

What to pack for Seattle

For adventures around Seattle, from Pike Place Market and Elliott Bay to forest trails and the Cascade Mountains.

Seattle's weather can change quickly, even in the middle of the day.

Whether you are walking the waterfront, exploring neighborhood parks, taking a ferry, or heading toward mountain trails, dressing in layers will keep you comfortable from morning to evening.

Layers and rain

- ☐ Lightweight waterproof jacket with a hood
- ☐ Sweater, fleece, or packable insulating layer
- ☐ Compact umbrella, if you prefer one
- ☐ Warm hat and gloves
Late fall through early spring

Everyday clothing

- ☐ Moisture-wicking T-shirts (2–4)
- ☐ Long-sleeve shirt or lightweight button-up
- ☐ Comfortable pants or jeans
- ☐ Casual outfit for dining or evenings
- ☐ Sleepwear, undergarments, and socks

On your feet

- ☐ Comfortable, water-resistant walking shoes
- ☐ Hiking boots or trail shoes
Traction for unpaved trails
- ☐ Moisture-wicking hiking socks
- ☐ Sandals for summer

In your daypack

- ☐ Small daypack (15–25L)
- ☐ Reusable water bottle
- ☐ Portable phone charger
- ☐ Trail snacks or energy bars
- ☐ Sunglasses and sunscreen
Even on cloudy days
- ☐ Sun hat or baseball cap
- ☐ Reusable tote
For market and bookstore discoveries

Health and sun

- ☐ Prescription and personal medications
- ☐ Small first aid kit
With blister treatment
- ☐ Lip balm with SPF
- ☐ Insect repellent
For summer hikes
- ☐ Hand sanitizer and wet wipes
- ☐ N95 or KN95 mask
During possible wildfire-smoke season

Add your own

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

Travel essentials

- ☐ Driver's license or photo ID
- ☐ Passport
For international arrivals
- ☐ Credit and debit cards
- ☐ ORCA card or transit app
- ☐ Hotel confirmations and timed-attraction reservations
- ☐ Copies of important documents

Electronics

- ☐ Phone and charging cables
- ☐ Wall charger
- ☐ Headphones or earbuds
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Smartwatch charger

Trails and mountains

- ☐ Waterproof shell
For mountain hikes
- ☐ Trekking poles
For longer hikes
- ☐ Dry bag or zip-top bags
For electronics
- ☐ Binoculars
For birdwatching

Mountain day trips

Bring more than city weather appears to require. Conditions can change quickly, and snow may remain on higher trails well into summer.



Before you go

Seasonal additions

June through September offers the longest days and the most dependable weather for walking.

 Spring MARCH-MAY Cherry blossoms, smaller crowds, and regular showers ☐ Light rain jacket ☐ Layers for cool mornings ☐ Umbrella ☐ Allergy medication	 Summer JUNE-AUGUST Long daylight hours, outdoor festivals, and the driest weather ☐ Breathable clothing ☐ Shorts for warm months ☐ Wide-brim hat ☐ Cooling towel ☐ Extra water	 Fall SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER Crisp walking conditions, fewer crowds, and gradually increasing rain ☐ Light fleece ☐ Comfortable hiking pants ☐ Rain jacket ☐ Light gloves	 Winter NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY Cool, wet, and quiet, with lower accommodation prices ☐ Insulated jacket ☐ Thermal base layer ☐ Warm socks ☐ Waterproof boots
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☒ Before you go

- ☐ Download offline maps
- ☐ Download the Transit GO app
- ☐ Check attraction reservations
- ☐ Review weather forecasts
- ☐ Charge electronics before leaving
- ☐ Leave room for local finds

Nice extras

- ☐ Swimsuit
Summer beaches or hotel pools
- ☐ Travel journal
- ☐ Book for ferries or train rides
- ☐ Reusable coffee mug
- ☐ Packing cubes
- ☐ Lightweight travel towel

Pro tips

Dress in layers

Waterfront breezes and hills can feel cooler than expected.

Wear good shoes

Seattle's hills and long walks add up quickly.

Save offline maps

Cell service can fade near remote trailheads.

Start hikes early

Popular trails and parking lots fill quickly.

Trip notes

Dates

Staying in

Check before you go

Seattle forecast

weather.gov/sew

Mountain forecast

weather.gov/sew/Mountainforecast

Air quality and smoke

airnow.gov



Seattle
travel guide



Seattle
reading list

