



## OUR DESTINATIONS: SEATTLE AND ITS LOVE OF LITERATURE

*With more bookstores per capita than any other US city, Seattle has intertwined its penchant for coffee and love of books. This year, Icelandair celebrates the 10th anniversary of flight connections between Reykjavík and Seattle—two literary hubs.*



Nestled in between the imposing Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges, Seattle is renowned for its breathtaking natural setting. And as headquarters for two macro-brands—Amazon and Microsoft—the city exhibits an edgy industrial vibe. But beyond nature and tech, Seattle embraces its creative side as a literary city. In 2017, Seattle joined 27 other UNESCO-designated literary cities, including Reykjavík, to become a UNESCO City of Literature.

### Capitol Hill

Arguably Seattle's hippest and most fashionable neighborhood, Capitol Hill is home to the independently owned **Elliott Bay Book Company**. It's a Seattle institution for book lovers, with a café in the back and a set of chairs in the center where you can comfortably while away a few hours reading one of the shop's 150,000 titles.

**Ada's Technical Books and Cafe** (425 15th Avenue E) specializes in tech/science books (they happily admit to appealing to geeks). Ada is named after Ada King, Countess of Lovelace, the woman who wrote the first computer algorithm. With a café offering coffee and meal options, and science toys on almost every surface, this bookstore lures the curious and technically engaged. Grab

a comfy chair and sit in front of an old-fashioned fireplace. Happy hour from 5 pm to 8 pm offers beer, cider and wine.

Established in honor of nationally renowned poet Richard Hugo, the **Hugo House** is a literary hub for writers and readers. Hosting workshops, reading classes, book launches and literary events, Hugo House is another Seattle Institution in Capitol Hill celebrating the power of words.

If it's only good coffee you seek, **Victrola Coffee Roasters's** brew is popular, in a 1920s-themed café (310 E Pike Street). **Espresso Vivace** at Brix has been perfecting espresso shots since 1988 (532 Broadway Avenue East).

### Georgetown

Located south of downtown, Georgetown is one of Seattle's oldest neighborhoods, filled with hip bars, creative restaurants and funky shops. **Fantagraphics** on Vale Street publishes the world's greatest collection of cartoonists and graphic books. If you're heading to Georgetown's Museum of Flight and are a fan of popular culture, stop by the bookstore/gallery to view their extensive collection of archived and alternative comic artists.

### Silent Reading Party

On the first Wednesday of each month, the Silent Reading Party is held in the wood-

paneled Fireside Room at Hotel Sorrento in First Hill. For 10 years now, bibliophiles have been lining up to get into the classical Italian Renaissance Hotel (circa 1909) for the chance to curl up on a couch or sit in a wingback chair and read in silence. The only sound you're likely to hear is the piano playing in the background and the occasional murmur when readers order drinks.

### Libraries

The city's extensive public library system has 26 branch libraries located in neighborhoods across the city. The world-renowned Public Central Library, a steel and multi-faceted glass building in downtown Seattle (1000 Fourth Avenue), is a Seattle landmark. The Suzzallo Library at the University of Washington, with its neo-Gothic entrance and high soaring windows, was designed to look like a cathedral. It's a place to worship books.

With plenty of rain and overcast weather for much of the fall and winter months, there's nothing better than curling up with a good book and a cup of coffee. Seattle has that covered.

Icelandair flies to Seattle daily, year-round. Traveling from Europe, you have the opportunity to add a Stopover in Iceland at no additional airfare.



BY JENNIFER JOHNSTON.  
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