

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR YOUR AVERAGE SEATTLEITE

to have an REI membership and a closet full of gear: a snowshoe here, a climbing rope there. It's no wonder—while most cities have clear lines between where the rural ends and the urban begins, in Seattle, it's all one big, beautiful blur, from hiking opportunities in residential neighborhoods to waterfronts that beckon paddlers year-round.

Whether you prefer a sunset stroll or a daily adrenaline rush, there's an outdoor adventure for everyone in the Emerald City.



Burke-Gilman

ON TWO WHEELS

Bike culture in Seattle is strong, and fortunately, there are plenty of trails for every level, starting with the granddaddy of them all: the **Burke-Gilman Trail**. It runs for nearly 20 miles through neighborhoods like Ballard, Fremont, and the University District before connecting to the Sammamish River Trail in Bothell, giving riders miles of uninterrupted pathway. The **Green River Trail** (another 20-mile route), starts at the southern end of the city, meanders along the river and through a number of lovely parks, and intersects with the straight, fast-moving **Interurban Trail**. For a quintessential experience, join 10,000 cyclists on the **STP (Seattle to Portland)** in July. This 200-mile ride is a local rite of passage, with a collegial atmosphere and numerous support stops.

If you don't have your own bike, head to one of many cycling shops in town—**The Bicycle Repair Shop** near the waterfront rents by the hour, day, or week.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Seattle's showpiece is the stunning Puget Sound, which touches all of the city's westernmost neighborhoods. **Washington State Ferries** ply its waters, with vessels sailing to destinations including Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, and Vashon Island, all perfect for day trips.

To stay in the city, hop aboard with **Argosy Cruises**. The Locks Cruise is a visitor favorite—sail from downtown to Lake Union (or vice versa) through the Ballard Locks, where the ship is either raised or lowered to transfer from saltwater to freshwater, depending on your direction of travel. At the south end of the lake, **The Center for Wooden Boats** is a living museum with classic vessels on display and available to rent. If you'd rather someone else do the navigating, the center offers free, hour-long public sails each Sunday.

For smaller watercraft, rent a canoe from the University of Washington's **Waterfront Activities Center** and paddle past the lily pads and ducklings of Lake Washington. **SUP Yoga Seattle** offers classes on nearby Green Lake, while **Urban Surf** rents soft- and hard-top paddleboards from the north end of Lake Union.



Kayaking on Lake Union

PREVIOUS SPREAD: MATT MORINICK; THIS SPREAD: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: AMELIA SKINNER, MARK A. JOHNSON/ALAMY; STOCK PHOTO; SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; EDUARD LOWE/ALAMY; STOCK PHOTO; STEVE MACAULI/AURORA; PHOTOS.



Change your Altitude on the Mt. Rainier Gondola

Crystal Mountain Resort is best known as a skiers paradise, but it's more than just that. It's memories waiting to be created. It's family hikes, horseback rides, and never-ending photo opportunities. It's scenic gondola rides and a gourmet lunch or dinner at what feels like the top of the world. It's Mt. Rainier bigger and more beautiful than you've ever seen it.

Crystal Mountain Resort is located just 6 miles from the Northeast entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park. Keep the mountain magic going and stay the night. Conveniently located hotels, condos and cabins make for a perfect relaxing or adventurous getaway. Visit website for schedule and hours.



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