

Green Lake & Fremont

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Sculpture** (p143) Walking around Seattle's most irreverent neighborhood in search of its peculiar public art, as well as keeping an eye out for any spontaneous 'art attacks.'
- 2 Woodland Park Zoo** (p145) Exploring one of the better animal projects in the US.
- 3 Green Lake Park** (p145) Joining the walking, running, skating, cycling mass of humanity powering around beautiful Green Lake Park.
- 4 Fremont Brewing Company** (p148) Biking in for a fruity beer at the positively jubilant Fremont Brewing Company.
- 5 Fremont Almost Free Outdoor Cinema** (p150) Watching the wackily attired audience (while keeping half an eye on the film) at the outdoor cinema.



For more detail of this area see Maps p250 and p251 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

If you've had your fill of police sirens, panhandlers and the frenetic pace of downtown Seattle, consider staying over in Fremont – the affordable Hotel Hotel Hostel (p196) is a dependable bet – for a more laid-back, under-the-radar look at one of the city's most interesting neighborhoods.



Best Drinking & Nightlife

- Fremont Brewing Company (p148)
- Milstead & Co (p148)
- Outlander Brewery & Pub (p149)
- Schilling Cider House (p149)

For reviews, see p148 ➡



Best Entertainment

- Fremont Almost Free Outdoor Cinema (p150)
- High Dive (p150)
- Atlas Theater (p150)
- Nectar Lounge (p150)

For reviews, see p150 ➡



Best Places to Shop

- Fremont Vintage Mall (p151)
- Wide World Books & Maps (p151)
- Jive Time Records (p151)
- Brooks Sports Inc (p152)

For reviews, see p151 ➡

Explore: Green Lake & Fremont

Set your watch back five minutes, turn your brain setting to 'ironic' and cross the Fremont Bridge into the self-proclaimed 'People's Republic of Fremont.'

Weirder than Ballard and more self-deprecating than Capitol Hill, Fremont's essential business is its public sculpture. Most of its outlandish statues and monuments lie clustered around a few square blocks on the southern edge of the neighborhood close to the bridge, making viewing easy. Here you'll also find the bulk of the cheap eating places and Fremont's only hotel.

Fremont's a great neighborhood for getting a taste for local life, especially in summer, when festivals and regular outdoor movies send the locals positively delirious. With good bus connections and a bike-friendly intra-urban trail, it can easily be incorporated with visits to the adjacent neighborhoods of Ballard and Wallingford.

Just north of Fremont lies Green Lake, a small natural lake that's the hub of a large park complex and a pleasant low-key neighborhood punctuated by detached craftsman-style houses. The lake is packed with crowds in summer, but it's even better in fall, when the leaves are changing, or on a rare rain-free day in winter. Any time of the year, it's a picturesque spot for a walk or a run, or just to sit back on a bench and watch the rowers on the water.

Below Green Lake, Woodland Park Zoo is eternally popular. And don't neglect to head further up to Phinney Ridge, the hilltop neighborhood north of the zoo along Phinney Ave N, for some quiet everyone-knows-everyone-else pubs and restaurants.

Local Life

➤ **Green Lake Park exercisers** Meet the 75-year-old marathon runner, the hyperventilating weight watcher, the in-line skater on his cell phone, and the lawyer from Phinney Ridge getting bullied by his personal trainer at this well-kept park (p145).

➤ **Wallingford** (p151) Take a good book and spend a Sunday afternoon working through the bars and cafes of this underrated Seattle neighborhood chapter by chapter.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** Three different metro buses link Fremont to central Seattle. Bus 62 runs from downtown to Fremont and then onto Green Lake Park. Bus 5 runs from downtown via Fremont to Phinney Ridge and Woodland Park Zoo. Bus 40 originates in downtown and makes stops along Fremont's N 36th St before breezing off to Ballard. For cross-town connections, buses 31 and 32 link Fremont with the U District.