


# Pioneer Square, International District & SoDo

PIIONEER SQUARE | INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT | SODO

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park** (p67) Reliving the spirit of the gold rush at this inspiring museum, set in one of the many redbrick Richardsonian Romanesque buildings that sprang up after the 1889 Great Fire.
- 2 Zeitgeist Coffee** (p73) Plugging into the spirit of the times and enjoying a damn fine cup of coffee.
- 3 Jade Garden** (p72) Satisfying lunchtime Asian food cravings at this boisterous dim-sum restaurant in the International District.
- 4 CenturyLink Field** (p75) Warming up in the bars of Pioneer Square before attending a football or soccer game.
- 5 Westland Distillery** (p77) Getting a taste of the up-and-coming SoDo neighborhood with a throat-warming glass of single malt whiskey.



For more detail of this area see Map p234 

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Pioneer Square social life is heavily affected by the sports events that go on at the two adjacent stadiums. If you like your pubs and restaurants loud and boisterous, come on a game day. If you don't, go elsewhere.

### Best Workday Lunches

- ➔ Salumi Artisan Cured Meats (p70)
- ➔ Il Corvo Pasta (p70)
- ➔ Delicatus (p70)
- ➔ Bakeman's (p71)

For reviews, see p70 ➔

### Best Drinking & Nightlife

- ➔ Zeitgeist Coffee (p73)
- ➔ 88 Keys Dueling Piano Bar (p74)
- ➔ Panama Hotel Tea & Coffee House (p74)
- ➔ Pyramid Ale House (p75)

For reviews, see p73 ➔

### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Filson (p76)
- ➔ Uwajimaya (p76)
- ➔ Glasshouse Studio (p77)
- ➔ Flanagan & Lane Antiques (p76)

For reviews, see p75 ➔

## Explore: Pioneer Square, International District & SoDo

Browsing the Pioneer Square Historic District is rather like visiting a movie set of early 20th-century Seattle, except that the food and the shopping are better. This is the birthplace of Seattle, and the redbrick district of historical buildings, antique shops and musty bars is still a real crossroads of the modern city.

Some visitors arrive by long-distance bus or train at King Street Station, a good place to get oriented due to its proximity to a trio of local squares. Pioneer Square Park is an architectural showpiece, Occidental Park was recently given a beautiful face-lift, and, just off Occidental Sq, Zeitgeist will brew your first (and possibly best) Seattle coffee. Take time to wander the streets afterwards to admire the handsome architecture.

Next to Pioneer Sq, but nothing like it architecturally, is the International District (ID) – Seattle's de-facto Chinatown. The 'international' moniker has some merit: while predominantly Chinese, there is a strong Vietnamese presence and some interesting Japanese pioneer history.

The ID is perfect hunting ground for cheap food: dim sum and Vietnamese *pho* predominate. You'll also find the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the delectable Panama Hotel Tea & Coffee House. Hidden treasures include everything from sketchy pet shops to a pinball museum.

Access spread-out SoDo by strolling south on 1st Ave S. Beyond its two sports stadiums you'll stumble upon rugged bars, pot shops, a whiskey distillery and a little-known computer museum.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Occidental Park** (p66) You can play table tennis with a homeless person or talk recipes with a food-cart vendor in this recently cleaned-up park.
- ➔ **Central Saloon** (p74) If the walls could talk they'd have plenty to say in the beery confines of one of Seattle's oldest bars.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Pioneer Square is a few blocks from downtown, so any of the city buses that stop in downtown will get you pretty close.
- ➔ **Light rail** Central Link light rail from Sea-Tac Airport stops at Pioneer Square station or International District/Chinatown station. It carries on to Westlake station in downtown and, ultimately, the U District.
- ➔ **Streetcar** Runs from S Jackson St in Pioneer Square through the ID, CD and First Hill to Capitol Hill.