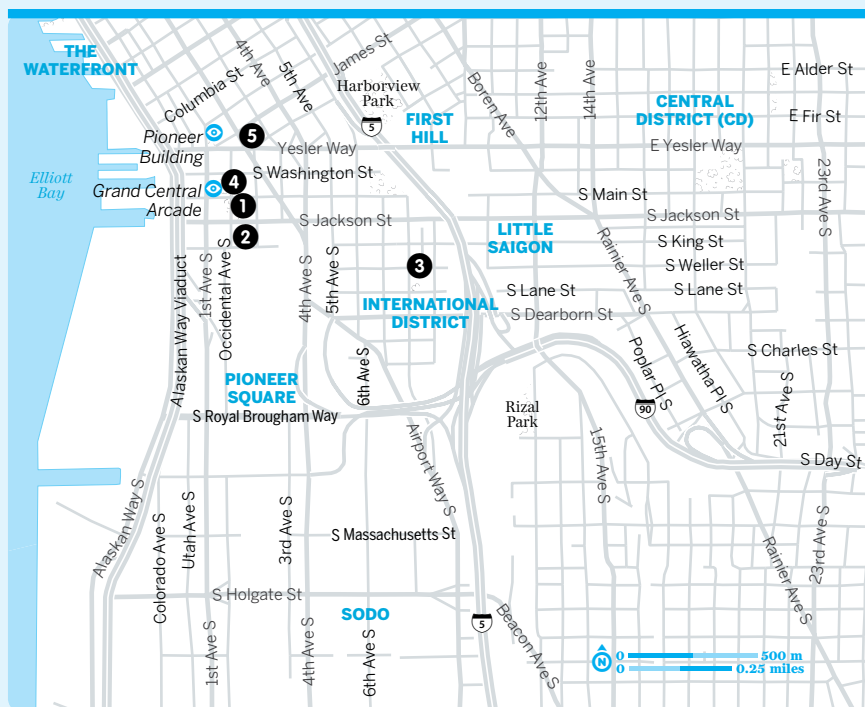


Pioneer Square & International District

PIIONEER SQUARE | INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Reliving the spirit of the gold rush at the inspiring **Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park** (p66), set in one of the many redbrick Richardsonian Romanesque buildings that sprang up after the 1889 Great Fire.
- 2 Plugging into the spirit of the times and enjoying a damn fine cup of coffee at **Zeitgeist** (p72).
- 3 Searching for and finding a boisterous **dim sum restaurant** in the International District (p71).
- 4 Getting culturally tuned in on a **First Thursday Art Walk** (p74).
- 5 Taking an old-school elevator up to the 35th floor of the **Smith Tower** (p65).



For more detail of this area, see Map p228 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Pioneer Square social life is heavily affected by the sports events that go on at the two adjacent stadiums. If you like your pubs and restaurants loud and boisterous, come on a game day. If you don't, go elsewhere.



Best Places to Eat

- Tamarind Tree (p72)
- Bar Sajor (p71)
- Green Leaf (p71)
- Delicatus (p71)

For reviews, see p70 ➡



Best Places to Drink

- Zeitgeist (p72)
- Caffè Umbria (p73)
- Panama Hotel Tea & Coffee House (p73)
- Pyramid Ale House (p73)

For reviews, see p72 ➡



Best Architectural Gems

- Smith Tower (p65)
- King Street Station (p66)
- Pioneer Building (p65)
- Pioneer Square pergola (p66)

For reviews, see p66 ➡

Explore: Pioneer Square & International District

Browsing the Pioneer Square Historic District is rather like visiting a movie set of early-20th-century Seattle, except that the food and the shopping are better. This is the birthplace of Seattle, and the redbrick district of historical buildings, antique shops and musty bars is still a real crossroads of the modern city.

Some visitors arrive by long-distance bus or train at King Street Station, a good place to get oriented due to its proximity to a trio of local squares. Pioneer Square Park is an architectural showpiece, Occidental Park has a handy information booth, and just off Occidental Sq Zeitgeist will brew your first (and possibly best) Seattle coffee. Across the street from Zeitgeist is the fantastic, free Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, which will quickly make you an expert on Seattle's history. Take time to wander the streets afterwards to admire the handsome architecture.

Next door to Pioneer Square, but nothing like it architecturally, is the International District (ID) – Seattle's de facto Chinatown. The 'international' moniker has some merit: while predominantly Chinese, there is a strong Vietnamese presence and some interesting Japanese pioneer history.

The ID is perfect hunting ground for cheap food: dim sum and Vietnamese *pho* predominate. You'll also find the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the delectable Panama Hotel Tea & Coffee House. Hidden treasures include everything from sketchy pet shops to a pinball museum.

Local Life

- **Uwajimaya** Shop for exotic fruit and vegetables in this giant Asian community market.
- **Salami Talk** Exchange work grumbles, make dates or discuss the merits of *finocchiona* salami over *sopressata* in the perennial queue at sandwich bar Salumi.

Getting There & Away

- **Bus** Pioneer Square is a few blocks from downtown, so any of the city buses that stop in downtown will get you pretty close. Metro bus 7 runs to the ID frequently from 3rd Ave downtown.
- **Light Rail** Link Light Rail from Seattle-Tacoma Airport stops at Pioneer Square Station or International District/Chinatown Station. It carries on to Westlake Station in downtown.
- **Streetcar** Runs from S Jackson St to First Hill and Capitol Hill.