


PORTLAND, OREGON

RELOCATION INFORMATION



A large, illuminated sign for Portland, Oregon, mounted on a building. The sign features the word "Portland" in a large, stylized, white font with green outlines, and "Oregon" below it in a similar style. Above the word "Portland" is a white reindeer with red and green accents. The sign is supported by a complex metal framework. At the bottom of the sign, there is a red banner with the words "OLD TOWN" in white, bold letters. The background is a clear blue sky.

Portland, also known as the City of Roses, sits nicely off the USA's West Coast and is home to more than half a million Oregonians. It's the largest and most populous city in Oregon and has earned many an accolade: fifth-best place to visit in Oregon, ninth-best foodie city in the States and 16th-best summer vacation spot in the country. This guide will enable you to dive into all things Portland and get a taste of the best neighborhoods, dining, shopping, outdoor activities and more. Let's get started!

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DOWNTOWN LIVING

Downtown Portland features an array of living options, from those built in the early 1900s to recently completed high-rises which dot the city skyline. Prices per square foot range between \$400 and \$500, with ownership costs hovering around \$250,000 and above. Popular neighborhoods in the heart of the city include the Pearl District and South Waterfront, each offering its own chic atmosphere for which Rose City is known.

The Northwest / Nob Hill section is densely populated by more than 14,000 Portlanders. It's a trendy neighborhood lined with boutique shops, tasty eats and cafés, as well as the Portland campus of Linfield College. The city's streetcar system connects Nob Hill to the Pearl District, South Waterfront and Portland State University. Whether you're there for the day or choose to call Nob Hill home, be sure to hit some of its best places to eat – including Paley's Place and Twenty First Avenue Kitchen & Bar – and top off the evening at Breakside Brewing.

Located in southwest Portland, Arlington Heights is one of the most family-friendly neighborhoods near downtown. Settled along the Tualatin mountain range, its neighborhoods feature some of the city's top parks amid several hundred single-family homes. The Portland Children's Museum is nearby, as is Washington Park, one of the most popular and active parks in the state. The area is also home to Lincoln High School, one of the top-ranked public schools in Oregon and the flagship of the Portland Public School System, which ranks among the top 15 percent across the state, according to Niche.com.



LAKE OSWEGO LIVING

One of the most affluent neighborhoods in Portland, [Lake Oswego](#) is a popular destination for executives. The area is just 8 miles from downtown and 45 minutes to the Oregon capitol of Salem. You'll experience a bit of a rural feel with tall trees and greenery lining the man-made lake and neighborhood streets, where you'll see walkers and bikers taking advantage of the area's wide sidewalks.

Homes in the area are generally valued at \$1 million and above, with the majority of new construction in the area being multimillion-dollar households. The lake is overseen by the Lake Oswego Lake Association, which offers its members (determined by home address) access to more than 20 parks and boat docks.

Downtown boasts a variety of boutiques, restaurants, bakeries, art shops and more to explore at your leisure. In springtime, you will also find the [Lake Oswego Farmers' Market](#), which features a plethora of local vendors, live entertainment and, of course, great food.

The [Lake Oswego School District](#) enrolls more than 7,000 students and ranks as the top district in the state. It receives high marks from Niche.com for its teachers, college prep and overall academics, with student proficiencies exceeding 75 percent in both reading and math. Niche ranks the district as Oregon's runner-up for teacher performance and fifth best for athletics statewide.

SHERWOOD LIVING

Ranked as the best suburb in the Portland metro area by HomeSnacks.net, Sherwood features the fourth-highest family income in the state and home-value averages topping \$388,800. Average commute time to downtown Portland is roughly 45 minutes.

The city is in the midst of an aggressive expansion plan, dubbed Sherwood 2040, that aims to boost its economy by attracting new employers and building new residential communities in addition to mixed-use facilities, to name a few. View the full slate of projects associated with Sherwood 2040.

The Sherwood School District ranks 11th overall in the state, according to Niche.com, and 12th for athletics. More than 5,300 students attend the district's schools across kindergarten through 12th grade. With a growing population, the Sherwood public school system has made a significant financial commitment to facilities development, beginning with the new Sherwood High School which opened in fall 2020.



Located just east of Lake Oswego, [West Linn](#) offers scenic views of the [Williamette River](#) and [Mount Hood](#). The majority of homes in West Linn were constructed after 1990, making for a variety of large, newer homes. Upscale houses can be had for a price between \$500,000 and \$1 million, though less expensive neighborhoods can be found scattered across the area. West Linn lies just 12 miles south of downtown.

According to [SkyBlue Portland](#), many of the area's best neighborhoods and gated communities – including Cascade Summit, Le Chevalier and Stafford Hill Ranch – are found nestled in the hills surrounding Portland proper. Given the area's terrain, you'll find more than 600 acres of park land that ranges from active areas to picnic and skate facilities. Eighteen miles of trails weave throughout the spacious settings.

Whether you're a foodie who enjoys a good bite (visit [Bugatti's Ristorante](#) or the [Allium Bistro](#)), a lover of sports ([Sandelie Golf Course](#) is the place for you) or someone who enjoys shopping till you drop (see the River Falls and [Robinwood Shopping Centers](#), as well as the [West Linn Central Village](#)), West Linn has everything you'll need to love calling the area home.

Its population is largely comprised of upper-middle class families with children. The [West Linn-Wilsonville School District](#) is the second best in the state, according to Niche.com, and serves nearly 10,000 students in total. The district tops the state rankings in athletics and is fifth in teacher performance.



Portland's dining scene is no joke, as evidenced by its ranking as the nation's ninth-best food city. We could write a book on the restaurants you should visit, but for now we'll highlight just a few:

Yonder: The Pacific Northwest may not strike you as a hot spot for Southern cuisine, but one trip to Yonder and you might change your mind. Chef Maya Lovelace – originally from Beaufort, North Carolina – brought her culinary experience from Atlanta and Charleston all the way to the West Coast to open this gem. Yonder's chicken comes in your choice of three signature styles: dusted (a signature dry spice blend), dipped (drenched with a zesty, zippy NC-inspired sauce) or hot (fired up with spicy, blazing-hot lard). Of course, this joint also offers Southern-style sides like bacon-braised collard greens, limas and rice; baked pimento mac and cheese; cornbread and more.

Scotch Lodge: Modern French cuisine, craft cocktails and a world-class whiskey selection come together to form this decadent French dining experience. Lodge food options include fried brie, jumbo white asparagus, hanger steak brochette and braised lamb shoulder. As for the cocktails: No Sleep Till (mezcal, single malt scotch, amaretto, coriander-infused vermouth), Nobody's Post (10-year aged bourbon, pineapple rum, pineapple oleo, coconut oolong demerara and cinnamon) and Namesake (islay whiskey, cherry liqueur, sweet vermouth, amaro and orange bitters).

Assembly Brewing: This local favorite boasts a combination of three impressive things: Detroit pizza, Oregon beers and of course old-school Portland vibes. Assembly's Detroit Style Pizza is an ode to this regional favorite and uses what it calls "what up dough." The menu also holds appetizers, salads and sandwiches such as grilled chicken skewers, pepperoni rolls, split pea dip, Caesar salad, meatball sandwich, pesto chicken panini and more.

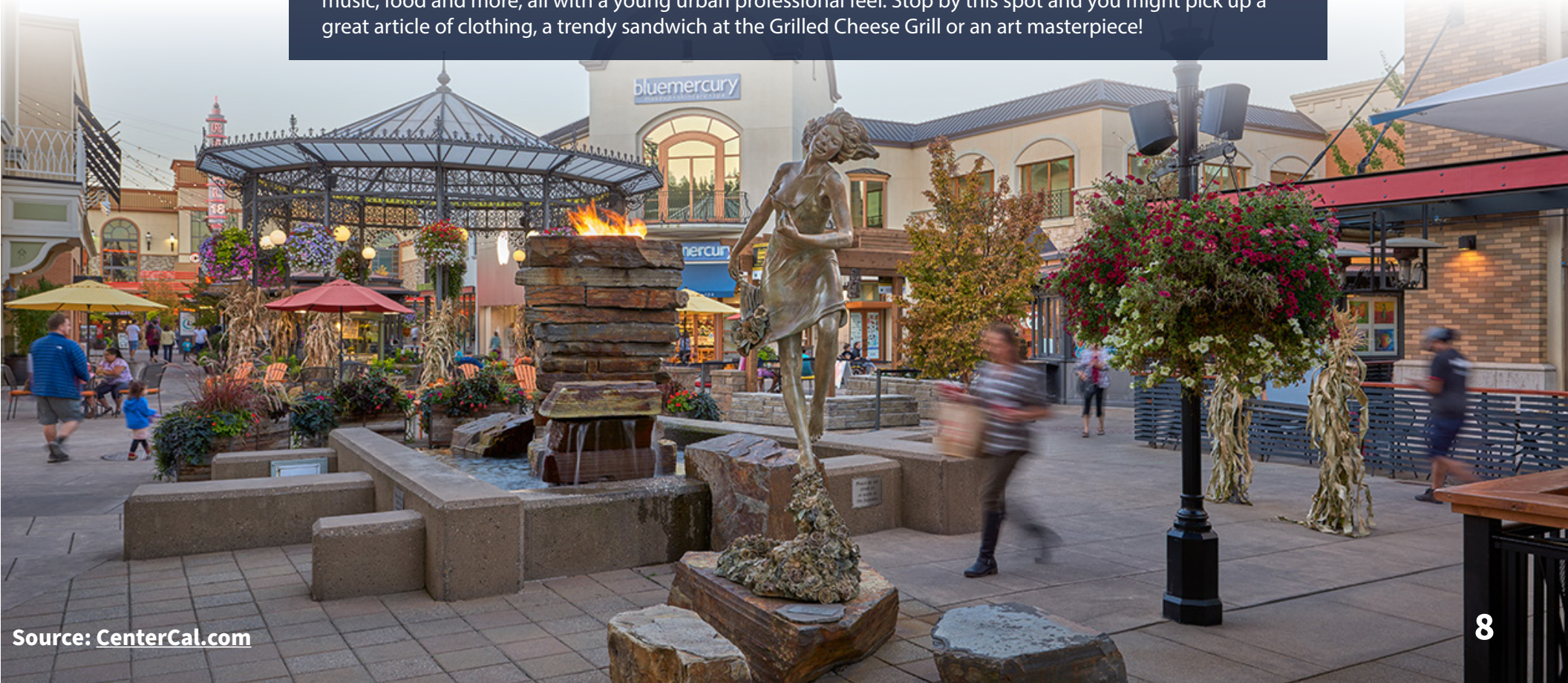
For more on what the full Portland food scene offers, visit Thrillist.com

PORTLAND SHOPPING

Portland offers a variety of lively spots for the fashion lover in you. Best known is Downtown Portland, of course. Its wide sidewalks and manageable size make it easy to hit all the major districts or simply take a leisurely walk from the Waterfront to Pioneer Square. While in the area, be sure to pass by the famous Portlandia statue, the second largest copper statue in the States, right after the statue of liberty.

If you prefer a more traditional mall setup, head over to Bridgeport Village. This upscale mall features all the trendy shops and dining options you can think of, with potted planters lining the way and string lights hanging above you. Throughout the summer, Bridgeport Village hosts a lineup of community events, from dollar movies to free Sunday-morning yoga classes as well as live music in the Center Court.

If you're one for entertainment, with a little shopping mixed in, the Alberta Arts District is a must. Fondly called the "epicenter of youth and culture," this area is packed with galleries, cafes, bars and locally owned shops. Every last Thursday of the month, it hosts Portland's largest art event. "Last Thursday" showcases art, music, food and more, all with a young urban professional feel. Stop by this spot and you might pick up a great article of clothing, a trendy sandwich at the Grilled Cheese Grill or an art masterpiece!



PORTLAND ARTS & CULTURE

Music, film, visual arts, museums, historic sites and performing arts ... [Portland has it all!](#)

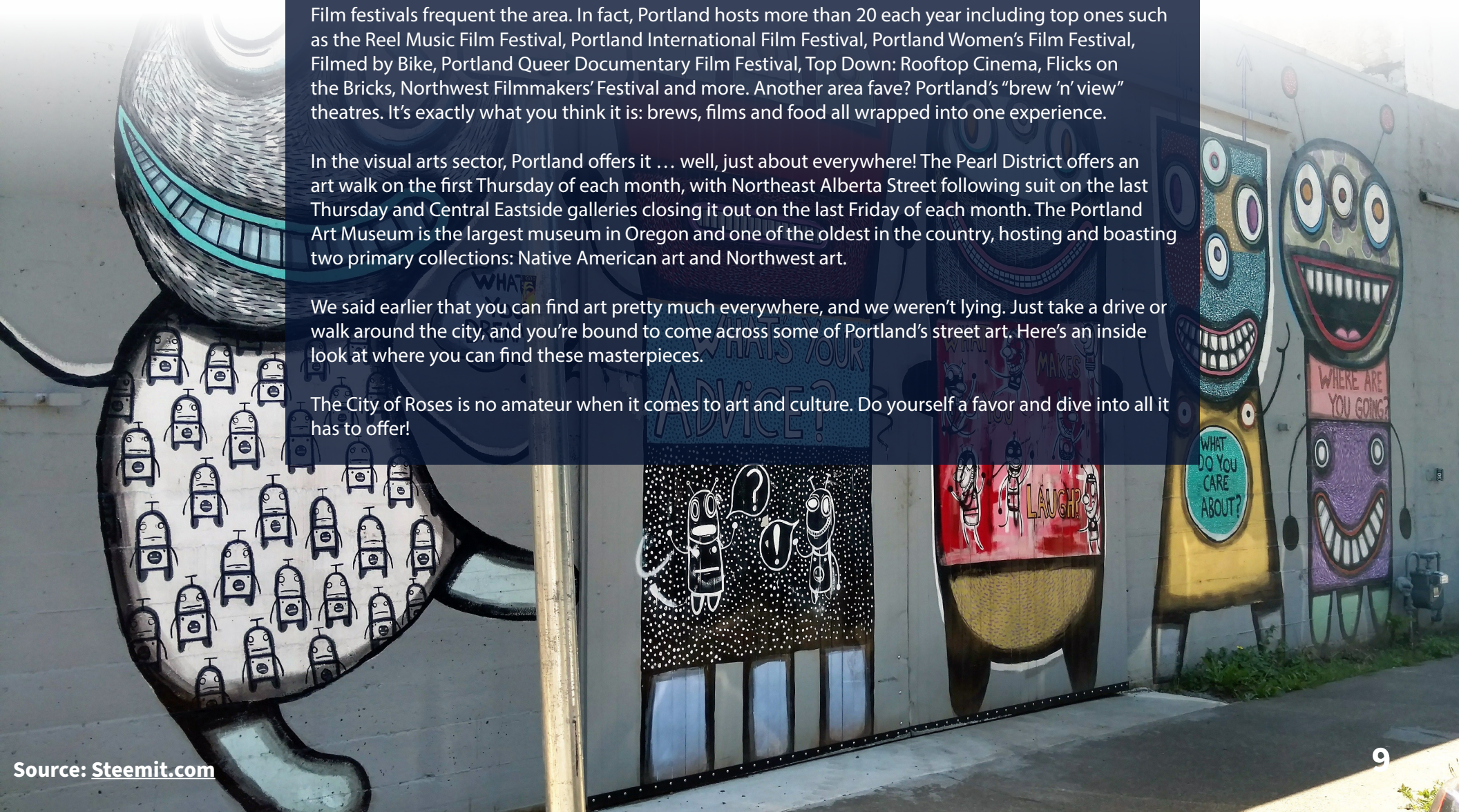
The music scene is one that caters to many tastes: indie rock, jazz, classical, pop, the list goes on and on. The Doug Fir Lounge and Mississippi Studios & Bar Bar – yes, you read that right – along with Wonder Ballroom and Revolution Hall are just a few spots for live music. [Click here for the full list.](#)

Film festivals frequent the area. In fact, Portland hosts more than 20 each year including top ones such as the Reel Music Film Festival, Portland International Film Festival, Portland Women's Film Festival, Filmed by Bike, Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival, Top Down: Rooftop Cinema, Flicks on the Bricks, Northwest Filmmakers' Festival and more. Another area fave? Portland's "brew 'n' view" theatres. It's exactly what you think it is: brews, films and food all wrapped into one experience.

In the visual arts sector, Portland offers it ... well, just about everywhere! The Pearl District offers an art walk on the first Thursday of each month, with Northeast Alberta Street following suit on the last Thursday and Central Eastside galleries closing it out on the last Friday of each month. The Portland Art Museum is the largest museum in Oregon and one of the oldest in the country, hosting and boasting two primary collections: Native American art and Northwest art.

We said earlier that you can find art pretty much everywhere, and we weren't lying. Just take a drive or walk around the city, and you're bound to come across some of Portland's street art. Here's an inside look at where you can find these masterpieces.

The City of Roses is no amateur when it comes to art and culture. Do yourself a favor and dive into all it has to offer!

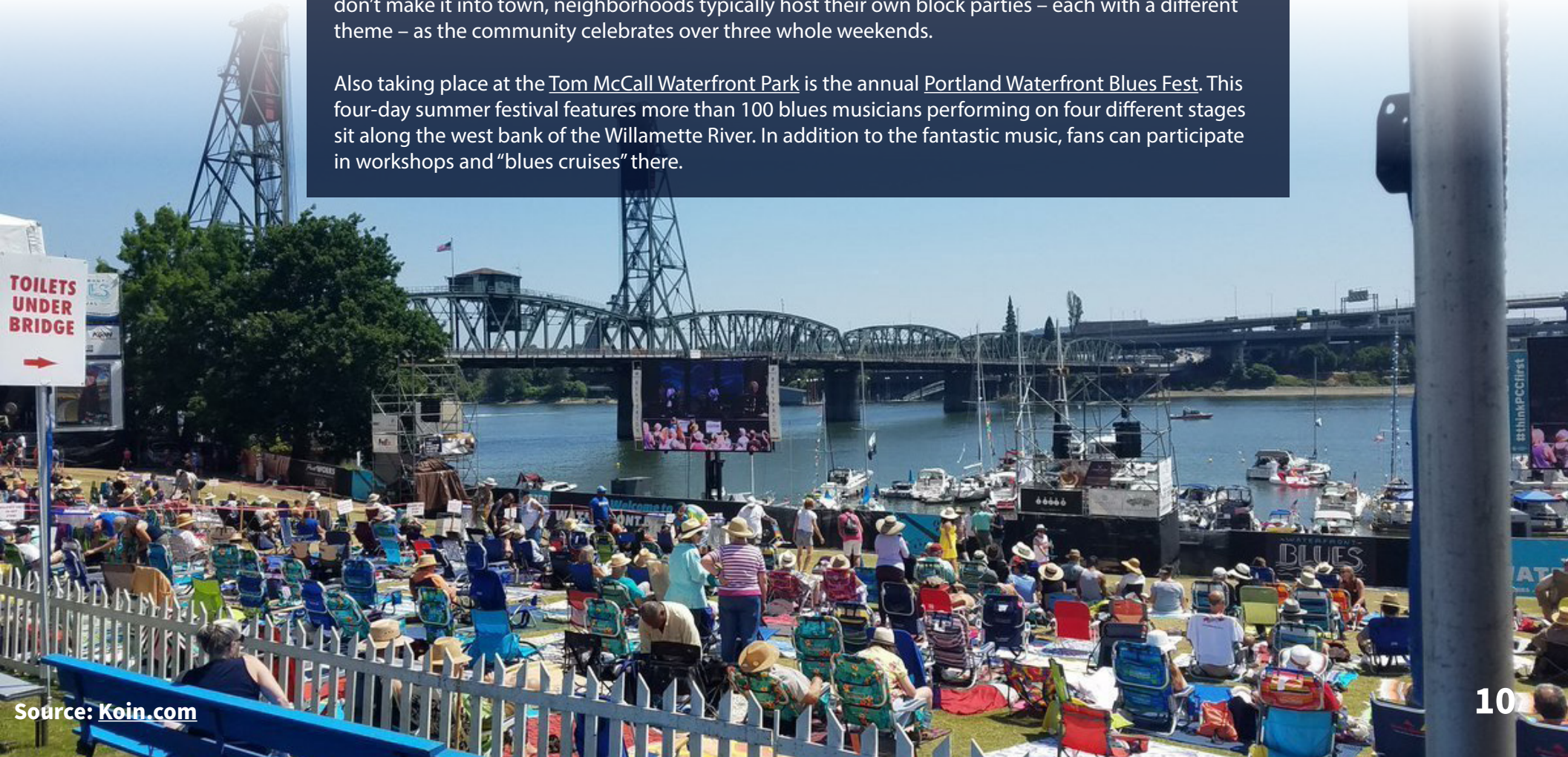


PORTLAND EVENTS & FESTIVALS

The sheer number of events and festivals which Portland hosts each month is impressive. In a city clearly excited to celebrate its community, the Portland Seafood & Wine Festival is one of the most popular. Taking place around January and February each year, this festival features more than 175 exhibitors showing off fresh Oregon seafood (particularly crab), wine from more than 65 local vineyards and entertainment for all ages including live music and balloon artists. This family-friendly event is a fun way to experience much of Oregon's finest.

The Portland Rose Festival is another event that draws residents from all over and is dedicated to celebrating the Greater Portland. This festival, held annually for more than a century, includes firework shows, three separate parades, boat races and carnival rides in the Tom McCall Waterfront Park. If you don't make it into town, neighborhoods typically host their own block parties – each with a different theme – as the community celebrates over three whole weekends.

Also taking place at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park is the annual Portland Waterfront Blues Fest. This four-day summer festival features more than 100 blues musicians performing on four different stages sit along the west bank of the Willamette River. In addition to the fantastic music, fans can participate in workshops and “blues cruises” there.



PORTLAND OUTDOORS



Portland is home to two beautiful rivers and lies within an hour of both the Pacific Ocean and Cascade Mountains. This means one thing in our eyes: loads of outdoor activities! Here's what the outdoor enthusiast in you can experience year-round:

Skiing and snowboarding: Hop in the car and drive east for about an hour and you'll find yourself at Mount Hood, called Wy'east by Oregon's Multnomah tribe. What's that? Can't make it to the slopes over the winter? That's A-OK. They're open during the summer too. Timberline Lodge is the mountain's only ski resort open year-round. There's also Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort and Mt. Hood Skibowl. As an Oregon resident, you're sure to add this "winter" sport to your list of to-dos.

Kayaking: Grab a friend and head to Portland Kayak Company or Alder Creek to rent a kayak! Then hop in Willamette River and kayak away, all with the beautiful Portland skyline in view.

Hike Forest Park: Forest Park is a nearly 5,200-acre area that is home to more than 80 miles of trails. Whether by feet, horseback or bike, you're sure to enjoy a day on the trails at this Portland treasure.

These are three of the more popular outdoor adventures in the area, but certainly not the only. Visit "The Gorge", run the White Salmon River or bike on Sauvie Island. Learn more about Portland's outdoor scene here.

Portland, a.k.a. Rip City, is home to the [Trail Blazers](#) basketball team – members of the NBA’s Western Conference and 1977 NBA champions. Several Hall of Fame inductees have called Portland home: including Lenny Wilkens, Bill Walton and Clyde Drexler. The team plays its 41 regular season games at the Moda Center in downtown Portland.

Soccer fans enjoy checking out the [Portland Timbers](#), who benefit from one of the top fan bases in Major League Soccer (MLS). The Timbers have sold out every home contest (21,144 seat capacity) since the organization’s inception in 2011. The franchise secured its first MLS Cup in 2015.

The [Hillsboro Hops](#), a Class A affiliate of Major League Baseball’s Arizona Diamondbacks, take the field in nearby Hillsboro, just 15 minutes from downtown Portland. America’s pastime has been a part of Portland’s history since 1901, with the last team to play within its city limits taking the diamond in 2010. The city has long remained a top contender to receive an MLB-level franchise in the event of expansion.

Music fans will be at home as well, with large venues and niche concert halls lining the streets of downtown. The city’s largest venue, [Moda Center](#), has hosted some of the world’s most popular acts from Coldplay to Celine Dion, as well as a variety of artists spanning numerous musical genres in front of more than 19,000 attendees per jam session.

Additional venues of note include [Aladdin Theater](#) and [Mississippi Studios](#). The former holds more than 600 with partial seating and standing room, and plays host to a variety of rock n’ roll bands, contemporary musicians and tribute bands throughout the calendar year. Mississippi Studios is a mid-sized venue with a bar, great food and a covered patio with fire pit in tow. The venue is fit for a casual night out with smooth jazz, local acts and pop acts frequently taking the stage.



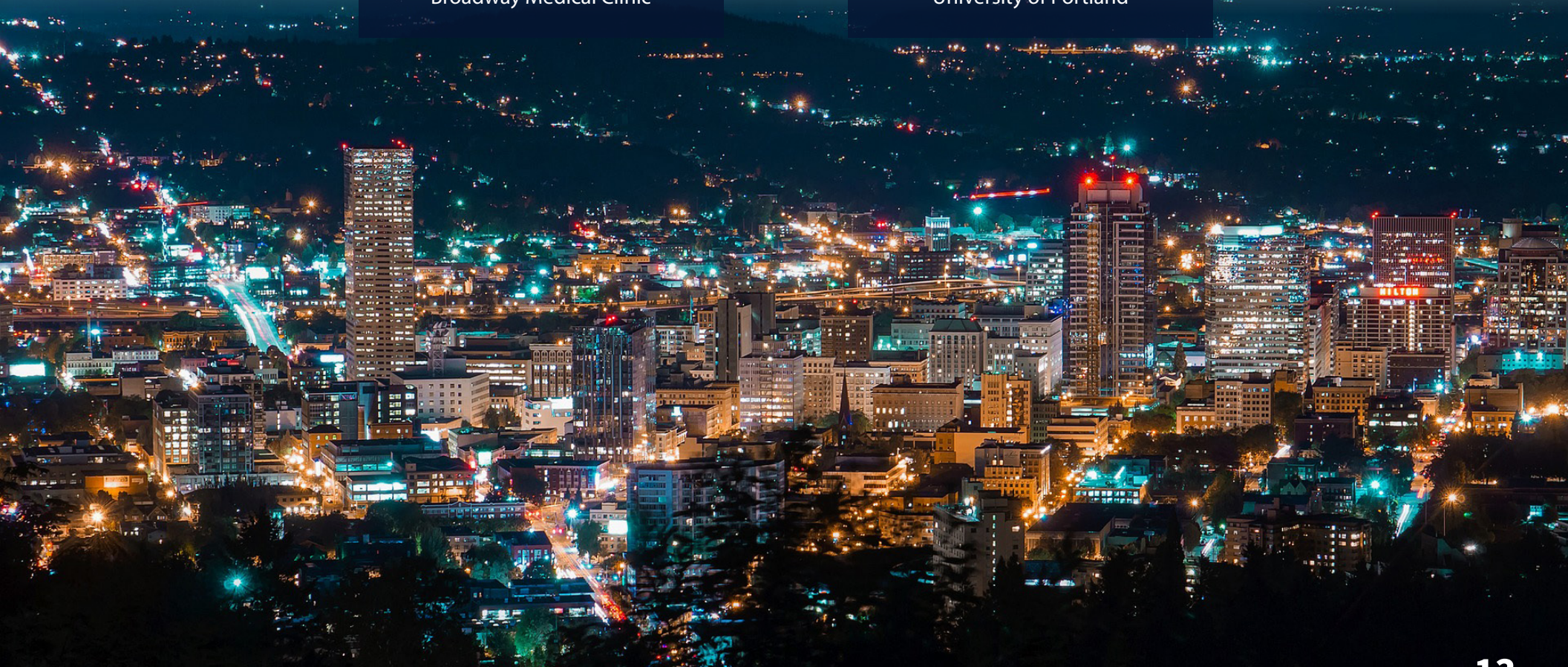
PORTLAND ORGANIZATIONS

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Schnitzer Steel
Columbia Sportswear
The Standard
Portland General Electric
Erickson Incorporated
Cambia Health Solutions
TE Medical
CareOregon
Broadway Medical Clinic

HIGHER EDUCATION

Portland State University
Art Institute of Portland
Pacific Northwest College of Art
Oregon Health & Science University
Reed College
Warner Pacific College
Concordia University
Lewis & Clark College
University of Portland



PORTLAND TRAVEL

The [Portland International Airport \(PDX\)](#) is situated approximately 30 minutes from downtown's center. There are several public transportation options to get around the city and throughout the suburbs. A popular option is the [MAX Light Rail](#), which has lines running to and from the city center, the airport and several major suburbs. Alternatively, the [TriMet bus system](#) serves a similar purpose with about 80 lines to choose from. If you're planning to stick around the central metro area, the [Portland Streetcar](#) is a quick and helpful option. Or if you prefer a personal vehicle, there are several car sharing options including [Cars2Go](#) and [Zipcar](#).

Little more than three hours away from center-city Portland is [Seattle, Washington](#). The Emerald City may be known for its rainy days and coffee (as the Starbucks headquarters, of course), but there's more to see – and do.

[Pike Place Market](#) is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike. Farmers' stands for seasonal products, produce stalls, fish markets, specialty food stores ... the list goes on and on, all in one location!

[The Space Needle](#), another well-known spot, was constructed in 1962. This breathtaking observation tower has a lot to offer including Skyrisers (floor-to-forever glass on glass benches); The Loupe (the world's first – and only – rotating glass floor); free professional photos; virtual reality experiences; and other interactive exhibits. There's also a café and wine bar in the tower for added fun.

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention the Seattle food scene. [Eater Seattle](#) lists 38 top restaurants in the area: Café Juanita, Flintcreek Cattle Co., Café Munir, The Shambles and Un Bien to name a few.

For sports fans, Seattle is home to a host of [professional teams](#) including the three-time WNBA champion Storm; the 2016 MLS champion Sounders FC; the 2013-14 Super Bowl champion Seahawks; MLB's Mariners; the National Women's Soccer League's Reign FC; Major League Rugby's Seawolves; and even an NHL squad starting play in 2021. There's lots to do in the Emerald City, so whether you're there for a day or a weekend, you're sure to be entertained!



GETAWAYS VANCOUVER

Vancouver, Canada (not to be confused with Portland's neighbor in Washington) is a breathtaking destination.

Sitting about five hours from Portland, this bustling seaport town offers a lively urban center surrounded by an abundance of natural beauty and possibilities for outdoor activities. Popular adventures include Capilano Suspension Bridge Park, Seawall and great natural resources for fishing and hiking.

Just 15 minutes from the city is Grouse Mountain. Here, visitors can zipline, visit the observatory, hike in the summer or ski in winter. Vancouver is also known as Canada's culinary capital. Some of the city's top restaurants include Blue Water Café and Miku.

For family fun, Granville Island is a well-known cultural district with theaters, artisan workshops and a multistory Kids Market.





Oregon's scenery means there's no shortage of parks and natural areas to visit.

[Forest Park](#), nestled in Portland proper, is one of the largest urban forests in the United States. Forest Park has miles of trails to hike or run – and wildlife to spot in every season. A little farther out, [Ecola State Park](#) has scenic bike routes, hiking trails and opportunities for whale watching along the coast.

If it's thrills you're seeking, [Hells Canyon National Recreation Area](#) has white-water rafting along the Snake River. Visitors not only get to travel the deepest gorge in North America, but also see stunning geological formations and learn about the native Nez Perce tribe.

[Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument](#) is only one hour away from Portland. Visitors can stop by the [Johnston Ride Observatory](#) to peek into the crater of the active stratovolcano or take one of the park's many hikes to see the scenery and rock formation.

GETAWAYS THE COAST

Oregon's Pacific Coast features 362 miles of rugged, picturesque views. U.S. Route 101, also known as the Oregon Coast Highway, is known for its scenic overlooks of the Pacific Ocean and bounteous beaches below. Roads End State Recreation Site is quite the example, with its tucked-away tide pools and lava rocks to explore.

One of the most historic sites is Devils Punch Bowl State Natural Area. Its sandstone formation is a perfect place for a picnic and view of a stunning sunset. If you're lucky, you'll catch a glimpse of the gray whale migration between December and January from this spot.

Cannon Beach is another famed destination. There you'll find Haystack Rock, a 235-foot sea stack that is home to sea stars, crabs and anemones, all of which can be seen during low tide. This beach's tide pools and wide stretch of sand are open to the public.



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