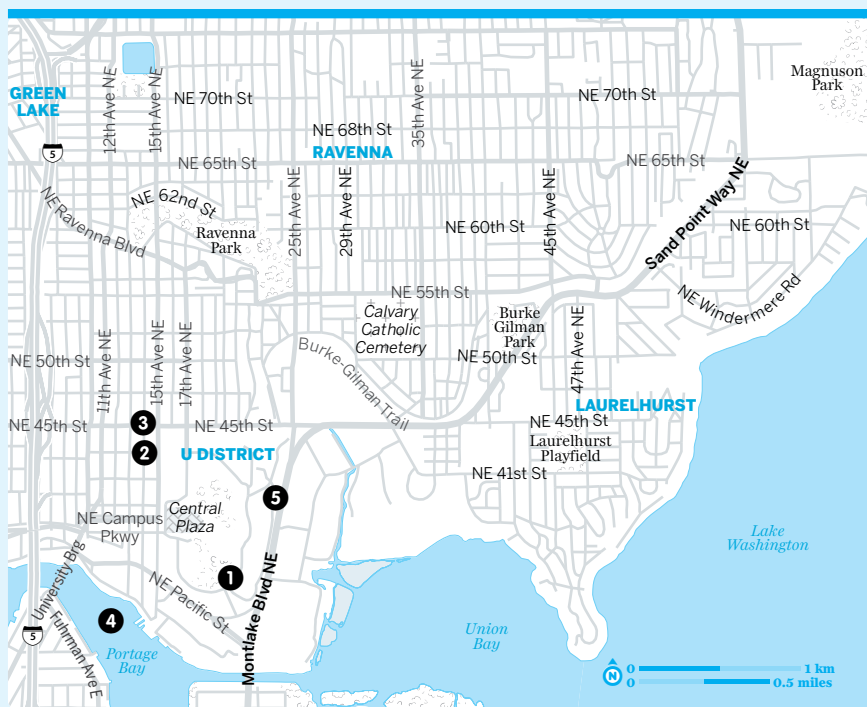



# U District

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Reliving (or living) your cerebral undergraduate years on the leafy, architecturally attractive campus of the **University of Washington** (p132) with its art galleries, neo-Gothic library and tree-studded quad.
- 2 Reliving the non-cerebral part of your undergraduate days in the pubs and bars of **'the Ave'** (p136).
- 3 Saving money in cheap, cheerful **ethnic eateries** (p133).
- 4 Paddling around Lake Union in a **kayak** (p138).
- 5 Plying the **Burke-Gilman Trail** (p133) to Wallingford for a picnic lunch in Gas Works Park.



For more detail of this area, see Map p242 

## Explore: U District

Head east off I-5 north of Lake Union and suddenly you'll feel as if you're no longer in Seattle. The U District, named for 'U Dub' (what locals call the University of Washington, or UW), feels like its own little college town. Just like you, most of the people here are visitors – they're merely staying a bit longer (several semesters or more).

Nearly everyone gets oriented in the U District on 'the Ave' (University Way, roughly between 40th and 50th Sts), an atmospheric main drag full of tiny cheap eateries, thrift stores, record stores, secondhand bookstores, tattoo parlors, bars and coffee shops full of deadline-chasing, laptop-gazing students. Everyone on the sidewalks around here seems to be between the ages of 18 and 24, but these kids know where it's at. Read fly-posters on lampposts, eavesdrop on conversations in coffee bars and follow the action on 'the Ave' and you'll soon feel 23 again (if you aren't already).

The number of cheap places to eat, especially Indian and Asian, makes the Ave the best place to find an inexpensive meal. Another place to lose your youth is the cavernous University Bookstore, which takes up an entire city block.

Reserve a sunny day to explore the adjacent UW campus, a veritable arboretum–architectural showcase with a couple of top-notch museums focusing on art and natural history. The campus is made for people-watching (or, more specifically, student-watching) and you can enter many of the buildings unannounced, including the Suzzallo Library and the Hub (student union).

Another great way to explore the university is on a bicycle: the Burke-Gilman Trail follows the south side of campus, providing easy access. Further exercise can be procured on water: the campus abuts the shores of Lake Union and is one of the best places in Seattle to hire a kayak.

## Local Life

➔ **The Quad** On a warm day in spring or summer, students loaf alfresco under the quad's gnarly cherry trees, exchanging gossip, study notes and Facebook photos.

➔ **The Ave** Hang around on University Ave anywhere between 40th and 50th Sts and follow the crowds.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Bus** Several Metro buses, including buses 70, 72 and 66, run frequently to the U District from downtown Seattle. Bus 43 heads up to Capitol Hill.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To avoid parking hassles or public-transportation meltdowns, incorporate a visit to the U District with a trip to Fremont or Lake Union. Simply use the arterial Burke-Gilman Trail to breeze in by bike or on foot.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Portage Bay Cafe (p135)
- ➔ Ristorante Doria (p135)
- ➔ Pam's Kitchen (p136)
- ➔ Thai Tom (p133)

For reviews, see p133 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Zoka Coffee (p136)
- ➔ Big Time Microbrew & Music (p136)
- ➔ Blue Moon (p136)
- ➔ Café Allegro (p136)

For reviews, see p136 ➔

## Best Places to Study

- ➔ Suzzallo Library (p132)
- ➔ Zoka Coffee (p136)
- ➔ Cafe Solstice (p135)
- ➔ Café Allegro (p136)

For reviews, see p132 ➔