







# WISH YOU WERE HERE

These days, travel isn't just about finding that perfect souvenir—it's about savoring the moments and cherishing the mementos that serve as a lasting reminder of an incredible trip. Be inspired by these Seattle attractions to start creating your own memories about this magical destination.

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# WISH YOU WERE HERE ...FOR DISCOVERY

1

## KENMORE AIR

Upgrade from sightseeing to flightseeing when you soar above the skyline in a seaplane. Kenmore Air offers scenic tours of the city that leave from Lake Union, as well as flights to the San Juan Islands for more time to admire Puget Sound below. ★950 Westlake Ave N; [kenmoreair.com](http://kenmoreair.com)

2

## THE CROCODILE

One of Seattle's quintessential small-concert venues, The Crocodile was front and center in the emerging grunge scene of the early 1990s, hosting influential bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Mudhoney. Today, you'll find up-and-coming and established acts across genres, from hip-hop and rock to metal and punk to folk and singer-songwriters. 2200 Second Ave; [thecrocodile.com](http://thecrocodile.com)

3

## WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES

A staple for commuters, the ferries double as a popular visitor draw. From downtown, you can ride to Bainbridge Island, with plenty of shops and restaurants within walking distance, or Bremerton, where you can explore the town's naval roots. The vessels themselves are such a local icon that Seattle Chocolates created a special souvenir box in their shape. 801 Alaskan Way, Pier 52; [wsdot.wa.gov/ferries](http://wsdot.wa.gov/ferries)

4

## ANNAPURNA CAFE

If climbing the hills of Seattle makes you feel like a mountaineer, then the cuisine of Sherpas is a fitting choice. You'll find that at Annapurna, whose huge menu highlights the traditional dishes of Nepal, India, and Tibet. You can even strive to replicate the tastes in your own kitchen by bringing home their signature garam masala spice mix. ★1833 Broadway; [annapurna-cafe.com](http://annapurna-cafe.com)

5

## SEATTLE CENTER

Whether you have toddlers or teens in tow, Seattle Center has something to entertain and delight your family. The International Fountain, timed to music, is always a crowd-pleaser, as is the world-famous Space Needle, recently renovated to add a rotating glass floor and glass walls in the observation deck. Older kids will dig the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) exhibits covering music, movies, and video games, while younger kids will adore the incredible Artists at Play playground. The pressed penny machines that lurk at many of these attractions make the perfect souvenir. ★305 Harrison St; [seattlecenter.com](http://seattlecenter.com)

6

## STATESIDE

Upscale Vietnamese fusion with a French touch and killer cocktails make for a wonderful date night or weekend brunch at Stateside. The restaurant's pretty décor is also a fusion: vintage-style palm leaf wallpaper meets modern brass pendant lighting. Try the goat curry (add on ginger rice for the ideal accompaniment), Hunan-style chili cummin pork ribs, or cha ca va long (black cod marinated in turmeric with rice noodles). 300 E Pike St, Ste 1200; [statesideseseattle.com](http://statesideseseattle.com)

7

## EASY STREET RECORDS

In the 30 years since Easy Street opened, plenty has changed in music formats, but the shop remains a great place to pick up some vinyl. The attached cafe is open every day from 7am to 3pm, serving up breakfast and lunch staples with music-themed names (La Bamba Asada, anyone?). 4559 California Ave SW; [easystreetonline.com](http://easystreetonline.com)

8

## BREWERIES & CIDERIES

With somewhere in the neighborhood of 60 craft breweries in the city, a cold pint of fresh, locally made beer is always within reach. Pair yours with oysters at Pike Brewing Company's upscale gastropub, Tankard & Tun; sample seasonal and special releases at Redhook Brewlab on Capitol Hill; or get a taste of another beverage trend (and bar games) at Seattle Cider Company. ★1415 First Ave, [pikebrewing.com](http://pikebrewing.com); ★714 E Pike St, [redhook.com](http://redhook.com); 4700 Ohio Ave S, [seattlecidercompany.com](http://seattlecidercompany.com)

9

## SMITH TOWER

When Smith Tower opened in 1914, it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi. Today, it's dwarfed by others in size, but not in personality. Learn about the building's history in an interactive tour on your way to the observatory, featuring a speakeasy-style bar, an open-air deck, 360-degree sightlines, and the legendary "Wishing Chair," an elaborately carved wood throne that some say guarantees marriage within a year for any single woman who sits on it. ★506 Second Ave; [smithtower.com](http://smithtower.com)

10

## BALLARD LOCKS

Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Ballard acts as a water elevator that raises and lowers vessels passing through from salt water to fresh water and vice versa. (Experience it from the water on a boat tour from Argosy Cruises or a kayak tour from Ballard Kayak.) On-site, you'll also find a lovely botanical garden and a fish ladder, where, from mid-June to October, you can spot runs of spawning salmon in an underwater chamber that offers views down to the kelp- and shell-strewn bay floor. 3015 NW 54th St; [ballardlocks.org](http://ballardlocks.org)







# WISH YOU WERE HERE ...FOR THE CLASSICS

1

## SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Seattle Seahawks fans have earned a reputation for their vociferous support at CenturyLink Field. Catch the team on a home game day, and you'll become an honorary "12," urging the team on to success. With a Super Bowl victory in 2014 and a near-miss in 2015, the noise seems to have been working—and a warm hat makes a great way to show your Hawks colors. ★800 Occidental Ave S; [seahawks.com](http://seahawks.com)

2

## REI

At the flagship location of this outdoor recreation co-op, find everything you need to hike, bike, climb, and camp in style. If you just can't wait to test things out, there's an indoor climbing wall, mountain bike test trail, and plenty of knowledgeable employees to help you gear up. 222 Yale Ave N; [rei.com](http://rei.com)

3

## FRANKIE & JO'S

Milk gets a run for its money at Frankie & Jo's, where cones of dairy-free, plant-based scoops can woo even hardcore traditional ice cream fans. The colorful parlors use 100 percent vegan ingredients, including cashew milk pressed in-house daily. Favorites include Salty Caramel Ash, Date Shake, and California Cabin (applewood-smoked vanilla and pine ice cream with black pepper cardamom shortbread). Multiple locations; [frankieandjos.com](http://frankieandjos.com)

4

## SEATTLE BOULDERING PROJECT

Whether you climb V8s on the regular or have no idea what that means, this bouldering gym is for you. Not just a physical workout, this form of rock climbing sans harness also tests your mind as you figure out how to traverse the marked routes up the walls. Added bonus: shoe rentals are free for first-timers. 900 Poplar Pl S; [seattleboulderingproject.com](http://seattleboulderingproject.com)

5

## THEO CHOCOLATE

The first organic, fair-trade chocolatier in the country, Theo is known for its social responsibility—and its mouthwatering chocolate bars. Visit the store for ample samples, and sign up for the factory tour to get behind-the-scenes info. ★3400 Phinney Ave N; [theochocolate.com](http://theochocolate.com)

6

## SCHMITZ PRESERVE PARK

Relax and recharge in West Seattle's Schmitz Park, a serene spot where old-growth trees stand tall. You might come across banana slugs, pileated woodpeckers, and some mud, so wear appropriate footwear. From here, you're not far from lots of recreational opportunities at Alki Beach, the landing spot in 1851 for the Denny party, the settlers who established the town of Seattle. 5551 SW Admiral Way

7

## FREMONT TROLL

In the world of kooky attractions, the Fremont Troll looms large—literally. This sculpture is big enough to clutch a real Volkswagen Beetle in its hand and sport a hubcap for an eye. Find visitors taking selfies with him under the Aurora Bridge. Troll Ave N and N 36th St

8

## LIVING COMPUTERS: MUSEUM + LABS

Nerd out at Living Computers: Museum + Labs, a hands-on museum dedicated to computer technology from the 1960s to today. Trace the evolution of the personal computer, indulge your inner '80s kid with a game of *Oregon Trail*, or explore the future of self-driving cars. ★2245 First Ave S; [livingcomputers.org](http://livingcomputers.org)

9

## TOM DOUGLAS RESTAURANTS

For a restaurant experience synonymous with Pacific Northwest cuisine, visit any of the fine eateries in chef Tom Douglas's empire. Go for the Dungeness crab cakes at Etta's, delight in the duck fat hush puppies at The Carlile Room, or gorge on a Greek-inspired lamb burger at Lola. For the full Master Chef experience, sign up for a culinary class at Douglas's interactive Hot Stove Society—or just take some signature salmon rub home to your grill. ★Multiple locations; [tomdouglas.com](http://tomdouglas.com)

10

## BATEAU

James Beard Award-winning Renee Erickson's temple of meat has been dubbed the "steak house of the future" by noted food critic (and onetime Seattle resident) Bill Addison. The wrinkle here, aside from the Instagram-worthy aesthetic, is that all the beef is sourced locally (from Whidbey Island), and everything is butchered in-house. And we do mean everything: Bateau's "whole-animal" cooking means that alongside perfectly marbled rib eyes, you can scan the massive chalkboard for constantly changing selections of lesser-known cuts like 21-day aged bavette. Ambitious home chefs should pick up a copy of Erickson's cookbook *A Boat, a Whale & a Walrus* to re-create her dishes in their own kitchens. 1040 E Union St; [restaurantbateau.com](http://restaurantbateau.com)

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## SKY VIEW OBSERVATORY AT COLUMBIA CENTER

Fresh off a \$25 million renovation, this Columbia Center attraction delivers sightseers up 73 floors for 360-degree views of downtown, Elliott Bay, and the nearby Olympic Mountain Range. While up there, grab a glass of local wine or beer from the newly opened cafe. (Pro tip: Sunset is a particularly beautiful time to visit.) ★700 Fourth Ave; [skyviewobservatory.com](http://skyviewobservatory.com)







# WISH YOU WERE HERE

# ...FOR FAMILY FUN

1

## SEA WOLF BAKERS

Although the brothers behind Sea Wolf only burst onto the scene in 2014, they've quickly become one of the city's favorite purveyors of doughy deliciousness. The signature is the slow-risen sourdough loaf, but the cinnamon rolls, croissants, and lye rolls go quickly, too. Even if you don't have a chance to visit the Fremont bakery itself, you're likely to enjoy some Sea Wolf goods at some point during your visit—they're featured on restaurant and cafe menus across the city. 3621 Stone Way N, Ste D; [seawolfbakers.com](http://seawolfbakers.com)

2

## NEKO CAT CAFE

"There's like a bunch of cats in here," declares the welcome mat at Neko, but that's not all you'll find inside. There are also feline-themed doughnuts and frosted shortbread cookies, cat ear headbands, and "pawtenders" serving Japanese soda and other beverages. Make a reservation to spend an hour hanging with the kitties, who like to nap in cozy chairs (or perhaps in your lap) as you sip your coffee. 519 E Pine St; [nekoseattle.com](http://nekoseattle.com)

3

## GOLDEN GARDENS PARK

Feel the sand beneath your toes at Golden Gardens, where the beach wows with views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Create a bonfire in one of the designated fire pits (don't forget the s'mores supplies), stroll along the coastline, cast a line from the fishing pier, or just dig your toes into the sand. There's more to Golden Gardens than beach, too; the park has more than three miles of trails leading through forested and wetland areas. 8498 Seaview PI NW

4

## HERITAGE DISTILLING CO

This one's for the parents—the award-winning local craft distillery is known for its irresistible Brown Sugar Bourbon and flavored vodkas. It also has a following among the city's football lovers, thanks to its Batch No. 12 collection, which pays homage to the team's fans, collectively known as the "12th Man." Try a tasting flight in chilled glasses, or sip a bevanda, a mixed drink that showcases how easy it is to turn these spirits into a fancy craft cocktail. ★Multiple locations; [heritagedistilling.com](http://heritagedistilling.com)

5

## SEATTLE AQUARIUM

How long does a giant octopus live? What does it feel like to touch the prickly spines of a sea urchin or the bumpy legs of a starfish? And could harbor seals be any cuter? Find the answers to all of these pressing questions (and more!) at this waterfront mainstay, which offers a full daily program of events including docent talks, feedings, and diver shows. ★1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59; [seattleaquarium.org](http://seattleaquarium.org)

6

## GUM WALL

Whether you're delighted or disgusted by Seattle's famed Gum Wall, located in Pike Place Market's Post Alley, it's hard to resist chewing up a wad of gum and adding to the collection. The colorful, gooey attraction (one of Seattle's most photographed) dates back to the early 1990s, when theatergoers started sticking their gum to the wall while queueing up for improv comedy shows at Unexpected Productions. 1428 Post Alley

7

## GAS WORKS PARK

A former gasification plant might not sound like a prime choice for a relaxing afternoon, but the snaking industrial equipment juxtaposed against rolling green lawns and the blue waters of Lake Union make Gas Works one of the more unique parks you'll come across in your travels. (You may also recall the park's cameo in the film *10 Things I Hate About You*.) Part of the 19-acre park's disused equipment has been refurbished and serves as a climbing frame in a large play barn. On windy days, the large hill here seems tailor-made for kite flying. 2101 N Northlake Way

8

## NORDIC MUSEUM

Inside a brand-new building in Ballard, the light and bright Nordic Museum explores the history of all five Nordic countries and the influence their cultures have had around the world. No architectural detail has gone unnoticed, from the energy-efficient Finnish elevators to the main hall's slanted walls, meant to mimic a fjord. The museum's collection includes more than 77,000 objects and artifacts, from midcentury-modern furniture and replica Viking boats to tiny treasures like this hand-carved wooden salmon spreader. ★2655 NW Market St; [nordicmuseum.org](http://nordicmuseum.org)

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## WOODLAND PARK ZOO

New to the zoo, Taj and Glenn are greater one-horned rhinos who are still babies—even though they weigh almost one ton each. See them, along with playful primates known as François' langur, impressively balanced Chilean flamingoes, majestic Malayan tigers, cuddly twin red pandas (born in summer 2018), and Asian small-clawed otters, who play with each other in one big, adorable aquatic jumble. ★5500 Phinney Ave N; [zoo.org](http://zoo.org)







# WISH YOU WERE HERE

# ...FOR INSPIRATION

1

## ELLIOTT BAY BOOK COMPANY

An official UNESCO City of Literature deserves an iconic bookshop. In Seattle, that's none other than Elliott Bay Book Company. Opened in 1973, this Capitol Hill landmark began as a one-room shop and has grown into a wood-filled, multilevel cultural hub, home to better than 150,000 titles to page through and a jam-packed calendar of some 500 author events each year. *1521 10th Ave; elliotbaybook.com*

2

## MINER'S LANDING

There's wonderment of every flavor at Miner's Landing at Pier 57 on the downtown waterfront. To find it, just look for the Seattle Great Wheel jutting out over Elliott Bay. Grab some hot buttered popcorn before going for a spin on the vintage indoor carousel, buckle up for Wings Over Washington, a "flying theater" that immerses visitors in Washington's unparalleled landscape, and feast on fish and chips at one of the venue's restaurants. *★1301 Alaskan Way; seattlegreatwheel.com; wingsoverwa.com*

3

## TOP POT DOUGHNUTS

Eleven cafes within city limits means you're never far from a Top Pot—those handcrafted apple fritters and maple bars are hard to resist. There's stiff doughnut competition in town from vegan Mighty-O Donuts to custard-filled General Porpoise to the unique glazes at Tempesta, but veteran standby Top Pot is still more than worth a visit. *★Multiple locations; toppotdoughnuts.com*

4

## TSUKUSHINBO

Amid an impressive sushi scene, the tiny, tricky-to-find Tsukushinbo stands out with its wide selection of Japanese staples done right. Don't miss the Marine Roll, featuring spicy scallop with flying fish roe and avocado, all topped with seared salmon. *515 S Main St*

5

## BROOKS TRAILHEAD

If you're all about running, the store at Brooks headquarters is a must-see. Browse the colorful displays showcasing the company's latest gear, and take a spin on one of the in-store treadmills for a gait analysis that will help you find the comfiest fit. *3400 Stone Way N; brooksrunning.com*

6

## MUSEUM OF FLIGHT

Flight simulators that let you try out aerial maneuvers, a commercial aircraft collection that includes the supersonic Concorde and a rare example of the first modern airliner, and an inspirational Space Gallery with the only full-scale NASA space shuttle trainer are just a few of the highlights that make this museum a bucket-list destination for aviation buffs. *★9404 E Marginal Way S; museumofflight.org*

7

## PIKE PLACE MARKET

A foodie's itinerary simply isn't complete without a stop at Pike Place Market, an institution since 1907. You could spend all day following the labyrinthine hallways to superior seafood, coffee, and produce. Whatever you're in the mood for, you'll find it here—and you'll find it fresh. *★First Ave and Pike St; pikeplacemarket.org*

8

## STARBUCKS RESERVE ROASTERY & TASTING ROOM

Choosing a coffee spot in Seattle is both easy (because there are so many options) and difficult (because there are so many options), but if you're a coffee connoisseur, make sure to stop by the gorgeous Starbucks Reserve Roastery to pay homage to the hometown company that started it all. You'll find exclusive drinks and special small-lot roasts like a chocolatey Hawaiian Ka'u or the floral Burundi Ngozi. *★1124 Pike St; starbucksreserve.com*

9

## VOLUNTEER PARK

Climb the 107 stairs of the water tower for 360-degree views of the lush greenery below, take a picture of the Space Needle through the *Black Sun* sculpture, and wander through this historic park, designed by the famous Olmsted brothers in the early 1900s. Don't miss the Victorian-style Volunteer Park Conservatory, filled with ferns, tropical palms, succulents, cacti, and seasonal blooms. *1247 15th Ave E*

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## SEWARD PARK

Take a break from the urban landscape without ever having to leave city limits at Seward Park, whose 300 acres include old-growth forest with abundant wildlife, miles of hiking trails, and the "loop," a 2.4-mile paved path jutting out into Lake Washington. For a great overview, follow along as National Geographic photographer and Seattleite Aaron Huey explores the park with hip-hop duo Shabazz Palaces in the VISITSEATTLE. TV series *Open Studio*. *5900 Lake Washington Blvd S; visitseattle.org/tv/videos/shabazz-palaces*

11

## CHIHULY GARDEN AND GLASS

Bring your camera into this photogenic museum dedicated to the works of Dale Chihuly, a Washington state native famous the world over for his blown-glass masterpieces. The museum's eight galleries offer a retrospective of the artist's work and insight into his design processes. Under the shadow of the Space Needle, the light-filled Glasshouse, with its 100-foot-long sculpture of red, amber, and yellow glass suspended from the vaulted ceiling, is a highlight. *★305 Harrison St; chihulygardenandglass.com*