TACOMA IS A TOWN OF MANY WONDERS - AND WE WANT YOU TO GET TO EXPERIENCE OUR FAVORITES! THE STAFF AT UW TACOMA HAVE COMPILED THIS LIST OF OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS, ACTIVITIES, NIGHT LIFE SPOTS AND SHOPPING. WE’VE EVEN PROVIDED SOME THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOME OF THE LOCATIONS. PRETTY SOON, IT’S OUR HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CALL THESE YOUR “TACOMA FAVORITES” TOO!
1: THE MATADOR
721 PACIFIC AVE
Enchiladas verde and the roja burritos. The atmosphere is fabulous - and the food is the best around.

2: THE RAM
3001 RUSTON WAY
One of the very first places I went was The Ram and it has stuck as a favorite! The Olympus Chicken Salad is amazing! I love it for the great views along Ruston Way.

3: GATEWAY TO INDIA
2603 6TH AVE
By far the best Indian food I've had. The service is phenomenal and atmosphere is fun and welcoming. A Tacoma must!

4: PHO KING
1020 M.L.K. JR. WAY
Their Pho is amazing - must be the broth - it's not your normal Pho. Also, they have a great noodle/shrimp bowl.

5: DIRTY OSCAR’S ANNEX
2309 6TH AVE
The biscuits and gravy...it's homemade, a manageable portion. And just YUMMY!

6: PRIMO GRILL
2701 6TH AVE
Anything. All ingredients are fresh and local, and expertly prepared.

7: DUKE’S CHOWDER HOUSE
3327 RUSTON WAY
Happy hour munchies! The sea spirit, sustainable fish and oh, the view!

8: THE LOBSTER SHOP
4015 RUSTON WAY
Anything on their Twilight Menu is delicious!

9: SHAKABRAH JAVA
2618 6TH AVE
Best breakfast in town - hands down! Can be crowded...so plan for a possible wait.

NOT ON MAP: BUT CAN’T FORGET
Asado : 2810 6th Ave
Bruno’s European Restaurant : 10902 Bridgeport Way SW
Burger Seoul : 1750 S. Propect St
Casa Mia : 7304 Lakewood Dr W
CI Shenanigans : 3017 Ruston Way
Engine House #9 : 611 N. Pine St
Happy Belly : 1122 Market St
Happy Teriyaki #4 : 2223 Pacific Ave
Harmon Taproom : 204 St. Helens Ave
Ho Soon Yi : 8501 S. Tacoma Way
Il Lucano Ristorante : 3119 Judson St
Indochine : 1924 Pacific Ave
Le Le Restaurant : 1012 M.L.K. Jr Way
Marrow Kitchen & Bar : 2717 6th Ave
Marzano’s Restaurant : 516 Garfield St S
Olive Branch Cafe & Tea Room : 2501 East D St
Quarter Chute Cafe : 2828 Emerald Downs Dr
Puget Sound Pizza : 317 S 7th St
Sushi Tama : 3919 6th Ave
Taqueria El Sabor : 1636 S. Mildred St
The Gourmet Burger Shop : 4120 Harborview Dr
The Red Hot : 2914 6th Ave
The Valley : 1206 Puyallup Ave
Tides Tavern : 2925 Harborview Dr
Vuelva a la Vida : 5312 Pacific Ave
FAVORITES : ACTIVITIES

POINT DEFIANCE PARK
5400 N PEARL ST

A quick hike at Point Defiance. Once you are on the trails, you feel as if you are in the forests near Mt. Rainier, but you are just a 15 minute drive from campus!

The trails at Point Defiance! Lots of options for various length, they are very well maintained, and you get some fantastic views of the water.

Point Defiance is a gem in the heart of an urban environment. Seattle is envious.

Hiking in Pt. Defiance then check out the nearby Jungle Fever Nursery on Pearl St.

Point Defiance is great for anyone who loves to run, walk or just be outdoors. There are paved and unpaved paths everywhere...you could easily spend hours just enjoying the nature and walking.

The Zoo & Aquarium - it’s the perfect outing for a sunny day, and Owen Beach is nearby if you need a nice place to relax afterward.

ZOO & AQUARIUM : OWEN BEACH : TRAILS

Hiking in Pt. Defiance then check out the nearby Jungle Fever Nursery on Pearl St.

RUSTON WAY
5400 N PEARL ST

A walk along Ruston Way is always refreshingly peaceful.

My favorite outdoor activity is a walk on Ruston Way or around the park at Owen Beach. On a sunny day the level of activity and views are fabulous.

Walking thorugh the the trails and breathing the clean air makes you feel like a kid again.

CHAMBER’S BAY
6320 GRANDVIEW DR W

Walking at Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place. The awesome view distracts me from the enormous hill I am walking up!

GRAND CINEMA
606 S FAWCETT AVE

An old theater that feels comfy, great 1st run movies that aren’t in the big multiplexes!

FISHING

BIKING

KAYAKING

FARMER’S MARKETS

MONKEYSHINES

STATE PARKS

MUSEUM OF GLASS
1801 DOCK ST

The glass museum and seeing how incredibly beautifully sand and fire can be manipulated. It is mind blowing.

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MUSEUM OF GLASS

1801 DOCK ST

Just on the outskirts, Parkland Putters, the miniature golfing spot where you can putt on a boat turned into a “hole.” Definitely try it out in the summer!
1: THE SWISS
1904 JEFFERSON AVE
Trivia night at the Swiss - engaging, fun and relaxing. Great way to end the day in the company of friends and colleagues and maybe even learn a thing or two in the process.

Great live music and bands!

2: THEATER DISTRICT
9TH AVE & COMMERCE ST
The Broadway, Pantages, Theater on the Square. Something for everyone. Become a member!

3: TACOMA CABANA
728 PACIFIC AVE
If you like rum - or tiki - this is your place. Great service and atmosphere. Limited food menu, but the overall experience makes up for it!

4: THE FORUM
815 PACIFIC AVE
The Forum on Pacific, has a great atmosphere, good food and a wonderful orange infused bourbon Old Fashioned.

5: TACOMA COMEDY CLUB
933 MARKET ST
Tacoma Comedy Club! They have some of the greatest comedians around, and at a reasonable price. The staff are always friendly and the atmosphere is fun for a night out!

An inexpensive good time.

6: PARKWAY TAVERN
313 N I ST
The Parkway is always welcoming, usually busy and you’re bound to run into people you know there.

Neighborhood bar, no frills.

It feels like you’re in a ski lodge, within the city.

Great beer and has a very relaxed/mellow feel. Great place to try something new and hang out with friends.

7: B SHARP COFFEE HOUSE
706 OPERA ALLEY
Especially the 3rd Monday night of each month, when the coffee house hosts readings by Creative Colloquy, a local literary group!

NOT ON MAP: BUT CAN’T FORGET

TACOMA MUSICAL PLAYHOUSE
7116 6TH AVE
First class performances in an intimate venue. Be sure to catch “The Scarlet Pimpernel” in April - it’s hilarious.
1: PROCTOR DISTRICT

AROUND PROCTOR ST & N 26TH ST

There are boutique fashions, housewares, gifts and specialty foods. Many shops within only a 3 block walk!

Compass Rose: 3815 N 26th St
Unique stuff and lots of great Tacoma gear and local crafts.

Metropolitan Market: 2420 N Proctor St
Great neighborhood hangout. It always takes me twice as long to shop because I run into so many people that I know.

Beautiful, high quality food items, that feature local growers, producers. Exceptional customer service!

“The Cookie” is a must!

Sonja Clothing for Women: 2510 N Proctor St

The Pacific Northwest Shop: 2702 N Proctor St

2: KING’S BOOKS

218 ST HELENS AVE

Shop Local at Kings Books and the adjacent Destiny City Comics. Excellent customer service and great selection!

I love browsing the shelves at Kings Books on St. Helens!

New and used books, UW Tacoma alumni owned comic book store next door. Book store cats Atticus and Herbert are super friendly.

3: TACOMA BOYS

5602 6TH AVE

Since I love food, I enjoy shopping at Tacoma Boys. Can be pricey for certain items, but the quality and variety is the best!

4: THE PURPLE PEACOCK

1744 PACIFIC AVE

I love The Purple Peacock on campus for their variety of gifts and jewelry of exceptional value.

Close to campus when you need a quick gift!

5: ANTIQUE ROW

AROUND BROADWAY & 9TH

If you’re looking for some interesting finds and like window shopping check it out!

6: EVOLVE HOME

2624 N 21ST ST

7: LUCKY DOG OUTFITTERS

3411 6TH AVE

AND OF COURSE...

W: UW TACOMA C-STORE

WCG

Grab a quick snack, healthy or otherwise, cheap coffee and great smiles!

NOT ON MAP : BUT CAN’T FORGET

The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse: 13608 Valley Ave E