Brief History

1880s
First Japanese laborers arrive in the Northwest.

1907-1908
Gentlemen’s Agreement restricts Japanese immigration. A loophole allows Japanese “picture brides” and professionals to come to the US.

1924
Immigration Act of 1924 excludes all Asian immigrants except Filipinos.

1929-1930s
Seattle’s Japanese American population reaches its peak during the Great Depression.

1930
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) forms.

1941
Japan attacks US military base in Pearl Harbor. The FBI begins to arrest Issei (first generation) leaders in several West Coast cities.

1942-1946
Executive Order 9066 is signed into law and sets in motion the forced removal of Nikkei (Japanese legal residents and Japanese American citizens) from the West Coast.

1948
US concentration camps close. Some Nikkei families return to Seattle, but many relocate elsewhere.

1968
Racial covenants banned in Seattle when the federal government passes the Fair Housing Act.

1970s-1988
After years of community advocacy, President Ronald Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, also known as the Redress Bill.

1984
Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle.

Present
Annual pilgrimages continue to several incarceration sites as Nikkei remember, honor and teach others in hopes that it never happens again. Seattle Nikkei community continues efforts to revitalize Japantown.

Introduction

Explore the Japanese American Remembrance Trail, an urban hike in Seattle’s original Japantown from Pioneer Square to the Central District. Visit Japantown past and present - from early pioneers to the World War II era to community life today. Immerse yourself in personal stories of resilience, and explore connections to today.

Get your walking shoes ready
Use this map to find all 42 sites, past and present, on the Trail. Visit the Trail website to find out more about each site. Stop in at the many cultural organizations and businesses to learn even more.

Most people walk 1/4 mile in 5 minutes. To walk across the map from west to east would take 20 minutes. The Trail website suggests fitness activities, including several Hill Climb Challenges, safety and accessibility information.

Take a guided tour
The Wing Luke Museum offers neighborhood walking tours including sites along the Trail. Visit wingluke.org for more.

Private group tours also are available. A good choice for families, coworkers, community groups, book clubs and schools to create a unique experience, guiding you through the stories of the Japanese American community along the Trail. For more info or to reserve your tour, call 206.623.5124 ext 133 or email tours@wingluke.org.

Trail Anchors

Central Trail Anchor


Features art, history and cultural exhibits on pan-Asian Pacific American community

719 S King St | wingluke.org

West Trail Anchor

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

Gold Rush museum located in the historic Cadillac Hotel

319 2nd Ave S | nps.gov/klru

East Trail Anchor

Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington

Historic landmark featuring the Seattle Japanese Language School. Community gathering place for Japanese art, culture and history

1414 S Weller St | jcccw.org

Trail Website

wingluke.org/japanese-american-remembrance-trail

Features:
• Site descriptions
• Stories about people and places along the Trail
• Artwork by YouthCAN for select sites
• Ways to head out on the Trail including Hill Climb Challenges
• Guided tour information

Lead partners:
National Park Service Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Additional partners:
Aging and Disability Services
Danaka
Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington
Keiro Northwest
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
NVC Foundation
Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority

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Japanese American Remembrance Trail Map

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