

“We have always been here, we are still here, we will always be here.”
 – Upper Skagit Elder Vi Hilbert (1918-2008)

CHIEF SEATTLE (siʔaʔ)

Chief Seattle portrait,
 University of Washington Libraries,
 Special Collections, NA1511



Seattle is Indian Country. The city is named for a hereditary chief of the Suquamish and Duwamish people, many of our communities and landscape features have Indian names, and tribal artwork can be found throughout the city's museums, galleries and public squares. Several Indian tribes call the Seattle area home, including the Duwamish, Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie, Tulalip, and Puyallup Nations. In addition, Seattle is home to a diverse group of Native people from throughout Washington, Alaska and the rest of North America.

Lushootseed, or Puget Sound Salish, is the Coast Salish language that is traditionally spoken in the Seattle area, and tribes are working hard to sustain the language through youth and adult education programs. In recent years, a cultural revival has taken place in Puget Sound Native communities, based on renewing the traditions of canoe carving and canoe journeys, and passing them on to younger generations.

Archaeological sites in the Puget Sound area date back over 10,000 years, and are found throughout the landscape, from high in the Cascade Mountains to lowland rivers and beaches. For many generations, traditional life was based on two primary resources: cedar and salmon. Oral histories among tribal groups feature a spirit being called Transformer who created the landscape where people live. Given the region's dynamic history of earthquakes and volcanoes, Transformer may still be at work today.

Indian tribes in the Puget Sound region ceded thousands of acres of their traditional lands under the Treaty of Medicine Creek (1854) and the Treaty of Point Elliott (1855) to the United States government. Tribes today are sovereign nations which hold treaty rights for fishing, shellfishing and hunting, and serve as co-managers, along with federal and state governments, of natural and cultural resources.

Seattle's Native American heritage can be experienced in many ways – by visiting museums and heritage sites, attending festivals and special events, and exploring the city with an awareness of Native legacies in the place names, artistic traditions and community events that make Seattle unique.



Salmon Cycle Drum by Maynard Johnny, Jr., Stonington Gallery

Seattle is the only major city named for a Native American leader. Recognized as a leader of the Suquamish and Duwamish people, Chief Seattle was known as a peace maker, and as a great speaker in his native Lushootseed language. This 1864 studio portrait is the only known photograph of the famous Indian leader.

The Chief's name was pronounced “See-Ahlth,” which was difficult for English speaking settlers to say, so they smoothed it out by changing it to “Seattle,” and it is sometimes written as “Sealth.” Using the standard orthography in which Lushootseed is written, the Chief's name is written as siʔaʔ.

In addition to the city which bears his name, Chief Seattle's most enduring legacy is his 1854 speech which includes the famous statement,

“Every part of this country is sacred to my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove has been hallowed by some fond memory or some sad experience of my tribe.”

In 1887, more than 30 years later, the speech was first printed in a Seattle newspaper, based on notes by pioneer Henry Smith. How well the speech truly captured the Chief's words, originally spoken in Lushootseed and translated into Chinook jargon and then into English, and how much reflected Smith's flourishes of Victorian oratory can't be determined with any certainty. But the speech is known throughout the world as a powerful statement from an Indian leader about his people's deep attachment to their native lands.

To read Chief Seattle's speech, visit www.suquamish.org and to learn more about his life, visit www.historylink.org, essay #5071.

ABOUT THE CULTURAL GUIDE SERIES

Seattle Cultural Guides are a resource for visitors who want to explore the city's rich cultural heritage. The guides feature museums and historic sites, public art works, and tourist attractions that give visitors an insider's view of Seattle's ethnic communities and unique history.

Seattle is proud of its diverse ethnic and cultural heritage, and its communities continue to value traditions of language, music and dance, food, arts and crafts, and celebrations that mark seasonal cycles and commemorate special events. Visitors are invited to experience these traditions and participate in these events, and in doing so, to see more of Seattle's rich cultural dimensions.

The Cultural Guides series was created by the Cultural Tourism Program of Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau, with funding from 4Culture (King County Lodging Tax) and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. The places, events and stories featured in the Cultural Guides are preserved and shared by dozens of community organizations and small businesses. The Bureau thanks them for their work, and especially thanks the many community volunteers who reviewed and contributed to this project.

Visit Seattle Cultural Guides online at visitseattle.org/cultural for updates and printable guides, as well as additional information on featured cultural sites. This web site also offers a comprehensive searchable calendar of cultural events including museums, performances and festivals.

In Seattle, stop by the [Seattle Visitor Center](#) at the Washington State Convention Center, on Pike Street between 7th and 8th Avenues, for a full range of information to enhance your visit.

For information about public transit serving sites in this guide, please call 206.553.3000 or visit tripplanner.kingcounty.gov.

www.visitseattle.org/cultural



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Front cover images: Sabeqwa de los Angeles, Snoqualmie, photo by Jack Storms; *Northwind Fishing Weir Legend* © Susan Point, 1997, King County Public Art Collection photo by Joe Manfredini; 2009 Canoe Journey photo by Steve Zugschwerdt; Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center photo by Holly Taylor; Chief Sealth Statue photo by City of Seattle; Upper Skagit artist Peter Boome with *Chasing Shadows*, photo by Jack Storms

Background image: *Duwamish Story Pole* by Michael Halady.

Native American Cultural Guide, Second Edition, 2010



SEATTLE CULTURAL GUIDES



WHAT'S INSIDE:



MUSEUMS, GALLERIES, HERITAGE SITES, SPECIAL EVENTS AND MORE...

SPECIAL EVENTS



When and Where are Visitors Welcome?

Visitors are generally welcome at tribal events held at outdoor venues and in public areas of cultural centers. By contrast, ceremonial or spiritual events are typically not accessible to visitors.

When in doubt, ask if an event is open to the public. It is always respectful to ask permission before taking photographs of individuals.

Archaeology: A Protected Legacy

Many places around Seattle, from beaches to hiking trails, contain archaeological artifacts made by Native Americans. All archaeological sites are protected by law, and artifacts may not be disturbed or removed from public or private lands.

You can help protect the region's heritage by taking only photographs and leaving only footprints.

To learn more about archaeology in Washington State, visit www.dahp.wa.gov and click on "Archaeology."

Muckleshoot tribal member Minnie Lobehean wearing a traditional cedar bark skirt and cape, with a tumpline and baskets made of maple bark and bear grass, c.1910. Smithsonian Collection / White River Valley Museum.

Below: Sauk hard coil basket c. 1900-1930, by Susan Wawetkin Bedal, Seattle Art Museum.



TOTEM POLES & COAST SALISH ART

The ubiquitous totem pole, the most visible example of Native artwork in Seattle, actually comes from Southeast Alaska and British Columbia.

Since the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897, Seattle has had close ties to the Northwest Coast, and many monumental works of art from Haida, Tsimshian and Tlingit carvers can be seen in Seattle.

Totem poles were traditionally carved from cedar trees to serve as memorial posts displaying inherited crests, or as house posts providing support for large cedar long houses.

These monumental sculptures feature stylized animals and animal-spirits such as Bear, Beaver, Raven, Frog, Killer Whale and many others which play important roles in traditional stories and have been associated with family clans reaching back many generations.

Traditional totem poles are on display at the [Burke Museum](#), [Victor Steinbrueck Park](#), [Pioneer Square](#) and other parks and viewpoints around the city. Contemporary artists throughout the Pacific Northwest have adopted this form, and examples of their work can be seen in many museums and galleries.



Coast Salish artwork, the traditional style of the Puget Sound area, features more subtle and personal designs. Local traditions included carved objects such as house posts, which were both decorative and functional. House posts were typically found inside of large plank houses as part of the framing structure, rather than outside on public display.

Small items such as spindle whorls and canoe paddles were both utilitarian objects and ornately carved artworks. Twined baskets, as well as hats and clothing were made from cedar, and elegant blankets and robes were woven on large looms using yarns spun from the hair of mountain goats and woolly dogs.

Local design traditions have been overshadowed for generations by more dramatic artistic styles from farther north, but Coast Salish aesthetics are being revived by contemporary artists such as Susan Point, Roger Fernandes, Andrea Wilbur-Sigo and Shaun Peterson.

These and other Native artists draw on traditional styles, and incorporate new materials such as glass and metal, to create work that is increasingly visible in Seattle's galleries, museums and public artworks.

Clockwise from left: *The End of the Ancestors* (detail) by Gerald Bruce subiyay Miller, Skokomish, photo Seattle Art Museum; *Red Center & Chevron Blanket* by Fran and Bill James, Lummi, photo Stonington Gallery; *Tlingit Totem Pole in Pioneer Square* by Charles Brown, photo by Michael Craft; *Three Whales Hat* by June Parker, Makah; *Salish Basket* by Marvin Oliver, Quinault / Isleta Pueblo; *Seals Panel* (detail) by Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, Squaxin; and *Eagle and Salmon Paddle* by Maynard Johnny Jr., Penelakut / Kwagwiltz, photos Stonington Gallery.



Crescent Moons by Andrea Wilbur-Sigo, Stonington Gallery

First Salmon Ceremony

Indian Reservations throughout the Pacific Northwest

These annual ceremonies are observed by many tribes in spring or summer, depending on the timing of local salmon runs. According to tradition, the first salmon caught each season is considered a sacred guest, and must be treated with respect. This time-honored event is an opportunity to thank the salmon for returning and for giving its life to feed the people. Contact individual tribes for information about dates and locations; a directory of tribes around the state can be found at www.goia.wa.gov.



Monica Vendiola, Southern Cheyenne, photo by Jack Storms

SEAFAIR Indian Days Pow Wow

At Daybreak Star in Discovery Park

On the third weekend in July each year, hundreds of dancers in full regalia, dozens of drum groups and thousands of spectators gather to celebrate the richness of Native American cultures. www.unitedindians.com

Canoe Journey

Destination changes annually

'Canoe families' representing tribes throughout the region travel for two or three weeks each July in large

cedar dugout canoes. This journey, which is alcohol and drug free, culminates in a weeklong celebration at the destination village or tribal community. The Canoe Journey is part of the Native Northwest's cultural renaissance, which includes canoe carving, language instruction, and other traditional practices. tribaljournays.wordpress.com



Tribal canoes landing at Suquamish, 2009 Canoe Journey. Photo by Steve Zugschwerdt

Chief Seattle Days

Suquamish, Port Madison Reservation

This historic celebration takes place on the third full weekend in August, and includes traditional dancing, canoe races, Native foods and artwork, and a ceremony honoring Chief Seattle.

www.suquamish.org

American Indian Film Festival

Bellevue College

Held each November, this festival honors independent film by Indigenous Peoples from throughout North America.

www.bellevuecollege.edu/aiff

MUSEUMS, GALLERIES & HERITAGE SITES

Burke Museum

17th Avenue NE and NE 45th Street, 206.543.5590
The Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture is located on the University of Washington campus. The Museum exhibits artifacts from throughout the Pacific Rim, including Northwest Coast Native American masterpiece baskets, archaeological materials, carvings and other artworks. The museum's permanent exhibit *Pacific Voices* includes a display about the First Salmon Ceremony, an annual gathering held by many Pacific Northwest tribes to celebrate the return of the salmon each spring. www.burkemuseum.org

Carved bone figure found on Socia Island. Burke Museum Collection.

Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)

2700 24th Avenue E, 206.324.1126
MOHAI's permanent exhibit *Essential Seattle* features Native American stories and history from throughout the city's 150-year history. www.seattlehistory.org



John Cheshiahud in his canoe, late 19th century, courtesy of the Museum of History and Industry.

Ivar's Salmon House & Waterway 15

401 NE Northlake Way, 206.632.0767
Ivar's Salmon House is a cedar replica of a Northwest Coast Indian longhouse located on the north side of Lake Union. Traditional and contemporary Native American artwork and historic photographs are on display in the lobby. On the west side of the building is Waterway 15, a "pocket park" and public shoreline access point where public art highlights the area's Native heritage. www.ivals.net



The Center for Wooden Boats

Lake Union Park, 1010 Valley Street, 206.382.2628
The Center for Wooden Boats Carver in Residence, Saaduuts, shares his knowledge of Haida cultural traditions by working with Native and non-native students and other visitors to carve northern style canoes at the Canoe Shed. www.cwb.org

Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center

Discovery Park, 3801 W Government Way, 206.285.4425
Daybreak Star is located in Discovery Park, in the Magnolia neighborhood. The Indian Cultural Center was established after a long occupation of the land, part of a former military base, by Native American activists in 1970. Activist leader Bernie Whitebear served as founding director of the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, which runs a gallery and numerous social and cultural programs at the center, serving the local and regional Indian community. www.unitedindians.com

Discovery Park is also the location of the West Point archaeological site, a Native American site that was used for more than 4,000 years for fishing, clamming, and food processing. The West Point site was identified during construction of a water treatment plant in Discovery Park; artifacts from the collection are housed at the Burke Museum.

The Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Discovery Park. Photo by Margaret & Bjorn



Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop

Lake Union
This 6.2 mile footpath and bike path circles Seattle's urban lake, passing houseboats, historic neighborhoods and numerous parks large and small. The trail is named in honor of Duwamish tribal leader John Cheshiahud who lived nearby on Portage Bay until the early 20th century. www.seattle.gov/parks/LakeUnionLoop

Seattle University taq'šəblu Vi Hilbert Ethnobotanical Garden

James Street, between Broadway and 12th Avenue
In the First Hill neighborhood, a native plant garden was created on the campus of Seattle University to honor Upper Skagit elder taq'šəblu Vi Hilbert (1918-2008), who dedicated her life to preserving and teaching the Lushootseed language. With interpretive information in both English and Lushootseed, the language of the Puget Sound Salish people, this ethnobotanical garden features native plants which provide traditional cultural foods, medicines and materials for tools, artwork and buildings. www.seattleu.edu/artsci/ethnobotanical



Song for the Moon, by Shaun Peterson, Puyallup/Tulalip, 2002. Seattle Art Museum

Seattle Art Museum

1300 First Avenue, 206.654.3100
The Seattle Art Museum in downtown Seattle exhibits a variety of Native American artworks from the Northwest Coast including ceremonial masks, textiles and sculptures in both traditional and contemporary forms. New exhibits highlight Coast Salish culture, and a variety of native plants having cultural uses are displayed at SAM's Olympic Sculpture Park. www.seattleartmuseum.org

Chief Seattle Statue

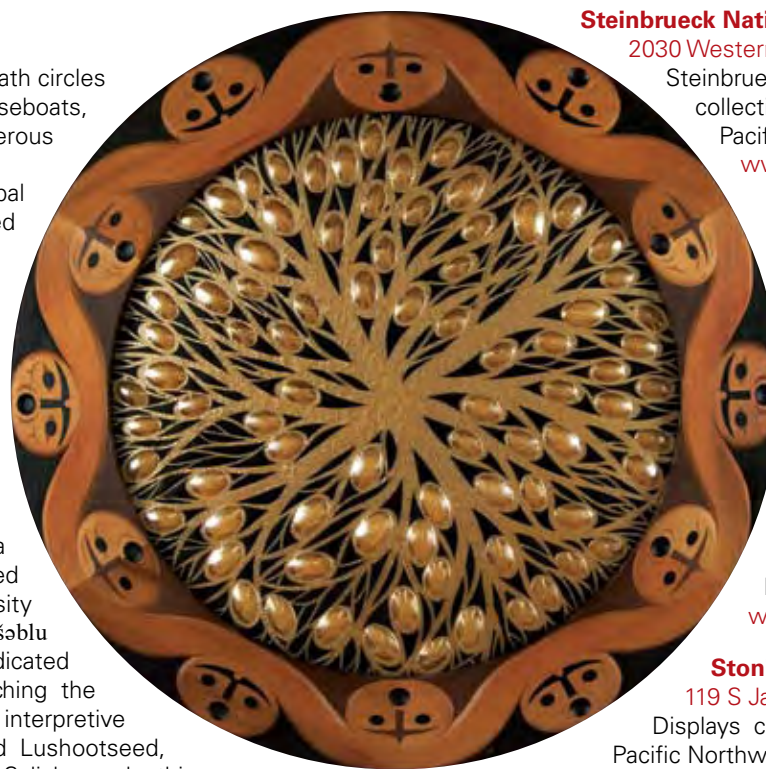
Tilikum Place; Intersection of 5th Avenue, Denny Way and Cedar Street
A life-size cast bronze statue of the Indian Chief for whom Seattle is named graces this historic intersection near Seattle Center. Designed by sculptor James Wehn in 1907, the statue is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Chief's right arm is raised in greeting, a pose remembered as characteristic of the tribal leader who signed a treaty in 1855 on behalf of the Duwamish and Squamish people.

Chief Seattle Statue, photo by Jim Bates, Seattle Times.



Steinbrueck Native Gallery

2030 Western Avenue, Suite B, 206.441.3821
Steinbrueck Native Gallery offers a diverse collection of native art exclusive to the Pacific Northwest. www.steinbruecknativegallery.com



Family Tree by Susan Point, Musqueam, courtesy of Steinbrueck Native Gallery

The Legacy Ltd.

1003 First Avenue, 206.624.6350
Offers traditional and contemporary Northwest Coast Indian and Alaskan Native Art. www.thelegacyltd.com

Flury & Company

322 First Avenue S, 206.587.0260
Features a collection of Edward S. Curtis photographs of Native American subjects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. www.fluryco.com

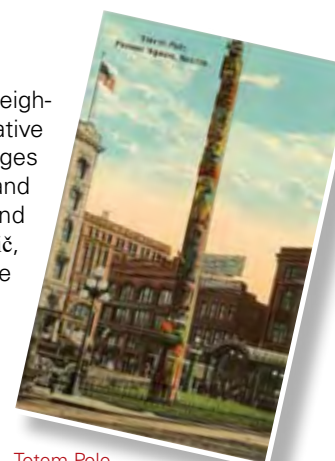
Stonington Gallery

119 S Jackson Street, 206.405.4040
Displays contemporary masterworks of the Pacific Northwest Coast. www.stoningtongallery.com

Pioneer Square

First Avenue and Yesler Way
Pioneer Square, Seattle's oldest neighborhood, contains many layers of Native American heritage. Two Indian villages were once located in the vicinity, and the Lushootseed, or Puget Sound Salish, name for the area is d'í'd'alalič, which translates as "a little place where one crosses over."

As the settlement of Seattle grew, Pioneer Square remained the city's historic core. The tall stately totem pole in the center of the cobblestone Pioneer Place park seems to be a fitting tribute to Native heritage, although the original totem pole that graced the park was actually stolen from a Tlingit village at Fort Tongass, Alaska by a group of prominent Seattle businessmen in 1899. The current totem, a 1938 replica created by Tlingit carver Charles Brown, was acquired a bit more legitimately by the City of Seattle.



Totem Pole at Pioneer Place, University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, UW 26868z.



Pioneer Square waterfront with Indian canoes, ca. 1891. University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, NA680

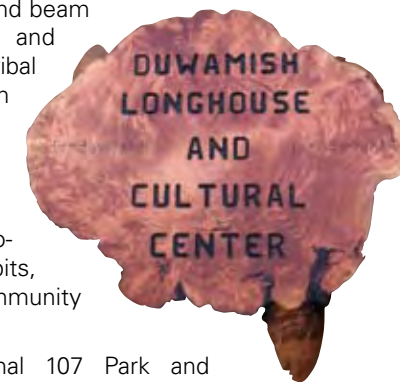
A bust of Chief Seattle was created by sculptor James Wehn in 1909, from a study for another statue which stands at Fifth Avenue and Denny Way (Tilikum Place). A 1991 artwork called *Day/Night* by Hachivi Edgar Heap of Birds flanks the bust and comments on the experiences of Native people in Seattle. Occidental Square, one block southeast of Pioneer Place, is the setting for several contemporary carvings in traditional Northwest Coast styles by Duane Pasco.

Birthplace of Seattle Monument & Log House Museum

Alki Beach, 3003 61st Avenue SW, 206.938.5293
A monument on Alki Avenue SW marks the location where the Denny Party landed in 1851, establishing the first non-native settlement on Elliott Bay. In 2001, a plaque acknowledging the assistance that these first settlers received from the region's indigenous people was added to the monument, one of many efforts in recent years to make the role of Native Americans more visible in the local historical record. The nearby Log House Museum offers exhibits and video programs highlighting early contact between Native and non-native people in the Seattle area. www.loghousemuseum.info

Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center

4705 West Marginal Way SW, 206.431.1582
This traditional cedar post and beam structure opened in 2009, and represents the first new tribal longhouse constructed in Seattle in over 150 years. The facility serves as the headquarters of the Duwamish Tribe, and offers a variety of public cultural programs including gallery exhibits, films, performances and community events.



Across the street, Terminal 107 Park and Herring's House Park provide access to the Duwamish River. Up the hill from the Longhouse at Belvedere Viewpoint (3600 Admiral Way SW), a story pole carved by Michael Halady, a descendant of Chief Seattle, honors the Duwamish people. www.duwamishtribe.org

Tillicum Village

Blake Island State Park, 206.623.1445
Located across Elliott Bay from downtown Seattle, Tillicum Village features a replica Northwest Coast Native American longhouse where salmon dinners are served, and performances highlight Northwest Coast dances and legends. Argosy Cruises provides boat transportation to Blake Island. www.tillicumvillage.com



Alder smoked salmon at Tillicum Village on Blake Island.

North Wind's Fish Weir

S 112th Street off of Pacific Hwy, Tukwila
The Green River Trail, a bike and pedestrian trail, crosses the Duwamish River at North Wind's Fish Weir. This place is important in the "Epic of the Winds," stories from Puget Sound Salish oral tradition that describe the battles between North Wind and South Wind for control of the region.

The Fish Weir, believed to have been turned to stone by a powerful being called Transformer, is visible in the middle of the river at low tide. The stories are interpreted at Cecil Moses Park on the west side of the river, and are commemorated in artworks by Roger Fernandes, Susan Point, Caroline Orr and John Gierlich placed along the trail on the east side of the river. www.4culture.org/publicart



Artworks in the shape of the traditional spirit boards stand as sentinels above the Fish Weir site. *Northwind Fishing Weir Legend* © Susan Point, 1997. King County Public Art Collection, photo by Joe Manfredini.

DID YOU KNOW?

Large terra cotta cartouches featuring a stylized portrait of an Indian elder are found in several locations throughout Seattle. Oddly, the figure's traditional feathered head dress is associated with tribes from the Great Plains region, rather than the Pacific Northwest, and was perhaps inspired by photographer Edward Curtis to symbolize the grandeur of the West, rather than to depict local historical reality.

These architectural ornaments were part of the 1909 White Henry Stuart Building which once stood at Fourth Avenue and University Street. When that building was demolished, the terra cotta artifacts were salvaged and are now on display at the Seattle Convention Center, the Museum of History and Industry, Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center and other locations.

Seattle's citywide summer celebration, known as **SEAFair** since 1950, was once called the **Golden Potlatch Festival**. The festival boasted parades, races and community fairs, and was planned as part of the commemoration of the Alaska Gold Rush. The **potlatch** is a ceremonial feast and gift distribution practiced by Northwest Coast Tribes. Seattle's festival was organized by a group of downtown businessmen who dubbed themselves the "Tillicums of Eltaes." Tillicum or tilikum means "friend" in Chinook jargon, the region's contact-era trade language, and *Eltaes* is Seattle spelled backwards.

As in other parts of the country, **traditional gambling** played an important role in Native culture. As sovereign nations, Indian Tribes have the right to regulate gaming on their reservations, and there are more than two dozen tribal casinos in Washington. Casino profits contribute to economic self-sufficiency for tribes, and support cultural preservation efforts such as tribal language programs, museums, and historic preservation projects.

Several federally recognized Tribes have casinos near Seattle, including the Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Snoqualmie, and Port Gamble S'Klallam. Casino resorts operated by the Squamish and Tulalip Tribes include notable displays of contemporary Coast Salish artwork.

Above: Photo by Holly Taylor
Left: House posts at Tulalip Resort Hotel, courtesy of the Tulalip Tribes



FURTHER AFIELD

Squamish Museum and Cultural District

The Squamish Museum is located on the Port Madison Reservation, an hour west of Seattle via the Bainbridge Ferry. The Museum's permanent exhibits interpret the history and culture of the Squamish people. Nearby are several sites of interest including a waterfront Community House called *sgwədzadad qəł ʔaltxw* (The House of Awakened Culture) which opened in 2009, Chief Seattle's grave and monument, and Old Man House Park, the location of the Chief's former home. www.squamish.org

Makah Cultural and Research Center

The Makah Museum in Neah Bay, five hours west of Seattle near Olympic National Park, is a nationally recognized tribal museum. Permanent exhibits include artifacts from the Ozette collection, uncovered from a Makah village partially buried by a mudslide nearly 500 years ago. www.makah.com/mcrchome.html

Snoqualmie Falls

Located less than an hour east of Seattle by car, Snoqualmie Falls is one of Washington's premier tourist destinations, and is a sacred site for the Snoqualmie Tribe. Snoqualmie Falls plays an important role in tribal stories, including the Lushootseed story, "Moon, the Transformer," which teaches that salmon were given to the people by Moon for their subsistence. The Snoqualmie Tribe has worked for many years to preserve Snoqualmie Falls as a pristine natural site "for all people, for all time." A park with viewing platforms and hiking trails provides public access. www.snoqualmiefalls.com



Snoqualmie Falls, photo by Bala

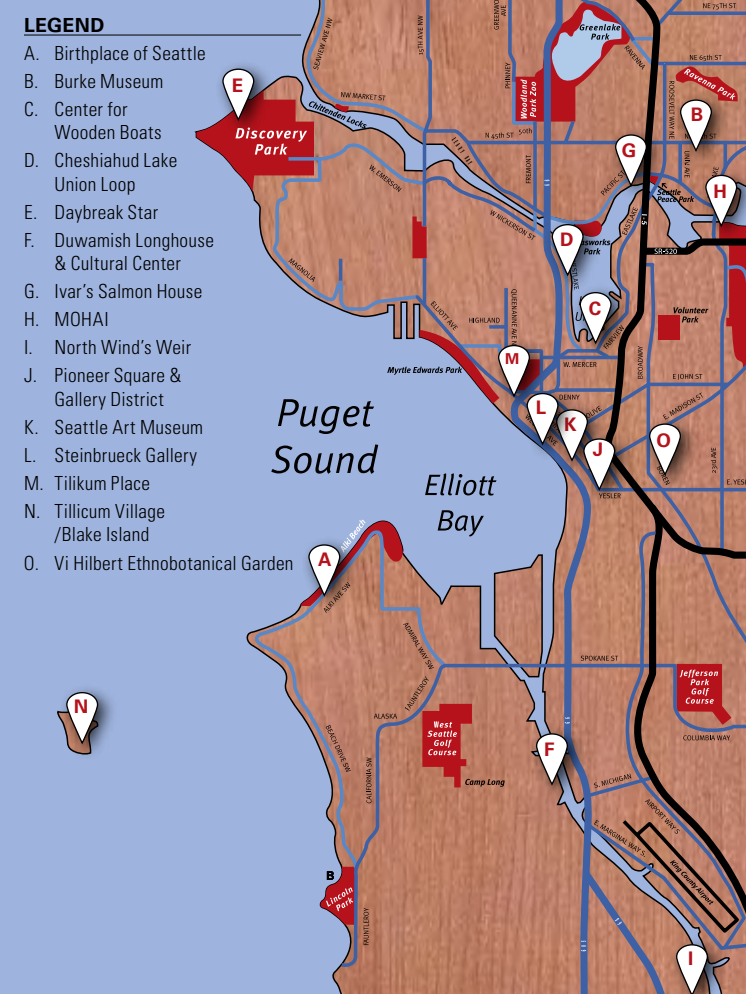
Squaxin Island Tribe Museum Library and Research Center

Cultural items found at an Eld Inlet village site in Southern Puget Sound form one of the main exhibits in the Squaxin Island Museum Library and Research Center, located near Shelton approximately one and a half hours southeast of Seattle. www.squaxinlandmuseum.org

Yakama Nation Museum and Cultural Center

Located in Toppenish, three hours east of Seattle, the Yakama Nation Museum and Cultural Center interprets the history and culture of the Plateau and Columbia River Basin people. www.yakamamuseum.com

ATTRACTIONS MAP



LEGEND

- A. Birthplace of Seattle
- B. Burke Museum
- C. Center for Wooden Boats
- D. Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop
- E. Daybreak Star
- F. Duwamish Longhouse & Cultural Center
- G. Ivar's Salmon House
- H. MOHAI
- I. North Wind's Weir
- J. Pioneer Square & Gallery District
- K. Seattle Art Museum
- L. Steinbrueck Gallery
- M. Tilikum Place
- N. Tillicum Village /Blake Island
- O. Vi Hilbert Ethnobotanical Garden