

## 1 | Take a Kayak Trek

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

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 days from May through October (be sure and call Alki Kayak Tours to reserve your spot) and range from the shorter 2-hour Sunset Paddle to near the half-day Alki Lighthouse Tour and Blake Island Overnights. 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 floatation 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 morning or midday treks on weekends (or days you play 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 for the first time? A popular route is a roundtrip paddle to the Alki lighthouse. Adventurous boaters have 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 & chips to-go from Alki Crab & Fish Co. before hopping in your streamlined craft.

So whether you take a tour or splash around solo, either way, boating in Elliott Bay will give you a new perspective on West Seattle and its marine-life abundant, picturesque peninsula.



**What:**  
Kayak

**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.  
Kayak Rentals-  
\$15/hour for the singles,  
\$25/hour for the two-  
person kayak, call for  
details.