



Portland: A CITY OF VILLAGES

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View of Portland and Mt. Hood from Pittock Mansion

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YOU KNOW PORTLAND. Thanks in large part to the Food Network, Portlandia and The New York Times travel section, you've got a pretty firm grasp on what the City of Roses has to offer when you visit: food carts, craft beer, hipsters, bicycles and donuts topped with bacon. Perhaps you've enjoyed the media darling of the Northwest on a number of weekend getaways. You've embraced the city's livability by taking public transportation up to the International Rose Test Garden and hiking through Forest Park. You had drinks at the Portland City Grill followed by dinner at Jake's Famous Crawfish. You've done it. You know Portland. **Or do you?**

The magic of Portland is in its neighborhoods, all 95 of them. The city is a collection of unique villages; each one with its own defining, palpable vibe. They typically have their own farmers market, hardware store, living room theater, collection of dive bars and hot restaurants, and, yes, often a food cart pod. Each neighborhood possesses a feeling and a flavor that courses through the streets influencing everything from food and art to the demeanor of its residents. This is the Portland you should know, the neighborhoods. And these are some of my favorites for just hanging out.



SELLWOOD

Sellwood possesses all the hallmarks of a great Portland neighborhood. It is a self-sustaining, walkable, family-friendly enclave that could easily be its own town. As a matter of fact it was, until it was annexed to Portland in 1893. Home to some of the best restaurants and shopping found anywhere in the city, Sellwood also has its share of natural beauty and is home to Portland's most unique and timeless amusement park.

The dining options in Sellwood are exceptional. Serving seriously legit Vietnamese cuisine with French and Laotian influence, the **Jade Bistro Teahouse & Patisserie** (7912 SE 13th Ave.) is one of my favorites. One of the neighborhood's cornerstone dining establishments, **Papa Haydn** (5829 SE Milwaukie Ave.) produces elevated fare in a casual environment. And I swear their desserts are made with unicorn dust and will haunt your dreams. Featuring a ton of local microbrews and live music, the **Muddy Rudder Public House** (8105 SE 7th Ave.) is the consummate neighborhood hangout.

If you're looking to bring home some souvenirs, the **Stars Antiques Mall** (7030 SE Milwaukie Ave.) has more than 200 dealers offering everything from vintage clothing to tchotchkes. **Tilde** (7919 SE 13th Ave.), a modern lifestyle shop and art gallery, has all the contemporary décor you could hope for.



Oaks Amusement Park

© Oaks Amusement Park

The **Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge** is one of Portland's best spots to commune with nature. The park has paved and unpaved hiking and biking trails, and is one of the area's premier wildlife viewing locations.

Sellwood is also home to the "Coney Island of the Northwest." Opened in 1905, **Oaks Amusement Park** is one of the oldest operating amusement parks in the country, and is the place to get your old-timey entertainment fix. Midway games, a classic roller skating rink and a historic wooden carousel complement a handful of newer rides that make the park fun for anybody.

When You Go

Getting Around: Portland is known for its public transportation, and getting to its neighborhoods is easy. TriMet provides bus, light rail and commuter rail in the metro area. Its online trip planner is at trimet.org.

Guide to Portland Parks: The City of Portland has a "park finder" feature on its website at portlandoregon.gov/parks/finder/.

Guide to Portland Neighborhoods: Use this comprehensive guide for discovering more Portland neighborhoods, neighborhoodnotes.com/neighborhood_guide/.

Official Guide to Portland: travelportland.com.



Muddy Rudder Public House

Muddy Rudder Public House

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St. John's Bridge and Cathedral Park

ST. JOHNS

Out on North Portland's peninsula at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, St. Johns is quite literally at the end of the road. But because this is Portland, the Mayberry-esque hamlet, only a scant seven miles from downtown, is considered a lost land out in the tumbleweeds. And its residents are just fine with that. There's a strong sense of pride and community in St. Johns. The area is home to a number of eclectic shops, eateries and friendly neighborhood bars. The peninsula can also lay claim to some of Portland's best outdoor resources, as well as the city's most elegant and photogenic bridge.

Stop in at the **Tulip Pastry Shop**

(8322 N. Lombard St.) for a sampling from a wide array of baked goods. Alternatively, one of the best, yet relatively undiscovered brunches in the city can be found at the **James John Cafe** (8527 N. Lombard St.), where perfectly poached eggs and the house-made bacon never fail to impress.

Head to the **Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area** for a paddle on the largest protected wetland within an American city. You can also play a round of disc golf at **Pier Park** or take a casual stroll while taking in the scenery at **Cathedral Park**. Located under the St. Johns Bridge, Cathedral Park is a favorite among photographers and every summer hosts the Cathedral Park Jazz Festival; the oldest continuous free jazz festival west of the Mississippi.

Dinner options include **Signal Station Pizza** (8302 N. Lombard St.). The historic service station turned pizza joint has hosted many a muscle car and pinup girl photo shoot and is a local favorite. **The Baowry** (8307 N. Ivanhoe St.) is a great little Asian Fusion restaurant, and the **Tienda Santa Cruz** (8630 N. Lombard St., in the back of a Mexican bakery) serves up what just might be Portland's best pastor tacos.

For drinks, try out some of the neighborhood's famous and infamous watering holes. **Slims** (8635 N. Lombard St.) has been installing and repairing hangovers since 1911 and is one of the neighborhood's best live music venues. **The Fixin' To** (8218 N. Lombard St.) is a cozy joint that serves up drinks, food and vibes with southern roots passed gently through a Portland filter. And the **Leisure Public House** (8002 N. Lombard St.) has bocce and an absolutely legendary jukebox.



Bocce court at Leisure Public House



Paddling the Smith & Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

More Neighborhoods Worth a Visit

- >> **Hawthorn:** Eclectic Shopping, McMenamins Bagdad Theater.
- >> **Alberta Arts District:** Galleries, shops, restaurants, monthly street fair.
- >> **Central Eastside:** Arts hub, great dining, Distillery Row, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

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Northwest

Portland's Northwest neighborhood is where stately Victorian homes meet up with the city's crown jewel for nature lovers, **Forest Park**. Every style of Portland cuisine is represented here, from food carts to fine dining. Entertainment runs the gamut from living room theaters to performing arts. And for visitors looking to do some serious shopping, the Northwest neighborhood should be somewhere towards the top of their hit list.

Arguably the best urban hike in the Pacific Northwest gets underway in Portland's Northwest neighborhood. The 5 mile hike from Lower Macleay Park to the Pittock Mansion and back offers stunning forested scenery capped by an epic city view from the French Renaissance-style **Pittock Mansion** and museum.

Combining dance, theater and film, Portland's renowned **BodyVox** performs in a 150-seat studio at its Northwest neighborhood dance center. Performances are hybridized experiences that are often breathtaking as well as inspiring, and even humorous. The **Northwest Children's Theater** is perfect for those in search of performances geared for a younger or more family-oriented audience. And **McMenamins Mission Theater** as well as the historic **Cinema 21** offer movie viewing with optional beer and wine accompaniment.

If you'd like to sample the wares of a James Beard Award-winning, Iron Chef-conquering Portland chef, go no farther than **Paley's Place** (1204 NW 21st Ave.). Or if you're looking for quintessential Northwest regional cuisine served on one of the city's finest outdoor patios, a stop at **Meriwether's** (2601 NW Vaughn St.) is in order.

When shopping in the Northwest neighborhood, there are a handful of national brand retailers to be found

along NW 21st and 23rd Avenues. But this is Portland, where local is king. Stroll the entire length of these streets, but if you're looking for the best of the best, be sure to hit up these local favorites: **Twist** for jewelry, art, and accessories; **Sloan Boutique** and **Ellington** for designer apparel and handbags; **Blush Beauty Bar** for cosmetics; **3 Monkeys** for a little bit of everything.

If the heart of a city is its downtown, its soul is in its neighborhoods. In no place I've lived is that truer than in Portland. And while downtown is great for its art, public transportation, and cultural institutions, its neighborhoods are where the real city resides, literally and figuratively. And thanks to Portland's lack of sprawl, you can visit them rather easily. Even if you want to make the epic seven-mile trek all the way out to St. Johns. 📍



HEAD TO THE CACTUS LEAGUE FOR **MARINERS** SPRING TRAINING

northwest

TRAVEL & LIFE

TAKE A FAMILY SPRING BREAK



Discover Northwest
University Towns

NW Gardens Abloom



LADIES ONLY:
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