

Seattle Excursions



Photo: Doug Orton

Half-Day Excursions

Winery and Brewery Tours

Some of the state's largest wineries and breweries are located in Woodinville, a 35-minute drive from Seattle. These include Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery, Columbia Winery and Redhook Ale Brewery. The Gray Line of Seattle Grapes & Hops Tour explores these attractions. Cheers!

Sea Kayaking

Paddle Seattle. Rent sea kayaks by the hour from the Northwest Outdoor Center on Lake Union, just north of downtown Seattle. Sights include the city's formidable houseboat communities, lakeshore restaurants, the Center for Wooden Boats and dramatic views of the city. Guided tours are also available.

Bicycling

Peddle Seattle. Seattle has been ranked among the top five destinations for bicycling by Bicycling magazine. Travelers can see many of the city's top visitor attractions by renting bikes by the hour. Or, take a half-day guided sightseeing tour; itineraries feature popular neighborhoods and attractions such as Discovery Park, Ballard Locks, Green Lake, Washington Park Arboretum and Myrtle Edwards Park.

Snoqualmie Falls

More than a hundred feet higher than Niagara, Snoqualmie Falls beckons visitors from Seattle, just 25 miles down the highway. The Salish Lodge is perched near the top of the falls, offering fine dining, a relaxing spa and four-star lodging. Hiking, canoeing and horseback riding are nearby.



Photo: John Marshall

Full-Day Excursions



Mount Rainier

Just a two-hour drive south of Seattle, this breathtaking mountain is the highest peak in the Northwest at an elevation of 14,411 feet. Gray Line Sightseeing offers a guided day tour to the visitor center located at Paradise.

Olympic National Park

On the Olympic Peninsula west of Seattle, features the only temperate rain forests in the lower 48 states; the park also features 8,000-foot mountains and wild ocean beaches.

North Cascades National Park

North of Seattle, boasts a necklace of turquoise glacier-fed lakes with a backdrop of jagged mountains and a scenic highway (Cascade Loop) which runs from beach to mountains to desert.

Mount St. Helens

May 18, 2008 marked the 28th anniversary of this volcano's fiery eruption. Today a visitor and interpretive center explains dramatic geologic and human stories and their legacies. Flightseeing tours are also available.

Washington State Ferries

Discover Puget Sound with more than 80 islands and scenic peninsulas. Travelers can drive, walk or bike aboard the nation's largest ferry system. Two routes - Bainbridge Island and Bremerton - are served from Pier 52 on the Seattle Waterfront.



Snow Sports

Whether you enjoy skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing or intertubing down a mountain, Seattle has it all. The Cascade Mountain ski slopes, including Crystal Mountain, Stevens Pass and Snoqualmie Pass offer day and night skiing November through mid-April. Snoqualmie Pass is just 90 minutes east of Seattle.

Overnight Excursions

Victoria

Visit Canada's most English city. Travel by the Victoria Clipper catamaran, seaplane or car ferry through the San Juan Islands. Overnight packages are available through Victoria Clipper and Gray Line of Seattle.

Vancouver

This dynamic metropolis on Canada's West Coast boasts world-class shopping, dining and culture. Get there by car (2.5 hours) or by rail via the Mt. Baker International (3.5 hours).

Washington Wine Country

The Yakima and Columbia Valleys, three hours east of Seattle, offer a growing number of internationally acclaimed wines from vineyards, which offer tours and tastings.



Photo: John Marshall

Cruises

Seven-day roundtrip cruises from Seattle to Alaska and the Inside Passage (with an intermediate stop in Vancouver) are now available. Royal Caribbean also offers three or four day roundtrips between the Seattle Waterfront and Victoria and Vancouver. Small vessel cruises are offered from Seattle via Alaska Sightseeing/ CruiseWest.



Photo: Tim Thompson