Ballard. Have a meal at Ray's Boathouse,

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keeping an eye out for bald eagles, and then finish the day on the beach at Golden Gardens Park. **Taking a Cruise:** Seattle is best seen from a boat, and there are plenty of vessels that will take you out on the water. Personally, I prefer sailboat outings from the waterfront, but for a more informative and diverse excursion, take the Argosy Cruises tour from Lake Union to the waterfront. If you don't mind flaunting the fact that you're a tourist, there's the daffy Seattle Duck Tour. **Visiting Volunteer Park:** Whether the day is sunny or gray, this park on Capitol Hill is a great spot to spend an afternoon. You can relax in the grass, study Chinese snuff bottles in the Seattle Asian Art Museum, marvel at the orchids in the conservatory, or simply enjoy the great view of the city from the top of the park's water tower. **Riding the Water Taxi to Alki Beach:** The water taxi that operates between the Seattle waterfront and Alki Beach, on the far side of Elliott Bay, is practically the cheapest boat ride you can take in Seattle. Once you get to Alki Beach, you can dine with a killer view of the Seattle skyline and then go for a walk or bike ride on the beachfront path. **Sea Kayaking on Lake Union:** Lake Union is a very urban body of water, but it has a great view of the Seattle skyline, and you can paddle right up to several waterfront restaurants. For more natural surroundings, kayak over to the marshes at the north end of the Washington Park Arboretum.

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Travel Tips

By Public Transportation

By Bus-- The best thing about Seattle's **Metro** (tel. 800/542-7876 in Washington or 206/553-3000; <http://transit.metrokc.gov>) bus system is that as long as you stay within the downtown area, you can ride for free between 6am and 7pm. The **Ride Free Area** is between Alaskan Way (the waterfront) to the west, Sixth Avenue and I-5 to the east, Battery Street to the north, and South Jackson Street to the south. Within this area are Pioneer Square, the waterfront attractions, Pike Place Market, the Seattle Art Museum, and almost all of the city's major hotels. Two blocks from South Jackson Street is Qwest Field (where the Seahawks play), 3 long

blocks from South Jackson Street is Safeco Field (where the Mariners play), and 6 blocks from Battery Street is Seattle Center. Keeping this in mind, you can see a lot of Seattle without having to spend a dime on transportation.

If you travel outside the Ride Free Area, fares range from \$1.25 to \$2, depending on distance and time of day. (The higher fares are incurred during commuter hours.) **Note:** When traveling out of the Ride Free Area between 6am and 7pm, you pay when you get off the bus; when traveling into the Ride Free Area, you pay when you get on the bus. Exact change is required; dollar bills are accepted.

By Monorail-- If you are planning a visit to Seattle Center, there is no better way to get there from downtown than on the **Seattle Monorail** (tel. 206/905-2620; www.seattlemonorail.com), which leaves from Westlake Center shopping mall (Fifth Ave. and Pine St.). The elevated train covers the 1 1/4 miles in 2 minutes and passes right through the middle of the Experience Music Project, the Frank Gehry-designed rock-music museum. The monorail operates daily from 10am to 10pm. Departures are every 10 minutes. The one-way fare is \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors, and 75¢ for children 5 to 12.

By Water Taxi-- Between May and September, a water taxi runs between the downtown Seattle waterfront (Pier 55) and Seacrest Park in West Seattle, providing access to West Seattle's popular Alki Beach and adjacent paved path. For a service schedule, check with Metro (tel. 206/205-3866; transit.metrokc.gov). The one-way fare is \$3 (free for children under 6); \$1 with a valid bus transfer; free with all-day pass.

By Ferry-- Washington State Ferries (tel. 800/843-3779 or 888/808-7977 in Washington or 206/464-6400; www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries) is the most extensive ferry system in the United States, and while these ferries won't help you get around Seattle itself, they do offer scenic options for getting out of town (and cheap "cruises," too). From downtown Seattle, car ferries sail to Bremerton (1-hr.

crossing) and Bainbridge Island (35-min. crossing). From West Seattle, car ferries go to Vashon Island (15-min. crossing) and Southworth (35-min. crossing), which is on the Kitsap Peninsula. One-way fares between Seattle and Bainbridge Island or Bremerton, or between Edmonds and Kingston via car ferry, are \$12 (\$14 from May 1 to the second Sat in Oct) for a car and driver, \$6.70 for adult car passengers or walk-ons, \$3.35 for seniors, and \$5.40 for children 6 to 18. Car passengers and walk-ons only pay fares on westbound car ferries. One-way fares between Fauntleroy (West Seattle) and Vashon Island, or between Southworth and Vashon Island, are \$15 (\$19 from May 1 to the second Sat in Oct) for a car and driver, \$4.30 for car passengers or walk-ons, \$2.15 for seniors, and \$3.45 for children 6 to 18. There is also passenger-only ferry service to Vashon Island from Pier 50 on the Seattle waterfront.

Discount Passes-- On Saturday, Sunday, and holidays, you can purchase an **All-Day Pass** for \$2.50; it's available on any Metro bus, and it's good anywhere outside the Ride Free Area. On other days of the week, you can purchase a \$5 **Visitor Pass**, which can be used on buses and the water taxi. Visitor Passes are available at Metro Customer Service offices at King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson St., and at Rainier Square's Transportation Connection, which can be entered from Fourth Avenue, between University and Union streets. These passes can also be purchased at Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau Citywide Concierge Center, Seventh Avenue and Pike Street. For more information, contact **Metro** (tel. 206/624-7277; transit.metrokc.gov).

By Car

Before you drive into downtown Seattle, keep in mind that traffic congestion is bad, parking is limited (and expensive), and streets are almost all one-way. You'll avoid a lot of frustration by leaving your car in your hotel parking garage or by not bringing a car downtown.

Depending on what your plans are for your visit, you might not need a car at all. If

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you plan to spend your time in downtown Seattle, a car is a liability. The city center is well served by public transportation, with free buses in the downtown area and the monorail from downtown to Seattle Center. You can even take the ferries over to Bainbridge Island or Bremerton. Most Seattle neighborhoods that interest visitors are well served by public buses. But if your plans include any excursions out of the city, say to Mount Rainier or the Olympic Peninsula, you'll definitely need a car.

Car Rentals-- Car-rental rates vary as widely and as wildly as airfares, so it pays to do some comparison shopping. In Seattle, daily rates for a compact car currently range anywhere from \$40 to \$75 during the summer, with weekly rates ranging from \$205 to \$295. Rates are highest in the summer and lowest in the winter, but you'll almost always get lower rates the farther ahead you reserve. Be sure to budget for the 18.6% car-rental tax (and, if you rent at the airport, additional airport concession fees and various other charges that will increase your total cost by close to 45%!).

All the major car-rental agencies have offices in Seattle and at or near Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Companies with a desk and cars inside the terminal include **Alamo** (tel. 800/462-5266 or 206/433-0182; www.goalamo.com), **Avis** (tel. 800/331-1212 or 206/433-5232; www.avis.com), **Budget** (tel. 800/527-0700 or 206/444-7510; www.budget.com), **Hertz** (tel. 800/654-3131 or 206/248-1300; www.hertz.com), and **National** (tel. 800/227-7368 or 206/433-5501; www.nationalcar.com). Companies with desks inside the terminal but cars parked off the airport premises include **Advantage** (tel. 800/777-5500 or 206/824-0161; www.arac.com), **Dollar** (tel. 800/800-4000 or 206/433-5825; www.dollar.com), **Enterprise** (tel. 800/261-7331 or 206/246-1953; www.enterprise.com), and **Thrifty** (tel. 800/847-4389 or 877/283-0898; www.thrifty.com).

Parking-- On-street parking in downtown Seattle is expensive, extremely limited, and, worst of all, rarely available near

your destination. Most downtown parking lots (either above or below ground) charge from \$20 to \$25 per day, though many lots offer early-bird specials that allow you to park all day for around \$11 or \$12 if you arrive before a certain time in the morning (usually around 9am).

You can save money by leaving your car near the Space Needle, where parking lots charge \$5 to \$6 per day. The lot at Fifth Avenue North and North Republican Street, on the east side of Seattle Center, charges only \$5 for all-day parking. Some Pike Place Market merchants validate parking permits, as do many market restaurants if you're dining after 5pm. In the International District, the Lower Queen Anne neighborhood, and a few streets south of Seattle Center, you'll find a few free 2-hour on-street parking spaces, but these have been disappearing rapidly in recent years as Seattle has installed electronic parking machines.

Driving a Bargain in Seattle-- For the best deal on a rental car, make your reservation at least a week in advance. It also pays to call or check websites several times over a period of a few weeks just to check prices. You're likely to be quoted different rates every time you call, since prices fluctuate based on demand and availability.

Always ask about special weekend rates, promotional rates, or discounts for which you might be eligible (AAA, AARP, corporate, Entertainment Book, military). Also make sure you clarify whether there is a charge for mileage. And don't forget to mention that you're a frequent flier: You might be able to get miles for your car rental.

If you have your own car insurance, you may already have collision coverage. If you do not hold your own policy, your credit card may provide collision coverage, allowing you to decline the collision-damage waiver, which can add a bundle to the cost of a rental. (Gold and platinum cards usually offer this perk, but check with your card issuer before relying on it. Note that while many cards provide collision coverage, they do not provide liability coverage.)

If there's any way you can arrange to pick up your car somewhere other than the airport, you can save the 10% to 12% airport concession fee.

It's always smart to decline the gasoline plans offered by rental agencies and simply plan on returning your rental car with a full tank of gas. The prices charged by the rental companies to fill your tank are usually a rip-off.

Driving Rules & Tips-- A right turn at a red light is permitted after coming to a full stop. A left turn at a red light is permissible from a one-way street onto another one-way street after coming to a full stop.

If you park your car on a sloping street, be sure to turn your wheels to the curb. When parking on the street, check the time limit on your parking meter; some allow as little as 15 minutes of parking, while others are good for up to 4 hours. Also, during rush hour, be sure to check whether or not your parking space is restricted.

Stoplights in the Pioneer Square area are particularly hard to see, so be alert at all intersections.

By Taxi

If you decide not to use the public transit system, call **Yellow Cab** (tel. 206/622-6500) or **Farwest Taxi** (tel. 206/622-1717). Taxis can be difficult to hail on the street in Seattle, so it's best to call or wait at the taxi stands at major hotels. The flag-drop charge is \$2.50; after that, it's \$2 per mile. A maximum of four passengers can share a cab; the third and fourth passengers will each incur a surcharge of 50¢.

On Foot

Seattle is a surprisingly compact city. You can easily walk from Pioneer Square to Pike Place Market and take in most of downtown. However, the city is very hilly and when you head in from the waterfront, you will be climbing a very steep hill. If you get tired while strolling downtown, remember that between 6am and 7pm, you can always catch a bus for free as long as you stay within the Ride Free Area. Cross the street only at corners and only with the lights in your favor. Jaywalking, especially

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in the downtown area, is a ticketable offense.

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