



Seattle, WA

Relocation Guide

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IOR makes every effort to ensure the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so we may correct the issue.

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Seattle Skyline

Seattle is the coastal seaport city of the U.S state of Washington. The name Seattle derives from the Native American name “Sealth”— who was the chief of the Suquamish tribe during the first wave of white settlers in 1851. Since 1851, Seattle has grown to be the 15th largest metropolitan city -Seattle has now grown over 652,000 residents. With exciting points of interest, virtual tours, self-guided walking tours, places to eat and shop—there is never a dull moment in this sensational city.

Seattle offers no shortage of places to go or delicacies to eat. A new arrival feels like every weekend is a vacation at an exotic location because of the proximity to dozens of glacier-capped mountains, ocean beaches with lighthouses, and inland lakes. You could try a different activity every single weekend without repeating the experience for two years. For example, water skiing on Lake Sammamish, sailing on Lake Union or Puget Sound, clam digging, mountain hiking, skiing, bicycling and eating at restaurants specializing in locally produced cheese.

Due to the diverse and exciting area, Seattle brings in more than 8 million visitors a year. With the wide intake of tourists that travel along the Seattle ground, there are 12,570 hotel rooms in Downtown Seattle alone.

Interesting Facts about Seattle:

- Seattle was the first American city to put police on bicycles. Seattle also has the highest percentage of people riding bikes to work compared to other US cities in size.
- The Columbia Center is Seattle’s tallest building. It is also the 12th tallest building in the country. The Columbia Center, formerly the Smith Tower—built in 1914—was once the tallest building west of the Mississippi at 42 stories.

Seattle Overview

- [Official Website of the City of Seattle](#)
- [Mayor of the City of Seattle](#)
- Population: 634,535
- Land Area: 142.5 square miles (369.2 km²)
- [Seattle Parks and Recreation Department](#)
- [Seattle Public Library](#)
- [Weather today in Seattle](#)

History

- [History of the City of Seattle](#)
- [Museum of History and Industry \(MOHAI\)](#)

Recommended Reading (in print and available on www.amazon.com):

- [Larry Gets Lost In Seattle](#) – John Skewes (Children's Story)
- [Lonely Planet: Seattle](#) – Becky Ohlsen (City Travel Guide)
- [Seattle 100: Portrait of a City \(Voices that Matter\)](#) – Chase Jarvis
- [Skid Road: An Informal Portrait of Seattle](#) – Murray Morgan
- [Streetwise - Seattle City Map](#)
- [Vanishing Seattle \(Images of America\)](#) – Clark Humphrey

What to See, Sightseeing Tours, Value Packages and Passes, Tourist Information

- [Seattle Visitor Center](#)
- [Seattle attractions](#)
- [Save money on attractions](#)
- [Seattle tours](#)

Where to Find Arts & Entertainment

- [The Seattle Times](#)
- [Seattle Weekly Calendar](#)
- [Seattle City Search](#)
- [Broadway in Seattle tickets & shows](#)
- [Cinema listings & schedules](#)

Where to Eat

- [Make online restaurant reservations](#) with OpenTable.
- [Eater Seattle](#): The Seattle Restaurant, Bar, and Nightlife Blog.
- [Seattle Magazine: Best Restaurants](#)

Seattle Area Neighborhoods

Close to downtown—it's easily accessible by foot, bus, and streetcar—the recently revitalized [South Lake Union](#) neighborhood offers peekaboo glimpses of the Space Needle and floatplane sightings on Lake Union.

Just north of downtown, a mix of high-rise condos and trendy dining and shopping spots, [Belltown](#) is a neighborhood where being bored isn't an option. Teeming with top-notch restaurants, bars, and stores, Belltown is a bustling neighborhood that hums with activity day and night.

Just east of downtown, [Capitol Hill](#) is a colorful, urban scene where many streets boast a metropolitan buzz and others emanate a tree-lined, residential calm. Visitors and locals of all sorts flock to Capitol Hill.

Just a short drive across Lake Washington, along the longest floating bridge in the world, [Bellevue](#) is a green wonderland with nearly 100 parks dotting its landscape between Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, offering a downtown neighborhood with plenty to do.

[More information](#) on Seattle neighborhoods.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
DIAL 911
FOR FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE**

Emergency personnel will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

If you accidentally call 911, please do not hang up. The police will automatically be dispatched to your home to make sure there are no problems. Explain to the Operator the call was an accident.

[POISON CONTROL](#) (800) 222-1222
[ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

Other Important Numbers: _____
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN _____
WORK PHONE NUMBER _____

[DIAL 311](#) for Non-Emergency to reach any City of Seattle agency, or to request a City Service (such as replacing a broken street-lamp or removing an abandoned vehicle).

Safety and Security

While Seattle is relatively safe, it is still a major city. Like every major metropolitan area in the USA, there is some crime.

Take basic precautions: lock your car, lock your doors and windows in your home, be aware of strangers and things that just don't seem right. It is always better to be cautious.

Check [here for a list of crime rates per neighborhood in Seattle.](#)

Urgent Care Centers

An Urgent Care Center is different than a Hospital Emergency Room. An Emergency room would be in an absolute emergency. You may visit an Urgent Care Center if, for example, you have a terrible ear ache and need medicine immediately but your Primary Care Physician's office is closed. Many Urgent Care Centers have extended hours and are open early morning until late evening during the week and also some weekend hours. Be sure to refer back to your health insurance company to clarify which urgent care centers and primary care physicians you are allowed to visit using your health insurance. Your insurance card should have a toll-free 1-800 number on the back for you to call and ask questions and clarify which urgent care center would be closest for you. Please always carry your insurance card with you!

Hospitals & Clinics

- [University of Washington Medical Center](#)
- [Evergreen Health Medical Center](#)
- [Harborview Medical Center](#)
- [Virginia Mason Medical Center](#)
- [Northwest Hospital and Medical Center](#)
- [Tacoma General Hospital](#)
- [Swedish Medical Center-Cherry Hill](#)
- [Stevens Healthcare](#)
- [Swedish Medical Center-First Hill](#)
- [Valley Medical Center](#)
- [Seattle Children's Hospital](#)

*Use each hospital's "find a doctor" page to research local physicians

Pharmacies

There are several major pharmacy chains in Seattle, found on nearly every block on commercial streets. These pharmacies are also general stores and carry a large selection of cleaning, house care, pet care, and other supplies. Click on "Store Locator" and enter your zip (postal) code to find the pharmacy near you. Many pharmacies are open 24 hours. Check for hours of operation.

- [CVS](#)
- [Rite Aid](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [List of Seattle Pharmacies](#)

A lease is an agreement that outlines the obligations of the owner and the tenants of a house or apartment. It is a legally binding document, so it is important for you to know the exact terms of the lease agreement before you sign it. Please do not sign a lease without reviewing it with your IOR DS Consultant.

Rental Agents

In most situations, your IOR consultant will partner with a local realtor to have access to the most current and extensive property listings as well as the realtor's expertise in preparing and negotiating leases. This agent receives a commission for their assistance, in most US locations this commission is paid by the Landlord, not the tenant. Your IOR DS Consultant will discuss this with you.

Renter's Rights

Tenants who lease or rent property are protected against discrimination by [The Fair Housing Act](#). If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office nearest you. You have one year after the alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file as soon as possible.

While you can generally expect the same service from landlords, it's important to know your state's laws. Each state and most major cities have their own tenant rights, laws and protections. [Here are Seattle's](#).

You can also visit the [HUD website here for a full guide to renters' rights by states](#).

If your rental property ever suffers any defects that make your place uninhabitable, your landlord has a duty to fix it. While some apartments let you make online requests for repairs, as well as provide a phone number for "emergencies," always make sure you document your request in writing. The landlord will then have a certain amount of time to make those repairs.

Privacy

You have the right to privacy. While the landlord owns the property, they can't access it anytime they want. All states have laws stating renters have a right to privacy while renting. Pretty much the only time the landlord can come into your rental without permission or notice is when they're responding to an emergency that threatens injury or property damage.

Any other time the landlord wants to enter your apartment, they need to have your permission and in most cases give you 24-hours' notice before entering.

What to expect from the landlord:

In most states, you are legally entitled to:

- Safe structural elements including floors, walls, roofs, and secure doors and windows.
- Privacy as described above.

- All electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems function.
- Working hot and cold water.
- Exterminating infestations of rodents and other insects.
- Access to trash receptacles.
- Landlords cannot discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or disabilities.
- Apartment buildings sometimes come with laundry and dryer machines in the basement.
- Water, electricity, and gas bills are up to you to pay. **Your IOR DS consultant will assist you with this process.**

Utilities and Appliances

Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you or provide information on connecting your utilities. It is possible some will be included in your rent, but typically most are not.

****Note that you will need a social security number in order to register and pay for utilities****

Recycling

Seattle provides recycling to residents. Recycling information [here](#).



The Lease Process

Review your housing budget with your IOR DS Consultant

Your IOR DS Consultant can help you understand what kind of property you can afford. You also need to take into account that you may be responsible for some of the utility costs of your rental.

Know what you want

What are you looking for in a property? Do you want a studio or a single bedroom? Maybe you want to rent a single family home? Do you need the property to come with appliances, including washer and dryer? Do you want it to be close to school or your work? Do you want it to be within walking distance of retail, like groceries or coffee shops? Are you looking for a child friendly area? Keep in mind that outside of the city center in major cities, there is not much public transportation and most locals drive everywhere.

Identify potential apartments

IOR offers home finding services to aid you with this process. Your consultant may work with a local broker who will help to organize appointments and visit properties. They will also assist in the rental application and the leasing process.

Common Abbreviations and Acronyms used in rental housing listings

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
24-hr mtn	24-hour emergency maintenance	LA	Living area
AC or A/C	Air conditioning	LR	Living room
Appls	Appliances	MBR	Master bedroom
Apt	Apartment	MBTH	Master bathroom
BA	Bathroom	Neg	Negotiable
BR	Bedroom	Ofc	Office
Bsmt	Basement	OSP	Off-street parking
CAC	Central air conditioning	Pkg	Parking
DA	Dining area	PM	Property manager (management)
Det	Detached	Pvt	Private
Dk	Deck	Pwdr rm	Powder room (1/2 bath)
DR	Dining room	RE	Real estate
Dw (D/w)	Dishwasher	Renov	Renovated
Eff	Efficiency	Rf	Roof
EiK	Eat-in kitchen	Rm	Room
Fin bsmt	Finished basement	SF	Single-family
FDR	Formal dining room	SFA	Single-family attached
FHA	Fair Housing Act	SFD	Single-family detached
FMR	Fair market rent	Sp, Pl (S/p)	Swimming pool
FP	Floorplan	Sq. ft	Square feet
Gar	Garage	Th (T/H)	Townhouse
H/A	Handicapped accessible	Vw (vu)	View
H/W	Hardwood floors	W/A	Wheelchair accessible
Hi ceil	High ceilings	W/W	Wall-to-wall carpeting
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning		

Visit

Make this process as efficient as possible by visiting as many potential properties as you can in one or two days. Try to go sometime during the week if possible. Your IOR DS consultant will work with you to set an appropriate schedule and to ensure that the properties you visit meet your needs as closely as possible.

What to do once you're there

As you look at the rental unit, be sure to ask a lot of questions. While you should keep small concerns to yourself about the unit while looking at it, feel free to ask the landlord or apartment manager any questions you might have that will help in your decision. Here are some possible questions you may consider asking:

- What's the monthly rent?
- Are any utilities included with the rent?
- How much is the security deposit?
- When is rent due? Do you have auto-pay?
- What's the make-up of the other tenants? Are they mainly younger students? Married couples with families? Older folks?
- What's the parking situation like? Do you pay for a parking spot?
- Do you take care of small maintenance issues or am I responsible for some of the repairs in the property?
- Am I able to re-paint the walls or make other modifications?

Again, be friendly and polite when you ask these questions.

The Application

The next step in the leasing process for an apartment is to submit a rental application for the location you want. The manager or landlord will be able to give you the application as well as anything else that they may need to have filled out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist with this process. For a single family home there will likely be a rental application.

You will need your Social Security number, Driver's License, and proof of employment. Some landlords may charge you an application fee which could be between \$20 to \$400 dollars, depending on the landlord. This could be a combination of an application fee and move-in fee.

Once you've done this, it can take up to a few days to hear back from the property manager. Once your application has been approved the lease approval process will begin with IOR and likely your employer.

Signing the lease

DO NOT SIGN THE LEASE until your IOR DS Consultant has reviewed it in full and given their approval.

The lease is a binding contract, so it is very important to pay attention as a leasing agent goes over it with you. It is perfectly normal for you to take your time and read all the fine print for yourself. If you are working with an IOR DS consultant, make sure to talk with them and receive approval before signing. You will also be given a copy of the lease to take with you and keep for your records, but it is very important to know everything included in your lease from the start.

Some things to look for in a lease:

- Term of the lease and any important dates such as when the rent is due.
- Extra fees for parking spaces or storage, garbage collection and pets.
- Information regarding utility providers and whether you or the landlord is responsible for those bills.
- Notification requirements in case of renewal.
- Requirements/responsibilities of the tenants to do routine repairs such as lawn maintenance, cleaning or notification of repairs.
- Clauses that allow the landlord to change the terms of the lease after it is signed.
- Restrictions that would prevent you from living normally or comfortably in the home.

Sometimes landlords will ask for a security deposit before you sign the lease. This is normal, but you shouldn't pay in cash. Make sure all payments are made out as a check or money order just in case.

What to expect from the lease

Most leases include the following or a variation thereof:

- Your employer requires that all leases include a Break Clause in case you are transferred for work or personal needs.
- Contracts will often be for periods of a year or more.
- Minimum stay. Typically three fourths of your lease contract time. If you choose to move out before this date, you will lose your security deposit. If you move out afterwards, you are still required to give a specified number of days notice.
- Security Deposit. Landlords will expect you to leave them with a deposit (usually about one to two month's rent) that they will hold for the duration of your lease. You will receive your security deposit back at the end of the lease provided you don't break any specific clauses in your lease, such as moving out without proper notice, not paying rent, causing damages to the property, etc.
- Landlords should not be given unchecked access to your apartment. If there isn't anything in your lease about landlord's rights to enter the leased premises, suggest the following clause:

Entry by the Landlord. Landlord or his agent will not enter Tenant's home except to deal with an emergency; to make necessary or agreed repairs; to supply necessary or agreed services; or to show the unit to potential purchasers, tenants, or repair persons. Unless there is an emergency, Landlord will give Tenant at least 24 hours' written notice of the date, time, and purpose of the intended entry and will schedule entries during normal business hours, Monday–Friday.

Most landlords will be hard-pressed to say no to such a reasonable clause. If the landlord refuses, it's a sure sign that he won't be reasonable in other respects, too. Continue on in your housing search.

Moving In

On your selected move-in date, after the lease has been signed, and deposits have been paid...you should be given your keys and more than likely a move-in form to fill out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with an initial walk through of your apartment. Look for dings in the walls, cracked windows, or other irregularities and report them on this form. This will indicate that these things were there before you moved in and you will not be held responsible for them at the end of the lease term.

Seattle-Specific Housing Information

Overall, Seattle rental prices have decreased. However, in the central neighborhoods of South Lake Union, Belltown and Downtown rental prices have gone through the roof. Dynamic global corporations are hiring talent, bringing an influx of renters into the Seattle Urban core.

The rental market in Seattle is extremely fast paced. If you see a unit you like, lease it quickly, especially during the summer between school semesters, when many families and college students decide it is time to move. Be sure to bring a valid photo ID, a checkbook with enough funds in the account to put down a deposit, and the first month's rent in order to lease a property.

Regarding real estate rental pricing, it is important to note that you will pay a premium for a view of Puget Sound, The Space Needle, lakes, and many mountains on the horizon. Prices are often double for the same number of rooms and square footage if the unit comes with a gorgeous view.

To avoid long commute times, live near where you work. The 520 Bridge Highway and I-90 Bridge serve as tight bottlenecks during morning and evening rush hour. If you choose to live on the East Side because of the high-quality public schools, it is a good idea to use one of the many park-and-ride facilities.

Get Renter's Insurance

Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents. It also covers any damage you might cause to other tenant's property. For example, let's say your washing machine springs a leak and water seeps through the floor and ruins your neighbor's antique dresser. Renter's insurance would cover that.

Renter's insurance will cost approximately about \$15-125 a month, less if you tack it onto another policy (like auto) you have with an insurance company. A few popular options are [Allstate](#) and [StateFarm](#).

OBTAINING A DRIVER'S LICENSE

Obtaining a Driver's License/State ID Card

If you are moving permanently to Washington, you may use your out-of-state license for only your first 30 days. To change to a Washington license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and **two** utility or phone bills verifying that you are a Washington resident.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, [visit the Washington State Department of Licensing](#). You can find Seattle locations of the Driver Services Facilities [using this online map](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.

SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Public Schools in Seattle

[Seattle Public Schools](#), commonly referred to as SPS by local residents, is the largest public school district in the state of Washington. SPS does everything they can to make it easier to choose the right school for your child with 90 elementary, secondary, and high schools to choose from. In Seattle, Ballard High School, Roosevelt High School and Nathan Hale High School all rate between 8 and 9 on the Greatschools.org website. In SPS, students can attend their neighborhood schools or request other district schools (commonly referred to as an intra-district choice) through an open enrollment process. The application for these requests is due in late March; although nonresident students may apply to Seattle schools, the priority is given to students who are already in the district.



District Links

- [Bainbridge Island School District](#)
- [Bellevue School District](#)
- [Lake Washington School District](#) (Kirkland and Redmond as well as about half of Sammamish)
- [Mercer Island School District](#)
- [Seattle Public Schools](#)

Top Ranked Washington State High Schools 2013: U.S. News: Click [here](#) for more information.

Private Schools in Seattle

There are 121 private schools in Seattle, WA which serve 24,747 students. The student-to-teacher ratio is 11:1 which is lower than the student to teacher ratio in public schools which 12:1. When choosing for a private school for your child there is a wide variety of schools ranging from Religious affiliated schools to a school with no affiliated religion. Also, there are schools that begin in kindergarten and go all the way to High School, such as [The Bush School](#) and [The Seattle Waldorf School](#). [List of private schools](#)

Below are some of the most acclaimed Private Schools in the area

- [Amazing Grace Christian School](#): PK-10
- [Brightmont Academy](#)- Seattle Campus: K-12
- [Lake Washington Girls Middle School](#):6-8
- [Seattle Girls School](#): 5-8

- [Overlake School](#) in Redmond
- [East Side Catholic](#) in Sammamish
- [List](#) of Private Schools in Seattle

International Schools

There are many benefits to sending your children to international schools. One such benefit is a diverse enrollment of classmates that all celebrate numerous different cultures. This can make a new student feel more comfortable in a classroom when they are just moving to a new area. Along with that, although English is the main language in most of these schools, many of them offer English language support for student that need it.

Please note that lottery- based schools do suggest applying at least 1 year before desired entrance year and certain qualifications might be required.

International Schools in the area

- [McDonald International School](#): Seattle
- [John Stanford International School](#): Seattle, Elementary School
- [International Community School](#): Kirkland, by lottery only
- [Interlake High School](#): Bellevue, admission by residence
- [International School](#): Bellevue by lottery only
- [Newport High School](#): Bellevue, admission by residence
- [Skyline High School](#): Sammamish, by residence

Additional resources to compare Public and Private schools, view ratings, reviews and test scores

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Seattle Colleges and Universities

If you have a brood of teenagers or a spouse planning to go back to school, the greater Seattle area offers more than a dozen opportunities for higher education:

- [Antioch University Seattle](#)
- [Art Institute of Seattle](#)
- [Bellevue College, in Bellevue](#)
- [City University of Seattle](#)
- [Cornish College of the Arts](#)
- [North Seattle Community College](#)
- [Northwest University, in Kirkland](#)
- [Seattle Central Community College](#)
- [Seattle Pacific University](#)
- [Seattle University](#)
- [South Seattle College](#)
- [University of Puget Sound](#)
- [University of Washington](#)



University of Washington

Checking and Savings Accounts

To open a local checking or savings account you will need the following information:

- Two forms of picture identification including but not limited to your passport, driver's license or work ID.
- Social security number
- Local mailing address. You may use your office address as your mailing address, but be prepared to call your bank branch as soon as you have your permanent address.
- Letter of Employment
- Cash for the initial deposit can range from \$25-\$150 dollars.

Major U.S. Banks

Below is a list of links to some of the larger U.S. banks. Not every bank is represented in all U.S. locations; in some cases you may find that the local bank is a better option for you than some of the larger banks. Your IOR DS Consultant can help you in selecting a bank by sharing the various options available locally.

- [Bank of America](#)
- [Chase](#)
- [Citibank](#)
- [HSBC](#)
- [TD Bank](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [Wells Fargo](#)
- [Seattle area banks](#)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

By Car

The overall shape of the City of Seattle is like an hourglass, stretching from north to south. The city is flanked by the water bodies of Lake Washington to the east and Puget Sound to the west, and divided more or less at its center by the Lake Washington Ship Canal (which runs east-west). The topography is very hilly; the city is built on seven adjacent hills. As a result, while the city street system is generally laid out in a grid pattern, it is full of streets that wind and curve and run at arbitrary angles to one another.

Seattle streets that run north-south are labeled "Avenues", and east-west running streets are labeled "Streets". Most of the streets that tend to wind and curve, or run diagonally to the gridded streets, are labeled "Boulevard", "Road", "Place" and so on. The city also has a number of bridges, many of which cross the Lake Washington Ship Canal, joining the north and south sections of the city together.

The founders and early leaders of Seattle, the Misters Denny, Maynard and Boren, didn't see eye to eye on how to lay out the street plats in the downtown area, and as a result, the streets along the edges of the central business district sometimes join up at odd angles as you head in or out of the downtown core. These discrepancies can be fun to discover when you are walking, but confusing when you are driving.



By Public Transit

A Seattle transportation and transit guide can be found [here](#). A general guide to Seattle public transportation schedule, fare, and pass information can be found [here](#).

- [By Bus](#): Metro Transit, Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, Community Transit and several private bus lines all provide service in the Puget Sound region.
- [By Rail and Train](#): Rail transit, streetcar, monorail, and Amtrak provide alternate transportation options when traveling outside of Seattle.
- [By Boat/Ferry](#): The Washington State Ferry, Metro Transit Water Taxi, cruise lines, and other and other boat tour services are all available in the Seattle Area. The [King County Water Taxi](#) operates two routes, the West Seattle/Downtown Seattle route and the Vashon Island/Downtown Seattle route.

Walking and Biking

- Bikes are permitted on Metro Bus. Info [here](#).
- Walking maps, tours, and associated pedestrian information can be found [here](#).
- Biking information, including trails, clubs, and tours, can be found [here](#).

Taxi Services

Believing in a higher standard of service, [Seattle taxi](#) services offer city residents and visitors the ease of getting around town with no hassle and at a fair price. [Reviews](#) on taxis in Seattle.

Taxi Alternatives/Car Rentals

There are number of car rental companies operating in Seattle. Many of these companies have locations close by the airport. Some of the following are suggestions depending on your budget.

- [Dollar Rent A Car](#) or [Budget Rent A Car](#)
- [Hertz](#) and [Avis](#) are generally more expensive.
- [Zipcar Rental](#)

Transportation “App” Options

Several web based phone applications to secure a driver are available throughout the area. The driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS. Payment is automatic through the app and fares may be cheaper than a taxi.

- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

Airport Information

- [Seattle-Tacoma International Airport](#)
- [King County International Airport/Boeing Field](#)

Amtrak

[Amtrak Cascades](#) trains connect 18 cities along the I-5 corridor including Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, BC, and Eugene, Oregon. Skip traffic. Take the train.

AAA Travel Protection

[AAA](#) is a membership organization that offers benefits such as roadside service and towing, discounts on car products and services, maps, reference materials, etc.

Call 1-800-352-5382 for additional information and cost.

PET RESOURCES

Seattle requires that all dogs, cats, miniature goats and potbellied pigs be licensed. You may purchase or renew a Seattle pet license at several veterinary clinics, pet retail stores and other neighborhood locations. Please be aware that most locations take only cash and checks, and *do not* take credit cards. Locations and Application form [here](#).

Dogs can run, roll over, meet new friends, work out, play with their owners and socialize with canine friends at many of the area [parks](#).

The [Seattle Animal Shelter](#) offers a broad range of volunteer opportunities.

Veterinary Clinics and Humane Society

- [Blue Pearl](#): Specialty and emergency Medicine for pets
- [Seattle Humane Society](#): Adopt a pet!
- [Seattle Veterinary Specialists](#): 24 hour Veterinary emergency care
- [South Seattle Veterinary Hospital](#): 24 hour Veterinary Service

[Veterinary Services in Seattle](#) Reviews

LIVING AND SHOPPING

TV, Cable, Telephone, and Internet

The service providers in Seattle for TV cable, landline telephone, and internet all offer combination packages. They are in stiff competition with each other, so special offers change monthly, sometimes even weekly.

- [AT&T](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [DirecTV](#)
- [Dish](#)
- [Time Warner Cable](#)

Food Shopping

Residents in Seattle go to market at a wide range of open air farmers markets, large gourmet markets, small specialty shops, and conventional supermarkets. The main conventional supermarkets are listed below. They are located all over town and the surrounding areas:

- [PCC Natural Markets](#)
- [Safeway](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)
- [Whole Foods](#)

Listed below are some of the specialty markets located in Seattle. They often carry a more specified variety of products, ranging from organic produce to international cuisine and beverages:

- [DeLaurenti](#): Italian food & wine shop selling cheeses, meats & imported groceries plus a cafe for light bites
- [Uwajimaya](#): One of the largest Asian grocers in the Pacific Northwest
- [Metropolitan Market](#): High-end grocer for meat, deli, and produce
- [Fish markets](#) in Seattle



Pike Place Fish Market

For those looking to get their goods directly from the producer, there are many farmer's market locations throughout Seattle. From fresh produce to prepared foods, you can find an available market almost every day of the week:

- [Columbia City Farmer's Market](#)
- [University District Farmer's Market](#)
- [Capitol Hill Broadway Farmer's Market](#)
- [West Seattle Farmer's Market](#)
- [Lake City Farmer's Market](#)
- [Phinney Farmer's Market](#)
- [Magnolia Farmer's Market](#)



Sightseeing

- [Pike Place Market](#): One of the oldest farmers markets in the United States, Pike Place Market is the best place to buy locally-produced cheese, beer, sausage, pastries, fruits and vegetables from nearby farms.
- [Seattle Space Needle](#): At 605 feet in height, the Seattle Space Needle offers a panoramic view of Puget Sound, downtown Seattle, and mountain ranges in all four directions. Purchase a ticket to visit the observation deck or reserve a table at Sky City Restaurant for a divine view while you dine.
- [Seattle Monorail](#): The first commercial monorail built in The United States; the Seattle Monorail carries passengers back and forth on the 1 mile trip from downtown Seattle, near Pike Place Market, to the Seattle Center, home of the Space Needle, to the Experience Music Project and Pacific Science Center. Built for the 1962 World's Fair, a ride on the Seattle Monorail is a nostalgic trip back in time.
- [Ballard Locks](#): The Hiram Chittenden Locks were built in 1911 to allow boats to travel from the salt-water of Puget Sound to the fresh-waters of Lake Union and Lake Washington. Be sure to visit the fish ladder, which allows salmon to pass through the locks to their estuaries in the autumn.
- [Seattle Underground Tour](#): This tour allows you to walk through passageways beneath the City of Seattle. After a fire destroyed most of Seattle, the city decided to rebuild above the muddy foundations of the city, thus burying many buildings. Located below Pioneer Square, the passageways lead through historic tunnels as high as 35 feet in some places.
- [Woodland Park Zoo](#): Located in Phinney Ridge, The Woodland Park Zoo consists of 92 acres of exhibits, with nearly 1,100 animals from 300 different species. The Woodland Park Zoo's claim to fame was the development of the world's first immersion exhibit, a gorilla habitat.



Arts & Culture

- [Benaroya Hall](#): Home of the Seattle Symphony, and a variety of visiting performing artists.
- [Broadway in Seattle](#): Go see a Broadway show at the Paramount Theater.
- [Seattle Children's Theatre](#): This is one of the largest regional theatres in the country. It has produced over 214 plays, 109+ of which have been world premieres
- [Pacific Northwest Ballet](#): PNB is one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the United States. It was founded in 1972, now comprised of nearly 50 dancers and hosting more than 100 performances each year.
- [Seattle Opera](#): Founded in 1963, the company a mix between the European repertoire and the modern works of the American opera.
- [Dimitriou's Jazz Alley](#): With weekly jazz performances in a premier west coast club. When coming to Dimitriou's you can dine while you enjoy the performance.

Museums

- [Experience Music Project \(EMP Museum\)](#): This pop-art museum was built by Microsoft Co-founder Paul Allen and designed by renowned architect Frank O. Gehry. The EMP houses exhibitions on rock legends such as Jimmy Hendrix and Nirvana, as well as science fiction and fantasy memorabilia. Care to look at prop, costumes and scripts from Tank Girl, Alien and Xena the Warrior Princess? Do you dream of seeing Captain Kirk's command chair from Star Trek? They've got it here!
- [Seattle Art Museum \(SAM\)](#): A collection of three different museums in three locations throughout the city. The main museum is in downtown Seattle. The second facility, the Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM), is located in Capitol Hill, while the outdoor Olympic Sculpture Park is located north of Pike Place along the water front.
- [Additional Seattle Museums](#): In addition to the attractions listed above, Seattle is home to a variety of art, aviation, history, science, nature, maritime, and military museums. For a comprehensive list, see the link below.

Outdoor Recreation

The Great Outdoors: In Seattle, great hiking is never more than 20 minutes away. To the east is the Cascade Mountain Range, and Snoqualmie, which provides skiing and hiking only 52 minutes away from downtown Seattle. The splendid 14,411-foot tall Mount Rainier is only 54 miles to the south. The Olympic Peninsula, which sits on the other side of Puget Sound from Seattle, is only 66.7 miles away, offers hikes a passage through virgin forests. Mount Olympus peaks at an elevation of 7,979 feet. In addition, there is also Mount Adams, Mount Baker, Glacier Peak and Mount Shuksan, just to name a few. Never mind the rain, Seattle is paradise for hikers, skiers and snowboarders. See related links and articles below.

- [Crystal Mountain Resort](#): Skiing until June 1st. Yes, that's right, in the middle of May, while you wear shorts and T-shirts in Seattle, there is still enough snow on the slopes for skiing only an hour away by car. Other activities such as the Rainier Gondola, mountain-top dining at the Summit house, Disc Golf courses, and guided horseback riding are also available during the summer season. No car? No problem: theskilift.org offers rideshare options and it is completely free. Skiers and snowboarders looking to carpool, save gas money, and reduce emissions come together online [here](#).
- [Washington Trails Association](#): This handy site lists hikes by proximity, length in miles, difficulty, altitude, and types of scenery available. Weather, along with a wealth of photographs and maps are also online for viewing.

Additional Outdoor Resources

- [Washington State Parks](#)
- [10 Great Waterfall Hikes](#)
- [Best Northwest Hikes and Walks](#)
- [Hike Finder Map](#)
- [Hiking Clubs](#) or [The Seattle Hiking Meetup Group](#)
- [Washington Kayak Club](#) or [Seattle Sea Kayak Club](#)

Parks and Gardens

- [Washington Park Arboretum](#)
- [The Bloedel Reserve](#) on Bainbridge Island.
- [Volunteer Park](#)
- [Gas Works Park](#)
- [Green Lake Park](#)
- See [The Official Parks and Recreation Site](#) for more information.

Dining

- [Seattle Public Market Center](#): Pike Place Market is Seattle's first farmers market. It was founded in 1907 was the first place for farmers and customers to meet directly in Seattle. Currently, there are more than 80 Washington farmers that sell at the market, offering residents and visitors the highest quality of seasonal goods.
- [Pike Place Chowder](#): Tucked away neatly in Post Alley of Pike Place Market, Pike Place Chowder serves up award-winning goodness by the bowl. The bisque here is good but the chowder is better!
- [Starbucks](#): This establishment claims to be the location of the first Starbucks coffee shop. It is, in fact, about one block away from the location of the original Starbucks, but that building burned down long ago. So, Starbucks opened a new café a block away to cater to tourists. That being said, this particular Starbucks does serve up a mean cup of Joe!
- [Daily Dozen Doughnut Shop](#): No stale doughnuts here! For those of us who like fried food served up hot, the Daily Dozen Doughnut Shop comes to the rescue. A miniature doughnut factory runs all day long, assuring fresh doughnuts to passersby meandering through Pike Place Market.
- [Piroshky Piroshky](#): Those in the know go early. Lines form early and long at this Eastern-European bakery and borscht house.
- [Mr. D's Delicacies for Mediterranean](#): Affordable savory and sweet dishes for those with a great love of Falafel.



- [Serious Pie](#): Founded by Tom Douglas, famous for the *Iron Chef the Wild Salmon Smackdown*, Serious Pie take pizza seriously; as in wood-burning stove seriously; as in light and crispy crust with homemade tomato sauce seriously; as in this might be the best pizza you ever eat, seriously.
- [Kastoori Grill](#): When you are out and about and nothing but Naan and Tikka Masala will do, Kastoori Grill is sure to warm away the winter shivers.
- [Beecher's Handmade Cheese](#): Famous for the "World's Best Mac & Cheese" but we like the Grilled Cheese just as much.
- [Uli's Famous Sausage](#): Locally-made sausage from the heart of Seattle.
- [Shiro's Sushi Restaurant](#): Run by the apprentice of the famous Jiro of the movie, Jiro Loves Sushi.

Seasonal Events

- [Seattle International Film Festival](#): A film festival dedicated to bringing film-lovers together, discovering extraordinary films from around the world.
- [Bumbershoot](#) (Music and Arts Festival - Labor Day Weekend): A music festival dedicated to bringing concert-lovers their favorite bands. With a fantastic line-up, get ready for an exciting weekend of great music!
- [Seattle Restaurant Week](#): Seattle Restaurant week has than 160 local restaurants will serve up three-course dinners for \$28 - and many will offer three-course lunches for \$15.
- [Woodinville Winery Concerts](#): Live performances since 1984, the summer concert series has provided a stage to some of the best artists in jazz, rock, blues, and contemporary music.



Volunteer Opportunities

- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [United Way](#)
- The [Seattle Animal Shelter](#) offers a broad range of volunteer opportunities.

Parent & Children Resources

- [Mom's Clubs](#) - social groups offering events and outings with mothers and their young children.

Smart Phone Apps for Travel:

- [Uber](#) : Similar to a taxi service but all web based. Payment also handled online, do not pay or tip driver directly. Uber driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS.
- [Lyft](#) : Wherever you're headed, count on Lyft for rides in minutes. The Lyft app matches you with local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go.
- [Apple Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Map Quest](#) : Map by direction
- [Waze](#) : Community based traffic & navigation with alternate route suggestions
- [CityMaps2Go](#) : The #1 travel app lets you discover exciting new places. Beautiful photos and insider tips at the touch of a button. You will receive stories about places you like and can instantly save and find them on your maps and in your lists.

Smart Phone Apps for Communication:

- [WhatsApp](#) : Free local & international Real Time messaging
- [Line](#) : Exchange free instant messages with friends whenever and wherever with one-on-one and group chats. LINE is available on all smartphone devices (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Blackberry, Nokia) and even on your PC.
- [Viber](#) : Free text, calling, photo messages and location-sharing with Viber users. No registration, alias or invitations required. Instantly integrates with your own contact list. Best-quality mobile calls using 3G or Wi-Fi.
- [Skype](#) : Stay in touch with your family and friends for free on Skype. Download Skype today to chat and call on desktop and mobile.

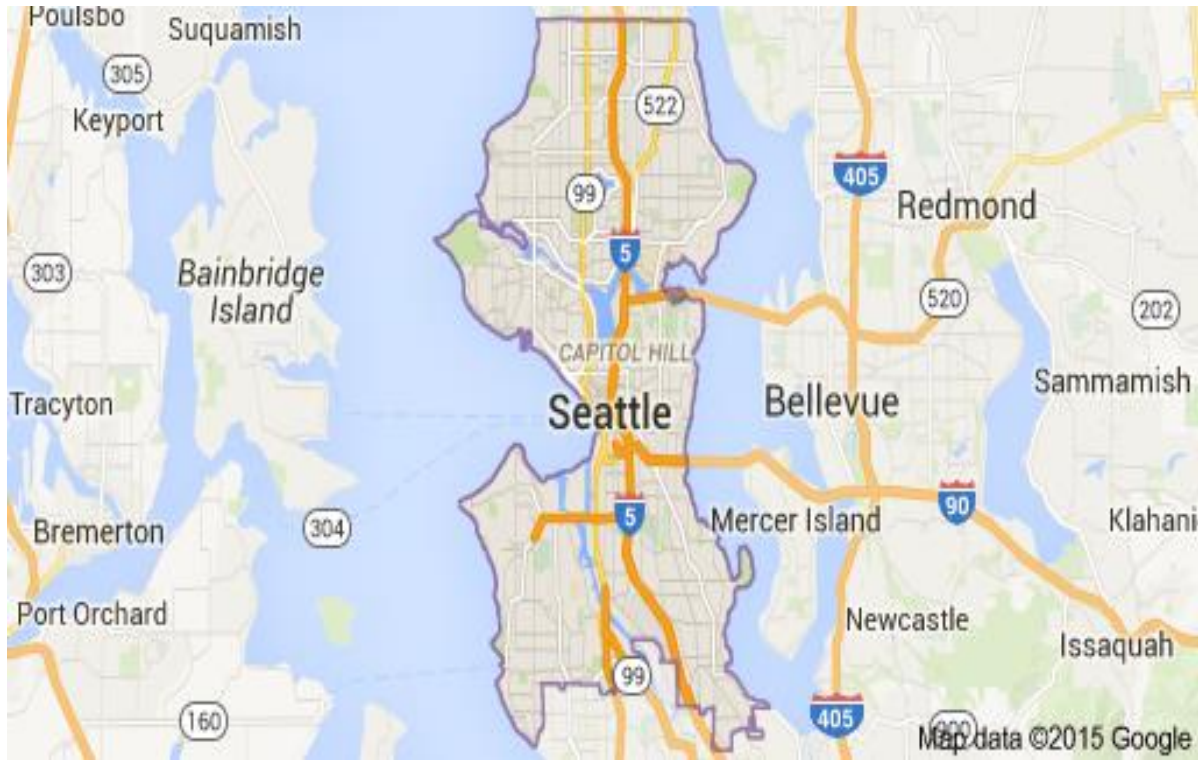
Smart Phone Apps for Local Information/Reviews:

- [Angie's List](#) : Referrals for doctor, dentist, child care, maid, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.
- [Yelp!](#) : Find local businesses, restaurants, bars, clubs, events, etc. with map, lists, and reviews
- [Next Door](#) : Neighbors share community events, items for sale, recommendations for babysitters, doctors and handymen, crime reports, ideas about how to improve their neighborhood and more.
- [Meet Ups](#) : Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something or share something. Cultural groups advertise gatherings here as well.

Smart Phone Apps for Weather:

- [WTHR13](#) : Local weather and closings; includes radar and forecast
- [Weather Channel](#) : National and international time, temperature & weather
- [Tornado](#) : Set up tornado alerts & siren

MAP OF SEATTLE



PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

[Federal Holidays](#)

[State of Washington Holidays](#)

The following are federal holidays in Washington and need to be treated as such by employers:

- New Year's Day January 1*
- Martin Luther King Day Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day Last Monday in May
- Independence Day July 4*
- Labor Day First Monday in September
- Columbus Day Second Monday in October
- Veterans' Day November 11*
- Thanksgiving Day Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day December 25*

*If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the day following is observed as the legal holiday.

