

The CD, Madrona & Madison Park

MADISON PARK | CD | MADRONA



Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Following the old trolley route down E Madison St to original Seattle seaside resort **Madison Park Beach** (p129) for a game of Frisbee, a brave dip in the lake, and some wholesome restaurant food.
- ➋ Learning about Seattle's little-known African American heritage in the CD's **Northwest African American Museum** (p122).
- ➌ Finding a French flavor in the bakeries and bistros of **Madison Valley** (p127).
- ➍ Tree-spotting and bird-watching in the **Washington Park Arboretum** (p122).
- ➎ Seeking out great African food in the CD's **Little Ethiopia** (p127).

For more detail of this area, see Map p240 ➔

Explore: The CD, Madrona & Madison Park

While individually distinct, the three neighborhoods sandwiched between Capitol Hill and Lake Washington don't really form a coherent whole. Although they can be explored together, most nonresidents come here for a specific reason: eg the beach at Madison Park, brunch in Madrona, or French food in Madison Valley.

Running down the east slope of First Hill, the Central District (CD) represents the heart of Seattle's African American community and is relatively easy to reach from downtown. The neighborhood's slightly down-at-heel arteries are 23rd Ave and Martin Luther King Jr Way, but it lacks any real nexus and can feel semi-abandoned after Capitol Hill. You can initiate a stroll of its quiet streets in search of soul food and Ethiopian cuisine starting from the top of the Pike-Pine corridor.

Keep walking east through the CD and you'll hit Madrona, one of Seattle's more ethnically diverse neighborhoods that is being gradually gentrified with some positively opulent mansions overlooking Lake Washington. Madrona is worth a trip to indulge in one of Seattle's most popular brunch places, the Hi Spot Café, followed by a walk along the lakefront.

If the weather's good, Madison Park merits a separate visit for its cute beach, genteel neighborhood vibe and the Madison Park Conservatory, a lauded sustainable restaurant. It is best reached on bus 11 along E Madison St, following an old trolley line that once bussed in knackered lumber workers for some weekend R & R. About a mile before you reach the beach it's worth stopping in tree-lined Madison Valley, aka 'Little France,' for buttery croissants and a quick stroll in the Washington Park Arboretum.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hi Spot Café** One of those neighborhood brunch spots that lures in people from all over town, this is where sleepy Madrona wakes up, especially on Sunday.
- ➔ **Madison Park Beach** Some say 'the Park' is snooty, but it ain't true, at least not on sunny days, when the whole neighborhood hits the small lakeside beach.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Metro bus 11 runs from downtown along Pike and E Pine Sts to Capitol Hill and then along E Madison St all the way to Madison Park. Bus 8 goes from the Seattle Center via Capitol Hill to the CD, where it runs north-south through the neighborhood along Martin Luther King Jr Way. Bus 2 connects downtown with Madrona Beach via Capitol Hill.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Madison Valley, the 'other' (fourth) neighborhood in this rather disparate chapter, is worth a visit in its own right. Enjoy some fine French food from one of half a dozen eating places before taking a peek at the tree collection at the Washington Park Arboretum.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rover's (p127)
- ➔ Voila! (p127)
- ➔ Hi Spot Café (p128)
- ➔ Cafe Selam (p127)

For reviews, see p123 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Tougo Coffee (p128)
- ➔ Attic Alehouse & Eatery (p128)
- ➔ Cortona Cafe (p128)

For reviews, see p128 ➔

Best Parks

- ➔ Washington Park Arboretum (p122)
- ➔ Madison Park (p129)
- ➔ Madrona Park (p129)
- ➔ Howell Park (p122)

For reviews, see p122 ➔