

SHOPPING

top picks

- Elliott Bay Book Company (p113)
- Uwajimaya (p110)
- DeLaurenti's (p111)
- Metsker Maps (p111)
- Babeland (p113)

SHOPPING

When it comes to shopping, Seattle has the best of both worlds: you can power-shop at the big-name stores in the malls – Barney’s and Tiffany & Co in Pacific Place – and you can also seek out the quirky, one-of-a-kind shops hidden away in some back alley with a spray-painted sign on the door.

The city also has some of the greatest bookstores in the country, and a lot of them. Given Seattle’s rich music culture, record stores are also a good bet, although the owners tend to know what they have and charge accordingly.

Naturally, any shopping excursion in Seattle must include Pike Place Market, where you can find anything from stacks of crabs to used books to spiced teas to goth toys. And browsing this historical labyrinth is just as much fun as buying. Downtown dominates Seattle’s retail scene with big-name shopping malls. But take a look in the corners of Pioneer Square for art and antique shops, make the Waterfront your stop for obligatory souvenirs, and for fashion or novelties, browse on Capitol Hill.

DOWNTOWN & FIRST HILL

The main shopping area in Seattle is downtown between 3rd and 6th Aves and between University and Stewart Sts. If you’re anywhere nearby, you can’t miss it.

CAMERAS WEST Map p50 Cameras

☎ 206-622-0066; 1908 4th Ave
The foremost selection of film and photographic supplies (including cameras, batteries, storage cards, tripods and so on) in Seattle is Cameras West, right in downtown.

BROOKS BROTHERS Map p50 Clothing

☎ 206-624-4400; 1330 5th Ave
This is the undisputed destination for classy men’s clothing in the area. The salespeople are total pros – they greet you at the door, take your measurements and avoid all signs of being pushy.

MACY’S Map p50 Clothing

☎ 206-344-2121; 1601 3rd Ave
Seattle’s oldest and largest department store, this hard-to-miss classic – formerly Bon-Marché, but renamed Bon-Macy’s

TAXES & REFUNDS

A 9.5% sales tax is added to all purchases except food to be prepared for consumption (ie groceries). Unlike the European VAT or Canadian GST, the sales tax is not refundable to tourists.

in August 2003 when it was bought by Macy’s, then shortened for convenience – is a mainstay of clothing and housewares shopping.

NIKETOWN Map p50 Clothing

☎ 206-447-6453; 1500 6th Ave
The huge Niketown has its roots in the Northwest – it was founded by Phil Knight in Eugene, Oregon. The store sells all kinds of Nike clothing, shoes and accessories, and acts as a sort of museum for the company’s marketing campaign, with posters and quotations from some of its endorsement stars covering the walls.

NORDSTROM Map p50 Clothing

☎ 206-628-2111; Pine St btwn 5th & 6th Aves
Born and raised in Seattle, this chain department store occupies a giant space in the former Frederick and Nelson Building. Closer to Pike Place Market, [Nordstrom Rack](#) (Map p63; ☎ 206-448-8522; 1601 2nd Ave) offers closeouts and returns from the parent store.

SWAY AND CAKE Map p50 Clothing

☎ 206-624-2699; 1631 6th Ave
This cute little upscale boutique has cute little designer dresses and jeans from hot names like Rag & Bone, Diane von Furstenberg and Helmut Lang. Sales staff are friendly, even if you’re dressed down.

PACIFIC PLACE Map p50 Mall

☎ 206-405-2655; 600 Pine St
Seattle’s best-quality boutique mall feels a bit like the lobby of an upscale hotel – it’s