https://familydestinationsguide.com/treasure-bargain-hunting-washington/

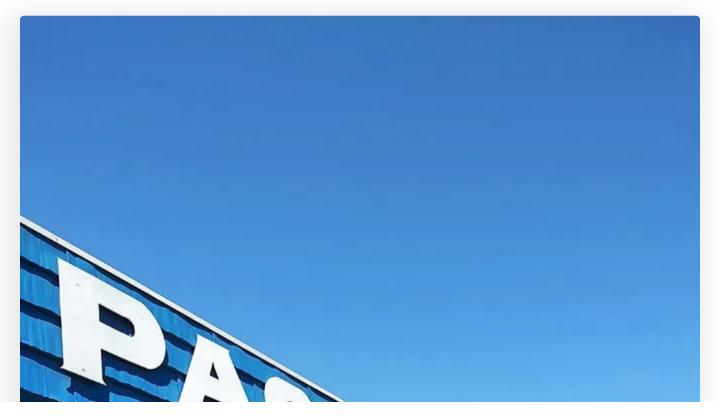
Amage<

Published: February 5, 2025 - Updated: February 11th 2025, April 11th 2025

Destinations, News, USA, Washington

Where can you explore aisle after aisle of antiques, vintage décor, and timeless treasures?

Pacific Antiques Mall in Tacoma is the ultimate shopping spot for collectors, history buffs, and anyone who loves a great find!





Welcome to the time machine! This unassuming exterior hides a treasure trove of memories waiting to be rediscovered. Photo credit: Phone Intowater

Let's face it, we've all had that moment where we've looked at our living room and thought, "You know what this place needs? A life-sized ceramic poodle from the 1950s."

Well, my friends, your prayers have been answered.

Pacific Antiques Mall isn't just any old antique store.

It's the Disneyland of vintage finds, minus the overpriced churros and long lines for the teacup ride.

As you approach this unassuming building on *Pacific Ave South* you might

think, "Is this it?"

But don't let the modest exterior fool you.

It's like that plain-looking book that turns out to be a secret safe – full of unexpected treasures.

The bright blue sign proudly proclaims "PACIFIC ANTIQUES MALL" in bold white letters.

It's not exactly subtle, but then again, subtlety isn't really the point when you're dealing with decades of America's coolest cast-offs.



Step into a world where every aisle is a new adventure. It's like Indiana Jones raided your grandma's attic! Photo credit: Big Daddy

Step inside, and you're immediately transported to a world where every decade of the 20th century is having a reunion party.

It's like someone took a time machine, made pit stops at every era, and came back with a souvenir from each.

The first thing that hits you is the sheer size of the place.

Aisles stretch out before you like runways, each one lined with glass cases and shelves packed to the brim with curiosities.

It's a bit like being in a library, if libraries were filled with porcelain figurines, vintage Coca-Cola signs, and enough mid-century modern furniture to make Don Draper weep with joy.

The air is thick with that distinct antique store smell – a heady mix of old books, vintage perfume, and just a hint of mothballs.

It's the olfactory equivalent of a time machine.





Curio cabinets bursting with stories. Each shelf is a chapter in the book of "Things We Didn't Know We Needed." Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

As you wander down the aisles, you'll find yourself playing a constant game of "Oh my god, we had that when I was a kid!"

It's like a scavenger hunt through your childhood memories, only this time you can actually take the prizes home.

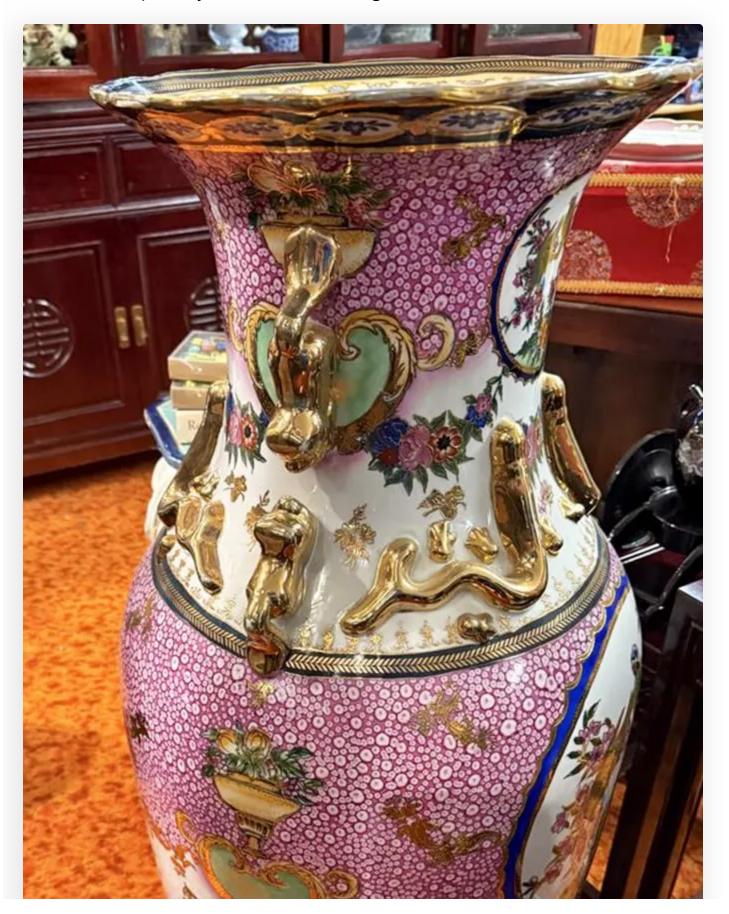
One moment you're admiring a pristine set of Pyrex bowls in colors that haven't been fashionable since the Johnson administration, and the next you're face-to-face with a lamp shaped like a hula dancer.

It's interior design roulette, and every spin is a winner.

The beauty of *Pacific Antiques* is that it caters to all tastes and budgets.

Whether you're a serious collector looking for that rare piece to complete

your set or just someone who thinks their living room could use a conversation piece, you'll find something here.





Behold, the vase that launched a thousand dinner parties! It's seen more drama than a soap opera marathon. Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

For the vintage fashion enthusiasts, there's a veritable runway of yesteryear's styles.

From flapper dresses that look like they've just shimmied off the set of "The Great Gatsby" to polyester shirts so loud they come with their own volume control, it's all here.

And let's not forget the jewelry.

Oh, the jewelry!

Costume pieces that would make Elizabeth Taylor say, "Maybe that's a bit much," sit alongside delicate cameos and Art Deco rings.

It's like raiding your grandmother's jewelry box, if your grandmother was a time-traveling magpie with impeccable taste.

For the bibliophiles among us, the book section is a treasure trove of

forgotten classics and quirky titles.

Where else can you find a first edition Hemingway rubbing shoulders with "The Complete Guide to Disco Dancing" and "Microwave Cooking for One"?



Nintendo 64: Where friendships were forged and destroyed over Mario Kart. The ultimate '90s nostalgia trip. Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

The vinyl record selection is enough to make any music lover's heart skip a beat.

From classic rock to obscure jazz, there's something for every audiophile.

Just be prepared to spend hours flipping through the crates, occasionally exclaiming, "I can't believe they have this!"

One of the joys of *Pacific Antiques* is the element of surprise.

You never know what you're going to find around the next corner.

It could be a pristine 1950s diner booth, complete with jukebox, or a collection of hand-painted Russian nesting dolls that seem to go on forever.

The furniture section is a particular delight.

It's like walking through a museum of American home decor, from ornate Victorian settees to sleek mid-century modern coffee tables.





A gamer's paradise that would make even Pac-Man dizzy. It's like Toys "R" Us had a love child with a museum. Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

You half expect to see Don Draper lounging on one of the Danish modern sofas, martini in hand.

For those with a penchant for kitsch, *Pacific Antiques* is a goldmine.

Tiki mugs, velvet paintings of Elvis, lava lamps in colors not found in nature – it's all here, waiting to add a touch of whimsy (or questionable taste) to your home.

The glassware section is a rainbow of vintage Pyrex, Depression glass, and delicate crystal.

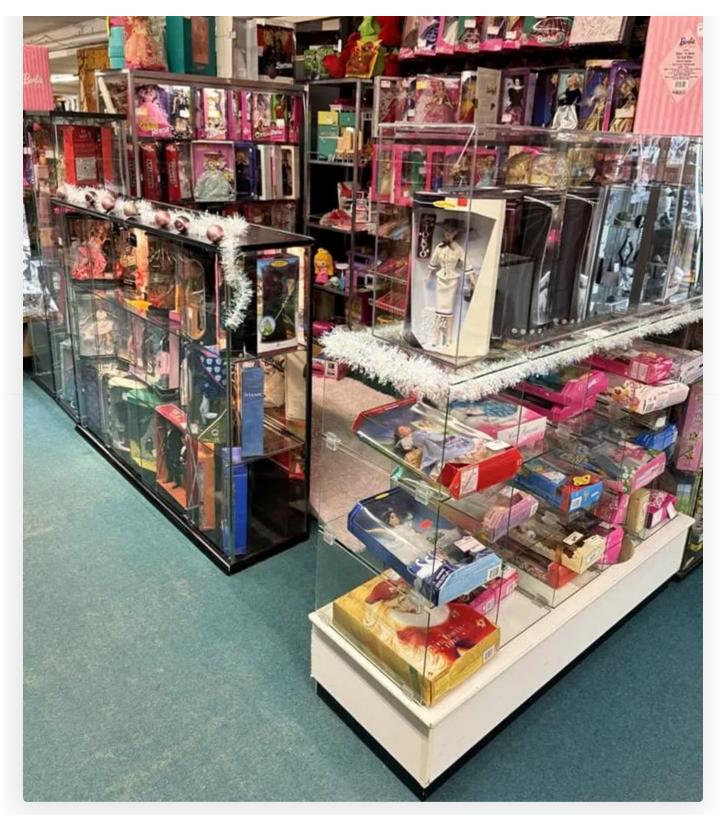
It's enough to make you want to throw a dinner party just to show off your new (old) finds.

Who needs matching sets when you can have an eclectic mix of patterns and colors?

For the aspiring mad scientist (or just someone who appreciates quirky decor), there's a selection of vintage scientific equipment.

Beakers, test tubes, and mysterious gadgets with dials and switches – perfect for giving your home office that "mad genius" vibe.





Barbie's dream house on steroids. More pink than a flamingo convention, and twice as fabulous! Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

One of the most fascinating aspects of *Pacific Antiques* is the way it chronicles the evolution of technology.

From rotary phones to early computers, it's a hands-on history lesson in how we've communicated and computed over the decades.

The toy section is a nostalgia overload.

Vintage board games, tin wind-up toys, and dolls from every era line the shelves.

It's enough to make you want to abandon adulting and spend the afternoon playing with Lite-Brites and Etch A Sketches.

For those with a green thumb (or aspirations thereof), there's a delightful selection of vintage planters and garden decor.

Concrete gnomes rub shoulders with elegant art nouveau vases, offering something for every gardening style.

The lighting section is particularly illuminating (pun absolutely intended).

From elegant Tiffany-style lamps to kitschy novelty lights, it's a great place to find that perfect piece to brighten up your space – both literally and figuratively.





A kitchenware cornucopia that would make Julia Child swoon. Enough gadgets to confuse even the savviest chef. Photo credit: pacific antiques mall

One of the most charming aspects of *Pacific Antiques* is the way items are displayed.

It's not just rows of stuff; it's carefully curated vignettes that tell a story. A 1950s kitchen setup here, a Victorian parlor there – it's like walking through a series of movie sets.

The staff at *Pacific Antiques* are a treasure in themselves.

Knowledgeable, friendly, and always ready with a story about a particular piece, they add to the warm, welcoming atmosphere of the place.

Related: Fun Activities in Washington

Related: Places to Explore in Washington

Related: Washington Weekend Getaways

As you wander through the aisles, you can't help but imagine the stories behind each item.

Who owned that art deco vanity?

What conversations were had around that retro kitchen table?

It's like each piece is a portal to a different time and place.



Mid-century modern meets eclectic chic. It's like "Mad Men" and "The Addams Family" had a furniture lovechild. Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

One of the joys of antique shopping is the thrill of the hunt, and Pacific Antiques

delivers in spades.

You might come in looking for a specific item, but don't be surprised if you leave with something completely different that you didn't even know you needed.

The prices at *Pacific Antiques* are as varied as the merchandise.

You can find everything from affordable knick-knacks to high-end collectibles.

It's a place where bargain hunters and serious collectors can coexist happily.

For movie buffs, there's a selection of vintage movie posters and memorabilia that's sure to delight.





This lamp's seen things, man. It's been illuminating conversations since bell-bottoms were unironically cool. Photo credit: Pacific Antiques Mall

From classic Hollywood glamour to B-movie kitsch, it's a cinematic journey through the decades.

The holiday decorations section is a year-round Christmas morning.

Vintage ornaments, kitschy Halloween decor, and Fourth of July bunting from bygone eras – it's enough to make you want to celebrate every holiday in retro style.

For those who appreciate the art of the written word, there's a delightful selection of vintage stationery, fountain pens, and typewriters.

It's enough to make you want to forswear email and return to the days of handwritten letters.

The beauty of *Pacific Antiques* is that it's not just a store – it's an experience.

It's a place where you can spend hours browsing, reminiscing, and discovering.

It's a reminder that objects have stories, that history is tangible, and that one person's castoff is another's treasure.





A rainbow of glassware that puts Oz to shame. From dainty teacups to sturdy steins, there's a vessel for every mood. Photo credit: pacific antiques mall

As you make your way through the store, you can't help but feel a sense of connection to the past.

These aren't just old things; they're pieces of history, each with its own tale to tell.

One of the most charming aspects of *Pacific Antiques* is the way it brings generations together.

It's not uncommon to see grandparents explaining to their grandkids what a rotary phone is, or millennials excitedly showing their parents the toys they remember from childhood.

The store is also a testament to the enduring quality of things made in the past.

In an age of disposable everything, it's refreshing to see items that have stood the test of time, still functional and beautiful after decades.

For those who love a good mystery, the store offers plenty of intriguing items whose purpose isn't immediately clear.

Is it a fancy nutcracker or a medieval torture device?

Part of the fun is trying to figure it out.



Ahoy, landlubbers! This lighthouse might not guide ships, but it'll certainly spark conversations at your next soirée. Photo credit: Lisa P. One of the best things about *Pacific Antiques* is that it's constantly changing.

With new items coming in all the time, every visit is a new adventure.

You never know what you might find.

The store is also a great place for inspiration.

Whether you're looking to add a vintage touch to your decor or planning a themed party, you're sure to find ideas here.

For those who love a good DIY project, *Pacific Antiques* is a goldmine.

From furniture waiting to be restored to vintage fabrics perfect for upcycling, it's a crafter's paradise.

The store also offers a glimpse into the changing tastes and trends of American culture.

From the elegant simplicity of mid-century modern to the bold patterns of the 1970s, it's like walking through a living design history book.

One of the most fascinating aspects of *Pacific Antiques* is the way it showcases the evolution of craftsmanship.

From hand-carved furniture to mass-produced items, you can see how manufacturing techniques have changed over the years.

For those interested in fashion history, the vintage clothing and accessories section is a must-see.

From flapper dresses to power suits, it's a journey through the changing styles of the 20th century.

The store is also a great place for photographers.

The unique items and carefully arranged displays offer endless opportunities for interesting shots.

For history buffs, Pacific Antiques is like a hands-on museum.

From wartime memorabilia to pop culture artifacts, it's a tangible connection to the past.

One of the most charming things about *Pacific Antiques* is the sense of community it fosters.

Regular customers and staff often chat like old friends, sharing stories and discussing their latest finds.





Who knew birds had such exquisite taste in real estate? This birdhouse is fancier than most human apartments. Photo credit: Lexi S.

The store is also a great place for gift shopping.

Whether you're looking for something unique for a hard-to-buy-for friend or a nostalgic present for a family member, you're sure to find something here.

For those who love a good bargain, keep an eye out for the sale sections.

You never know what treasures you might uncover at a discount.

One of the best things about *Pacific Antiques* is that it encourages slow

shopping.

In a world of quick clicks and instant gratification, it's refreshing to take your time, browse, and really appreciate each item.

The store is also a great place to learn.

Whether you're interested in the history of design, the evolution of technology, or just want to know more about a particular era, the staff are always happy to share their knowledge.

For those who love a good story, each item in *Pacific Antiques* has one to tell.

It's not just about buying things; it's about connecting with history and





The sign says "Antique Mall," but really it's a portal to the past. Prepare for a journey through time! Photo credit: Tara S.

So, whether you're a serious collector, a casual browser, or just someone who appreciates the charm of old things, Pacific Antiques Mall is a must-visit destination.

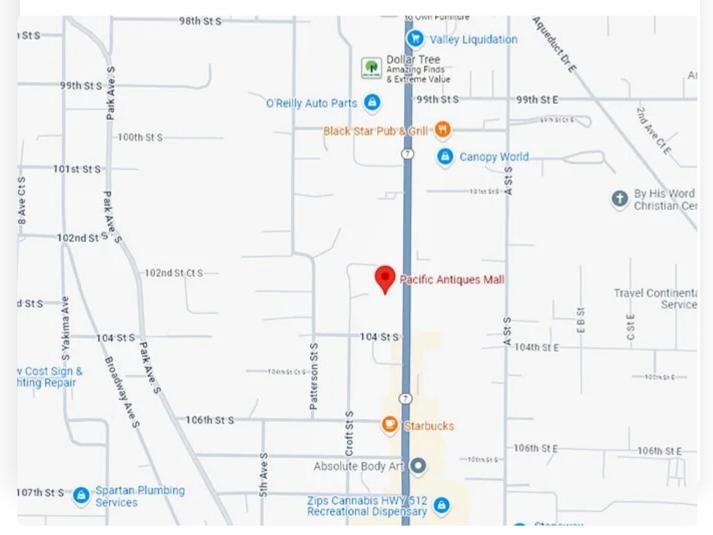
It's more than just a store – it's a journey through time, a treasure hunt, and a delightful adventure all rolled into one.

Remember, one person's junk is another person's jewel.

So come on down to Pacific Antiques Mall, where the past is always present, and every visit is a new opportunity to discover something wonderful.

For more information about Pacific Antiques Mall, including hours and special events, be sure to check out their <u>website</u> and Facebook page.

And when you're ready to embark on your own treasure-hunting adventure, use this <u>map</u> to guide your way to this vintage wonderland.



Where: 10228 Pacific Ave S, Tacoma, WA 98444

Hours: Open 10AM to 7PM Daily pacificantiquesmall.com

253-539-0117

Who knows?

You might just find that life-sized ceramic poodle you never knew you needed.