

Send North America: Seattle

Fun Facts

1. The San Juan Islands, which are located roughly 60 miles northwest of Seattle in Puget Sound, are a favorite orca whale-watching site. The orca is commonly known as the killer whale.
2. Seattle has three major men's professional sports teams: the National Football League's Seattle Seahawks, Major League Baseball's Seattle Mariners and Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders FC.
3. Seattle was the first American city to put police on bicycles. Seattle has the highest percentage of people riding bikes to work compared to other U.S. cities its size.
4. The Boeing Company, founded in the Seattle area by William Boeing, was originally a boat company. Mr. Boeing, however, was fascinated with flying and airplanes.
5. When the Space Needle was built in 1962 for the Seattle World's Fair, it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi River.
6. In 1966, at age 11, Bill Gates won a dinner at the Space Needle restaurant offered by his pastor. Gates won the prize by memorizing the Sermon on the Mount—chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Gospel of Matthew—and reciting it flawlessly.
7. The state of Washington, where Seattle is located, has five major volcanoes as part of the Cascade Range: Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens. Mt. Rainier, located southeast of Seattle, can be seen as part of the Seattle skyline.
8. The first European to visit the Seattle area was George Vancouver, who was an English officer in the British Royal Navy, in May 1792 during his 1791-1795 expedition to chart the Pacific Northwest.
9. Amazon.com and Starbucks are based in Seattle; Microsoft is based in Redmond, which is a suburb of Seattle.
10. In 1896, the Klondike Gold Rush of the Yukon in northwestern Canada helped Seattle become a major transportation center. Seattle became the main transport and supply point for the miners in Alaska and the Yukon.
11. Seattle is considered the third most literate city in the U.S. Minneapolis is number one, and Washington, D.C., is considered number two

Sources: <http://www.jetcityorange.com/seattle-trivia/>, <http://www.travelingwiththejones.com/2014/09/03/42-fun-facts-about-seattle-washington/>, <http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/books/2015/04/10/americas-most-literate-cities-minneapolis/25531751/>