



## AVIATION DISTRICT

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#### **EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF HUMAN FLIGHT IN THE PAINE FIELD AVIATION DISTRICT**

(EVERETT, Wash.) — In Seattle NorthCountry, one of the world's foremost aviation technology hubs, it's always a good idea to look to the sky. In the center of it all is the Paine Field Aviation District in Mukilteo and Everett, which offers fascinating, up-close reminders of the past, present, and future of human flight. The Aviation District is also a cultural and regional hub, with its own restaurants, hotels, and shopping, as well as the beginning of the [Cascade Loop](#), connecting Paine Field to the incredible sights of Washington's Cascade Range.

In all, the Aviation District is home to five keystone attractions. Three distinctive and interactive experiences immerse visitors in the miracle of human flight – the Flying Heritage and Combat Armor Museum, the Museum of Flight Restoration Center and Reserve Collection, and the Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour. High Trek Adventures' rope course and ziplines invite all to play in the sky for an altogether different Aviation District experience, and of course, the easiest way to visit the region is through the only commercial airport in Snohomish County – Paine Field Passenger Terminal – which features non-stop service to 11 destinations throughout the West.

Aviation's roots run deep in Seattle NorthCountry, and the Aviation District is hardly a contrived attraction. Snohomish County's rich aviation history began in 1928 with the opening of its first commercial airport. In 1943, Boeing opened a shop in a former Everett auto garage to support the building of B-17 bombers. In 1966, Boeing transformed the course of the region's history with its decision to manufacture 747s in the plant it built at Paine Field. That building would grow to be the world's largest building by volume, and the plant would eventually be used to manufacture all of Boeing's widebody jets. In the process, Snohomish County would develop into a global center of the aerospace industry.

Today, reminders of the importance of aviation to Seattle NorthCountry are everywhere, including high overhead. But nowhere is it more apparent than in the Paine Field Aviation District, with its five aviation attractions.

## **Paine Field**

Paine Field is unlike any other airport in the world, serving as the main gateway to Seattle NorthCountry, a manufacturing hub for the aviation industry, and a tourist destination with three major aviation attractions. In 2019, the Paine Field Passenger Terminal opened to commercial air travel for the first time, offering an alternative to busy Sea-Tac International Airport, 37 miles to the south. In its first year, the Passenger Terminal serviced 1 million passengers and offered direct flights to 11 destinations.

Paine Field is also home to more than 650 aircraft, from small, single-engine recreational aircraft and corporate jets to Boeing's state-of-the-art Dreamliners. Boeing's massive manufacturing plant for the 747, 767, 777, and 787 aircraft is housed at Paine Field, and it is a sight to see. Aviation Technical Services is also based here. It is one of the largest third-party aircraft inspection and repair facilities in North America, providing repair and maintenance services for Alaska, American, Delta, and Southwest airlines, as well as UPS and the U.S. Air Force.

## **Boeing Future of Flight**

As home to Boeing's manufacturing plant for the 787 Dreamliner, 777, 767, and 747 aircraft, nowhere else on earth could the experience of The Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour be reproduced. Begin with its 28,000-square-foot gallery, filled with interactive exhibits that display where the aviation industry is at the moment, where it is headed, and seeks to spark STEM learning with activities that teach kids drones and robotics. Then embark on the 90-minute tour of Boeing's manufacturing plant – North America's only publicly available commercial jet assembly tour – and watch as massive twin-aisle airplanes are constructed right before your eyes.

## **Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum**

Nestled in the southeast corner of the Paine Field Aviation District, the Flying Heritage & Combat Armor Museum is a testament to the engineering skill that flourished during the world conflicts of the 20th century. On display is the late Paul G. Allen's extensive collection of military aircraft, tanks, and other military hardware from the United States, Australia, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the former Soviet Union. The museum includes numerous historically important military machines of the 20th century, including some artifacts that are the last of their kind. It's "Why War?" exhibit, which explores the reasons humans engage in wars, features two deactivated atomic bombs.

## **Museum of Flight Restoration Center & Reserve Collection**

The Museum of Flight Restoration Center & Reserve Collection is no ordinary museum. Here in this 23,000 square-foot facility, vintage aircraft – the majority of which were manufactured from the late 1920s through the 1960s – are painstakingly restored back to as close to their original condition as possible. With as many as six projects in progress at a time, it takes a literal army of volunteers to do the work of restoring engines, repainting fuselages, and more. And visitors can see it up close in this working hangar and real-life exhibit.

## **High Trek Adventures Rope Course & Ziplines**

Whether you're a kid exploring the wonders of aviation or simply a kid at heart, there is always room for play in the Paine Field Aviation District. Set in Paine Field Community Park, High Trek Adventures Ropes

Course and Ziplines offers a way to take to the sky—no pilot’s license required. High Trek Adventures features the largest ropes course with ziplines in the Pacific Northwest, with a range of challenge options to fit almost any age. In addition, the park offers miniature golf, tactical laser tag, and even axe throwing.

To learn more about Seattle NorthCountry, including events, attractions, and activities, visit [SeattleNorthCountry.com](http://SeattleNorthCountry.com).

**ABOUT SEATTLE NORTHCOUNTRY:**

Located just 15 miles north of Seattle, and stretching from the shores of the Salish Sea to the peaks of the Cascade Range, Seattle NorthCountry is characterized by its abundance and variety of outdoor recreation, urbanscapes, and rural vistas befitting its *True PNW* designation. Seattle NorthCountry comprises four primary regions of Snohomish County: Urban Basecamp, Salish Sea Coastal Communities, Skykomish & Snohomish River Valleys, and Stillaguamish & Sauk River Valleys. An unofficial fifth region, the Paine Field Aviation District, pays tribute to the aviation industry’s profound impact on Snohomish County. Under the direction of Snohomish County Parks Recreation & Tourism, and in conjunction with the Snohomish County Destination Alliance, Seattle NorthCountry develops, curates, and delivers a year-round visitor experience that appeals to leisure, business, and group travelers, while working closely with our Native American tribal partners to preserve, protect, and be sound stewards of the ancestral homeland of the Coast Salish people. For more information visit [www.seattlenorthcountry.com](http://www.seattlenorthcountry.com).

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