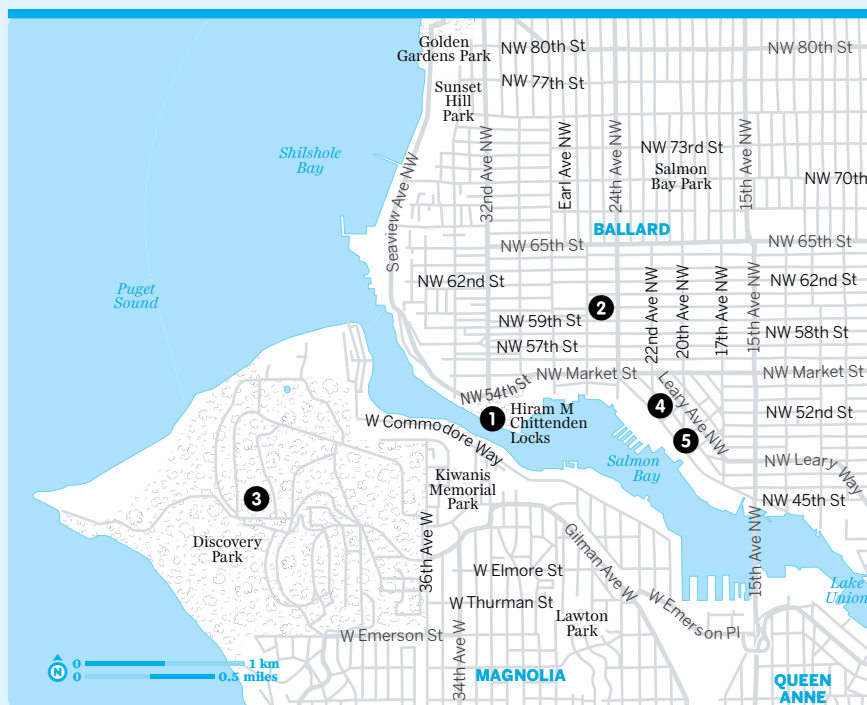


# Ballard & Discovery Park

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Watching birds, fishing boats, motor yachts, kayaks and salmon negotiating **Hiram M Chittenden Locks** (p153) on a sunny summer's evening from the grassy banks of Carl English Jr Botanical Gardens.
- 2 Making a coffee-and-croissant pilgrimage to local baking legend **Cafe Besalu** (p153).
- 3 Leaving the city (almost) and exploring on foot inside the verdant ocean-side oasis of **Discovery Park** (p151).
- 4 Imbibing Ballard's cool, self-contained **bar and music scene** (p156) along Ballard Ave NW on a week-end evening.
- 5 Enjoying Sunday brunch followed by a visit to the **Ballard Farmers Market** (p152).



For more detail of this area, see Map p246 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't miss the unconnected western section of the recreational Burke-Gilman Trail that stretches from Hiram M Chittenden Locks out to Golden Gardens Park (1.75 miles) and takes in a different, quieter side of Ballard that faces the open Sound.

### Best Places to Eat

- Bastille Cafe & Bar (p153)
- Walrus & the Carpenter (p154)
- Cafe Besalu (p153)

For reviews, see p153 ➡

### Best Places to Drink

- Tractor Tavern (p157)
- Noble Fir (p156)
- Sexton (p156)

For reviews, see p156 ➡

### Best Waterside Attractions

- Hiram M Chittenden Locks (p153)
- Fishermen's Terminal (p152)
- Discovery Park (p151)
- Golden Gardens Park (p152)

For reviews, see p152 ➡

## Explore: Ballard & Discovery Park

Though just a bridge away from its big metro brother, Ballard is probably the most distinct and independent of Seattle's neighborhoods, whatever libertine Fremonters or Capitol Hillers might say. There's a self-contained music and drinking scene here and a tangible neighborhood identity, forged out of Ballard's history as a separate city. Founded by hard-working Swedish, Norwegian and Danish fishermen, it was incorporated in 1890 and annexed by Seattle in 1907.

Though the neighborhood's now quite spread out, the heart of old Ballard is contained within Ballard Ave NW. This is where you'll find Ballard's notable live-music venues – the Tractor Tavern and Sunset Tavern – and some eclectic bars and pubs where you can warm up first. Seven redbrick blocks have been named a Historic Landmark District, but fortunately the buildings have not been thoughtlessly glamorized: the structures in this district are old, not 'olde.' Pick up a copy of the *Historic Ballard Ave Walking Tour* pamphlet for background on the buildings.

NW Avenue is the other main drag, with a good stash of boutique shops and one-off restaurants, but you've really only seen half of Ballard unless you head west to the Hiram M Chittenden Locks, a beautiful melding of fine engineering and watery Pacific Northwest beauty. Continue on the Burke-Gilman Trail to Golden Gardens Park for more expansive Elliott Bay views.

Discovery Park is 534 acres of urban wilderness northwest of downtown Seattle and just southwest of the mouth of Chittenden Locks. Locals love to come here to escape the ever-present manicure of city gardens and get windswept along the park's many trails. Though it's easy to reach, it feels utterly remote.

## Local Life

➤ **Sunday Farmers Market** The savvy hit the U District Farmers Market on Saturday and breeze into Ballard on Sunday. Do as they do and grab a cheap brunch, browse the stalls and eavesdrop about where the best bargains are to be found.

➤ **Fisherman's Terminal** Pampering little to the tourist dollar, the home of Seattle's fishing fleet is all about hard work, fresh catch, sea air, and age-old working practices. Drink it in.

## Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** RapidRide D-Line is the fastest bus into downtown. Metro bus 44 connects to Wallingford and the U District. Metro bus 40 goes direct to Fremont.