

Welcome to Seattle!

Here's our guide to the city.

We're so excited to host you in Seattle for our wedding weekend! We both moved to Seattle from the Northeast in 2018, and we love Seattle's neighborhoods, waterfront, greenery, and the sense of adventure we feel when we explore a new part of the Pacific Northwest.

We've written about some of our favorite activities here to give you some inspiration for your weekend plans. We hope that you make time to explore the city (and beyond!) while you are here celebrating -- whether that's wandering our beautiful parks, eating at one of our favorite restaurants, grabbing a flight at one of our neighborhood breweries, riding the ferry, or perhaps going on a day hike in the mountains!

With love,
Lizzy & Matt



PIKE PLACE MARKET

Pike Place Market will be bustling with visitors throughout the weekend, particularly if the weather cooperates with our wedding plans. Nevertheless, it's worth visiting and braving the crowds.

The market's famous collection of vendors has a few must-visit stalls (the fresh flowers are hard to beat!) and three floors of bars, shops, cafes, and restaurants lie beyond the market's main drag. Here are some of our favorite hideouts:

Powell's: Pike Place Market receives fresh seafood right off the decks of trawlers coming back from Alaska as well as the local waters -- that makes the market one of the best places to grab a fresh salmon or Alaskan king crab sandwich. Order the grilled salmon sandwich and grab a table at the window to watch the ferries come and go as you eat lunch.

Holy Cow Records: descend two levels below the main market strip and you'll find a corridor of shops filled with novelties. Among the fine china, vintage movie posters, and eclectic candy shops sits Holy Cow Records, which has a great selection of classic rock, jazz, and blues. We've enjoyed flipping through records with the Puget Sound in the background -- and if you find a keeper, it's easy to mail it home via USPS.

★ Place Pigalle: this restaurant is on our shortlist of most romantic dinner locations in the city, particularly during the summer when the sun lingers over the horizon until nearly 10 PM. Head past the fishmongers under the Public Market Center sign and grab a table on the patio overlooking the water. The menu here, which includes steamed mussels, stews, bouillabaisse, and duck confit, reminds us of our time in Paris.

Radiator Whiskey: hidden in plain sight, Radiator is actually located upstairs in a small building in front of the market. It's a perfect happy hour spot, with a great list of whiskeys, beers, and bites to tide you over until you sit down for salmon or mussels next door.

★ Old Stove Brewing: if you work up a thirst exploring the market, Old Stove is a great place to stop for a beer. They have a wonderful outdoor patio that overlooks the water so you can take in the views while enjoying some tasty drinks and snacks.

Rachel's Ginger Beer: Seattle is a city where every food and drink niche has a "craft" interpretation, with proprietors infusing old concepts with new cross-cultural inspiration. RGB takes ginger beer to the next level, with flavors like pineapple habanero and mint cucumber. Kid-friendly and super refreshing after a long day exploring in the sun.

Pike Place Market's famous "Public Market Center" sign





Lower level of Pike Place Market...be sure to explore!



PARKS & RECREATION

You don't need to rent a car or book a campsite to experience Seattle's natural beauty (although we certainly encourage it!). Seattle has one of the country's best park systems, with many of our city parks designed by the Olmstead brothers of Fenway and Central Park fame.

Some of our favorite parks are listed below -- all of these parks are a quick Uber ride from downtown, and easily reachable via public transit.

Volunteer Park: located in north Capitol Hill, a quick light rail ride from downtown. Volunteer Park is perched at the top of the hill with views of the skyline and Space Needle. During the summer, wildflower fields bloom and the conservatory offers even more exotic flora to explore. Check out the recently-renovated Asian Art Museum and climb the water tower for even more views. As a bonus, venture beyond the northern end of the park to the Boren Lookout for spectacular views of Lake Washington, the Eastside, and the Cascades.

Get there: take the light rail's 1 line north from Westlake to Capitol Hill, and walk north to the park.

★ **Discovery Park:** one of Seattle's most famous parks. In addition to a classic lighthouse and eerie former military communications infrastructure, Discovery Park has miles of wooded trails and a sandy beach perfect for a lunchtime picnic.

Get there: take a 10-minute Uber ride from downtown to any of the park's entrances.

★ **Gas Works Park:** a former gas plant on the north shore of Lake Union that has since been reclaimed into a large city park. Gas Works offers stunning views of downtown Seattle, and the lake is often busy with kayakers and boaters during the summer. The Burke-Gilman running/biking trail leads directly to the park, and the trail is perfect for a summertime run along the water. Or, rent electric scooters and zip over to the Ballard Brewery district after spending the afternoon in the sun on the lake.

Get there: take the 5 bus north from downtown into Fremont, and walk east to the park.

Greenlake: Greenlake is our local lake, and we've spent countless hours kayaking and paddleboarding here with friends. The park offers boat rentals, which are handy for an afternoon on the water, and there is plenty of space to picnic and lay out in the sun. There is a three-mile paved loop trail around the lake for running and biking. A real hidden gem in the middle of the city -- if you have energy after paddling or walking the loop, visit Retreat for coffee or walk west up the hill and grab a beer at Ridgewood to enjoy views of both mountain ranges from the top of Phinney Ridge.

Get there: take the 62 bus north from downtown to Greenlake village.

Ballard Locks: for boaters and fans of marine infrastructure, the Locks are the entryway into Seattle from the Puget Sound. Great for kids -- you can walk directly across the Locks and watch sailboats passing through from up close. There is also an underwater room where visitors can watch salmon running through windows that look into the canal. After

Overlooking the boathouse at Greenlake

traversing the locks and exploring the gardens, walk the Burke-Gilman trail into downtown Ballard and visit some of our favorite shops and restaurants!

Golden Gardens: one of our favorite locations in Seattle, Golden Gardens is a sandy beach in Ballard that has incredible views of the Puget Sound and Olympic Mountains. Grab sandwiches from Un Bien and picnic here as the sun sets -- you'll see exactly why they call it Golden Gardens.

Get there: the Locks and Golden Gardens are reachable on the D bus line north from downtown into Ballard; just ride into town and walk the Burke-Gilman trail west.

★ **Olympic Sculpture Park:** Olympic Sculpture Park has remarkable views of the Puget Sound and the islands across the waterway from the city. As its name suggests, the park also features large sculptures and art installations that are lots of fun to peruse while strolling on the loop path.

Get there: short walk west from downtown.



Downtown Seattle skyline from the ferry



Greenlake swimming platform in summer



NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE: FREMONT

As the Fremont Foundry's name suggests, Fremont is the neighborhood where you'll be attending our wedding festivities on Friday. Fremont is one of the most eclectic and vibrant neighborhoods in Seattle, and we encourage you to explore over the weekend!

Here are some recommendations to get you started:

Fremont Coffee Company: a quaint coffee shop located inside a converted house in the west end of the neighborhood. Great patio for sitting outside while enjoying a caffeinated beverage!

Stampede Cocktail Club: a cocktail bar...also in a converted house. Great place for a nightcap!

Theo Chocolate: a real-life chocolate factory across the street from our wedding venue! Theo offers kid-friendly tours and a fully-stocked chocolate store.

Burke-Gilman Trail: the Burke-Gilman traverses the entire neighborhood and abuts the Fremont Cut waterway -- walking, scooting, or biking the trail is a picturesque way to enjoy Fremont!

The famous Fremont Troll (courtesy of George Barker)

Local Tide: a great place to get a fresh fish sandwich. Wash your meal down with an Aslan Brewing beer from the taproom next door.

Fremont Vintage Mall: venture downstairs, and who knows what you might find...the Vintage Mall has a funky selection of trinkets, clothing, and accessories.

Stone Way Cafe: Lizzy spent many an afternoon here during grad school caffeinating, studying, & munching. Great place for a quick coffee/tea or a full lunch.

Jive Time Records: one of Seattle's most well-known record shops. Great selection of classic & modern rock.

Fremont Brewing: one of our favorite breweries in town. Large patio with views of Lake Union, along with a fantastic beer selection -- this is a great summer spot!

Westward & Bowriders: Westward is one of the neighborhood's nicest restaurants, perched right on Lake Union with great views of the lake and downtown Seattle. Bowriders is Westward's bar & grill, with a more casual atmosphere, fun taplist, and tasty bar fare.



DAY HIKES

AROUND SEATTLE

If you are renting a car for the weekend, here are some of our favorite hikes outside of the city.

While Seattle's city parks offer a taste of the area's greenery, our state and national parks truly show off the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. We've bonded over many a day hike and camping trip in the Olympics, Mt. Rainier National Park, and the Cascades. (Just don't ask us about our camping experiences in the North Cascades...)

For a long weekend stay, we'd recommend finding a fun day hike that is a 1-2 hour drive from the city. There are many hikes of low to medium difficulty just a short highway drive from downtown that offer stunning views of mountain ranges and alpine lakes.

Pro tip: visit the Washington Trails Association (WTA) website at wta.org to view detailed reviews and information, including driving directions to the trailhead, for any hike in the state. Note that some hikes may require a pass for parking -- we're happy to help coordinate passes for anyone who's interested in exploring!

Deception Pass State Park

Payoff: Beautiful views of the rugged Whidbey coastline and the bridge spanning Deception Pass
Location: Whidbey Island (requires a full day trip)
Distance from Seattle: 1.5 hours
Parking Pass Required: Discover Pass
Difficulty: Easy

Wallace Falls State Park

Payoff: Three (3!) waterfalls and consistently pretty scenery along the hike
Location: Gold Bar, WA
Distance from Seattle: 1 hour
Parking Pass Required: Discover Pass
Difficulty: Moderate

Tiger Mountain (Poo Poo Point)

Payoff: Views of the lowlands & hang gliders
Location: Issaquah, WA (just outside the city)
Distance from Seattle: 30 minutes
Parking Pass Required: None
Difficulty: Moderate

Lake 22

Payoff: Beautiful alpine lake at the top of the hike
Distance from Seattle: 1 hour
Parking Pass Required: NW Forest Pass
Difficulty: Moderate

Rattlesnake Ledge

Payoff: Amazing views of several mountains and Rattlesnake Lake in the valley below the ridge
Distance from Seattle: 1 hour
Parking Pass Required: None
Difficulty: Moderate/Hard

Twin Falls

Payoff: Get up close and personal with 2 waterfalls
Distance from Seattle: 45 minutes
Parking Pass Required: Discover Pass
Difficulty: Easy (can be crowded)

Mt. Rainier from the Paradise Trail



At the Patos Island Lighthouse right after the proposal!

SAMPLE ITINERARY: KAYAKING LAKE UNION

The Agua Verde Paddle Club makes it easy to rent kayaks and experience Seattle from the water. From Agua Verde, you can paddle west to Lake Union or head east past Foster Point and into Lake Washington. Be sure to (respectfully) check out the houseboats parked on the lake!

Grab breakfast: visit Saint Bread, just down the street from Agua Verde, for tasty baked goods and coffee to help fuel the paddling adventure.

Rent kayaks: make a reservation with the Agua Verde Paddle Club and venture below the Cafe to get situated in your kayaks. Agua Verde typically offers both 1- and 2-person kayaks, and their staff is particularly helpful with beginners.

Paddle: we like to head west along the north shore of Lake Union until we reach Gas Works Park. You can stop here and relax on shore, or continue paddling around the lake and enjoy views of downtown Seattle.

Refuel: after returning your kayaks, grab margaritas and snacks from Agua Verde's cafe, and then head to Mountaineering Club for a happy hour drink at one of Seattle's best rooftop bars. Alternatively, head west to Bowriders Grill for a casual beer and bar food right on the water.



Kayaking on Lake Union with our inflatable kayak!

SAMPLE ITINERARY: VOLUNTEER PARK

Volunteer Park is one of our favorite parks in the city, and a great excuse to visit Capitol Hill. Capitol Hill is one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Seattle, and where Matt lived for two years after moving from New York. Pike and Pine Streets are south of the park and house the highest density of bars, restaurants, cafes, and shops. Here's how we've spent many a summer day with visitors:

Diner brunch: our favorite spot for a hearty brunch in Capitol Hill is Lost Lake Cafe, a hipster dive that serves remarkably tasty homestyle diner fare. Just don't fall into a food coma afterwards! Alternatively, Oddfellows Cafe is next door and has a lighter (but still delicious) menu.

Peruse the stacks: after filling up on brunch, hop next door to Elliott Bay Book Company, one of Seattle's largest and most well-known bookstores. Elliott Bay has endless stacks of books covering all genres, along with a cafe at the back of the store. Staff recommendations are always spot-on, and the fiction section on the left-hand side of the shop is quite extensive.

Enjoy the park: walk about 15 minutes north from Pike/Pine to the southern entrance of Volunteer Park. Be sure to climb the water tower, check out the Asian Art Museum, take pictures in front of the "Black Hole Sun" sculpture, and explore the Conservatory greenhouse! If you have time, walk a few minutes north of the park to the Boren Lookout for incredible views of the Eastside and Cascades.

Dinner: Capitol Hill is full of great dining options, and you can't go wrong with many of the choices. Some off-the-beaten path picks close to Volunteer Park include Cook Weaver (eclectic share plates), Harry's Fine Foods (local PNW fare), and Smith (hearty American with fun drinks).

After dinner drinks: Capitol Hill, particularly the Pike/Pine corridor, has the busiest bar scene in the city. There are tons of great options -- we'd recommend Bait Shop (Seattle's best Tiki bar), Linda's (Seattle's finest dive bar), Life on Mars (a funky cocktail bar with a vegan-friendly menu and great music), and Belmont Lounge (a well-decorated, cozy cocktail bar and one of our early date spots!).

Lost Lake Cafe
1505 10th Ave
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 323-5678
[Website](#)

Elliott Bay Book Company
1521 10th Ave
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 624-6600
[Website](#)

Volunteer Park & Seattle Asian Art Museum
1247 15th Ave E
Seattle, WA 98112
(206) 654-3100
[Website](#)



MORE DOWNTOWN PICKS

Downtown Seattle has an enormous selection of activities, restaurants, and watering holes, all of which are walkable from the city's core. We've had many a great night trawling around Belltown, going to jazz shows with family and friends at Demitirou's, and eating way too many soup dumplings at Din Tai Fung. Here are just a few of our picks:

Seattle Center: the Space Needle and other attractions in Seattle Center appear in almost every tourist guide. We won't argue that the Space Needle is a fun attraction, especially during the summer when skies should be clear. But if you're planning a visit here and would rather not wait on line, we'd recommend visiting the Chihuly Glass museum, MoPOP (great for kids), and if you're a music fan, stopping in to the KEXP studio (Seattle's most famous local music radio station) which has a cafe and record store inside. Check the Seattle Rep theater's schedule -- they often put on free Shakespeare performances during the summer.

Le Pichet: a great casual French bistro tucked away just north of Pike Place Market. If Place Pigalle reminds us of our fancy meals in Paris, Le Pichet reminds us of the many great meals we had at neighborhood corner bistros.

Bathtub Gin & Co.: a speakeasy-style cocktail bar hidden behind an unmarked door in Belltown. Consistently great drinks, but this is a small bar, so there may be a line out front. If not, jump inside!

Shorty's: if you are looking for a Rainier tallboy, a cheap hot dog, and hours of fun playing pinball and bar games, this is your spot. A true dive in the classic sense, we've had hours and hours of fun here.

Navy Strength: Seattle's second-best Tiki bar (see: Bait Shop). If you're pining for a bit of the tropics but haven't made it over to Capitol Hill, come here for a painkiller or zombie.

Umi Sake House: one of our favorite sushi restaurants in Seattle. We've been known to frequent their late-night happy hour from 9-11pm, when they offer great deals on sushi rolls and drinks.

Seattle Art Museum: Seattle's largest art museum, and well-worth checking out! Be sure to check their website at www.seattleartmuseum.org to see which exhibits are on display before buying tickets.

Some Random Bar: it's always really confusing when we tell people to meet us at "Some Random Bar," but that is really this bar's name. It's exactly what the name suggests -- a prototypical bar with a good beer list and unpretentious atmosphere.

Dimitriou's Jazz Alley: if you're into jazz, there aren't many better places in the PNW to catch a show. Dimitriou's has that classic jazz club atmosphere and consistently draws great acts -- make sure to book tickets in advance. Consider visiting Deep Dive, a speakeasy beneath the famous Amazon Spheres, for a drink before or after the show. If Dimitriou's isn't hosting an artist of interest, check the schedule for The Triple Door, another great jazz club nearby.

Anchorhead Coffee: Anchorhead has two outposts, one just north of Pike Place Market and another on the east end of the downtown core. They provided most of Matt's caffeine when he worked downtown.

Din Tai Fung & Dough Zone: dim sum and soup dumplings are one of our guilty pleasures -- visits to Dough Zone have become a tradition when family is in town. Both Din Tai Fung and Dough Zone have downtown locations, and both serve scrumptious dumplings. If you visit Dough Zone, be sure to order the scallion pancakes and the sweet and sour cucumber!

Mr. West: if you find yourself on the east side of the downtown core, Mr. West is a trendy spot to grab a coffee, tea, glass of wine, or light bite.

Shiro's / Sushi Kashiba: Shiro is one of the world's best sushi chefs, and studied under Jiro of Jiro Dreams of Sushi fame. Shiro's was his first restaurant, and delivers consistently high-quality omakase (sit at the chef's counter). Shiro recently opened a new restaurant, Sushi Kashiba, where he continues to serve amazing sushi. You can't go wrong at either place, but be sure to make reservations well in advance!

Seattle Aquarium: located on the cruise ship piers downtown, the Aquarium is a great kid-friendly activity and a great way to learn about all the marine life in our PNW waters!

Cloudburst Brewing: one of Seattle's most famous microbreweries. Cloudburst is world-renowned for their IPAs -- if you're in the area and are a fan of hops, be sure to stop here.

Here Today Brewery: a newer addition to the downtown roster, but makes for a fun afternoon stop after exploring Olympic Sculpture Park. Has a bit of a retro vibe and a creative tap list.



NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE: CAPITOL HILL

The Capitol Hill neighborhood was Matt's landing spot upon moving to Seattle from New York, and we both spent lots of time exploring the bustling neighborhood together during the early days of our relationship. There's tons to do on the Hill, and we highly suggest making the short walk up from the hotel to explore!

★ **Elliott Bay Book Company:** Elliott Bay is Lizzy's favorite bookstore in Seattle, and one of the city's largest and longest-tenured book shops. Browse the large fiction section and take your new book over to the Little Oddfellows Cafe to flip through over an iced beverage!

Lost Lake Cafe: Located just next to Elliott Bay, Lost Lake has fantastic diner food and would be a perfect place for a post-wedding brunch to soak up all the suds from the night before... make sure to try their tater tots!

Asian Art Museum & Conservatory: even though we mentioned Volunteer Park back in the Parks section, it deserves another call-out here. Volunteer Park is home to the Seattle Asian Art Museum (recently renovated) and a beautiful greenhouse with lots of fun plant species to see. Chain together an urban walk by hitting Cal Anderson Park on the way up, and check out the Boren Lookout just north of Volunteer Park.

Linda's: one of the original Capitol Hill dive bars, there is no better place in town to grab a cold Rainier. Be sure to step outside to the back patio to enjoy the summer weather!

★ **Bait Shop:** located in upper Capitol Hill close to the light rail station, Bait Shop is a tiki bar that is one of our favorite bars in the city. Their Painkillers and Zombies are second-to-none, and their fries come with a variety of dipping sauces that are all delicious.

Ooink / Ramen Danbo: these two ramen shops are among the best in the city. Danbo has a higher-profile reputation and the waits can get long; we recommend trying Ooink for a quicker fix.

Belmont Lounge: best described as a funky, Victorian-style living room with quirky decor and great cocktails. A date spot early on in our relationship, and may have inspired the wicker egg chair we now have in our Ballard living room...

Taylor Shellfish: a great place to get fresh, local PNW oysters. Taylor operates a farm just north of the city, and the oysters are always delicious. We'd also recommend Boat Bar, located a bit farther east, for oyster lovers.

Starbucks Reserve Roastery: the first Reserve location, offering coffee flights and coffee-themed cocktails. Watch the coffee beans flow through the tubes lining the walls and ceiling!

Plum Bistro / Life on Mars: a great vegan one-two punch! Start with a delicious dinner at Plum Bistro, then head to Life on Mars for great music, fun vegan bar bites, and creative cocktails!

★ **Frankie & Jo's:** this vegan ice cream shop has completely changed Matt's life. F&J serves non-dairy ice cream whose flavors totally rival (and potentially beat!) the real thing. Worth sampling even if you are dairy-enabled: it's that good.

Spin Cycle: while we're still mourning the loss of Everyday Records, Spin Cycle is a great record shop on the north end of Capitol Hill that's worth a stop if you're a collector. Spin Cycle has a great eclectic collection to browse - make sure to check out the back room too!



Volunteer Park's Black Hole Sun with a Space Needle view

Thanks
For Visiting



Hosted By:
Keepers Of The
Patos Light

