

Nico & Allison

September 14-16, 2019



Allison and Nico's Seattle Celebration!

Thank you so much for coming out to see us and to celebrate our marriage! We are so blessed to have such a loving and supportive family and we're excited to get to spend some quality time with you over the next couple of days!

Events

We have set up a series of events that you can choose to attend if you are feeling up for it, but we also want you to feel free to explore our wonderful city by yourself and "choose your own adventure," if you feel so inclined.

To that effect, we have set up a loose schedule for this weekend that you should feel free to follow as closely as you desire! All of the following events (besides the wedding celebration dinner Monday night) are completely optional! We will be there and you're sure to run into some other friendly faces as well.

- **Saturday, September 14**

- Most people will be arriving this day! Feel free to hit up the Pike Place market or any of the other ideas we have on page 8.
- **5-8pm** – Drinks and bites at Peddler Brewing. See page 4 for details.

- **Sunday, September 15**

- **10am-12pm** – Hike in Discovery Park (page 5)
- **12pm-2(ish)** – Lunch/games in Discovery Park (page 5)
- **6-8pm** – Dinner at Rhein Haus (page 6)

- **Monday, September 16**

- **9:30am** – Yoga alongside Allison (page 7)
- **6pm** – Our wedding celebration dinner! (page 7)

And that's it! If you are looking for more things to do, you can check out our favorite places to eat, relax, and explore in this awesome city! Flip to page 8 for that.

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Saturday Event Details

Here you can read a bit more about the things we've planned to see which of them tickle your fancy.

Meetup at Peddler Brewing

1514 NW Leary Way, Seattle, WA 98107
Peddlerbrewing.com

Come on down and hang out with us at this family-friendly brew pub. We'll have a couple tables in their covered outdoor area. Feel free to make a quick stop or hang out and play some of the lawn and board games they offer. We'll be there at **5pm**. Feel free to drop in for a drink or stay a while.

They have a food truck out back, a sandwich shop with a window that has access to the brewery and they also allow you to bring your own food if you want to make this your dinner stop for the evening.



See page 10 for other places we like to grab grub!

Sunday Event Details

Discovery Park Hike and Picnic Lunch

This is one of Nico's absolute favorite spaces in the city. When he first arrived he was amazed by all the huge green spaces all around us and made it his quest to visit them all. The placement of this park played no small role in our decision to move to Magnolia. Now we live right next door and Nico gets to go running in the park before school!

Discovery is the largest park in the city of Seattle. It clocks in at 534 acres and it captures a huge variety of different biomes. You can get (truly) lost among the trees in the vast forested areas or stroll through a meadow to come to stunning bluffs overlooking Puget sound.

You can meet us at **10 am** on Sunday for a brisk walk through the forest and along the cliffs to a cozy beach with a lighthouse and back. It's about 5mi round trip and there are about 400' of stairs to climb but we won't be pushing too hard so hopefully anyone can join. If you'd prefer to skip it, you are still welcome to join us at noon for some food in the park (which will be hosted by Jeff and Colleen).

IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON GOING ON THE HIKE: Just search for **Discovery Park East Parking Lot** in your favorite maps app and you will be led right there. For those of you staying in Ballard, you can even try walking across the locks if you're looking for an extra bit of exercise. We love heading down that path (in the opposite direction) for Sunday brunch. :)

IF YOU PLAN ON MEETING UP WITH US AFTER THE HIKE: We will have a picnic lunch provided by the Courts family on the bluffs overlooking Puget sound. This will be an old-fashioned "blankets and baskets" style picnic, set your GPS to **Discovery Park South Parking Lot** off W Emerson Drive. There will be a short walk from the lot to the bluffs, close to the "Chapel-Ft Lawton Historical District" that you'll also see on your maps app.



Rhein Haus

912 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122
RheinHausSeattle.com

Of particular interest to our out-of-town guests: Join us for a no-host buffet dinner at Rhein Haus in Capitol Hill. This fun and vibrant place combines Nico's adoration for all things German and Allison's other true love: pretzels. We have a special section just for us and will have several delicious options to satisfy both the vegans and the carnivores among us!

Due to the size of our group, we need to schedule many things ahead, so if you are coming please both RSVP (at our wedding website) and bring cash/venmo \$20 per person to Nico (@NicolasCourts) or Allison (@AllisonStaciaTaylor) for food.

Drinks are plentiful and up to you! Rhein Haus has over 20 drafts and lots o'bottles to choose from, not to mention options for bocce or other games throughout the establishment.

We have the space from **6pm-8pm**, feel free to come anytime during those hours—minors do need to be out of the property by 9pm.



Monday Event Details

Yoga with Allison @ Shakti Yoga Seattle

2238 NW Market St, Seattle, WA 98107
ShaktiVinyasa.com

Join Allison for an invigorating hot yoga session at **9:30am** at her favorite studio. Arrive early to complete registration and rent a mat, you can also reserve your space in advance at

[http://shaktivinyasa.com/seattle-schedule.](http://shaktivinyasa.com/seattle-schedule)

Please note that Allison is not teaching this class, just taking it along with anyone else who wants to join in on the sweat!

Wedding Celebration!

Finally the main event! Join us in downtown Ballard at the **Olympic Rooftop Pavillion** at the **Hotel Ballard** at **6pm**.



We will begin with some time with appetizers and cocktails and time for us all to socialize in this beautiful event space at the top of the Ballard skyline. Dinner will follow and will be some delicious food served family-style with something for vegetarians and meat eaters alike. Catering will be by the great Stoneburner restaurant downstairs (a local favorite).

Things to Do and See in Seattle

We've pulled together our combined recommendations for things to do, see, and eat. Hopefully these things float your boat!

Touristy Stuff

What kind of city guide would this be if we didn't include the stuff that tourists like to do? There are tons of museums and bus tours you can do of this lovely city, just look up Yelp or TripAdvisor!

Here are a couple of our favorites:

Pike Place Market

Don't you dare call it "*Pike's place*"! This is a bustling market right in the middle of downtown that is famous for, among other things, the fishmongers who throw their fresh fish back and forth. We love it for the fantastic deals you can get on fresh bouquets and the cute hand-crafted goods you can find there.

If you're feeling nostalgic (and you have too much time on your hands) you can also visit the first Starbucks which is located right across the street. We'd recommend walking about 500 feet down the street and getting the exact *same cup of coffee* from a more modern Starbucks with a fraction of the wait, however. :)



Smith Tower

Sure, you *could* go to the space needle but honestly we've gone there and paid the \$40 fee to ride up in the elevator and it's a bit of a bust. And this is on top of having to pay for parking and navigate the craziness of downtown.

Instead, let us offer you the Smith Tower as an alternative. Have you ever wanted to feel like you were part of the 1920s upper crust? Well you're in luck because for the low, low price of \$20 you can get a historical tour of the building followed by a ride



up in the elevator to the Observatory Bar, a luxurious room with 360 degree views of Seattle and the Sound and one thing that you'll never see from the Space Needle: the Space Needle itself!

Allison absolutely fell in love with the tower when she first visited when she was younger

and has since convinced Nico to love it (almost) as much.

You can also choose to visit after hours (after 9pm) to shave \$8 off the admission price.

Bites to Eat

Perché No

1319 N 49th St Seattle, WA, 98103
PercheNoPastaAndVino.com

This wonderful restaurant is where Allison and Nico had one of their very first dates! It is an Italian restaurant owned and run by a Korean couple – he is the head chef and she works the front of the house – and it's to die for.

It has a fun ambiance and the whole restaurant surrounds a big open kitchen where you can watch the chef boil up your fresh house-made pasta and enjoy a glass of wine from their extensive wine list. On our first trip the owner came up to us and told us all about her son who just started a food truck – she was so proud!

Mondello Ristorante Italiano

2425 33rd Ave W #3 Seattle, WA 98199
MondelloRistorante.com

Speaking of incredible Italian food, *Mondello* is our new secret spot (shhh...) to take people from out of town. Come inside and you are in your family's kitchen (or maybe some idealized version that cleans up) and a sweet Sicilian lady will come up and treat you like one of her own. The food is authentic with a capital "A" and you'll swear that you have been magically transported to the south of Italy.

For an added bonus, you can pop next door for some Gelato from the Nutty Squirrel! They have gelato and sorbetto for the vegans among you.

Pink Salt

3321 W. McGraw St Seattle, WA 98199
PinkSaltSeattle.com

The owners of *Mondello* bought another space right down the street and decided to create their own version of Peruvian cuisine! Worth a visit if only to see the glowing wall behind the bar entirely made of pink salt (Nico tasted it for authenticity)! The cocktails are innovative and delicious and the food made us both happy.

Pel'Meni Dumpling Tzar

1630 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122
DumplingTzar.com

This place is a surprise— inexpensive dumplings with delicious choices for toppings and a pretty great bar, too. Allison quickly fell in love with this place (definitely visit the Capitol Hill location listed here for a fuller menu vs the Fremont one) and discovered Vareniki fries.

You're welcome in advance.

Other Restaurant Recommendations

Chefs Ethan Stowell and Renee Erickson have some other wonderful restaurants throughout Seattle—search and see what piques your interest. Stowell's *Tavolàta* is another of Allison's favorite finds from before she moved here (*Gnocchi alla Romana*, trust it) and Erickson's Bistro Shirlee is quite near Nico's old apartment, on the Burke-Gilman Trail he used to walk home from the university every Friday.

The Café Life

Seattle is definitely known for its coffee scene, but these cafés have stood out to us as truly outstanding.

Miro Tea

5405 Ballard Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107
MiroTea.com

Okay, so it's not coffee. But if you are a tea drinker like Nico you will almost certainly find something you love. They have some outstanding Chinese tea (Nico always gets a *gaiwan* of *puerh* tea) and some friendly staff who know what they're talking about.

The best part is that, if you're staying in Ballard, it's right around the corner!

La Marzocco

472 1st Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109
LaMarzoccoUsa.com

The showroom for La Marzocco espresso machines, this shop hosts a rotating cast of coffee roasters and the menu changes monthly. The space is shared with Seattle's local-powered KEXP radio station and comes complete with a Molly Moon's ice cream machine (a local delicacy).

Storyville Coffee

Found at Pike Place and in Queen Anne
Storyville.com

Allison's favorite coffee place, they have homemade baked goods, delicious roasts, and the absolute best logo.

Milstead Coffee

54 N 34th St, Seattle, WA 98103
MilsteadAndCo.com

Dang good coffee right by one of the crew boathouses Allison (and her dad) rows out of on Lake Union. Walk up Troll Ave to see the famous Seattle troll featured in the 1999 masterpiece *10 Things I Hate About You*.

Espresso Vivace

Several Locations
EspressoVivace.com

You MUST try the Cafe Nico drink on their menu. First tasted because of the name, this is the speciality of the house and easily one of the top 5 coffee drinks you'll ever have in your life.

Bars and Nightlife

Looking to shake your groove thing or get your drank on? Luckily there are some happening spots for you hep cats.

Pie Bar Ballard

2218 NW Market St, Seattle, WA 98107

As you probably know, Allison can't have gluten and Nico doesn't drink. Luckily that isn't a problem for them because Pie Bar is a thing! Right down the street from the Ballard Hotel sits this warm little shop with a cozy ambiance where you can go alone or with a group to go grab a slice and/or a cocktail.

People are friendly and the pie is great and you'd be hard pressed to have a bad time here.

Garage

1130 Broadway Seattle, WA 98122
GarageBilliards.com

A fun place for adults (sorry, it's strictly 21+!) to go hang out and play pool or bowl. It's usually pretty busy but is great if you are looking for something to do on your night out!

This place is of special importance, because this is where Nico and Allison had their first date. We saw each other for the first time right there on those highly-polished floors. ♡

The Noble Fir

5316 Ballard Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107
TheNobleFir.com

Serving craft beer and fine wine, this spot decorates with the outdoor traveler in mind and has a selection of maps to peruse between sips. Allison likes to call it a wine sports bar, combining nearly all of her favorite things.

Bitterroot BBQ

5239 Ballard Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107
BitterrootBBQ.com

Across the street from Hotel Ballard, this place has great food but also a solid, unpretentious bar in the back. Every night of the week you can find them slinging some pretty wonderful cocktails and whiskey flights.

Deep Dive

620 Lenora St, Seattle, WA 98121
DeepDiveSeattle.com

A must-visit due to its gorgeous interior (check out Instagram, this place is a design dream) and specialty cocktails, its location is also a new major Seattle landmark: the Amazon Spheres.

