



Tacoma, WA



Tacoma, Washington, was founded in 1865 by pioneer Job Carr. The city's name stems from the Indian name for Mount Rainier, "Tacobet," which means "mother of the waters." Tacoma is known as the City of Destiny because it was designated as the Northern Pacific Railroad's western terminus in 1873.

The Museum District encompasses six Tacoma museums that are linked by the Chihuly Bridge of Glass. In addition to indoor and outdoor exhibits that feature 20th- and 21st-century glass, the Museum of Glass contains a large studio where visitors can watch artists create art from molten glass. Washington State History Museum tells the state's history and highlights the characters and events that have affected the area's growth. Tacoma Art Museum emphasizes art and artists from the Northwest and broader western region. LeMay-America's Car Museum explores the automobile's distinctive role at the core of the American experience. The Puget Sound, sea life, the Port of Tacoma, and boating safety are explored at the Foss Waterway Seaport, which also operates the Heritage Wooden Boat Shop. Children's Museum of Tacoma offers hands-on exploration designed to entertain and educate children.

Other museums include the 9th & 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers Museum, which documents the military service of African American units between 1866 and 1944. The Job Carr Cabin Museum reimagines a late-19th-century living space in a replica cabin that was built in 2000 near the original site of his frontier home in Old Town Park. Karpeles Manuscript Museum exhibits original papers of historic importance. Fort Nisqually, which was the first European settlement on Puget Sound, is a living history museum where 19th-century crafts and activities are demonstrated by interpreters wearing period clothing.

The Broadway Center for the Performing Arts provides homes to many performing arts organizations in the South Puget Sound region: Northwest Sinfonietta, Puget Sound Revels, Tacoma City Ballet, Tacoma Concert Band, Tacoma Opera, Symphony Tacoma, and Tacoma Youth Symphony Association. Performing arts venues include the Pantages Theater, Rialto Theater, Theatre on the Square, Tacoma Armory, and Tacoma Dome. These venues host shows by local and nationally acclaimed performers.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Homes in downtown Tacoma range from Victorian and Craftsman styles (mostly along the hillside and south of the downtown) to new and historic condominiums and newly constructed townhomes in St. Helens and the Hillside area of Hilltop.

Old Town encompasses the original Tacoma founded by Job Carr and boasts some of the oldest homes in the city, dating from the late 1800s. Victorian, Craftsman, and Tudor styles dominate, but newer homes and condominiums are mixed in with the more classic styles.

The Stadium District features tree-lined avenues with Classical Revival, Victorian, Queen Anne, and Craftsman homes that were built in the late-19th to the early-20th century for lumber barons and railroad executives. In contrast, the North Slope Historic District is composed primarily of middle-class Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and foursquare style houses; most of these homes were built prior to 1930. The adjacent Wedge neighborhood is characterized by single-family detached housing of moderate scale built from the 1890s through the 1930s, with a few larger apartment buildings.

On the East Side, homes perched on steep hills boast views of the city, Tacoma Dome, and Mt. Rainier. Styles include Craftsman, Victorian, farm houses, and new construction and are often situated on larger lots.

Northeast Tacoma is an area of newer residential subdivisions comprising mostly single-family houses, with some areas still under construction.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Metro Parks Tacoma maintains 122 parks and open spaces with amenities that include multi-field athletic complexes; single-sport ball fields; a golf course; 5 swimming pools; tennis, basketball, and racquetball courts; 3 dog parks; 7 community gardens; skateboard parks; and 5 community centers.

Point Defiance Park features a natural old-growth forest, saltwater beaches,

a Japanese garden and pagoda, hiking and running trails, Five Mile Drive trail, several distinctive pieces of art, the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and Fort Nisqually's living history museum.

The 75-acre Titlow Park, located near a lagoon and Puget Sound, offers extensive beach frontage and estuary lagoon. Other site amenities include tennis and basketball courts, playfields, trails, spraygrounds, and playgrounds. The historic Titlow Lodge, formerly the Hotel Hesperides, was constructed in 1911 and is a central feature of the park.

The historic W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory is located in Wright Park, which also has a 27-acre arboretum with more than 600 trees, several sculptures, a cannon from the Spanish War, lawn bowling/bocce ball green, a playground, and a sprayground.

At 11 acres, China Lake Park is largely undeveloped and contains one of the largest lakes within the city limits.

The most heavily glaciated peak in the contiguous United States, Mount Rainier stands 14,410 feet above sea level and is located approximately 40 miles southeast of Tacoma. Mount Rainier National Park offers many opportunities for year-round or seasonal activities that include scenic drives, bicycling, hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, nonmotorized boating, sledding, cross-country skiing, camping, and snowboarding.

The Tacoma Rainiers (baseball) is Tacoma's professional sports team.

EDUCATION

Tacoma Public Schools educate approximately 30,000 children in 35 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 10 high schools, and 4 early learning centers.

Higher education is available at the University of Washington Tacoma, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs in fields that include nursing. University of Puget Sound is a private liberal arts college. Pacific Lutheran University is a private university in the Lutheran tradition that provides undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Evergreen State College Tacoma provides junior- and senior-level college students with the opportunity to complete their liberal arts education in a full-time day or evening program. Faith International University & Seminary is an evangelical Christian college and seminary.

Tacoma Community College and Bates Technical College have programs leading to 2-year associate's degrees and certificates.

Physician assistant training program is available from MEDEX Northwest, which operates as a section under the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

HEALTH CARE

Tacoma is served by the following health care facilities:

- MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital: 437 licensed beds
- MultiCare Allenmore Hospital: 130 licensed beds
- St Joseph Medical Center: 361 licensed beds
- MultiCare Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Center: 82 licensed beds

CITY STATS

2015

City Population	207,948
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	3,733,580
Per Capita Personal Income, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA (MSA)	\$61,021