



Portland

503 / POP 619,000 (2.35 MILLION IN METRO AREA)

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Langbaan (p231)
- ➔ Ava Gene's (p230)
- ➔ Laurelhurst Market (p230)
- ➔ Imperial (p227)
- ➔ Pok Pok (p228)
- ➔ Ox (p230)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Ace Hotel (p223)
- ➔ Nines (p223)
- ➔ Hawthorne Portland Hostel (p224)
- ➔ Kennedy School (p224)
- ➔ Society Hotel (p223)

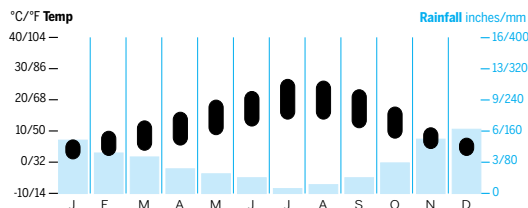
Why Go?

Oregon's largest city used to seem like a well-kept secret, for travelers as well as those who live here: it had all the cultural advantages of a major city, but the feel and affordability of a small town. But little old Stumptown is growing up, in many ways.

Most of the changes happening in Portland are for the better. Sure, parking might be a little harder, and grubby dive bars now pretty scarce, but on the other hand, there's a coffee roastery and a craft brewery on just about every block. And the food carts – more and better than ever.

Portland has an almost unfair abundance of natural beauty – perfect parks, leafy trees, vibrantly flowering shrubs lining pretty residential streets, the Willamette River meandering through town, and Mt Hood on the horizon. And the open-minded, appealingly off-kilter vibe of the place – that whole 'Keep Portland Weird' thing – certainly hasn't changed. These days, there's just more to love.

When to Go Portland



Apr–May Long-awaited spring-time flowers are in peak bloom.

Jun–Sep Festivals galore, including the Oregon Brewers Festival and the Bite of Oregon.

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



Portland Highlights

- 1 Coffee (p233)** Settling into a comfy cafe with a perfect espresso and a good book.
- 2 Breweries (p233)** Sampling a wide variety of microbrews in one of the city's 50-plus breweries (more than any other city in the world).
- 3 Japanese Garden (p213)** Seeking peace and quiet in

this lush and tranquil garden.

- 4 Saturday Market (p212)** Wandering through craft stalls, grabbing a bite and taking in street performers' antics.
- 5 'Last Thursday' (p225)** Partying with the crowds on NE Alberta St, where artists,

musicians and buskers compete for attention.

- 6 Theaters (p234)** Enjoying a movie with pizza and beer at one of many second-run or art-house theaters.
- 7 Forest Park (p217)** Taking a walk in the country's largest urban park, with more than 70 miles of woody trails.