**Sample three-day itinerary**

**[Travel tip: Fly in at night or early morning so you can take advantage of a full day.]**

**Day 1: Things to do in and near Seattle**

* Morning
  + Grab a coffee at the original Starbucks in Pike Place Market.
  + Take a Market Experience tour (this one is typically ~$45).
  + Take a free two-hour Seattle 101 tour.
    - Travel tip: $20 per person is the general amount, but you pay what you want.
    - Make sure the tour times don't overlap.
  + If you don't take the tours, then check out the following on your own:
    - Fish mongers at Pike Place Fish Market.
    - Pike Place Gum Wall
    - Olympic Sculpture Garden OR Seattle Aquarium
    - Explore the Pike Place Market shops and eat lunch at one of the waterfront restaurants.
* Afternoon
  + Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum
  + Museum of Pop Culture
  + Take a harbor cruise or ferry over to Alki Beach Park and Lighthouse.
* Evening
  + Space Needle
  + Dinner at one of the waterfront restaurants.

**Day 2: Things to do in and near Seattle**

* Morning and Afternoon
  + Take a day trip to Woodinville Wine Country.
  + And/or: Take a craft beer brewery tour.
  + Enjoy lunch at one of the wineries or breweries.
* Evening
  + Explore Gas Works Park and stay for the sunset.
  + Try to find The Pink Door and enjoy dinner.

Day 3

* All Day
  + Day trip to North Cascades National Park or Snoqualmie Falls (or any of the recommended day trips from Seattle).
  + Travel to one of the suggested day trips to a national or state park.
  + Pack and designate Day 4 as a travel day.

**Top Things to Do in Seattle – Highlight Reel**

* [Pike Place Market](http://pikeplacemarket.org/)
  + Check out the fish mongers throwing fish at Pike Place Fish Market.
  + You can [sign up for a guided tour](https://www.seattlefreewalkingtours.com/) to hit all the hot spots at Pike Place Market. [I prefer the free ones where you pay/tip what you felt the tour was worth](https://www.seattlefreewalkingtours.com/). They're typically local guides and will provide great tips on what to do, see and eat (especially hidden gems).
  + First Ave and Pike Street, Seattle
* [Pike Place Gum Wall](https://unexpectedproductions.org/gumwall/)
  + Located just outside Pike Place Market on the Unexpected Productions Market Theater wall.
  + A sticky tradition that began in the mid-90s while people were waiting in line for a show.
  + 428 Post Alley, Seattle.
* [Original Starbucks](https://stories.starbucks.com/stories/2015/store-tour-inside-1912-pike-place-seattle-usa/)
  + Order your caffeine where the coffee craze started.
  + Expect a line.
  + 1912 Pike, Seattle.
* [Allstate Purple Purse Wall](https://www.northwestadvocacy.org/news/2018/9/18/purplepursemural)
  + Supports a foundation that focuses on [ending domestic violence through financial empowerment](https://allstatefoundation.org/what-we-do/end-domestic-violence/)
  + This is one of several commissioned murals in

U.S. cities.

* + Corner of E. Pike Street and 11th Avenue.
* [Capitol Hill Rainbow Crosswalks](https://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2019/06/chs-pics-rainbows-restored-in-pike-pine/)
  + Celebrates LGBTQ pride
  + One is located in front of the Purple Purse Wall
* [The Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum](https://www.chihulygardenandglass.com/)
  + Beautiful glass exhibits and garden displays
  + Located next to the Space Needle.
  + 305 Harrison Street, Seattle.
* [Space Needle](https://www.spaceneedle.com/)
  + 605 feet tall with 360-degree views
  + Built for the 1962 World's Fair.
  + Revolving glass floor at The Loupe Lounge – 500 feet above ground with great views.
  + Patio seating for great sunsets on an open-air covered lookout.
  + Next door is the Olympic Sculpture Park and Seattle Aquarium.
  + 400 Broad Street, Seattle.
* [Seattle Waterfront](https://visitseattle.org/neighborhoods/waterfront/)
  + Pike Place Market, Olympic Sculpture Garden, Seattle Aquarium and Space Needle are also considered part of the Seattle Waterfront.
  + Seattle Great Wheel
    - Each private gondola offers a four-course dinner.
  + Boat rides and tours – from 1-hour harbor cruises to overnight excursions to water taxis to ferries
  + Pier 66 offers great views. Pier 57 offers gift shops, tourist attractions and restaurants.
  + Nest Rooftop Bar at Thompson Hotel
  + Cool shops like Ye Olde Curiosity Shop (120+ years old)
  + 1301 Alaskan Way, Seattle.
* Take a brewery tour at one of the ~60 craft beer breweries (or at least check out their tap rooms depending on Covid policies).
  + Located throughout Seattle, check individual breweries for operational hours due to Covid as well as addresses.
    - Fair Isle Brewing
    - Lucky Envelope Brewing
    - Reuben's Brews
    - Stoup Brewing
    - Urban Family Brewing Company
    - Fremont Brewing
    - And more
* [Discovery Park](https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/discovery-park)
  + Largest city park in Seattle features 534 acres and 12 miles of walking trails – one that leads you to a lighthouse on the beach.
  + Sits on the shore of Puget Sound.
  + Home to one of the best ocean beaches in Seattle.
  + 3801 Discovery Park Blvd., Seattle.
* [Gas Works Park](https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/gas-works-park)
  + A former coal gasification plant was transformed into a beautiful park with gorgeous views of the Seattle skyline.
  + 2101 N. Northlake Way, Seattle.
* [MoPOP](https://www.mopop.org/)
  + Museum of Pop Culture
  + Exterior of the museum is also cool with thousands of panels that change colors and reflects light differently
  + Some pop culture exhibits:
    - Nirvana: Taking Punk to the Masses
    - Pearl Jam: Home and Away
    - Hendrix: Wild Blue Angel
    - Guitar Gallery
  + 325 5th Avenue North, Seattle.
* [Fremont Troll](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/p-patch-community-gardening/p-patch-list/trolls-knoll)
  + Quirky tourist attraction located under the Aurora Bridge.
  + Troll protects a garden designed to rehabilitate the area.
  + N. 36th Street in Seattle.
* [Kerry Park](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/kerry-park)
  + Best place to watch a sunset.
  + Also the opening credits of Grey's Anatomy of the Seattle skyline.
  + 211 W. Highland Drive.
* [Waterfall Garden Park at Pioneer Square](https://www.pioneersquare.org/experiences/waterfall-garden-park)
  + A hidden gem in Pioneer Square.
  + 219 2nd Ave. S., Seattle.
* [Alki Beach Park](https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/alki-beach-park)
  + Rated as one of the best ocean beaches in Seattle.
  + Bonfires on the beach.
  + Paved path.
  + Lots of ferries/boats in the area.
  + Alki Point Lighthouse is nearby.
  + 2665 Alki Avenue SW

**Top Places to Eat in Seattle**

* [Copacabana](https://www.pikeplacecopa.com/) near Pike Place Market offers great views.
  + Great views with best outdoor patio.
  + Bolivian cuisine.
  + Operational since 1964.
  + 1520 ½ Pike Place; Seattle.
* [Beecher's Handmade Cheese](https://www.beechershandmadecheese.com/visit-local-cafe)
  + A handmade cheese shop with a small bar café.
  + Known for its mac and cheese (so it's on my bucket list).
  + 1600 Pike Place; Seattle.
* [The Pink Door](https://www.thepinkdoor.net/) – Italian-American
  + No sign. Look for the pink door at 1919 Post Alley on the water side of Post Alley Promenade (Pike Place Market).
  + Typically features eclectic entertainment like trapeze, cabaret and tarot readings. However, Covid…
  + Reservations required.
  + 1919 Post Alley; Seattle.
* [How to Cook a Wolf](https://www.ethanstowellrestaurants.com/locations/how-to-cook-a-wolf/) sounds and looks intriguing.
  + Rustic, Italian/Mediterranean-inspired small plates, craft cocktails and wines.
  + Patio features heated and sheltered outdoor Wolf Dens; reservations required.
  + 2208 Queen Anne Ave. North, Seattle.
* One of my travel blogger colleagues recommends these seafood restaurants – of course, please check to make sure they're still in business after the pandemic.
  + [Pike Place Chowder](https://www.pikeplacechowder.com/)
  + [Elliot’s Oyster House](https://www.elliottsoysterhouse.com/)
  + [RockCreek Seafood](http://rockcreekseattle.com/)
  + [Duke’s Seafood](https://www.dukesseafood.com/)
  + [Ray’s Boathouse](https://www.rays.com/)
  + [Jack’s Fish Spot](https://jacksfishspot.com/)
  + [Seattle Fish Guys](https://www.seattlefishguys.com/)
  + [FOB Poke Bar](https://fobpokebar.com/)

**Top Day Trips from Seattle**

* [Woodinville Wine Country](https://woodinvillewinecountry.com/)
  + You'll find 130 wineries in this wine country.
  + Located in the scenic Sammamish River Valley.
  + Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery is the state's oldest that sits on 105 acres, pop-up mimosa bar, tasting room, outdoor concerts, estate tour, etc. You can even buy a bottle for the hiking trail.
  + Other top wineries in the area:
    - Patterson Cellars
    - Pondera Winery & Art Gallery
    - EFESTA
    - PicNic Table
    - Novelty Hill Januik
  + Located about a half-hour from Seattle. See wineries for specific addresses.
* [North Cascades National Park](https://www.nps.gov/noca/index.htm)
  + This national park is near the top of my bucket list.
  + You'll find some [beautiful trails for day hikes](https://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm).
  + Diablo Lake is stunning! The park is also home to several other lakes where you can go boating, kayaking. Ross Lake Resort offers boat rentals.
  + 810 State Route 20; Sedro-Woolley, Wash; located about one hour from Seattle.
* [Olympic National Park](https://www.nps.gov/olym/index.htm)
  + UNESCO World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve
  + Must take a ferry to reach Olympic National Park.
  + Lots of wildlife viewing opportunities (typically dawn and dusk; check at visitor center); stay at least 150 feet away.
  + Offers several [unique day hikes: temperate rain forest, mountains, lowland forests, coastal](https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/day-hiking-at-olympic.htm).
  + Most popular tidepools on the coast: Kalaloch's Beach 4; Mora's Hole in the Wall; Second Beach; Third Beach; Ruby Beach.
  + 3002 Mount Angeles Road; Port Angeles, Wash.; located about 2.25 hours from Seattle.
* [Mount Rainier National Park](https://www.nps.gov/mora/index.htm)
  + Active 14,410-ft. volcano features glaciers and rivers of ice.
  + Sunrise is the highest point in the park that you can reach by car and offers the best view of Mount Rainer. You'll also find a visitor center here.
  + Several [day hike trails](https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/day-hiking-at-mount-rainier.htm) leading to glaciers, lakes and meadows.
  + Charming historic National Park Inn right in the park.
  + 97% of the park is considered wilderness – definitely a place to disconnect and embrace nature.
  + Located ~1.5 hours from Seattle.
  + 55210 238th Avenue East, Ashford, Wash.
* [Snoqualmie Falls](https://www.snoqualmiefalls.com/)
  + 270 feet tall with easy hiking trail and viewing areas
  + Located 30 minutes from Seattle
  + 6501 Railroad Avenue SE, Snoqualmie, Wash.
* [Leavenworth, Wash](https://www.experiencewa.com/cities/leavenworth).
  + On my bucket list.
  + Bavarian town where you'll feel like you're in Germany with beautiful mountain backdrop.
  + Nutcracker Museum (we collect nutcrackers so that's another draw for us).
  + [Also a beautiful fall foliage scenic drive](https://www.experiencewa.com/articles/washingtons-best-fall-drives).
  + Located about 2 hours from Seattle.
* [San Juan Islands](https://www.visitsanjuans.com/)
  + Looking for a Caribbean feel, check out San Juan Islands.
  + 172 islands; but four reachable by ferry: San Juan, Orcas Island, Lopez Island, Shaw Island.
  + If you're feeling adventurous, you could rent a seaplane to the island.
  + Home to several state parks with hiking trails.
  + Whale-watching and wildlife tours.
  + If you're looking for unique lodging, they offer [farm stays on the islands](https://www.visitsanjuans.com/farm-stays).
  + Located about 2 hours from Seattle.
* [Mount St. Helens](https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/giffordpinchot/recreation/recarea/?recid=34143)
  + You can view Mount St. Helens from the west, east or south side.
  + Easy to rugged hiking trails in Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
  + Johnson Ridge Observatory offers interpretative displays and great views (temporarily closed).
  + Located about 2.5-3 hours from Seattle.
  + 24000 Spirit Lake Highway, Toutle, Wash. (Observatory)
  + 3029 Spirit Lake Highway, Castle Rock, Wash. (Visitor Center)
* [Vashon-Maury Island](https://www.vashonchamber.com/visiting-vashon/)
  + Peaceful and charming island with a lighthouse.
  + Beautiful beaches.
  + Boutique shops and restaurants.
  + 13 miles long; 8 miles wide with 45 miles of shoreline.
  + Lots of water activities.
  + The only way to get to the island is by ferry (by car, bus or foot).
  + Short 20-minute ferry ride from Fauntleroy (West Seattle) terminal.
* [Vancouver, BC](https://www.tourismvancouver.com/)
  + IF Canada's borders are open up to the U.S.
  + Only 2.5-hour drive from Seattle.
* [Palouse Falls State Park](https://parks.state.wa.us/559/Palouse-Falls)
  + 94-acre park features a 200-ft waterfall (with three viewing platforms).
  + Remote area with the only thing to do is to admire nature's beauty; it does appear you can swim at the falls, weather-permitting
  + One-day pass: $10.
  + Only hiking trail is to the falls (very short).
  + Parking is limited; get there early.
  + The park has Covid-19 restrictions in place so [check their website](https://parks.state.wa.us/559/Palouse-Falls) for the latest information.
  + Palouse Falls Road, LaCrosse, Wash.; located about 4 hours from Seattle.
* [Pacific Northwest (PNW) Bus](https://butfirstgiftshop.com/how-to-find-that-pnw-bus-washtucna-washington/)
  + Abandoned bus used to store crop dusting materials.
  + The Heritage Museum in Washtucna purchased the bus.
  + Now a roadside attraction and popular on Instagram.
  + It's got a hippy vibe so I thought of you. 😊
  + It's on the way to Palouse Falls; 633-641 Main Street, Washtucna, Wash.; located about 3.5 hours from Seattle.

**Top Luxury Boutique Hotels to stay in Seattle**

These are consistently ranked as the best luxury boutique hotels in Seattle.

* [Inn at the Market](https://www.innatthemarket.com/)
  + #2 of 117 hotels in Seattle
  + The only hotel located directly in the Pike Place Market.
  + Great views of Seattle's waterfront, the Puget Sound, downtown, Pike Place Market and Olympic Mountains.
  + Massage and salon
  + Rooftop terrace with panoramic views of Pike Place Market and sunset views of ferries crossing Puget Sound
  + Sun deck with great sunset views overlooking
  + Special packages available including romantic reconnect for couples package, market brewery package, massage package, Pike Place Fish experience (they throw your prized seafood and ship it home), and more.
  + 86 Pine Street, Seattle.
* [Alexis Royal Sonesta Hotel](https://www.sonesta.com/us/washington/seattle/alexis-royal-sonesta-hotel-seattle)
  + #6 of 117 hotels in Seattle
  + Historic hotel built in 1901
  + Nightly wine reception (although their onsite bar and restaurant is currently closed due to Covid).
  + Aveda spa services such as massage, stone and nature massages, facials, etc.
  + Fitness center features a rock-climbing wall.
  + Shops at Alexis boutique shopping.
  + Complimentary bicycles
  + Convenient walk to the Seattle Waterfront, Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market.
  + 20% off when you stay 3 nights or more.
  + 1007 First Avenue, Seattle.
* [Hotel Ballard](https://www.hotelballardseattle.com/)
  + #7 of 117 hotels in Seattle
  + Located in historic Ballard neighborhood with unique shops and eclectic restaurants.
  + Only 29 luxury guestrooms
  + Rooftop terrace with outdoor fireplace
  + Athletic club and full-service day spa.
  + Year-round farmers market is steps away (open on Sundays).
  + Offers special rates on 3 and 5 nights or liking them on social media (promo code: LIKE).
  + 5216 Ballard Ave. NW, Seattle
* [Boatyard Inn in Langley, Wash](https://www.boatyardinn.com/).
  + This is about an hour from Seattle on Whidbey Island (it's on my bucket list).
  + Located in northern Puget Sound, the island is 40 miles long and 2 miles across.
  + Suites and two-story waterfront lofts with private deck with views of Cascade Mountains and Saratoga Passage.
  + Private beach.
  + Whale-watching, kayaking, paddle boarding.
  + 200 Wharf Street, Langley, Wash.