

# Tourist Guide to Seattle – Fall, 2019

## Planned group outings for Saturday:

**Sky View Observatory with (Dutch treat) Lunch option:** Walk three blocks up Cherry Street (uphill) to the Columbia Center, the tallest skyscraper in Seattle (and Washington State) at 933 feet. You'll take an elevator to the 73rd floor for a panoramic view of the Emerald City. \$XX, paid in advance on your registration form. You have the option of a casual lunch there. Sign up only if you do not have a meeting scheduled from 12 noon to 1:30 Saturday.

**Beneath the Streets Tour:** Take a 75-minute historical tour of Seattle's 1890s architecture and the underground passageways that were left behind as Seattle built on top of the downtown that burned in the Great Fire of 1889. \$15, paid in advance on your registration form. Tour involves 6 flights of stairs over one hour. Sign up only if you have no meeting Saturday from 2:15-3:30 pm. A second tour MAY be available for those in town Sunday, 2:00-3:15, paid in advance (refunds if it doesn't go).

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## On your own -----

### Near the Courtyard Marriott:

#### OUTINGS FOR 45 MINUTES-1 HOUR:

**Smith Tower – view and history:** Walk out of the Hotel and turn left. At the end of the block is the Smith Tower, built in 1914. Take the original Otis elevator (hand operated until just a few years ago) to the 35<sup>th</sup> floor for a view of the city and some Seattle history. Food is available there, too. \$20 adults, \$16 Seniors. No strenuous walking.

**Occidental Avenue S. walk:** South of Pioneer Square, Occidental Avenue leads to Century Link Field, where the Seahawks play and T-Mobile Park, where the Mariners play. But before you get there, between Yesler Way and S. King Street, you'll find restaurants that spill onto the sidewalks in repurposed brick buildings and a wine tasting bar. On the west side of the street, Occidental Place is a paved city park, with a large brick building behind it, containing a local bakery and bookstore, and a glass studio and art gallery south of S. Main. Go exploring for more. You can take longer than an hour here, too.

#### RESTAURANTS:

Restaurants nearest the hotel cater to the business lunch crowd and can be closed for dinner or on weekends, so pay attention to their posted hours.

**Nirmal's**, Indian cuisine, 106 Occidental Ave. S.: Delicious Indian food with creative twists. Open for lunch, limited menu (with daily specials) and dinner, Cl. Sunday.

**Salumi**, 404 Occidental Ave. S.: Serving up locally made cold meats in inventive sandwiches on large (make that shareable) ciabattas. Eat in or take out. Lunch only, 11 am-3 pm, Closed Sunday.

**Biscuit Bitch**, 621 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue: We've heard this is the best for southern biscuits and accompaniments. Breakfast and lunch hours only, 7 days/week.

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## OUTINGS IF YOU HAVE 2 OR MORE HOURS:

**Baseball:** The Mariners play Cincinnati Tu, Wed and Th before our meetings. About a 6-block walk south of the hotel. Yes, there will be tickets available. There is actual good food inside the park, and many sidewalk vendors on the way to it.

### Pike Place Market Area

The famous and historic farmer's market features fruit, veggies, spices and specialty shops, and the occasional flying fish. Many local craft sellers also provide a great source for gifts and souvenirs. Lots of restaurants. About a mile (slight incline) north of hotel.

#### RESTAURANTS:

A few of our Favorite **Restaurants** at Pike Place. (Why are they all French? Dunno, but they're the best.):

**Café Campagne**, 1600 Post Alley: Cuisines of Provence and Southern France. Happy hour 4-6 pm M-F.

**Place Pigalle**, 81 Pike St.: Small, French, view of the Sound. Maybe a little pricier than Café Campagne, but a lovely view and great flavors. Behind Rachel the bronze pig and the "flying fish" counter.

**Le Pichet**, 1933 1st Ave, near Virginia St.: Lunch features charcuterie options. Moderate prices.

For food on the run as you shop: Lots of to-go counters in the market and along Post Alley, such as Pike Place Chowder, Beecher's Cheese, Le Panier (bakery/sandwiches), and international options.

#### TOURS:

**Food crawls:** Savor Seattle gives food tours. The Market tour includes samples at many classic foods in the Market with priority service (no lines). A 2-hour tour for \$44, sometimes discounted on Groupon.

**Seattle Free Tours:** These are pay-what you want tours, one of Pike Place Market and another with a Seattle history focus. Both leave from Victor Steinbrueck Park at the north end of Pike Place Market.

**Gum wall:** Ask for directions when you are near Rachel the pig. The yuckiest colorful sight.

### Seattle Center

Take a Lyft 2 miles north of the hotel to Seattle Center, originally built for the 1962 World's Fair. In addition to the tourist attractions below, the Center houses the Pacific Science Center, the Museum of Pop Culture (formerly EMP Museum), Seattle Rep Theater, Seattle Children's Theater, the opera venue Mercer Arena, The Center School, a public school with a focus on the arts and social justice, and the centrally located International Fountain. Truly an eclectic Seattle resource.

**Chihuly Garden and Glass:** I call this museum a "little gem" in Seattle. Indoor and outdoor displays of art glass in the classic shapes created by famous Seattle glass artist Dale Chihuly. Worth the entry fee. \$26, \$22 seniors.

**Space Needle:** You can go to the observation deck of the newly renovated Space Needle and look out the floor-to-sky glass walls, eat in the café on the observation level or in the Wine Bar on "The Loupe," with a newly installed revolving glass floor. Ticket pricing is complex and is available in packages with other Seattle sights. See [www.spaceneedle.com](http://www.spaceneedle.com)

## Ballard Locks

The Hiram Chittenden Locks are located in a park in the Ballard neighborhood, which was originally a Scandinavian fishing community. See how boats get from our fresh-water lakes to the salt-water of Puget Sound. There are always boats going in and out of the locks, either for work or pleasure. Also at the locks is a viewing area of the fish ladder that allows salmon to swim upstream past the locks to spawn. Share a Lyft for the 20-minute ride from downtown. Lots of restaurants along Market St. and side streets within about 6 blocks of the locks.

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### OUTINGS for a FULL DAY:

#### Day Trips from Downtown

**Whale Watching Tours:** On a sunny day, there is nothing like a boat ride on Puget Sound. Although many companies operate from places north of Seattle (such as Anacortes and Friday Harbor), Puget Sound Express is the only whale watching tour that goes out of downtown. Be prepared for a long day on the water just to get to the San Juan Islands where the whales are feeding on a given day. Meanwhile enjoy the scenery. <https://www.pugetsoundexpress.com/>

OR take a 1-hour narrated Argosy Cruise from Pier 55. The Harbor Cruise will take you around Puget Sound (no whales). <https://www.argosycruises.com/argosy-cruises/harbor-cruise/>

**Mt. Rainier Tour:** Several local companies will bus you to the Mountain for short hikes among the trees or waterfalls.

**Snoqualmie Falls and Seattle Tour:** On their day-long tours you can visit Snoqualmie Falls and parts of Seattle OR the Falls and some wineries (lunch and tasting fees extra). <http://www.toursofseattle.com/>

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Have a great time exploring the city and surroundings!

Karen