

1 | Take a Kayak Trek

Ever experienced the wetter side of West Seattle? Discover a whole new world of wildlife and sea-level scenery when you paddle a kayak around the peninsula and see West Seattle from the water side.

Harbor seals, salmon, and heron will keep you company along the way. And if you're lucky, you may even spot a bald eagle. Head down to Seacrest Marina, just steps from Salty's on Alki, for an amazing outdoor experience.

You can take a guided tour with Alki Kayak Tours or rent kayaks by the hour from Alki Crab & Fish Co.

The tours depart from the Seacrest Boathouse at various times and on various days from May through October, so be sure to call Alki Kayak Tours to reserve your spot. Trips range from the shorter 2-hour Sunset Paddle to the half-day Alki Lighthouse Tour and the Blake Island Overnight. For beginning boaters or paddlers looking for helpful tips, safety instruction, and interesting information on natural history, this is the way to go.

For do-it-yourselfers, single and double kayaks are available for rent by the hour and include paddles and PFDs (personal flotation devices). A 1-hour trip will give you a taste for kayaking, but allow a few hours for more in-depth exploring.

Fair-weather paddlers will want to get a jump on kayaking in the months where summer sun provides extra warmth atop the cool water breeze. But for seasoned West Seattleites, kayak treks bring happiness rain or shine. Many fancy a morning or midday trek on the weekend (or a day playing hooky) and sunset paddles are a beautiful way to end the day.

But the weather changes as often as the tide, so make sure to bring warm clothing (water-wicking fleece or wool recommended), a hat (long brims help with glare), sunglasses, sun block, a whistle, and a

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water bottle (full, of course). And for wildlife viewing, don't forget binoculars and a laminated copy of *Mac's Field Guide to Puget Sound*, if you please.

Taking a kayak trek on your own for the first time? A popular route is a roundtrip paddle to the Alki lighthouse. Adventurous boaters have also paddled as far as Puget Sound's outlying islands. On longer treks, a beach break is a great way to refuel and stretch your legs. Pack a lunch or grab an order of fish and chips to go from Alki Crab & Fish Co. before hopping in your streamlined craft.

So take a tour or splash around solo. Either way, boating in Elliott Bay will give you a new perspective on West Seattle and the abundant marine life that surrounds this picturesque peninsula.



What:
Sea Kayaking

Where:
Seacrest Marina
Alki Crab & Fish Co.
1660 Harbor Avenue SW
206.938.0975

Alki Kayak Tours
www.kayakalki.com
206.953.0237

When:
Year-round. Hours change by the season; call ahead to check.

Price:
Alki Kayak Tours:
Sunset Paddle \$39
Alki Lighthouse Tour \$49
Duwamish River \$49
Blake Island Overnight \$149

Alki Crab & Fish Co. Rentals:
\$15/hour for singles
\$25/hour for doubles
Call for details