



Seattle's International District

Below is a “key” to the locations noted on the map. There is a brief description/history as appropriate. Some of these locations may no longer exist, others require an keen eye. As you walk down King Street, keep your eyes open for the unusual – ducks hanging in windows, medicinal herb shops, etc. There are many wonderful bakeries and unique shops, too. This is a nice 60 minute loop or pick and choose a few sites.

1 Uwajimaya, Inc. 600 5th Ave. S

Japanese native Fujimatsu Moriguchi founded the Uwajimaya Company in 1928 in Tacoma. He named the store after his place of birth. After America entered World War II in 1941, the Moriguchi family was sent to an internment camp. When the war ended, Moriguchi moved his family and business to Seattle's International District. Originally a fish market (built in 1928), this store has become one the largest Asian grocery and gift stores in the Pacific Northwest.

Uwajimaya is a great store to explore – be sure to look for the seafood counter, find unusual food imports, perhaps come back for some lunch in the food court.

2 Chinatown Gate S King St at 5th Ave. S

On February 9, 2008, at 10 a.m., Seattle's new Chinatown Gate is dedicated. The gate, located at S King Street and 5th Avenue S and designed by a group including Kirkland architect Paul Wu, is made of steel and ceramic and is colored bright (and lucky) red, yellow, gold, and blue. It marks the historic western entrance of old Chinatown. Its cost of \$500,000 was raised by the Historic Chinatown Gate Foundation. Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and Washington Governor Christine Gregoire are among those who attend.

3 Hing Hay Park Maynard Avenue South & South King Street

The red brick pavilion was donated by the Taiwanese government in 1975. Stone tables are set up for chess and checkers. In the early morning, people can be seen practicing Tai Chi. The park also houses a memorial for local Chinese-Americans.

4 Tai Tung Restaurant 655 S King

The oldest continuously operating Chinese restaurant in the International District, established in 1935.

5 Intersection of S. King and 7th Ave. S

Turn south on 7th. On the side of the building to your right will be...

Chinese Community Bulletin Board 511 Seventh Avenue South

Installed in the 1960s, this bulletin board served as the only form of written communication for non-English speakers during a time when no Chinese language newspapers existed in Seattle. It served as a vital information link for the non-English speaking immigrant Chinese. After the bilingual Seattle Chinese Post began publication in 1981, the bulletin board diminished in importance.

Across the street you will find...

Chong Wa Benevolent Association 522 Seventh Avenue South

The Chong Wa Benevolent Association was established around 1915 to provide a unified voice for Chinese Americans in Washington state. It operates a Chinese language school and offers citizenship classes and Chinese cultural activities. This building was constructed in 1929.

China Gate Restaurant 514-518 Seventh Avenue South

Built in 1924 and originally a Chinese opera house, this restaurant eventually became one of Seattle's most popular night clubs, often featuring African-American jazz musicians.

You will now turn around on the NW corner of the intersection is...

Kong Sun Co 7th Ave. S & S King

Little shop that sells oriental gifts, music, Chinese long dresses, feng shui products...In business since 1962

****Option at this point...**

One block east on King Street is the Wing Luke Asian Museum (fee) A pan-Asian museum devoted to the collection, preservation and display of Asian- and Asian Pacific- American culture, history and art.

Head north on 7th Ave. S climbing the hill before you. As you cross S. Jackson St there is a switch from the Chinese neighborhood to the Japanese area.

6 Kobe Terrace Park

This terraced hillside on the northeast edge of the International District is adorned with Mt. Fuji cherry trees and laced with ground vines and pathways winding alongside the freeway. The trees and a four-ton, 200-year-old Yukimidoro stone lantern on the hilltop were gifts from the people of Seattle's sister city, Kobe, Japan. Since Yukimidoro means "View of the Snow", keep your eyes open for Mount Rainier to the south. The park provides pleasant witting, viewing, and walking between S. Washington and S. Main, with an eye-level view of the cars flashing along the freeway. - Excerpt from "Enjoying Seattle's Parks" by Brandt Morgan Danny Woo
Community Garden The lower part of Kobe Terrace is the Danny Woo Community Garden. The garden is divided into small plots of vegetables, herbs and flowers, each tended by community residents.

7 Tsutakawa Sculpture Maynard Avenue South & South Jackson Street

In 1978 this 14-foot sculpture was created by artist George Tsutakawa and is titled "Heaven, Man, Earth." Tsutakawa is best known for his innovative fountain sculptures and sumi paintings.

8 Higo Variety Store (Jackson Building) 602-608 South Jackson Street (north)

This store, started in the early 1900s, is one of the few pre-World War II establishments left. Family-owned and one of Seattle's first Japanese-American retailers.

9 You may now retrace your steps to Uwajimaya or continue to wander the International Districts.

Options –

Head across 5th Avenue and head down the stairs to the Metro Bus Tunnel. From here you can hope a free bus ride to the Westlake Center stop (all busses make all stops in the tunnel).

Do some shopping

Walk west on Pine to the Pike Place Market

Go upstairs in Westlake Center to ride the monorail to Seattle Center (fee)