



Portland

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Higgins (p232)
- ➔ Paley's Place (p232)
- ➔ Laurelhurst Market (p234)
- ➔ Bamboo Sushi (p233)
- ➔ Pok Pok (p233)

Best Places to Stay

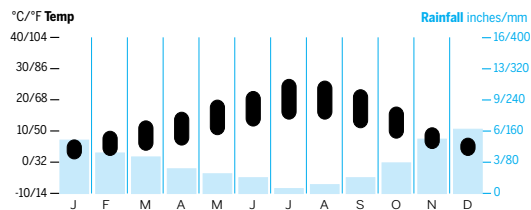
- ➔ Ace Hotel (p229)
- ➔ Nines (p229)
- ➔ Hawthorne Portland Hostel (p230)
- ➔ Kennedy School (p230)
- ➔ Jupiter Hotel (p230)

Why Go?

Dynamic yet mellow, Oregon's largest metropolis boasts a vibrant downtown across the Willamette River from charming neighborhoods full of friendly – and often zany – people. It hums with a youthful vitality and is home to a landslide of liberal idealists, but it's located in a state where back roads brim with Republican red. Here Gore-Tex rain jackets in fine restaurants are as common as sideburns on a hipster. A haven for eco-activists, cyclists, grungesters, outdoor nuts, vegans, gardeners and dog-lovers, all supporting countless brewpubs, coffeehouses, knitting circles, lesbian potlucks and book clubs, Portland is a livable metropolis with pretty neighborhoods and a friendly, small-town atmosphere. It's an up-and-coming destination that has finally found itself but keeps redefining its ethos with every controversy (fluoride, anyone?). Racially progressive, culturally diverse and politically charged, the city is also – as many folks from out of state have discovered – an awesome spot to plant roots, settle in and chill out for while.

When to Go

Portland



Apr–May Long-awaited spring-time flowers start blooming.

Jun–Sep Festivals galore, including the Oregon Brewer's Festival and the Bite of Oregon.

Nov–Mar Rainy season: visit museums, galleries, coffee shops, brewpubs...

Portland Planning

A visit to Portland doesn't require too much detailed planning. There are plenty of hotels of all kinds and budgets in and around the city, and only the most popular ones book up (usually in summer). You can walk into most restaurants, even the fanciest ones, in a hiking jacket and jeans. Dinner reservations are taken at some of the most popular restaurants (others don't take reservations for groups under six). Portland is a laid-back kinda town.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH: SAUVIE ISLAND

About a 20-minute drive from downtown is **Sauvie Island** (www.sauvieisland.org), an agricultural oasis providing an excellent break from Portland's bustle. Its flat, 12-mile country-road loop also makes it a popular place for weekend cyclists.

The 12,000-acre **Sauvie Island Wildlife Area** includes a wetland sanctuary for thousands of migratory ducks, geese, tundra swans, bald eagles and Sandhill cranes. Permanent residents include peregrine falcons, great blue herons, foxes and beavers.

During summer, don't miss the opportunity to pick strawberries, peaches, corn and flowers – try **Kruger's** or **Sauvie Island Farms**, both on NW Sauvie Island Rd.

Beach-heads should visit **Walton Beach**, a decent stretch of sand on the island's eastern side. Leashed dogs are allowed, but fires and camping are not. Nudies can head toward **Collins Beach** at the northern end, past the pavement.

The refuge and beaches require a \$7 parking permit; get one from the Fish & Wildlife Office or an island store.

Transportation

➔ **Public transportation** Transit buses, the streetcar and the MAX light-rail system all link up and can get you nearly everywhere (www.trimet.org). Taxi companies are abundant, and another (more green) option is bike pedicab services.

➔ **Bicycle** Portland's often named 'the most bike-friendly city in the US.' Bicycle lanes are plentiful and several shops rent bikes. For bike maps see www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/34809.

➔ **Car** Parking on the east side of the city is generally easy to find; downtown, SmartPark garages offer affordable parking (www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/35272). Northwest neighborhoods and the Pearl District often have metered parking; finding a spot here can be harder. Car-share programs like Zipcar are popular.

For more details on transportation options in the city, see p242.

PORTLANDERS

Simpsons creator Matt Groening, notorious figure skater Tonya Harding and Nobel Prize-winning chemist Linus Pauling all hail from Portland.

For Kids

- ➔ Oregon Zoo (p219)
- ➔ Children's Museum (p219)
- ➔ Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (p223)
- ➔ Oaks Amusement Park (p223)
- ➔ PlayDate PDX (☎ 503-227-7529; www.playdatepdx.com; 1434 NW 17th Ave)

Oregon Fast Facts

- ➔ **Nickname** Beaver State
- ➔ **Population** 3.9 million
- ➔ **Capital** Salem
- ➔ **Home of** Crater Lake, Nike, spotted owls

Resources

- ➔ **Travel Portland** (www.travelportland.com) What to do, where to go, how to save...
- ➔ **Portland Food and Drink** (www.portlandfoodanddrink.com) Unbiased reviews of Portland's restaurants.
- ➔ **Portland Monthly Mag** (www.portlandmonthlymag.com) Interesting local content.
- ➔ **Oregon Live** (www.oregonlive.com) News, sport and entertainment.