



Smith Tower Seattle's Original Skyscraper



Smith Tower is Seattle's original skyscraper, standing tall in Pioneer Square since 1914 and watching the entire city glow-up around it. When it opened, it was the tallest building on the West Coast and one of the tallest in the country, all wrapped in bright white terracotta and crowned with that iconic pyramid top. The whole place still feels like stepping into Seattle's early days, back when typewriters were high-tech and "skyscraper" was still a fresh word.

The best part is how you get to the top: Smith Tower still uses its historic Otis elevators, lovingly preserved with their brass and vintage detailing. You ride all the way up to the 35th floor the same way visitors did more than a century ago. Except now it's smoother, faster, and a lot safer thanks to modern upgrades. You could say, it's basically a tiny time machine with better lighting.

At the summit is the Observatory, complete with a wraparound open-air deck and a speakeasy-style bar. From up there you get 360-degree views of downtown, the stadiums, Elliott Bay, and on a dreamy clear day, Mount Rainier flexing in the distance. It's the perfect blend of history, skyline, and that "Seattle really is kind of magical" feeling, all in one elevator ride.

Stevens Pass: Winter Magic in the Cascades

There's a special kind of quiet that settles over Stevens Pass once winter rolls in, the kind that makes the Cascades feel like a world tucked just out of sight from everyday life. Sitting along the crest of Highway 2, the pass transforms into a snowy playground every December, offering everything from mellow snowshoe loops under old-growth trees to wide-open ski runs carved into the mountainside.

The ski area itself is a winter tradition in Washington, known for its high-elevation snowfall and laid-back vibe. You'll find terrain for all comfort levels, whether you want long cruiser runs, terrain parks, or heart-pounding black diamonds. Off the lifts, the Nordic and snowshoe trails let you slow

down and wander through the forest at your own pace, following paths that dip past frozen creeks and overlooks dusted with fresh, light powder.

What keeps people coming back every year isn't just the snow. Crisp mountain air, lodge fireplaces, après-ski hot cocoa, and the charm of a small mountain community make the whole experience feel cozy and inviting. Whether you're strapping on skis for the first time or exploring the trails with friends, Stevens Pass delivers that classic Pacific Northwest winter magic in a special way few places can easily match.



Upcoming Events for December

December 12 - 14

Seattle Symphony

Holiday Pops, Benaroya Hall
Seattle, WA

December 13

Seattle Arch. Foundation

Waterfront Walking Tour
Seattle, WA

December 14

Eastside Symphony

Holiday Traditions
Redman HS, Seattle, WA

December 16

Kraken vs. Avalanche

Seattle Center
Seattle, WA

December 18

Seahawks vs. LA Rams

Lumen Field
Seattle, WA

December 19

Dinner in the Dark

The Collective Seattle
Seattle, WA

December 24

Jingle Bell Run

Run/Walk 3 Miles
Wright Park, Tacoma, WA

December 31

New Year's Eve Party

Pioneer Sq. Smith Tower
Seattle, WA

Note: Check Event locations for current information.



Merry Christmas
December 25th



Happy Hanukkah
December 14th - 22nd



Snowflake Lane: A Winter Night to Remember

As the holiday season descends on downtown Bellevue, a beloved and free tradition comes to life called Snowflake Lane. From November 28 through December 24, 2025, every evening at 7:00PM, Bellevue Way between NE 4th and NE 8th Streets is transformed into a winter wonderland. A wonderland of glowing lights, cheerful music, fanciful floats, and even falling snow. The celebration stretches across the sidewalks of Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square.

What to Expect

- **A dazzling nightly parade:** Expect a cast of over 250 performers including toy drummers, dancers, snow princesses, sugar-plum fairies, and other holiday characters bringing yuletide joy to Bellevue's streets.

- **Snowfall on demand:** More than 50 snow machines create magical "snow" each night, turning Bellevue Way into a snowy scene straight from a festive holiday card.
- **Lights, floats, and festive flair:** Holiday-themed floats, dazzling decorations, upbeat holiday music, and the visual spectacle of lights dancing in the winter night. It's a feast for the senses that brings people together each year.
- **A community tradition:** What began as a small sidewalk performance nearly two decades ago has grown into one of the region's largest holiday celebrations. Thousands attend nightly, creating a shared moment of festive cheer.

Enjoy the festive evening with family and friends. We'll see you there!



Looking Ahead to a New Year

2026 brings a fresh start filled with opportunity and promise. It is a time to embrace growth, innovation, and meaningful connections while celebrating the creativity that brought us here.

Let us make this year one of optimism and action. Together, we can turn challenges into triumphs and dreams into reality. Here's to success, joy, and unforgettable moments in the year ahead!

Collaborative Lounge for the Holidays

