

Explore Staycations

The line used to be clear: Seattle's hotels were for the visitors, the tourists, the family members from out of town, while the rest of the city was for us. (We're nice, we share our restaurants and museums.) But when the pandemic halted leisure travel, we all started looking a lot closer for a much-needed getaway. It just happens that the past few years have meant a boom in new local accommodations—cutting-edge construction alongside historic old buildings reborn with retro style—and local classics with new verve.

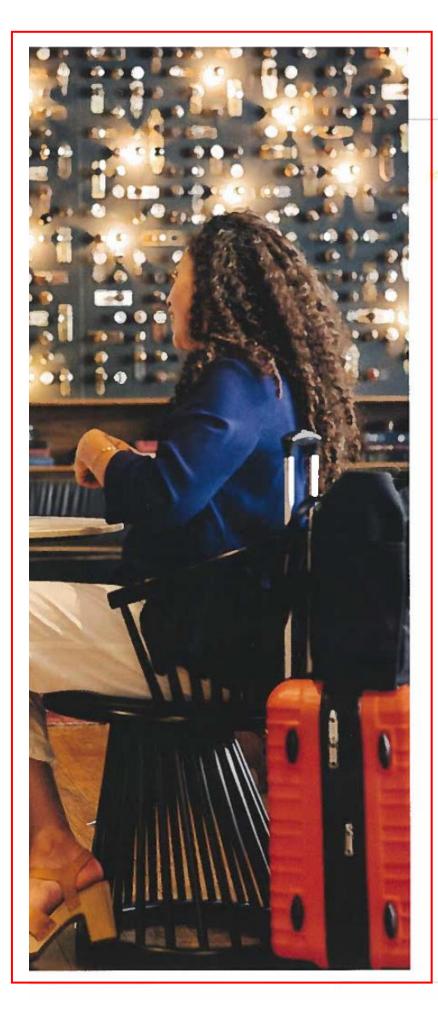
Hotels reopened throughout the summer, many touting fine-tuned new cleaning systems, but without the cruise boaters and the tourists from afar. As we all stick close to home, we have the chance to check in to our own backyard for once. To wander new blocks, to dine at sidewalk cafes that weren't here last time we happened by, and to see the Northwest through the eyes of a newbie. Turns out it's pretty swanky on the other side of the line.

URBAN AMUSEMENTS IN DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

Thompson Hotel

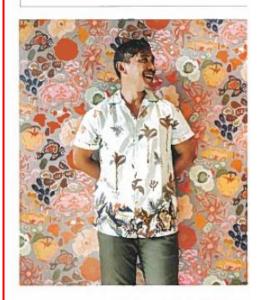
When the international chain swanned into town in 2016, the trendy vibe shone from every surface of the glass-block style building. But the property, part of a Hyatt-owned luxury chain, never turned out to be too cool for a city that still pulls puffy jackets from our closets for a night out. Some rooms face Pike Place Market, though everyone gets the eagle-eyed view of flying fish audiences from the patio of the rooftop Nest bar. View suites boast living room furniture with angles so sharp they demand an impromptu photoshoot. thompsonhotels.com





STATE HOTEL

For most of its century-long life, Second Avenue's Eitel Building failed to live up to its promise, passed between ownership as the fortunes of its downtown-meets-Belltown block rose and fell. Its rebirth as an indie boutique hotel gives its arched doorway and cream stone exterior new dignity, but inside the lobby is an explosion of color; whimsical sea life wallpaper from artist Kate Blairstone coats the elevator bank, and a mountainscape from Ryan Molenkamp amps a nature scene with a magenta sky. Rooms are a little less busy—clean white lines make them feel more spacious-and a guest-only terrace offers an Elliott Bay overlook. Restaurant Ben Paris is better than it has to be, drawing non-guests with upscale comfort food like fried chicken in a big, bright space. statehotel.com



State Hotel lobby exudes quirk thanks to a doorknob wall (left) and sea life wallpaper by Kate Blairstone (above).