

25 TOP EXPERIENCES



Pike Place Market

1 It's Seattle's biggest tourist attraction, and with great reason. Stuffed full of fun, funky shops, this old market (p63) has been selling a wide variety of wares – from produce to crafts to antiques and more – for more than a hundred years. Time your visit early on weekdays to mix with locals and avoid the tourist crowds (you've been warned!). Once you've gotten your fill of flying fish, go explore the mazes below – there are plenty of surprises waiting to be discovered.



Portland

2 It's easy to brag about PDX (p200), but no one will hassle you for it – after all, everyone loves this city. It's as friendly as a big town and home to a mix of students, artists, cyclists, hipsters, young families, old hippies, ecofreaks and everything in between. There's great food, awesome music and plenty of culture, plus it's as sustainable as you can get. Come and visit, but be careful – like everyone else, you might just want to pack up and move here.



Vancouver, BC

3 As big cities go, it's hard to get more sophisticated, international or beautiful than Vancouver, BC (p354). Fresh from the 2010 Winter Olympics, this metropolis has it all – awesome food, trendy shopping, cool neighborhoods and exciting nightlife. There's so much to do, from visiting museums and art galleries to cycling and kayaking, that it'll make your head spin. And it's all framed by glorious mountains, forests and waterways, so there's always beauty in the background.