


# U District

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 University of Washington** (p133) Reliving (or living) your cerebral undergraduate years on the leafy, architecturally attractive campus of the University of Washington with its art galleries, neo-Gothic library and tree-studded quad.
- 2 The Ave** (p138) Reliving the non-cerebral part of your undergraduate days in the pubs and bars of the so-called 'Ave.'
- 3 Blue Moon** (p137) Reading the graffiti and listening to the latest street poet at this legendary counterculture dive.
- 4 Burke Museum** (p134) Deciphering the indigenous cultures of the Pacific at this hybrid museum, which also covers natural history.
- 5 University Book Store** (p139) Spending a bibliophilic afternoon in Seattle's oldest bookstore, founded in 1900.



For more detail of this area see Map p248 

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

A great way to explore the university is on a bicycle: the Burke-Gilman Trail (p140) follows the south side of campus, providing easy access. Further exercise can be procured on water: the campus abuts the shores of Lake Union and is one of the best places in Seattle to hire a kayak.

### Best Places to Eat

- Portage Bay Cafe (p134)
- Ristorante Doria (p137)
- Schultzy's Bar & Grill (p136)
- Morsel (p134)

For reviews, see p134 ➡

### Best Places to Study

- Suzzallo Library (p134)
- Zoka Coffee (p137)
- Cafe Solstice (p136)
- Café Allegro (p137)

For reviews, see p133 ➡

### Best Bookstores

- University Book Store (p139)
- Magus Books (p139)
- Half Price Books (p139)

For reviews, see p139 ➡

## Explore: U District

Head east off I-5 north of Lake Union and suddenly you'll feel as if you're no longer in Seattle. The U District, named for 'U Dub' (what locals call the University of Washington, or UW), feels like its own little college town. Just like you, most of the people here are visitors – they're merely staying a bit longer (several semesters or more).

Nearly everyone gets oriented in the U District on 'the Ave' (University Way, roughly between 40th and 50th Sts), an atmospheric main drag full of tiny cheap eateries, thrift stores, record stores, secondhand bookstores, tattoo parlors, bars and coffee shops full of deadline-chasing, laptop-gazing students. Everyone on the sidewalks around here seems to be between the ages of 18 and 24, but these kids know where it's at. Read fly-posters on lampposts, eavesdrop on conversations in coffee bars and follow the action on the Ave and you'll soon feel 23 again (if you aren't already).

The number of cheap places to eat, especially Indian and Asian, makes the Ave the best place to find an inexpensive meal. Another place to lose your youth is the cavernous University Book Store, which takes up an entire city block.

Reserve a sunny day to explore the adjacent UW campus, a veritable arboretum/architectural showcase with a couple of top-notch museums focusing on art and natural history. The campus is made for people-watching (or, more specifically, student-watching) and you can enter many of the buildings unannounced, including the Suzzallo Library and the Hub (student union).

## Local Life

- **The Ave** Hang around on University Way, aka 'the Ave (p138),' anywhere between 40th and 50th Sts and follow the crowds.
- **Bohemian bar** Bump into U Dub's more bohemian demographic at colorful Café Racer (p138).
- **Local library** Watch other people doing their homework or just admire the ornate church-like interior of the Suzzallo Library (p134).

## Getting There & Away

- **Bus** Several Metro buses, including buses 70 and 74, run frequently to the U District from downtown Seattle. Bus 32 links the U District with the Seattle Center via Fremont.
- **Light rail** A new train line links the University of Washington to Capitol Hill, downtown and, ultimately, Sea-Tac International Airport.