

Downtown, Pike Place & Waterfront

PIKE PLACE MARKET | DOWNTOWN | WATERFRONT

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Pike Place Market** (p42) Seeing, smelling and tasting the unique energy of this Seattle icon, from the charismatic fish throwers to the creative – but disgusting – gum wall.
- 2 Seattle Art Museum** (p46) Experiencing the latest surprise lighting up


this constantly evolving museum.

- 3 Bainbridge Island ferry** (p177) Riding on the Bainbridge Island ferry just for the hell of it (and admiring the amazing views).
- 4 Seattle Great Wheel** (p49) Viewing Seattle's ongoing waterfront regeneration

from inside an enclosed pod on this giant wheel.

- 5 Beecher's Handmade Cheese** (p50) Joining the line for take-out mac 'n' cheese at Pike Place Market's artisan cheese phenomenon.



For more detail of this area see Map p232 

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 lures: Pike Place Market and Pioneer Sq. 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. 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 (p42) early and listen to the vendors chitchat as they set up their stalls. Be sure to 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 Central Link light rail from Sea-Tac Airport has two downtown stations: Westlake, and University St and 3rd Ave.
- ➔ **Streetcar** Service to South Lake Union from Westlake.
- ➔ **Bus** You can get downtown easily from any part of Seattle by bus.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Look down! Seattle's public art extends to its hatch covers (manholes). Nineteen 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

- ➔ Café Campagne (p53)
- ➔ Wild Ginger (p54)
- ➔ Piroshky Piroshky (p52)
- ➔ Pink Door Ristorante (p53)

For reviews, see p50 ➔

Best Drinking & Nightlife

- ➔ Pike Pub & Brewery (p55)
- ➔ Storyville Coffee (p56)
- ➔ Bookstore Bar (p57)
- ➔ Owl & Thistle (p57)
- ➔ Zig Zag Café (p56)

For reviews, see p55 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Old Seattle Paperworks (p59)
- ➔ Pure Food Fish (p60)
- ➔ Metsker Maps (p59)
- ➔ DeLaurenti's (p52)
- ➔ Market Magic (p60)

For reviews, see p59 ➔