



THIS MONTH
Seattle

Forget the rain—Seattle has stunning views, cheap eats, and great music

GETTING THERE

TRAIN: Amtrak (www.amtrak.com; 800-872-7245) trains stop at King Street Station, located just south of downtown, near Safeco Field, home of the Seattle Mariners.

PLANE: Most major airlines (and smaller carriers like JetBlue) fly into Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, known as Sea-Tac

(www.portseattle.org/seatac/). From there, a cab ride to downtown Seattle will cost about \$30 and take about a half-hour, depending on traffic.

BUS: Greyhound has its own terminal at 811 Stewart Street. Check out www.greyhound.com, or call 800-231-2222.

CAR: Plan your trip on www.mapquest.com.

5 Things You Must Do

1 Ascend 520 feet to the observation deck of the Space Needle, Seattle's signature landmark. The revolving SkyCity restaurant is perennially voted as the city's most romantic.

2 Visit the gorgeous new Central Library, an 11-floor, 362,987-square-foot avant-garde marvel, designed by famed Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and built at a cost of \$169 million.

3 Spend an afternoon kayaking on Lake Washington or Lake Union.

4 Inhale deeply as you stroll through the Washington Park Arboretum (not pictured on map), where there are more than 4,000 species of trees and flowers over 230 acres. Guided walks are held the first and third Sundays of each month at 1 P.M.

5 Head to Capitol Hill's Volunteer Park for its Noguchi sculpture and spectacular sunset views of Puget Sound and downtown. Just west is Lake View Cemetery, home to the graves of martial arts film star Bruce Lee and his son Brandon.

AVOID

Stay away from the touristy Pioneer Square historic district and most of its cheeseball clubs, at least on nights and weekends. This is where grunge bands go to...well, not die, but to live on, like vampires, never again to see the light.

FUN FACT

The term *skid row* originated in the Pioneer Square district when loggers built wood skids to move cut logs from the top of Yesler Way down to the waterfront, marking a dividing line between the "respectable" downtown and the sketchier area to the south.



SLEEP

6 MOORE HOTEL

1926 Second Avenue
206-448-4852

www.moorehotel.com

Budget-minded travelers have been bunking at this clean, spartan hotel since 1907, and you won't find a better price for this location—two blocks from the famed nine-acre Pike Place Market. Rooms with a shared bath start at \$50; rooms with private bath start at \$65. Be sure to stop by Nitelite—a genuine dive bar down-stairs—for a stiff drink. ★★★

7 CAPITOL HILL INN

1713 Belmont Avenue
206-323-1955

www.capitolhillinn.com

Capitol Hill has ethnic shops and restaurants, the city's most lively bars and clubs, and is the center of the local gay community; it's the ideal spot to make your base. This well-priced, four-story inn offers double rooms with private baths for \$98. Queen-bed rooms start at \$129, but for just \$40 more, you get a jacuzzi and fireplace. There's a complimentary full breakfast every morning, and the homemade cinnamon French toast is delicious! ★★★

8 HOTEL ÄNDRA

2000 Fourth Avenue
206-448-8600

www.hotelandra.com

Located in the Belltown district—known for its progressive art and music scene—this stylish boutique hotel, built in 1926, has a classic brick and terra cotta facade and Scandinavian-designed interior. All rooms (starting at \$209) have wireless high-speed Internet and luxurious Icelandic blue bathrooms. Plus, it's just a few blocks from Pike Place Market, which, though packed with ten million visitors a year, demands at least one visit. ★★★



EAT

9 DICK'S DRIVE-IN

115 Broadway East
206-323-1300

www.ddir.com

The best burger joint in town

is open late (2 A.M.), and it's cheap, too—you can score a burger, fries, and soda for under \$10. The best beef on the menu is the Dick's Deluxe: a big double patty, topped by condiments galore, and a steal at \$2.40. The only drawback? No booze. ★★★

10 IVAR'S ACRES OF CLAMS

1001 Alaskan Way, Pier 54
206-624-6852

www.ivars.net

Ivar's started out as a small seafood bar in 1938 and has grown to three restaurants. This one is the best, right on the waterfront, with a gorgeous view of Elliott Bay. Indulge in the ginger-spiced wild salmon cakes (\$9), or try the classic fish and chips (\$11). The service is always friendly, and the atmosphere laid-back. ★★★

11 CRAVE

1621 12th Avenue
206-388-0526

www.cravefood.com

Open from 7 A.M. until 11 P.M. every day. Start the morning with Mom's Overnight French Toast (\$7)—sour-dough bread soaked, yes, overnight in orange custard, served with blue cheese butter and real maple syrup. Everything on the menu is inventive—call it comfort food with a twist—including the Madame Crave, a sandwich of fried egg, prosciutto, sweet-hot mustard, and Jarlsberg cheese on toasted brioche (\$7). ★★★★★

12 BIMBO'S BITCHIN' BURRITO KITCHEN

506 East Pine Street
206-329-9978

This kick-ass burrito joint has a bright pink exterior and funky decor. Tacos are \$3, and the generously stuffed burritos come basic (\$4.75), with black or refried beans, or for \$7.50, with your choice of herb-roasted chicken, peppered shredded beef, or garlic-roasted potatoes. ★★★



DRINK

13 THE WAR ROOM

722 East Pike Street
206-328-7666

www.thewarroomseattle.com

This former gay bar is a low-lit lounge with fresh flowers,

wood paneling, politically themed murals, and a DJ spinning house, reggae, and hip-hop. Local bands perform as well. During happy hour, head up to the rooftop patio and sip a \$2 beer. ★★★

14 BARÇA

1510 11th Avenue
206-325-8263

www.barcaseattle.com

The imposing giant wooden front doors signal this bar's sense of heightened drama. The curvy, hand-tiled mosaic bar, wrought-iron rail work, moss-green seating, and blood-red walls deliver on that promise. But there's substance to the splashy surface: The vodka bar upstairs has the largest selection of premium vodkas in the state (100-plus, from all over the world), as well as nearly two-dozen imported beers on tap. ★★★

15 GARAGE

1130 Broadway Avenue
206-322-2296

garagebilliards.com

Built in 1928 as an auto-repair shop, this Capitol Hill hangout offers 20 regulation pool tables, and during happy hour you can play for just \$5 an hour. Bowling rates vary, but you can savor anything from beer to champagne while you play. The food menu is surprisingly good and cheap. ★★★

16 FU KUN WU AT THAIKU

5410 Ballard Avenue NW
206-706-7807

This Thai restaurant (not pictured) has excellent food, but be sure to check out the almost hidden cocktail lounge, where the infamous yohimbe mojito is served, a drink said to have induced absinthe-like hallucinations. Happy hour is 5 to 7 P.M. ★★★

17 CHA CHA LOUNGE

504 East Pine Street
206-329-9978

The sign on the door announces: IF YOU ARE RACIST, SEXIST, HOMOPHOBIC, OR AN ASSHOLE, DO NOT COME IN. With a kitschy Mexican theme similar to its burrito-rolling neighbor—red patio lights, sombreros, and old paintings—the Cha Cha is so bustling and vibrant you'll hardly notice the mediocre \$4.50 margaritas. ★★★



SHOP

18 GOODS

1112 Pike Street
206-622-0459

www.needgoods.com

Vintage and limited-edition sneakers abound—Puma, Adidas, Nike, Reebok, Vans, and more, with a price range from \$35 to \$200. There's also the Goods clothing line, with T-shirts, hoodies, jackets, and denim. The store was founded in 2003 by four sneaker-obsessed friends who were huge fans of skateboarding culture, and it's a shrine to both, with a passionate, knowledgeable staff. ★★★

19 SONIC BOOM RECORDS

514 15th Avenue East
206-568-2666

www.sonicboomrecords.com

At Seattle's best music store, the focus is indie: The Flaming Lips, Band of Horses, the Fiery Furnaces, and Neko Case are store favorites. They've got an impressive stock of small-label releases, and the Fremont location has a vinyl annex in the basement. ★★★★★

20 RED LIGHT

312 Broadway East
206-329-2200

www.redlightvintage.com

The city's largest vintage-clothing store is no ordinary thrift shop; it's outlandishly, proudly out there, stocking everything from Bakelite jewelry to 1970s roller skates, rock T-shirts, lunch boxes, and stilettos. ★★★



SEE

21 EXPERIENCE MUSIC PROJECT

325 Fifth Avenue North
206-770-2702

www.emplive.org

This garish, Frank Gehry-designed music museum is a nostalgic trip through American pop music, the collection includes original lyric sheets from Kurt Cobain; Eddie Van Halen's custom-painted electric guitar; stage costumes of Eminem and Stevie Nicks; Bob Dylan's harmonica; and the contract Seattle-native Jimi Hendrix

signed when he performed at Woodstock. ★★★



SURF

22 AURAFICE INTERNET & COFFEE BAR

616 East Pine Street
206-860-9977

www.aurafice.com

With its indie art gallery, this is a popular boho haven. Catch up on e-mail for \$6 an hour until midnight, seven days a week. ★★★



HEAR

23 THE SHOWBOX

1426 First Avenue
206-628-3151

www.showboxonline.com

Founded in 1939, this landmark club has hosted musicians from the Jazz Age (Duke Ellington) through punk (Ramones), right up to Pearl Jam, Modest Mouse, and Cat Power. It's the finest music venue in town. ★★★★★

24 NEUMO'S

925 East Pike Street
206-709-9467

www.neumos.com

Unlike many smaller live-music clubs, here you'll have an unobstructed view of the stage from wherever you stand. Bookings are eclectic: Ladytron, José González, and Team Dresch have all graced the stage. Expect it to be as hot as a sauna. ★★★

25 THE CROCODILE CAFE

2200 Second Avenue
206-441-5611

www.thecrocodile.com

Also known as the Croc, there's more to it than music: cheap beer and a hearty weekend breakfast—huge omelettes, plus the signature Crocodile (Bloody) Mary. Folkie Denison Witmer and bands such as the Stills and the U.K.'s Magic Numbers have played here. ★★★

26 CHOP SUEY

1325 East Madison
206-324-8000

www.chopsuey.com

Expect a mix of hip-hop, indie-rock, techno, and house acts. Though the dance floor is great, the layout isn't ideal for watching a live show. ★★★