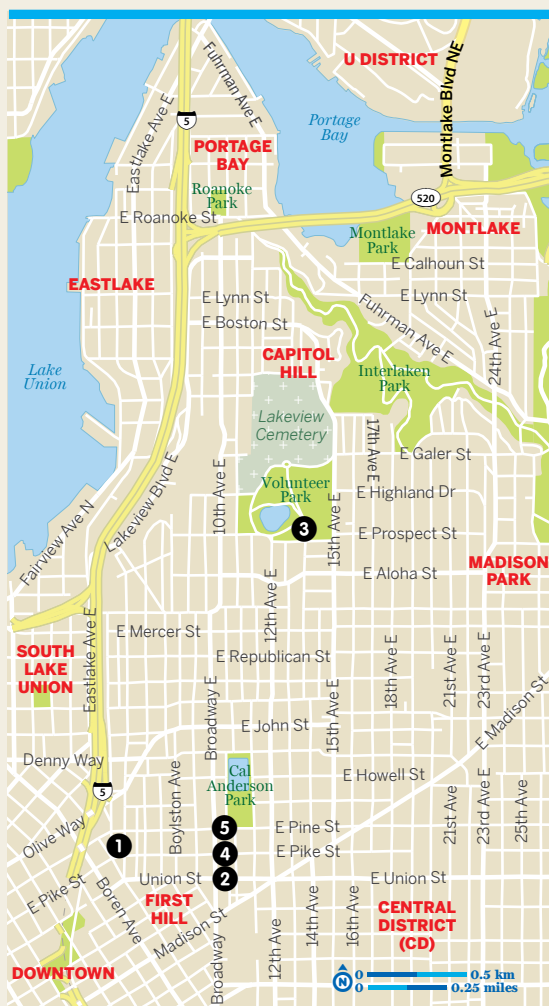


# Capitol Hill & First Hill



## Neighborhood Top Five

**1 Victrola Coffee Roasters** (p115) Testing the water on the Pike-Pine corridor while imbibing strong coffee behind the large glass windows of this fine coffee purveyor.

**2 Neumo's** (p117) Seeing a name band at this legendary live-music venue, one of Seattle's most revered.

**3 Water Tower Observation Deck** (p110) Climbing the water tower in Volunteer Park to admire dazzling vistas of Seattle and Mt Rainier.

**4 Lost Lake Cafe & Lounge** (p112) Enjoying a very late beer or a very early breakfast at the 24-hour *Twin Peaks*-themed Lost Lake Cafe.

**5 Elliott Bay Book Company** (p118) Coming up for air after an afternoon of lazy literary immersion at Seattle's most beloved bookstore.

For more detail of this area see Map p244 ➔



## Explore: Capitol Hill & First Hill

To decipher Seattle's most diverse, fashionable and consciously cool neighborhood it's useful to understand a little of its geography. There are three main commercial strips worth exploring in Capitol Hill – Broadway (the main drag), 15th Ave and the ultra-cultural Pike–Pine corridor – all of which are refreshingly walkable. Geographically the strips are gelled together by Capitol Hill's residential grid, a mixture of cheap apartment buildings, large grandiose houses and the green expanse of Volunteer Park. This weird but never caustic juxtaposition of rich/budget and chic/scruffy is one of the neighborhood's biggest allures. Herein lives Seattle's wildest assortment of people.

If you're walking up from downtown crossing I-5 on E Pine St, you'll enter the neighborhood close to Melrose Market at the western end of the Pike–Pine corridor. This stretch of aging brick warehouses and former 1950s car dealerships made over into gay bars, live-music clubs, coffeehouses, record stores and fashionable restaurants is Seattle's nightlife central. Explore it by night on foot.

Perpendicular to Pike–Pine is Capitol Hill's main commercial street, Broadway, while several blocks east is the quieter business district of 15th Ave E. This is where some of the city's wealthiest residents live in the grand old mansions that embellish tree-lined streets such as 14th Ave (aka Millionaires Row). Gawk at the opulence as you make your way up to Capitol Hill's peak, Volunteer Park, home to the Asian Art Museum, a conservatory and a water tower.

More genteel First Hill is best accessed from the bottom of Pike–Pine or by Seattle's newest streetcar.

## Local Life

- **Park play** On warm summer evenings, Cal Anderson Park is the place to come to watch bike polo, office baseball games and tattooed bodies picking up a tan.
- **Silent reading party** Only in Seattle can you invite yourself to a 'party (p118)' where nobody talks, but everybody reads books.

## Getting There & Away

- **Bus** Metro bus 10 links Capitol Hill with downtown (Pine and 5th); bus 8 goes to the Seattle Center. To reach First Hill, catch bus 2 on the western side of 3rd Ave downtown and get off at the Swedish Medical Center.
- **Streetcar** The First Hill streetcar links Capitol Hill and First Hill with the ID and Pioneer Square.
- **Light rail** The new light-rail line heads north to the U District and southwest to downtown (and, ultimately, Sea-Tac airport) from Capitol Hill station.
- **Walk** Capitol Hill can be reached from downtown by walking up E Pine St (10 to 15 minutes).

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

In Capitol Hill, restaurants, bars and cafes usually put quality over quantity. Thus the neighborhood abounds with specialist micro- or (even smaller) nano-businesses. Look out for microbreweries (beer), micro-roasteries (coffee), micro-distilleries (spirits) and micro-creameries (ice cream).

### Best Places to Eat

- Sitka & Spruce (p114)
- Cascina Spinasse (p115)
- Poppy (p115)
- Coastal Kitchen (p113)

For reviews, see p112 ➡

### Best Drinking & Nightlife

- Espresso Vivace at Brix (p115)
- Victrola Coffee Roasters (p115)
- Optimism Brewing Co (p116)
- Capitol Cider (p116)

For reviews, see p115 ➡

### Best Places to Shop

- Elliott Bay Book Company (p118)
- Ada's Technical Books & Cafe (p118)
- Wall of Sound (p119)
- Revival (p119)

For reviews, see p118 ➡