# SEATTLE

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 - 2012



## The best places to eat, sleep and play in Seattle this fall and winter

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## INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



- I. "Before you go out, pick up a copy of one of the local free papers (The Stranger or Seattle Weekly) near the door of most coffee shops, and check out what's on the calendar."—TripAdvisor Member
- 2. "Covered shoes are a must! If you plan to head up to the mountains, you will definitely need waterproof clothing and thermals!"—TripAdvisor Member, Kailua, Hawaii
- 3. "Layers and waterproof clothing are important in Seattle."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle
- 4. "Near the ocean, the breezes can be quite chilly. I always find a hat or earband helpful."— TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

## Inside

## SEATTLE

Fall, winter and, let's be honest, spring are Seattle's rainy season, but a little water doesn't stop the locals. And it shouldn't stop you, either. With a vibrant cultural life, stunning vistas of Puget Sound, the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges and Mount Rainer, enough coffee to caffeinate several small nations, lots of outdoor activities (just bring some Gore-Tex) and world-class restaurants, Seattle doesn't slow down just because the clouds aren't cooperating.

Seattle is made up of a multitude of neighborhoods that each has its own distinctive character. Ballard, settled by Swedes, is the lutefisk center of Seattle, although gentrification has brought in many popular night spots. Capitol Hill is the young, hip section, with the largest gay population in the city. The U-district houses the campus of "U-Dub," while the Seattle Center (with the EMP museum and the Space Needle) is at the base of yuppie Queen Anne. Downtown's Belltown is the center of the bar scene. And Fremont gives new meaning to "funky liberal," with its Lenin statue, under-bridge Troll and its claim as the center of the universe—look for the signpost in downtown Fremont.

## Top VIEWS





### SEATTLE'S BEST VIEWS

"Great views from the **Smith Tower** across Seattle, including the waterfront, downtown, the Space Needle, the sports stadiums and three mountain ranges. The day I was up, you could see for 80 miles!"—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, England

Smith Tower, 506 Second Ave., Downtown, 206 622 4004

"Bring your binoculars and a map" to the **Space Needle** "to get a beautiful overview of Seattle. Blue skies, seaplanes, parasailing, cruise ships, Mount Rainier, Safeco Field, etc. Start here early in the morning to get a true perspective on the city."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Space Needle, Seattle Center, Broad Street and Fifth Avenue N., 206 905 2100

"Kerry Park offers some of the best views of Seattle. It's a must stop for taking a photo with Mount Rainer in the background."—
TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

Kerry Park, 211 W. Highland Dr., Queen Anne, 206 684 4075

Want more information on Seattle? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Seattle or any other destination you choose.

## Where to PLAY



## **TOP 10 Attractions**

- 1. Kerry Park, 211 W. Highland Dr., Queen Anne, 206 684 4075
- 2. Museum of Flight, 9404 E. Marginal Way S., 206 764 5720
- Pike Place Market, Between Pike and Pine streets at First Avenue, 206 682 7453
- 4. Bank of America Tower, 701 5th Ave. and Columbia St., 206 386 5151
- 5. Washington State Ferries, 2911 Second Ave., 206 464 6400
- 6. Safeco Field, 1250 First Ave. S., 206 346 4287
- 7. Space Needle, Seattle Center, Broad Street and Fifth Avenue N., 206 905 2100
- 8. Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, 3015 N.W. 54th St., Ballard, 206 783 7059
- 9. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 319 Second Ave. S., 206 220 4240
- 10. Discovery Park, 3801 W. Government Way, 206 386 4236



## **FAMILIES**

"Fremont is home to many wonderfully bizarre Seattle sights. The largest Fremont attraction is undoubtedly the Fremont Troll. Fremont also boasts a statue of Lenin, a neon rocket, dinosaur topiaries and much more that's certain either to delight or offend."—TripAdvisor Member

Downtown Fremont, Fremont, 206 632 1500

- "Seattle is very eco-minded, which may explain why Seattleites chose to recycle a turn-of-the-century oil refinery into a recreation area. **Gas Works Park** offers rolling grassy hills, picnic areas, a stunning view of downtown Seattle and a large collection of defunct industrial equipment."—TripAdvisor Member
- Gas Works Park, 2101 N. Northlake Way, 206 684 4075

The **Frye Art Museum** is "dedicated to the heavily 19th-century collection of Charles and Emma Frye, with provocative temporary exhibitions of contemporary art."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave., First Hill, 206 622 9250

"From **Northwest Outdoor Center** you can rent a family-friendly kayak. You can launch from the dock and enjoy a mild day of kayaking."—TripAdvisor Member

Northwest Outdoor Center, 2100 Westlake Ave. N., Suite 1, 206 281 9694

"...a beautiful and peaceful place!"

The Washington Park Arboretum "is such a beautiful and peaceful place! There are several paths to walk through the park, as well as a large grassy area in the middle for just relaxing."—
TripAdvisor Member, Kirkland, Wash.

Washington Park Arboretum, 2300 Arboretum Dr. E., 206 543 8800

#### **ROMANCE**

"The 30-minute **Ferry** ride," from downtown to Bainbridge Island, "is spectacular, with views of Mount Rainier, Mount Baker, the Olympic Mountains, passing ships and the Seattle skyline. The ferry docks in the quaint town of Winslow."—TripAdvisor Member, Vashon Island, Wash.

Ferry to Bainbridge, Washington State Ferries, 801 Alaskan Way, Pier 52, Downtown, 206 464 6400

## Where PLAY





### **BUDGET**

Elliott Bay Book Company "is vast, with around 150,000 books in stock at any given time." They also host about "250 readings a year. Everyone worthwhile drops by, and the vast majority of the readings are free of charge."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Elliott Bay Book Company, 1521 10th Ave., Capitol Hill, 206 624 6600

At Pike Place Market, you can "visit the original Starbucks, eat a piroshki a few doors down, watch the guys toss fish around and then grab a raspberry mazurka from Three Girls Bakery."—TripAdvisor Member, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.

Pike Place Market, Between Pike and Pine streets at First Avenue. Downtown. 206 682 7453

"The Ballard Locks is a must-see attraction. The water level between Lake Union and Puget Sound is lowered to let boats pass through. You find salmon ladders, where you can see salmon jumping up the steps in an effort to swim upstream."—TripAdvisor Member

Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, 3015 NW 54th St., Ballard, 206 783 7059



### **ADVENTURE**

'Our Evergreen Escapes guides were extremely knowledgeable and customized our trips. We traveled to San Juan Islands, Mount Rainier and Olympic National Park. The spots our guides picked were breathtaking, especially Lime Kiln State Park."—TripAdvisor Member, Florida

Evergreen Escapes, 900 1st Ave. S., 206 650 5795

"For a real experience, one of the first indoor climbing gyms in the country, called Stone Gardens, is located in Ballard. Or climb the Pinnacle at the downtown flagship REI store."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Stone Gardens, 2839 N.W. Market St., Ballard, 206 781 9828 REI, 222 Yale Ave. N., 206 223 1944

Rent a bicycle and hit one of the many trails in the area: the Burke-Gilman, the Sammamish River Trail, the I-90 Bridge, the Seattle Waterfront. "Despite the hills, Seattle is a bike town extraordinaire, and the town is littered with bicyclists!"— TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Montlake Bicycle Shop, 2223 24th Ave. E., 206 329 7333



## **EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL**

The Experience Music Project Museum has everything from "bluegrass to grunge. It is a hands-on experience. You can learn how to play the drums, the guitar, the keyboard or learn how to mix music. Then you can go into a soundproof room and play."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Experience Music Project Museum (EMP), 325 Fifth Ave. N., Seattle Center, 206 770 2700

The Museum of Flight is "one of the premier aviation museums in the United States. The collection includes a Boeing 707 once used as AirForce One, the first Boeing 747 and numerous military and civilian aircraft. Plus space exhibits such as the SpaceWalk simulator and the Spaceleep."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Museum of Flight, 9404 E. Marginal Way S., 206 764 5720

"Be sure to visit the astonishing Seattle Public Library. Walk around, ride the cool neon escalators and marvel at this huge, incredible structure and take in the views of the city. Be sure to bring your camera for some wonderful pictures."—TripAdvisor Member, Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Seattle Public Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., 206 386 4636

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



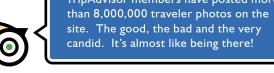
Volunteer Park Conservatory "is a secret greenhouse at the back of the park. I walked in and found lots of orchids and beautiful flowers. No one was around, and it was very quiet."—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

Volunteer Park Conservatory, Volunteer Park, 1402 E. Galer, 206 322 4112

"The Center for Wooden Boats rents classic canoes and wooden sailboats that are great for a lazy day on Lake Union—but you have to take a test to take one out."-TripAdvisor Member

Center for Wooden Boats, 1010 Valley St., Waterway 4, Lake Union, 206 382 2628

"...amazing views of the Sound and the Olympic mountains."



"Golden Gardens has everything—a boulevard to stroll, sand for building sand castles, a brisk breeze for kite flying, picnic tables, fire pits, a pier for fishing and amazing views of the Sound and the Olympic mountains."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Golden Gardens Park, 8498 Seaview Place N.W., 206 684 4075



## WHERE to eat





### **FAMILIES**

Kids will dig the Southern food at **Kingfish Café!** "The mac and cheese is some of
the best I've every had, and a trip would
NOT be complete without a slice of their
wonderful red velvet cake. It's SO good."—
TripAdvisor Member, Washington

Kingfish Café, 602 19th Ave. E., 206 320 8757 "Tutta Bella is family friendly and most definitely good value for money. Very tasty stone-baked pizzas and great fresh salads."—TripAdvisor Member, Liverpool, U.K.

Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria, 4918 Rainier Ave. S., 206 721 3501 Complete with kids' menu, "Ray's Cafe is informal and more for families than the restaurant is. The king crab was not only excellent quality but also great value for money."—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland

Ray's Cafe, 6049 Seaview Ave. N.W., Ballard, 206 782 0094

## **TOP 10 Restaurants**

- I. Beecher's Handmade Cheese, 1600 Pike Place, 206 956 1964
- 2. Pike Place Chowder, 1530 Post Alley, 206 267 2537
- 3. Toulouse Petit Kitchen, 601 Queen Anne Ave. N., 206 849 3602
- 4. Paseo Caribbean, 4225 Fremont Ave. N., 206 545 7440
- 5. Le Panier, 1902 Pike Place, 206 441 3669

- 6. Crumpet Shop, 1503 1st Ave., 206 682 1598
- 7. Poppy, 622 Broadway E., 206 324 1108
- 8. Salumi, 309 Third Ave. S., 206 621 8772
- 9. Lola, 2000 Fourth Ave., 206 441 1430
- 10. Skillet Diner, 1400 East Union St., 206 420 7297



### **ROMANCE**

Canlis "manages to make you feel like royalty. The huge fireplace when you walk in, the killer views over lake Union and the Cascades, the live piano music...."—
TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Canlis Restaurant, 2576 Aurora Ave. N., 206 283 3313

Restaurant Zoe is "small, intimate, with excellent creative food and the most attentive, knowledgeable staff—a perfect dining experience. The owner chef stops and chats with customers during the meal. What a treat!"—TripAdvisor Member, Las Vegas, Nev.

Restaurant Zoe, 2137 2nd Ave., Belltown, 206 256 2060

experience."

"...a perfect dining

"The atmosphere inside **Olivar** was welcoming and warm with rustic wood and hand painted murals on the walls. The food was so delicious and the portions were very generous for small plates."—TripAdvisor Member, Nyack, N.Y.

Olivar, 806 East Roy St., 206 322 0409



### **BUDGET**

The Vietnamese food at **Green Leaf** "was fresh, delicious, savory and well presented. Every dish that came out of the kitchen looked great. Prices are very reasonable."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver, British Columbia

Green Leaf Vietnamese Restaurant, 418 8th Ave. S., 206 340 1388 **Salumi**, only open for lunch, is "pretty darn good for a 'hole in the wall' Italian deli. I have been to Italy, and it ranks with the best in Rome and northern Italy."—TripAdvisor Member, Maryland

Salumi, 309 3rd Ave. S., Near Pioneer Square, 206 621 8772 "Paseo is just a hole in the wall in Fremont, but it's worth seeking out. Nothing prepared me for how good the sandwiches truly are. If I lived in Seattle, I would eat here every single day."—TripAdvisor Member, Fort Myers, Fla.

Paseo Caribbean Restaurant, 4225 Fremont Ave N., Fremont, 206 545 7440

"Every dish looked great."

## WHERE to eat





### **HEALTH-CONSCIOUS**

"Café Flora uses local produce and dairy in their menus and has many organic offerings. The variety of the vegetarian meals was outstanding."—TripAdvisor Member, Laurens, N.Y.

Café Flora, 2901 E. Madison St., Madison Valley, 206 325 9100

"Carmelita offers a fine-dining experience for the non-meat set. Offering interesting combinations of fresh organic and local fare with stunning presentation, the setting is romantic and intimate."—TripAdvisor Member

Carmelita, 7314 Greenwood Ave. N., Phinney Ridge, 206 706 7703

Vegans delight at **Bamboo Garden**. "Nothing on the entire menu has animal products, but you would be really hard pressed to tell on some of the dishes. If you like great Chinese food and want to try a vegetarian treat, definitely stop in."—TripAdvisor Member, LaConner, Wash.

Bamboo Garden, 364 Roy St., Queen Anne, 206 282 6616



### HIDDEN GEMS

**The Dish** is "a lovely little neighborhood restaurant. Nothing fancy or complicated, but wonderful, simple food in a pleasant, informal setting. Wonderfully friendly service—I got the impression that they really were happy to see me."—TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.

The Dish, 4358 Leary Way N.W., Ballard, 206 782 9985

"Try Place Pigalle if you're wandering through Pike's Market. The menu is limited, but delicious and fresh, fresh, fresh! The Alaskan scallops? Be still, my heart. The wine is unusual, delicious, and priced so that you can afford it. Nothing about this place doesn't work!"—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Place Pigalle Restaurant and Bar, 81 Pike St., 206 624 1756

At the **Pink Door**, "the service was very good, and the ambiance was wonderful. We sat on a beautiful outdoor terrace with a view of the harbor. Gorgeous!"—TripAdvisor Member, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Pink Door, 1919 Post Alley, Pike's Place Market, 206 443 3241

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Usher in the holiday season at the **Tree Lighting Celebration & Holiday Parade**, when Seattle lights up with thousands of lights, an enormous Christmas tree and fireworks. (November 25)

Tree Lighting Celebration & Holiday Parade, Westlake Center, 1601 5th Ave., 206 467 1600, http://www.westlakecenter.com

There's no better way to get to know a new place than by exploring twenty-six miles of city streets on foot. Join Seattle natives for the annual **Seattle Marathon**, taking runners along the shores of Lake Washington and past numerous city sights. (November 26-27)

Seattle Marathon, Half-Marathon and 5K, Various locations, 206 729 3660, http://www.seattlemarathon.org

Elliott Bay comes to life with music and lights during the **Christmas Ship Festival**, when nightly processions of ships cruise through the bay, lit up for the season and broadcasting music to onlookers on the banks. (November 26 – December 23)

Christmas Ship Festival, Various venues, 206 622 8687, http://www.argosycruises.com



Discover a winter wonderland at Seattle Center's **Winterfest**, five weeks of celebrations and entertainment, from ice skating and sculpting to concerts and bonfire parties. With numerous free or affordable activities, the festival provides a welcome reprieve from Christmas spending. (November 25 – December 31)

Winterfest, Seattle Center, 305 Harrison St., 206 684 7200

Join Seattle in celebrating all things improv during the **Festival of Improvisational Theater**, an annual four-day event featuring performances by over 15 different improv groups, along with teaching workshops and jam sessions. (February 15 – 19)

Seattle Festival of Improvisational Theater, Wing-It Productions, 5510 University Way N.E., 206 352 8291, http://seattleimprov.com

## Where STAY





### **FAMILIES**

"The staff at the **Residence Inn** was very accommodating, and we had a great balcony view! We enjoyed the pool, especially the three-foot deep kiddie pool, which was perfect for our daughter."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Residence Inn Seattle Downtown/Lake Union, 800 Fairview Ave. N., 206 624 6000



#### **ROMANCE**

"We stayed in the **Alexis**'s Pacific Northwest Ballet Suite, which was sunny and spacious, with a water view. The luxurious linens and Aveda products in the beautifully furnished suite were first rate."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Alexis Hotel, 1007 1st Ave., 206 624 4844



## **BUDGET**

The **Moore Hotel** "is a bargain, with some unexpected charm, such as marble stairs, redwood doors, claw-foot bath tubs and thin but decoratively folded towels."—
TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.

Moore Hotel, 1926 2nd Ave., Downtown, 206 448 4851



### **LUXURY**

"We loved, loved, LOVED the **Four Seasons**. Splurge for a room with a water view. It doesn't get more amazing that that!"—
TripAdvisor Member, Oak Harbor, Wash.

Four Seasons Hotel Seattle, 99 Union St., 206 749 7000



## **HIDDEN GEMS**

A magnificent Tudor mansion, exquisitely restored and ideally situated one block from Volunteer Park, the "majestic" **Shafer-Baillie Mansion** has "the civility of the past, yet is equipped with very modern conveniences. A crown jewel."—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, Conn.

Shafer-Baillie Mansion, 907 14th Ave. E., Capitol Hill, 206 322 4654

The Watertown Hotel is a relative newcomer to the University area. "With two small children, we weren't sure this beautifully appointed, upscale hotel was the best fit for us. Boy, were we pleasantly surprised! We had a fantastic time as a family. And with the 'speciality carts' the Watertown offers, the kids had plenty of fun activities."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

Watertown Hotel, 4242 Roosevelt Way N.E., Downtown, 206 826 4242

"My wife and I decided to stay in town for our anniversary and booked the **Pan Pacific**. We were upgraded to a suite, with a balcony and a great view. Just after we arrived, they sent up a great bottle of champagne and a card."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.

Pan Pacific Seattle, 2125 Terry Ave., 206 264 8111

"What a pleasure it was to stay at **Bed and Breakfast on Capitol Hill**—so handy to
the city. The owner is a delight, so helpful
and charming, nothing is too much trouble.
Prices are very low compared to similar
establishments nearby, so book now before
the owner catches on."—TripAdvisor
Member, Brisbane, Australia

Bed and Breakfast on Capitol Hill, 739 Broadway E., 206 325 5300

The room at the **Grand Hyatt Seattle** "was an absolute dream. From the huge windows in our room, we had a fantastic view of the bay, and we could also just see the top of the Space Needle."—TripAdvisor Member, Cheshire, U.K.

Grand Hyatt Seattle, 721 Pine St., Downtown, 206 774 1234

"At the end of a week in Seattle, I decided to splurge and spend the last night at **Greenlake Guest House**, overlooking Green Lake. The stately Craftsman house was beautifully decorated. The bedrooms were plush, spacious, and quiet. And who doesn't enjoy a spotless bathroom with heated tile floors and whirlpool bath?"—TripAdvisor Member, Houston, Texas

Greenlake Guest House, 7630 E. Green Lake Dr., North Seattle, 206 729 8700 "Our visit" to the **Fairmont** "could not have been more enjoyable. The kids each received a gift pack of books and toys, as well as a free roomservice offer of cookies and milk. The concierge staff cheerfully arranged excursions, as well as babysitting services."—TripAdvisor Member, Westcliffe, Colo.

The Fairmont Olympic Seattle, 411 University St., Downtown, 206 621 1700

"I recommend the **Inn at the Market** for a romantic getaway in an exciting city. We felt like VIPs. The view can't be beat in all Seattle. There's a wonderful balcony to watch a romantic sunset."—TripAdvisor Member, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Inn at the Market, 86 Pine St., Downtown, 206 443 3600

"That ol' Pacific Northwest rain won't dampen your stay in Seattle if you choose the right place to stay. On our first visit to this evergreen city we discovered the **Foxglove** sprouting up in Capitol Hill. This fabulously restored home is full of mission style furniture and wonderful collectibles"—TripAdvisor Member, California

Foxglove Guesthouse, 117 18th Ave. E., Capitol Hill, 206 328 4173

At **Hotel 1000**, you get a "beautiful view of the bay. Cozy bed, flat screen TV personalized with a welcome message. The bathroom is reason enough to rent a room here. R-o-m-a-n-t-i-c!"—TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.

Hotel 1000, 1000 First Ave., Downtown, 206 957 1000

"The **Mayflower** could not have been better. We had a package that included breakfast, chocolate and champagne, and late check out. I felt welcomed and pampered from the moment we pulled up. Every time I turned around someone wanted to open a door or carry my bags, but without being intrusive."—TripAdvisor Member, Redmond, Wash.

Mayflower Park, 405 Olive Way, 206 623 8700

## What's TOUR



## **How to Get Around**

"Downtown Seattle is a **ride-free zone**. Hop on any bus within downtown Seattle's central business district and you can ride within the downtown area without paying a fare. Bus stops within the ride-free zone are clearly marked with a Ride Free placard, and bus drivers announce when their buses are leaving the ride-free zone."—TripAdvisor Member

"A **light rail** train will take you from the airport to various stops downtown. Since Metro buses are free in the downtown area until 7PM, you could transfer to a bus and go all the way from the airport to your downtown hotel for \$2.50!"—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle

"Seattle traffic is notoriously ugly. **Rush hour** starts in the pre-dawn hours and doesn't let up until 8:00 P.M."— TripAdvisor Member

"If your travel plans will take you outside of downtown Seattle, you'll probably want to **rent a car**. Parking in downtown Seattle is reasonably priced, compared to other cities."—TripAdvisor Member

"Downtown Seattle is laid out on a grid, and is easy to **navigate on foot**. North-south streets have numbers; east-west streets have names. It's easy to figure out where you are if you remember this handy mnemonic: 'Jesus Christ Made Seattle Under Pressure.' The first letter in each word represents two adjacent streets, from south to north: Jefferson and James, Cherry and Columbia, Marion and Madison, Spring and Seneca, University and Union, Pike and Pine."—TripAdvisor Member



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