

GIFTS FOR THE GARDENER, COOK & ADVENTURER!

Sunset

A
PERFECT DAY
AT THE
TREE FARM
P. 62

THE WEST'S NEW HOLIDAY TRADITIONS



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tradition in a lobby decked with garlands, wreaths, and an intricate chef-baked gingerbread house. Choose an evocatively named blend (orchid oolong, jasmine downy pearls, African amber) from the tea menu and enjoy it alongside cucumber sandwiches, salmon rillettes, and *harissa* deviled eggs. The experience ends as all good things should: with chocolate sea-salt *macarons*, lavender butter cookies, and fresh-baked cinnamon-honey scones. *From \$29; heathmankirkland.com.*

DO

/ ROCKPORT

Each winter, northern Washington becomes bald eagle central. Hundreds of the stately creatures, freshly migrated from Alaska and B.C., flock to the Skagit River to feast on salmon, and the **Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center** hosts talks and hikes to celebrate. Hit the trail with a Forest Service ranger to spy nesting pairs and learn more about the fowl, fish, and forest along the way. *skagiteagle.org.*

/ BELLEVUE

Nov 26–Dec 31 While the rest of us shop Black Friday sales, staff and volunteers are putting the finishing touches on **Garden d’Lights**, the annual holiday extravaganza at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. More than a half-million lights transform the 53 acres of landscaped grounds, woodlands, and wetlands into a dazzling nocturnal wonderland. The lineup includes illuminated

waterfalls, giant flowers, a dragon, an octopus, and—new this year—a big blue heron. A cup of hot cocoa will keep you warm on the walk through the woods. *\$5; gardendlights.org.*

/ DOWNTOWN

Once the tallest building west of the Mississippi, the 1914 landmark Smith Tower went up for sale in a foreclosure in 2012. Now, after extensive renovations, Seattle’s first skyscraper is back on top. Explore its history on the new self-guided **Legends of Smith Tower tour**. Learn about the structure’s rum-running roots and see a diorama of an underground 1920s gay bar, then ride a copper-and-brass elevator to the revamped observatory on the 35th floor, where you can chase panoramic city views with a cocktail from *Temperature*, a stylish new speakeasy with a Prohibition-inspired drink list. We’re partial to the absinthe-tinged *Fed’s Favorite*. *\$12; smithtower.com.*

/ DOWNTOWN

Nov 23–Dec 31 Yes, you’ve seen the Disney movie. But the stage version of *The Little Mermaid* at the 5th Avenue Theatre is a captivating descent into Ariel’s underwater world, complete with psychedelic sets, shimmering costumes, and a full orchestra. Sway to favorite tunes (“Under the Sea,” “Kiss the Girl,” “Part of Your World”) as you cheer on the precocious mermaid’s quest to assert her independence and find love, wherever it may be. Opening-night ticket sales benefit *The Seattle Times’ Fund for the Needy*. *From \$36; 5thavenue.org.*