

Tourist Guide to Seattle – Winter, 2020

It's winter in Seattle, but there are things to do if you have an extra day or two, or an hour or two. And if the weather cooperates. Here are some ideas. Most require a car ride.

See the Call to Meeting letter for restaurant ideas close to Hotel Nexus.

In the North end of town, Nearest the Hotel Nexus

Outdoor OUTINGS FOR 1-2 HOURS:

Carkeek Park, 950 NW Carkeek Park Rd, Seattle: Go here for a walk along the beach overlooking Puget Sound. From the parking lot near the lawn/picnic area, walk toward the water, cross over the trestle and take the stairs down to the beach. Look for Great Blue Herons and other shorebirds. Wear good walking shoes, as the beach is rocky. A hat and gloves are good to have along, as it can be cooler or windier at the water's edge.

Green Lake: Located 2 miles south of the hotel, this (originally glacial) lake is surrounded by a 2.8-mile paved path with separate lanes for walking and wheels (biking, roller skating). Park near the community center in the north east corner. Restaurants nearby also.

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, although the ladder will be quieter in the winter. Drive or share a Lyft for the 20-minute ride from the north end. Lots of restaurants along Market St. and side streets within about 6 blocks of the locks.

Golden Gardens walk: A sandier beach, past the Ballard Locks, with paved walkways along the beach and large marina. Seattle has the most boats per capita of any U.S. city.

RESTAURANTS Near the Locks/ Ballard:

Ray's Cafe, 6049 Seaview Ave NW, Seattle, is located between the Locks and Golden Gardens. The upstairs (Café) is more casual than downstairs (Boathouse) and affords the best views of the Sound and boats going in and out of the ship canal that leads to the Locks. Great seafood, northwest style cuisine.

Pestle Rock (Thai cuisine), 2305 NW Market St, Seattle, serves fresh Thai dishes from the Isan Peninsula in Northeastern Thailand. In Ballard, not next to the water.

Ristorante Picolinos, 6415 32nd Ave NW, Seattle, serves delicious Italian meals in a residential neighborhood. Open for dinner only.

OUTINGS IF YOU HAVE 3 OR MORE HOURS:

In case you missed visiting these sites last Fall:

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.

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.

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.

Seattle Center

Take a Lyft 7 miles south 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

Other Indoor attractions:

In addition to the Chihuly Glass Museum and the Space Needle:

Volunteer Park Conservatory, 1400 E Galer St, Seattle: Warm up in this indoor botanical garden made up of 3426 glass panes fit into a wood and iron framework. This is a Victorian-style greenhouse modeled after London's Crystal Palace. Tuesday-Sunday 10-4, \$4

Shopping at Alderwood Mall: If you can't get what you need at the nearby Target, Alderwood is a full-service shopping mall with anchor stores such as Nordstrom, Macy's and JC Penney, also national brands such as Eddie Bauer, Chico's, J. Jill, Loft, Pottery Barn, REI, Soft Surroundings, Talbot's, Sephora, William's-Sonoma, Clarks's, New Balance. Depending on traffic, 20-30 minutes north of Hotel Nexus via I-5.

Northgate Mall is currently undergoing a billion-dollar renovation to include three NHL ice hockey practice arenas. A few shops are still open, but no anchor department stores at present.

Edmonds

The town of Edmonds, 20 minutes north of the hotel, offers several restaurants, art galleries and shops. Edmonds is the headquarters of Rick Steves' Europe, and the Savvy Traveler (travel products) is a few blocks away. Chanterelle is one of our favorite restaurants in Edmonds.

Have a great time exploring the city and surroundings!

Karen