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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



papalars

# Falling in love with the San Juan Islands

## Seattle, 3 Days

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** The San Juan Islands are geologically distinct from the rest of the region and its climate is drier and sunnier so as a result the landscape looks like little chunks of Northern California slipping out of the deep blue channels and sparkling bays. The southwest sides of the Islands are much hotter and drier than the north east slopes and as you pass through the Islands on the ferry you can snap some pretty fabulous pictures. The Islands are popular during the summer but if you plan ahead you'll barely notice. The biggest hurdle is the ferry so you'll want to plan to stay in Seattle the day you arrive and get up with the sun to beat the traffic.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Seattle

**DAY NOTE:** Depending on when you arrive you'll probably have time to get lunch at Matt's in the Market or Maxemilien. If you're able to get a table at Matt's definitely try the special of the day since the chefs are some of the best in Seattle. All the ingredients are purchased fresh that morning from the Market and their unique fusion of Northwest ingredients with cuisines from Europe will be sure to make your day. You may want to stop by Delaurenti for some gourmet treats for the drive to Anacortes and definitely pick up some champagne or wine for your room. Reserve tickets to see the Seattle Chamber Players or the Seattle Symphony at Benaroya Hall, or if classical isn't your style, the Triple Door offers just about every other type of music in an acoustically impeccable theater with wrap-around booth seating or check out Jazz Alley where Max Roach and McCoy Tyner and Gonzalo Rubalcaba have graced the stage. Be sure to reserve a table at Chez Shea. The quiet, elegant atmosphere is perfectly matched by warm, hushed staff who unobtrusively guide you through their prix fixe menu choices. If you're looking for something just slightly less intimate definitely try Lark or Tilth. Stop by Il Bistro for a night cap. Sweet dreams!



### Pike Place Market

Famous Produce and Seafood Market



### Matt's in the Market

In The Heart Of The Market



### Seattle Chamber Players

Classical ensemble



### The Triple Door

Music space rising above the everyday.



### Seattle Symphony

World-class classical



### Chez Shea

Intimate Dining



### Il Bistro

A Day In Italy



### Alexis Hotel

Top Rated Boutique Hotel

## Day 2 - Seattle

**DAY NOTE:** To get to the San Juan Islands drive for an hour and a half north on I 5 to Anacortes where you catch a ferry to the San Juan Islands. During the summer months the ferry line can be long so be sure to arrive at least 45 minutes before the ferry is scheduled to depart. Or, if you want to save time and you're looking for a truly unforgettable experience, you can fly there by sea plane on Kenmore Air but be sure to figure out your ground transportation once you get to the Islands. There are several islands but Orca is the biggest and has the most amenities. You should book a night at Cabins on the Point well in advance or plan to stay at the Rosario. If you're on a budget you can rent a cabin at the Doe Bay Resort or camp at one of the parks. Almost every restaurant is on the island uses fresh local ingredients and has fabulous seafood, Olga's and Christina's are some of the best. Check out the shops in Elliott Sound and be sure to pick up local honey, jam, artisanal cheeses and dried fruit. After lunch drive up to Moran State Park and check out the view. From the lookout tower in Moran you can see Canada and several other islands on a clear day. If you're lucky you might even see some Orca whales.



### Washington State Ferry

Largest ferry system in United States



### Kenmore Air Seaplanes

Seaplane to the San Juan Islands

## Day 3 - Seattle

**DAY NOTE:** Be sure to allow plenty of time to get back to Seattle because the ferry lines can be so long that you may not catch the first boat. Thankfully there is a nice little cafe close to the ferry dock where you can get a cup of tea or a small snack. Don't worry about leaving your car, just be sure to be back before they start to load the next boat. The views from the ferry ride are spectacular so be sure to take your camera. The islands slip out of the Straights like the backs of orca whales against a stunning backdrop of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains. Once you get back to Anacortes, head south on I 5. The traffic will start to thicken around Everett so plan on a two-hour drive. Once you reach the University district, you can stop at Tilth for the best locally produced organic cuisine. As you drive to your hotel look left for a great view of the campus and the Montlake Cut, and right to see the Space Needle set against the Olympic Mountains and the Seattle skyline. You can drop your bags at the Alexis while you head back to Pike Place for a few more edible souvenirs and then up to Matt's in the Market for more food and wine. You can have one last Spanish coffee at Il Bistro and then

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

head down to Seatac Airport. Unfortunately, the traffic won't be much better south of the city so plan accordingly.



## Kenmore Air Seaplanes

Seaplane to the San Juan Islands



## Washington State Ferry

Largest ferry system in United States



## Matt's in the Market

In The Heart Of The Market



## Il Bistro

A Day In Italy



## Pike Place Market

Famous Produce and Seafood Market



## Seattle Opera

Sell-out shows



## Intiman Theatre

Nationally acclaimed



## Alexis Hotel

Top Rated Boutique Hotel



**contact:**  
tel: 206/467-7909  
www.mattsinthemarket.com

**location:**  
94 Pike St  
Seattle WA 98101

**hours:**  
Mon-Sat 11:30am-2:30pm  
and 5:30-10pm

## 2 Matt's in the Market

**DESCRIPTION:** This casual gourmet restaurant has the best location of any restaurant in Pike Place Market. Located on the third floor of the Corner Market Building, Matt's faces the big neon clock that is the quintessential symbol of the market. Until 2007, Matt's was a tiny cubbyhole of a place, but an expansion has given it enough tables that you can actually get in to eat here on short notice. The menu changes regularly, with an emphasis on fresh ingredients from the market stalls that are only steps away. There's also a good selection of reasonably priced wines. The food reveals whatever influences and styles happen to appeal to the chef at that moment -- perhaps Moroccan, perhaps Southern. However, if the menu happens to list anything with smoked catfish, try it. © Frommer's



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: +1 206 286 5052  
<http://www.seattlechamberplayers.org/>

**location:**  
200 University St  
Seattle WA 98111

## 3 Seattle Chamber Players

**DESCRIPTION:** This little ensemble, excellent in spite of or because of frequently rotating list of players and guests, performs programs full of life and imagination. Selections range from 18th century through contemporary pieces. This season's performances include the music of Ukranian composer Valentyn Silvestrov and a symposium on contemporary Jewish music. If you think classical music should rattle you as much as it soothes you, then this may be the group for you. Performances are often accompanied by educational discussions and lectures. See their website for further details. © wcities.com



<http://www.seattlechamberplayers.org/images/scp4.jpg>

**contact:**  
tel: 206 838 4333  
fax: 206 838 7318  
<http://www.thetripledoor.net/>

**location:**  
216 Union Street  
Seattle WA 98101

**hours:**  
4p-2a M-Su

## 4 The Triple Door

**DESCRIPTION:** Popular music for adults? What a concept! This swanky nightclub is a total novelty in the Seattle club world. It isn't geared toward the 20-something crowd. The music is diverse -- from jazz to world beat, to flamenco, to Maria Muldaur, the Tubes, and Ottmar Liebert. You'll find the club in the basement below the ever-popular Wild Ginger restaurant, across the street from Benaroya Hall. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of The Triple Door

**contact:**

tel: 206 215 4747  
fax: 206 215 4701  
<http://www.seattlesymphony.org>

**location:**

200 University Street  
Seattle WA 98101

**5 Seattle Symphony**

**DESCRIPTION:** This orchestra has a loyal following. Concerts include music by classical masters such as Beethoven, Mozart and Sibelius as well as by contemporary composers. Many performances include an optional one-hour pre-show lecture. The symphony's season runs September through July. Performances take place at Benaroya Hall, which occupies an entire city block and seats 2,500 people. In addition, the 540-seat Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall provides performance space for smaller ensembles and solo artists. Call or check the website for schedule and ticket information. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)



Photo courtesy of Seattle Symphony

**contact:**

tel: 206/467-9990  
[www.chezshea.com](http://www.chezshea.com)

**location:**

94 Pike St., Suite 34  
Seattle WA 98101

**hours:**

Tues-Sun 5-10pm

**6 Chez Shea**

**DESCRIPTION:** Quiet, dark, and intimate, Chez Shea has long been one of Seattle's top restaurants, and with only a dozen candlelit tables and views across Puget Sound to the Olympic Mountains, it's an ideal setting for romance. The menu changes with the season, with ingredients coming primarily from the market below. The eight-course tasting menu is the best way to go. On a recent spring evening, dinner started with oysters on the half shell, followed by a Serrano ham, gruyere, and leek tart. Next came a Washington asparagus bisque with sorrel and roasted-tomato oil, followed by seared foie gras with rhubarb compote and balsamic-pomegranate reduction. Next came halibut with red-pepper puree and Kobe-style beef tournedos with morel mushrooms. Dinner then finished up with a cheese course and espresso pot de crème. Other restaurants may be as fine, but none has an atmosphere quite so romantic. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Chez Shea

**contact:**

tel: 206/682-3049  
[www.ilbistro.net](http://www.ilbistro.net)

**location:**

93-A Pike St. and First Ave  
Seattle WA 98101

**hours:**

Daily 5:30-10pm; late-night menu until 1am

**7 Il Bistro**

**DESCRIPTION:** What with the fishmongers and crowds of tourists, Pike Place Market might not seem like the place for a romantic candlelit dinner, but romantic dinners are what Il Bistro is all about. This basement trattoria takes Italian cooking very seriously, and in so doing also puts the Northwest's bountiful ingredients to good use. The menu includes such mouthwatering starters as calamari sautéed with fresh basil, garlic, vinegar, and tomatoes. Hundreds of loyal fans insist that Il Bistro's rack of lamb with wine sauce is the best in Seattle, and I'd have to agree. The pasta here can also be a true delight. You'll find Il Bistro tucked away down the cobblestone alley beside the market information kiosk. © Frommer's

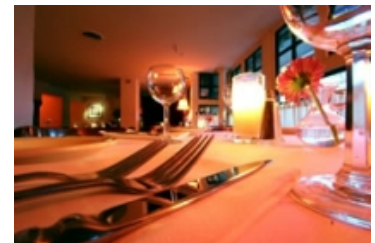


Photo courtesy of Il Bistro

**contact:**

tel: (206) 624-4844

fax: 206/621-9009

<http://www.alexishotel.com/>

**location:**

1007 First Ave

Seattle WA 98104

8 **Alexis Hotel**

**DESCRIPTION:** "The art of living" – that's the motto of the Alexis, a hotel dedicated to arts of all sorts, with artwork and a classic, European decor adorning the lobby and the rooms. Many of the rooms are suites, including fireplace suites that feature whirlpool baths. For lovers of literature, the Author's Suite has autographed copies of several books, and the Library Bistro downstairs offers local cuisine in a cozy, library-like atmosphere.

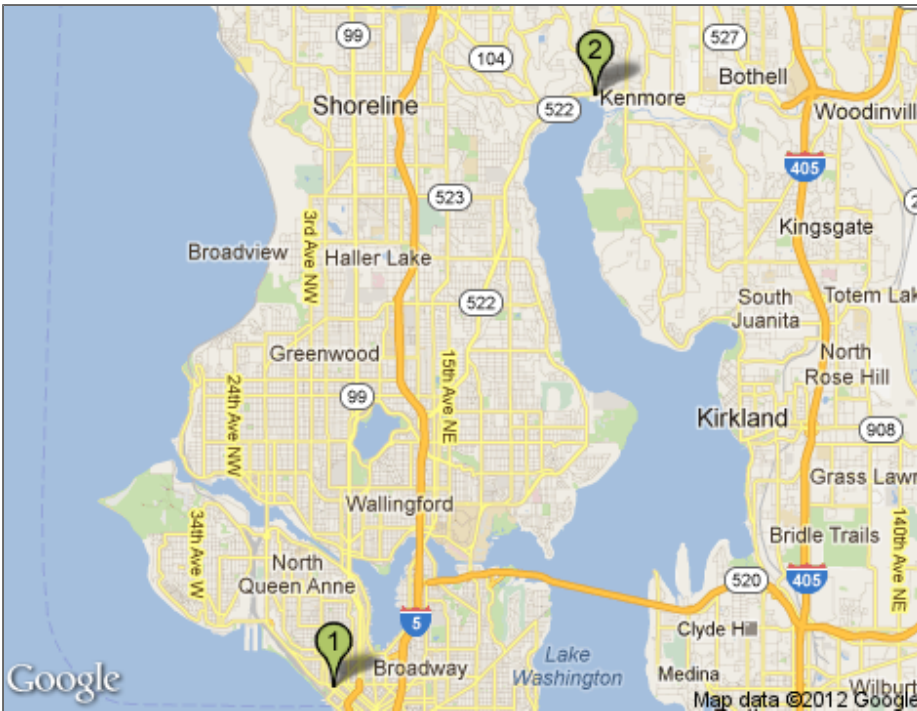
The Alexis Hotel is ideally situated just south of the Pike Place Market and within a few blocks of the Seattle Art Museum, the Waterfront, and Pioneer Square, as well as high-end shopping in Westlake Center.

© NileGuide



Hotels.com

# Day 2 - Seattle



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** To get to the San Juan Islands drive for an hour and a half north on I 5 to Anacortes where you catch a ferry to the San Juan Islands. During the summer months the ferry line can be long so be sure to arrive at least 45 minutes before the ferry is scheduled to depart. Or, if you want to save time and you're looking for a truly unforgettable experience, you can fly there by sea plane on Kenmore Air but be sure to figure out your ground transportation once you get to the Islands. There are several islands but Orca\* is the biggest and has the most amenities. You should book a night at Cabins on the Point well in advance or plan to stay at the Rosario. If you're on a budget you can rent a cabin at the Doe Bay Resort or camp at one of the parks. Almost every restaurant on the island uses fresh local ingredients and has fabulous seafood, Olga's and Christina's are some of the best. Check out the shops in East Sound and be sure to pick up local honey, jam, artisanal cheeses and dried fruit. After lunch drive up to Moran State Park and check out the view. From the lookout tower in Moran you can see Canada and several other islands on a clear day. If you're lucky you might even see some Orca whales.

### contact:

tel: +1 206 464 6400 / +1 206 515 3400

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries>

### location:

2901 3rd Avenue  
Seattle WA 98121

## 1 Washington State Ferry

**DESCRIPTION:** The country's largest ferry system would have to be in a city surrounded by water. With twenty terminals, eight routes and over 15 million passengers a year, Washington State Ferries are both practical and fun. If you're considering hopping over to Bainbridge, Bremerton, Mercer or any of Seattle's interesting islands, a peaceful ferry ride is a far cry from sitting on a bridge in traffic.  
© NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**

tel: +1 425 486 1257 / +1 800  
543 9595 (Toll Free)  
fax: +1 425 485 4774  
<http://www.kenmoreair.com>

**location:**

6321 Northeast 175th Street  
Kenmore WA 98028

**hours:**

Call for details



## Kenmore Air Seaplanes

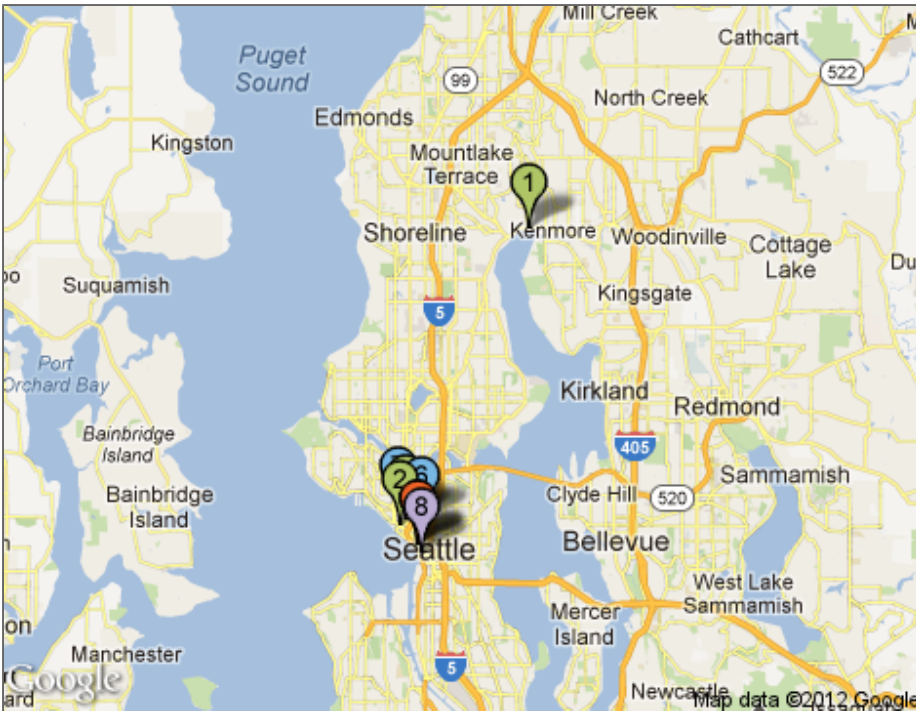
**DESCRIPTION:** Seaplanes are a fun alternative to the area's excellent ferry system. This establishment is one of the largest seaplane travel companies in the area. Fly to any of three locations in the San Juan Islands in about an hour. Trips are scheduled three times daily. The company also flies to Victoria, BC. Day trips and overnight packages are available. Call or check the Web site for up-to-date prices and schedule. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)

**MY NOTE:** Make sure to ask about transportation from the landing to your accommodations.



Photo courtesy of Kenmore Air  
Seaplanes

# Day 3 - Seattle



## QUICK NOTE

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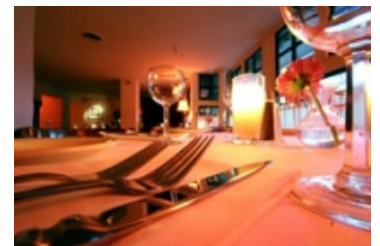


Photo courtesy of Il Bistro

**contact:**

tel: 206/682-7453  
fax: +1 206 625 0646  
<http://www.pikeplacemarket.org/>

**location:**

85 Pike Street

**5 Pike Place Market**

**DESCRIPTION:** Nine acres of fresh produce, seafood, coffee, donuts, crafts, unique restaurants and friendly vendors, all set against a backdrop of the Puget Sound -- that's Pike Place Market, widely recognized as one of the oldest and best farmer's markets in the country. If you only have one day in Seattle, head downtown to get a real taste of the city in every



Seattle WA 98121

sense. From fresh cheese curds at Beecher's to chowder at Pike Place Chowder, from necklaces and bags to hand-stitched leather journals and hats, from accordions to pianos to hula-hooping guitarists – there's something for your eyes, ears, and nose everywhere you look at the market.

© NileGuide

**contact:**

tel: 206 389 7676 / 800 426 1619

fax: 206 389 7651

<http://www.seattleopera.org/>

**location:**

1020 John St  
Seattle WA 98109

## 6 Seattle Opera

**DESCRIPTION:** The Opera House at Seattle Center houses an innovative opera company. The season of four or five full-scale productions includes a grand-scale summer production. Director Speight Jenkins has created a first-class company of talented performers. Expect Wagner's Ring Cycle, the company's claim to fame, now and then. Opened in 1927, the Opera House has good acoustics and seats more than 3,000. It is also home to the Pacific Northwest Ballet. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Seattle Opera.

**contact:**

tel: 206 269 1901 /206 269 1900 (Box Office)

fax: 206 269 1928

<http://www.intiman.org/>

**location:**

201 Mercer Street  
Seattle WA 98109

## 7 Intiman Theatre

**DESCRIPTION:** Founded in Kirkland in 1972, this company outgrew two venues before finding its home in 1987 at Seattle Center. Notable shows include Into the Whirlwind, nationally recognized in 1990; the Kentucky Cycle, a Pulitzer Prize winner in 1992; and Three Tall Women, a Pulitzer Prize winner in 1995. The small, highly raked theater has good views of the stage from all seats. All seats cost the same, but ticket prices vary by show and time. The season runs March to December. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Intiman Theatre

**hours:**

Box Office: noon-6p Tu-W,  
Su, noon-7pTh-Sa

**contact:**

tel: (206) 624-4844

fax: 206/621-9009

<http://www.alexishotel.com/>

**location:**

1007 First Ave  
Seattle WA 98104

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© NileGuide



Hotels.com

# Seattle Snapshot

## Local Info

If all you know about Seattle is rainy days and the Space Needle, come take a closer look. Seattle (which, incidentally, gets less rainfall per year than New York City) is divided into several neighborhoods, each with their own main strips, nightlife, parks and exciting points of interest. Pick a zone, any zone, and spend the day getting to know the real Seattle.

### Ballard

One of the most popular neighborhoods for those not willing to live "in" the city, Ballard has a personality all its own. Golden Gardens Park is a great place for a walk or bike ride, and there's plenty of drinks and seafood available at restaurants like Bad Albert's Tap & Grill and Ray's Boathouse.

### Capitol Hill

A political-sounding name for what is unmistakably a liberal, life-loving neighborhood. If you've only got a few days in Seattle, you could easily spend an entire day just in Capitol Hill, checking out the Seattle Asian Art Museum, grabbing a latte at one of dozens of cafes, or browsing for books at the Elliot Bay Bookstore's new location.

### Fremont

"Welcome to the Center of the Universe"; this is the sign that greets you in Fremont, and it only gets quirkiest from there. There's the famous Fremont Troll hiding under the Aurora Bridge, as well as a statue of none other than Lenin in the center of the neighborhood. This is the place for the Fremont Oktoberfest (for beer lovers) and Fremont Fair and Solstice Parade (for those who can't get enough of the naked body-paint bike parade). Of course, there's shops, cafes and restaurants galore, each with its own flavor and personality.

### Madison Park

Looking for a relaxing day to take a stroll, see a few sights and find a nice cafe to chat over a cup of coffee? Madison Park has all this and more, with the Madison Park & Beach offering gorgeous views, and the bistro-style menu at Madison Park Café offering classic French food and wine, the perfect end to the day.

### International District

If dim sum, sushi, or bibimbap is what you're craving, head to the International District, east of downtown Seattle. In addition to a selection of various Asian restaurants, take some great family photos under the pagoda at Hing Hay Park, or visit the Wing Luke, a small museum that offers a big peek into the art and culture of Japan and China.

### Kirkland

Kirkland, in a word, is classy. A quick drive across the lake brings you to a selection of trendy cafes, fabulous art galleries, and world class restaurants like Trellis, which features a menu of seasonal, "farm-to-table" meals. Wine enthusiasts will appreciate not only the many wineries, but also Kirkland Uncorked, the neighborhood's annual "Wine, Dine and Design" festival.

### Pike Place Market

The market on any given weekend is buzzing with tourists and locals alike, sampling fresh local produce, checking out the catch of the day, or shopping for the perfect souvenir. Pike Place is the United States' oldest farmer's market, and in addition to groceries boasts a huge variety of restaurants, including the original Starbucks. Piroshky Piroshky is an iconic stop, where visitors line up to purchase delicious sweet and savory Russian piroshkys, and a hot bread bowl of seafood bisque or one of several chowders at Pike Place Chowder is the perfect meal on a chilly, gray day.

### Pioneer Square

As the historic area of Seattle, Pioneer Square is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the city. History lovers will adore the Underground Tour, which leads you beneath the city to the original Seattle. This is also a popular area for nightlife, with options like a drink at Central Saloon or an evening belting out your favorite tunes at 88 Keys Dueling Piano Bar.

### Queen Anne Hill

This is what suburbs are meant to be; at least, for those who don't want to give up the convenience and quirk of the city. Queen Anne manages to be both trendy and understated, from indie bookshops like Queen Anne Books to the hip martini stop Tini Bigs.

### Redmond

Its country location doesn't hide the fact that Redmond is home to huge corporations, including Microsoft and Nintendo, which make this one of the more affluent neighborhoods. Both Marymoor Park and the Lake Sammamish State Park are on the list for cyclists and walkers, and for those more interested in shopping, check out Redmond Town Center.

### Seattle Center

So much more than just the Space Needle; if you're looking for a place to take the kids on a nice day, Seattle Center is the place to be. In addition to famous Seattle events like Bumbershoot and The Bite of Seattle, the center has plenty of restaurants, rides and arcade games for the kids, as well as the Pacific Science Center, Seattle Opera, and Intiman Theater. Museum lovers can't miss Seattle's famous Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum & Hall of Fame, which is also the end of the Monorail (which goes straight to Westlake Center).

### University District

That's a mouthful; locals call it "U-Dub," the neighborhood known for fantastic restaurants, bars, shops, and the beautiful campus of the University of Washington. This is a hip, energetic neighborhood with everything from clubs to farmer's markets, as well as the fabulous University Bookstore. For Apple geeks, University Village houses the only full Apple Store in Seattle.

### Waterfront

Get your quintessential West Coast fix with a stroll along Seattle's Waterfront, with an endless supply of picturesque scenes perfect for capturing a great family photo. In addition to the ferry terminal, where you can head off to Bainbridge or Bremerton Islands, you can also catch a fun water taxi over to West Seattle (much more fun than the long bus ride). Some of Seattle's most well-known restaurants are on the waterfront, including Elliott's Oyster House and Ivar's, and kids and adults alike will have a blast at the Seattle Aquarium.

### West Seattle

Five minutes strolling down the street, sand and ocean on one side and bungalow-

## Seattle Snapshot continued

style houses, burger joints and cafes on the other, you'll swear you were in California instead of Washington. The West Seattle

vibe is laid back and a popular place for water sports as well as bikers and joggers. Don't miss Alki Beach, Seattle's most famous beach, where you can lay in the

sun with a view of downtown on the other side of the bay.

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