



GETTING TO KNOW SEATTLE COURTESY OF THE ACLU OF WASHINGTON

WELCOME TO SEATTLE – a true melting pot of culture, rain, and coffee. Not only are we a tech hub and the birthplace of grunge music, we also have some awesome food, unbelievable ARTS, and outdoor attractions that MAKE IT worth braving all the rain.

25 COOL AND UNEXPECTED THINGS TO DO (AND PLACES TO EAT) IN SEATTLE

- 1) Get cheesy at **BEECHERS HANDMADE CHEESE** and prepare to forever rid your grocery cart of the ill-advised American cheese square. From bite-sized curds to aged staples like the flagship signature, this is a Pike Place essential stop. 1600 Pike Place Market. 206.956.1964
- 2) Ooh! and Ahh! at the glass art of Debora Moore at the **NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**. She creates sculpted glass orchids that are inspired by her distant travels and immersion in nature. The orchidarium is on view along with the museum's permanent collection. 2300 S Massachusetts Street. 206.518.6000
- 3) Drink an old fashioned under a chic stairwell at **ZIG ZAG CAFÉ**. This cocktail hub of downtown is a tricky place to find and is even trickier to leave. 501 Western Ave. 206.625.1146
- 4) Three words: **PIKE PLACE CHOWDER**. Need I say more? This is the quintessential seafood dish from the quintessential seafood town. Bust out those yoga pants and prepare your waistband for this section of heaven served in a bread bowl. 1530 Post Alley. 206.267.2537
- 5) Feel the breeze of a swinging trapeze artist at **THE PINK DOOR**. This restaurant/cabaret theater serves traditional Italian food and non-traditional everything else. Think moulin-rouge, but with better food and more tarot cards. 1919 Post alley. 206.443.3241** for reservations
- 6) **THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND INDUSTRY** doesn't have the most enticing name (although it's known locally as MOHAI, which at least is shorter). But don't miss it. MOHAI reopened in late 2012, with new galleries and multimedia displays, in a new location in Lake Union Park at the north edge of downtown. Its exhibits on life in Seattle and Puget Sound cover everything from the maritime past to cutting-edge culture. (Adult admission is \$14.) 860 Terry Ave N.
- 7) Get serious about your pizza at **SERIOUS PIE**. One of Tom Douglas' many acclaimed restaurants, this cozy spot is an affirmation that no one can be in a bad mood where pizza is served. 316 Virginia Street. 206.838.7388
- 8) Order bourbon with your biscuits and gravy at **WITNESS**, a southern-influenced craft cocktail bar in the lively and lovely Capitol Hill neighborhood. Fun fact- Witness is owned by ACLU all-star Alison Holcomb! 410 Broadway E. 206.329.0248
- 9) **THE SPACE NEEDLE**, a vertical icon of the city, is so kitschy it's become cool, and it gives a great view of the city from the top. Built for the 1962 world's fair, its 605 feet tall and looks like a spaceship on stilts, towering over Seattle Center (seattlecenter.com), a cultural complex where you could easily spend hours at the Pacific Science Center, Chihuly glass display, food court, theatres or simply watching kids frolic in a giant outdoor fountain.
- 10) Queue up the jukebox at **NITELIGHT LOUNGE** in Belltown. This relaxed, local dive is reminiscent of a 1970's pool hall — with drink prices and décor to match. Don't forget to hit up the ATM before heading to this cash-only lounge. 1920 2nd Ave. 206.443.0899
- 11) What is ginger beer, you ask? Why settle for anything less than the best? Stop in to **RACHEL'S GINGER BEER** in Pike Place for a refreshing virgin drink or one with a bit of a kick; their tap-poured Moscow Mules or Dark and Stormies. 1530 Post Alley.
- 12) Flex your flippers in the pinball mecca of the civilized world at **THE SEATTLE PINBALL MUSEUM**, located in the International District. Their collection features both



restored, old-school favorites as well as newer, flashy tables. 508 Maynard Ave S. 206.623.0759

13) If you are looking for a Seattle breakfast, **PORTAGE BAY CAFÉ** is the place for you. In addition to using local and sustainable ingredients, they also have a breakfast bar where you can pile your pancakes with seasonal fruits, syrups and dollops of whipcream. 391 Terry Ave N. 206.462.6400

14) Stop by the **BALLARD LOCKS** to watch as a parade of sailboats, tugs and yachts make their way through the shifting gates of water that allow boats to sail from Freshwater Lake Union and Lake Washington into the Saltwater of the Puget Sound. Be sure to check out the lock's fish ladders to see if any salmon are on their trip to spawning grounds. 3015 NW 54th St.

15) For the best vegetarian and vegan food in town, head to **CAFÉ FLORA**. Its dining atrium of plants and natural light paired with the seasonal ingredients of its dishes makes it the definition of fresh. 2901 E Madison St. 206.325.9100

16) **JAPONESA** features a traditional Japanese core concept with a hint of Latin flair. This restaurant blends the two spheres to create an original and flavorful sushi menu. 1400 1st Ave. 206.971.7979

17/18) **PIKE PLACE MARKET**, a historic and beloved downtown public market, has been in business since 1907. It's a year-round farmers market and a visual riot of vegetable, seafood, cheese and flower stalls along with handicrafts and tourist-friendly knickknacks. And, of course, the flying fish. Vendors at Pike Place Fish Market gleefully toss salmon to each other and crack jokes, always drawing a crowd at the fish stall by the market's main entrance. Pike Place is also home to some of Seattle's best eateries, including **MAXIMILIEN**, which pairs the cuisine and atmosphere of a Parisian romantic hideaway with stunning views of Puget Sound and Olympic mountains. 81 Pike Street. 206.682.7270



19) **STATE FERRIES** shuttle all around Puget Sound and they're a key, and the prettiest, part of Washington's transportation system. You can have a fun, quick and cheap sightseeing boat ride as a walk-on passenger (adult fare is \$8 round trip) on the Seattle-Bainbridge Island ferry. If it's clear, you'll even see 14,410-foot Mount Rainier looming to the south on the 35-minute ride. "The Mountain," as locals call it, really does exist, although it's often shrouded in clouds.

20) Soon the traffic-roaring Alaskan Way Viaduct, which cuts off downtown Seattle from its waterfront, will come tumbling down and be replaced by a tunnel. For now, **THE DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT** offers a broad sidewalk with shops, eateries (fish and chips is always a favorite) and wooden piers jutting out into the bay. Stop at the Seattle Aquarium to see what lives in (and beyond) the local waters (adult admission, \$19.95). Ride the Seattle Great Wheel, a 175-foot tall Ferris wheel with enclosed gondola-type cabins, for a view from on high of the city, Elliott Bay and the Olympic Mountains to the west (adult ticket \$13).

21) **THE SEATTLE ART MUSEUM** and **OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK** are the perfect places for a rainy day — or any day — if you'd like to see everything from European masters' paintings and ancient Asian artwork to Native American carvings and contemporary sculpture. The museum is in the heart of downtown; its gift store and restaurant offer unusual souvenirs and good food. Museum admission is \$17 (adult), with free admission on the first Thursday of each month. (Tie it in with the free First Thursday Art Walk each month of art galleries in the nearby historic Pioneer Square district.)

22) Seattle's **CHINATOWN** is almost as old as the city, emerging in the 1880s. Now also called the International District, it's been a cultural hub for Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipino and other immigrants. It's packed with Asian restaurants and shops, and home to the Wing Luke Museum which chronicles the life and times of Pacific and Asian Americans in the area.

23) Burn off the steak, potatoes and beer you had last night by going for a jog or a hike in **DISCOVERY PARK**. The slightly hilly trails allow you to reach some of Seattle's best viewpoints that will make you feel glad to be alive. The beautiful beaches and lush forests are a great chance to take a break from the bustle of the city. The Loop trail is nice 3 mile hike that will take you to many of the viewpoints.

24) What better way to see Seattle than to climb aboard one of **RIDES THE DUCKS'** amphibious vehicles and cruise over land and sea. Tours begin either at Westlake Center or Seattle Center and take you all around the downtown area, with a sightseeing sail in Lake Union. Your quirky driver will be sure to point out some of Seattle's most unique landmarks and will throw in some trivia that you can write home to your friends about. The 90 Minute tour is \$29.

25) Want to go back in time? Take the **UNDERGROUND TOUR** and let your humorous tour guide lead you through Seattle's late 19th century passageways and basements. The underground used to be at ground level before Seattle elevated its streets so the tour will feel like you are exploring a lost city (\$19). 608 1st Ave