



**REACH OUT
AND RETREAT**
— PORTLAND, OREGON —

A Visitor's Guide to Portland



Welcome to Portland, a place known for rain, coffee, craft beer, bikes, mountains, trees, bridges, and so much more! We've created this little guide to give you a slice of the many different elements this fun city.

While we've created this guide to center around The Benson Hotel; Portland is expansive, with Portland proper covering over 133 square miles. Some recommendations are included which are further out in some of Portland's beloved neighborhoods like Alberta, Hollywood, St. Johns, and Belmont. You can easily access these destinations and more through TriMet, Portland's transit system, which includes the MAX Light Rail and The Portland Streetcar. The Yellow and Green Max lines are just one block from the hotel. Use this QR code to access a map to all these options plus many more!

Portland Icons

These places are quintessential Portland. See also: the **scavenger hunt** which takes you on a two-mile walking loop to visit many of these sites and more.

- **Portland Aerial Tram** – See Portland from the sky on the tram (bonus: we have Reach Out and Read clinics at the top and bottom of the ride!)
- **Portland, OR White Stag Sign** – This famous neon sign makes for a great photo op.
- **Portland Waterfront** – See the Willamette and glimpse why Portland is often called Bridgetown.
- **Mills End Park** – See the world's smallest park in person, also found along the waterfront.
- **Pioneer Courthouse Square** – Also known as Portland's living room this is a popular outdoor gathering space with public art, food, and frequent festivals.
- **MadeHere** – Located across from Powell's this shop features all PNW-made items.
- **Burgerville** – Famous fast-food chain in the PNW made with PNW-sourced ingredients. The milkshakes, dairy-free shakes and seasonals are always crowd-pleasers.
- **Darcelle's** – A 21+ venue that is now a historic site, stop in for a show if you're still here Friday. The namesake Darcelle was certified to be the world's oldest drag queen and worked until passing in 2023 at 92. Bonus: find many homages to Darcelle throughout the city.
- **PDX** – Portland's airport focuses on local and features everything "Oregon." Treat yourself at the Tillamook Creamery, watch a film at The Hollywood Theater, and more. Don't forget your shoe pic with the famous carpet!

Book Lovers Recommend

Just a few highlights from a city that loves to read.

- **Powell's City of Books** – The world's largest independent bookstore, occupying an entire city block with approximately 1 million new and used books. A can't miss and only a 5 min. walk!
- **Heathman Hotel** – Stop for drinks at the bar and enjoy the hotel's lobby library. At 2 stories tall it includes only authors who have stayed there. Bonus: 2,700 of the 4,000+ books are signed.
- **The Stacks Coffeehouse** – A neighborhood coffee shop filled with books and breakfast tacos near the Alberta district.
- **Green Bean Books** – An adorable kids lit only bookstore in the Alberta neighborhood.
- **The Knowledge and Reading Matters Murals** – The Knowledge is a block long mural of books on the Portland State campus. Reading Matters is on the side of Powell's. Great for photos!

Locals Recommend

Food, drink, dessert, and more: highly recommended by locals & within walking distance of the hotel.

- **Blue Star Donuts** – Voodoo is fun, but locals skip the lines and get the best donuts here.
- **SW 5th Food Carts** – Portland is known for its food cart pods, and El Pilon, a cart serving authentic Colombian food, never disappoints.

- **Luc Lac Vietnamese Kitchen** – Counter service style restaurant which can become quite packed during peak hours, but most find it's worth the wait. (Vegan and GF options)
- **Saint Cupcake** – With mini cupcakes available what's not to love? (vegan options)
- **Tanaka** – Japanese Sandos across the street from Saint Cupcake.
- **Everyday Music** – Longtime music store, guaranteed to give you that nostalgic feel.
- **Fried Egg I'm In Love** – A convenient food cart location in Pioneer Courthouse Square open until 2pm for egg-centered meals (including the Vegan and Sara option).
- **Mother's** – Voted Portland's Best Comfort Food this bistro in Old Town is near Stumptown, Voodoo and more (try the salmon omelet).
- **McMenamin's Hal's Café** – Classic NW food, drinks and vibes (Vegan and GF options)
- **Killer Burger** – The peanut butter bacon burger is what made them famous, but you can't go wrong with any order. Can be made vegan or veg.
- **Bing Mi** – Dumpling and noodle bar also serving jianbing – sit down location or food cart option.
- **Lan Su Chinese Garden** – Serenity and beauty found in Downtown Portland in Historic China Town. The garden is wheelchair accessible. Bonus: tea house on site and only .5 mi walk from the hotel.

Keep Portland Weird

Experience Portland's officially unofficial motto for yourself.

- **Voodoo Doughnuts** – World famous for its unconventional donuts and off-beat vibes this donut shop (& part-time wedding chapel) is the original and iconic location.
- **Keep Portland Weird Sign** – On the side of the same building as Voodoo don't miss your chance to take a pic with this famous mural.
- **Salt & Straw** – Ice cream flavors you probably won't find anywhere else. Olive Oil, Bone Marrow, Guava and Cheese, and so much more. (Vegan options available)
- **The Freakybuttrue Peculiarium** – A museum of all things weird and unusual, they are certainly doing their part to Keep Portland Weird.
- **Rimsky-Korsakoffee House** – Quirky late night coffee spot with desserts and live music. A local legend. Note: cash only and possibly haunted.

Branch Out a Bit

Here for an extra day or two? Ready to ride the MAX and see more of Portland? These are further out can't miss spots.

- **Papa Haydn** – This just might be the best dessert you ever try. Cakes and more by the slice are what this café is famous for in the Alphabet district.
- **McMenamin's Kennedy School** – Kennedy School with multiple bars and restaurants throughout an old school is a classic example of McMenamin's beloved NW style. Filled with local art it's free to wander. Near the Alberta Arts District.
- **Portland Japanese Garden** – Proclaimed to be the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan.
- **Fire on the Mountain** – Pizza and wings in a classic Portland style with locations across the city.
- **Wonderwood Springs** – Created by a local artist this immersive restaurant has a companion indoor mini golf all from the mind of Mike Bennett.
- **Electric Castle's Wunderland** – A nickel arcade in an old theater, a couple of screens still show movies, the rest of the theater houses games costing 5 cents and up.
- **Movie Madness** – A local fave and long-time fixture and a must stop for all movie fans.