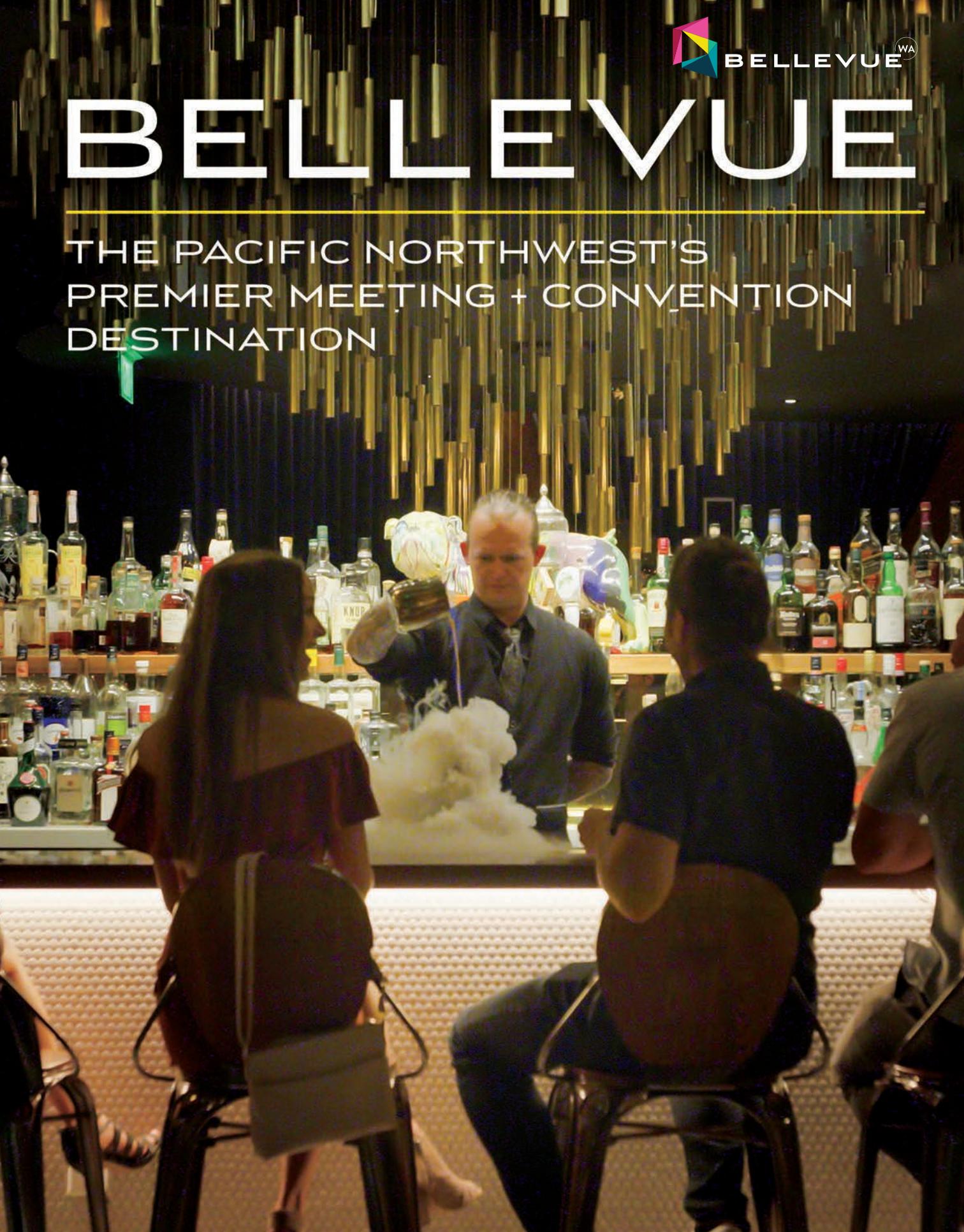


BELLEVUE

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S
PREMIER MEETING + CONVENTION
DESTINATION



Welcome to the Edge

Bellevue, WA is in growth mode, and meeting planners are reaping the benefits. With an array of new developments as well as outstanding hotels, attractions and restaurants, this strategically located destination has more for groups than ever before. It's easy to see why people say that Bellevue is on the edge.

Visit Bellevue, the city's official destination marketing and management organization, embarked on an ambitious journey to share Bellevue's story in 2019, highlighting the city's evolution into the Pacific Northwest's premier destination.

Promoting Bellevue as a uniquely rewarding destination for meetings and events isn't a stretch. Located at the foot of the Cascade Mountain range, Bellevue is a leading destination



Surrounded by natural beauty and Mt. Rainier, Bellevue's modern skyline glimmers as the sun sets over Lake Washington.

for groups in the Pacific Northwest. The presence of a variety of major corporate players — including Microsoft, T-Mobile, Expedia, Amazon and Pokemon, to name a few — is only one reason why so many people meet here to do business.

Bellevue is forward thinking, inclusive, engaging, experiential, cultured and fun, with an array of enticing qualities that boost

attendance and inspire attendees with memorable experiences — especially in the 21st century, as more people show an interest in wellness and healthful activities, as well as blending business with pleasure. In Bellevue, attendees have easy access to the region’s vast natural beauty and enjoy activities like hiking, skiing, kayaking and sampling award-winning wines at picturesque wineries that lie just outside the city. And they don’t even have to leave town to be wowed by some of the region’s best retail shopping and culinary experiences, as well as cutting-edge art, fashion and design. Bellevue is all about big-city sophistication, with the convenience of a more manageable size.

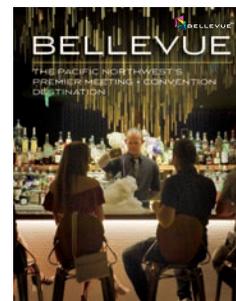
EVENT EXCELLENCE

Meeting planners have an edge when planning an event in Bellevue, and the city provides all the necessary elements for

success. This destination’s growing portfolio of meeting and event venues, attractions, activities and hotels — all available at decidedly competitive rates — has made it into a hotspot for groups large and small, with the ability to satisfy the needs of meetings of up to 3,500 attendees.

A variety of new developments — including impressive new hotels and office and retail complexes — will make Bellevue even more alluring as a place to meet. And the new East Link light rail line, slated to open in 2023, will provide a fresh, efficient option for visitors traveling between Bellevue and SeaTac International Airport, as well as the nearby city of Seattle. Bellevue is becoming more accessible, more sophisticated and more welcoming than ever for visitors and attendees.

When it comes to planning the perfect event, Bellevue gives planners the edge. This guide will show you how. ■



ON THE COVER: Serving up small plates and Northwest-inspired craft cocktails, Civility + Unrest is a sophisticated lounge from James Beard Award-winning chef Jason Wilson.



PHOTO: © BEN BABUSIS PHOTOGRAPHY



James Beard Award-winning chef prepares signature dishes at The Lakehouse.

PHOTO: © FIRE & VINE HOSPITALITY

The Lay of the Land

Bellevue's name may derive from the French term for "beautiful view," but the city's appeal today goes way beyond the great views that inspired its early settlers. With a population of just over 140,000, Bellevue is an attractive and sophisticated city in the Eastside region of King County, Washington. Home to a number of leading companies, the city has also been named one of the top places to live in the United States.



Skybridges provide easy connectivity to the Bellevue Collection and 100,000 square feet of meeting space.

For meeting groups, downtown Bellevue is one of the most important neighborhoods, and it's a pleasure to experience. This well-planned, highly walkable neighborhood continues to become more beautiful and alluring for doing business, thanks to an ever-growing number of group-friendly facilities, office space, hotels and attractions. Groups can easily find everything they need downtown, from attractive accommodations with extensive meeting space to Meydenbauer Center, one of the Pacific Northwest's premier convention centers. Attendees can experience best-in-class shopping and entertainment within steps of the convention center. During free time, The Shops at the

Bravern, adjacent to Meydenbauer Center, feature stylish boutiques from the world's most recognized designers like Louis Vuitton and Gucci. A stroll through downtown's pedestrian corridor will bring attendees to the Bellevue Collection. Spanning over 5.5 million square feet, the local-to-global mix of fashion, tech, dining and entertainment features over 250 shops and attractions.

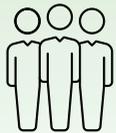
Depending on when groups visit Bellevue, they may also be treated to concerts, art fairs or jazz festivals. In addition, while attending meetings at Meydenbauer Center, groups can pick up a copy of the ArtMap, a guide to more than 120 works of public art

downtown. Groups can also enjoy the city's artistic side at Meydenbauer Center Theatre and the Bellevue Arts Museum, or spend some time with nature at the recently remodeled Meydenbauer Park, which sits on Lake Washington and has a fishing dock, picnic area and swimming beach.

Bellevue's scenic location between Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish place it conveniently close to countless other attractions and noteworthy destinations, including the city of Seattle and a variety of activities that showcase the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Planners can make the most of Bellevue's location as the gateway to the Puget Sound region to provide their attendees with a number of memorable experiences. ■

GETTING HERE/GETTING AROUND

Groups will find Bellevue a supremely easy destination to visit, thanks to the city's compact size, strategic location and excellent infrastructure.



31.2
MILLION
Passengers a year



27
Airlines



91
Nonstop destinations
in the United States
and around the world



17
Miles from
city center via
Interstate 405



TRANSPORTATION:
Shuttles, shared ride vans,
limousines and charters,
as well as taxis and public
transportation.



EAST LINK LIGHT RAIL
(OPENING 2023)
Will connect the airport and
Seattle with the city of
Bellevue, arriving downtown at
the Meydenbauer Convention Center.

7 Ways Bellevue Gives Meeting Planners the Edge

Meeting planners will find many advantages when they book a meeting in Bellevue. Here are seven reasons why the city is the ideal setting for meetings large and small.

1 THE IDEAL LOCATION

Bellevue is located in the heart of one of the nation's most important regions for doing business, especially in the technology sector. A variety of major corporate players either make their home here or maintain a strong presence, and the city offers a more relaxed, more competitively priced alternative to the city of Seattle, which is just four miles away. Bellevue is also a gateway to some of the most beautiful scenery and most exciting outdoor activities in the Pacific Northwest, thereby upping the appeal for meetings and events that take place here.

2 EASY ARRIVALS

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is just 17 miles away, making Bellevue easily accessible, with more than 100 nonstop air routes bringing visitors from across the United States, Canada, Asia and Europe. Bellevue's central location in the Puget Sound region also makes it easy for attendees to arrive by car, with two freeways running north to south, and another two running directly between Seattle and Bellevue.

Arrivals and departures will get even easier in 2023, when the East Link Light Rail station will debut its 50-minute ride from the airport to downtown Bellevue, adjacent to Meydenbauer Convention Center.

3 HOTELS FOR EVERY TASTE AND BUDGET

Bellevue's impressive inventory of 5,500 hotel rooms includes 4,000 in downtown, located within walking

distance of Meydenbauer Convention Center, as well lots of shopping, dining and entertainment venues.

Planners will find everything from sumptuous four-star properties to unique, boutique-style lodging and hotels with meeting spaces that range from 2,000 to 18,000 square feet, at a variety of price points. (See hotel information starting on page 10).

4 A SUPREMELY PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT

Bellevue is a great place to be. Its mild climate is graced with moderate temperatures. Summers are dry and warm, and an average of only 15 winter days per year are below zero. The average rainfall is less than Atlanta, New York City or Houston. Bellevue is planned, pristine and walkable; downtown has

received a rating of "very walkable" from Walkscore.

5 SUPERIOR MEETING SPACE

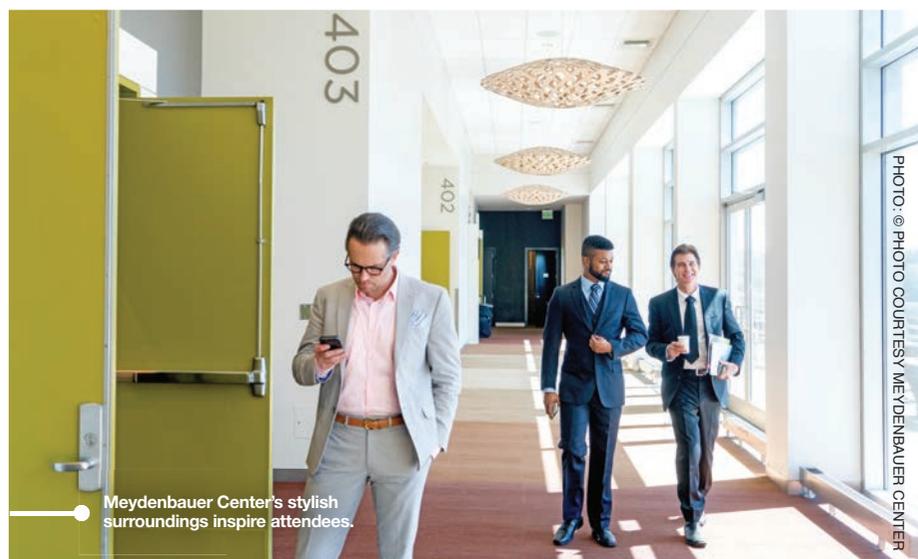
Bellevue has some 250,000 square feet of well-appointed meeting space across the city, including multiple downtown hotels and Meydenbauer Center, one of the top convention centers in the Pacific Northwest.

6 LOTS OF ATTENTION FOR LARGER GROUPS

Planners coordinating groups of 1,500 to 3,000 attendees — or 200 hotel rooms on peak — will find that Bellevue is an ideal destination for a citywide convention, assuring they receive all the attention they need to make the event a success.

7 EASY ACCESS TO FREE-TIME FUN AND GROUP ACTIVITIES

Bellevue's location in the scenic Puget Sound makes it a perfect place for planners looking to incorporate outdoor activities, whether it's hiking, kayaking, whale watching, skiing or wine tasting. There are countless ways to engage groups with memorable experiences that will enhance their overall meeting agenda in Bellevue. ■



Meydenbauer Center's stylish surroundings inspire attendees.

PHOTO: © PHOTO COURTESY MEYDENBAUER CENTER

Meydenbauer Center: The Perfect Place to Meet

To be effective, meetings need the right space. And in Bellevue, Meydenbauer Center excels at providing the facilities, amenities and services that planners need to stage a successful event.



Meydenbauer Center offers a boutique convention experience with mindful attention to detail.

Since opening in 1993 as the Greater Seattle area's second-largest convention facility, Meydenbauer Center has become one of the leading convention centers in the Pacific Northwest. Owned and operated by the Bellevue Convention Center Authority, a public development authority, the convention center — which offers 54,000 square feet of event space — aims to be much more than just another “big box” facility. One of the facility's goals, in fact, is to reduce the number of third-party contractors needed for onsite services,

thus simplifying the process for meeting planners as they work directly with Meydenbauer Center's expertly trained staff. This helps to assure a more efficient, consistent and cost-effective experience for planners.

Working closely with the convention center staff also creates a more streamlined system, with greater flexibility so that convention center staff can easily tailor services to fit the needs of each group. The on-site team is well versed at helping planners make the most out of the facility's advanced technology, diverse meeting spaces and also the cen-

ter's extensive catering options, which can provide groups with tantalizing tastes of the Pacific Northwest's most interesting cuisine. The Meydenbauer staff can also provide guidance with accommodations, thanks to great connections with the city's hotels, many of which are within walking distance of the facility.

Meydenbauer Center is also home to one of the city's top cultural venues: Meydenbauer Center Theatre, which hosts performances of dance and theater throughout the year. It's also a prime example of the facility's exceptional meeting and event space.



Meydenbauer Center

PHOTO © MEYDENBAUER CENTER

54,000
square feet on
four levels

36,000
square feet of
column-free space,
divides into two
18,000-square-foot
sections

12,000
square feet of configurable
meeting space



FAST FACTS ABOUT MEYDENBAUER CENTER



Executive Conference Suite



Meydenbauer Center Theatre: a 410-seat sloped-floor theatre/ seats with tablet arm



Connectivity options ranging from dedicated event Wi-Fi to wired service up to 1 GB dedicated bandwidth equipment



In-house catering, audiovisual and technical services



A dedicated event manager serves as a single point of contact from planning to event execution

QUALITY AND CONVENIENCE

Considering the fact that Bellevue is located in one of the nation's top corporate hubs, it's no surprise that big-name companies from around the Northwest and beyond are among the biggest clients at Meydenbauer Center. Indeed, the

facility is a logical choice for all types of meetings, thanks to its outstanding facilities as well as its location and the convenient access that it offers.

Just 30 minutes north of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and 15 minutes from downtown Seattle, Meydenbauer Center sits within walking distance of thousands of hotel rooms in the very pedestrian-friendly downtown Bellevue. Attendees won't have to deal with complicated transfers or shuttle services to get to their meetings, and they can easily walk to restaurants, nightlife and other entertainment when business is done.

Indeed, when planners work with Meydenbauer Center, they'll find lots of support, from start to finish. ■



Located conveniently in Bellevue with you in mind. We are the closest hotel to the Shops at the Bravern and the Meydenbauer Convention Center. Our easily modified meeting space allows for a variety of events including board meetings, classes and special occasion. High-speed Internet and data ports plus AV equipment sets you up for presentation success while our full service catering keeps everyone focused and refreshed.

OUR MEETING FACILITIES

- 3888 Square Feet of Event Space hosting up to 250 guests or divide in to 4 smaller rooms
- Dedicated Event Manager and Full-Service Catering
- Audio Visual Equipment Rental Available
- Courtyard Connect App, manage the meeting without the chaos

COURTYARD Bellevue
Downtown

11010 NE 8TH Street
Bellevue, WA 98004
425.454.5888

marriott.com/BVUDT



SeaTac Airport, a growing hub for domestic and international airlines, doubles capacity for the region with renovated facilities.

PHOTO © COURTESY PORT OF SEATTLE



EAST LINK LIGHT RAIL

- Opening 2023
- Will connect downtown Bellevue with the city of Seattle as well as Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
- Airport transfer service in less than an hour
- Convenient for meeting attendees headed downtown



AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

- New, expanded International Arrivals Facility (complete by Fall 2020) nearly doubles the number of international gates – more than doubling passenger capacity
- North Satellite modernization project (complete in 2021): 12 remodeled gates, new dining options, new art installations and pet relief area



MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENTS

- The Washington Square Master Development Plan will feature a 210-room hotel as well as more than 434,000 square feet of office space and more than 13,000 square feet of retail.
- Vancouver-based Onni Group is planning to construct three 600-foot towers in downtown Bellevue, with a 317-room hotel included.
- Fana Group is to build a mixed-use development that will include a 120-room hotel.

What's New in Bellevue

Bellevue is a vibrant and growing city, and nowhere is this more evident than in the new projects and developments underway around the city. From new transportation options to complexes that include offices, retail and restaurant space and hotels, Bellevue is gearing up to offer even more for groups and planners.

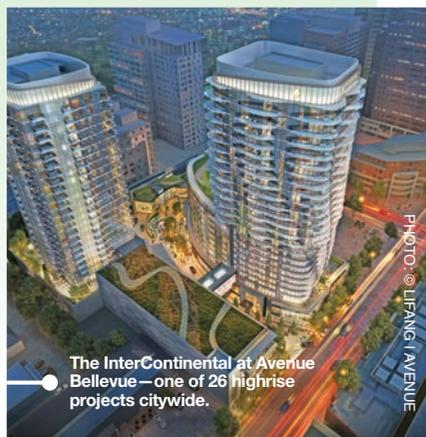
NEW HOTELS

AVENUE BELLEVUE, a luxury mixed-use development opening in 2022

- 322 luxury condos
- Open-air plaza with retail, fine dining and nightlife
- 252-room InterContinental hotel with 14,250 square feet of meeting space, two bars and restaurant

10855 TOWERS

- 54-story, 286-room hotel
- 443 dwelling units
- More than 1.6 million square feet of office space
- 34,000 square feet of retail space



The InterContinental at Avenue Bellevue—one of 26 highrise projects citywide.

PHOTO © UFGANG | AVENUE

NEW OFFICE, RETAIL AND ENTERTAINMENT SPACE

Many of Bellevue's dozens of new real estate projects are centered around two especially important neighborhoods for meetings and groups: Downtown, where the convention center and multiple hotels are located, and the Spring District, a new urban neighborhood that's pedestrian friendly and well connected by mass transit.

DOWNTOWN

Cloudvue (under construction) will feature:

- A nearly 4.2-million-square-foot, mixed-use complex
- Bellevue's largest high-rise project
- Three 600-foot skyscrapers
- 1.7 million square feet of office space
- 515 residential units
- 40,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space

THE SPRING DISTRICT

- Positioned at the crossroads of the Link Light Rail, multiple bus lines, bike trails and pedestrian walkways

New developments:

- Block 12, a complex anchored by Brewpub and the REI Market Hall, the headquarters of the retail company Recreational Equipment, Inc.
- Part of the Phased Spring District Development, the Brewpub will be home to approximately 9,000 square feet of brewery and restaurant space, an outdoor beer garden and 14,000 square feet of office space.
- New office space for Facebook, which recently leased a third office building called Block 6, which will measure more than 320,000 square feet when complete, with 2,500 square feet of retail space.

Sound Transit's system expansion puts Bellevue at the center of a connected region.





PHOTO: © W BELLEVUE

The W Bellevue's Porch is a lively perch above the city.

Hotels for Every Meeting

One of Bellevue's biggest selling points is its impressive array of hotel inventory. Planners will find brands and styles to match every budget, group size and taste, with a total of some 5,566 hotel rooms and more than 1,500 rooms committable during peak seasons. Many hotels have their own extensive meeting and event space as well, with ballrooms that range from 2,000 to 18,000 square feet.

With noteworthy group-friendly hotel options around the city, Bellevue offers plenty of options for meeting planners. It's just a matter of finding the perfect fit.

WHAT IS THE BELLEVUE COLLECTION?

The Bellevue Collection is more than just the largest global retail destination in the Pacific Northwest, it is a one-stop experience for groups. The Bellevue Collection is home to three luxury hotels—The W, Westin and Hyatt Regency Bellevue—along with more than 50 restaurant, nightlife and entertainment options and over 200 eclectic retail venues. Each of The Bellevue Collection's hotels offers a bounty of meeting space and luxe amenities, while 30-plus restaurants offer private dining experiences as well as corporate event venues.

MEETING HOTELS



HYATT REGENCY BELLEVUE ON SEATTLE'S EASTSIDE
Hyatt.com

QUICK SPECS

- 732 Guest Rooms
- 33 Meeting Rooms
- 70,000 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- 5,041 Total Meeting Capacity
- Multiple on-site dining options



WESTIN BELLEVUE
Westin.Marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

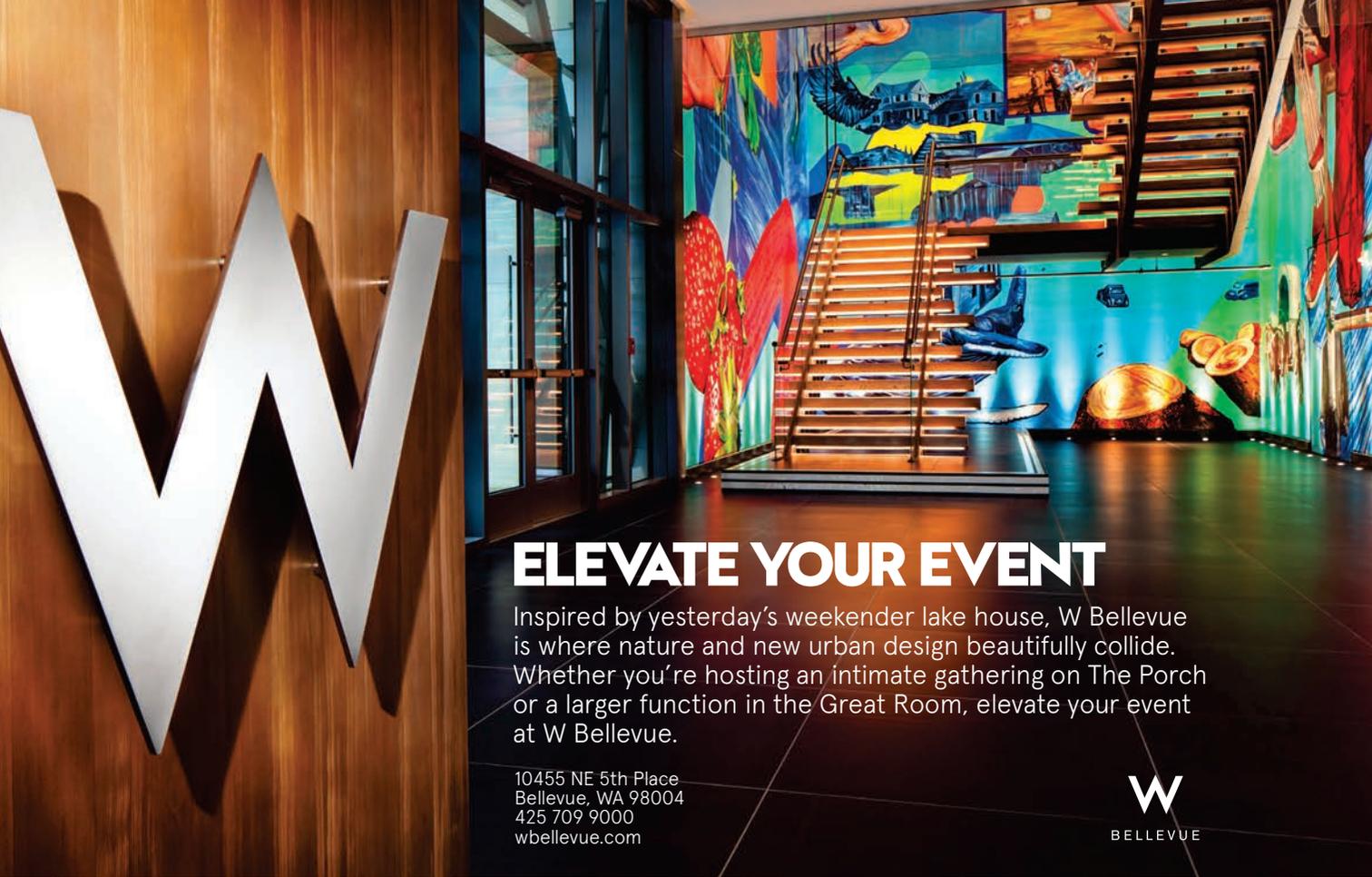
- 337 Guest Rooms
- 26 Meeting Rooms
- 35,641 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- 500 Total Meeting Capacity
- Truce Spa
- Cypress Lounge & Wine Bar



W BELLEVUE
w-hotels.marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

- 245 Guest Rooms
- 12 Meeting Rooms
- 834 Total Meeting Capacity
- 12,714 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Multiple on-site dining options, including James Beard Award-winning chef selections



ELEVATE YOUR EVENT

Inspired by yesterday's weekender lake house, W Bellevue is where nature and new urban design beautifully collide. Whether you're hosting an intimate gathering on The Porch or a larger function in the Great Room, elevate your event at W Bellevue.

10455 NE 5th Place
Bellevue, WA 98004
425 709 9000
wbellevue.com



Let's Rise.

Whether you're hosting an intimate professional gathering or a business conference, The Westin Bellevue has over 27,000 square feet of inspiring meeting spaces, many with balconies and floor to ceiling windows. Our entire range of wellness offerings empower your team to make the most of every meeting, leading to brighter ideas and so much more.

THE WESTIN
BELLEVUE

600 Bellevue Way NE • Bellevue, WA 98004 • 425.638.1000 • westinbellevuehotel.com



ADDITIONAL CITYWIDE MEETING HOTELS

AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT BELLEVUE/ DOWNTOWN
Marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

- 234 Guest Rooms
- 4 Meeting Rooms
- 60 Total Meeting Capacity
- 1,500 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- 24-hour fitness center
- AC Lounge serves craft beers, wine and tapas

BELLEVUE CLUB HOTEL
thehotelbellevue.com

QUICK SPECS

- 67 Guest Rooms
- 6 Meeting Rooms
- 420 Total Meeting Capacity
- 4,920 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- 200,000-square-foot athletic center features tennis courts, two indoor pools, an outdoor pool and other facilities
- On-site dining at Polaris

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT SEATTLE BELLEVUE/ DOWNTOWN
Courtyard.Marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

- 253 Guest Rooms
- 1 Meeting Room
- 240 Total Meeting Capacity
- 3,888 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Newly renovated
- On-site dining

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON SEATTLE BELLEVUE
Hilton.com

QUICK SPECS

- 240 Guest Rooms
- 13 Meeting Rooms
- 630 Total Meeting Capacity
- 14,069 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Conveniently near the junction of Interstate 405 and Interstate 90
- Complimentary breakfast and evening receptions

HAMPTON INN & SUITES BELLEVUE DOWNTOWN - SEATTLE
Hamptoninn.com

QUICK SPECS

- 128 Guest Rooms
- 1 Meeting Rooms
- Located off Interstate 405 in downtown Bellevue
- Half mile from restaurants and Meydenbauer Center
- Complimentary hot breakfast

HILTON BELLEVUE
www3.Hilton.com

QUICK SPECS

- 353 Guest Rooms
- 18 Meeting Rooms
- 2,221 Total Meeting Capacity
- 60,719 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Complimentary local shuttle service
- On-site dining

HILTON GARDEN INN SEATTLE BELLEVUE DOWNTOWN
hilton.com/en/hilton-garden-inn/

QUICK SPECS

- 254 Guest Rooms
- 5 Meeting Rooms
- 150 Total Meeting Capacity
- 2,000 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Close to Bellevue Square and the Bravern Shopping Mall

HOTEL 116, A COAST HOTEL
Coasthotels.com

QUICK SPECS

- 176 Guest Rooms
- 9 Meeting Rooms
- 350 Total Meeting Capacity
- 6,426 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Shuttle service within a five-mile radius
- On-site dining

HYATT HOUSE BELLEVUE
Hyatt.com

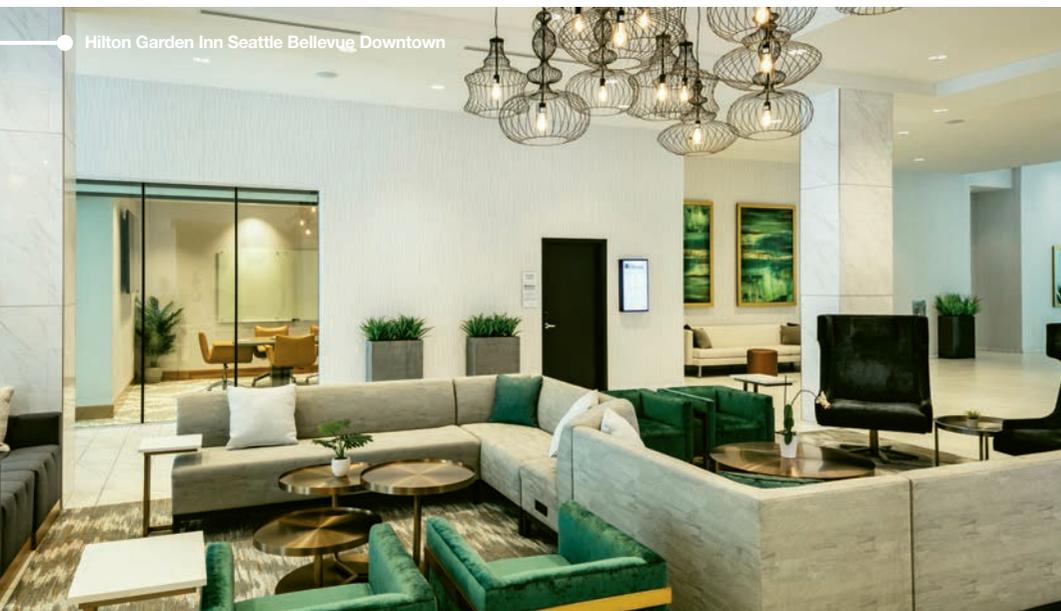
QUICK SPECS

- 160 Guest Rooms
- 3 Meeting Rooms
- 70 Total Meeting Capacity
- 2,007 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Close proximity to the Microsoft campus and other corporate offices
- On-site dining
- Cocktails and appetizers at H Bar

RED LION HOTEL BELLEVUE
Redlion.com/Bellevue

QUICK SPECS

- 181 Guest Rooms
- 5 Meeting Rooms
- 580 Total Meeting Capacity
- 6,550 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- 2 blocks from Meydenbauer Center
- Outdoor swimming pool, fitness center and business center



Hilton Garden Inn Seattle Bellevue Downtown

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT SEATTLE BELLEVUE/ DOWNTOWN

www.marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

- 231 Suites
- 3 Meeting Rooms
- 262 Total Meeting Capacity
- 3,571 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- On-site dining
- Complimentary local shuttle service
- Complimentary breakfast buffet

SEATTLE MARRIOTT BELLEVUE

Marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

- 384 Guest Rooms
- 20 Meeting Rooms
- 23,087 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- 2,056 Total Meeting Capacity
- Less than half a mile from Meydenbauer Center
- Concierge level
- On-site dining

SHERATON BELLEVUE HOTEL

Marriott.com

QUICK SPECS

- 178 Guest Rooms
- 15 Meeting Rooms
- 648 Total Meeting Capacity
- 8,000 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- Close proximity to Bellevue Square
- Free parking and shuttle service within a five-mile radius
- 24-hour fitness center
- On-site dining

MORE GROUP-FRIENDLY HOTELS



- Residence Inn by Marriott Seattle Bellevue Overlake
- La Residence Suite Hotel
- Days Inn Bellevue
- Larkspur Landing Bellevue
- Two Extended Stay America properties (Bellevue and Factoria)
- Fairfield Inn & Suites Bellevue/Redmond

SILVER CLOUD HOTEL BELLEVUE - EASTGATE

Silvercloud.com

QUICK SPECS

- 152 Guest Rooms
- 4 Meeting Rooms
- 122 Total Meeting Capacity
- 2,030 Total Meeting Sq. Ft.
- In the heart of the Interstate 90 high-tech corridor
- On-site dining

SILVER CLOUD INN BELLEVUE - DOWNTOWN

Silvercloud.com

QUICK SPECS

- 98 guest rooms
- Six blocks from Meydenbauer Center
- Complimentary breakfast
- Free parking
- Shuttle service within a two-mile radius

FINDING THE RIGHT HOTEL IN BELLEVUE

Meeting planners know that the key to choosing the best hotel partners is based on several important factors. And Bellevue is equipped to satisfy the needs of nearly every type of meeting and event. Consider these needs when starting your hotel search.



HOTELS WITH MEETING SPACE

Those who need on-site meeting and event space can choose from a number of hotels that offer meeting facilities and group-friendly amenities, as well as staff that are well versed in serving the needs of meetings and events.



THE BEST LOCATION

Planners also should pay attention to location: if it's important to be close to the convention center, there are plenty of excellent hotels downtown that are within walking distance. Hotels in other neighborhoods may be ideal for their proximity to offices and other venues that are playing a role in the meeting, or for self-contained meetings that will take place solely inside the hotel.



STAYING ON BUDGET

From boutique properties to hip, full-service hotels, Bellevue's array of accommodations offer visitors an elevated experience at a great value. Planners with flexible dates can take advantage of Bellevue's discounted weekend rates and modest Thursday-Saturday pricing. Attendees will love indulging in Bellevue's amenities without breaking the bank.

Visit Bellevue can be a valuable partner when it comes to hotel selections. Its expert staff can help planners to evaluate the most appropriate offerings, connect with properties and arrange site inspections. See page 23 for details.

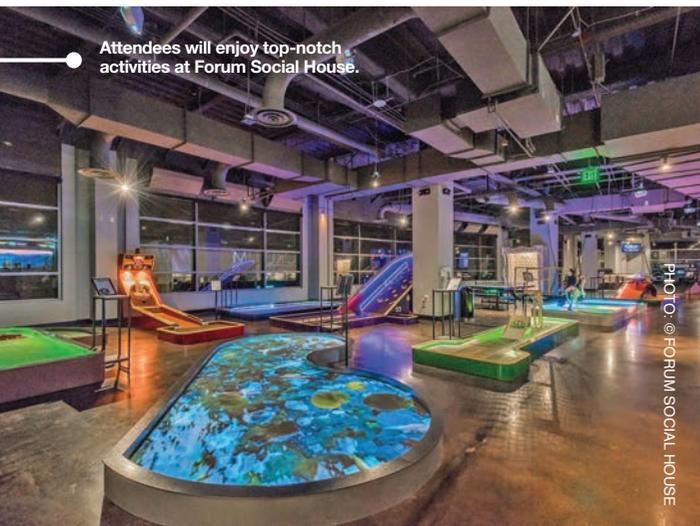


PHOTO © VISIT BELLEVUE | @JASONCHARLESILL

The REI Boathouse at Meydenbauer Bay Park

7 Ways to Wow Your Group in Bellevue

Bellevue packs a lot of excitement into one very manageable destination. Whether attendees are enchanted by natural beauty, fascinated by cultural activities or enjoy the challenge of sports like golf, kayaking and skiing, the city offers countless opportunities for meeting planners to provide their groups with memorable experiences. Here are a few suggestions.



Attendees will enjoy top-notch activities at Forum Social House.

PHOTO © FORUM SOCIAL HOUSE

1 FORUM SOCIAL HOUSE

Opened just last year, this multi-purpose, 20,000-square-foot entertainment venue is conveniently located at Lincoln Square, the retail and entertainment complex downtown. Groups of up to 600 people can take part in events at this multifaceted venue. Among the big draws here is the Topgolf Swing Suite, which allows visitors to virtually play on any of more than 80 legendary golf courses. And the virtual reality excitement isn't limited to golf. Participants can also play football and even confront zombies, all from the comfort of a suite equipped with billiards and ping pong tables and food and beverage service.

Miniature golf is another popular feature at Forum Social House. Its two PAR1 courses feature nine holes and themes that are a far cry from the usual miniature golf experience; here, players can test their swing at a Koi Pond hole, a Unicorn Polo hole (complete with unicorn) and the Putter Throne Hole, where guests just might feel like royalty. Another on-site option for groups is the Rockwell Sound Lounge, where the high-tech sound system, LED panels and live DJs set the tone for festive evenings of dancing and socializing.



Shops at the Bravern

PHOTO © MATTHEW BARNES COURTESY OF THE SHOPS AT THE BRAVERN

2 BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Groups can enjoy the great outdoors at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, a 53-acre paradise where visitors can admire dahlias, fuchsia and various perennials. Private tours, available from April through October, can be tailored to individual group interests and provide an expert's look at sections like the Native Discovery Garden and the Yao Japanese Garden, and even teach skills related to healthy gardening and planting. A new visitor center also serves as a group-friendly hub for meetings, events and presentations. The venue can welcome groups of up to 299 people.

3 KELSEY CREEK FARM

Set on the site of what was a working dairy farm in the 1920s and 1930s, Kelsey Creek Farm, which is operated as part of the City of Bellevue's Parks and Community Services, offers several engaging group experiences. With some 150 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands in the heart of the city, the attraction provides a welcome break from



Tour Lake Washington with Argosy Cruises.

PHOTO © ARGOSY CRUISES

urban life with experiences that tie in with the destination's rural heritage. And this is more than just a pretty place to visit; groups can learn how farms operated in the early 20th century, pick up tips on raising chickens and also learn how to make soup, bread, cinnamon rolls, pasta and mozzarella.

4 ARGOSY CRUISES

For additional water-based fun, consider a private charter with Argosy Cruises, which offers a full array of catering, bar packages and entertainment options, allowing planners to choose the music, activities and menus that best suit their group. They can also choose the departure point from various locations around Puget Sound, and accommodate up to 450 people on their largest vessel. In addition, Argosy Cruises offers event space on Blake Island, an island in the Puget Sound that's home to Blake Island Marine State Park. The facility features a 7,000-square-foot dining room that accommodates up to 150 guests for classroom-style seated events and up to 500 for banquets, with on-site catering that can include traditional indigenous dishes like fire-roasted fish.

5 BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

Groups looking for engaging activities with an artistic bent will find lots to love at the Bellevue Arts Museum, a popular venue that emphasizes interaction with art, crafts and design. Attendees can admire and learn about the works of art on exhibit during tours and also during private events; the museum has three meeting spaces,

including the Forum, an art-filled space that accommodates up to 450 people for receptions. The Court of Light, meanwhile, is an open-air rooftop veranda that can welcome up to 100 people. The auditorium, which holds up to 80 attendees, is an ideal setting for presentations and other functions.

6 THE SHOPS AT THE BRAVERN

Groups revel in shopping at this largest collection of luxury brands in one stylish Pacific Northwest destination. The Shops at Bravern is a vibrant outdoor shopping experience at the forefront of downtown Bellevue. Explore the Northwest's only Neiman Marcus, as well as designer brands like Gucci and Prada. Tired shoppers can re-energize by savoring award-winning cuisine by celebrated chefs or relaxing around one of the outdoor fireplaces.

7 WOODINVILLE WINE COUNTRY

Groups can toast to their success in Woodinville Wine Country, a picturesque region in the Sammamish River Valley, less than an hour from Bellevue. Graced with more than 100 wineries and tasting rooms, as well as 30 restaurants and eateries, Woodinville provides an unforgettable opportunity for a full or half day of activities, as well as on-site meetings and events. Numerous venues in the valley have private spaces available, including Chateau Ste Michelle, which accommodates up to 250 for receptions; Columbia Winery, which accommodates up to 900; and Efest, which has space for 300. ■

Savoring Bellevue's Diverse Cuisine

Bellevue is on the cutting edge of culinary bliss. With chefs who are passionate about creativity and a sophisticated array of menus that incorporate the finest traditions of the Pacific Northwest and beyond, this city knows how to satisfy the palates of a diverse array of attendees.

Among the city's many group-friendly dining venues is **Daniel's Broiler Bellevue**, which is as well known for its spectacular views as for its mouthwatering cuisine. Located on the 21st floor of the Bank of America building in the Bellevue Place complex, Daniel's has outdoor decks that offer panoramic vistas of the Olympic Mountains, downtown Bellevue and the Seattle skyline. USDA prime steaks are a big draw

here, as are the extensive menu of classy drinks at the Prime 21 Spirits Lounge, which accommodates 35 people for private receptions. Planners can also make use of the recently renovated Cascade Rooms, which are named after the nearby mountains visible from the expansive windows. The space accommodates up to 130 for sit-down dinners and up to 150 for receptions.

Another restaurant with high-

altitude appeal is **Ascend Prime Steak & Sushi**, which offers stunning views of the lake and city from its perch on the 31st floor of the Lincoln Square South Tower building. This chic venue combines the best aspects of a modern steakhouse with a sushi bar and lounge, with three top-floor dining suites and a private terrace available for groups.

Wine lovers won't want to miss a stop at **Purple Cafe and Wine Bar**, where the decidedly international wine selection is complemented by a menu that specializes in American cuisine made with seasonal local ingredients. Groups of up to 70 can enjoy everything from artisan cheeses to soups, sandwiches, pizza and pasta at this handsomely designed venue, which is located near the Bellevue Connection shopping mall and Bellevue Square.

For classic Italian dishes in a group-friendly environment, one of the top restaurants is **Carminé's Bellevue**, an elegant venue in the historic Old Bellevue neighborhood near Bellevue Park. The restaurant, which completed renovations in January 2020, features specialties like pasta (think daily risotto specials, spaghetti with house-made fennel sausage) and generous main courses (like double-cut bone-in pork chops and Northwest rack of lamb), accompanied by sophisticated

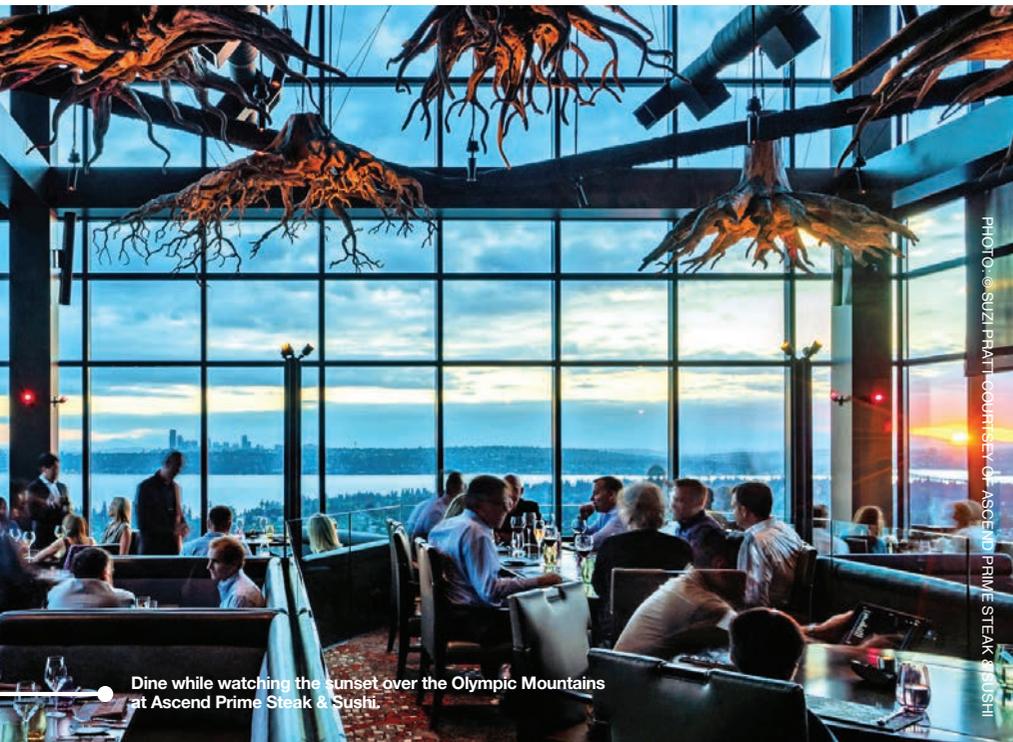
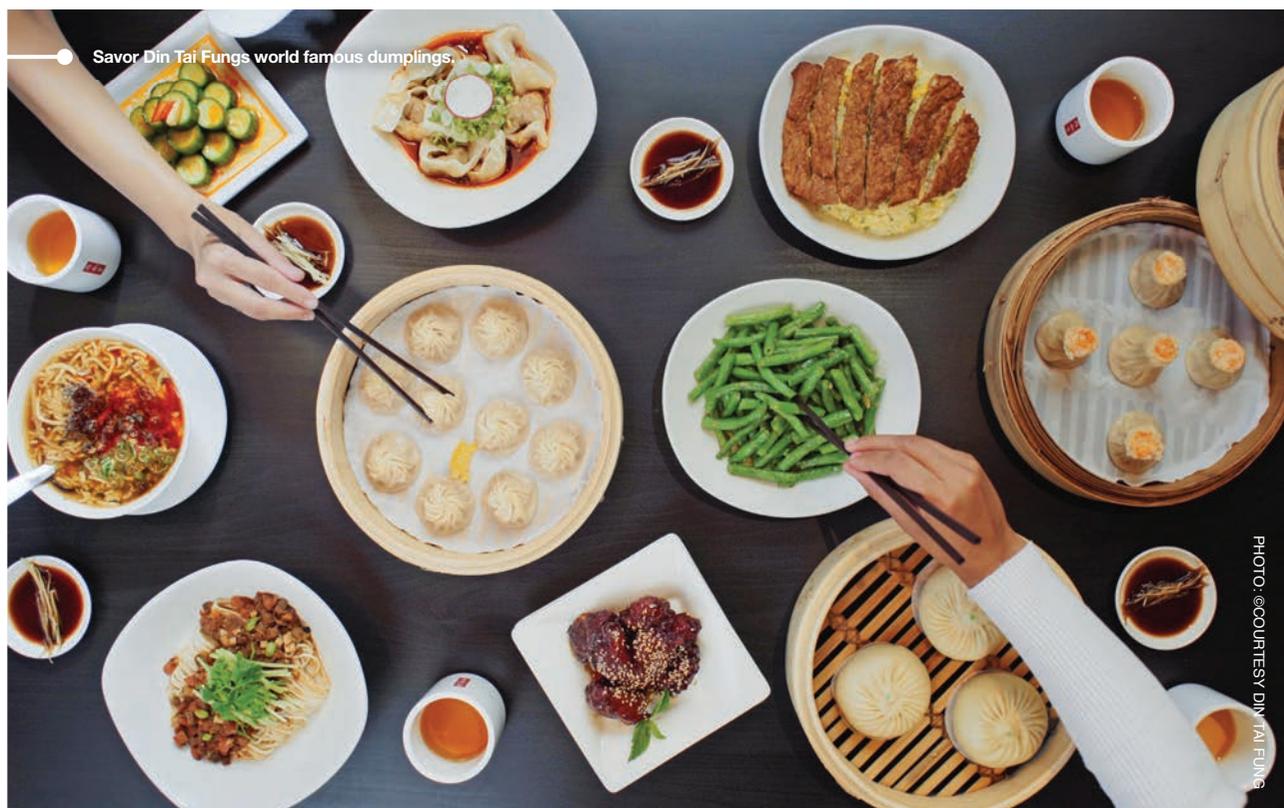


PHOTO © SUZUHI PATRICK COURTESY OF ASCEND PRIME STEAK & SUSHI

Dine while watching the sunset over the Olympic Mountains at Ascend Prime Steak & Sushi.



With chefs who are passionate about creativity and a sophisticated array of menus that incorporate the finest traditions of the Pacific Northwest and beyond, this city knows how to satisfy the palates of a diverse array of attendees.

cocktails. Private dining is available.

For a casual ambience, classic American fare and an extensive bar menu, consider **520 Bar and Grill**, an Old Bellevue venue that's famous for its "520 Burger" as well as its hot wings. The venue's covered outdoor patio accommodates up to 50 guests for seated meals or 75 for standing receptions.

Attendees looking for variety will do especially well at **Lincoln South Food Hall**, a stylish culinary marketplace that showcases a mix of

international dining options. Whether it's street tacos from Barrio Luchador, Vietnamese delicacies from What the Pho!, poke bowls from Avo Poke or homemade cookies and brownies from Sweets & Treats, Lincoln South excels at catering to diverse tastes. It's located conveniently close to Bellevue Square.

Speaking of Asian cuisine, Bellevue is home to several noteworthy venues that specialize in dishes from across the Asia Pacific region. Groups of 16 to 60 can reserve private dining spaces at

Din Tai Fung, a popular Lincoln Square restaurant that serves tasty Taiwanese specialties like soup dumplings and noodles. And at **Araya's Place Bellevue**, groups of up to 40 can savor creative cuisine at what is billed as the first vegan Thai restaurant in the Northwest, with a menu that includes noodles, Thai tofu, fried brussels sprouts and vegetarian curry dishes.

One thing is for sure: after a meeting in Bellevue, groups won't go home hungry. ■

Team-building Excitement & Unforgettable Activities

Whether it's fast-paced action or mind-bending challenges, Bellevue excels at injecting meetings with excitement. When attendees aren't in session, in fact, they'll likely face some hard choices, since there are so many memorable ways to relax and have fun in this multidimensional city. Many of the most interesting attractions and experiences also work well for unforgettable team-building programs.



MUSCLE MANIA

For a physically challenging get-together, consider a visit to **Stone Gardens**, a 21,000-square-foot climbing gym with a tilting wall, top-out boulders and rappel ledges. The private party room makes it easy for planners to arrange a full buyout for two-hour group climbing and bouldering programs. And not to worry if participants aren't experts; experienced

instructors make sure that everyone is trained to use the equipment.

Breathtaking is certainly an appropriate way to describe what awaits at the **Bellevue Challenge Course and Zip Tour**, located in lush Eastgate Park. Operated by Northwest Teambuilding and the Parks and Community Services, the venue features four elements that groups of up to 32 people can use individually or together. Participants

can soar at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour along seven zip lines that range in length from 78 feet to 458 feet. And they won't likely forget the stunning views of Mt. Baker and Glacier Peak. The Low Course, meanwhile, features a series of ground-level challenges that foster team cooperation and collaboration by developing group communication and problem-solving skills. And in the aptly named Vertical Playpen, participants form teams of up to three people to take turns gearing up to climb vertical high ropes. Teams can also test their skills on the challenging aerial obstacle course at the High Course.

Groups can test their outdoor survival skills at **Aerial Adventure Park**, located in scenic Woodinville, near the area's legendary wineries. The venue's outdoor climbing experiences and challenging obstacles send groups to heights of up to 50 feet off the ground, with both ground-based and climbing team-building programs. The venue also offers a number of guided experiences, including an Essentials Workshop that explores issues like peer support, creativity and accountability, and the True Colors Workshop, which uses questions and colors to provide insight about behavioral dynamics.



PHOTO: © BELLEVUE PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COLIN WALKER

Bellevue Challenge Course & Zip Tour



Teams dish in Whisk's state-of-the-art kitchen.

PHOTO © COURTESY WHISK



WINE WORKSHOPS

Nearby in Woodinville is **Novelty Hill Januik**, a winery with four private meeting rooms and customizable Uncork & Unwind wine workshops that are designed to encourage collaboration as groups learn more about various varietals. The sessions can be accompanied by catered menus of Northwest-inspired cuisine, created by the on-site culinary team.



CHEF CHALLENGES

Flavorful group experiences are also the focus at **Whisk Bellevue**, a downtown cooking school that offers team-building culinary events led by chef instructors. Groups of up to 22 people can choose from a diverse range of cuisines as the focus

of a team-building event, whether it's preparing a seasonal three-course dinner or learning to cook Spanish paella, Italian pasta, French pastries or Asian dumplings and dim sum. All classes and interactive competitions are easily customizable based on the experience and interest level of the group.

For a playful group experience, you can't go wrong with **Mox Boarding House**, where the library is stocked with a large selection of games both old and new. For private group board game events, planners can choose from interestingly themed rooms, including the Prohibition-era-themed Speakeasy, the 1930s-style Apothecary and the book-lined Library. The on-site restaurant provides catering services, while the bar serves 16 different draft beers as well as wine and other liquid treats.

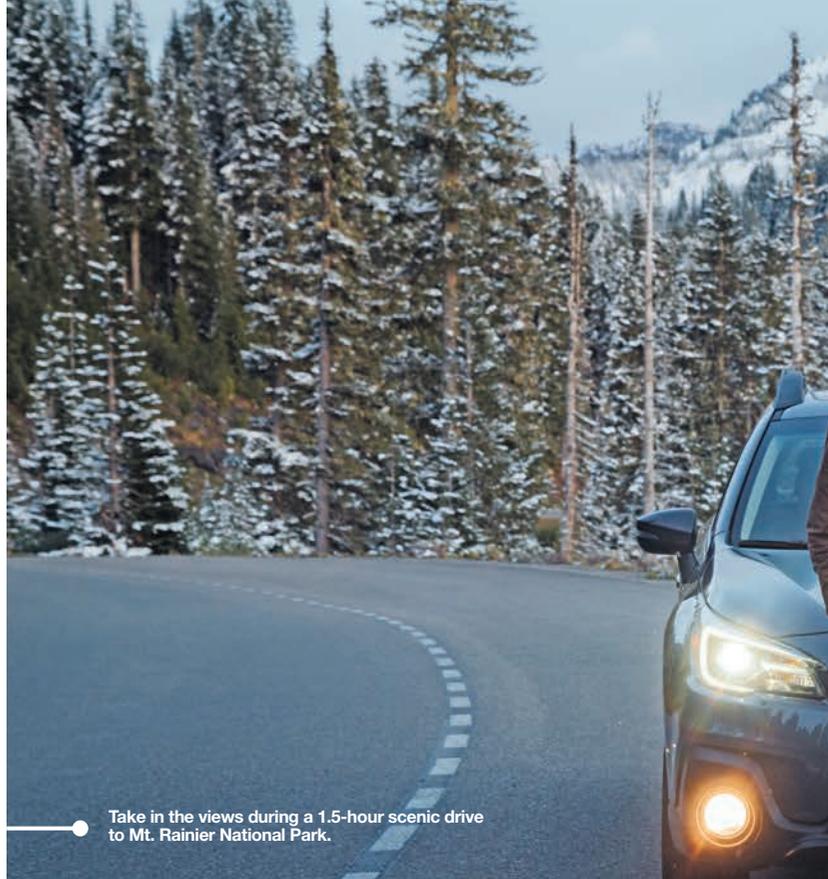


ESCAPE EXPERIENCE

Most event rooms are designed to entice attendees into staying. But at **Reality Break Escapes**, the themed escape rooms challenge participants to leave as quickly as they can. Whether it's the **Lucky Duck Speakeasy** (in which the team must identify a Prohibition-era mob boss and diffuse a bomb), **Cypherspace** (which challenges groups to analyze data to escape from a wormhole in the universe) or **Top of the Charts** (in which "band members" must come up with a hit song in 60 minutes or less), participants will be engaged and challenged — and after getting out, they can celebrate their success in the 40-person party room. ■

Engaging Side Trips

Bellevue is the ideal gateway for exploring the vast beauty and fascinating attractions of the Pacific Northwest. Side trips, day trips and post-meeting excursions are all easily arranged, and the fact that Bellevue is set in such an enticingly attractive region of the country can help boost attendance, engagement and excitement about meetings held here.



Take in the views during a 1.5-hour scenic drive to Mt. Rainier National Park.



Whale watching excursions on Puget Sound are a spectacular way of introducing groups to Bellevue's natural beauty.

A boat tour of scenic Lake Washington or the Puget Sound is a great introduction to the area's natural beauty. A company called **Puget Sound Express** offers half-day whale watching cruises aboard a high-speed 63-foot Chilkat Express, which is billed as the fastest passenger vessel on the West Coast. Departing from Edmonds Marina, which sits just north of Seattle, the cruise heads to the San Juan Islands for opportunities to view orcas, humpbacks and other marine life. The tours are operated by husband and wife team Pete and Sherri Hanke, and guests are also treated to Sherri's homemade blueberry buckle coffee cake, a local favorite that's baked on board, using her grandmother's recipe from a farm in nearby Woodinville.

Also noteworthy are the whale watching excursions offered by **San Juan Safaris**, which offers private tours for groups of up to 100, with ample opportunities to spot whales, seals, sea lions and



PHOTO: © JASON CHARLES HILL

The fact that Bellevue is set in such an enticingly attractive region of the country can help boost attendance, engagement and excitement about meetings held here.

even eagles, with marine naturalists on board to explain the living conditions of the local wildlife. Planners can choose from vessels including the 49 passenger, 55-foot *Sea Lion*, the 24-passenger, 35-foot *Kestrel* and 26-passenger, 42-foot *Sea Hawk*. The company's new Whale Watch Headquarters is located near the ferry terminal at Friday Harbor.

For land-based natural beauty, groups can head to **Snoqualmie Falls**, a 268-foot waterfall that attracts more than 1.5 million visitors every year. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to its importance to the local Snoqualmie people, it's a postcard-perfect destination set among the evergreens of the western Cascade mountains. It's easy to combine a visit to the falls with **Woodinville Wine**



At 268 feet, Snoqualmie Falls are 100 feet higher than Niagara Falls.

PHOTO: © VISIT BELLEVUE | @HELLOMILLE



Explore the beauty of Mount Rainier National Park year round.

PHOTO: © VISIT BELLEVUE | @HELLOMILE



Crystal Mountain Resort

PHOTO: © COURTESY OF CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN RESORT



The Burke-Gilman and Sammamish River trails make biking an enjoyable way to get around wine country.

PHOTO: © VISIT BELLEVUE
COURTESY OF WILLOWS LODGE

Country, which is home to more than 100 wineries, many of which have private group facilities and activity options.

Mount Rainier National Park is another must-see for nature lovers; hiking and climbing are especially rewarding in the park, which is centered around a volcano that soars 14,410 feet above

sea level and is home to more glaciers than any other peak in the contiguous United States.

Winter sport enthusiasts can find lots of excitement at **Crystal Mountain Resort**, with an average snowfall of over 400 inches a year and 2,600 acres of terrain. Take a gondola to the 6,872-foot summit—even if you don't like to strap on boots—for stunning views of Mt. Rainier. Adventurous types can make their way downhill on 57 designated trails.

Of course, Bellevue's location just

outside of **Seattle** makes it especially easy to explore the many attractions in Washington's largest city. Among the top attractions just a few minutes from Bellevue are the Space Needle, the 605-foot tower that offers spectacular views; the Museum of Pop Culture, which is housed in a Frank Gehry-designed building; the Pacific Science Center, which has a tropical butterfly house and a planetarium; and Chihuly Garden and Glass, a museum that showcases the work of Dale Chihuly. ■

How to Craft the Perfect Meeting in Bellevue

Meeting planners don't have to go it alone when planning an event in Bellevue. The team of meeting and convention experts at Visit Bellevue is a valuable partner. The Convention Sales team, in fact, are trained experts not only in the business of planning a meeting, but also in making the most of Bellevue as a host destination. They're passionate local experts who know the ins and outs of the city and can provide the connections, ideas and inspiration that planners need to find the best convention spaces, the most unique meeting venues, the tastiest menus and catering plans and the most memorable activities. And best of all, Visit Bellevue doesn't charge a thing for the assistance and expertise it provides to meeting planners.

It all begins with a message or a phone call. Once planners have provided the details and goals of their event, the Visit Bellevue team will get to work to make the magic happen. They'll provide information about the best offerings for each group's specific needs, and can even arrange site visits, so that planners can explore the region and assess the options in person before making the final decision.

The Visit Bellevue team can also help with lead creation, proposal coordination, planning and promotional assistance, as well as putting together event and activities for groups before, during and after the meeting. Whether it's the perfect team-building activity, the best-located hotel or the ideal place to hold a meeting, the Visit Bellevue team is there to make sure that every event is a success. ■

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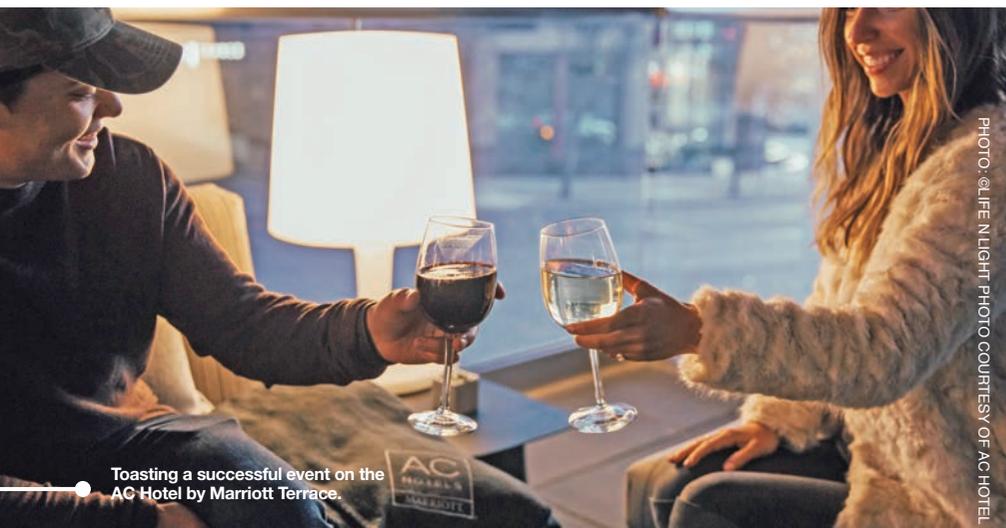


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