
SEATTLE ON A BUDGET

How To Explore Seattle On The Cheap

Seattle has a tremendous amount of free and affordable things to do but finding them can be tricky. Lucky for you I'm here to help. Let's make your Seattle trip the best it can be.



Downtown Seattle and The Space Needle

Seattle City Pass

I'm going to show you many cheap and free things that you can do around Seattle. But the reality is, some things are going to cost you money.

A trip to Seattle would not be complete without seeing some of these places that do charge money. So how does one manage the costs while staying on budget?

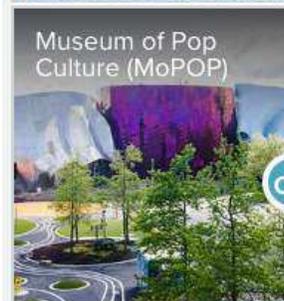
The best way is to purchase the Seattle [City Pass](#). With this pass you will save about 50% over buying these entrances on your own.

City Pass admission includes:

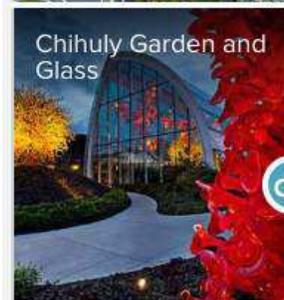
1. Space Needle
2. Seattle Aquarium
3. Argosy Cruises Harbor Tour
4. Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) **OR** Woodland Park Zoo
5. Chihuly Garden and Glass **OR** The Pacific Science Center

The City Pass costs \$99 for adults and \$79 for children (ages 5-12). For children under 5 the majority of these places allow kids for free, [details here](#).

The [City Pass](#) is going to be your best bet for visiting these Seattle classics. So now that that's out of the way let's get to the insider tricks of Seattle On A Budget.



OR



OR

Seattle City Pass

Seattle Attractions

- **Pike Place Market (Free)** - Pike Place Market, established in 1907, is one of the oldest operating farmers markets in the U.S. The entire market including dozens of shops are all free to see. Here you can taste samples of a variety of different foods, go to a magic shop, and watch the flying fish. Visit pikeplacemarket.org for more information.
- **University of Washington Campus Tour (Free)** - The 90-minute walking tour takes you through this truly stunning campus including Red Square and Husky Stadium. For more information visit washington.edu/Visit/GuidedTour.
- **CenturyLink Field (budget friendly)** - This tour gets you backstage where you can visit the home of the Seattle Seahawks and The Sounders FC. Visit a luxury suite, walk on the playing field, and visit the locker rooms among other backstage secrets. Adults \$12, Children ages 5-12 \$5, ages 4 and under are free. Further information visit centurylinkfield.com or call (206) 381-7582.
- **Safeco Field (budget friendly)** - Visit the home of the Seattle Mariners. The tour gets you in to places that are normally closed to the public, such as the press box, field, dugout, luxury suites, and clubhouse. Adults \$12, children \$10, tickets are through Ticketmaster at (206) 622-4487 or online at seattle.mariners.com.
- **The Center For Wooden Boats (Free)** - The best way to see Seattle and especially the floating homes of Lake Union is by boat. The Center For Wooden Boats has free sailing trips every Sunday. You must sign up in person and they do fill up. In addition to sailing, the Wooden Boat Center is free to visit where you can walk amongst the many docks and boats. More information at [The Center For Wooden Boats](http://TheCenterForWoodenBoats).
- **Ballard Locks and Fish Ladder (Free)** - The Ballard Locks connect the salt water of Puget Sound with the fresh water of Lake Washington. The two bodies of water have over a 20-foot difference in water level height thus requiring locks. You can walk right up to locks and watch as boats pass through and you can even cross the locks on one of the many bridges. On the far end of the locks you'll find a fish ladder with viewing windows where you can watch as Salmon make the long journey home to lay their eggs. More information at the [Ballard Locks](http://BallardLocks).

Seattle Entertainment

- **Pioneer Square Artwork (Free)** - On the first Thursday of the month from noon-8pm you can witness this long standing tradition and visit Pioneer Square's galleries. Several of the parking garages offer free parking for the event. Visit pioneersquare.org/experiences for more information.
- **Seattle Center (Free)** - Originally the site of the 1962 World's Fair, this large park is home to many of Seattle's most visited places - including the Space Needle, Opera House, Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), Chihuly Garden and Glass, Intiman Theatre, Pacific Science Center, and Children's Museum to name a few. The grounds are great for walking and admission is free. For more information, seattlecenter.com.
- **Out To Lunch Concerts (Free)** - Held in Seattle's Downtown parks and plazas every Wednesday and Friday at lunchtime during the summer. For more information visit downtownseattle.com.
- **Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (Free)** - Every Sunday evening at 9:30 p.m. the all-male Compline Choir leads this informal choral service that is a Seattle Tradition. Several hundred pack the Cathedral each week for this meditative service. Even more listen to the live broadcast over the local FM radio station. I would encourage you to check it out it's super cool. You can find more information at, Saint Mark's Cathedral. Or better yet have a listen on the [podcast](#).



Seattle Center

Wine Tours and Tastings

- **Chateau Ste. Michelle (Free)** - One of Washington State's most acclaimed wineries offers free tours and tastings. Tours available daily from 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information visit ste-michelle.com or call (425) 415-3633.
- **Bainbridge Island Vineyards and Winery (Cheap)** - Bainbridge Island is a must visit spot and has a great winery that grows all their own grapes on site. The island is a quick 30 minute ferry from downtown Seattle. Wine tastings are available Friday-Sunday for a \$3 donation to the local animal rescue. For more information visit bainbridgevineyards.com or call (206) 842-9463.

Museums

- **Seattle Art Museum (Free'ish)** - Every first Thursday of the month admission is free and special exhibits are half off. In addition every first Friday is free for seniors. This is a must if the timing works out. More information at Seattle Art Museum.
- **Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP)** - Tickets are \$25 at the door. MoPOP is all about the music. From rock 'n' roll to gospel MoPOP is a massive collection of artifacts and memorabilia. If you're planning to visit MoPOP I would recommend purchasing the Seattle City Pass for a much better deal. For more information visit www.MoPOP.org.
- **Museum of Flight (Free)** - Free on the first Thursday of the month from 5-9 p.m. Here you can board the original Air Force One amongst other classic airplanes. Head to museumofflight.org for more info.
- **Frye Art Museum (Free)** - Home to a large collection of German and American art. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 - 5 p.m. Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Head to fryemuseum.org for more info.
- **Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (Free)** - Dedicated to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897, this museum is one part of a two-part museum with the other half in Skagway Alaska. Head to www.nps.gov/klse for information and seasonal hours of operation.

Seattle Parks

- **Kerry Park (Free)** - Perhaps one of the best views of downtown Seattle, this small park on Upper Queen Anne is worth a visit. [Directions here.](#)
- **Volunteer Park (Free)** - Here you can enjoy a water tower with an observation deck lending to more great views of Seattle. During the summer months you can also dip your feet in the wading pool. Grab some directions [here.](#)
- **Discovery Park (Free)** - Discovery Park is a real gem of Seattle. Located in the Magnolia neighborhood this large park has wooded trails, beach access and even a light house. Get directions [here.](#)
- **Washington Park Arboretum (Free)** - This 230 acre park near the University of Washington is home to some 9,000 native plants and claims to be one of the most diverse collections in the western U.S. The park is filled with walking paths that meander all through the park and is a relaxing break from the hustle of the big city. [Directions](#)
- **Japanese Gardens (Free)** - Located adjacent to the Washington Park Arboretum, this garden focuses its attention to native Japanese plants and flowers. The park is also home to the Seattle Japanese Garden Shoseian Teahouse, where you can practice the ancient art of Chado, a Japanese tea ceremony. The park entrance is free but the 40-minute tea ceremony is \$6 for adults and free to children. [Directions](#)
- **Olympic Sculpture Park (Free)** - This big and bold park located right in the heart of Seattle's downtown Belltown neighborhood is an ideal way to make your way to the water. As you walk the switchback path you'll pass by enormous sculptures, artwork, and numerous green spaces that demand a break as you take in the views. seattleartmuseum.org/olympicsculpturepark.



Olympic Sculpture Park

Getting Around Seattle

- **King County Metro** - Is one of the many ways of getting around Seattle and is well coordinated with the other transport options listed below. The Metro runs underground similar to a subway throughout downtown and is always free in the downtown corridor. More details at metro.kingcounty.gov.
- **Link Light Rail** - The light rail connects Seattle with the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. It has numerous stops throughout the surrounding neighborhoods and downtown area including the Seattle Center and Westlake Center. Fares vary but \$3 will get you to the airport from just about anywhere in Seattle. For details on fares and routes head to soundtransit.org.
- **Seattle Center Monorail** - For a fun ride that goes between downtown and the Seattle Center the Monorail is the ticket. Riding high above the streets the monorail gives you a unique and quick perspective as you fly by the gridlock of downtown traffic. A round-trip ticket will run you around \$4.50 and runs between 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. seattlemonorail.com.
- **Washington State Ferries** - There are lots of ferry options around Puget Sound but my recommendation if you could only do one would be a day-trip to Bainbridge Island. You'll catch the ferry smack dab in the middle of the downtown waterfront and there's no need to take a car since Bainbridge has a great public transit system. An adult fare will run around \$8 and the view of Seattle alone is worth the trip. wsdot.wa.gov.
- **University of Washington Kayak and Boat Rentals** - Located behind the University's Husky Stadium this is my favorite place to rent a kayak in Seattle. From here you can easily paddle through the Arboretum Park mentioned above that is even more magical by water. Rentals will run you \$10/hour midweek and \$12/hour on weekends. washington.edu/ima/waterfront.
- **Northwest Outdoor Center** - Is another kayak and SUP rental that will put you closer to Lake Union where you can cruise the shore and checkout the downtown skyline as well as the floating neighborhoods of house-boats. Rentals will run you \$15 per hour. Head to nwoc.com for more info.