

WHAT TO DO IN SEATTLE - Attractions Around Town

If you're not from the Seattle area, we hope the following information will help you to get out and enjoy the city while you are visiting. Listed below are annual events, local attractions and shopping information. For complete event information and current dates, please visit the City of Seattle website: <http://www.seattle.gov/html/visitor/festival.htm>

Seattle's local papers The Stranger and the Seattle Weekly are also excellent resources for locating weekly events, movie times, live music listings, and recommended local restaurants. These papers are free and can be found at many local businesses as well as in various street corner newspaper dispensers. They can also be viewed on the Internet using the following links:

www.thestranger.com

www.seattleweekly.com

ANNUAL EVENTS

Seattle International Boat Show – (Mid-Late January) “A 60,000 square foot expansion to the stadium’s Club Level provides attendees with restaurant-style food options, lounge areas, a [special marine art gallery](#) and larger seminar rooms. An extended concourse at Qwest Field Event Center will give show-goers 20,000 square feet for new display areas. More than 1,000 boats – including fishing boats, inboard cruisers, runabouts, kayaks, sailboats and inflatables – and hundreds of accessories, plus the latest high-tech innovations will be showcased indoors by nearly 550 exhibitors.”

Maritime Festival / Tugboat Races – (Early May) “Most of the activity is held around the Bell Street Pier (Pier 66), on Seattle's Waterfront. The tugboat parade, and races are a highlight. These take place on Elliot Bay. The festival is very family oriented, with lots of free activities for kids. Tour a tugboat. See the maneuvers of remote controlled model boats. Visit the [Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center](#) that has lots of great interactive exhibits. Outdoor barbecues and pier restaurants supply ample food. Or there are plenty of places to perch with your own picnic lunch if you want to keep the day inexpensive.”

http://www.gonorthwest.com/Washington/seattle/tugboats_ta.htm

Northwest Folklife Festival – (Memorial Day Weekend) “The Northwest Folklife Festival is the annual **free** climactic celebration of year-round ethnic, folk, and traditional arts activities produced by Northwest Folklife. The Folklife Festival is Seattle's unofficial leap into summer, with four days of jam-packed excitement. Artists from the Pacific Northwest along with special guests from throughout the world create an ethnic extravaganza embracing music and dance performances, visual arts and folklore exhibits, hands-on ethnic children's activities, symposia, dance and music workshops, crafts, food, imported goods, demonstrations of traditional arts, and more!”

Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) – (Late May-Early June) The SIFF takes place over a month's time and offers films of various genres at selected theatres throughout the city. Complete schedules will be available prior to the beginning of the festival in late May.

Bite of Seattle – (Late July) “The Bite of Seattle™ brings together the two most universal things that excite all people, food and entertainment. The Bite is a place where ethnic diversity is celebrated and age is measured only by the size of your appetite. The Bite™ is held at Seattle Center and features over 100 food booths, 4 beer gardens, 7 outdoor entertainment stages with local and national entertainment.”

Seafair – (Early July-Early August) “It’s Seattle’s traditional summer festival. A month-long, region-wide barbecue, that brings an entire community together in celebration. For 56 years SEAFAIR has been about community events, parades, Miss SEAFAIR, the Navy and Coast Guard, amateur athletics, airplanes and of course, boat racing.” The Seafair festival is best known for its Lake Washington Hydroplane races but includes a number of events ranging from air shows by the Blue Angels, The Torchlight Parade through downtown, and sporting events such as the Torchlight Run, Marathon, and Triathlon.

Bumbershoot, the Seattle Arts Festival – (Labor Day Weekend) “Every Labor Day weekend since 1971, Bumbershoot has drawn artists representing the best in music, film, comedy, spoken word, dance, visual, performance, and literary arts. One of America’s largest urban arts festivals, Bumbershoot takes place in the heart of the city at Seattle Center. Over 150,000 visitors from near and far spend the weekend reveling in the world of Bumbershoot, experiencing everything from regional favorites to international superstars across all arts disciplines.” Complete schedules for Bumbershoot are usually available around the city a week prior to the festival’s first day, the Friday of Labor Day weekend.

The Puyallup Fair – (Early September) “The Puyallup Fair (officially known as the Western Washington Fair) is the largest single attraction held annually in the state of Washington. The Fair continually ranks in the top ten largest fairs in the world. The Western Washington Fair Association hosts two annual events, the 17-day Puyallup Fair every September, and the four-day Puyallup Spring Fair every April.” The Puyallup Fair is located in Puyallup, Washington, about 45 minutes south of Seattle and is accessible by bus or the Sound Transit commuter train (see Local Transportation Options page).

Earshot Jazz Festival – (Late Fall / Mid October-Early November) “In 17 successful years as “Seattle’s most important annual jazz event” (Down Beat) the Earshot Jazz Festivals have enriched the local cultural scene and delighted audiences with hundreds of the most distinctive concerts Seattle has seen. Whether outrageous or sublime, household names or complete unknowns, in our finest concert halls or in waterfront saloons, some of the most important and spirited artists the world will know have shared their magic with our community at Earshot Jazz Festival events.” The Earshot Jazz Festival takes place at various venues throughout the city. Schedules are available prior to festival start date.

Neighborhood Fairs and Festivals – The various neighborhoods of the city of Seattle offer visitors and residents a unique experience and lifestyle. A few of these neighborhoods hold seasonal events that provide a taste of what their community contributes to Seattle’s diversity.

University District Street Fair (Late May) – “For 35 years the University District Street Fair has been the kick-off event for the festival season in the Seattle region. Attracting more than 50,000 people and nearly 400 booths to the District, the Street Fair is an energetic and exciting celebration of arts and crafts, community, music, and food. You’ll find a whirl of color, craft, creativity and downright craziness!” Located on University Way NE (better known as “The Ave”) in the heart of the University District near the University of Washington’s main Seattle campus.

Fremont Fair (Late June, marking the Summer Solstice) – The Fremont Fair celebrates the Summer Solstice and the best aspects of our community: art, spirit, sharing, celebration and working together to help each other. During fair weekend, people from all walks of life come together to shop, eat, drink, perform, smile, dance, run, converse, debate, groove and parade.” A standard, festival-style event kicked off by the always-memorable Solstice Parade and Pageant highlighted by the painted naked cyclists. Located in the Fremont neighborhood, northwest of the Downtown area.

Capitol Hill Block Party (Early to Mid July) – “The Capitol Hill Block Party is a huge, two-day explosion of bands and a great opportunity to see the most exciting new music from the best music scene in the country all while supporting great non-profit programs like The Vera Project and Home Alive.” Highlighting some of the best local music acts and DJs, the Capitol Hill block party also provides the visitor with a taste of local community activism, art, and food. Located in the Capitol Hill neighborhood on E. Pine St., east of Downtown.

West Seattle Street Festival (Mid July) – “The family-oriented festival, now in its 22nd year, has regularly attracted more than 30,000 attendees to the three-day weekend event and continues to be one of the most popular street festivals in the region. It is a family-oriented event with community ties that are even stronger than ever. Unique arts & crafts booths, a selection of vendors representing a cross-section of cultures, two stages with on-going live entertainment, and a welcoming beer & wine garden make every Festival day special.” Located at West Seattle’s Alaska Way Junction on California Ave SW and Alaska Street.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Mt. Rainier National Park – “Whether hiking on its flanks, climbing its summit, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on its slopes, camping along its glacier-fed rivers, photographing wildflower displays in sub alpine meadows, or just admiring the view, nearly two million people come to enjoy the grandeur and beauty of Mount Rainier each year.”

At 14,411 feet, Mt. Rainier is the highest point in Washington State and the tallest peak in the Cascade mountain range. Located approximately 87 miles southeast of Seattle, this beautiful national park offers a wide variety of scenery and activities. With two historic landmark Inns, 566 developed campsites, and 240 miles of trails, Mt. Rainier National Park is an excellent destination for a day of hiking and picnicking, or a weekend getaway.

Art Museums

Seattle Art Museum (SAM) – Offering national and international traveling exhibits as well as an extensive permanent collection, SAM is Seattle, and Washington State’s, premier art museum. SAM’s main building is located in the heart of downtown at First and University and beginning January, 2006, The Seattle Asian Art Museum (1400 East Prospect Street) and Olympic Sculpture Park (north end of Alaskan Way) will open as extensions of the main exhibit hall. www.seattleartmuseum.org/

Frye Art Museum – “Through its exhibitions, collections, and programs, the Frye Art Museum engages audiences, challenges perceptions, and encourages dialogue about

representational art in all its complexities, past and present.” Located on Seattle’s First Hill at 704 Terry Avenue, East of downtown, the Frye offers free admission to their wide variety of exhibits. www.fryeart.org/

Henry Art Gallery – Located on the University of Washington campus, the Henry offers a variety of student and non-student exhibitions of contemporary and modern art. www.henryart.org/

Seattle Aquarium – Located on the North end of the waterfront on Alaskan Way, the Seattle Aquarium offers a large selection of exhibits and special events. www.seattleaquarium.org/

Woodland Park Zoo - Entrance located at N. 50th and Fremont Ave N. www.zoo.org/

Green Lake Park – “Green Lake is one of Seattle’s most beloved parks. Its expanse of water and green space in the center of a dense urban neighborhood draws thousands of people daily from all over the city. The newly reconstructed 2.8-mile path around the lake provides a perfect recreational spot for runners, bikers, skaters and walkers and the adjacent 3.2-mile trail is ideal for joggers. Many others use the athletic fields or visit the park for boating, picnics and swimming.” Located at 7201 East Green Lake Dr N. www.cityofseattle.net/parks/parkspaces/greenlak.htm

Seattle Public Library – Not only is the Central branch of the Seattle Public Library System one of Seattle’s most extensive reference collections, it’s also one of the city’s most interesting architectural displays! Located between Spring and Madison on 4th Avenue downtown. www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=branch_central&branchID=1

Safeco Field / Seahawk Stadium – Located within walking distance of PMI and home to the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks respectively, the stadiums are a great place to catch a game and enjoy a wide variety of great food and drinks while you’re at it.

LOCAL SHOPPING

Westlake Mall – “Located in the heart of downtown Seattle, Westlake Center is a four-story, glass enclosed retail pavilion (with a Food Court on the Upper Level) offering a mix of national reputation retailers and a unique selection of the finest quality regional merchandise. The Center offers a high-energy, one-of-a-kind urban shopping environment.”

400 Pine Street Seattle, Washington 98101-1625 (206) 467-1600

Pacific Place - “Pacific Place is downtown Seattle's premier shopping, dining and entertainment center. Featuring Tiffany & Co., MaxMara and Coach along with J. Crew, Chico's, Ann Taylor, Helly Hansen, L'Occitane, Pottery Barn, Barnes & Noble and Williams-Sonoma. An

11-screen AMC Theatres complex. Skybridge connection to the flagship Nordstrom store. And, lots of affordable parking. It's the place for fashion, food and film.”

Sixth Avenue & Pine Street Seattle, WA 98101 (206) 405-2655

Northgate Mall – “Whatever you're looking for, Northgate Mall is sure to have it. Anchored by Nordstrom, Macy's, Gottschalks and JCPenney, the mall showcases more than 125 specialty stores, including Limited Too, Ann Taylor Loft, Motherhood Maternity, Brookstone and Cache. Northgate Mall offers a Food Court featuring a wide array of fast-food selections, and great sit down restaurants like California Pizza Kitchen, Red Robin and Azteca Mexican Restaurant.”

Northgate Mall is conveniently located 5 miles north of downtown Seattle off the Interstate 5 corridor at exit 173.

R.E.I. (Recreational Equipment Inc.) – “Serving Seattleites since 1944. More than a store, we rank among the Emerald City's top sightseeing attractions. Here you'll find the motherlode of gear—plus a mountain bike test trail, gear-testing stations, a 65-foot climbing wall and more hands-on fun. Come let our friendly, knowledgeable staff help equip you for your next adventure!” REI also offers equipment rentals, classes, and gear repair.

222 Yale Ave N. Seattle, WA 98109 (206) 223-1944