

Seattle Stars in New Video

Ballerinas pirouette across ferries, roller-girls slingshot around the Space Needle deck, and seaplanes soar across azure skies in Visit Seattle's new video love letter to the city.

The three-minute video features some of Seattle's most iconic images and a musical soundtrack from local band Ivan & Alyosha.

Want to check out the city before you check out the city? See the new video at visitseattle.org/video. To learn more about some of the experiences featured in the video, read about Teatro ZinZanni in "Dinner and a Show" (page 20), Molly Moon's in "What's Hot is Cold" (page 56), and the Seattle Great Wheel in "Wander the Waterfront" (page 64).



Selfies in Seattle

BY AMANDA CASTLEMAN

▲ Clockwise from top left: Mt. Rainier National Park, the Gum Wall, and the Fremont Troll

The Oxford Dictionaries declared "selfie," a photo of oneself typically uploaded to social media, as 2013's word of the year. President Obama took one at Nelson Mandela's memorial service, and Ellen DeGeneres packed stars into an Oscar-night portrait, setting a world record with 3.4 million retweets. The trend is clearly here to stay, so we've tracked down the best vantages in and around Seattle for making picture-perfect memories.

Some popular spots are at Seattle's **Gum Wall**, where a mosaic of candy creates a colorful backdrop; on the **Space Needle** observation deck, for a stunning city scene below; and in **Mt. Rainier National Park**, where the iconic peak plays a starring role in every shot.

Terry Divyak, owner of **Shutter**

Tours, recommends getting snappy in the Red Room of **Seattle's Central Library**, the steel-and-glass origami by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. Try playing with the mirrored polka-dot wall or posing on the scarlet stairs with the camera above you. Divyak also likes reflections in the iridescent sides of the **EMP** pop-culture museum and on metallic globes at **Chihuly Garden and Glass**.

For more scenic shots, try **Kerry Park**, which overlooks the city and Elliott Bay, along with snow-gilded Mount Rainier on clear days. Shutterbugs also flock to the **Black Sun** sculpture outside **Seattle Asian Art Museum**. The hoop of Brazilian granite frames the Space Needle, Puget Sound, and the Olympic Mountains.

Hop in a kayak from **Northwest Outdoor Center** for an action shot on Lake Union with the skyline,

houseboats, or **Gas Works Park**—a majestically rusted refinery located in Seattle's Wallingford neighborhood—setting the scene. Other great waterline viewpoints include **Golden Gardens Park** in Ballard and **Alki Beach Park** in West Seattle, along with the **Bainbridge Island ferry**. Always check your background: a good one contains evocative details, but avoids trees, poles, and other items "sprouting" from your head.

Finally, try locations that show off Seattle's signature funkiness, like the **Fremont Troll sculpture**, the **statue of Vladimir Lenin**, and the **Waiting for the Interurban** sculpture, which locals love to dress up.

Wherever you shoot, Seattle drips with beauty. Just find some bright, natural light, stretch that camera out to arm's length overhead, and smile as wide as the sweep of Elliott Bay. ●

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DEVIN MONAS, DAN GAKEN, ALEXA MILLER, AL DANIELS



▲ The Rat City Rollergirls at the Space Needle



Alki Beach Park 1702 Alki Ave SW • **Bainbridge Island Ferry** 801 Alaskan Way (Pier 52); wsdot.com/ferries • **Chihuly Garden and Glass** 305 Harrison St; chihulygardenandglass.com • **EMP Museum** 325 Fifth Ave N; empmuseum.org • **Fremont Troll** Troll Ave N and N 36th St • **Gas Works Park** 2101 N Northlake Way • **Golden Gardens Park** 8498 Seaview Pl NW • **Gum Wall** 1428 Post Alley • **Kerry Park** 211 W Highland Dr • **Mt. Rainier National Park** nps.gov/mora • **Northwest Outdoor Center** 2100 Westlake Ave N, Ste 1; nwoc.com • **Seattle Asian Art Museum** 1400 E Prospect St; seattleartmuseum.org • **Seattle Central Library** 1000 Fourth Ave; spl.org/locations/central-library • **Shutter Tours** shuttertours.com • **Space Needle** 400 Broad St; spaceneedle.com • **Statue of Vladimir Lenin** 3526 Fremont Pl N • **Waiting for the Interurban** N 34th St and Fremont Ave N • For more on Visit Seattle partners, go to visitseattle.org/visitors/discover/sightseeing