

Get it. Do it. See it.

guide

TOTALLY WIRED

Tech, coffee and live music still keep the dream of the '90s alive in Seattle.

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Find the indie crowd at Neumos.

Do it

Here's a little secret: Seattle doesn't actually want you to know how cool it is. Locals are happy to stay hidden behind the incessant stereotypes about bad weather, "Easy Like Sunday Morning" dad vibes and all those quintessential, mass-produced relics of the '90s: Starbucks, Microsoft, Amazon, grunge music, the invention of outdoor apparel and *Frasier*. After all, if everyone knew that it was a city filled with underground tunnels, a ridiculously diverse food scene, incredible local art and music, countless museums and pristine nature, the masses would descend immediately. Whoops—looks like the secret is out.



Rare treasures can be found at BLMF Literary Saloon at Pike Place Market.



Take a selfie at the delightfully disgusting Gum Wall.

Compared with high-volume festival and party destinations like Las Vegas and Miami, the sleeping giant of the Pacific Northwest is essentially the polar opposite: This place is all about the aggro-chill. Pounding the terrain or cycling through three national parks, five national forests, endless mountain ranges, lakes, streams and rivers means plenty of places to veer off the beaten path into nature. It's safe to say you could live in Seattle your whole life and still not see it all.

If you want to leave the outdoorsy stuff as a picturesque backdrop, there's an abundance of cultural attractions to keep you centered in the city. With access to super-fresh seafood, farm-to-table produce and a diverse immigrant population, Seattle is among the best food cities in the country. Along with its incredible wine, the city is blessed to have a craft brewery around just about every corner, with more than 150 at last count. But beer isn't the only craft in town. Ditch the round-the-block lines of tourists at the original Starbucks; there's a whole world of barista culture here that gave rise to it all. This is the place that pioneered latte art, pushed the boundaries of pour-overs and still retains that homegrown attitude of its former punky art-café days.

For decades, the Pacific Northwest has been an off-the-radar hub for some of the world's most iconic musicians. Sordid burlesque goddess Gypsy Rose Lee, folk pioneer Woody Guthrie and guitar god Jimi Hendrix all got their starts here. Notorious grunge kings Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Mudhoney once ruled the streets, alongside indie-rock label Sub Pop, which later



gave birth to acts like Modest Mouse, Sunny Day Real Estate and the Postal Service. (The label has its own record-store outpost right inside the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.) But the scene isn't dead. Seattle still brings in national headliners and up-and-coming acts at venues of all sizes throughout the city, and it's the best place to tap the undiscovered talent of tomorrow.

Sure, visiting the Space Needle, Pike Place Market and Chihuly Garden and Glass are all tourist essentials. But there's so much more that makes this city effortlessly cool. Here's how to tackle it all.



Seattle Mountain Bike Tours offers an 8-hour tour through the city's best nature spots.

Take a Hike

If you're not used to uphill battles, expect to work up a sweat climbing the steeper streets near downtown Seattle. That said, it's much more rewarding to end with a view, so pack your hiking boots and spend an afternoon trekking the trails at Rattlesnake Ledge, Mount Si or Mount Rainier. Rattlesnake Ledge may be the easiest, a 4-mile round trip ascending to 2,078 feet. Mount Si is considered the most popular, albeit a more challenging 8-mile round trip to 3,900 feet. As far as bucket-list items go, however, Mount Rainier National Park is one you'll

have to plan for: There are more than 260 miles of trails amid forests, lakes and a network of glaciers.

Roll with It

Want to live like a local? Grab some wheels. Biking is a way of life in Seattle, so expect to share the road. In fact, Seattle's Fremont Bridge logged a whopping 1.18 million rides last year, according to the city's automated bike counters. For an impromptu trip, hop on at one of the area bike-share stops, which have locations conveniently scattered throughout the city. Soak up the best of coastal nature and

city sights via the 8.5-mile Seattle Waterfront Pathway, which offers smooth pavement and endless views of the Elliott Bay shoreline. If you have the stamina for something a little more challenging, sign up for an 8-hour mountain bike tour with Seattle Mountain Bike Tours for a city-nature sampler platter. For a more curated small-group day, explore the region's most gorgeous outdoor attractions, including Olympic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, Yakima Valley Wine Tasting and Mount St. Helens Volcanic National Monument, via Evergreen Escapes.

Want to live like a local? Grab some wheels. Biking is a way of life in Seattle, so expect to share the road.

Do it



Skip the Starbucks and enjoy the barista scene at Victrola Coffee Roasters.

coffee roasters; Victrola Coffee Roasters, a 20-year veteran with multiple locations; and Bauhaus Strong Coffee, a scrappy OG of Seattle's indie caffeine scene. When you're ready for a wind-down, plan your own DIY craft-beer crawl at coveted breweries like Cloudburst Brewing, Stoup Brewing, Reuben's Brews, Elysian Brewing and Fremont Brewing Company—all of which feature brag-worthy hops. If you've got a crew, head to the Queen Anne Beerhall, which has 7,000 square feet to spread out with your beer-geek brethren while munching on Bavarian snacks and sipping some of its 60 brews.

a pilgrimage for any self-respecting foodie. Anchoring Seattle's downtown, this sprawling multilevel market is packed with a beautiful array of restaurants, bars and artisan makers hawking produce, meats, specialty foods and arts and crafts. Even the fishmongers are delightful. Pike Place Fish Market is best known for its fish-throwing tradition, dating back to the 1930s; you can even sing a little ditty while they toss the fish back and forth. Or shove some south in your mouth at Biscuit Bitch,



that has been holding it down for Seattle's grungiest hipsters since 1991, still brings a hot lineup that includes GZA, the Reverend Horton Heat and Hot Water Music.

Hone Your Craft

Between its endless pour-overs and pints, Seattle is a city all about its craft culture. A whole day can be spent hopping among barista- and coffee-snob-approved coffee shops like La Marzocco, a permanent coffee incubator featuring a rotating lineup of

Eat Your Heart Out

There's a reason Pike Place Market remains one of the top attractions for visitors and tourists alike, drawing 10 million visitors annually—it's

Between its endless pour-overs and pints, Seattle is a city all about its craft culture.

See a Show

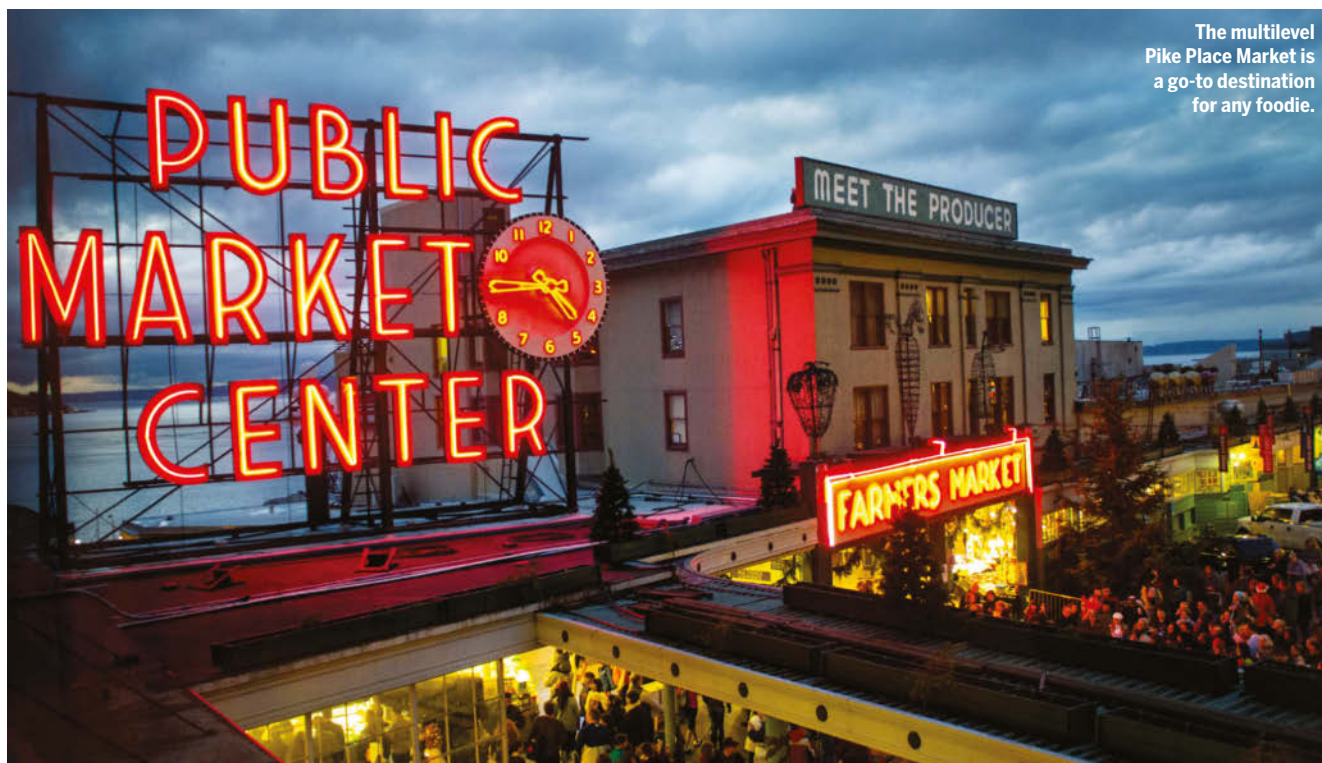
Grunge might be dead, but Seattle's music scene is very much alive. Virtually every genre from national touring acts to folk, punk, hip-hop and indie can be found in this iconic music city that birthed the careers of so many beloved musicians. Stadium headliners like Pearl Jam and Foo Fighters, along with coveted indie bands like Thundercat and Best Coast, have all graced the stage at the Showbox, a stunning historic art deco theater situated right near Pike Place in downtown Seattle.

Capitol Hill's indie crowd can be found at venues like Neumos and Barboza, best known for its dance parties, trivia nights and live shows featuring acts like the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Vampire Weekend. The Crocodile, a long-running indie-rock club



The interior of the Showbox, a historic art deco theater in downtown Seattle.

The multilevel Pike Place Market is a go-to destination for any foodie.



lovingly dubbed “trailer park to table.” And if you love gourmet cheeses, charcuterie, imported snacks and wine, spend some time shopping DeLaurenti Food & Wine. If you still have room, walk a few blocks down to Pier 55 along the waterfront, where you can pay respect to one of the inventors of Seattle clam chowder at Ivar’s Acre of Clams.

Go Deep Underground

Seattle has its own subterranean secret nestled in the heart of its most bustling Pioneer District: the preserved ruins of a city that once was. Winding tunnels interconnect within an underground lair of historic passageways and basements dating back to the 19th century. The tunnels are the entombed street-level walkways of the city from its frontier days before the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, which you can explore on foot via Bill Speidel’s Underground Tours, a landmark attraction operating since 1965.

Get Weird

Outsider art is everywhere in Seattle—from the beautifully repulsive Gum Wall, speckled with a technicolor myriad of wadded-up balls of gum, to the Fremont Troll, an 18-foot concrete bridge-troll sculpture erected by four local artists. Brush up on the history of tattoo culture, horror films, *Minecraft*, indie games and science fiction at MoPop, aka the Museum of Pop Culture, featuring a vast interactive playground for the culturally obsessed. Head to the Seattle Pinball Museum, where you can have unlimited play on restored machines dating back to the 1960s while drinking pints of craft beer. And if you’re really into truly terrible kitsch, there’s even a museum for that. The Official Bad Art Museum of Art (OBAMA), located within Cafe Racer, is where you can check out terrible visuals hardly categorized as “art,” grab a bite, then catch a show at this museum/café/event space.



Enjoy unlimited play on restored machines at the Seattle Pinball Museum.



MoPop: The Pearl Jam exhibit includes 200 artefacts from band members.