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Travel Guide:

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# Grand Prix Seattle 2018



by Frank Stanley

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# The Venue

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**Washington State Convention Center**  
**705 Pike Street**  
**Seattle, WA 98101**

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## Hotels Nearby/Transportation

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**Hote:** [The Sheraton Seattle](#)  
**1400 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Seattle, WA 98101** ([Map](#))

**Hotel Block reservation page can be found [here](#).**  
**Rooms start at \$159/night + tax. Available through March 19, 2018 or while supplies last.**

**All Transportation (Shuttle, Light Rail) information to and from the airport can be found [here](#).**

The Convention Center has several other hotels nearby; most of which are within 4-5 blocks of the venue. Those are all available, with projected room rates, at [this link](#). You'll want to check each one for shuttle information from the airport. (Rates are, obviously, subject to change.)

For those looking for AirBnB information, you'll want to follow [this link](#). Note that the query is for 1 adult. Change your accommodations accordingly.

As for transportation/public transit, King County Metro has a light rail/bus system that can get you directly to the venue from the airport. To get to the light rail station from baggage claim, follow the pedestrian walkway through the parking garage to the station landing.

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# Where/What to eat

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## You have so many options, you'll lose your mind.

Nestled in the center of downtown Seattle, the Convention Center is surrounded by diverse dining options. All you need to do is determine, outside of what you want, how much you want to spend and how far you're willing to travel. If nothing else, we have some fantastic seafood selections and I highly recommend checking it out.

Anyway, here's some highlights and keywords:

**Japonessa (Sushi/Japanese):** Sushi is usually #1 on what judges are looking for, so we'll go ahead and get this out of the way. Located across the street from Pike Place Market (more on this place later) and 5 blocks from the Convention Center, it's arguably the best sushi in the city. They also have an excellent cocktail list and extensive happy hour every day.

**The Metropolitan Grill (Steak):** You'll likely want to make a reservation, but we're talking about one of the best steakhouses around. It's definitely on the pricy side, but there's no better place to go for meat and potatoes. You can even go the seafood route here if you want; it's all good!

**8oz Burger and Co. (Burgers):** Some AMAZING burgers and (sometimes boozy) shakes for the price. It's also a short walk up the hill from WSCC for convenience.

**Toulouse Petit (Southern/Brunch):** Best brunch AND best happy hour in Seattle, hands-down. It's a bit of a drive away in the Queen Anne area, but they offer up everything you can think of with New Orleans cooking.

**Il Corvo Pasta (Italian/pasta):** Good Italian is very hard to come by in Seattle, but if you're lucky enough (and it's early enough – this place closes at 3 PM), swing by Pioneer Square and jump in line to try some Bolognese. It's 100 percent handcrafted and super good for the price. Again- get there early and beat the line.

**Beth's Café (Dives/Diners):** ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK. It's dirty. It's grimy. It's open 24 hours. But the meals come with all-you-can-eat hash browns and omelets come in 6-egg and 12-egg varieties. Plus they serve Amish bread and if you don't know what it is, just order it. Aspiring artist? Leave some of your work on their walls. You'll see what I mean.

**Sam Choy's Poke to the Max (Hawaiian):** Seattle is becoming the place to go for great poke outside of Hawaii, and Sam Choy's isn't the cleanest, but it's the best. You'll need to head to the south end of the city to try it out, but it's definitely worth it.

**Dick's Drive-in (Seattle Classic):** A staple to Seattle with locations all over the city, Dick's is no-frills cheap burgers, shakes and fries. Open until 2 AM, it's good old-fashioned greasy fast food, but it's so steeped in Seattle tradition that you can't resist trying it at least once.

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# Getting Around

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Fortunately for us, the Convention Center is located in the heart of Downtown Seattle, so travel to and from your hotel should be mostly simple. For those looking to get outside of the city, pending specifics, there's good public transportation/rideshare hubs that make things easy for everyone.

**Local Shuttle:** Shuttles will vary by hotel. Be sure to check in with them for the best information.

**King County Metro/Sound Transit:** King County Metro is our local bus access, with Sound Transit being our light rail/commuter option; They run on the same fare, so buying one works for the other. Fares are usually from \$2.50 to \$3.25 depending on time and distance, and that usually includes free transfers around the greater Seattle area/most of King County. There is a day pass option (found [here](#)) that charges \$8 per day.

**Taxi/Rideshare:** As stated before, the rate from the airport to the WSCC is in the \$35-\$40 range for Lyft/Uber, etc. You can get an estimate of cab fares [here](#).

**Rental Cars:** Driving around Seattle can be pretty intimidating, with several one-way roads and LOTS of hilly areas with narrow street parking. Once outside downtown, however, things open up significantly. With the WSCC right next to Interstate 5, you have easy access to everything north and south. Interstate 90 nearby takes you east, and our ferry system takes you further west. The weather in April tends to be pretty calm, but always have a raincoat handy; you never know. Fair warning: street parking is pretty scarce and the garages around the WSCC are pretty expensive.

**Walking:** If you're close enough to the WSCC, there are several places within walking distance for shopping, eating, and general sightseeing. Most of the tourist-oriented areas are downhill, near the waterfront, so be prepared to make the trek back uphill when you're done. Seattle is generally safe for walking at most hours, but I'd still think it to be preferable to walk in groups.

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# Sightseeing

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There's plenty to do in the area. For starters, check [this](#) out.

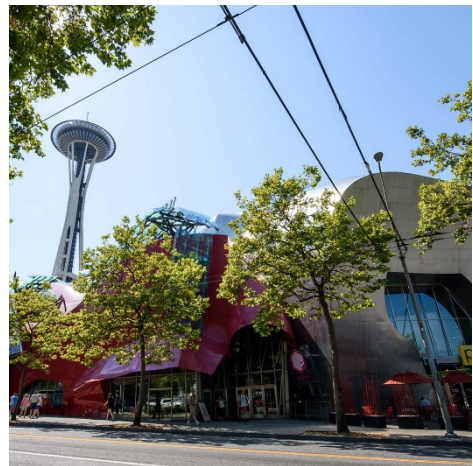
From there, it's a matter of how you can get around and how much time you have on-hand.

## Staying in-city:



**Pike Place Market:** One of the nation's oldest-running Farmer's Markets, Pike Place Market is one of the most recognizable landmarks of the city. Aside from the fish market, there are some incredible shops in here for food, clothing and all sorts of things. You can also see it from the WSCC; they're on the same street.

**Seattle Center:** With several tourist attractions, including the **Space Needle**, the **Museum of Pop Culture** (Formerly the Experience Music Project) and the **Pacific Science Center**, Seattle Center on Queen Anne can provide you with several hours of interactive exhibits and things to check out. You can also get there via Seattle Monorail, just two blocks away from the WSCC at Westlake Center.



**Other Options:** Each region of Seattle has its perks: On the north side, you can take a picture with the Fremont Troll or the Statue of Lenin on Fremont avenue. You can also end up in Wallingford, Ballard or the University District, home to countless antique shops, restaurants and bars. Heading south, you'll find Pioneer Square, the International District and SoDo/the Stadium District. Sadly, no sports teams are in town during GP weekend.



## Short drives:



**Mox Boarding House:** With locations in Ballard and Bellevue (a short drive east of Seattle), Mox Boarding House offers an LGS experience unlike any other in the world. Both locations feature full restaurants, massive tournament rooms and extensive board game libraries, all of which are completely free to play. And yes, before anyone asks, I am displaying a bias as I do work for them.

## Olympic Peninsula/Washington Ferries:

Right on the Seattle waterfront, Washington's Ferry system will take you to several spots up and down the state peninsula. If you're looking for some good road-tripping, hiking or general nature exploration, head to Bainbridge or Vashon Island for some great trails.



## The Longer Drives:

**LITERALLY HIKING ANYWHERE:** Be it Mt. Rainier National Park, Mt. St. Helens National Park, Olympic National Park or our major mountain passes (Snoqualmie and Stevens), there are some incredible hiking areas that are as little as an hour drive away from Seattle. Two short hikes nearby would be heading east to Rattlesnake Ridge (easy) and the Haystack at Mount Si (difficult – climbing is involved). For some quieter, more relaxing loops, head to the peninsula for hiking through our temperate rainforests, including the Quinault and the Hoh, or get some incredible views of the surrounding areas on Hurricane Ridge.

Or, weather permitting, you can make the 2.5-hour drive northeast to Leavenworth – our little Bavarian village nestled in the mountains. Along with some wonderfully authentic food, drinks and shops, it's surrounded by all sorts of outdoor activities. It'll also be in the offseason, so most of the heavy tourism crowds won't be around to make things hectic.



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## Other Information

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### Here's some other things to keep in mind while hanging out in Seattle:

**Weather:** The Pacific Northwest always has an association with rain, and I would say that is mostly true. Most rains here, however, are nothing compared to what you'd deal with in the east coast/midwest. That being said, it never hurts to carry around an umbrella and/or coat. Most of the areas surrounding the venue are covered, so you won't find yourself out in it too often. This season has been unusually cold for us, so keeping warm is a thing.



### **Smoking:** Okay, two things:

One, the general rule when it comes to smoking tobacco is this: if there are no designated smoking areas, you must be at least 25 feet away from any building entrance. More often than not, the areas are clearly marked, but if nothing else, just steer clear of doors.

Two, cannabis: yes, it is also legal in Washington. However it is still illegal to smoke in public spaces and most hotel rooms. Possession of cannabis in Washington state is limited to varying amounts depending on the form of it (usually less than an ounce), and obviously, **do not** try to travel across state lines with it. By any means.