

DOWNTOWN | PIKE PLACE MARKET | WATERFRONT

- 1 Seeing, smelling and tasting the unique energy of **Pike Place Market** (p42), from the charismatic fish throwers to the creative – but disgusting – gum wall.
- 2 Seeing how nine suspended cars can be made into spectacular modern art at **Seattle Art Museum** (p46).

4 Viewing Seattle's on-going waterfront regeneration from the brand new **Seattle Great Wheel** (p48).

5 Joining the line for a cheap take-out pastry at Pike Place Market baking phenomenon **Piroshky Piroshky** (p52).



For more detail of this area see Map p224 ➡

Explore: Downtown, Pike Place & Waterfront

You don't have to search long to find Seattle's soul: head directly to Pike Place Market and throw away any map you might have acquired; your nose, eyes and ears are the only compasses you'll need here.

It's particularly important to get to the market early if you want to avoid that cattle-truck feeling (40,000 visitors per day!): weekdays and before 10am on weekends are best. That said, many enjoy the organized chaos of the arcades at Saturday lunchtime. The waterfront is more weather dependent; a sunny weekend afternoon finds it swarming, while on a misty weekday morning you'll have the place pretty much to yourself.

Downtown Seattle, though impressive from a distance, is a bit of an anomaly. Instead of being the beating heart of the city, it's a fairly quiet, functional business district adjacent to Seattle's twin hearts: Pike Place Market and Pioneer Square. What most people mean by 'downtown' is the collection of office buildings, hotels and retail shops between 2nd and 7th Aves. It's best to visit on a weekday, when throngs of people are working and shopping in the area. At night and on weekends it can feel rather desolate.

Downtown is home to much of the city's important architecture – follow the Downtown Architecture walking tour (p50) for a closer look. Seattle's retail heaven extends from the corner of 5th Ave and Pike St a few blocks in all directions. A block north, on 5th Ave at Pine St, is the flagship store of Nordstrom, the national clothing retailer that got its start in Seattle. Just to the west is Westlake Center.

Local Life

➔ **Early-Morning Market** Get to Pike Place early and listen to the vendors chitchat as they set up their stalls. Witness the unique 'market roll call' in the North Arcade when day-stall vendors are allocated their spaces.

➔ **Ferry Across the Sound** Pretend you're a Puget Sound commuter and stow away on a Bainbridge Island ferry just for the ride.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Light Rail** Sound Transit's Link Light Rail from Sea-Tac Airport has two downtown stations: Westlake, and University Street and 3rd Avenue.

➔ **Streetcar** Service to South Lake Union from Westlake.

➔ **Bus** You can get downtown easily from any part of Seattle by bus.

➔ **Ferry** Car ferries dock at Pier 52 on the waterfront. Water taxis to West Seattle leave from Pier 50.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Look down! Seattle's public art extends to its hatch covers (manholes). Nine-teen of them have been emblazoned with an imprint of a downtown map with your location marked. It's impossible to get lost.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Wild Ginger (p50)
- ➔ Pink Door Ristorante (p54)
- ➔ Ivar's Acres of Clams (p55)
- ➔ Piroshky Piroshky (p52)

For reviews, see p49 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Pike Pub & Brewery (p56)
- ➔ Kells (p57)
- ➔ Seattle Coffee Works (p55)
- ➔ Owl & Thistle (p55)

For reviews, see p55 ➔

Best Pike Place Market Takeouts

- ➔ Piroshky Piroshky (p52)
- ➔ Beecher's Handmade Cheese (p53)
- ➔ Pike Place Chowder (p54)
- ➔ Mee Sum Pastries (p54)
- ➔ Cinnamon Works (p54)

For reviews, see p52 ➔