

# ***mrk.'s Best of Seattle***

## ***part 1: THE MUSTS*** You cannot do Seattle without these 10 things.

### **THE PIKE PLACE MARKET** *ON WALK#1*

A lively, crowded, 5 block shopping district centered around an old farmers market. It was saved from destruction by a popular movement in the 1960s and has gone on to become the true heart and soul of Seattle. Explore the tunnels underneath The Market, shop for fresh food, crafts or just about anything else you can imagine. Watch the fish fly while standing next to Rachel The Pig! Walk down the hillclimb to The Waterfront or visit the Market Heritage historical exhibit on Western Ave. You could easily spend a whole weekend at The Pike Place Market!! (If you hear someone mangle the name such as: "Pike's Market", "Pike Street Market", or "The Pike Market" you know they are not from Seattle.) *A 1 minute walk from the hostel!*

### **WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES**

Since Western Washington is defined by an Inland Sea (The Puget Sound, actually a Fjord -- sometimes called the Salish Sea) we have an extensive ferry system. There are 18 ferry terminals around Puget Sound. Riding the ferry at sunset is a popular, romantic Seattle activity. The two closest ferries leave from Pier 52 a *5 minute walk from the hostel*. For under \$6 you can take a 1 hour round trip (Bainbridge Island) or a 2 hour round trip (Bremerton) with great views of TWO mountain ranges, TWO giant volcanoes, wonderful water views, and the best views of Seattle's Skyline. Return on the same boat, as there is little to do on the other side. *The most gorgeous ferry runs are the 30 minute Port Townsend-Keystone run, and the 3 hour San Juan Islands (Anacortes-Sidney BC) run.*

### **FREMONT** (free) *ON WALK#1*

The quirky Fremont neighborhood, or rather, the self-declared Republic-of-Fremont and The Center of the Universe, is a funky and fun artists community which has become extremely trendy. There are cafes, pubs, a Sunday craft market, lots of public artwork (**don't miss** the Troll under the highway bridge!) and lots of activity on the street. There is a path on both sides of the canal -- check out the viewing platform where there was once a waterfall. *bus #26.*

### **KERRY PARK** (free) *ON WALK#1*

A small park on the steep south side of Queen Anne Hill with a spectacular, very famous (from postcards, TV, etc.), view of the Skyline. *bus #1,#2 or walk.*

### **VOLUNTEER PARK WATER TOWER** (free) *ON WALK#2* (*Rumors that the Water Tower is closed are false!*)

Volunteer Park is in the old mansion district of Seattle; it is a very refined park, with great lawns, an art museum and a (free) conservatory/greenhouse. Within the park is an old brick water tower, which sitting atop Capitol Hill, is the same height as the space needle, with almost the same view. However the Space Needle costs \$13 and the Water Tower is free. Climb the 100 steps to the top and get a great view of the city. *bus #10*

### **FOSTER ISLAND NATURE WALK** (free) *ON WALK#1*

The boardwalk over the Foster and Marsh Island wildlife refuge is a wonderful in-city nature walk. *Bus #43* or a short walk from the University will get you to the canal trail which leads to Foster Island. The walk can take 15 minutes to half a day, depending on how much you wander. The other end of the walk leads into the Washington Park Arboretum which has an extensive system of walking paths and gardens (*and access to bus #11 at the south end*).

### **THE LOCKS** (free)

The Ballard Locks on the Lake Washington Ship Canal were built in 1917, in hopes of attracting a major naval base to Lake Washington. The navy didn't bite, but every day the locks are used by tour boats, a huge fishing fleet, and thousands of pleasure boats ranging from kayaks to enormous yachts. It is free to watch the boats go through the second largest lock in the world and to watch the Salmon swim upstream through the underwater viewing windows! (Autumn is the best time for fish.) A very Seattle activity. The nearby Ballard Neighborhood has fun shops and plenty of places to eat! *bus #17 or 44.*

### **BURKE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** *ON WALK#2*

The recently remodeled Burke Museum, on the University of Washington campus, has excellent permanent and rotating exhibits exploring the geologic and Native American history of this area. Students are free. *bus #71, 72 or 73*

### **PIONEER SQUARE**

Pioneer Square is Seattle's old town. This is where the downtown was 100 years ago, including the original Skid Row (Yesler Way). It is very tourist oriented -- there is even the pricey, but fun, Underground Tour which takes you under the sidewalks into Seattle's History. During the daytime there are book shops and galleries as well as restaurants and coffee shops (Check out Elliot Bay books!) At night there is a thriving club scene with music of all kinds from traditional jazz to frat rock to the latest dance music. Look for the only building damaged in the 2001 earthquake. *Short walk from the hostel.*

### **NATIVE AMERICAN ART & CULTURE**

The Salish people who lived in the forested, mountainous, waterways where Seattle now is had a rich, advanced culture. A statue of Chief Seattle is at 5th Ave & Cedar St; the world famous speech that he gave to the settlers is hanging on the wall in the Pike Place market south of the Fish Market. In Pioneer Square there are totem poles and Salish writing on the sign boards, including the original spelling of Seattle. The stunning artwork of the local natives can be found everywhere, on 1st Ave, in The Market and on The Waterfront. Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Volunteer Park is one of many Native run places to see Salish artifacts.

## part 2: Famous & Popular 10 things most people ask about.

### **MUSEUM OF FLIGHT/BOEING TOUR**

The famous Boeing Tour is at the 747 plant in the city Everett, 45 to 90 minutes north of Seattle. For \$5 you get a video and a brief tour of the factory where Boeing makes it's biggest jets. Getting there by public transit costs \$3.50 and takes 5 to 8 hours round trip. Going on one of the scheduled tour coaches from Seattle takes 3 to 5 hours round trip and costs \$45. Boeing information: 1-800-464-1476. An easier, cheaper and much more interesting option is the Museum of Flight, about 15 minutes away (*on city bus #174*) at a different Boeing factory in south Seattle. In addition to excellent exhibits about aviation, it has a huge collection of historic aircraft inside and outside on the tarmac. (*as of fall 2003 they have a Concorde!*)

### **EXPERIENCE MUSIC PROJECT** *ON WALK#1*

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's Experience Music Project at Seattle Center is museum devoted to the love of popular music. It covers the 1960s and the 1990s Seattle grudge as well as worldwide trends, but the heart of the museum looks to **Seattle native Jimi Hendrix**. The high-tech exhibits, and extremely innovative architecture, have no one sitting in the middle; people either love it and want to spend a week there, or hate it and want their \$20 back. *Take the Monorail from 5th and Pine: it actually travels THROUGH the museum.*

### **BRUCE & BRANDON LEE'S GRAVES** (*free*) *ON WALK#2*

Seattle native Bruce Lee is buried in Lakeview Cemetery right next to Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill, his son is buried next to him. Most of the founders of Seattle are also buried in this cemetery. *bus #10*

### **CROCODILE CAFE** *ON WALK#1*

Just north of downtown, in Belltown, on 2nd Ave at Lenora this was the area that Grudge started and this is the club most associated with the heyday of this famous Seattle music genre. Although slated for destruction to build a high rise in 2003, it is still a thriving club with music on stage every night.

### **SEATTLE CENTER** (*free*) *ON WALK#1*

Seattle Center is the site of the 1962 worlds fair and is still fairly intact, containing grassy lawns, fountains, an amusement park, several museums, sports arenas, the opera, Pacific Science Center, a food court, stadium, 2 Imax theaters, 4 stage theaters all kinds of special events, and of course the world famous Seattle icon, The Space Needle(tm) (\$12.00 to go to the top. Yow!). *bus #15, 18, 1, 2, 3, 4 or the monorail.*

### **THE SOUNDGARDEN** (*free*) (*access restricted due to Terrorisim concerns after 9/11*)

An innovative public art installation which uses the wind to make music. In a pretty setting in near the lake at Magneson park in the NOAA Base at Sand Point. A famous Seattle rock band took their name from this fun artwork. *bus #71, 72 or 73 to the #74*

### **FLOATING CONCRETE BRIDGES** (*free*)

Unable to bridge 250 foot deep (77 meter) Lake Washington with conventional bridges, the suburbs did not start to sprawl until these unique pontoon bridges were built. You can view them from the an overlook near *bus #14* or the overlook across from Lakeview Cemetery. Or take *bus #7* to Rainer & Dearborn, walk one block away from downtown and then cross the street to find the bike trail/bike tunnel which you can walk all the way across the lake! Or you can ride over one on a bike or in a car or a bus! If it's windy... HOLD ON!

### **SNOQUALMIE FALLS & TWIN PEAKS SITE** (*free*)

Surrounded by forest, 263 foot (80 meter) high Snoquamlie Falls is twice the height of Niagara Falls. It was worshipped by the natives and became quite famous when the TV show Twin Peaks was based in the towns of Snoqualmie and North Bend. Visiting the falls and these two little forest towns in the suburbs is a great way to see how Seattle started. *bus 209 to 215.*

### **THE MOUNTAINS** (*outside of the city*)

One of the most well known things about Seattle is the mountains and volcanoes. We have a gorgeous, very special mountain range to the west of us, the Olympics, a magnificent mountain range to the east of us, the Cascades (a continuation of the Sierra Nevada.) We have a giant, glacier covered, active volcano to the north of us, know as Kulshan or Mt. Baker which is 10,000 feet (3050 m) and a giant, glacier covered, active volcano to the south of us, know as Tahoma or Mt. Rainier or just **THE MOUNTAIN**, which is 14,411 feet (4400 m). In addition there is Lawala Clough or Mt. St. Helens which was 10,000 feet but is now a 7,000 foot steaming crater following the 1980 eruption. The mountains are an important part of Seattle culture, especially Rainier which is visible from many parts of the city on the 70 clear days a year. There are numerous places in the city, including the hostel common room, which you can enjoy the views of the mountains, and if you travel to the mountains (*generally about a 2 hour drive, except St. Helens which is almost 5 hours*) you can ski, hike, and enjoy nature and marvel at the mountains themselves.

### **SAN JUAN ISLANDS** (*outside of the city*)

This magnificent archipelago 3 hours drive north of Seattle offers spectacular forested islands in sparkling blue waters inhabited by dolphins and whales!

### *part 3: The real Seattle* 10 ideas for getting beyond the tourists and really seeing Seattle.

#### **CAPITOL HILL -- THE ALTERNATIVE DISTRICT** *ON WALK#3*

Broadway Ave, Olive St, Pike St, and Pine St. are the center of a very active, young neighborhood. Capitol Hill is really the centerpiece of the "Seattle Scene" which has attracted so many people over the last decade. The area is full of coffee shops, restaurants, theaters, tattoo parlors, music clubs, clothing shops, bars and many other trendy gathering spots. Check out Bimbos Bitchin Burrito Kitchen, Bauhaus, Coffee Messiah, Rudy's Barbershop (very trendy!), 611 Supreme (best hot chocolate in town It's all a 15 minute walk or a 5 minute bus ride from the hostel. bus #7, 10, 11, 14, 43 or walk!) (The apartment building from the movie **Singles** is just over the top of the hill at 19th Ave E & E Thomas -- The #43 bus goes right past it.)

#### **"THE AVE" -- THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT:** *ON WALK#2* *The best place to eat!*

Over 100 restaurants in a 10 block by 2 block area, one block from the University! Almost all are good, most are cheap, most are ethnic. The Ave is also packed with many good bookstores, music stores, news stands and, of course, coffee shops (My fav is Allegro in the alley off 43rd). bus #71,72 or 73

#### **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON** (free) *ON WALK#2*

The site of the 1909 Worlds Fair is now a renowned research university with 40,000 students, just 1 mile north of downtown. It has a wooded campus with gothic architecture, much of which is left over from the fair. Red Square, the center of campus, has great views of The Mountain. bus #71, 72 or 73.

#### **BURKE-GILLMAN BIKE TRAIL** (free) *ON WALK#1&2*

One of the first, and best, bicycle rail trails in the nation runs 28 miles right through the city of Seattle. It is the only place in town that you can bike or skate with NO HILLS. A web of bike trails and lanes connect to it from throughout the city. Starts in Fremont and ends among the wineries along the river in the town of Redmond. Several bike shops rent bikes near the trail. bus #26 or 253

#### **DISCOVERY PARK** (free)

Discovery Park in the wealthy Magnolia neighborhood is a great place for walking, relaxing, playing, hiking and enjoying the views. Forests and meadows cover this huge park, which is lined on the west with beautiful rugged beaches. The meadows, atop a very high bluff, are an excellent place to watch the sunset or fly a kite. Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center and art gallery is in the park. (There are many other great parks in Seattle too!) bus #33 (or 24).

#### **HISTORICAL PHOTO GALLERIES** *Rainier Square and City Foods* (free) *ON WALK#1*

Rainier Square is an office building at 4th & Union, only 4 blocks from the hostel, go in next to Rand McAnally and to the right, up the short stairs to find a long, long hallway with a couple of hundred photographs of old Seattle from it's founding to today, including lots of photos of Boeing and the University. walk  
In the lobby of an apartment building at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave & Wall St, (go through the little store called CITY FOODS) is a wonderful historical photo gallery with cool photos of the Space Needle being built and astounding photos of Denny Hill being taken down. bus #26 or walk.

#### **KAYAKING ON LAKE UNION**

One of the best ways to experience Seattle is from the water. Seattle is a water oriented city and has the highest rate of boat ownership in the country. **Northwest Outdoor Center**, 5 minutes by bus #17 from downtown, rents kayaks (and gives a great rate with your HI card). Paddle around Lake Union (great view of downtown!) or past Fremont and Fisherman's Terminal to the Locks or past the University to the wildlife refuge. The house that was in the movie **Sleepless in Seattle** is floating on the lake just one block north of NWOC. There are cheap canoe rentals at the University, sailboat rentals at the Center for Wooden boats.

#### **MAKAH CULTURAL CENTER & SUQUAMISH MUSEUM** (outside of the city)

The Makah tribe's museum of archaeological remnants of a 700 year old, pre Colombian, native village is generally considered THE most extensive and spectacular Native American museum on the continent. People travel from around the world to visit this amazing museum on the Makah Indian Reservation in Neah Bay. Artwork, culture and artifacts from daily life fill the architecturally beautiful building. We recommend it very, very highly. *It is a 6 hour drive from Seattle. City buses go there for about \$7 -- See the North Olympic Peninsula Bus Connections Handout.* There is a smaller, but very well done Native American museum much nearer to Seattle, the Suquamish Museum on the Port Madison Indian Reservation. The exhibits are very powerful and give a glimpse into the life of the Salish people before, during and after the arrival of the Europeans. *Take the ferry 30 minutes to Bainbridge Island and catch the #90 bus at the ferry terminal for the 15 minute ride to the reservation.* Chief Seattle's grave is nearby.

#### **THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA** (outside of the city)

Stunning old growth, lush rainforest, spectacular untouched mountains, waterfalls, hot springs, wilderness hiking, amazing rugged ocean beaches, and lots and lots of wildlife, all in Seattle's backyard. Just a few hours gets you deep into one of the unique wildernesses in the world. This World Heritage Site is one of the places that makes Western Washington so special, and it is very highly recommended. Several hostels and cabins and many B&B's and motels dot the Peninsula. *A 2 to 6 hour drive, or bus ride (See the North Olympic Peninsula Bus Connections Handout),*

#### **PORT TOWNSEND** (outside of the city)

Once a thriving Victorian shipping port, Port Townsend's destiny changed when the railroad chose to end at Tacoma. It is now a small, friendly, artsy town with fantastic views and architecture and a fun, funky culture. This is a town with the slogan: "We're all here, because we're not all there." It is not to be missed. There is a great hostel in Port Townsend. *Take the ferry to Bainbridge from pier 52 and then it is a 1 hr bus ride or a 45 minute drive.*

## *part 4: The rest of the best 10 more great things that i couldn't leave out (and neither should you!).*

### **ALKI BEACH** *(free)*

A nice neighborhood for a walk, especially at sunset. One side of Alki point has a long, wide white sand beach and a view of downtown, the other side of the lighthouse has a rugged Puget Sound beach with mountain views and tidepools teeming with marine life. A bike trail and a string of restaurants and coffee shops runs along the beach. *bus #37 or #56*

### **PIER 5 PUBLIC ACCESS** *(free)*

This new park, with a terrible name, is between Harbor Island and West Seattle. It has nice architecture, informative signs and FANTASTIC VIEWS, of Seattle, Elliot Bay, West Seattle and the working port. *bus #37 or walk 45 minutes.*

### **PUBLIC ART IN THE BUS TUNNEL** *(free)*

The bus tunnel (which is like a subway or metro, only busses run in it) is very well designed and each station is centered around artwork. It is free and worth exploring. You will also find public artwork around downtown, at waterfront, on Broadway and, of course, in Fremont.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT -- CHINATOWN** *(free)*

The International District neighborhood (next to Pioneer Square) has many wonderful Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian, Thai and Japanese shops and restaurants. Great cakes and deserts! *Take any south bound bus in the bus tunnel.*

### **WATERFALL GARDEN** *(free)*

In Pioneer Square, on the site of the original world headquarters of United Parcel Service is a beautiful, if not entirely real, waterfall. A good place to stop and relax, or to have lunch. *Waterfront streetcar or walk.*

### **TIGER MOUNTAIN** *(free)*

In the foothills of the Cascade Mountains this 3800 foot mountain is one of hundreds of great dayhikes in the area, however this one is accessible by city bus. *bus #209*

### **THE WATERFRONT TRAIL** *(free)*

A 5 mile (8 km) bicycle and walking trail runs right through downtown. North from the hostel you will pass through the touristy waterfront, through Myrtle Edwards Park along the seafront (great place to walk!!), under the grain elevator, through a neat corridor thorough the working harbor at Pier 91, through the rail yard (watch for half built Boeing jets on train cars!), through the neighborhood of Magnolia, through the woods to either the Locks or Discovery Park. It is a great way to see many different parts of the real Seattle. South of the hostel this same trail runs along the touristy waterfront, past the new stadiums peters out to a sidewalk past the coast guard museum but hooks up to the trail to West Seattle which passes the very nice new Pier 5 Public Access park and then along the beach all the way to the Alki Point lighthouse.

### **AMTRAK CASCADES TRAIN SERVICE** *(outside of the city)*

Extremely scenic: On the route to Vancouver (and part of the route to Portland) the tracks are one meter from the sea! It's quicker, more comfortable and MUCH more friendly than the bus, and sometimes cheaper too! (Prices are based on number of seats left on the train.) Comfortable European trains run once a day, at 7:45am to Vancouver and 3 times daily to Portland. 1-800-USA-RAIL (go straight to the operator, don't try to mess with the voice mail.)

### **THE RAIN!** *(free)*

High temperatures in Seattle are about 76F/25C in summer and about 45F/7C in winter. Lows are about 50F/11C in summer and about 42F/6C in winter. We have about 5 nights below freezing and about 5 days above 80F/27C per year. We get a couple inches of snow twice a decade. **It rains here.** Enjoy it. **We do.** In a normal year we have a drought from mid-July until early November. It is rare to get one drop of rain before mid-September and not more than 3 or 4 days of rain in that entire time. In early to mid November the rains start, quite suddenly. It can storm a bit in November (and March), but generally it is a slow gentle drizzle with dark, low clouds, 24 hours a day 7 days a week until May. According to the University of Washington, between mid-November and mid-May we average, fewer than 25 days of any sun, even a little. May to July is dryer with only 4 to 6 full days of rain per week. Then the drought starts again around the 2nd week of July. Seattlites do not mind the constant light rain, nor do we own umbrellas. *(If you see one, it is a tourist!)* We hike in the rain, bike in the rain, walk in the rain and live in the rain. We enjoy it. Follow our example. (Many of us stay inside when the sun comes out!) Of course we also have coffee shops, which are great places to hang out on rainy days, but remember, **RULE NUMBER ONE: no complaining about the rain!**

### **GETTING AROUND**

A car is a liability in Seattle. Parking in downtown and all of the close-in neighborhoods is difficult and very costly and the terrible traffic is world renowned. Central Seattle is easy to get around on foot or on public transit. A visitor's daypass is available for the busses. The hostel is located at the center of the bus and ferry systems, it is 5 blocks or less to almost every bus.