

# PUBLIC MARKET CENTER



PIKE PLACE MARKET

## Seattle's Pike Place Market is the city's center for fresh, local produce, specialty foods and small independent businesses

The Market offers endless opportunities to explore and experience. Stop by a produce or farm stand and sample fruit in season. Meet the artisans of the crafts market. Learn about the catch of the day from the fishmongers. Sample new flavors in specialty and ethnic food stores and restaurants. Inhale the aroma of freshly baked bread. Discover delightful treasures in the many independent shops. A community unto itself within downtown Seattle, the Market winds through alleys, streets, stairways and corridors. Take time to wander and let the Market amaze, delight and inspire you.



# Market Highlights Walking Tour

## **1. Public Market Clock and Sign / Rachel the Piggybank**

One of the oldest pieces of outdoor neon on the West Coast, the famous Public Market Center clock has kept time at the Market since 1927.

Directly underneath the clock, Rachel, the Market's life-size, bronze piggybank collects donations to support social services in the Market. Together with her cousin, Billie, on Western Avenue, they raise over \$20,000 a year.

## **2. Economy Market, Corner Market, Sanitary Market**

In the early days of the Market, building names often simply reflected the activities inside. The Economy Market was where day-old products were sold. The Corner Market is, obviously, located at the corner of First and Pike. The Sanitary Market got its name because it was the one place livestock was not allowed.

## **3. Stewart House**

Built in 1902, the Stewart House predated the farmers market and is the oldest residential building in the Market. Today it provides low-income senior housing.

## **4. Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub**

The bar portion of Kells was the embalming room for The Butterworth Mortuary built in 1903. On the First Avenue side of the building, tile work can still be seen marking the various entrances – Private, Office and Chapel. It is reportedly haunted. Just past Kells is the Pike Market Medical Clinic that provides a range of primary medical care services for low income and uninsured patients.

## **5. Victor Steinbrueck Park**

Victor Steinbrueck Park boasts spectacular views of Elliott Bay and features two 50-foot cedar totem poles. The park was named in honor of Victor Steinbrueck's contributions to the preservation and restoration of Pike Place Market.

## **6. Original Starbucks**

Starbucks actually opened one block north on Virginia Street in 1971, but moved here in 1975 when that building was demolished. In the beginning they only sold beans, but began selling espresso drinks in 1987 when Howard Schultz took over the company. Today this store is unique in that it displays the original – much racier – logo and does not sell food.

## **7. North Arcade**

The first structure built for the Market, the North Arcade originally covered only the customers, with the farmers selling from wagons on the streets. At the peak in the 1930s, nearly 600 local farmers sold their produce here. Today we have 80 farmers and over 215 craftspeople selling their goods 362 days a year.

## **8. Desimone Bridge**

Named for Joe Desimone, an Italian-American farmer who owned most of the Market buildings from the 1930's until 1971 when the City took public ownership of the property. Today the Desimone Bridge looks out onto the Desimone parking lot which will be the home of the new Waterfront Entrance.

## **9. Market Levels**

Beneath the Main Arcade are three floors of small interesting shops, specializing in collectibles, comics, jewelry, books, original art and more. Continue down to the shops on Western Avenue, where you will find gluten-free baked goods, funky robot t-shirts, Spanish specialties, custom tattoos and more.

## **10. LaSalle Building**

Currently home to low-income residents and two fine dining restaurants, the La Salle Hotel was originally the Outlook Hotel, run by a Japanese-American couple. When the Japanese-Americans were interned during WWII, the family had to sell and the infamous Nellie Curtis purchased it, changed the name to the LaSalle Hotel and ran it as an upscale brothel.

The LaSalle is also home to the Pike Market Senior Center which serves nearly 50,000 meals a year to low income seniors.

## **11. Gum Wall**

One of the Market's quirkiest attractions, the Gum Wall began when patrons of the Market Theater were asked to leave their gum outside. The Market now "maintains" the gum wall, keeping the collection off windows, doors and surrounding buildings. In order to preserve the historic masonry, gum removal is all done by hand.