

★
Seattle
July '08

Three**Perfect**Days

Seattle

By Lisa K. Fann / Photography by Todd Pearson / SEATTLE SUMMERS ARE AS NEAR perfection as you can get this side of Paradise. Yes, fall, winter, and spring can be gray and rainy; that's why Seattle is the caffeine capital of the universe. But July is sublime. Who needs coffee with temperatures in the 70s and 80s and a golden sun shining 16 hours a day? ☞ To the east and the west, the city is bound by water—Lake Washington and the Puget Sound, respectively—and mountains—the Cascades and the Olympics—that constantly woo you outdoors. In the middle is a city with a quirky sense of ▶▶▶





DAY 1

Seattle
Washington

Bounded by water and mountains, Seattle offers plenty of outdoor options. And you've picked the perfect time to visit: July is both the sunniest and driest month of the year.

humor (exhibit A: the Space Needle), a vibrant downtown, and a serious focus on art of all kinds: performing, visual, culinary, public, and that provided by nature. With a robin's egg-blue sky and the white triangles of sailboats skimming across the glittering water, Seattle pulls out all the stops to show you a good time and a world-renowned sense of place.



DAY ONE / Wake up at the **1 Inn at the Market**, an oasis of quiet in the midst of the bustle and cacophony of the nine-acre Pike Place Market. This boutique hotel offers rooms with stunning views of Elliott Bay. The sun reflecting off the water is mesmerizing, but drag yourself away from the window, walk out through the hotel's courtyard, and immerse yourself in Seattle's hubbub of colors, sounds, and smells.

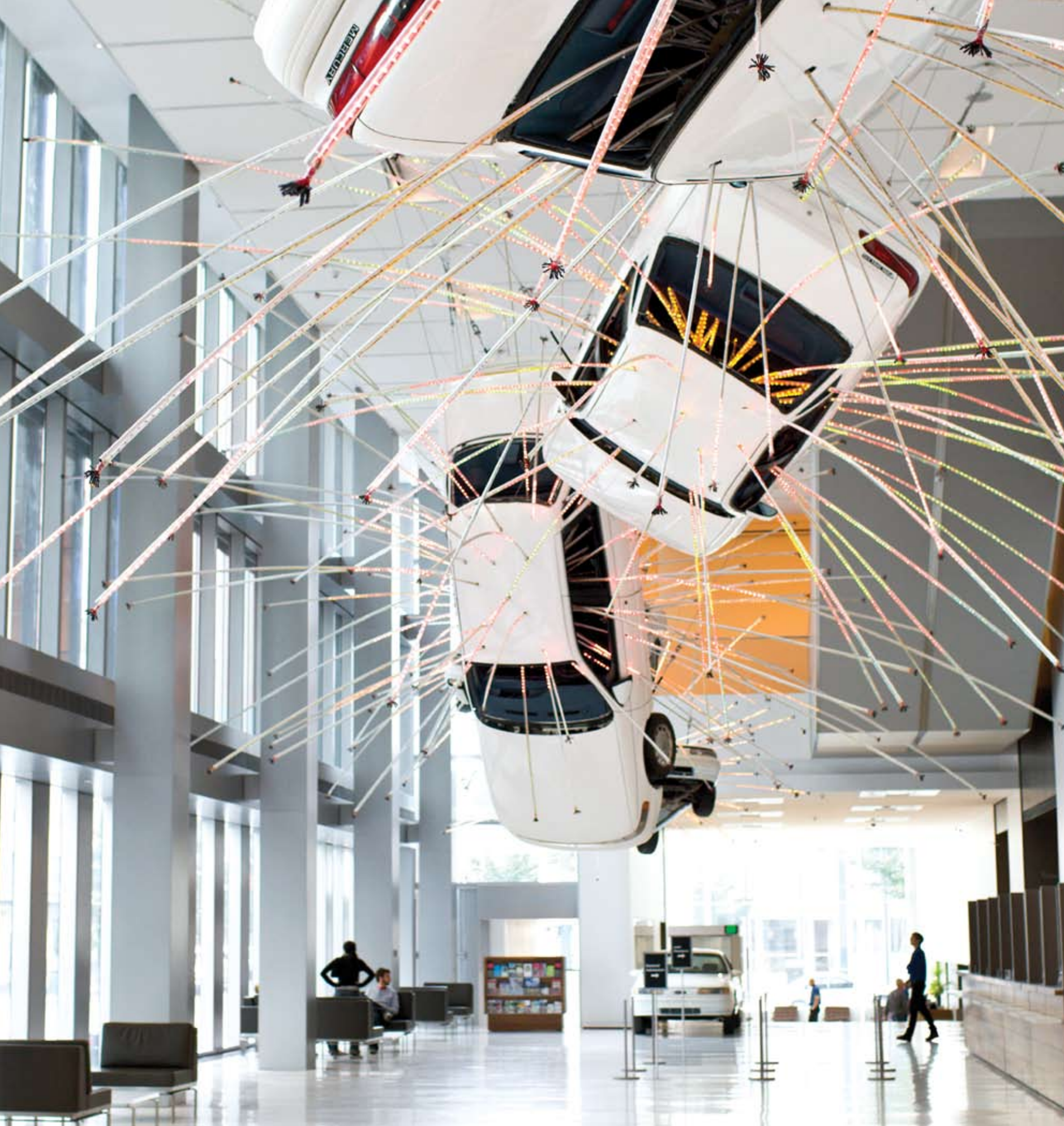
2 Pike Place Market showcases Seattle's bounty from land and sea—local fruit, vegetables, flowers, and the morning's catch of fish—as well as creations by local artists and exotic goods crammed into tiny shops. Quarter notes painted on the sidewalk denote where buskers can regale you with their music. Along with the men singing gospel music in harmony and a Peruvian band, there is the man who plays guitar and harmonica and keeps a hula hoop circling around his hips—all at the same time.

Cobble together a breakfast from the restaurants and farmers. Don't miss Piroshky Piroshky's apple cinnamon rolls and the fresh fruit juices at Bacco. As you wander, take note of the shops you'll want to visit later. Right now, though, you have a 10 a.m. appointment with a kayak.

The inn's town car drops you off at **3 Agua Verde Paddle Club** on Portage Bay. Slip into a kayak and point the bow west toward the *Saskatonia*, a retired ferry that can be rented out for parties. Make a loop around the bay, paddling past the front porches of Seattle's houseboats. The enormous logs underneath them shelter salmon swimming upstream. As you glide past the shore, notice the dozens of inlets—many are public-access

(previous page) an Emerald City Charters sloop on Elliott Bay; (this page, top) the Seattle skyline; (above) breakfast at the market; (right) Master Chef Shiro Kashiba





Appealing to your good taste: a delightful modern work at the Seattle Art Museum (left) and 100 wines by the glass at The Local Vine, a Belltown wine bar (above).

points leading to parks, green spaces, or roads—but stay in the boat for now. You're headed for the Montlake Cut and under the elevated highway to the Washington Park Arboretum. Gently forge your way through the water lilies and look for turtles, beavers, great blue herons, bald eagles, and other wildlife. This is a vibrant ecosystem with an urban soundtrack. If you feel like exploring it on foot, just pull your kayak onto the shore.

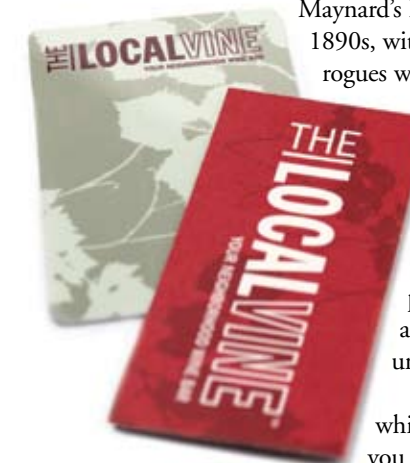
Soon, your stomach urges you on, and the inn's town car awaits back at the paddle club to whisk you off to **4 Macrina Bakery and Café** in Belltown, frequently voted the best bakery in Seattle. You can't go wrong with anything on the menu, but the *meze* platter lets you choose three scrumptious items from a list that includes the soup du jour and rustic *galette* with roasted fennel, portobellos, fresh red peppers, and toasted pecans.

Walk down the hill on Bell Street to Alaskan Way, where you can catch the Waterfront Streetcar to Pioneer Square and buy tickets for the Underground Tour. You'll likely have some time before your tour begins, so walk a couple of blocks south to **5 Elliott Bay Book Company**. For those who love to read, the old wooden floors and warren of rooms filled with books whisper a seductive siren song. Lash yourself to the mast or simply give in and stay for good. If you escape, don't miss the art galleries between First and Second avenues.

The kitschy **6 Underground Tour** begins at Doc Maynard's Public House, a restored saloon from the 1890s, with a short history of all the rascallions and rogues who made their fortunes by founding this town. The history itself sounds like urban legend. *Sure* there's a deserted shopping arcade under the sidewalks. And the street level was raised to the second floor of these buildings, which then became the ground floor? *Yeah, right*. That must mean the purple squares embedded in the sidewalk are skylights, you say. After a little spelunking under Seattle, you'll discover it's all true.

Catch the streetcar back to Pike Place Market, which is now at full-throttle. Visit the shops you missed earlier, making sure to see Rachel (the market's brass porcine mascot), the "Public Market" sign, Market Spice (with its plethora of teas and spices), Moon Valley (natural health and honey products), and the Dragon's Toy Box (unique children's toys).

Take your purchases back to your room and dress for the evening. First on the agenda is **7 Shiro's Sushi Restaurant**. Though not the fanciest sushi restaurant in Seattle, Shiro's is the most traditional. Sit at the bar and watch the chefs perform their magic while you tease your appetite with the tender giant clam sautéed in butter and mushroom sauce, broiled kasu black cod, and monkfish liver pâté with ponzu sauce. For the main course, order whatever Master Chef Shiro Kashiba recommends.



Walk north to Seattle Center for a different sort of performance. Your destination is **8 Intiman Theatre**, which won the 2006 Tony Award for outstanding regional theater and is one of Seattle's half-dozen professional companies. Two of the Intiman's world premieres have gone on to Broadway. At this intimate theater you'll see "the same old line, the same old act, and the same old hoey" that is the brilliance of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. After the show, cap your night at **9 The Local Vine**, a Belltown wine bar close to Shiro's, where you can choose from more than 100 wines served by the glass.

DAY TWO / Rise early and ride the Waterfront Streetcar to Pier 52, where you'll catch the **1 Bainbridge Island ferry**. Crossing "the moat," as islanders call it, takes 35 minutes and offers gorgeous views of the Seattle skyline and Mount Rainier. When the ferry docks, walk up the street and turn left on Winslow Way. Breakfast is at **2 Streamliner Diner**, a Bainbridge Island institution with plastic red and white-checked tablecloths and delicious food.

After a hearty breakfast, catch a taxi to **3 Bloedel Reserve** for your 10 a.m. reservations. The trails through the 150 acres meander across a field of tall grasses and explore a dense Northwest forest of evergreens, ferns, and mosses. Farther along the trail, you'll see gardens—Japanese, moss, and reflection—and the Bloedel house sitting on a hill overlooking the Puget Sound. Drink in the tranquil surroundings; then taxi back to Winslow Way, where small shops tempt you with artistic wares.

For lunch, retrace your steps back to Pike Place Market and duck into the cozy **4 94 Stewart**. The menu changes constantly, depending on what is freshest. Try the summer salmon salad with cantaloupe and champagne dill vinaigrette. Chef Celinda Norton also can concoct something delightful out of ingredients of

(below) Pacific Northwest works of art at the Seattle Art Museum; (bottom) passengers crossing the walkway from the Bainbridge Island ferry



cybersidebar

For a slideshow of bonus photos, a PDF of this story, and 100 more 3PD stories, visit **hemispheres magazine.com**.

Seattle Weather

Seattle's gray, wet reputation takes a summer vacation when the polar jet stream, responsible for the Pacific Northwest's soggy winter season, heads north. Plentiful sunshine and pleasant temperatures are the rewards. Temperatures range from the 50s in the morning to the 70s in the late afternoon. July is both the sunniest and driest month of the year. The Pacific storm track returns in earnest late in the fall, delivering bouts of rain and wind.

The Weather Channel

Weather information is provided by The Weather Channel. For more Seattle climatological details, visit weather.com.

Getting Around

Forgo a rental car; nothing is very far away, and there are several public-transportation options for when your feet fail you. The commercial core of the city—bounded by the waterfront and Interstate 5 to the west and east, by Jackson Street to the south, and by Battery Street to the north—is a free-ride zone on the bus. The Waterfront Streetcar runs, predictably, along the waterfront, and the monorail runs from the shopping district to Seattle Center.

Seattle for Kids

- A Center for Wooden Boats** (cwb.org) A hands-on maritime heritage museum.
- B Twisted Flicks** (twistedflicks.com) Standup comedians improvise dialogue to cheesy "B" movies.
- C Carkeek Park** (seattle.gov/parks/environment/carkeek.htm) Trails, a playground, the beach, and views of passing trains.
- D Seattle Aquarium** (seattleaquarium.org) Sea otters and other wildlife and an underwater dome.

AVERAGE HIGH TEMP	F°	59	45	49	53	58	64	69	74	74	68	60	51	47
	C°	15	7	9	12	14	18	21	23	23	20	16	11	8
		YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVERAGE LOW TEMP	F°	46	36	38	40	43	48	53	56	56	53	48	42	38
	C°	8	2	3	4	6	9	11	13	13	11	9	6	3

- 3PD SEATTLE / DAY ONE /** **1 Inn at the Market** 86 Pine Street; Tel: 206-443-3600
2 Pike Place Market Tel: 206-682-7453 **3 Agua Verde Paddle Club** 1303 Northeast Boat Street; Tel: 206-545-8570
4 Macrina Bakery and Café 2408 First Avenue; Tel: 206-448-4032 **5 Elliott Bay Book Company** 101 South Main Street; Tel: 206-624-6600 **6 Underground Tour** 608 First Avenue, Pioneer Square; Tel: 206-682-4646
7 Shiro's Sushi Restaurant 2401 Second Avenue; Tel: 206-443-9844 **8 Intiman Theatre** 201 Mercer Street; Tel: 206-269-1900 **9 The Local Vine** 2520 Second Avenue; Tel: 206-441-6000
- DAY TWO /** **1 Bainbridge Island ferry** Pier 52; Tel: 206-464-6400 **2 Streamliner Diner** 397 Winslow Way East; Tel: 206-842-8595 **3 Bloedel Reserve** 7571 Northeast Dolphin Drive; Tel: 206-842-7631
4 94 Stewart 94 Stewart Street; Tel: 206-441-5505 **5 Seattle Art Museum** 100 University Street; Tel: 206-654-3100
6 Pacific Place Sixth Avenue and Pine Street; Tel: 206-405-2655 **7 Teatro ZinZanni** 222 Mercer Street; Tel: 206-802-0015 **8 Purple Café and Wine Bar** 1225 Fourth Avenue; Tel: 206-829-2280
- DAY THREE /** **1 Seattle Asian Art Museum** Volunteer Park, 1400 East Prospect Street; Tel: 206-654-3100
2 Olympic Sculpture Park 2901 Western Avenue; Tel: 206-654-3100 **3 Entre Nous** 216 Stewart Street; Tel: 206-905-1633 **4 Ummelina International Day Spa** 1525 Fourth Avenue; Tel: 206-624-1370
5 Steelhead Diner 95 Pine Street; Tel: 206-625-0129 **6 Emerald City Charters** Pier 54; Tel: 206-624-3931
7 Space Needle 400 Broad Street; Tel: 206-905-2100

*** **BOARDING PASS** / See You in Seattle / United and United Express serve Seattle (SEA) from seven domestic cities and one international city, with six flights per day from Chicago, seven from Denver, four from Los Angeles, eight from San Francisco, three from Washington's Dulles, and one from Tokyo. United Express offers regional service from Portland (eight flights per day) and Spokane (four per day).

Seattle Washington





The Purple Café and Wine Bar (left), Ummelina International Day Spa, and Seattle Art Museum (above) all stand ready to nourish your body and your soul.

your choice. Despite the upscale food, the restaurant doesn't take itself too seriously. Afterward, stop by The Confectional in the market for a mini cheesecake, choosing Kahlúa white chocolate, Mexican chocolate, or one of the other dangerously decadent flavors.

Dab the chocolate from your lips and walk a few blocks south to the **5 Seattle Art Museum**. A recent expansion doubled its size, and holdings include ancient and modern art from across cultures. You reserved tickets for *Inspiring Impressionism*, which explores the links between the impressionists and the major European art movements that preceded them.

By now the shopping bug has bitten, so make your way to **6 Pacific Place**, with its selection of chi-chi shops—Barneys New York, MaxMara, Cartier. Or, if you prefer carabiners over carats, make a pilgrimage to REI's flagship adventure cooperative with its climbing wall, mountain-bike test trail, and mother lode of outdoor gear perfect for the lifestyle led by locals. From the street, you'll walk wooded trails past a waterfall just to get to the store. You'll almost forget you are in downtown Seattle.

After your excursion, it's back to the inn to dress for dinner at **7 Teatro ZinZanni**. If you have a top hat or boa, this is definitely the time to wear it. You also can purchase something festive in the boutique before the show. The five-course dinner designed by celebrated chef Tom Douglas shares the stage with cirque, comedy, music, and dance performed above and around you as you dine.

After the zany whirlwind of ZinZanni, decompress with a glass of wine at **8 Purple Café and Wine Bar**. A two-story cylinder of shelves in the middle of the room shows off the global wine collection.



DAY THREE / Start your day off with room service; then take the town car to **1 Seattle Asian Art Museum**. The historical art deco building features a collection of Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Southeast Asian works of art. Explore the East, and then head to some of the best real estate in the city. The **2 Olympic Sculpture Park** opened a year ago on a former petroleum-distribution site that took 10 years to clean up. Start at the Western Avenue entrance and walk downhill along the Z-shaped path linking three land parcels. The art ranges from playful (huge eyeball chairs, a typewriter eraser) to earnest. Sit on the benches by the shore and take in the glittering artistry of the Puget Sound and the distant Olympic Mountains.

Lunch is served at **3 Entre Nous**, a friendly French tapas and fondue café, where owner and chef Stephane Ohayon uses recipes from his grandmother in Nice. Partake of the *salade confetti*—finely chopped fennel,



DAY 3

Seattle
Washington

The Seattle Asian Art Museum, a jewellike historic art deco building in Volunteer Park, is a lively international hub for Asian cultural activities and the perfect place to explore Eastern art.

bell peppers, baby spinach, pears, and Gouda tossed in lemon vinaigrette.

If you need a little something sweet, stop by the Chocolate Box on Pine Street between First and Second avenues on your way to **4 Ummelina International Day Spa**. The entrance to Ummelina is tucked in between City Kitchens and a Hallmark store. The spa is removed from the street, and the package treatments lure you even farther away. In The Equator, you start under a waterfall, then enter the steamy rain forest for a salt scrub and massage, continue on to the desert for a mud treatment, and end in a monsoon to wash away any remaining bit of stress. Afterward, lounge in the Tea Spa and sip herbal tea.

Eat an early dinner at **5 Steelhead Diner** in Pike Place Market. Note the museum-quality fishing lures tied by Pacific Northwest masters. Your appetizer must be the crab cakes with huge chunks of meat. For the main course, try kasu-marinated black cod with baby bok choy, shiitake mushrooms, and ginger salad, or simply order anything the servers recommend. Chef Kevin Davis creates exquisite, complex dishes that can leave you giddy from sensory overload. But keep some of your senses about you for dessert. Try the quadruple-layer chocolate cake with almonds and coconut ice cream or a dessert cocktail such as the oatmeal cookie cocktail or the chocolate pudding martini.

Dinner done, wander down to **6 Emerald City Charters** at Pier 54 for a 2.5-hour sail around Elliott Bay. The two high-performance, 70-foot sloops offer views of Seattle's skyline and summer's late sunsets.

Goodbyes are hard. Prolong yours from the observation deck of the city's odd **7 Space Needle**. Here you can relive your three perfect days as you walk around the perimeter and look at the city below you. Rest your eyes on Elliott Bay, where just a little while before you were skimming across the water and planning your next trip to Seattle. **/// Lisa K. Fann is HEMISPHERES' Seattle-based contributing editor.**



(top) Seattle Asian Art Museum; (above) the iconic sign at Pike Place Market; (right) the Space Needle looms large in a view from Capitol Hill.

