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FAMILY ADVENTURE SERIES



WASHINGTON

50 Activities

Seattle

A Family Activity Guide

Waterfront · Museums · Parks & Gardens
Family Entertainment · Free Activities

FREE SAMPLE · PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE FULL GUIDE

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FROM THE EDITOR

Rain on the window, and the whole day ahead

A lot of Seattle mornings start the same way: rain on the window and children who need to move. That's fine. Rain is ordinary here, and the city is ready for it: Pike Place Market's covered stalls, aircraft halls, dinosaurs and working labs indoors, and forest parks for when it clears.

Along the waterfront, Overlook Walk connects Pike Place Market with the water, and Pier 58 adds a jellyfish climber. At Seattle Center, Artists at Play offers free play between the Armory and MOPOP. These outdoor spaces give children somewhere to move between visits.

> *"Let the children choose one thing they want to understand better."*

Start with one area and one thing your children care about, then decide where to eat before adding another stop. The Museum of Flight's Great Gallery or the Burke's dinosaurs can fill a morning. One favorite gallery can deserve as much time as several smaller stops.

The five itineraries offer starting points, with proposed times and family budgets. Read the practical notes before buying tickets, choose an alternative for changing weather, and leave room for a discovery none of you planned.

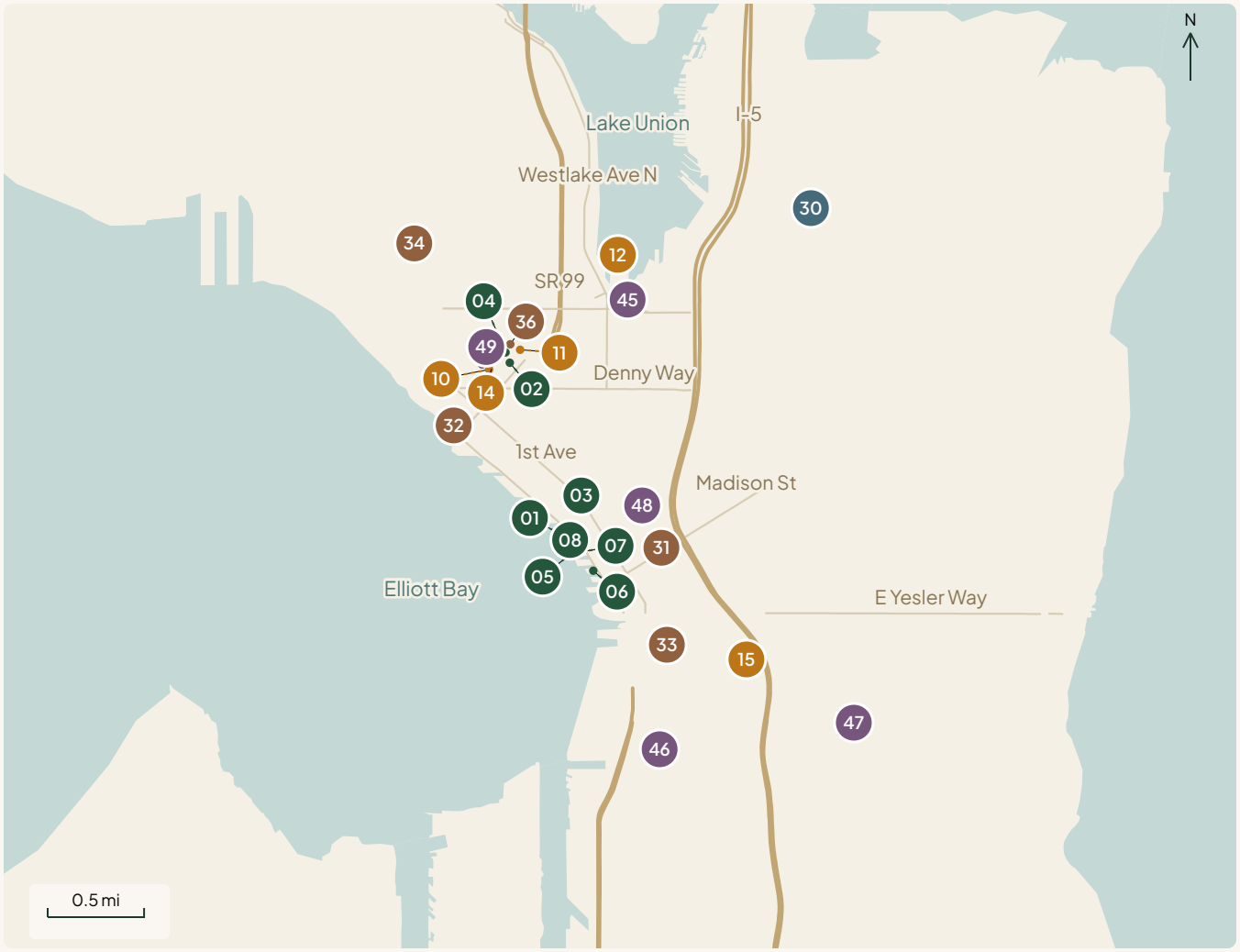


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EDITOR, KIDPATHS SEATTLE

PLAN BY AREA

Waterfront & City Center

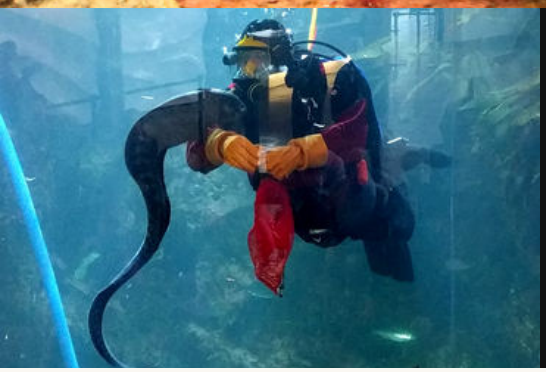
Central Seattle venues, from the waterfront to surrounding neighborhoods



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Numbered markers open locations; page links open outings.









01 • FEATURED VENUE • SECTION 01

Seattle Aquarium

Best for ages 3+ | Alaskan Way | Paid admission

★ 4.3 (23,000+ reviews)

Seattle Aquarium brings local marine life and tropical habitats into one visit across historic Pier 59, Pier 60 and the Ocean Pavilion. Start with Window on Washington Waters, where children meet inhabitants of the Salish Sea's rocky reefs and kelp forests. This habitat gives the visit a local starting point before the tropical displays. One ticket includes all three buildings, so allow two to three hours to explore the campus.

On Pier 60, the sea otter habitat is the place to linger over one particular animal. The All About Our Sea Otters presentation, scheduled at 4:45pm, introduces this endangered species and the individuals living at the aquarium, including how staff care for them. For a change of pace on Friday through Sunday, visit Puget Sound Hall on Pier 59 for Puppet Storytime: a 20-minute presentation bringing tales of conservation, empathy and the marine world to life.

The Ocean Pavilion shifts the focus to the Indo-Pacific. At The Overlook, children can view the upper area of The Reef, the aquarium's largest tropical habitat. Its presentation introduces the marine inhabitants and their care. Continue to The Archipelago for a mangrove forest and coral lagoon, two more environments to explore within the pavilion. Ask children to compare the mangrove forest with the coral lagoon: what differences can they notice in the animals and their surroundings?

Insider Tips

- Buy tickets online in advance to reserve your preferred entry time, then arrange other waterfront stops around that booking.
- Bring a layer for outdoor areas and a refillable bottle; touchless water stations are available throughout the aquarium.
- For a two-to-three-hour afternoon visit, aim to enter by 3pm. That leaves time to explore before the aquarium closes at 6pm.
- Keep your QR tickets ready when moving between buildings; reentry lets you return to a favorite habitat during the same visit.
- Ask staff which animals are scheduled for the 11:30am marine mammal feeding on Pier 60; its location changes daily, so check before settling in.

ADDRESS 1483 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA 98101 ↗

DETAILS Current venue details ↗

HOURS Daily 9:30am-6pm; last entry 5pm

PRICE Date-priced timed tickets; ages 4 and up need a paid ticket, ages 3 and under free. Check your date and checkout total when booking.



Best for ages 5+ Broad Street

General admission $35–$55; youth 5–12 and seniors 65+ discounted.

★ 4.6 (59,000+ reviews)

Allow 1–2 hours · Current schedule: Mon–Thu 11am–7pm; Fri 10:30am–7:30pm; Sat 9am–9:30pm; Sun 9:30am–7:30pm. Hours vary seasonally; confirm your date.
400 Broad St., Seattle, WA 98109 ↗

Current venue details ↗

02

Space Needle

WHY GO: **For children who love tall structures, make this the day's big landmark stop.**

Explore the Space Needle's story in the Building the Marvel exhibit, then take the elevator up. On the Loupe Level, the rotating glass floor turns the view into a moving experience. Give children time to study the view before moving on, choosing one detail they would like to look at again.

THE CATCH: Arrive within your assigned five-minute admission slot.

Pro tip: Pack essentials in a small backpack or purse. Large bags are not permitted inside; bag check is free for the first two hours.



Best for ages 4+ Pike Street **Free admission; shopping and food extra.**

★ 4.6 (80,000+ reviews)

Allow 1–2 hours · Daily; most market activity about 10am to 5pm, produce and seafood from 7am. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Restaurant hours vary.
85 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101 ↗

Current venue details ↗

03

Pike Place Market

WHY GO: **A good choice for curious browsers who would rather follow their interests than a fixed route.**

Established in 1907, Pike Place gathers local farmers, independent businesses, artists and craftspeople in one public market. Browse produce and seafood, pause for buskers, then let each child choose a stall to investigate. The Market Directory's trip planner lets you save, organize and share businesses before your visit, giving the family a few starting points.

THE CATCH: Individual stalls keep their own hours; check See Who's Open before visiting a particular stall.

Pro tip: Open the interactive Market Map to find your next business or restroom. Its point-to-point directions help you navigate the market's ten levels.

DAY PLAN 02 OF 05

Seattle Center, One Campus

Space Needle opening times vary by day and season, so choose a date when it opens by 10am and confirm before booking. Budget a Monorail return trip from Westlake around these campus stops.

ITINERARY 02

Your route

A timed tower visit, science afternoon and climbing before heading home.

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Space Needle

Reserve the assigned arrival slot around this target time. Allow about 30 minutes from entrance to top before taking in the views.

---- Leave 30 minutes in the plan to walk to the Armory and choose an open lunch counter.

Noon to 12:45 p.m.

Seattle Center Armory lunch

Choose MOD Pizza, KABAB or Matt's Fish Basket. Each counter keeps its own hours, so check the options before ordering.

---- Allow 15 minutes to reach PacSci's North Entrance near the Armory; the Denny Way entrance is closed.

1:00 to 3:15 p.m.

Pacific Science Center

Start with the Tropical Butterfly House. Request onsite planetarium tickets if available; public tickets are first come, first served.

---- Allow 15 minutes to walk from PacSci toward Artists at Play, in the plaza between the Armory and MOPOP.

3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

Artists at Play

Finish with musical instruments, sound swings or the climbing tower, recommended for ages 5 through 12.

MONEY

For two adults ages 19–61 and children ages 6 and 10 without Youth ORCA, Monorail return fares total 2 × $8 + 2 × $4 = $24. Adding our $70 food estimate gives $94. Space Needle and PacSci tickets are date-priced and not included; add your date's checkout totals. Artists at Play is free.

Change of plan: For rain, keep PacSci as the main event and extend its afternoon instead of using the playground. With older children keen on music, confirm MOPOP's hours and price it as an alternative to the Space Needle before booking.

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FREE SAMPLE · SEATTLE FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

One day is planned. The rest of your Seattle trip is in the full guide.

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50	5	3	60
OUTINGS	DAY PLANS	MAPS	PAGES

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