

Get A Life! 2023-2024 Descriptions and Costs

(Pricing may have changed)

Alki Beach – Located in West Seattle Alki Beach is a total of 135 acres. There is a path that runs 2.5 miles along Elliot Bay. Fire pits and sand-volleyball nets make this a favorite destination for BBQs and picnics. *Free.*

Ape Cave – Located just south of Mt. St. Helens, Ape Cave is a 2.5 mi continuous underground lava tube available for hiking year-round. *\$5 day-use parking pass.*

Seattle Aquarium – Located on Pier 59 on the Downtown Waterfront, the Seattle Aquarium offers guests a hands-on marine experience and preservation education of Puget Sound. *Admission: adult ~\$30, child ~\$20.*

Washington Park Arboretum – The arboretum is a 230-acre park with trails and plants located near and operated by the University of Washington. Within the park is a beautiful Japanese Garden. *Arboretum is free, Japanese Garden is \$6.*

Art walks – Most of the neighborhoods in Seattle have one evening each month where local galleries stay open later than normal and do not charge admission. Downtown, the first Thursday of each month the Seattle Art Museum and galleries in Pioneer Square have their gallery walk. *Free.*

Bainbridge Island – Bainbridge Island is a simple ferry ride from downtown Seattle. The island is a wonderful destination for walking, biking, and paddling. *\$9.05 for a round trip ferry ride as a walk-on passenger. \$40.80 if you drive (standard vehicle).*

Bald Eagles – The Skagit River runs from high in the Cascades to Puget Sound. Bald eagles begin returning to their wintering grounds in Rockport along the Skagit River in mid-November. Gradually the population builds to several hundred, peaking in mid-January. It is a site to behold. *Free.*

Ballard Locks – The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks are located between Ballard and Magnolia on the Lake Washington Ship Canal. It is fascinating to watch small boats and large vessels make their way to and from Puget Sound. The locks also have a fish ladder for viewing salmon that are returning to fresh water to spawn between late June - early Oct. *Free.*

Boeing Future of Flight Center & Tour – Located 25 minutes north of Seattle, the Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about the history and future of aviation and view 747, 767, 777, and 787 jets being assembled on the Everett production line before they take to the sky. *Tickets: \$12/adult. The Future of Flight, gallery exhibits, Sky Deck, café, Boeing Store, and educational exhibits are open. The plant tour is currently closed.*

Burke-Gilman Trail – The nearly level 20-mile Burke-Gilman Trail is a popular paved trail for walkers, runners, cyclists, skaters, and commuters that runs along Lake Washington and Lake Union. The Burke-Gilman starts in Ballard and ends in Bothell. In Bothell the paved trail continues another 10 miles as the Sammamish River Trail to Redmond. *Free.*

Cedar River Watershed Education Center – The 90K acre Cedar River Watershed supplies the city of Seattle with clean mountain water and is a protected home to numerous plants and animals. Visit the education center to learn about Seattle's extraordinary municipal water source. Thursday - Saturday. *Free; tours & programs \$5-\$10.*

Centennial Garden and Labyrinth – This inviting labyrinth resides in courtyard of St. Paul's Cathedral in Queen Anne. Open to the public 24/7. *Free.*

Central Library – Seattle Central Library downtown is an award winning contemporary architectural building (Rem Koolhaas) with glass walls, a spiraling bookcase that climbs 4 stories, and an incredible 10th floor reading room. *Free.*

The Center for Wooden Boats – Located on Lake Union, The Center for Wooden Boats is a non-profit maritime museum offering opportunities for boating, hands-on maritime learning, and volunteering. *Free entry, \$30-60/hour to rent a boat and free sailing rides each Sunday.*

Chapel of St. Ignatius – The project that put architect Steven Holl on the map. The Chapel of St. Ignatius is an award winning modern architectural triumph due to Holl's masterful considerations of light and color. *Free.*

Chihuly Garden and Glass – The artwork of Tacoma native and world-famous artist Dale Chihuly is showcased in this Seattle Center Exhibition. *\$30 with your King County zip code.*

Deception Pass – Deception Pass is a strait between Whidbey Island and Fidalgo Island. The bridge over Deception Pass offers spectacular views of the Skagit Bay and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The surrounding Deception Pass State Park offers hiking in old growth forests, camping, and both fresh and salt water activities. *Discover Pass if you visit the park.*

Discovery Park – Located in Magnolia, Discovery Park is 534 acres of tranquil beauty and healthy biodiversity. The park has tidal beaches, open meadow lands, dramatic sea cliffs, forest groves, active sand dunes, thickets, and streams. The 3-mile Loop Trail is an accessible trail for walking or running. *Free.*

Duwamish Longhouse – The *D̓k̓hʷ'ʷDuw'Absh* are the indigenous people who have lived in this area since long before the arrival of European settlers. Members of the tribe who are still living opened a longhouse and cultural center which is open to the public. *Free.*

Emerald City Trapeze Arts – Offering classes and workshops for anything you've ever seen at a circus. *\$30-\$68 for 2hrs.*

MoPOP Museum of Pop Culture – Paul Allen's museum dedicated to the history and exploration of contemporary popular culture. Galleries and interactive exhibits cover popular music, the art of fantasy, horror cinema, video games, science fiction literature and costumes from screen and stage. *\$27-\$35.*

FareStart – A Seattle non-profit that serves as culinary job training program for homeless individuals. Enjoy lunch at the FareStart Restaurant M-F, grab coffee, breakfast or lunch at a FareStart café, or take part in a virtual Guest Chef Night exploring a culinary theme or skill. *Menu prices vary. FareStart restaurant reservations recommended. Virtual Guest Chef Night free.*

Farmers' Markets – Most Seattle Neighborhoods have a farmers' market; many of them are year-round. Find fresh and tasty local produce/meats and get to know a vendor. *Free.*

Fermented Beverage Facilities – There are hundreds of breweries, wineries, and distilleries to visit. Some classics: Red Hook Brewery, Georgetown Brewing Co., Chateau St. Michelle Winery, Columbia Winery, Woodinville Whiskey Co., 2Bar Spirits.

Flaming Geyser State Park – About an hour from Seattle, this State Park has a flaming geyser (a burning methane seep), trails, salmon spawning, a river for inner tubing, and picnic tables.

Discover Pass Required.

Forks, Washington – Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the Olympic Mountains, this small community has experienced a swell in tourism ever since the publication of Stephanie Meyer's fantasy/romance novel, *Twilight*.

Cost of fuel. Forks Timber Museum \$3.

Franklin Falls (easy easy) and Denny Creek (easy) – Very accessible, **highly enjoyable** destination hikes off I-90. Aim to go on a weekday to avoid people. The two hikes start at trail heads next to each other.

Northwest Forest Pass.

Full Tilt Ice Cream – Full Tilt Ice Cream makes all natural ice cream and frozen desserts with as much creativity and local ingredients as possible. Featuring new and vintage arcade and pinball machines, an eclectic mix of sodas, an amazing mix of music, and some of the finest beers the Northwest has to offer. *~\$5 a scoop.*

Gas Works Park – Located in Wallingford, Gasworks Park is a popular destination for barbeques, picnics, kite flying, and viewing Lake Union and the Seattle skyline. Climb the hill and figure out the time using the human sundial. *Free.*

Georgetown – Located 5 miles south of downtown Seattle, Georgetown is Seattle's oldest residential neighborhood. Laura Cassidy of the *Seattle Weekly* described the prevailing aesthetic: "Creatively employing the open, airy brick-walled spaces left behind by industry and manufacturing, and augmenting them with local art and 20th-century detritus, Georgetown's merchants consistently fashion warm, imaginative interiors: places you want to visit and never want to leave. Just walking through the streets, you witness post-squat, industrial bohemian chic."

Georgetown Carnival - The Georgetown Carnival is a free, multidisciplinary arts festival held on the second Saturday of June. Colorful contemporary art complements traditional circus and performing arts in several venues throughout the neighborhood. Acrobats, stilt walkers, jugglers, creative carnival games and confections appeal to visitors of all ages. Interactive visual arts exhibitions combine with diverse music, theater, dance, literary and media arts in a wide variety of urban environments. *Free.*

GME Office's Peep Contest – Annual contest organized by the GME Office encouraging participants to create a diorama featuring the beloved Easter treat!

Golden Gardens – Located in Ballard, this sandy beach offers spectacular views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula, fire pits, and beach volleyball. Except for a small section of the trail that is missing in Ballard, biking along the Burke-Gilman trail is a fantastic way to get to the park. *Free.*

Green Lake Park – This park is encircled by a 2.8 mile trail and provides access to an abundance of recreational activities. *Free.*

Hat 'n' Boots – Hat 'n' Boots is a roadside attraction and landmark in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle. Built in 1954 as part of a Western-themed gas station, it is billed as the largest hat and cowboy boots in America. To preserve this landmark, the City of Seattle moved the Hat 'n' Boots to Oxbow Park in December 2003. *Free.*

Hoh Rainforest – Located about four hours from Seattle on the Olympic Peninsula in Olympic National Park, the Hoh Rainforest is one of the largest temperate rainforests in the world. A fabulous

destination for hiking, camping, and backpacking Pick up your permit, bear canister, or helpful info at the Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles on your way there.

Entrance to park fee (\$30/car) and permit fees (\$8+ depending on itinerary).

Hood Canal – Find adventures at [explorehoodcanal.com/things to do](http://explorehoodcanal.com/things-to-do).

Issaquah Salmon Days – Celebrate the return of the salmon with a festival. First full weekend each October. *Free.*

Kerry Park – A simple plot in Queen Anne with encompassing views of downtown Seattle, Elliott Bay, the West Seattle peninsula, Bainbridge Island, and Mount Rainier. *Free.*

Latte Art – Worthy Seattle baristas are capable of making incredible designs when pouring milk into espresso; Vivace Espresso has a photo gallery of celebrated pours.

Leavenworth – A small community nestled in the Cascades. Leavenworth skirted extinction after their logging industry faltered by remodeling itself as a tourist destination with a Bavarian motif. Access to all outdoor activities and fun Bavarian festivals and events throughout the year.

Light Reign – Entering this precisely designed space will heighten your awareness of light, sky, and perception. Visit when it is not raining. Located at the Henry Art Museum on the UW Campus.

Free with Husky Card.

Little Si – The hike up to the top of this hill is an easy hike that the whole family can do (5 miles round trip). Climbing and bouldering are in that area as well. Mount Si, next to Little Si, is an 8 mile round trip hike. Both trail heads are about 45 minutes from Seattle.

Discover Pass Required.

Magnuson Park Wetlands – Magnuson Park, a former naval airfield and landing strip, is a destination for sports and leisure. The wetlands located in the southeast section of the park are ringed with walking paths and benches. *Free.*

March to the Match with the Sound Wave – Arrive early and participate in one of the best traditions in American sports—the March to the Match. 60 min before Sounders FC kick-off, gather in Occidental Park for the music of the Sound Wave Marching Band. *Free.*

Seattle Mariners – Root, root, root for the Mariners and try some unique ballpark snacks, like a Seattle dog, vegan vegetable-mushroom bun, poutine fries, sushi, or toasted grasshoppers. *\$15-\$85.*

MOHAI – Museum of History and Industry. Explore Seattle's rich history and tradition told through objects and images. *\$20; first Thursdays free.*

Mt. Rainier National Park - At an elevation of 6,400 feet, Sunrise is the highest point that can be reached by vehicle at Mount Rainier National Park. A great starting point for day hikes through wildflower meadows with expansive views.

Entrance \$25/car + permits (\$10-\$25) depending on itinerary.

Mt. St. Helens – An active volcano that erupted in 1980 and continues to have small-scale activity in the crater. Go on some hikes and learn in the various visitors' centers and at the Johnston Ridge Observatory. *\$5-\$35 depending on itinerary.*

Museum of Flight – A hands-on museum dedicated to the history and phenomena of flight located south of Seattle. This is where you sit in the cockpit of a SR71 Blackbird. *\$21.*

Museum of Glass – A gorgeous and instructive museum/art gallery. *\$15.*

Northwest Trek – A 723-acre zoological park dedicated to conservation, education and recreation by displaying, interpreting and researching native Northwest wildlife and their natural habitats. The wildlife park is located an hour and twenty minutes south of Seattle. *Discount online tickets: Adult \$22, youth \$14. Front gate: \$25/\$17*

Olympic Coast – There are a string of beaches along the Pacific coast of the Olympic Peninsula that are teeming with tide-pool life, phenomenal sea stacks, and the mystical interface of wild ocean and rugged mountains. Suggested beaches to visit: Second Beach, Rialto Beach, or Shi-Shi Beach. Get helpful info at the Wilderness Information Center in Port Angeles on your way there. *Free or cost of permit depending on itinerary.*

Olympic Sculpture Park – A 9-acre outdoor sculpture museum and beach with walking trails in downtown Seattle. *Free.*

Pacific Science Center – Located in downtown Seattle, the Pacific Science Center is a hands-on, award-winning, science museum for kids and adults alike. Permanent and special, traveling exhibits, planetarium, Laser Dome, and IMAX movies. *\$25.95 general admission, non-member adult. Special exhibits, Laser Dome and IMAX cost extra.*

The Peace Arch – A monument situated on the border between the communities of Blaine, Washington and Surrey, British Columbia which commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814. *Free.*

Pike Place Market – A place of business for many Seattle-area farmers, craftspeople, and merchants, and a treasured Seattle landmark. The Market, which opened August 17, 1907, is one of the oldest continually operated public farmers' markets in the United States. *Free.*

Pipers Creek – Located within Carkeek Park, Pipers Creek drains to Puget Sound. Each year from mid-Nov to mid-Dec 100 - 600 adult chum salmon return to spawn. *Free.*

Point Roberts, Washington – This obscure peninsula—part of the mainland US but not physically connected to it—can be reached by land only by travelling through Canada. Point Roberts is roughly 2.5 x 2.5 miles and enjoys abundant sunshine. *Cost of transportation.*

Pow Wow – Throughout the year, there are numerous gatherings of Pacific Northwest Native Americans that the general public is invited to join. The SeaFair Indian Days Pow Wow at Discovery Park or the Pow Wows at the UW are extremely accessible to folks living in Seattle. *Free or \$5.*

Washington State Fair – Puyallup - September. Rides, livestock, handiwork, rodeo, Mutton Bustin', concerts, scones, corn dogs, onion burgers, elephant ears, 4H livestock competitions, face painting, pumpkin carving, and more. *\$13 admission plus \$0.50/ticket for rides (7-12 tickets per ride).*

Rat City Rollergirls – Non-stop flat track roller derby action: athleticism, glory, theatrics, stamina, completion, excitement, and fun...on roller-skates. *\$20.*

Races of note:

Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic (STP) – 200-mile bike race.
Ski to Sea – 90-mile relay from Mt Baker to Bellingham Bay. *Dawg Dash* – UW's 10K fund raiser – run with your mutt!
Seattle Marathon – Full, half and kids' marathon.
Torchlight Run – 5k & 8k runs thru downtown Seattle along the Torchlight Parade route.

SAM Downtown – Seattle Art Museum. A strong collection of modern and ethnic art as well as a constant stream of notable traveling exhibits. *Adult \$30, student \$20, under 14 free*

San Juan Islands – Sea kayaking, biking, orca-watching, beach combing, each island has its own feel and ample opportunity for rest and/or adventure. *Cost varies.*

Sandbox Sports – Seattle's only indoor beach volleyball venue! *Drop-in \$14/player*

SeaFair – Seattle's summer festival consists of a variety of small neighborhood events and several major city-wide events. The big events: The Torchlight Parade, hydroplane races, and the Blue Angels. *Cost of events vary from zero to \$30*

Skagit Valley Tulip Festival – During the entire month of April, just an hour north of Seattle, are endless fields of tulips and daffodils. A sight to behold. *Free.*

Snoqualmie Falls – A scenic 270 foot waterfall located about 45 minutes east of Seattle. At the falls, you will find a two-acre park, hiking trail, observation deck, and a gift shop. *Free.*

Social Dancing – Two options that can be quite fun:
Century Ballroom – A place mainly for salsa and swing, The Century Ballroom in Capitol Hill has opportunities for dancing every night of the week. They offer classes year round, as well as nightly opportunities to hit the ballroom dance floor. All levels of skill are welcome and present on any given evening. *\$9.*
Tractor Tavern – Usually a venue for concerts, the Tractor sets aside two Mondays a month for square dancing. *\$7.*

Seattle Great Wheel – Ferris wheel located on Pier 57, standing 175ft tall. *Adults (12+) \$14, youth \$9*

Seattle Outdoor Cinema – Running for about 12 Saturdays during the summer, attendees bring a picnic and lawn chairs then watch a movie under the stars. Gates open at 6pm. Best seats go by 8pm. Movies start at dusk. *Free.*

Seattle Sounders FC – Seattle's Major League Soccer team. Games boast the largest crowds in the MLS. *\$35-\$100.*

Space Needle – Seattle's most notable landmark provides visitors with a 360° view of the Seattle cityscape and surrounding land. *\$28 for a ride to the top; free ride with dinner.*

Sports teams – Soccer to dodge ball to kickball to volleyball, there are lots of recreational or competitive teams to play on.

St. Mark's Cathedral – On Sunday evenings at 9:30 p.m., a group of men chant the Office of Compline, the last monastic office of the day. An average audience of 500 packs the Cathedral each week for this meditative service. *Free.*

Stand-Up Paddle – Grab a wetsuit and hit the water (salt or fresh). Several Seattle shops offer lessons and rentals. *~\$15/hour board rental – \$60 for a two-hour lesson.*

Theo Chocolate Factory – Located in Fremont, Theo is the only organic, fair-trade, bean-to-bar chocolate factory in the USA. Sample traditional and original flavors of chocolate bars. *Tours are \$10 and include LOTS of tastes.*

Thunderbirds – The Seattle Thunderbirds are a junior ice hockey team. They are in the U.S. Division of the Western Hockey League and play in the ShoWare Center.

\$14-20.

Tiger Mountain – Just a half hour away, Tiger Mountain may be the most visited hiking area near Seattle. A popular year-round destination for runners and hikers alike, the main trail summit grants panoramic views of Seattle while other trails afford a simple retreat from the city. *Free.*

Troll; Fremont Troll – Piece of frequently photographed public art in Fremont. *Free.*

Underground Tour – The Seattle Underground is a network of underground passageways and basements near pioneer square that was ground level in the mid-1800s. After the streets were elevated, these spaces eventually fell into disuse, but have become a tourist attraction in recent decades.

~\$20

Uwajimaya – Founded in 1928, Uwajimaya is a family-owned supermarket/destination that sells mainly Asian food with an emphasis on Japanese. *Cost of groceries.*

Volunteer Park – Located in Capitol Hill, this 48.3 acre park is home to a Botanical Garden and Conservatory built in 1912 (*\$4*), a climbable water tower (*Free*), sound/city/mountain views (*Free*), and the Seattle Asian Art Museum (*\$7*).

Waterfront Activities Center – Rent a canoe or rowboat then paddle across the Montlake cut and through the arboretum or even to Madison Park Beach.

\$7/hour weekdays or \$9/hour weekends with Husky Card .

Woodland Park Zoo – Home to more than 300 different species of animals from insects to elephants.

Adults (13+) \$23, youth \$14

Young Street Bridge – Located in Aberdeen, this unofficial memorial and park dedicated to the memory and life of Kurt Cobain is visited by fans around the world. *Free.*

Zoolights – Every holiday season, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium lights up with more than half a million lights.

\$6-\$12

Restaurants

Seattle has tons of places to eat. Below is not a list of “the best” (what would that mean anyway?), rather these have made the list for reasons relating to uniqueness, funness, interestingness, ethnicness, reputation, or ease. Refer to urbanspoon.com or seattlemet.com for additional recommendations.

5 Spot (American, serves breakfast)

Araya's Place (Thai vegetarian/vegan)

Agua Verde (Mexican food and kayak rental)

Biscuit Bitch (great food, homemade)

Blue Moon Burgers (gourmet burgers)

Cedars Restaurant on Brooklyn (Indian)

Chiso (sushi)

Dick's Drive-In (burgers)

Ezell's Famous Chicken (fried chicken)

Flying Squirrel Pizza (yummy pizza)

George's Deli (Polish delicatessen)

George and Dragon Pub (English/Irish food and soccer)

Gorditos (Burritos the size of your face)

Herbfarm (several courses of local bounty)

Joule (French Korean)

Kabul (Afghan)

Kwanji Thai Hut (cozy easy Thai)

Lalibela Ethiopian Restaurant (Ethiopian)

LunchBox Lab (cardiac arrest on a bun)

Northlake Tavern & Pizza House

Maharaja in West Seattle (India)

Maltby Café (Breakfast)

Marination (Hawaiian-Korean fusion)

Marrakesh (Moroccan)

Musashi's (budget friendly sushi)

Paseo (Caribbean/Sandwiches)

Pink Door (Italian cuisine/whimsical)

Piroshki (Russian on the move)

Portage Bay Café (local, organic, sustainable)

Revel (Korean)

Salumi (Cured Meats/Italian)

Salvadorean Bakery (Salvadorean)

Skillet Street Food (grass-feed beef with bacon jam)

Sorrento/ Fireside Room (Classy Italian)

Tacos Guaymas (Mexican)

Tat's Delicatessen (East Coast Steaks & Subs)

Tutta Bella (Neapolitan Pizza)

Via Tribunali (Neapolitan Pizza)