

If you've been watching [“The Last of Us” Season 2](#), the HBO adaptation of the video game of the same name about a pandemic that destroys humanity as we know it and turns people into “infected” that will tear you apart, you'll have seen that a post-apocalyptic Seattle is as much of a character as the humans struggling to survive in its ruins. Unfortunately, the city doesn't actually play itself, as shooting took place, [as many productions do, in neighboring Vancouver](#), B.C. Still, [the places it tries to recreate](#), while lacking the texture of the real ones locals know, are interesting to keep an eye out for as we accompany Ellie (Bella Ramsey) and Dina (Isabela Merced) as they go on a revenge mission with no good outcomes. With the finale now out in the world, here are the notable Seattle locations you'll have seen this season.

Approaching the city ... sort of

Though Seattle gets mentioned right out of the gate in Episode 1 and there's a scene planning out how to get there where the characters struggle to say Snoqualmie, we don't actually see the city until [Episode 3](#) when Ellie and Dina first come upon it from a distance. However, as sharp-eyed viewers like [Seattle Times sports reporter Shane Lantz noticed](#), the geography of where the characters are supposedly coming from doesn't make a lick of sense.

Despite first encountering a sign that says they are 9 miles from Seattle and 41 from Tacoma, meaning they are approaching the city from the north, we then get a different shot that shows them coming upon the city from the south. For anyone who has ever made that drive, it's strangely disorienting, serving as a rather rocky introduction to the show's version of Seattle. And that's even before the camera pans to the left to call our attention to the Space Needle where a character is impracticably using it as a lookout.

Strolling through Capitol Hill

In [Episode 4](#), things get a little better as Ellie and Dina venture further into the city. They ransack a fictional Weston's Pharmacy (as apparently our [beloved Bartell Drugs](#) is also dead even in the apocalypse) and come upon the Capitol Hill neighborhood. They take note of the remnants of pride flags that still hang and ponder what the rainbows could possibly mean before they duck into the Valiant Music Store, with a Pearl Jam poster hanging on the wall on the stairs. It's not a real place and instead one the show is drawing from the game.

This extends to the scene where Ellie goes upstairs and discovers a guitar that is somehow in miraculously great condition that she proceeds to use to deliver a soulful cover of A-ha's “Take On Me.” While none of this looks very much like Capitol Hill and Valiant is fictional, this scene in the interior of the store is so emotionally effective you may forget the fakery happening right outside.

Escape to the Paramount ... I mean Pinnacle Theatre

Still in Episode 4, Ellie and Dina head to the KMAB 13 News Station (this world's FOX 13?) where they end up discovering a gruesome scene that's the result of the conflict between the two warring factions within the city. They get caught in the middle of this and have to flee a bunch of armed pursuers as well as the infected that they stumble upon in their escape. Barely managing to escape in one piece, they come out into the rain and stumble towards a theater. Specifically, it's the Pinnacle, a dead ringer for the Paramount that is lifted from the game.

While it may look better partly because we can't fully see it under the cover of darkness and downpour of rain (this is Seattle), it's also the best instance of a local location being recreated as they really get the general look and feel of the location right. For those who haven't been inside it, the version in the series is structured rather differently, but everything from the way the sign is displayed outside to the location on the street earns it relatively high marks.

Take a ride on the Ferris wheel and see the aquarium

Jumping ahead a bit to the explosive finale, after Dina gets injured and must stay behind at the Pinnacle, Ellie ends up setting off on her own to continue her revenge mission alone. She believes her target is waiting at the aquarium and sets off on a boat, where we also get a glimpse of the Seattle Great Wheel, a Ferris wheel that may come into play in the third season if it follows the game.

This and other real structures along the waterfront, what little we see of them in the stormy darkness, are accurate to the layout of the city, even as the aquarium where Ellie eventually gets into a bloody final confrontation inside is all a set that merely creates tiny interiors rather than anything local.

Looks like no more Seattle sports at Lumen Field

Last but not least is the final big location, which is also the last shot of the season. After Ellie comes face to face with Abby (Kaitlyn Dever), the person she was trying to get revenge on, we flash back in time to the beginning of what will likely be her storyline in the third season. Just like in the game, we see Abby reading a book in a repurposed locker room before she steps outside.

It's there we see Lumen Field, home of the Seahawks, Sounders and OL Reign. However, it's been years since those teams have taken the field as we see that it has been made into a base with farmland, cages for dogs, medical tents, a truck driving down the middle and much more that makes clear this is now where we will pick back up with Abby's story. It's a remarkable use of visual effects, ending the show on a high note even if none of this was shot here either.