



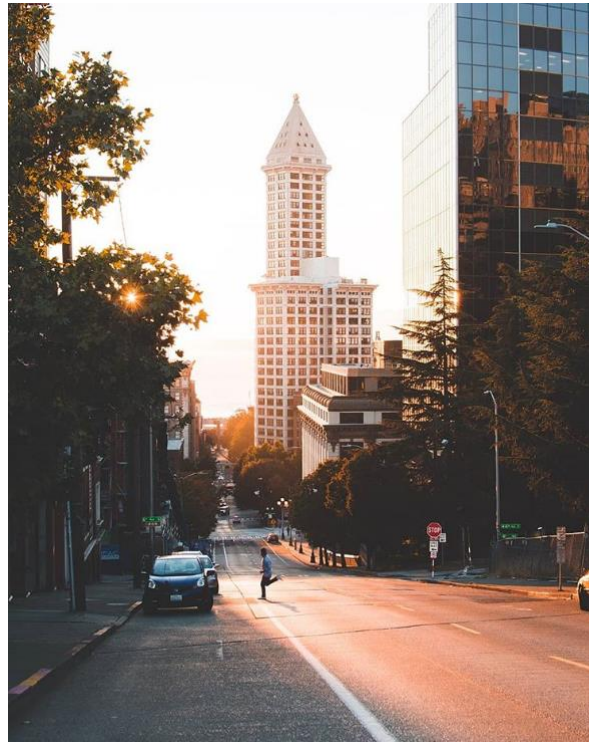
The 26 best things to do in Seattle this summer

The city's most iconic buildings, parks, public art, and more

Summer is the season Seattle doesn't like to tell tourists about—it's when the city really shines. Contrary to our gray reputation, the sun comes out often, making for gorgeous beach days on the sound and beautiful views all around. Even when it does rain, it just brightens up the greenery.

It's the perfect season for exploration, and there's a lifetime of stuff to explore here. We have a whopping 465—count 'em!—city parks, including some with hiking trails just a bus ride away. Weather turned again? There's a museum to meet every interest level (and budget), and even a few avenues to experience the outdoors from the indoors.

No matter what the day is like, these 26 locations chosen for the summer edition of our guide have you covered, featuring the city's most iconic buildings, parks, public art, and more.



19. Smith Tower



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The Smith Tower is a prime example of neoclassical architecture. Its outer skin is granite on the first and second floors, and terracotta on the rest. Designed by Edwin H. and T. Walker Gaggin and built in 1914, it was the tallest building on the West Coast of the United States when it was built.

Smith Tower is one big monument of white, ornamented terra cotta wrapped around steel. The quality of the material was so good, it didn't get its first detergent wash until 1976.

It's also one of Seattle's architectural marvels that's easy to get inside. Unlike the Seaboard Building, Dexter Horton, and other historic Downtown office buildings, the Smith Tower has a whole program built in, and after a recent renovation, the top-floor observatory now even [features a speakeasy-inspired bar](#).