



From a ferry or boat, visitors can take in the classic view of the Seattle skyline, with the Space Needle in the foreground and Mount Rainier in the distance.

Seattle at Sea Level

See Seattle's Sights from the Water

by Fred Hanson

Attendees at the upcoming 2003 AALL Annual Meeting this July in Seattle will focus on gaining the skills and education they need to thrive in the constantly changing environment of law librarianship. However, after a day of meetings, programs and discussions, Seattle offers endless opportunities to unwind and relax near the city's historic waterfront.

"We love showing off our beautiful city to those who have not been here before," says Amy Eaton, co-chair of the Local Advisory Committee. "Seattle combines the best of the best: urban life with a beautiful, natural setting." From the excitement of the city to the serenity of the water, "members will find it simple to refresh between sessions," Eaton says.

Those attending the Annual Meeting will find Pike Place Market just west of the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Located two blocks uphill from the water, Pike Place Market is an authentic farmers' market that includes more than 600 businesses, including craft and clothing vendors, specialty food shops, and restaurants. While visitors can purchase the market's renowned fresh meat, fish and produce, dozens of eateries provide a variety of cuisines, such as Greek, Italian, French, Asian, Cajun and Mexican.

In addition to superb dining, shopping at Pike Place Market provides a unique cultural experience. Local craftspeople sell a fascinating array of their own handmade jewelry, apparel, woodwork, pottery, leather goods, toys, photos and other specialty items. Other retail shops include home and gardening, books and periodicals, toys and hobbies, as well as antiques and folk art.

If you want to take in some entertainment, street performers showcase their talent at 14 locations throughout the market. Marked by the painted musical notes on the sidewalk, performers can appear for one hour before the next entertainer takes the stage.

Although shopping and dining are excellent ways to experience Seattle, there is no better view of the city than from the water. Heading through the market, the steps at the Pike Street Hill Climb lead down to Elliot Bay, Seattle's harbor. Part of Puget Sound, Elliot Bay houses cargo ships,

tour boats, sailboats, fishing boats, tugboats, barges and ferry boats. The bay rarely stays quiet for long. Three cruise lines sail out of the Cruise Terminal in the summer: Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean International.

"While wandering the streets of downtown, you can watch the ferries on the Sound and glimpse Mount Rainier to the south," Eaton says.

A number of options are available for sight-seeing trips by boat. Several piers run frequent cruise lines traveling to various destinations in the area.

The Washington State Ferries offer magnificent views of the 14,410-foot Mount Rainier, the Olympic Mountains and the Seattle skyline. Departing from the Colman Dock ferry terminal at Pier 52, ferry rides across Puget Sound to Bainbridge Island are about 30 minutes, while a trip to Bremerton lasts an hour.

If you have two hours or more to spare, Argosy Cruises offers extended tours of Elliot Bay, as well as lunch and dinner cruises. Argosy's Locks Cruise and Lake Cruise provide superb views of the city from both the bay and Lake Union. Sailing via the government-operated Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, which connect Puget Sound to Lake Union, passengers of the Locks Cruise pass by a sea-going fishing fleet and the Cascade and Olympic Mountain ranges. The Lakes tour, on the other hand, cruises near the palatial homes built by Bill Gates and other software barons on the east side of Lake Washington. Both tours visit the houseboat community made famous by the movie "Sleepless in Seattle."

At Piers 56 and 55, tour boats take visitors around the harbor and out to Tillicum Village, an area on Blake Island State Park in Puget Sound that exposes visitors to the Indian heritage of the Pacific Northwest. The cruise consists of a one-hour narrated harbor tour of Elliot Bay and the surrounding areas. Once visitors arrive at Blake Island's Tillicum Village, they attend a salmon bake and an Indian pageant.

Attendees seeking an intimate water experience can row boats out on Lake Union. Boat rentals are available at numerous locations. The Northwest Outdoor Center, Agua Verde and the Center for Wooden Boats rent sea kayaks for reasonable fees. Additionally, the University of Washington rents canoes and rowboats at the UW Waterfront Activities Center.

For bigger bodies of water, head off to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, on the Victoria Clipper, a swift hydrofoil that leaves four times daily. Or catch up with a whale-watching outfit and look for orcas. If adventure is calling, white water rafting is an option through the river rafting companies located in Seattle.

To see Seattle by both land and water, try the whimsical Ride the Ducks of Seattle tour. Coast Guard-certified maritime captains host a musical tour of the city. Passengers travel in amphibious World War II vehicles that explore both land and water sights, including Lake Union and the 605-foot-tall Space Needle.

For those who prefer to remain dockside, Pier 53 houses the city's fireboats, Alki and Chief Sealth. On practice day, the boats shoot tall streams of water out on Elliot Bay.

The Cobra, a Russian submarine from the Cold War era, is open for tours at Pier 48. Visitors get a chance to see what life was like in a combat submarine, including the crew's quarters and the torpedo room.

The Seattle Aquarium at Pier 59 displays Puget Sound's marine life. The aquarium

features sea otters, river otters, a giant octopus and harbor seals. An underwater-viewing dome gives visitors a fish-eye's view beneath the bay. Warm-water fish and sharks live in the aquarium's coral reef exhibit, which is a 25,000-gallon tank filled with a man-made coral reef that demonstrates the reef-fish community. Small and large tanks also showcase a variety of fish from the local area and other regions of the world.

Although Seattle is characterized by its expansive shorelines and pristine waters, the city offers much more than just its popular waterfront — especially for Annual Meeting attendees, according to Eaton. “Attending the Annual Meeting is more than the city. It is about our profession, and what we can do to continue to grow and develop as law librarians,” she says. “It is the chance to network, learn from the experts, meet with the vendors and reinvigorate our careers.”

Still, there are few better places to develop one's profession than amidst the beauty and bounty of Seattle.

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Water, Water and More Water

Calling all ichthyologists, sailors and oyster eaters. Check out these Web sites for more information on water-related activities in Seattle.

Port of Seattle Cruise Terminal

http://www.portseattle.org/harbor/cruise/b_info.htm

Seattle Aquarium

<http://www.seattleaquarium.org/>

Tillicum Village

<http://www.tillicumvillage.com/>

Argosy Cruises

<http://www.argosycruises.com/publiccruises/default.htm>

Ride the Ducks of Seattle

<http://www.ridetheducksofseattle.com/main.htm>

Northwest Outdoor Center

<http://www.nwoc.com/>

Agua Verde

<http://www.aguaverde.com/>

The Center for Wooden Boats

<http://www.cwb.org/>

Victoria Clipper

<http://www.victoriaclipper.com/marketing/homepage.shtml>

UW Waterfront Activities Center

<http://depts.washington.edu/ima/IMA.wac.html>

Whale Watching

<http://www.whalewatching.com/>

River Rafting

<http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/getaways/051498/rlis14.html>

Saltys on Alki

http://www.saltys.com/alki/alki_index.htm

Washington State Ferries

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>



Boats move in and out of the Bell Harbor Marina, with the Seattle skyline as a backdrop.