

Ballard & Discovery Park

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Hiram M Chittenden Locks (p156) Watching birds, fishing boats, motor yachts, kayaks and salmon negotiating the locks on a sunny summer's evening from the grassy banks of Carl English Jr Botanical Gardens.

2 Nordic Heritage Museum (p157) Perusing Ballard's Nordic antecedents in this enlightening museum.

3 Discovery Park (p155) Feeling like you've left the city far, far behind in the verdant ocean-side oasis of Discovery Park.

4 Nano-breweries (p164) Coming to Ballard on a beer pilgrimage and discovering the neighborhood's remarkable collection of micro- and nano-breweries.

5 Ballard Farmers Market (p166) Enjoying Sunday brunch in Ballard Ave NW followed by a visit to the farmers market.



For more detail of this area see Map p252 ➔

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 Waterside Attractions

- ➔ Hiram M Chittenden Locks (p156)
- ➔ Fishermen's Terminal (p156)
- ➔ Discovery Park (p155)
- ➔ Golden Gardens Park (p157)

For reviews, see p156 ➔



Best Drinking & Nightlife

- ➔ Populuxe Brewing (p163)
- ➔ Noble Fir (p163)
- ➔ Hattie's Hat (p164)
- ➔ Sunset Tavern (p165)

For reviews, see p163 ➔



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bastille Cafe & Bar (p162)
- ➔ Walrus & the Carpenter (p162)
- ➔ Stoneburner (p162)
- ➔ Geo (p158)

For reviews, see p158 ➔

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.

Although the neighborhood's 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 and Sunset Taverns – 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.'

NW Ave 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

- ➔ **Fishermen's Terminal** (p156) 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.
- ➔ **Nano-breweries** You'll feel like you've stumbled into someone's backyard barbecue on a fine summer's evening in the cheery confines of Populuxe Brewing (p163).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Rapid Ride D-Line is the fastest direct bus into downtown. Metro bus 40 travels from downtown via Fremont to Ballard stopping at multiple places in the neighborhood. For Golden Gardens Park and the Shilshole Marina, take bus 44 from the U District, or express bus 17X from downtown (weekdays only).