

# Moving From San Francisco to Seattle - A Smart Move?

It's not easy to leave the Bay Area, but if you've chosen to start a new life in Seattle, you're in for a pleasant surprise. To begin with, San Francisco is among the most expensive cities in America, therefore you will save plenty of cash by going through with the relocation. Seattle also has a fast-paced atmosphere, a lively local culture, great job opportunities, and, of course, fantastic coffee! You'll quickly understand why Seattle is among the top ten locations to live in the US if you can tolerate the gloomy skies and warm temperatures.

## How Far Is San Francisco From Seattle?

The distance between San Francisco and Seattle is 808 miles. Depending on traffic, this trip takes around 13 hours by vehicle. The flight takes around 2 hours, so if the thought of sitting in a vehicle for 13+ hours on a road trip doesn't appeal to you, take a flight instead.

## Cost of Moving from San Francisco to Seattle

Moving from San Francisco to Seattle costs approximately \$2500-\$3000 on average. Though this may seem to be an expensive option, keep in mind that you are moving your belongings 808 miles up the coast. The overall cost of your move will be determined by a number of factors, such as the zip codes of your origin and destination, the season in which you're moving, your household's size, and the services you need. A virtual (no contact) or in-home walkthrough with a certified and insured interstate mover is the best way to get an accurate quote.

## Is it a Smart Idea to Move From San Francisco to Seattle?

### Housing and Cost of Living

Due to a huge difference in housing prices, Seattle is approximately 56% less costly than San Francisco. Seattle's typical house price is \$714,400, which is more than the



September 25, 2021

national average of \$231,200, but much less than San Francisco's staggering \$1,378,300. Seattle has received twice as many new residents as San Francisco since the previous census in 2000. As a result of the increased demand for real estate, the Seattle market has seen a remarkable 55% rise in house value over the last five years. This rate surpassed San Francisco's 49% house appreciation rate.

In contrast to 66% of San Franciscans, 52% of Seattle residents rent their houses. A one-bedroom apartment in Seattle costs \$1,728, whereas a similar size rental in San Francisco costs \$2,639.

The cost of living is calculated using a 100-point US index. San Francisco has a cost of living index of 269 out of 100, whereas Seattle has a cost of living index of 172 out of 100. In Seattle, you'll save around 42% on utilities, 7% on food products, and 15% on transportation expenses. Both cities have almost identical family median incomes: \$114,049 for San Francisco and \$115,414 for Seattle. In other words, your money will stretch farther in Seattle.

## Taxes

Due to the fact that Washington does not have a state income tax, the sales tax is higher than the national average to counteract. Seattle's sales tax is 10.1%, which is 1.6% more than San Francisco's 8.5%.

Seattle has a property tax rate of 0.99%, which is 0.19% lower than the national average but 0.31% more than San Francisco's 0.68%. When you evaluate the median house values in each city, though, you'll almost certainly pay less in property taxes.

## Economy and Job Growth

Seattle, like San Francisco, is a tech hub, with large corporations such as Amazon and Microsoft based there. Aerospace (Boeing is headquartered in Seattle), health, education, retail sales, and tourism industries all benefit the city's economy.

Recent employment growth in Seattle was 2.6%, compared to 1.3% in San Francisco, and growth in Seattle is expected to be 9% in the next three years, compared to 6% in San Francisco. However, San Francisco's projected employment growth over the next 10 years, at 29%, outperforms Seattle's projected increase of 24%.



September 25, 2021

## Transportation and Traffic

You're probably already aware of San Francisco's excellent public transportation, but Seattle is a close second. Commuters can access a large network of bus lines via King County Metro, whereas Sound Transit provides light-rail service across the city as well as to the airport via Sound Transit. Residents of Seattle's numerous island communities may get to and from the city via water taxi or ferry. You can easily live in Seattle without a vehicle if you pick your area based on public transportation availability - a great benefit for avoiding Seattle's 9th worst traffic in the nation. Despite this, just 21% of Seattle residents use public transportation, opposed to San Francisco's 34%.

By moving to Seattle, you can save approximately five minutes on your one-way commute. The typical commute time in San Francisco is 33 minutes one way, whereas commute times in Seattle are 27 minutes.

Locals don't allow a little rain to keep them from being energetic walkers and bikers in the Emerald City. The city's median walk score is 74, although some sections reach 100. Cycling and public transportation ratings are also much higher than the national average. If you prioritize walkability, you should consider the International District, Belltown, and Downtown neighborhoods.

## Weather and Climate

Relocating from San Francisco to Seattle will provide you with four pleasant seasons to enjoy. Thanks to the moderating influences of Puget Sound, winters are generally mild. Fall leaves and spring blooms enhance the contrast between the winter and summer seasons. Summers can also be fairly warm.

Despite being 800 miles north of San Francisco, Seattle's annual July high of 76° Fahrenheit is considerably warmer than San Francisco's average of 67° Fahrenheit. San Francisco's average January high temperature is 57° Fahrenheit. Seattle's January highs average 47 °F and lows average 37 °F, which is approximately 10° cooler.

With 38 inches of yearly rainfall compared to San Francisco's 25 inches, the lush, green Emerald City has double as many rainy days as the latter. The five inches of snowfall each year is just enough to give the city a lovely white coating.



September 25, 2021

## Crime Rates

Although Seattle's crime rate is much lower than San Francisco's, both cities have higher crime rates than the national average. On a scale of one to ten, the average rate of violent crime in the United States is 23. Violent crime is 32 in Seattle and 40 in San Francisco. Property crime is 35 on average in the United States. Both cities have very high property crime rates: Seattle's is 77%, while San Francisco's is 79%.

The majority of Seattle neighborhoods have excellent safety ratings. It's a good idea to look into the crime statistics in the Seattle areas you're interested in for your own peace of mind. Ballard, Queen Anne, Magnolia, and Sunset Hill are some of the safest neighborhoods in Seattle.

## Culture, Diversity, and Demographics

Seattle is 84 square miles in size, with 688,245 total citizens and a density of 8,207 persons per square mile. San Francisco has a population density of 18,442, which is more than twice that of Seattle, with 864,263 people living on 47 square miles. Since the previous census, Seattle's population has grown by 22%, while San Francisco's population has grown by 11.3%.

Seattle, like San Francisco, values diversity and inclusiveness. According to racial demographics, Seattle is 65 percent white, 14 percent Asian, 7 percent African American, 6.5 percent Hispanic, 5.8 percent Two or More Races, and 0.5 percent Native American. In comparison, San Francisco has a population that is 41 percent White, 34 percent Asian, 5 percent African American, 15 percent Hispanic, 4 percent Two or More Races, and 0.2 percent Native American.

It's hardly unexpected that Democrats outnumber Republicans in Seattle, given the city's well-known counter-culture. Only around 70% of Seattle residents vote Democrat, compared to 85% in San Francisco. You'll blend perfectly in if you lean left.

## Educational Opportunities

On a scale of one to ten, around 60 out of the 113 Seattle Public Schools get a six or above. This district educates about 47,000 students in the Seattle metro region and benefits from an Amazon partnership.



September 25, 2021

Higher education options in Seattle are also good. The University of Washington is known for its medical, engineering, computer science, and scientific research departments.

## Geography

San Francisco is situated on a mountainous peninsula bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and the north and east by the San Francisco Bay. Seattle is unique in that it is situated approximately 90 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, on the pleasant beaches of Puget Sound, with some mountainous regions. The Sound not only cools the air but also offers a large, safe harbor with calm seas ideal for sailing and other water sports.

## Things to Do

Seattle is overflowing with fun and interesting things to do, from the magnificent views from the Space Needle to a ferry trip out to the Puget Sound islands. More than 40 museums, 8 professional sports teams, the 9 acre Pike Place Market, and around 485 parks that allow Seattleites to satisfy their propensity for going out into nature 24/7 — no matter what your hobbies are, Seattle has something for everyone.

## Food

Fresh Pacific Coast seafood is available in both San Francisco and Seattle. Seattle is particularly proud of its outstanding salmon. Prime fish is only obtainable at certain times throughout the season and is priced according to the river where it was taken. For the freshest catch, go to the Pike Place Fish Market.

What is it about coffee and cold weather? – They blend together like magic. Starbucks opened its first shop in Pike Place Market in 1971. The city now has 133 outlets of the well-known coffee chain. If you like fermented beverages, Seattle is the home of the 'Northwest style,' a highly hoppy IPA that is refined by different microbreweries. After the relocation, treat yourself to a pint of Fremont Brewing's Lush IPA.

## Finding Your Place to Call Home in Seattle

With local bookshops, grocery stores, cafés, pubs, and coffee shops, each Seattle neighborhood appears to be its own small town. Here's a rundown of the top six:



September 25, 2021

## Belltown

Belltown, located just north of Downtown, is a wonderful place to live if you don't want to own a vehicle. The circulator bus, eight municipal bus lines, and a light rail system can transport you everywhere in the city or beyond, and Belltown is quite walkable. You'll find everything you need, from major chain shops to highly rated eateries.

## Ballard

In the midst of hip bars and pubs, cafés, coffee houses, and shops, you'll discover a variety of apartments, condominiums, and lovely single-family homes. Many of the 16,700 residents enjoy walking and cycling through bike-friendly Ballard, and the RapidRide D line connects them to Uptown, Downtown, and places in between.

## Capitol Hill

Capitol Hill, a popular central Seattle neighborhood with 37,490 residents, is approximately an eight-minute drive from Downtown. Capitol Hill has always been the LGBTQ heart of Seattle since the 1960s. The area is home to single-family houses, historic brick apartment buildings, condominiums, lofts, and townhomes, among other housing types.

## Pioneer Square

Tourists flock to Historic Pioneer Square, a strolling mixed-use area featuring shops, boutiques, cafés, pubs, and historical tours. Pioneer Square is located on the riverfront south of Downtown and offers easy access to public transportation through the King Street Station. The Seattle Ferry Terminal is located directly north of the area and is a short walk away. Apartments, townhouses, and condominiums are available, with many offering excellent views.

## Fremont

Fremont, which claims to be the Center of the Universe, is home to almost 20,000 residents. In this area, where two-thirds of people rent their houses, a vibrant counterculture thrives. Housing options include single-family houses, townhomes, condominiums, apartments, and live/workspaces. Casual cafés, coffee shops,



September 25, 2021

interesting microbreweries, and a variety of retail options are all within walking distance.

## North Queen Anne

North Queen Anne is an affluent neighborhood located between Puget Sound's Elliott Bay and the Fremont Cut Ship Canal. Single-family vintage gems, townhouses, and condominiums abound in this green, established area, many with stunning views of the city and sound. Every now and then, a houseboat will come up for sale.

## Final Thoughts

That's all you need to know about moving from San Francisco to Seattle. Make sure you know exactly how much money you'll need to move before you start packing. You'll wind up having to sort out some last-minute things and possibly spending a lot more cash than you need to if you don't prepare in advance.