

## Getting Around Downtown Seattle:

Seattle's downtown area is compact and can easily be explored by foot. The conference hotel is located on the uphill side of the major shopping area. Most nearby places of interest are "logically west" of the hotel, which is a left turn out the main door of the hotel, going downhill on Pine Street.

Information on tourist attractions is readily available from the hotel concierge and also from the Seattle Visitor Center, located one block south of the hotel, in the main entrance foyer of the Seattle Convention Center at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pike Street. The visitor center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. Their web site is [www.visitseattle.org](http://www.visitseattle.org).

Most of where you may want to venture in downtown is on a rectangular grid, with axes running slightly offset from North-South and East-West. Numbered AVENUES run "north-south"; Named STREETS run "east-west". (Exceptions: Post Avenue, AKA Post Alley, Western Avenue and Alaskan Way run "north-south" west of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.) The Grand Hyatt Hotel is located at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pine Street. Almost all the action is located between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and between Pine and Madison Streets. The famous Pike Place Market is located at the foot of Pike Street, just west of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, eight short blocks from the hotel. To help match addresses on Avenues with *street* names, a table of street names with corresponding addresses is given below. Blocks in downtown Seattle are short, twenty to a mile.

Note that access to the waterfront, including the quite good aquarium, is difficult North of Pike Street. The most "scenic" way to get there is to go down Pike Street to the Pike Place Market. Continue into the market *straight ahead from Pike Street* to find the stairs down to the lower levels of the market. These continue beyond the market and go all the way down to the waterfront. Last month there was construction here; follow the detour signs if necessary.

Downtown Streets, from South to North	Corresponding addresses on Avenues
James	600
Cherry	700
Columbia	800
Marion	900
Madison	1000
Spring	1100
Seneca	1200
University	1300
Union	1400
Pike	1500
<b>Pine</b>	<b>1600</b>
Olive	1700
Stewart	1900
Virginia	2000
Lenora	2100
Blanchard	2200
Bell	2300

## Venturing Beyond Downtown

Seattle has reasonable public transportation, mostly bus and ferry. But finding your way on them can be challenging for visitors, so get advice before heading out. A particular challenge is the layout of streets. Were you puzzled by the missing low digits and the gap at 1800 in the table above? Belltown, which is north of Stewart Street, is on a rectangular grid, but slightly offset from the downtown grid. Globally the rest of Seattle is on yet another rectangular grid, on real N-S, E-W axes. The gaps in numbers allow for other streets to squeeze in the gaps outside of downtown. The addressing rule for all these grids is particularly confusing. For your purposes, this is all that matters: if the address has a directional designator before the street name or number, e.g. 905 **S** Jackson Street, or after the avenue name or number, e.g. 205 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue **W**, it's too far to walk and you need advice to get there. Downtown addresses have no directional designators.

There are three exceptions of interest to this rule. Seattle Center, which is just into the **N**orth section of the grid, is accessible by taking the Seattle Monorail from Westlake Center Mall at 5<sup>th</sup> and Pine Street. Do note that the ride to the top of the Space Needle is only worth doing on a very clear day, which is possible, but not usual, in late February. The round-trip (return) fare is \$4.00. The ride to the top of the Needle is another \$17.00.

Pioneer Square, at the southwest corner of downtown, and the International District, at the southeast corner of downtown, can be reached at no cost. Bus travel in the heart of downtown is free in the "free ride zone", which extends, just barely, to these locations. Pioneer Square is the old heart of Seattle, which is old and quaint, but only by standards of a young country. The International District is more than "Chinatown". A short list of some very good Asian restaurants can be found in the restaurant listing.

To get to either, take a bus in the downtown bus and train tunnel (which runs mostly under 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue). Turn left out of the main entrance to the hotel onto Pine Street. Walk 1½ blocks downhill to the Bus & Train Tunnel entrance, which is located in the middle of the Nordstrom building on the opposite side of Pine Street. The entrance is poorly marked by a solitary blue kiosk and a subtle "Westlake Station" sign in the entrance way. Take two escalators down, following signs to "Link Light Rail / Tunnel Buses". Continue straight ahead following signs to "Link Light Rail to Airport / Bus Bay C – South, D – East (I-90)". Following these signs, continue down to the platform. Board any bus. Note – the train system shares the tunnel and trains are NOT free. For Pioneer Square, go two stops to the Pioneer Square station, go forward and up to the street, and then downhill to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The International District Station is the third stop; the "ID" is uphill from the bus tunnel station.

To return to the hotel, retrace your steps to the bus tunnel and follow signs to the platform with Bus Bays A and B (North and East (I-520)). Take any bus and get off at Westlake Station. Then take the escalator, possibly ahead of you, definitely to your right, marked "5th Ave and Pine St / Mezzanine". At the top of the escalator, make a 180° turn and then follow signs ahead and to the right to "5th Ave and Pine St / Nordstrom". Proceed up two shorter escalators to the street exit. At the exit, turn left onto Pine Street. The Grand Hyatt is two short blocks up Pine Street, on the opposite side of Pine Street.

Note: taxi service in Seattle is limited compared to many other cities. Taxis are available to and from the airport, but don't expect to be able to just hail a taxi on the street. If you need a taxi to travel within the city, you should make a reservation.

## Restaurants:

Downtown Seattle has many choices for dining. The concierge in the hotel has a list of restaurants within three or four blocks of the hotel, which is reproduced below. There are several places with lots of choices together. There is a food court on the top floor of Pacific Place ½ block away, downhill on the opposite side of Pine Street. There is another food court on the top floor of Westlake Center Mall, between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets on Pine Street. There are dozens of restaurants in and around the Pike Place Market, 1 block west of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, between Pike and Pine Streets. See [www.pikeplacemarket.org](http://www.pikeplacemarket.org) for maps and more information.

Seattle is noted for beer, coffee and seafood. Coffee is ubiquitous. If you have trouble finding coffee, you need it really desperately.

### RESTAURANTS NEAR THE GRAND HYATT SEATTLE (from the Hotel)

**Ruth's Chris Steak House**- Steaks & Seafood open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. (Hotel's lobby)

**Union Square Grill** – Steak, Seafood, Lunch M-F 11am-3pm Dinner Sun-Thurs 5pm-10pm, Fri-Sat 5pm 11pm, Entrees...\$9.95-\$40.95 621 Union St., (2 Blocks away)

**IL Fornaio** – Italian (Daily 11:30am-10pm) Entrees...\$7.95-\$24.95 600 Pine (1<sup>st</sup> level of Pacific Place Shopping Center across the street)

**Gordon Biersch** – Pub Food, Daily 11:30am-10pm, Entrees...\$7.95-\$14.95 600 Pine (4<sup>th</sup> Floor of Pacific Place Mall across St.)

**Palomino** – Italian Influenced New American, Lunch- M-F 1115am-230pm Sat. 1115-3pm, Dinner- M-Thurs 5-930pm Fri-Sat 430-1030pm, Sun 4-9pm, \$9.95-\$39.95,1420 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, (at Pike, 3 blocks from the Hyatt)

**Cheesecake Factory** – American, M-Thurs 11:00am - 11:30pm, F-Sat 11:00am - 12:30am Sun 10:00am - 11:00pm \$7.95-\$26.95 (7<sup>th</sup> and Pike)

**Icon Grill** – American Comfort Food, Lunch M-F 1130-2pm, Dinner M-Thurs 5-10pm Fri-Sat 5-11pm, Sun 5-9pm, \$11.50-\$29.50, 1933 Fifth (at Virginia)

**Wild Ginger** – Premier Pan Asian M-F- Lunch 1130-3 Dinner 5-11, Sat. Lunch 1130- 3 Dinner 430-12am, Sun- Dinner 430-11pm \$15-\$35, 1400 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (at Union, 6 blocks from the Hyatt)

**Dahlia Lounge**- Contemporary Northwest Cuisine, Lunch M-F 1130-230pm, Dinner Sun-Thurs 530-10pm, Fri-Sat. 530-11pm, \$23-\$30, 2001 4<sup>th</sup> Ave (at Virginia, 6 blocks from the Hyatt)

**Thai Ginger**— Lunch M-F 11am-3, Dinner Daily 3 to Close \$7.95-\$12.95 600 Pine St. (4<sup>th</sup> Level of Pacific Place Mall)

**Mexico**— Sun-Fri 1130-10pm, Sat 1130am-11pm, \$9.95-\$21.95, 600 Pine St. (4<sup>th</sup> Level of Pacific Place Mall)

**Todai**—Sushi buffet, Lunch 11:30 am - 2:30 pm (Daily) Dinner M-Thurs 530pm-9pm Fri-Sat 530pm-930pm, Sun 5pm9pm, \$12.95-\$23.95, 600 Pine St. (4<sup>rd</sup> floor of Pacific Place Mall)

**Morton's of Chicago**- Steakhouse (Sun-Thur 5pm-10pm Fri-Sat 5pm-11pm) Entrees...\$35-\$84 1511 6<sup>th</sup> Ave (At Pine)

**Tango and Tapas** – Pan Latin- Sun-Wed 530-10PM, Thurs-Sat 530-11PM Limited late-night tapas menu Thu - Fri - Sat. 11 PM - 1 AM, \$11-\$48, 1100 Pike St (at Boren)

**Dragonfish** – Pan Asian, 7am-2am Daily, \$9-\$17, 722 Pine St (across the street on Pine)

**Bambuza**- Vietnamese, Lunch M-F 11-230pm, Dinner Sun-Thurs 430-9, Fri-Sat 430-11 \$14-\$21, 820 Pike St, (at 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, 2 blocks from the hotel)

Surprisingly the concierge's restaurant list is short on both good beer and good seafood. Apparently the Hyatt did not do full diligence on their location, which seems to be dominated by steak houses, almost the only ones in the city.

Here is a short list of well-known downtown seafood restaurants not on the concierge's list. Those at the top are "Northwest style" seafood. As you proceed down, the restaurants become more traditional. The "McCormick" restaurants are part of a national chain that started here.

**Flying Fish**, 2234 1<sup>st</sup> Ave (between Blanchard & Bell, in Belltown)

**Etta's Seafood**, 2020 Western (just north of Pike Place Market, at Virginia)

**Dahlia Lounge**, 2001 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (at Virginia)

**Cutter's Bayhouse**, 2001 Western Ave (just north of Pike Place Market, at Virginia)

**Anthony's Pier 66**, 2201 Alaskan Way (at Bell St., but on the waterfront, which can only be accessed by walking down Pike St. and following the stairs down through the Pike Place Market)

**Brooklyn Seafood Steak and Oyster House**, 1212 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave (at University)

**Shucker's Oyster House**, 411 University Street (in the Fairmont Hotel)

**McCormick & Schmick's**, 1103 1<sup>st</sup> Ave (at Spring)

**McCormick's**, 722 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (at Columbia)

Also just outside the range of the concierge's list of restaurants are a collection of restaurants owned by Tom Douglas, a nationally known chef associated with the genesis of "Northwest Style". Besides the second and third seafood restaurants above, these include the following. See [www.tomdouglas.com](http://www.tomdouglas.com) for more information.

**Palace Kitchen**, 2030 5th Avenue (at Lenora)

**Lola**, 2000 4th Avenue (at Virginia)

**Serious Pie** (316 Virginia)

The Northwest is also known for microbrewery beer, which is widely available in restaurants. There are five brewpubs downtown, but only the first in the list makes beer with any following. The best brewpubs are outside of downtown -- my favorite brewpub is only 350 miles away. The second and third brewpubs make good beer, but note that both are south of downtown, either a bus ride to the Pioneer Square station and a walk, or a taxi ride away. The fourth brews German style beers, not the ales typical of the Northwest. The fifth is part of a national chain.

**The Pike Pub and Brewery**, 1415 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (at Union)

**Elysian Brewing Company**, 542 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S. (south of King St., near Qwest Field)

**Pyramid Alehouse**, Brewery & Restaurant, 1201 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S. (near Safeco Field, a long walk from downtown)

**Gordon Biersch**, 600 Pine Street (4<sup>th</sup> floor of Pacific Place)

**Rock Bottom Brewery**, 1333 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (at University)

Of course, good beer doesn't need to have been brewed on-site. Less than two blocks from the hotel is the **Taphouse Grill**, 1506 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (at Pike), which claims to have 160 different beers on tap.

Seattle should be better known for the quality of its many Asian restaurants. There are too many choices to list. A short list of particularly good restaurants in the International District covers several different cuisines. These are all a quick and free ride through the bus tunnel away. They are mostly more traditional in style.

**Shanghai Garden**, 524 6<sup>th</sup> Ave S (at Weller; you must try at least one "Barley Green" noodle dish)

**Jade Garden**, 424 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (at King Street, noted for good dim sum)

**Fuji Sushi**, 520 S. Main Street (at 6<sup>th</sup> Ave S., in "Japantown", traditional Japanese in a modern setting; much more than sushi)

**Maneki**, 304 6th Avenue S (at Main Street, also in Japantown; traditional Japanese, including sushi; an unusually large menu for Japanese restaurants; dinner only)

**Green Leaf Vietnamese**, 418 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (at King Street, much more than Pho, noted for fresh vegetables)

**Sichuanese Cuisine**, 1048 S Jackson St (a bit far to walk from the bus tunnel, best if you know Mandarin or at least Szechuan cuisine, but fabulous food in a hole in the wall)

There are also many sushi restaurants close by, often with modern twists. The Belltown restaurants are generally rated higher than the two closest to the hotel.

**Blue C Sushi** (in the hotel, traditional, self-serve, so very quick)

**Dragonfish** (722 Pine, across from the hotel)

**Red Fin Sushi**, 612 Stewart Street

**Umi Sake House**, 2230 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Blanchard Street)

**Shiro's**, 2401 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (Battery Street)

**Wasabi Bistro**, 2311 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (Bell Street)

**Ohana**, 2207 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Blanchard Street)

Two other restaurants stand out as cheap lunch eateries, with good food and low prices.

**Pabla India Cuisine**, 1516 2nd Avenue (between Pike and Pine), all you can eat buffet for \$9.80, including tax

**Mae Phim Thai**, 213 Pike Street, great Thai food in a hole in the wall

Finally, here is a link to a list of [rated Seattle restaurants](#), compiled by Susan Eggers at the University of Washington for a meeting two years ago. Her conference was on the waterfront, so some of her suggestions about “needing a car” aren’t relevant. On the other hand, she includes some restaurants away from downtown, so parse the addresses carefully.