



Seattle Spheres

## WINTERGREEN

**W**arm up on chilly days with lush, plant-filled spaces. On Capitol Hill, **Volunteer Park Conservatory** (1400 E Galer St; volunteerparkconservatory.org) was built in 1912 for rest and relaxation inside a popular park. Its plants live in five themed rooms so you can prioritize your visit, whether you're feeling

the dramatic tropical flowers of the bromeliad room or craving the dry heat of the cactus room. Check the online calendar for special tours and events, and keep an eye out for sago palm and jade trees more than 75 years old.

The futuristic orbs of the **Seattle Spheres** (2111 Seventh Ave; seattlespheres.com) in South Lake Union house more than 40,000 plants in a high-altitude rainforest environment. The massive greenhouse is primarily a work space for Amazon employees, but you can visit by reservation during open houses held two Saturdays a month. And the bottom-floor Understory is fully open to the public, telling the spheres' tale through interactive exhibits.

No Seattle plant shop embraces the winter quite like **Swansons Nursery** (9701 15th Ave NW; swansonsnursery.com). Starting Nov 9, much of its outdoor space in Ballard transforms for the Reindeer Festival: While locals choose their perfect trees, you can pet reindeer, pose for a photo with Santa, marvel at a model train village, and shop handmade jewelry. You can also warm up with pastry baskets, omelets, and fried chicken sandwiches at **Barn & Field** (9701 15th Ave NW; barnandfield.com), a family-owned restaurant in Swansons's conservatory. It sits beside a koi pond under a lush canopy of palm, banana, and fig trees for full tropical effect. —Sarah Anne Lloyd



Eighth Generation

## #HEYSEATTLE WHERE CAN I FIND UNIQUE GIFTS?

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**Answered by LAURA L. CLISE, founder of the Seattle-based Intentionalist (intentionalist.com), a guide to supporting small businesses and diverse local communities through intentional spending:**

"At Pike Place Market, visit **Eighth Generation** (93 Pike St, Ste 103; eighthgeneration.com) for blankets and more designed by Native artists. **Ventures Marketplace** (1501 Pike Pl, Ste 521; venturesnonprofit.org) is an eclectic shop with jewelry, housewares, and more crafts by local entrepreneurs. And sample ethically sourced bean-to-bar treats made on-site at **indi chocolate** (★1901 Western Ave, Ste D; indichocolate.com). Find fabulous frocks at Belltown's **Sassafras** (2307 First Ave; sassafras-seattle.com) and Pioneer Square's **Velouria** (145 S King St; shopvelouria.com), or visit **The Cura Co.** (2407 E Union St, Ste D; thecuraco.com) in the Central District for well-curated "beyond Fair Trade" apparel and accessories. Stop by Asian-influenced hapa shop **Momo** (600 S Jackson St; momoseattle.com) in the International District, then take light rail to Beacon Hill and pick up a good read at social justice-focused bookstore **Estelita's Library** (2533 16th Ave S; estelitalibrary.com)."

## Happy Holidays

'Tis the season for customs old and new. Whether you're in the mood for time-honored traditions or game for something fresh, here's how to get in the holiday spirit in Seattle. *By Haley Shapley*

### THE SHOWS

**TRIED AND TRUE:** It doesn't get much more quintessential than choreographer George Balanchine's take on *The Nutcracker*, exquisitely staged and danced by **Pacific Northwest Ballet** at McCaw Hall. ★pnw.org; Nov 29–Dec 28

**SOMETHING NEW:** The heartwarming story of a struggling actor dressing up as a nanny so he can see his kids post-divorce was a hit on the big screen in the early '90s—now, rediscover *Mrs. Doubtfire* as a musical during its world premiere at the **5th Avenue Theatre**. ★5thavenue.org; Nov 26–Dec 29

### THE LIGHTS

**TRIED AND TRUE:** In its eighth season, **Woodland Park Zoo's WildLights** delights with sparkling displays of wild animals, indoor snowball fights, and the chance to hang out with nocturnal creatures during their prime time. ★zoo.org; Nov 29–Jan 5

**SOMETHING NEW:** As you wind your way through the world's largest light maze

at **Enchant Christmas** at T-Mobile Park, try to find Santa's gifts that have gone missing. While you're at it, snap a few Instagram-worthy photos and go ice skating too. ★seattle.enchantchristmas.com; Nov 22–Dec 29

### THE DRINKS

**TRIED AND TRUE:** Inside the dark-paneled **Fireside Room** in the circa-1909 Hotel Sorrento, pause from the hustle and bustle with Holiday Tea, an afternoon tea service complete with finger sandwiches, sweets, and a crackling fireplace. ★hotelsorrento.com; select dates Nov 23–Dec 28

**SOMETHING NEW:** For the past couple years, first-rate Belltown cocktail bar **Rob Roy** has transformed into Miracle on 2nd, a kitschy, New York-born Christmas pop-up. Think Santa-shaped mugs, tables covered in wrapping paper, and strangely masterful seasonal cocktails like the Snowball Old Fashioned, featuring gingerbread bourbon. ★miraclepopup.com, Nov 22–Dec 24