

Portland Visitors Guide

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Food and Drinks:

- Jake's Famous Crawfish: <http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com/Locations/portland-oregon/portland-oregon/sw12thave.aspx>

Located downtown, close to Powell's, and the ace Stumptown Coffeeroasters. This place has super delicious fresh seafood and an old town feel.

- Raven's Manor: <https://www.ravensmanorexperience.com/>

A haunted themed cocktail bar located in downtown Portland, never had a bad drink from here. Their Elixir Experience is fun, just keep in mind they use creepy names for the ingredients so don't expect to walk away with knowing how to make your own drinks.

- Por Que No?: <http://www.porquenotacos.com/>

A very popular PDX favorite and a great place to grab a couple of shrimp tacos and strong margaritas for a fun and relaxed lunch.

- Matt's BBQ: <http://www.mattsbbqpdx.com/> OR Podnah's Pit: <http://www.podnahspit.com/>

Two great Texas BBQ places located in NE Portland. Don't let the fact that Matt's BBQ is a food cart fool you. If you are looking for sliced brisket this is the place to go. Just make sure to go there early because once they sell out for the day it's gone. If you are looking for more of a sit down BBQ experience make sure to check out Podnah's a few miles north, their banana pudding is the closest you are going to get outside of Texas.

- Stepping Stone Cafe: <http://www.steppingstonecafe.com/>

With a slogan like "You Eat Here Because We Let You," how can you not want to have breakfast here?? This isn't the best food you will ever eat, but it's open until 3AM and offers omelets stuffed with chicken fried steak + hash-browns, smothered with gravy. Come on!

- Voodoo Donuts: <http://voodoodoughnut.com/>

Perhaps the most famous donuts in the world, Voodoo's flagship store is still located in a tiny storefront in downtown Portland, which now typically has a line consisting of drunk college kids and curious tourists wrapping halfway around the block. If you're in Portland you basically have to try a Voodoo Donut, just hit up the one in SE for less of a line.

- Stumptown Coffeeroasters: <http://stumptowncoffee.com/>

In a town that is overcast 8-10 months out of the year, the people need their coffee. This is the best coffee in town. You will love it.

- Pine State Biscuits: <http://www.pinestatebiscuits.com/>

More than just delicious biscuits. Great for breakfast or lunch.

- Salt and Straw: <https://saltandstraw.com/flavors/#portland>

Check out some delicious exotic ice cream flavors like "Honey Lavender" and "Pear & Blue Cheese". Some of the classic standbys like vanilla and chocolate are available there too. No matter what you get though it's mighty tasty.

- Slappy Cakes: <http://www.slappycakes.com/>

The DIY pancake place. Think Bulgogi but with pancakes as you grill your own right there at your table!

- Sweet Hereafter: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/sweet-hereafter-portland-2>

A vegan bar. Its namesake is an amazing cocktail of tea, vodka, and bourbon served in a mason jar.

- La Provence / Petite Provence: <http://provencepdx.com/>

A French bakery with absolutely killer croissants. And since it's Portland, this place does an amazing breakfast as well.

- McMenamins - Kennedy School: <http://www.mcmenamins.com/427-kennedy-school-home>

McMenamins purchases old vacant buildings and remodels them into restaurants. In this case they purchased an old school where you can watch second run movies, grab a bite to eat, or even rent a room.

- Grilled Cheese Grill: <http://grilledcheesegrill.com/>

Of all the food carts this is definitely one of my favorite. Enjoy your meal in an old remodeled school bus eating grilled cheese sandwiches the way only Portland can. If you are in the mood for poutine I have also heard great things about Potato Champion in SE.

- Mothers Bistro: <http://www.mothersbistro.com/>

Popular eatery from morning to night. You can always find something new here because each month they feature dishes from a special M.O.M. (Mother of the Month).

Food Carts & Food Pods! There are a ton of food carts spread throughout the city with some amazing and varied options available. When several food carts are located in the same area it is known as a pod and here is a link for more information on some of the best pods you can find in Portland:

<https://www.travelportland.com/article/food-cart-pods/>

Shopping & Things To Do:

*Portland is divided into quadrants (NE, SE, NW, SW). Each quadrant is made up of neighborhoods, generally titled by its most popular street. Portland is also separated East and West by the Willamette River that runs through the middle of the city. And just to the North of Portland is Washington State that resides on the other side of the Columbia River.

**The State of Oregon does not have sales tax. So pack light and shop while you're here!

Downtown

- Powell's Books: <http://www.powells.com/>

The largest bookstore in the world, there are maps at the front desk to help navigate through the color-coded rooms and multiple stories of books, sold both new and used.

- Pioneer Place: <http://www.pioneerplace.com/>

This downtown mall takes up 4 city blocks and is connected by tunnels that stretch under the busy downtown streets. Nothing you won't find at any other mall in America, but if it's a hot day out, it may be a nice place to cool off and do a little tax-free shopping.

- Pioneer Square: <http://www.pioneercourthousesquare.org/>

Pioneer Square is basically Portland's piazza, hosting concerts, festivals, skateboarders and shoppers. Both Pioneer Place and Square are located directly on the free streetcar*.

*<http://www.travelportland.com/visitors/transportation.html>

- Saturday Market: <http://www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com/>

This market is huge, spreading along Portland's waterfront - a popular place for both locals and visitors!

- Ground Kontrol: <http://groundkontrol.com/>

Classic arcade with alcohol and food. Popular hangout spot for those feeling nostalgic.

- Portland Walking Tours: <http://www.portlandwalkingtours.com/>

Offers tours on everything from food carts, the underground shanghai tunnels, to the paranormal. My personal favorite that I would suggest is The Best of Portland.

West / SW - Washington Park/Beaverton/Hillsboro

- Washington Park: <http://www.washingtonparkpdx.org/>

"With over 400 acres of trees, gardens, attractions [The Portland Zoo, The Portland Rose Garden, The Hoyt Arboretum, etc] and 15 miles of trails, this is an oasis of green space just minutes from downtown Portland."

- International Rose Test Garden:

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/index.cfm?action=viewpark&propertyid=1113>

Portland is also known as the City of Roses. With places like this it's easy to see why. With over 7000 roses and more than 500 varieties, if you love roses, this is the place for you.

- Japanese Gardens: <http://japanesegarden.com/>

Absolutely beautiful and serene! A great place to wander around and relax.

- Uwajimaya: <http://www.uwajimaya.com/>

Authentic Japanese grocery store that has everything from books to tea sets to delicious snacks.

SE - Hawthorne/Clinton

- Hawthorne St: <http://www.portlandneighborhood.com/hawthorne.html>

Definitely one of the most popular neighborhoods for walking/shopping/bars/food.

- Hopscotch: <https://letshopscotch.com/locations/portland>

Immersive art exhibition that is sure to tickle all of your senses. Last I checked there was a month+ wait to get in so make sure to book ahead.

- Roosevelt's Terrarium : <https://www.rooseveltspx.com/>

Make sure to book a class now to learn all about terrariums as you build your own with this truly amazing

experience.

- Laurelhurst Park: <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/finder/index.cfm?&action=ViewPark&propertyid=224>
Portland has more parks than anywhere else I have ever seen. Laurelhurst may be the best - it even has a duck pond! A great spot for a picnic or a stroll. This park is also at the heart of one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of homes in Portland.

- Mt. Tabor: <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/finder/index.cfm?PropertyID=275&action=ViewPark>
Lots of trails and just a beautiful place especially for the views.

- Belmont St: <http://www.portlandneighborhood.com/belmont.html>
Sandwiched in between Hawthorne and Laurelhurst, Belmont hosts some of my favorite restaurants and bars, not to mention the nickel arcade, Avalon.

NW - The Pearl/Chinatown

- NW 23rd + NW 21st: <http://portlandor.about.com/od/shopping/ig/Portland-Shops---NW-23rd-Ave-/>
These streets are lined with local businesses ranging from clothing to chocolate. A great walk on a nice day.

- The Pearl District: <http://www.explorethepearl.com/>
About 8 years ago developers took the seediest part of Portland and transformed it into what it is today: The Pearl. This NW neighborhood is packed with restaurants, condos, art galleries, and shopping.

- Chinatown: <http://www.oldtownchinatown.net/>
This is the oldest part of downtown Portland. I'm including this more for its historical importance than anything else.

- Peculiarium: <https://peculiarium.com/>
Part store and part art gallery. Bizarre, strange, and freaky are just a few words to describe this awesome place near downtown.

- Forest Park: <https://www.travelportland.com/attractions/forest-park/>
At more than 8 miles long it is one of the country's largest urban forests.

N - Kenton/St. John's

- St. John's: <http://www.portlandneighborhood.com/stjohns.html>
As you probably know, Portland is connected east and west across the Willamette River by a series of about 12 bridges, each of them unique. The Fremont and Marquam bridges have great views of downtown as well as Mount Hood and Mount St Helens on the rare days when the sky is clear. The Steel Bridge is also pretty awesome with its old look and its central horizontal moving section. The St. John's Bridge is definitely up there as well. It is huge, green, gothic, and awesome.

- Wonderwood Springs: - <https://www.wonderwoodsprings.com/>
A fun artistic adventure that changes every couple of months so there is always something new to look forward

to. The local coffee bar next door also becomes part of the experience, so make sure to check that out as well!

- Sauvie Island: <http://sauvieisland.org/>

This little island is home to many family run farms that open up to the public for berry picking, pumpkin patches, corn mazes, and petting zoos. Sauvie Island also offers some mild walking trails and mini beaches.

- Skidmore Bluffs: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/skidmore-bluffs-portland>

Also known as Mocks Crest or Hipster Park. At the end of a street and just behind a row of houses when the sun sets you will find one of the most gorgeous views of the city.

NE - Alberta/Mississippi

- Alberta St: <http://www.portlandneighborhood.com/alberta-street.html>

Shopping! Food!

- Mississippi St: <https://embracesomeplace.com/mississippi-avenue-portland/>

Shopping! Food!

- Paxton Gate: <http://www.paxtongatepdx.com/>

A treasure trove of garden and scientific oddities including taxidermy, bones and skulls, framed and mounted insects, jewelry, affordable art, fossils & minerals, and more.

Places To Go Outside of Portland:

The Oregon Coast (West of Portland):

<http://www.traveloregon.com/Explore%20Oregon/Oregon%20Coast.aspx>

*About a 2 hour drive one way.

- Cape Lookout: http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_186.php

STUNNING

- Tillamook Cheese Factory: <http://www.tillamookcheese.com/>

. "Cheese, Gromit!"

- Cannon Beach: <http://www.cannonbeach.org/>

Location of the absolutely stunning Haystack Rock!

- Astoria: <http://www.astoria.or.us/>

Historic town where they filmed *The Goonies*.

- Seaside: <http://www.seasideor.com/>

Very touristy but fun little town right on the coast.

Columbia Gorge (East of Portland):

*About an hour drive one way. The main attraction out this way is the stunning Multnomah Falls.

- Historic Columbia River Highway: <https://www.oregon.com/attractions/historic-columbia-river-highway>

This is the nation's oldest scenic highway and is also the first highway to be registered as a National Historic Landmark. As you travel east along I-84 don't forget to take this scenic route, you won't be disappointed.

- Chanticleer Point: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chanticleer_Point

First scenic stop on the way to the falls.

- Crown Point: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_Point_%28Oregon%29

Second scenic stop on the way to the falls. Location of the Vista House for those needing a pit stop.

- Multnomah Falls: http://trips.stateoforegon.com/multnomah_falls/

Beautiful, fun, and a mild hike. Second tallest waterfall in the U.S. Split between 2 parts with a bridge overlooking the bottom half.

- Horsetail Falls: <http://www.waterfallswest.com/waterfall.php?id=132>

Hike halfway in and you find yourself under this beautiful waterfall. Located just past Multnomah Falls.

- Hood River: <http://ci.hood-river.or.us/pageview.aspx?id=25019>

This outdoorsy city offers sports equipment rental stores (think kite flying) to small sandwich shops. Don't forget to stop off at the local hang out 'Mike's Ice Cream' for a delicious treat.

Nearby Mountains:

- Mount St. Helen's: <http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnm/mshnvm/>

One hour drive north of Portland. It is quite a sight to see what's left of the mountain and the blown down trees even after all these years. It's still considered an active volcano.

- Ape Caves: <https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/ape-cave>

A popular 2.5 mile long lava tube near Mt St Helens. Make sure to bring a flashlight and a jacket. The caves are a constant 42 degrees all year long.

- Mount Hood: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Hood

Two hour drive east of Portland. Skiing, tubing, and snowboarding are available here almost year round. The three major resorts are Meadows, Ski Bowl, and Timberline. Timberline Lodge is the highest resort on Mt Hood where they filmed some of the exterior shots for The Shining.

Salem, Oregon (South of Portland):

*About an hour drive one way

- Evergreen Aviation Museum: <http://new.sprucegoose.org/>

Home of the Spruce Goose, made almost entirely out of wood, it is one of the largest airplanes ever made. They also have tanks just outside and an indoor waterpark right next door.

- Frank Lloyd Wright - Gordon House: <http://thegordonhouse.org/>

Located in Silverton, Oregon. Schedule a tour and make sure to check out a truly overwhelming site, especially if you are a fan of architecture. The amount of thought that went into this house is awe inspiring.

- The Oregon Garden: <https://www.oregongarden.org/>

Located in Silverton, Oregon. Open year round, the best time to go is April - October when you can take a complimentary tram and tour the 80 acre botanical garden and hear about the 20+ themed gardens including a Children's Garden, a Medicinal Garden, a Pet-Friendly Garden, and many more.

Wineries (Most are Near Salem, Oregon):

If you are a fan of wine the Pacific Northwest is well known for its great selection of Pinot Noir

- Bethel Heights <http://www.bethelheights.com/>

My personal favorite in the area.

- Elk Cove <http://www.elkcove.com/>

Offers a breathtaking view from their tasting room.

- Red Hills Market <http://www.redhillsmarket.com/>

When you are out wine tasting and feeling a little peckish make sure to swing by for a bite to eat.

Crater Lake National Park:

<https://www.nps.gov/crla/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm>

Located Southeast of Portland and is about a 4 hour drive one way. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the U.S. and the view here is absolutely stunning.

Seattle:

*About a 4 hour drive North from Portland one way

Meconi's Italian Subs <http://www.meconissubs.com/>

Located halfway between Seattle and Portland in Olympia, Washington. This popular Olympia classic is fantastic.

Archie McPhee <http://www.mcphee.com/shop/>

Lots of fun, weird, awesome things like Squirrel Underpants, bacon toothpaste, and an inflatable brain.

Space Needle <http://www.spaceneedle.com/>

It's a large needley pointy space thing. Nice views from up top. I suggest getting dessert from the rotating restaurant at the space needle before going up to the top. You get cheap valet parking, a delicious dessert, a shorter wait to the top, and the observation deck price is included with your meal.

Pike Place Market <http://www.pikeplacemarket.org/>

Large outdoor/indoor market snuzzled against the waterfront. You get to watch people throw fish and if that wasn't enough the 1st Starbucks ever is located there as well.

Experience Music Project & Science Fiction Museum <http://www.empsfm.org/>

As brought to you by one of the founders of Microsoft. With two museums for the price of one it has got a little bit of something for everyone.

Boeing Future of Flight <https://www.futureofflight.org/>

Take a tour inside the world's largest building (by volume) and watch jet airplanes being built before they take to the skies.

Buca di Beppo <http://www.bucadibeppo.com/>

Delicious Italian restaurant where each dish is meant to be shared. Their small items serve 2 or more and their large items serve 4 or more. They serve a meatball bigger than the size of your fist and their garlic bread is the size of a whole pizza.

Fremont Troll <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/2236>

Giant cool art project that has a huge beast gripping a VW bug under a bridge.

Seattle Underground Tour <http://www.undergroundtour.com/>

Fascinating underground tour of the old city that Seattle was built on top of.

Vancouver and British Columbia in Canada:

*About a 6.5 hour drive from Portland one way, don't forget to bring your passport!

Tim Hortons <http://www.timhortons.com/ca/en/index.html>

Portland has Voodoo Doughnut, Boston has Dunkin' Donuts, and Canada has Tim Hortons.

Granville Island <http://granvilleisland.com/>

Public Market and much more located under the Granville Street Bridge.

Stanley Park <http://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/stanley-park.aspx>

Covering 1000 acres, the park offers a multitude of indoor and outdoor activities. It features a 5.5 mile seawall that runs the perimeter, a petting farm, the Vancouver Aquarium and oodles of other recreational facilities.

Miscellaneous:

Check out <https://www.clippervacations.com/magazine/pacific-northwest-trip-ideas/> for more ideas and things to do in Oregon, Washington, and Canada!