

The Facts of Life in Washington

- Seattle is 44th in a listing of U.S. cities by rainfall amounts and has less rain each year than New York, Boston, Houston, Atlanta, and Philadelphia.
- Seattleites buy more sunglasses per capita than the residents of any other city in the nation.
- Seattle has a higher percentage of people biking to work than other U.S. cities.
- The Seattle City Library loans more books per capita than any other city library in the nation.
- One out of five people in the Seattle area own a boat.
- More than 89% of Seattle residents recycle.
- The Seattle Police Department was the first ever to sport cops on bikes.
- July 26th is the most likely day to be sunny in Seattle.
- Seattle has the largest movie-going population in the country.
- The largest section of the Berlin Wall is on display at the Seattle Center.
- Pike Place Market is the oldest continuously operating independent farmer's market in the U.S., originating in 1907.
- Seattle was the first city in the U.S. to play a Beatles song on the radio.
- The longest and heaviest floating structure in the world is the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge (SR-520). The bridge connects Seattle and Medina across Lake Washington.
- Inventions in the Pacific Northwest include water skis, Slinky Pull Toy, Pictionary, Elmer's Glue and electric guitar.
- Washington State has more glaciers than the other 47 contiguous states combined.
- The world's first espresso cart was established below the Seattle Monorail terminal at Westlake Center in 1980.
- The 2001 Seattle Mariners won 116 games tying the 1906 Chicago Cubs for the most games won in a season.
- Everett is the site of the world's largest building, Boeing's final assembly plant.
- When the Space Needle was built in 1962 it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi River. It is fastened to its foundation with 72 bolts, each 30 feet in length.
- Washington State produces more apples than any other state in the union.
- Puget Sound's many islands are served by the largest ferry fleet in the United States.

Things to Do in Seattle

- **Museum of Flight:** Did you know there are 175 miles of electrical wiring in the cockpit of a 747 alone?
- **Pike Place Market:** The heart and soul of Seattle! With 150 craft stalls, 200 shops, wonderful restaurants and street musicians throughout, this area is active all year round! A colorful and exciting spot, the Market is the oldest continually operated independent farmers market in the USA, originating in 1907.
- **Winery Tours:** Located on the same latitude as French wine country, Seattle is a great place to taste a wide variety of wines. Of the over 200 Wineries in the state, Chateau Ste. Michelle is the most famous.
- **Mount St. Helens:** Jet ranger helicopters can fly you over the volcanic crater.
- **Kiana Lodge:** A private lodge built in the 1920s. The salmon bakes and traditional Northwest tribe dances are spectacular.
- **Victoria & Vancouver, British Columbia:** A two-nation vacation! An easy day trip to Victoria by seaplane or hydrofoil ensures seeing all the sights of the Northwest Coast. Vancouver is just 150 miles North.
- **Waterfront Park, Seattle Aquarium & Omnidome:** Water is our life!
- **Pioneer Square & Underground Tour:** See the foundations upon which Seattle was built. The Underground Tour is a fascinating walk through history.
- **Spectator Sports:** Seattle sports the latest in stadiums! From the retractable roof of Safeco Field, the Mariners' home turf, to the recently constructed Qwest Field (home of the Seahawks), there's always an opportunity to catch the score in style.
- **Participatory Sports:** Alpine or nordic skiing, sailing, kayaking, river rafting, cycling, water skiing, fishing, golf, tennis, hiking, etc. (some seasonal)
- **Shopping:** Nordstrom is headquartered in Seattle with its flagship store just three blocks from The Fairmont Olympic Hotel. You can also find REI, Louis Vuitton, MaxMara, Barney's New York and dozens of fabulous, unique boutiques.
- **Whale Watching:** Available April through September.
- **The Pilchuk School of Glass Art:** Hand-blown glass; internationally renowned!
- **Seattle Art Museum:** Located two blocks away, designed by Robert Venturi; newly expanded in 2007.
- **Houseboat Tour on Lake Union:** Just seven minutes from the Fairmont Olympic Hotel.
- **Theater:** Seattle employs more actors per capita than any city in the U.S., with the exception of New York. We also have the Seattle Opera & Symphony, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, and the new McCaw Hall is just a block away. Right outside the Fairmont Olympic doors: the 5th Avenue Theater and the Paramount Theater.
- **Hot Air Ballooning:** View the Pacific Northwest from 3000 feet up in a colorful balloon.
- **Mt. Rainier National Park:** Hiking up a portion of Mt. Rainier offers amazing scenery.

Seattle Weather

Month	Average Daily High (°F)	Total Monthly Precipitation (Inches)	Average Humidity (%)
January	45.7	5.68	74
February	50.1	3.88	67
March	52.6	3.51	61
April	58.3	2.28	57
May	64.8	1.51	54
June	69.2	1.40	53
July	74.8	0.73	49
August	73.9	1.16	51
September	69.1	1.88	58
October	60.2	3.14	67
November	51.7	5.08	74
December	47.3	5.91	77

Annual Rainfall Comparisons

City	Inches
Miami	59.8
Houston	48.2
New York	40.3
Washington DC	39.2
Seattle	36.2
San Francisco	20.0

Source: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Seattle Links

City of Seattle Official Website: www.seattle.gov

Comprehensive city site links visitors, citizens and businesses to a plethora of sites related to Seattle.

Seattle Times: www.seattletimes.com

Sift through news, sports, editorials, business and technology updates. Top Washington state daily offers features, arts, and weather.

Seattle.net, A Guide to the City: www.seattle.net

Explore the entertainment district of Seattle with the help of this comprehensive guide, with links to local resources.

Washington State Ferries Website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

Route maps, tourist information, schedules, news, events and a fleet guide for this government-run ferry system. Find out about service changes.

Seattle's Convention & Visitor's Bureau: www.visitseattle.org

Includes a searchable events calendar, visitor's guide, lodging guide, hotel reservation services and information of interest to both individual travelers and meeting and convention planners

5th Avenue Theatre Website: www.5thavenuetheatre.org

Steps from the Fairmont Olympic, the 5th Avenue Theatre produces several national shows each year. Website includes a virtual tour, event schedule, technical specifications and ticketing details..

Official Website of Washington State Tourism: www.experiencewa.com

Provides information on where to go and what to do in Washington State. In less than an hour from downtown Seattle, you can be on the slopes or in the backcountry ... straight from work to catch night skiing at Alpentel or Snoqualmie Pass!

Seattle Symphony Website: www.seattlesymphony.org

Resource for news and information about Seattle's symphony orchestra. Order tickets, browse the concert calendar, or access directions. Located two blocks from the front door of The Fairmont Olympic!

Pacific Northwest Ballet: www.pnb.org

Find out about Seattle's ballet company, upcoming performances and ticketing details. Performances are in the new, state-of-the-art Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

The Citysearch Seattle Website: www.seattle.citysearch.com

The city guide to entertainment, restaurants, events, movies and businesses. Get info about rock climbing, skiing, long distance running and other Seattle sports. Find out about professional sports events as well!