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The Best **Full-Day** **Tours**



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The Best in **One Day**



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. **START: Monorail or bus 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 15, 16, or 18 to Seattle Center.**

1 ★★★ kids 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. 🕒 1 hr. *Summer weekends are busiest.* 400 Broad St. ☎ 206/905-2180. www.spaceneedle.com. *Observation deck tickets \$16 adults, \$14 seniors, \$8 ages 4–13. Sun–Thurs 9am–11pm; Fri–Sat 9am–noon.*

2 ★★★ kids 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 (p. 58), 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



Even if you're not normally a fan of seafood, the fresh fish at Pike Place Market are hard to resist.

Travel Tip

Despite Seattle's walkability, there are times when your feet just need a break. To get downtown from Seattle Center—home of the Space Needle (see **1** above)—hop on the monorail (\$4 round-trip for adults, \$1.50 ages 5–12, \$2 for seniors) for the short ride to Westlake Center. From there, take a free metro bus anywhere in the downtown, Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, and waterfront neighborhoods. The historic waterfront trolley has been temporarily halted for maintenance upgrades, but Waterfront Streetcar Line buses (painted to look like trolleys) do the job for now. Better yet, they're free.



Pike Place Market is far more than a farmer's market and is well worth exploring.

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. 🕒 **1 hr. Pike Place & Pike St.** ☎️ **206/682-7453.** www.pikeplacemarket.org. **Mon–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 11am–5pm.**

3 **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. **1501 Pike Place.** ☎️ **206/682-2829.** www.pikeplacebakery.com. \$.

4 ★★ **kids Seattle Waterfront.** Head to Seattle's sparkling Elliott Bay, where you can walk from pier to pier and watch the cruise ships come and go. The waterfront is always lively, and the smell is a pleasant mix of salt water and fresh fish and chips, available at stands along the way. If you have little ones, a stop at Pier 57's Bay Pavilion is a must. Pirates Plunder gift shop has every kind of sea-scalawag item imaginable; at the

back of the pavilion, an antique carousel and game room offer a fun break. But the Harbor is not all about play; it's a real working waterfront, one of the busiest in the nation. The best way to see it in action is to get out on the water. **Argosy Cruises** (Pier 55, Seattle Waterfront; ☎️ **206/623-1445; www.argosycruises.com**) offers hour-long harbor tours—along with a variety of other dinner and pleasure cruises—on boats leaving from Pier 55. The harbor tour leaves at 1:30pm every day, and varying additional times depending on the day and season. \$15 Jan–Mar and Oct–Dec; \$19 April–Sept for adults; \$6.45 Jan–Mar and Oct–Dec and \$7.80 April–Sept for ages 5–12. If you don't have time for a tour, stop by **Waterfront Park**, which stretches between Piers 57 and 61, and peer out at the bay through free telescopes. 🕒 **1 hr.**

5 **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 (311 Occidental Ave. S.; ☎ 206/682-9939; www.glasshouse-studio.com), 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. ⌚ 1 hr. Occidental Ave. & Jackson St.

6 ★★★ 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. ⌚ 2 hr. 1300 1st Ave. ☎ 206/654-3100. www.seattleartmuseum.org. Admission \$13 adults, \$10 seniors over 62, \$7 students & kids 13–17, free for kids 12 & under. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm; Thurs–Fri 10am–9pm.



The Seattle Aquarium offers a view into life in Puget Sound.

7 ★★ kids 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. ⌚ 2 hr. 1483 Alaskan Way on Pier 59. ☎ 206/386-4300. www.seattleaquarium.org. Admission is \$15 adults, \$10 ages 4–12. Daily 9:30am–5pm.

Good Deal

A CityPass (☎ 888/330-5008; www.citypass.com) is one of the best deals in town. You can visit five popular Seattle destinations for half the regular price (that's assuming, of course, that you take them all in within 9 days). Better yet, you won't have to wait in line; just breeze on in with your ticket in hand. The passes will get you into the Seattle Aquarium, Pacific Science Center, Museum of Flight, and Woodland Park Zoo—and onto an Argosy Cruises boat for an entertaining tour of Elliott Bay. A CityPass costs \$44 for adults and \$29 for kids ages 3–12. You can buy them at any of the included attractions, or order them ahead from the website.

The Best in **Two Days**



The first day was the smorgasbord tour of Seattle highlights; now it's time to go back and spend some quality time in two of the city's most interesting areas: Seattle Center and Pioneer Square.

START: Monorail or bus 1, 2, 3, 4, 13, 15, 16, or 18 to Seattle Center.

1 ★ kids Seattle Children's Museum. Inside the Center House, near the Space Needle at Seattle Center, you'll see the children's museum below, visible through a railed opening in the floor. The bright colors and enchanted forest are irresistible to kids, so hop on the glass elevator (near the back of the Center House) and ride downstairs to the museum. The emphasis is on nature and multicultural learning, with crafts, exhibits, and activities that turn education into play for kids from birth to age 10. 🕒 90 min.

305 Harrison St. ☎ 206/441-1768.

The dinosaurs that prowl the Pacific Science Center are fun for kids and adults alike.



www.thechildrensmuseum.org. Admission is \$7.50 for adults & children, free for kids under age 1. Mon–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat–Sun 10am–6pm.

2 ★★ kids Pacific Science Center. Do touch! is the rule at this museum at Seattle Center. Though interesting for all ages, this is really a youth-focused museum. A great deal of effort has gone into making nearly every exhibit a hands-on experience. Kids love the animatronic dinosaurs, the butterfly garden, and the Body Works area, where they can test their own physical abilities. There are animals to touch, a playground for tiny tots, and usually a special exhibit of bubbles, snakes, or something else sure to engage. You can gaze at the stars in the planetarium, and the laser shows on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights are set to music by bands like the Beatles and Led Zepelin. The center's IMAX theaters show movies for varying ages. 🕒 2 hr. 200 2nd Ave. N. ☎ 206/443-2844. www.pacsci.org. Mon–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat–Sun 10am–6pm. Admission \$11 adults, \$9.50 seniors, \$8 ages 6–12, \$6 ages 3–5. IMAX \$8–\$11 adults, \$7.50–\$9.50 seniors, \$7–\$8.50 ages 6–12, \$6 ages 3–5, discounts available for combination passes.

3 ★ Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum & Hall of Fame. Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen's monument to Seattle's own rock legend, Jimi Hendrix, this museum is fascinating for music-lovers of all



Be sure to explore the remains of old Seattle, which lie a full story beneath the modern city, on the Underground Tour.

ages. There are tons of interactive exhibits on popular music—from soul to rock to hip-hop—including the chance to record your own CD in the Jam Studio, using guitars, drums, keyboard, and voice. Technology makes it possible even if you've never played an instrument. And the Science Fiction Museum is worth a look, too, if you're interested in the genre. Both are housed in a stunning Frank Gehry-designed building meant to look from above like one of Jimi's guitars. From the street, it looks more like an undulating blob of metal. Either way, it's worth a peek even if you're not a music fan. 🕒 **90 min.** 325 5th Ave. N. (at Seattle Center). ☎ 206/770-2700. www.empsfm.org. Admission to both \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/ages 5–17, free for kids under 5. Daily 10am–5pm.

4 ★★ Pioneer Building. This historic grand dame now houses Doc Maynard's Pub and the popular Underground Tour, which takes you

beneath the sidewalks to view the remnants of the original pioneer town, a full story lower than the rebuilt city. (It seems there was a little problem with sewage coming back in with the tides.) You'll get a 90-minute lowdown (literally) on the era's get-rich-quick schemers, gold-crazy prospectors, and colorful women who listed their occupation as "seamstress," though they seldom produced a stitch. Some of the content is mature, but it should go right over the heads of the little ones. In any case, they are more fascinated by the stories of the rats which once roamed the streets. The guides are very funny, and they know their stuff. 🕒 **90 min.** 1st Ave. & Yesler Way. *Underground Tour*, 610 1st Ave. #200. ☎ 206/682-4646. www.undergroundtour.com. \$14 adults, \$7 children 7–12. Tours offered daily, throughout the day.

Music-lovers and fans of modern architecture will both find something to love at the Experience Music Project.



5★ Grand Central Bakery.

Some of the best bread in this dough-loving town comes from this gem of a bakery, which you can enter from Occidental Park or the Grand Central Arcade on 1st Ave. My advice? Gobble down a sweet potato



Rest your weary feet while snacking on some of Seattle's best baked goods at Grand Central Bakery.

galette (topped with sugared pecans) while you're there, and take home an epi baguette, slightly sweet and shaped in a distinctive zigzag pattern. **214 1st Ave. S.**

206/622-3644. \$.

6★★★ Elliott Bay Book Company.

Walking the creaky wooden floors of this historic building feels like paying a visit to Seattle's living



Get in from the rain at the Elliott Bay Book Company, housed in a Gold Rush-era building.

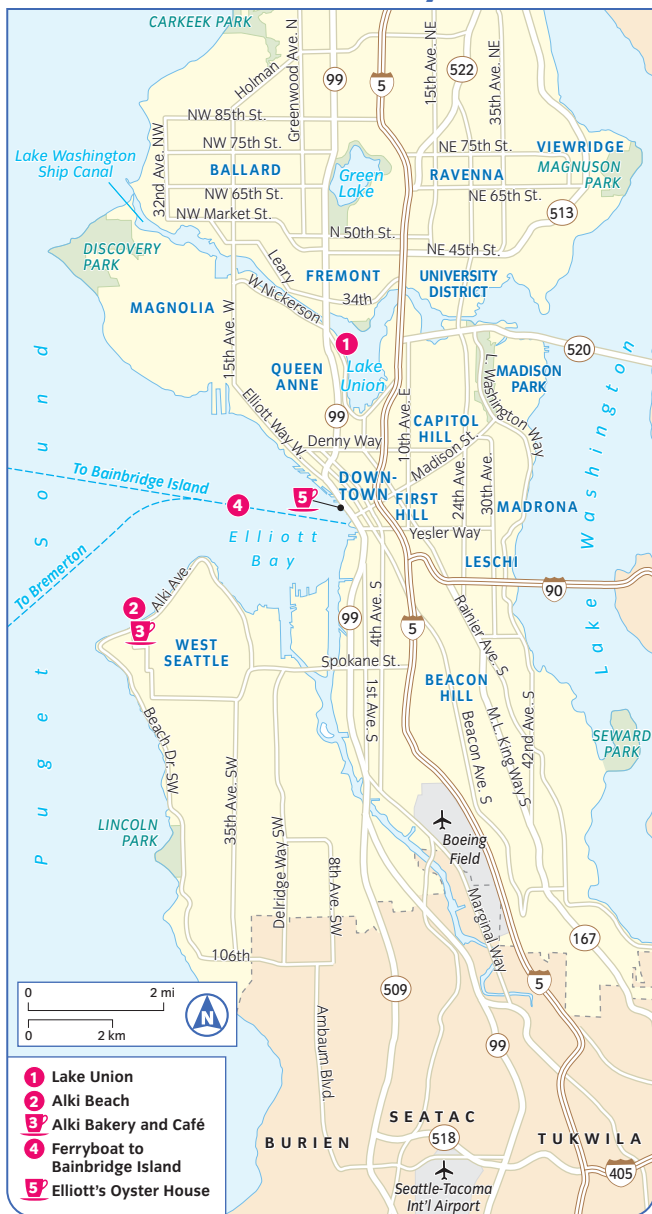
room. And no wonder: Seattleites love to while away the hours here. During the Gold Rush this building housed the Globe Hotel. Now it houses more than 150,000 books. Your challenge: not to bring home more than you can fit in your carry-on! **30 min. 101 S. Main St.**

206/624-6600. www.elliottbaybook.com. Mon-Sat 9:30am-10pm, Sun 11am-7pm.

Seattle Makes Music

The Kingsmen, Jimi Hendrix, Heart, Queensrÿche, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Alice in Chains, Death Cab for Cutie, Modest Mouse—Seattle just seems to spawn great music. Since the 1950s, the Emerald City has been famous for its garage bands that end up going big-time. The “Louie Louie” phenomenon began when the Wailers from Tacoma (just south of Seattle) recorded the song in 1960 and it became a radio hit. (A couple of years later, two Northwest bands from a bit farther south—Portland, Oregon—recorded the same song: the Kingsmen and Paul Revere and the Raiders.) In the early 1990s, Seattle's Kurt Cobain and his band Nirvana kicked off the grunge era that made Seattle arguably the hippest place on the planet. Today's Seattle rockers, like Modest Mouse, may be a bit less well known, but they're no less exciting.

The Best in **Three Days**



You can't fully appreciate Seattle without getting out on the water. After all, nearly half the Emerald City is immersed in the stuff! Today, start out by giving your feet a break and letting your arms do all the work. Then relax with some more restful water activities. **START: Bus 16, 26, or 28 to Lake Union.**

1 ★★ Boating Lake Union.

There's nothing quite like paddling a boat right in the heart of a city. Sea-planes gracefully take off and land as you explore the houseboat "neighborhoods" and soak in the dramatic view of the Space Needle and Seattle's distinctive skyline. If you want to pay for the extra rental time, you can paddle right up to the dock at several restaurants and stop for lunch.

🕒 **90 min.** *Boats may be rented at several locations, including the Center for Wooden Boats (1010 Valley St.; ☎ 206/382-2628; rowboats & sailboats from \$15 per hour), which also has a fascinating collection of historic boats & offers a free sailboat ride at 2pm Sun. To rent a kayak try the Northwest Outdoor Center (2100 Westlake Ave. N, Ste. 1; ☎ 206/281-9694; kayak rentals \$12 per hour single or \$17 per hour double). Lessons are available.*

2 ★★★ **Alki Beach.** This is the best beach in Seattle—though technically, it's in West Seattle. The mood is always festive, the view of Elliott Bay and the Seattle skyline is breathtaking, and the water is always—even in the summertime—

very chilly. From the spring through the fall, you can zip across Elliott Bay from the Seattle Waterfront on the water taxi. In the wintertime, you'll need to drive over the West Seattle Bridge and take the Harbor Ave/ Avalon Way exit, then turn right onto Harbor Avenue and bear left at Alki Ave. This wide, sandy beach has a promenade for walkers, joggers, and roller-bladers, and you can rent bikes or go-carts at shops across from the beach. Shops and cafes line the street across from the water, so you need never go hungry. 🕒 **2 hr.**

3 **Alki Bakery and Cafe.** If all the salty air makes you long for something sweet, take a beach break for pastries and coffee. You can also get more substantial fare here: sandwiches, pasta, or seafood. Enjoy your snack outside, with the panoramic ocean and mountain views thrown in for free! **2738 Alki Ave. SW. ☎ 206/935-1352. \$.**

4 ★★ **Ferryboat to Bainbridge Island.** Washington State runs the largest ferry system in the

Don't miss getting an up-close view of the charming houseboats.



country, and this line is very popular with commuters. You could plug in your laptop and check e-mail for free, but don't do it. Instead, grab a cup of coffee and a raspberry scone at the onboard cafe, then head out on deck and enjoy the 35-minute ride. If you walk onto the ferry, arrive 15 minutes before departure time; if you drive your car on (not recommended), come at least 20–30 minutes ahead. Drive-on wait times can be much longer during rush hours.

🕒 **1 hr. round-trip.** *Catch the ferry-boat at the Seattle Ferry Terminal at Pier 52.* ☎ **206/464-6400** (from Seattle); ☎ **206/464-6400** (from out-of-state). www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries. *Fares \$6.70 for adults, \$3.35 for seniors, \$5.40 for children, \$12 for car & driver. Check schedules for departure times.*

5 ★★ Walk Through Winslow.

Once you've arrived on Bainbridge Island, follow the crowds walking into the charming town of Winslow, where you can roam the art

galleries, taste some wine, and do some shopping on **Winslow Way**. A great place to see the work of hundreds of area artists—both new and seasoned—is the non-profit gallery **Bainbridge Arts and Crafts** (151 Winslow Way E.; ☎ **206/842-3132**; Mon–Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–5pm). For a great cup of java, turn left (toward the water) at Madison Avenue South, then right onto Parfitt Way Southeast, and stroll over to **Pegasus Coffee House and Gallery**, a picturesque, ivy-covered brick shop on the waterfront that roasts its own tasty beans. 🕒 **2 hr.**

6 ★★ Elliott's Oyster House.

Once you're back in Seattle, this is a great place to stop for fresh local seafood. Or head for the raw bar if you just need an oyster fix. It's the perfect place to wrap up a day on the water. **1201 Alaskan Way, Pier 56.** ☎ **206/623-4340.** www.elliotts-oysterhouse.com. **\$\$.** See p 117. ●

Riding the ferry is half the fun of a trip to Bainbridge Island.

