

Suggested Itinerary: Seattle & the Pacific Northwest

Hip and friendly Seattle is the perfect spot to launch a tour of the postcard-pretty Pacific Northwest. See whales leaping in the waters off Orcas Island, enjoy impressive ocean views on a ferry ride and enjoy the modern, big-city vibe of Portland.

Seattle, Washington

Suggested: 3 days

Begin your visit in the 'Emerald City' with a trip atop the Space Needle, the city's iconic landmark. The needle boasts an observation deck at 520 feet (160 m), a rotating restaurant just below it and panoramic views of surrounding mountains, Seattle skyline and nearby islands. From there, enjoy a mile (1.6 km) walk south to the bustling Pike Place Market, a year-round farmers market offering everything from baked goods and fresh produce to the famous "flying fish" (thrown by the fish mongers of the Pike Place Fish Market). While there, stop at the very first Starbucks coffee shop, which opened at Pike Place in 1971 (and which subsequently launched a coffeehouse explosion around Seattle). Rock and roll fans should definitely check out the Experience Music Project (EMP), an architectural marvel that's a shrine to modern music. Families will enjoy the impressive Seattle Aquarium and the Pacific Science Center where interactive exhibits focus on the human body, nature and more.

Bainbridge Island, Washington

Suggested: 3 days

From Seattle, hop on the ferry for the hour-long trip west across Puget Sound to beautiful Bainbridge Island. The island is the perfect getaway for nature lovers who enjoy boating, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, cycling, hiking and golfing. Celebrate Bainbridge Island's local bounty with a visit to the Saturday farmers market for fresh produce, flowers and local goods. Stroll the Winslow Way to browse the island's many art galleries, featuring locally created paintings, sculpture, jewellery and more.

San Juan Islands, Washington

Suggested: 3 days

Return to Seattle via ferry before driving north to Anacortes and boarding the Friday Harbor Ferry to the stunning, laid-back San Juan Islands – a collection of 172 named islands and reefs. The biggest islands here (boasting the most amenities), are San Juan, Orcas, Lopez and Shaw. Savour a once-in-a-lifetime boating excursion to see orcas in the wild, and plan time to tour the islands on bicycle or by kayak. Enjoy local culture and history with a stroll through Friday Harbor’s San Juan Islands Museum of Art and The Whale Museum. Energize and enjoy the Friday Harbor view while sipping coffee from the San Juan Island Roasting Company, one of many coffee shops on the islands.

Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington

Suggested: 2 days

Head back across Friday Harbor to Anacortes before driving about five hours south to breathtaking Mt. Rainier National Park. Stand in awe of this glacier-topped, 14,410-foot-tall (4,392 m) active volcano. The park features a good variety of hiking trails, from just a few miles to 20 miles (32 km) or more, and the mountain is a favorite with thousands of serious climbers each year. In winter, visit Crystal Mountain Resort and strap on skis to enjoy 58 well-groomed downhill slopes.

Portland, Oregon

Suggested: 3 days

From the Mt. Rainier area, drive about two-and-a-half hours south to Portland, Oregon’s largest city. This pedestrian-friendly city that sits on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers is known for its abundance of coffeehouses, craft-brew pubs and bookstores. Take one of many walking tours of the city, with topics ranging from epicurean adventures to ghost tours. Don’t miss a trip to Powell’s City of Books, one of the world’s largest independent bookstores. Check out one of the city’s many



farm-to-table restaurants before heading to the Crystal Ballroom, the grand Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall or any number of small clubs to witness Portland's thriving live music scene. Head 30 miles (48 km) east of Portland to take in amazing views, hiking and waterfalls at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Or, drive 90 minutes east to Mt. Hood for year-round outdoor recreation such as hiking, camping, fishing and skiing.

For more trip inspiration and travel ideas throughout the U.S., go to VisitTheUSA.com and thebrandusa.com/USAtripkit.