

## A POINTS OF INTEREST

(see map for location)

- A. Point Ruston** Over 90 waterfront acres comprise Tacoma's newest community! You'll find a plethora of shopping, dining, parks, and residences here on Puget Sound's waterfront.
- B. Ruston Playground** This nautically themed playground is disguised as a giant ferryboat! Kids of all ages will love climbing on the ship or soaring on the swings.
- C. Stairs and Slides** Chutes-and-Ladders style slides and staircases line the side of this 50 foot slope, providing a quick excursion that will make you feel like a kid again!
- D. Point Defiance Ferry Terminal** The Washington Ferry System (the largest ferry system in the US, fourth largest in the world) has operated out of Point Defiance Ferry Terminal for over 70 years. For an extreme adventure, take your bike with you on the ferry and explore Vashon Island just a short 15-minute sail across the Sound! Visit [wheelfunrentals.com/vashon-island](http://wheelfunrentals.com/vashon-island) for ferry schedule and information.
- E. Point Defiance Marina** With the stunning backdrop of Puget Sound, guests can watch ferries, fish from the pier, rent boats, and relax with a meal.
- F. Point Defiance Rose Garden** First established in 1865, the Point Defiance Rose Garden spans over an acre, and is filled with fragrant rose specimens.
- G. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium** Specializing in animals found around the Pacific Rim, this zoo's claim to fame is its highly regarded red wolf breeding program. The Zoo was instrumental in raising the population from 14 wolves to now over 250.
- H. Point Defiance Pagoda** The stunning centerpiece of the Point Defiance Japanese Garden, this century old pagoda is popular for weddings, parties, and quiet reflection.
- I. Point Defiance Park** At an impressive 702 acres, prepare to be astounded at the park's natural flora and fauna. Old-growth forests, beaches, and other attractions greet up to three million visitors a year.
- J. Rhododendron Garden** Encompassing 5 acres, this garden was designed to display specimens as they would be found naturally - in old-growth forests. Contains over 500 plants and over 70 species of Rhododendron.
- K. Owen Beach** A sandy waterfront area with picnic tables, grills, public restrooms, and mountains of huge driftwood pieces from native local trees.
- L. Vashon Viewpoint** Pause your bike tour and take a moment to admire the lovely view of Vashon Island and Commencement Bay.
- M. The Mountaineers Tree** Like others found in Tacoma's old-growth forests, this 450-year old Douglas fir tree spans nearly 8 feet in diameter and is 218 feet tall!
- N. Dalco Passage Viewpoint** A view that is particularly exquisite at sunset! Take in the beauty of Gig Harbor across the water while you watch ships pass by.
- O. Narrows Viewpoint** Named for its view of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge that connects Tacoma with the Kitsap Peninsula, this is the perfect spot for a quick break, drink of water and a selfie!
- P. Salmon Beach Trail** See if you can catch a glimpse of Tacoma's most secluded neighborhood - a small cluster of eclectic nautical homes along the Puget Sound.
- Q. Fort Nisqually Living History Museum** Once a vital fur trading center within the Puget Sound, the museum now offers a re-creation of settler life - complete with costumed interpreters and interactive exhibits.
- R. Northwest Native Garden** Walk your bike through the smooth paths that wind throughout the 1.5-acre garden, featuring seven distinct regions teeming with a variety of Pacific Northwest foliage.

## EXPLORE POINT RUSTON, POINT DEFIANCE PARK, ZOO, GARDENS, AQUARIUM AND MUCH MORE!

- S. Point Defiance Duck Pond** An excellent spot to catch a glimpse of some wildlife! Deer, geese, and ducks are frequent visitors to this lush oasis.
- T. Point Ruston Historic Ferry** Originally built as a Navy vessel in Maine in 1936. The boat was renovated above and beyond its original state before operating as a ferry on the Puget Sound in the 1970s. The ferry was then quietly retired to showcase its history.
- U. Commencement Bay** Named in 1841 by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes. Little known fact: Wilkes' obsessive personality is thought to have inspired part of Moby Dick's Captain Ahab. Today Commencement Bay is one of the busiest shipping ports in the world.



Wheel Fun Rentals Kiosk at Point Ruston



Point Ruston Historic Ferry

## 1 LOCAL DINING

(see map for location)

- 1. Wildfin American Grill** - 5115 Grand Loop (253) 267-1772  
With the motto "The Catch of the Northwest", this casual grill specializes in local seafood.
- 2. Anthony's at Point Defiance** - 5910 N Waterfront Dr. (253) 752-9700  
280° of expansive Puget Sound views are the backdrop for your meal at this traditional seafood joint.
- 3. Stack 571 Burger and Whisky Bar** - 5061 Main St, Tacoma, WA 98407 (253) 301-2962  
From their hand-selected gallery of fine whiskeys to gourmet burgers and sides, Stack 571 delivers a locally sourced menu of Pacific Northwest favorites.
- 4. Katie Downs Waterfront Tavern** - 3211 Ruston Way (253) 756-0771 (21 and over only)  
Gourmet burgers, fire grilled pizza, local beers, and of course, seafood are all must haves at this friendly neighborhood bar.
- 5. Northern Fish Co.** - 2201 Ruston Way (253) 272-4104  
Enjoy traditional seafood comfort food like fish and chips or chowder. Once you finish eating, shop their acclaimed selection of smoked fish and fresh meat.
- 6. The Spar** - 2121 N 30th Street (253) 627-8215  
Once a soda shoppe that tended to turn a blind eye during the Prohibition Era of the 1920's, this historic restaurant now serves up bar snacks, burgers and sandwiches.
- 7. RAM Restaurant & Brewery** - 3001 Ruston Way (253) 756-7886  
Also called a "deluxe tavern," RAM prides themselves on brewing their own beer and fusing a traditional gastropub menu with the unique flavors of the Pacific Northwest.

# Self-Guided BIKE TOUR



WITH TURN-BY-TURN DIRECTIONS & POINTS OF INTEREST

Point Ruston, Point Defiance Park, Peninsula Park  
Commencement Bay, Zoo, Aquarium & Gardens



[wheelfunrentals.com/point-ruston](http://wheelfunrentals.com/point-ruston)  
5005 Main St, Tacoma, WA 98407 • (253) 503-1487

Ride at your own pace!

Explore Point Ruston, Point Defiance Park, Zoo, Aquarium and Much More!

### Point Defiance



#### Turn-By-Turn Directions

- Exit Wheel Fun Rentals facing the water and turn left onto the Ruston Pathway riding along the water.
- Just before entering Peninsula Park, at the large smelting bell, turn left towards Point Defiance Park.  
**OPTION:** If you would like to explore the views of Peninsula Park, continue straight along the path, then turn right when you return to this point on the map.
- Turn right to join the hillside pathway.
- After crossing the bridge, turn left on to N Pearl St, then right onto Ferry Crossing Landing Rd.  
**Vashon Island OPTION:** For an extreme cycling adventure, turn left on the sidewalk path along Ferry Crossing Rd to walk your bike to the Point Defiance Ferry Terminal and take your bike with you on the ferry to explore Vashon Island - See Point of Interest D for more information.  
**Owen Beach OPTION:** For a waterfront ride, turn left once you reach the Point Defiance Ferry Terminal and ride the waterfront trail past the Port Defiance Marina to Owen Beach. Use Owen Beach Road to re-join the tour at direction #7.
- Make a sharp right turn onto the roundabout into Point Defiance Park at N. Waterfront Dr.
- Keep right at the first fork you come to, following the sign towards the Zoo & Aquarium on Five Mile Rd.
- Make a slight right onto Five Mile Drive. Continue on Five Mile Drive around Point Defiance Park.

#### Turn-By-Turn Directions Continued

- Five Mile Drive becomes a two-way street making a slight left bend.
- Continue straight on Five Mile Drive as it becomes a one-way street again.
- At the roundabout exit Point Defiance Park to the right. Take the second roundabout exit and join the path via the right-hand sidewalk to cross onto Park Ave.
- Turn right on N. Winnifred St.
- Turn left on N. 51st St.
- Keep to the right of the roundabout and continue straight as N. 51st St. becomes Ruston Way.
- Keep to the right of the second roundabout then turn left at the next Point Ruston entrance, Bay View Corridor.
- Turn left when the path ends, onto the Ruston Way Path back to Wheel Fun Rentals.  
**OPTION:** For a longer ride, turn right to head south along the Ruston Way Path until it ends at the Tacoma Chinese Garden and Reconciliation Park. Turn around at any point along the way and return the way you came along the Ruston Way Path to Wheel Fun Rentals

Scan me with your phone for ferry ticket information.



### Bike Safe!

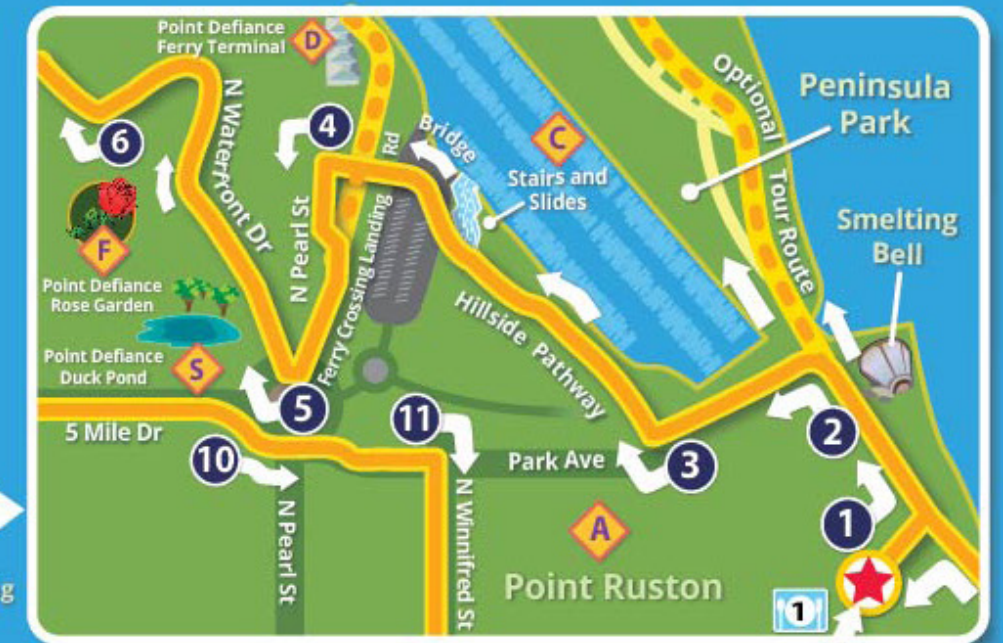
Be sure to follow one-way streets. Be mindful of cars, pedestrians, and other riders. Please utilize shoulders and bike lanes within Point Defiance Park where available.

#### Map Key

- Route Start/End
- Tour Route
- Tour Options
- Turn Indicators
- Points of Interest
- Local Dining



**WHEEL FUN RENTALS**  
Point Ruston  
5005 Main St.  
Tacoma WA 98407  
(253) 503-1487



**START HERE**

### Commencement Bay

If you choose to take a longer ride south down the Ruston Way Path, check out these dining options along the way (below). See outside panel for Info.

- Katie Downs Waterfront Tavern
- Northern Fish Co.
- The Spar
- RAM Restaurant & Brewery