



The Best Bars In Ballard

Ballard is known for its breweries, but there's plenty to drink here in addition to beer. Here are the best bars in the area.

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The Infatuation
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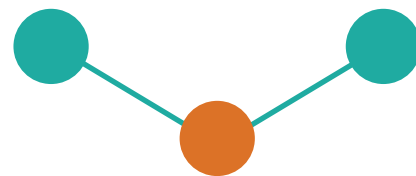
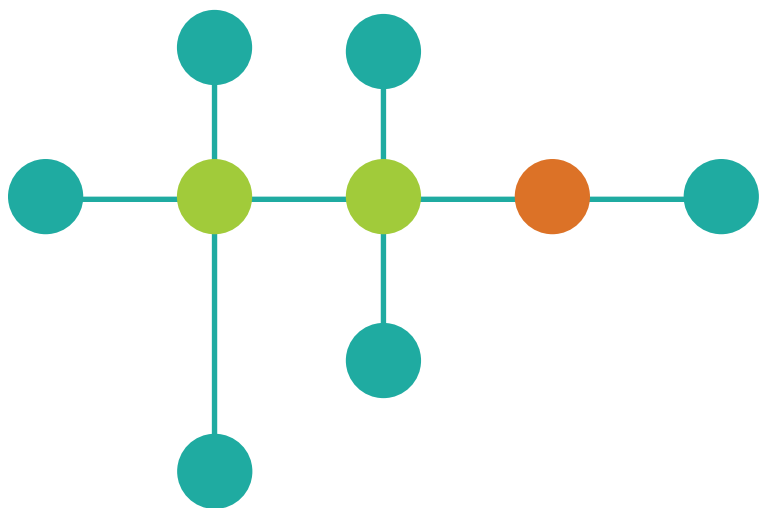
Ballard might be the best neighborhood in Seattle to drink. There are more breweries than any other area in the city, late-night food options are seemingly endless for when you can't fit any more alcohol in you, and the whole neighborhood is flat. That last one seems unimportant, but trust us - when you're a few flights deep, you'll appreciate it. Whether you're planning a birthday bar crawl or a low-key seventh date, there's a bar for every situation in Ballard.

The Spots

Stoup Brewing

Stoup Brewing used to be a well-kept secret for those who lived in the neighborhood, but now it's a Seattle staple. Drinking here is like having a beer in your buddy's garage where he brews it himself. There's a wall covered completely in bumper stickers, the bar shares a room with the massive beer-making tanks, and you can count on a rotating food truck parked outside for when you need to put something non-alcoholic in your stomach. You won't find any mango-guava sour here - just seriously well-done classics like pilsner, IPA, and saison.





Trailbend Taproom

Sometimes you get stir-crazy after bouncing around the same 11 breweries in Ballard. Cool off at Trailbend Taproom. It's in the middle of the brewery district, but it isn't a brewery – they just serve beer. The tap options come from everywhere from Belgium to Bellingham. And if you're really just sick of beer, maybe a taproom wasn't the right plan of attack for you, but an Aperol spritz or some spiked coldbrew aren't bad ideas. Neither is a ricotta garlic bread boat.

Sunset Tavern

The Sunset is a music venue that hosts mostly local artists, but we're here to talk about the front bar area, which goes by "Betty's Room." Even though lamps are blaring and guitars are screeching next door, Betty's Room is a calm dive to grab a few beers or well drinks with friends. The whole space is decorated with vintage board games and red lighting, and the best part is that your eardrums will be safe.

Essex

Essex is a dark and romantic little spot that you visit when you're serious about cocktails, and you want the person you're with to know it. The drinks here have ingredients you probably don't have at home, like Becherovka or artichoke liqueur. There's also the option to get wasted on the incredible burger they serve and call it a night.

Pie Bar Ballard

It feels good to be surrounded by like-minded people. It's why Sakura-Con, dog parks, and theatre camp exist. At Pie Bar, you're in a room full of people who like to eat pie. This place serves sweet slices like cookies and cream and key lime, as well as savorys like steak or chicken pot. In addition to all of the pie, there's a full bar where you can find classic drinks, plus a bunch of "pie-tinis" which, despite sounding like a corn syrup-infused gimmick, are actually good.