

SPECIAL HOME MAKEOVER ISSUE

Sunset

SECRET LAKE ESCAPE

THE TINY OREGON TOWN
ON THE VERGE OF DISCOVERY

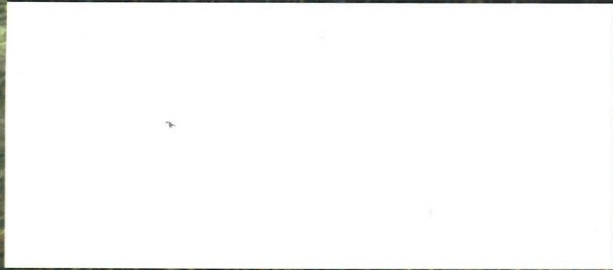


FRONT
YARD
BEFORE &
AFTER

FALL'S
MOST
STUNNING
FLOWERS

THE QUEST
FOR THE
WEST'S BEST
SANDWICH

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Kenmore Air's floatplane is ready for takeoff.

DEPARTING SEATTLE

Upgrade your next Seattle stay with one of these choose-your-own-adventure floatplane weekends, flying to one of four Northwest islands. *By Crai Bower*

Your ticket to savoring the most of a fall getaway is packing your bags and heading to Seattle's Lake Union neighborhood. With more flights now departing from Kenmore Air South Lake Union Terminal, you can floatplane to an island destination, stealthily bypassing busy Sea-Tac, with the traffic snarl, customs crunch, and TSA lines.

Not to mention the lake terminal is also easily accessible from downtown and parking is free. Plus, there are virtually no security queues. A cruising altitude of 2,500 feet means it's equal parts scenic tour. Here are four quick, nonstop exit strategies. kenmoreair.com/destinations/seattle/seattle-lake-union. →



1



2



3

1. Victoria's Q Bar at historic Fairmont Empress. 2. Fisherman's Wharf in Victoria. 3. A cocktail served up at Q.



GETTING HERE

Kenmore Air South Lake Union Terminal is located on the southern tip of Seattle's Lake Union. Take Westlake Avenue north 1 mile from downtown to Lake Union.

Trip A: Victoria, B.C.

The one-hour flight to Victoria in a 10-seat propeller plane is worth it for the osprey's-eye views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca—and for the fir cocktails once there. **The Fairmont Empress** is emerging from a multimillion-dollar renovation, with Q Bar serving drinks like the Northwest Collins using Victoria gin and a fir shrub. At **OLO Restaurant**, where the menu reads like an ode to the wild B.C. coast, apps complement aperitifs such as Foraged and Found: Pacific old-growth forest gin garnished with a pickled Douglas fir tip. *Fairmont Empress: 721 Government St.; fairmont.com/empress-victoria. OLO Restaurant: \$\$\$; 509 Fisgard St.; olorestaurant.com. Kenmore Air: Multiple daily flights from \$151 one way.*

Trip B: Friday Harbor, San Juan Island

The flight time is 55 minutes to Friday Harbor's "rain shadow," prime real estate for sunny kayaking. **Outdoor Odysseys Kayak Tours** will swoop you over to San Juan County Park, one of the area's most reliable habitats for seeing orcas. After, book it to nearby renovated **Friday Harbor House**

restaurant, where Westcott Bay mussels are served overlooking the coast. Rooms in the adjoining contemporary Friday Harbor House inn include a fireplace and jettied tub (for two). *Outdoor Odysseys: 86 Cedar St.; outdoorodysseys.com. Friday Harbor House: Restaurant \$\$\$, rooms from \$289; 130 West St.; fridayharborhouse.com. Kenmore Air: Multiple flights daily from \$150 one way.*

Trip C: Sonora Island, B.C.

It's three hours to this wild, puzzle-piece land in the Discovery Islands, which has more wolves and black bears than residents. But that didn't stop **Sonora Resort** from transforming a fishing lodge into an eco inn, with bay windows and cedar trim. Embark on "seafaris" to cedar forests and the Dent Rapids,

where Steller sea lions rule. *Sonora Resort: From \$740 all-inclusive; sonoraresort.com. Kenmore Air: From \$314 one way; flights Mon, Tue, and Thu through Sep 19.*

Trip D: Lopez Island

It's a 55-minute flight to an island boasting miles of VIP views that are best seen by pedaling it. **Village Cycles** rents them and offers guided or solo tours. Cruise by bike to Agate Beach County Park, where sea anemones and red rock crabs populate tidepools. Take the gravel road to nearby Iceberg Point, a web of headland trails and coastal meadows, for views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. After dropping off your bike, stop at **Vita's Wildly Delicious**, a restaurant and wine bar serving local lunch fare in a garden. Turn in around the corner at **Edenwild Boutique Inn**, its nine suites done farmhouse-style. *Village Cycles: 214 Lopez Rd.; villagecycles.net. Vita's Wildly Delicious: 77 Village Rd.; vitasonlopez.com. Edenwild Boutique Inn: From \$99; theedenwild.com. Kenmore Air: From \$150 one way.*