

NWTHN'S GUIDE: TO SEATTLE, WA

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ISSUE 01

SEATTLE SUSHI GUIDE:
FROM OMAKASE DREAMS
TO BUDGET BITES

FROM CORPORATE
COFFEE KINGDOM TO
ARTISANAL EXCELLENCE

SEATTLE ACTIVITIES
GUIDE: BEYOND THE
TOURIST TRAPS

Seattle

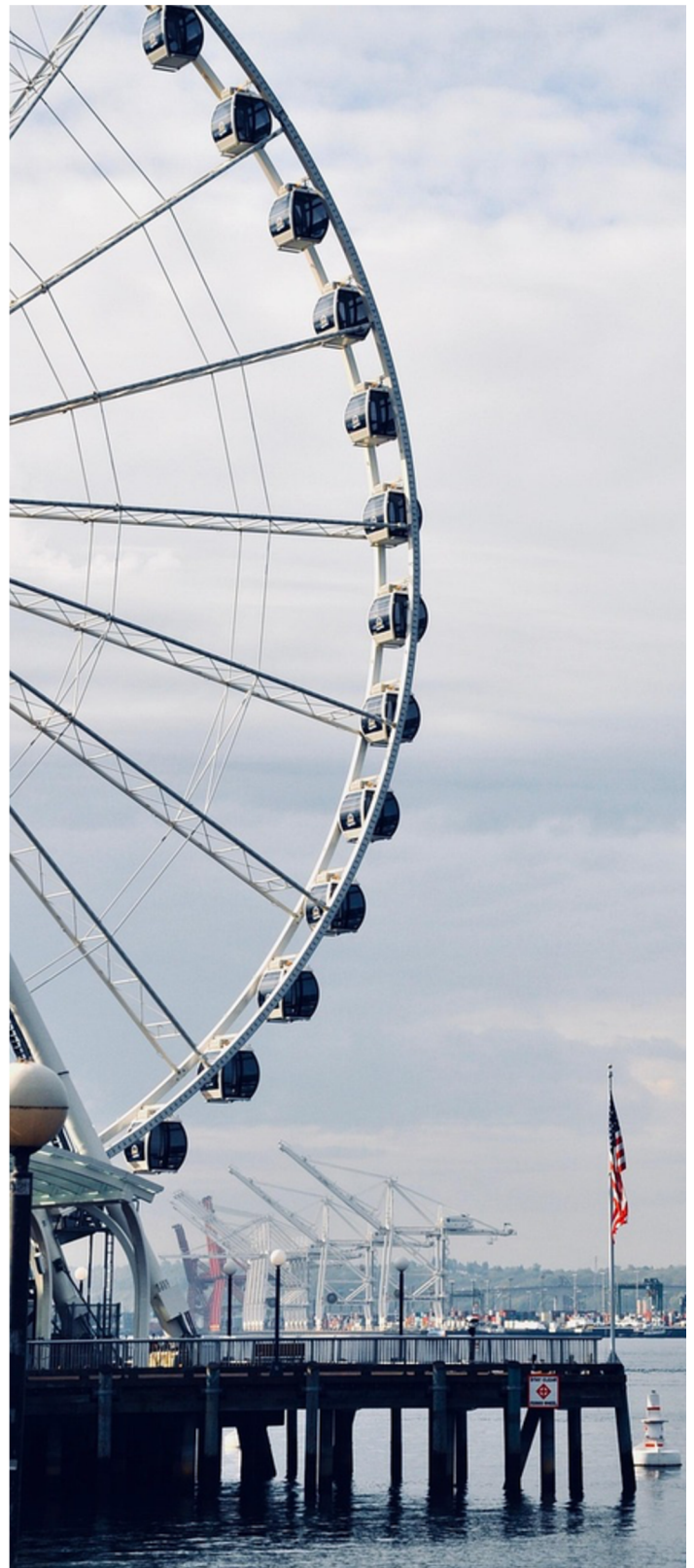
travel and lifestyle





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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NATHAN TANG



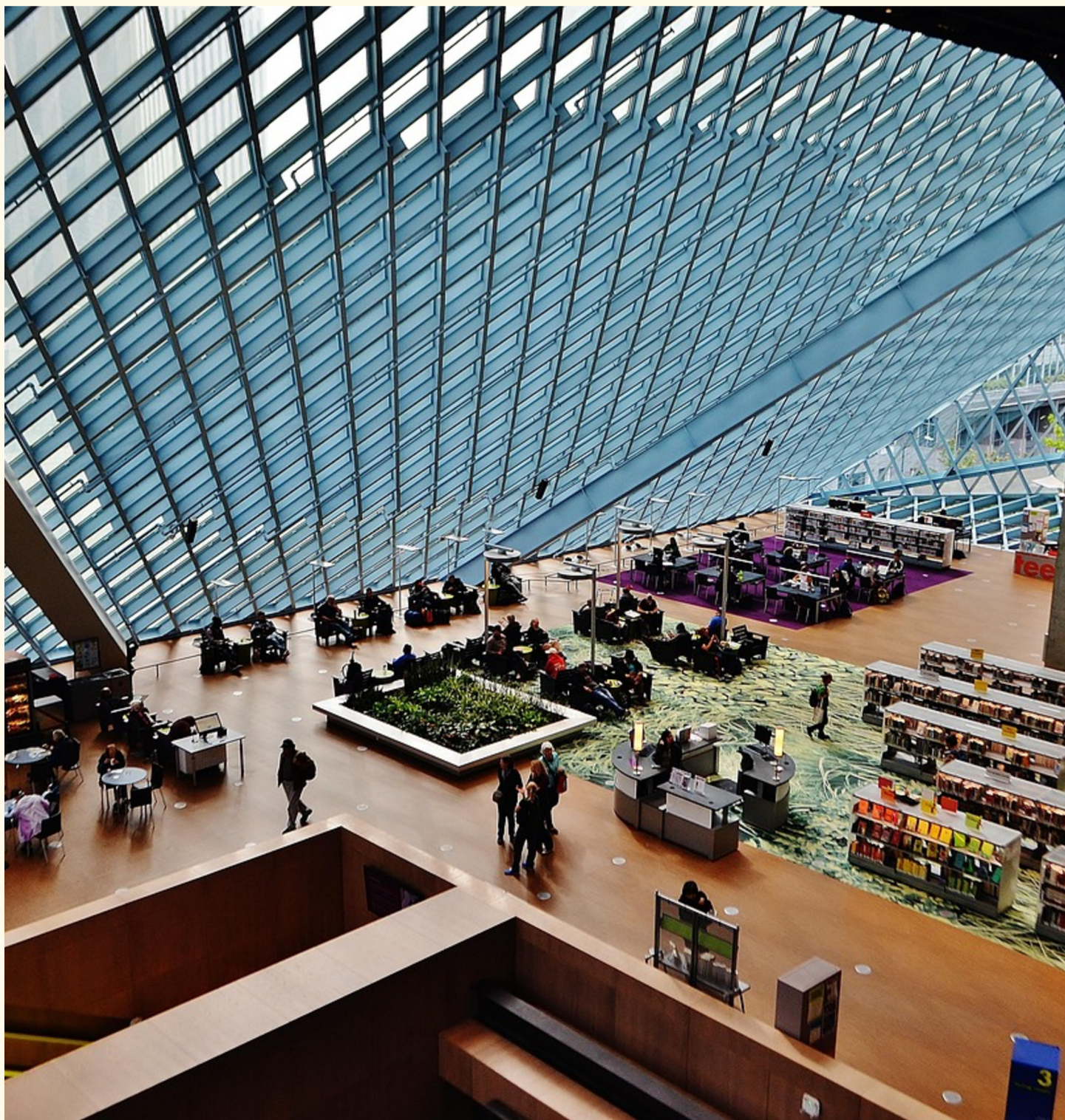
OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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THE FOOD SECTION OF THE MAGAZINE

Fair warning: This is nowhere near a complete guide to Seattle's amazing food scene - just my personal favorites after 3 years of eating my way through the city. Seattle's culinary diversity runs way deeper than what you'll find here



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SEATTLE SUSHI GUIDE: FROM OMAKASE DREAMS TO BUDGET BITES

◆ Shiro's Sushi

"Where Dreams of Jiro Meet Pacific Northwest Perfection"

The legendary omakase experience from Chef Kashiba (trained under Jiro Ono himself) brings traditional Edomae technique to local Pacific Northwest ingredients. Expect to pay \$140 for the full chef's experience with 4 appetizer plates and 15 pieces of seasonal nigiri. Shiro's Sushi Restaurant – 1st Edomae Sushi Restaurant in Seattle. Reservations are absolutely essential – this is Seattle's sushi pilgrimage spot.

The sushi bar is the full theatrical experience if you can snag a spot, but the other places are fantastic too.

🐟 FOB Sushi Bar

"Cafeteria Style, TikTok Famous"

This Belltown spot lets you pick sushi buffet/cafeteria style and pay by weight – usually under \$70 for 3 people. It's gone viral on TikTok with food reviewers like Keith Lee TikTokTikTok, and while opinions are mixed, it's undeniably a unique experience. Expect lines out the door, especially after social media coverage.

The vibe: More Instagram story than traditional sushi bar, but fun with friends.

🌊 Sushi Blue

"Massive Portions, Tiny Prices"

This takeout-only spot in Lynnwood serves absolutely massive nigiri portions that leave customers shocked at how heavy their bags are. Their 7-piece salmon sushi is legendary – tender, fresh, and so large that most people can't finish all 7 pieces in one sitting. Sushi Blue. Order takes about 20 minutes, but the quality and value are unbeatable. Sushi Blue: Generous Portions of Fresh Sushi in Lynnwood.

Perfect for: When you want quality sushi without the downtown prices (worth the drive). Call ahead for faster preparation.



FROM CORPORATE COFFEE KINGDOM TO ARTISANAL EXCELLENCE

Starbucks Reserve Roastery

"The Willy Wonka Factory of Coffee" (But Skip Pike Place)

Located in Capitol Hill, this immersive coffee theater opened in 2014 and is just nine blocks from the original Pike Place store. Unlike the touristy Pike Place location with its lengthy waits, the Reserve Roastery is where all rare, small-lot Starbucks Reserve coffees are roasted and packaged before being shipped worldwide. You can book signature experiences like coffee tastings, espresso martini workshops, and roasting tours

The difference: Pike Place = long lines for a photo op. Reserve Roastery = custom pneumatic tubes, master roasters, and cocktails in a space that actually justifies the hype.



Sip House (University District)

"Vietnamese Coffee Perfection with Matcha Magic"

This Vietnamese-owned coffee shop opened in 2020 and specializes in drinks made from 100% Vietnamese coffee beans from the Central Highland region. Their secret weapon is using a mix of Robusta and Arabica that's around 25% stronger in caffeine than other coffee places, brewed using traditional phin drip method. Try their signature pistachio cream latte - it's hazelnutty phin-dripped coffee topped with salted pistachio and matcha-spiked cream cheese froth.

The L-shaped space has an industrial feel with outlets spaced every 8 inches along the bench - literally designed for laptop warriors. It's also perfectly positioned a block from the University Farmers Market

Perfect for: Students, remote workers, and anyone who wants Vietnamese coffee culture without the Vietnam flight.



Taz Matcha

"Downtown's Newest Matcha Obsession"

This dual-concept spot transforms from serene matcha café by day to Japanese-inspired cocktail bar by night. They serve premium, stone-ground matcha sourced directly from Japan, prepared with ceremonial precision. Lines are already forming at this small Downtown café for drinks like strawberry and red bean matcha, whipped up right in front of you at the bar.

They also serve small bites like canelés and Japanese egg sandwiches. The newest addition to Seattle's coffee scene - expect Instagram-worthy drinks and a wait, but the matcha quality justifies the hype.



HONORABLE FOOD MENTIONS: AKA THE REST

🍣 Japanese Katsu: Kobuta & Ookami (Capitol Hill / Redmond) ★

"Crispy Cutlet Perfection - Personal Favorite"

Best katsu I have ever had that nails the perfect crispy exterior and tender interior. Kobuta focuses on traditional tonkatsu with perfectly executed breading, while Ookami offers modern takes on the classic. Both serve with the essential shredded cabbage, miso soup, and that addictive tonkatsu sauce.

Perfect for: Comfort food cravings, when you want something satisfying but not too heavy

🍷 Korean Fine Dining: Paju (South Lake Union) ★

"Elevated Korean - Personal Favorite"

Sophisticated Korean cuisine that goes way beyond the usual bulgogi and bibimbap. Modern presentations of traditional flavors in a sleek SLU setting. Perfect for impressing out-of-town visitors or date nights.

Perfect for: Special occasions, showing off Seattle's diverse food scene, elevated Korean experience

🍜 Thai: Kin Len Thai Night Bites (Fremont) ★

"Late-Night Thai That Actually Delivers - Personal Favorite"

Authentic Thai flavors available when most places are closed. Known for getting the spice levels right and using fresh ingredients. Their pad thai doesn't disappoint tourists, but their curry and som tam will satisfy Thai food purists.

Perfect for: Late-night cravings, when you want authentic Thai without the watered-down versions

🌴 Caribbean Sandwiches: Paseo (Fremont)

"Esquire's #1 Sandwich in America (With Drama)"

Yelp's #2 Top Rated, Esquire's #1 Sandwich, Food Network's #2 - a Seattle icon for over 30 years that went through bankruptcy in 2014 before being revived. The Caribbean Roast features marinated roast pork cooked until butter tender and piled in great chunks into toasted-crisp baguettes with caramelized onion, jalapeños, cilantro, lettuce, and aioli.

Perfect for: When you want a legendary sandwich experience, don't mind getting messy, crave Caribbean flavors

🍖 Cantonese BBQ: Kau Kau (Chinatown-International District)

"50 Years of the Best BBQ Pork in Seattle"

Seattle's go-to spot for Chinese BBQ since 1974, Kau Kau was the first Chinese barbecue house in Seattle. At \$8.20/pound, you can get enough BBQ pork to feed 6 people for under \$30. "Kau Kau means best BBQ pork in Seattle" says their business card, and unlike mediocre Chinese-American BBQ, their pork has only a subtle glaze with just enough sweetness to halo the smoky, pure-pig flavor.

Perfect for: Authentic Chinatown experience, feeding a crowd affordably, when you want the real deal

🍜 Korean Jajangmyeon: Paik's Noodle (Bellevue)

"The Black Bean Noodles You've Been Searching For"

Part of the famous Paik Jong Won empire, this spot nails the Korean-Chinese classic. Rich, savory black bean sauce over thick noodles - comfort food that hits every time. The tangsuyuk (sweet and sour pork) is also stellar.

Perfect for: Korean comfort food, when you want something hearty and soul-warming

🍜 Vietnamese Rice Bowls: Sizzle and Crunch (South Lake Union)

"Vietnamese Comfort in a Bowl" - Tyler Endorsed

Fresh, vibrant Vietnamese flavors in the heart of tech central. Their rice bowls hit that perfect balance of fresh herbs, grilled meats, and tangy sauces. Great for a quick, healthy lunch that doesn't sacrifice flavor.

Perfect for: Quick healthy meals, Vietnamese comfort food, when you want fresh and light

🍲 Hotpot: Chengdu Memory (Chinatown-International District)

"Authentic Sichuan Fire in Your Bowl"

This popular hotpot spot brings authentic Chengdu hotpot culture to Seattle's International District. Opened in 2019 by Mr. Wu, who spent half a year selecting the perfect Chinatown location, the restaurant features a self-serve sauce bar where you can customize your dipping experience and iPad ordering for meats and ingredients.

Perfect for: Group dining, when you want the real Sichuan experience, cold Seattle nights

🍗 Fried Chicken: Impeckable Chicken (Food Truck)

"Gourmet Fried Chicken That'll Cost You"

This Seattle food truck serves up impeccably crispy organic, antibiotic-free chicken with scratch-made sauces that actually live up to the hype. The Mango Habanero sandwich delivers the perfect sweet-heat balance, and the sweet potato tots are addictive. The chicken thigh is juicy and perfectly seasoned with a crispy exterior that achieves what every chicken sandwich aspires to be.

Perfect for: When you want the best fried chicken in Seattle and price isn't a concern, food truck hunting





THE THINGS TO DO SECTION OF THE MAGAZINE



Seattle's activity scene goes way beyond the typical tourist traps.

On the outdoor side, you've got everything from easy hikes like Poo Poo Point (where you can watch paragliders launch) to seasonal adventures like clam digging and crab hunting with the proper licenses, plus white water rafting and climbing gyms for when you want to get your heart rate up.

For indoor activities, there's world-class culture like the Seattle Symphony at stunning Benaroya Hall, unique gaming experiences at Mox Boarding House locations, fascinating underground tours that reveal the city's buried past, and plenty of rainy-day refuges that locals actually use. Whether you're dealing with Seattle's famous weather or chasing those perfect sunny days, these activities show you what makes this city tick beyond the Space Needle selfies."



PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES OF THE ACTIVITY SECTION

Hiking Adventures - Poo Poo Point (Issaquah)

"The Hilariously-Named Hike with Serious Views"

Located 30 minutes east of Seattle, this moderately challenging hike gets its folksy name from steam whistle sounds heard during early logging days. The 3.6-mile Chirico Trail (steeper but shorter) or 6.9-mile High School Trail (longer but gradual) both lead to stunning views of Mount Rainier, Lake Sammamish, and Bellevue.

There are plenty of other hiking trails available around the state.

White Water Rafting

"Rapids Within Reach of the City"

Companies like Wildwater River Guides, Triad River Tours, and River Recreation offer guided trips with all equipment included. Most half-day trips run \$75-115 per person.

Foraging & Harvesting - Clam Digging & Crab Hunting

"License to Harvest the Sound"

Washington offers incredible opportunities to harvest your own seafood with proper licensing.

Climbing & Bouldering - Indoor Climbing Gyms

"Where America's First Climbing Gym Started"

Seattle launched the indoor climbing concept in 1987, and nearly 40 years later, the city still does it right.

- Seattle Bouldering Project (Multiple Locations): The OG bouldering spot with locations in Poplar (original with basement bar), Fremont, U District (in historic bank building with vault sauna), and Upper Walls
- Vertical World: America's first climbing gym, now with locations in Seattle and Lynnwood offering top rope, lead climbing, and bouldering
- Edgeworks Climbing: Three locations (Seattle/Ballard, Bellevue, Tacoma) with up to 40-foot walls and extensive bouldering

Most gyms offer day passes (\$18-25), monthly memberships (\$80-85), and intro classes for beginners. Gear rental typically runs \$5 for shoes.

Pickleball

"Playing Washington's Official State Sport (Where It All Began)"

Here's something most people don't know: pickleball was invented right here in Washington! In 1965, three friends - Congressman Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum - created the game on Bainbridge Island (just a ferry ride from Seattle) using ping-pong paddles, a wiffle ball, and a badminton court to entertain their bored families after a golf game.



THE INDOOR SECTION OF THE ACTIVITY SECTION

Mox Boarding House (Ballard & Bellevue)

"Where Board Games Meet Craft Beer"

The award-winning board game café that opened in 2011 as Seattle's first Mox location. With thousands of board games, a huge free-to-borrow library (400+ titles), and local craft beers, this is the perfect rainy day refuge. Expert staff help match games to your group, and private themed rooms are available for rent.

Daily events include Magic tournaments, Pokemon TCG tournaments, D&D sessions, and Learn to Play nights. The Ballard location features that cozy apothecary atmosphere, while Bellevue boasts Art Deco design with a hidden speakeasy.

Perfect for: Date nights, friend groups, rainy afternoons, when you want social gaming without the commitment

Seattle Symphony at Benaroya Hall

"Where Music Meets Architectural Magnificence"

Recognized as one of the "most vital American orchestras" by NPR, with 5 Grammy Awards and stunning Dale Chihuly glass sculptures in the lobby. The programming goes way beyond classical – regular collaborations with artists like Brandi Carlile, Macklemore, NARUTO and Sir Mix-A-Lot make it accessible to all music tastes.

Perfect for: Date nights, cultural experiences, impressing visitors, discovering that classical music isn't stuffy

Underground Tours (Pioneer Square)

"The City Built on Top of Itself"

After the Great Fire of 1889, Seattle rebuilt on top of itself, creating a fascinating subterranean world. Bill Speidel's 75-minute guided tour takes you through entombed storefronts and sidewalks with stories the pioneers didn't want you to hear.

"Beneath the Streets" offers boutique tours with unscripted experiences, plus adult-themed tours covering gambling, drinking, and vice. You'll see remnants of Prohibition-era speakeasies and learn about Seattle's raucous past.

Perfect for: History buffs, unique experiences, escaping the rain while staying entertained

Twice Sold Tales (Capitol Hill & University District)

"Where Books Meet Bookstore Cats"

This classic used bookstore is a Capitol Hill institution featuring rooms upon rooms of books plus six live-in bookstore cats: Lily, Buster, Screamer, James, Jinx, and Eleanor. Owner Jamie Lutton has been a bookseller since 1987, creating a sprawling inventory of used, collectible, and rare titles.

The cats are genuinely part of the bookstore experience – they'll often perch on book stacks, settle in cardboard boxes, or even ride on customers' shoulders. The cats are well-socialized and used to visitors, but always respectful of their space. Open 7 days a week, 11am–8pm.

Perfect for: Cat lovers, book hunters, unique Seattle experiences, when you want literary browsing with feline friends

Tapster (South Lake Union & Bellevue)

"Be Your Own Bartender"

Seattle's first self-serve tasting bar featuring 57 taps of beer, wine, cider, hard seltzer, kombucha, cold brew coffee, and craft sodas. You get a TapCard linked to your credit card, grab a glass, and pour whatever you want by the ounce – no waiting for bartenders, no commitment to full pints.

Perfect for: Beer/wine enthusiasts who want to sample, groups with different tastes, tech workers looking for a quick drink, when you want control over your drinking pace

Seattle Pinball Museum (Chinatown – International District)

"50+ Machines of Pure Nostalgia"

Play over 50 classic and modern pinball machines in this interactive, nostalgic museum. It's hands-on entertainment that spans generations of gaming history.

Perfect for: Nostalgia trips, competitive friends, when you want something uniquely Seattle

Pacific Science Center (South Lake Union)

"Interactive Science Since 1962"

This World's Fair legacy offers hands-on exhibits, an IMAX theater, and the Tropical Butterfly House with over 1,000 colorful butterflies. The Planetarium provides otherworldly escape, and the exhibits spark curiosity for all ages.

Perfect for: Families, science enthusiasts, educational entertainment



THE END – FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for reading through this whole thing! This is for the question: "so what should we actually do here?" After three years of living here and eating way too much food, I figured I'd just write it all down. Think of this as my version of a Michelin guide – every single food spot in here is a place I've personally explored and would genuinely recommend to friends.

I've dragged friends to most of these places and genuinely love sharing them. Everything in here comes from actually living in the city rather than just visiting it – which means I've had plenty of time to make mistakes, find gems, and figure out which places are worth the hype versus which ones are just... hyped. I've also had the luxury of going back to places multiple times (except Shiro's, which remains my absolute favorite despite only going twice – some experiences are just that good). The activities section includes things I've actually done plus a couple spots like the pinball museum and underground tours that I keep meaning to check out but have heard consistently good things about from locals.

The most fun I've had was at a board game café drinking beer and arguing about Monopoly rules. That's the Seattle I wanted to share – the one that's accessible and genuine rather than trying to impress anyone. Hope you find some stuff you like, and if you don't, well, at least you didn't waste too much time reading about it.

Nathan Tang

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



