



My Drift

Title: Seattle

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Seattle with Mt. Rainier in the background



Seattle on the shores of Puget Sound



To the East, Seattle is bordered by Lake Washington



Seattle Area Maps

Seattle is rated as one of America's greatest cities. With a population of about 750,000, it is the largest city in both the state of Washington and the Pacific Northwest. The Seattle metropolitan area's population of over 4 million makes it the 15th-largest in the United States. Seattle is situated on an isthmus between Puget Sound (an inlet of the Pacific Ocean) and Lake Washington. As you can see on the above maps, there is a lot of water around the Seattle area. It is the northernmost major city in the continental United States, located about 100 miles south of the Canadian border. A major gateway for trade with East Asia, Seattle is the fourth-largest port in North America.

History

The Seattle area was inhabited by Native Americans for at least 4,000 years before the first permanent European settlers arrived in 1851. The settlement was moved to the eastern shore of Elliott Bay and named "Seattle" in 1852, in honor of Chief Si'ahl of the local Duwamish and Suquamish tribes. Today, Seattle has high populations of Native, Scandinavian, European American, Asian American and African American people, as well as a thriving LGBT community.



Elliott Bay Marina

Logging was Seattle's first major industry, but by the late 19th century, the city had become a commercial and shipbuilding center as a gateway to Alaska during the Klondike Gold Rush. Growth after World War II was partially due to the local Boeing company, which established Seattle as a center for aircraft manufacturing. The Seattle area developed into a technology center from the 1980s onwards with companies like Microsoft becoming established in the region; Microsoft founder Bill Gates is a Seattleite by birth. Internet retailer Amazon was founded in Seattle in 1994, and major airline Alaska Airlines is based at Seattle–Tacoma International Airport.

Major Companies

Back in 2001, Boeing cited the diversification of its business beyond commercial jets as the rationale for moving its headquarters from Seattle (where it had been based since its founding in 1916) to Chicago. Now in 2022, Boeing is moving its headquarters again from Chicago to Arlington, Virginia. Regardless, Boeing is still making airplanes in the Seattle area.



The Microsoft campus is the corporate headquarters of Microsoft, located in Redmond, Washington, a part of the Seattle metropolitan area. Microsoft initially moved there on February 26, 1986. The headquarters has undergone multiple expansions since its establishment and is presently estimated to encompass over 8 million square feet of office space and have over 50,000 employees.



Starbucks Headquarters



Starbucks Corporation is an American multinational chain of coffeehouses and roastery reserves headquartered in Seattle, Washington. It is the world's largest coffeehouse chain. As of November 2021, the company had 33,833 stores in 80 countries, 15,444 of which were located in the United States.

Costco's worldwide headquarters are in Issaquah, Washington, an eastern suburb of Seattle, although its Kirkland Signature house label bears the name of its former location in Kirkland. The company opened its first warehouse in Seattle in 1983. As of September 2022, Costco has 839 warehouses worldwide: 578 in the United States and Puerto Rico, 107 in Canada, 40 in Mexico, 31 in Japan, 29 in the United Kingdom, 17 in Korea, 14 in Taiwan, 13 in Australia, four in Spain, two each in France and China, one in Iceland and New Zealand.



Amazon Corporate Headquarters



Amazon Spheres

Amazon is an American multinational technology company that focuses on e-commerce, cloud computing, online advertising, digital streaming, and artificial intelligence. It has been referred to as "one of the most influential economic and cultural forces in the world" and is one of the world's most valuable brands. It is one of the Big Five American information technology companies, alongside Alphabet, Apple, Meta, and Microsoft.

Amazon was founded by Jeff Bezos from his garage in Bellevue, Washington, on July 5, 1994. Initially an online marketplace for books, it has expanded into a multitude of product categories, a strategy that has earned it the moniker “The Everything Store”.

Climate

Seattle has a temperate climate - It has cool, wet winters and mild, relatively dry summers. Temperature extremes are moderated by the adjacent Puget Sound, greater Pacific Ocean, and Lake Washington. Thus, extreme heat waves are rare in the Seattle area, as are very cold temperatures. The Seattle area is the cloudiest region of the United States, due in part to frequent storms and lows moving in from the adjacent Pacific Ocean. With many more "rain days" than other major American cities, Seattle has a well-earned reputation for frequent rain. In an average year, precipitation falls on 150 days, more than nearly all U.S. cities. However, because it often has merely a light drizzle falling from the sky for many days, Seattle actually receives significantly less rainfall (or other precipitation) overall than many other U.S. cities like New York City or Houston. Seattle is cloudy 201 days out of the year and partly cloudy 93 days.

Demographics

Seattle's population historically has been predominantly white. The 2010 census showed that Seattle was one of the whitest big cities in the country, although its proportion of white residents has been gradually declining. In 1960, whites constituted almost 92% of the city's population, while in 2010 they constituted 70%.

Table below shows current racial composition:

Race	Percent
White (non-Hispanic)	60%
Asian	17%
Hispanic or Latino	8%
Black	7%
Other	1%
Two or more races	7%

Religion

The largest religious groupings are Christians (52%), followed by those of no religion (37%), Hindus (2%), Buddhists (2%), Jews (1%), Muslims (1%).

Income

The median income of a city household was \$95,000, and the median income for a family was \$132,000.

Homeless

It is estimated that King County has 8,000 homeless people on any given night, most of those are in Seattle.

Sexual Orientation

Seattle has a notably large lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. About 13% of city residents polled identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual. This was the second-highest proportion of any major U.S. city, behind only San Francisco.

Parks and Recreation

Seattle's mild, temperate, marine climate allows year-round outdoor recreation, including walking, cycling, hiking, skiing, snowboarding, kayaking, rock climbing, motor boating, sailing, team sports, and swimming. In town, many people walk around Green Lake, through the forests and along the bluffs and beaches of 535-acre Discovery Park (the largest park in the city). Also popular are hikes and skiing in the nearby Cascade or Olympic Mountains and kayaking and sailing in the waters of Puget Sound.

Seattle Attractions

Space Needle

Built for the 1962 World's Fair, the 605-foot-tall Space Needle quickly became an icon of the city that today is recognized far and wide. On the observation level, which you can reach via a 43-second elevator ride, see the doodle-on-a-napkin concept that led to the Space Needle design. Views from the top feature Elliott Bay, the Cascade Mountains, and even Mount Rainier.



Seattle Center Monorail

Another World's Fair relic, the Seattle Center Monorail links Seattle Center—home of the Space Needle and several other notable attractions — to downtown's Westlake Center along an approximately one-mile route. The designated historic landmark can reach a top speed of 45 miles per hour and weaves between skyscrapers above the city streets.



A Few More Attractions



Pike Place Market



Central Public Library



Seattle Art Museum



Seattle Aquarium



Chinatown-International District



Boeing Factory



Museum of Flight



Washington State Ferries



Seattle Convention Center



Baseball Seattle Mariners



Football Seattle Seahawks



T-Mobile Park



Lumen Field



University of Washington



Mt. Rainier (60 miles from Seattle)



Seattle-Tacoma International Airport



Seattle Great Wheel

Comments

I have been to the Seattle area three times. Two times I stayed in downtown Seattle near the Convention Center where I attended the SHARE Conference and received IBM training. The other time I was staying across Lake Washington in Redmond where I attended Microsoft training. Seattle is a fun city, and I had a good time on all of these trips.

I didn't go see all of the above attractions, but I did see a few of them like the Space Needle and Pike Place Market. The one thing we (me and my supervisor at the time Dave Tomooka) did that I remember the best was going to a Seattle Mariners baseball game. We decided to walk there from our hotel since it was only a couple of miles away. Going there in the daylight was no problem but the return trip late at night was a little scary. We had to walk through an area loaded with homeless people and other shady looking characters. We managed to make it back to the hotel okay.

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