

## WHAT TO PACK

Weather in Seattle during January-February is usually cloudy and rainy, occasionally windy. The rain is rarely heavy – usually referred to as ‘drizzle’. Downtown temperatures typically range from the mid 40’s during the day to the low 30’s at night. Weather in Seattle during January-February can also be unpredictable. Most of the locals dress in layers; adding and removing sweaters, jackets, liners, raincoats, hats, scarves, and whatever else feels comfortable as necessary. Definitely bring good walking shoes; two pairs are even better. Except at the very fanciest of restaurants, business casual, at most, is acceptable attire for all meals.

## AIRPORT ARRIVAL NOTE

Domestic carriers United, Delta/Northwest, Sun Country, and some Alaska airlines flights arrive at one of the two free-standing ‘satellite’ terminals. To get out of the airport, you must first take a subway from a satellite terminal to the main terminal; where baggage claim is located. Once on the free subway, exit at the Main Terminal North or Main Terminal South stop. [Just follow the crowd; you’ll be fine.]

A reference map is at <http://www.portseattle.org/about/maps/transit.shtml>

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION: AIRPORT TO SHERATON HOTEL

See reference maps at <http://www.portseattle.org/about/maps/ground.shtml>

### Taxi

<http://stitataxi.localplacement.net/>

STITA taxis, located on floor three [one below the sky-bridge level] of the attached airport parking garage, are the only authorized taxicab service departing Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Taxicabs from any company may arrive. One-way fares are approximately \$35-\$45 depending on traffic conditions. Travel time is 20-40 minutes, also depending on traffic conditions.

### Shuttle Express Van

<http://www.shuttleexpress.com/airportTransfers.html>

Shuttle Express service should be reserved in advance. Standard upon-arrival van service is generally not available between the airport and the Sheraton hotel. One way fares and number of passengers vary; starting from \$27 for two with a roundtrip purchase. Travel time is 20-40 minutes depending on traffic conditions.

Gray Line Downtown Airporter <http://graylineseattle.com/airportexpress1.cfm>

Motor coaches depart every 30 minutes in both directions. Tickets should be purchased at the Scheduled Airporters desk beyond the south end of baggage claim: just inside door 00. Fares are \$11.00 one-way and \$18.00 round trip. Travel time to the Sheraton Hotel is approximately 45 minutes.

“Metro” (public transportation) <http://metro.kingcounty.gov>

Buses on route 194 depart at least every 30 minutes in both directions between approximately 6 a.m. and at least 7 p.m. Airport pick-up point is outside the south end of baggage claim: use door 2. Exact fare is required as you board. Be sure you get on a coach labeled as going to downtown Seattle – not Federal Way. Ask the driver if you’re uncertain.

One-way fare is \$2.00; \$2.75 during weekday rush hours. Travel time is approximately 30 minutes to the stop nearest the Sheraton Hotel: *Westlake*.

The Sheraton Hotel is located on the east side of 6th Avenue, between Union and Pike Streets. From the *Westlake* bus / light rail tunnel station, exit to 5th Avenue and Pine Street, turn left and walk 50 feet to 6th Avenue, then turn right and walk slightly uphill one and a half blocks to just beyond Pike Street for the main entrance to the hotel. The hotel is on the left side of 6th Avenue as you walk.

“Link Light Rail” (public transportation) <http://www.soundtransit.org/Riding-Sound-Transit/Schedules-and-Facilities/Central-Link-Light-Rail.xml>

Light rail trains depart at least every 15 minutes in both directions between approximately 6 a.m. and at least 11 p.m. The airport station is beyond the northeast end of floor four [the sky-bridge level] of the attached airport parking garage. Follow the marked guideway.

One-way fare is \$2.75. Travel time is approximately 35 minutes to the stop nearest the Sheraton Hotel: *Westlake*.

The Sheraton Hotel is located on the east side of 6th Avenue, between Union and Pike Streets. From the *Westlake* bus / light rail tunnel station, exit to 5th Avenue and Pine Street, turn left and walk 50 feet to 6th Avenue, then turn right and walk slightly uphill one and a half blocks to just beyond Pike Street for the main entrance to the hotel. The hotel is on the left side of 6th Avenue as you walk.

## DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: AIRPORT TO SHERATON HOTEL

- a) Drive North on either
  - the main airport access road [currently in an ever changing state due to construction of the light rail line and station],
  - State Highway 509, or
  - International Boulevard, which is also State Highway 99.
- b) Exit to the right and drive East on State Highway 518.  
[Tip: Once on State Highway 518, move into the leftmost lane as soon as possible.]
- c) Exit to the left and drive North on Interstate 5 for just over 10 miles.
- d) Exit to the left onto Seneca Street.  
[Tip: As you approach downtown, prepare for this exit by moving into the second lane from the left; the leftmost lane exits only into express lanes that completely bypass downtown.]
- e) At first traffic light, turn right onto 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- f) Go two blocks – past University and then Union Streets. Hotel is on the right side of 6th Avenue between Union and Pike Streets.

Tip: A car is a detriment in downtown Seattle, and parking at the hotel and elsewhere is expensive. Traffic downtown can be awful. It's faster and easier to walk, or take "Metro" buses (i.e., public transportation); which are free during the day. A car could be useful if you plan to tour widely outside the immediate downtown core.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions while you're anywhere in the Seattle area, just act like a local. Put on your best smile, approach anybody who looks as if they have a clue (e.g., bus driver, doorman, random person on the street), and then using a friendly voice, ask away. Use 'please' and 'thank you' liberally. Keep smiling. You'll be amazed at how much you'll learn. This is how Seattle does things.

Many thanks to Dave Feinberg, Seattle resident, for providing this information.

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