

Northwest weekend

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Washington day trip Kirkland

Why go now: For exceptional consignment shopping and seasonal cheer along the downtown lakefront. **Main drag:** Park Lane **Dress code:** Designer purse, ponytail, dressy sweatpants. **Extended hours:** Many boutiques stay open late on Thursday and Friday nights. **Fuel up:** George's (\$\$, 108 Kirkland Ave.; 425/827-6622), a local institution, serves a mean brunch and an even better feta cheeseburger. **Kirkland's own Carrie Bradshaw:** Susan Wilson, an owner of Mu Shoe, curates a fashionable—and comfy—array of European shoe designers (140 Park Lane; 425/576-5100). **Skip the mall:** The Kirkland Arts Center's annual Holiday Arts Sale is the one-stop shop for locally made gifts like ceramics, jewelry, and pretty prints (*free*; Nov 27–Dec 24; sale at Kirkland Parkplace, 336 Parkplace; kirklandartscenter.org). **Overheard:** "I never knew this town had such a night scene."

1. As good as new

For secondhand shops filled with high-end castoffs from ritzy residents, downtown Kirkland is the spot. Ogle gently used wedding gowns at **Champagne Taste** (117 Main St.; 425/828-4502); find fancy purses at **Ragamoffyn's** (closed Sun; 132 Park Lane; 425/828-0396). (Don't miss the half-off deals in the back.) And dig up like-new Juicy sweats at nearby **Serendipity Consignment Boutique** (117 Lake St. S.; 425/827-5455).

BY JESS THOMSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL HANSON

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4. Holiday party

This month at the waterfront, **roaring bonfires** (courtesy of the Kirkland parks department) are timed to match the Argosy Christmas Ship cruises that leave from the town dock. The trained voices of on-board carolers can be heard from shore. \$35; *schedule at argosycruises.com*



Getting there

Kirkland is 13 miles from Seattle. Head east on State 520 across Lake Washington. Exit at Lake Washington Blvd. N.E. (toward Kirkland); downtown is 2.5 miles farther.



2. Cupcake break

The cupcakes at **Sweet Cakes** taste as good as they look. Treat yourself to a red velvet one (or strawberry cream or vanilla—or all three) at the cupcake/cookie/pie/gift/party store. 128 Park Lane; 425/821-6565.

3. Home sweet-smelling home

Owner Liberty Hanson not only knows how to decorate a tree—with festive, often handmade, glittery silver stags and stars—she also knows how to decorate a house. Part home decor shop, part interior design business, **Liberty 123** sells everything from gorgeous candles and Simon Pearce glassware to linens, Oly chandeliers, and handmade furniture. 123 Park Lane; 425/822-1232.



Take it home

Something every household needs: the whimsical Gurglepote (designed in Washington), a fish-shaped water pitcher that, yes, gurgles when you pour. You'll find this and other irresistibly wacky gifts, as well as over-the-top deco furniture, at **Simplicity Decor** (126 Park Lane; 425/803-0386).

All shopped out? Recharge at these Kirkland spots

HIT HAPPY HOUR

Toast a good shopping day at **Brix Wine Cafe** (\$\$; 9749 N.E. 119th Way; 425/242-0280), where happy hour kicks off at 4 p.m. nightly, lasts until 6 p.m., and resumes at 10 p.m. (Fri, Sat) or 8 p.m. (Sun). The house Syrah and Chardonnay are \$5 a glass; pair with either truffle fries (\$4) or seasonal flatbreads (\$6).

SIP SERIOUSLY GOOD COCOA

The couches at **Kahili Coffee**, Kirkland's favorite indie cafe, are an ideal spot to wait it out while the rest of your group charges on. Crack open a book, order the peppermint mocha, and put your feet up by the fire. Holiday shopping isn't so bad. 105 Lake St.; 425/576-5600.

TREAT YOUR TOES

Pull into the **Spa at the Woodmark** hotel for a soothing hot-stone pedicure (\$70) or, better yet, a full-on reflexology foot massage (\$50). Not relaxed enough? Book a water-view room and stay the night. Rooms from \$129; 1200 Carillon Point; the woodmark.com or 425/803-9000.

SHARE YOUR WEEKEND FINDS. Have a favorite shopping street? Email your suggestions to the weekend guide editor at wgeditor@sunset.com