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52 GETAWAYS

OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST
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SPRING ESCAPE TO PORTLAND'S CENTRAL EASTSIDE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

Portland's Central Eastside Industrial District (CEID) was once devoid of coveted urban treasures like authentic ethnic cuisine, craft cocktails and coffee roasters. But just like the Pearl District before it, thanks to Portlanders' genius at repurposing stuff, like neighborhoods, CEID is now teeming with food, drink and entertainment hotspots. As Portland's famous roses bloom in spring, the streets are once again enlivened with cyclists and pedestrians, hopeful with the promise of sunshine and patio seating. Come curious, come hungry, come thirsty, and be ready to indulge in one of Portland's coolest destination neighborhoods. Here are our picks for a perfect CEID getaway.

FOOD

France. The cuisine at Le Pigeon (lepigeon.com) is firmly ensconced in the culinary fabric of Portland. The James Beard Award-winning credentials of Chef Gabriel Rucker ensure it stays that way. It is the crown jewel of dining in the neighborhood and, arguably, the entire city.

Russia. If you've ever spent quality time at the home

of a Russian grandmother, the cozy dining room at Kachka (kachkapdx.com) will seem eerily reminiscent. Paying homage to her Russian roots, Chef Bonnie Morales produces traditional Russian fare with elevated elements. You've never had better cabbage rolls, and the vodka menu is mind-blowing.

Japan. With the ramen craze reaching a fever pitch, it is difficult to be distinctive. Noraneko (noranekoramen.com) has distinguished itself with flying colors thanks to the culinary minds that brought Portland the Japanese fusion of Biwa. Each bowl of ramen is carefully constructed and as savory as the day is long. The gyoza is a game changer.

BOOZE

Beer. Arguably, the most renowned sour beer brewery on the continent resides in the heart of the CEID. Cascade Brewing (cascadebrewing.com) has been producing barrel-aged, Northwest-style sour beers since 1998. You can't go wrong there, but try the Sang Royal if you want to recalibrate the entire way you look at beer.

Spirits. If you're still thirsty after sampling some of the



Ramen at Noraneko

Jupiter Hotel

© Jacob Williamson | Jupiter Hotel

finest craft beer that Portland offers, clear the calendar and head to Distillery Row (distilleryrowpdx.com). No fewer than eight craft distillers are peppered throughout the district. Get a Portland Distillery Passport and save on tasting fees.

Cocktails. Heavy with ambiance, the Bit House Saloon's (bithousesaloon.com) low light reflects from tiny pools that collect on varnished, reclaimed wood. The craft cocktails are inventive, and the boilermakers perfectly paired. As a bonus, the food menu rises to the same level of creativity and quality established by the beverages.

CAFFEINE

Coffee. In the coffee roasting capital of North America, Coava (coavacoffee.com) is recognized as one of the city's finest. The Brew Bar on Grand Ave. showcases the fruits of their labor in a wide-open, comfortable space. There are always two coffee offerings and two selections for espresso drinks available for purchase. The aroma of freshly roasted coffee is free.

Coffee and Chocolate. When artisanal coffee and chocolate join forces, we all win. The coupling of Trailhead Coffee Roasters and the Ranger Chocolate Company has given the world Cup and Bar (cupandbar.com)—a unique tasting room that is home to perhaps the most comforting flavor notes of all, those found in coffee and chocolate.

PARTICULARLY PLEASURABLE PASTIMES

Personal Karaoke. At Voicebox (voiceboxkaraoke.com), you get your own personal suite and server. Then, invite your friends, order your food and drink, pick your songs, and let the good times roll. A personalized, catered experience gives you all the fun of karaoke without waiting an hour for your song or having to listen



Cup and Bar

© Travel Portland

to complete strangers eviscerate “Bohemian Rhapsody.”

River Cruise. The CEID sits on east bank of the Willamette River. Portland Spirit (portlandspirit.com) sightseeing cruises leave from the west bank of the Willamette at the Salmon Street dock in Tom McCall Waterfront Park (just cross the Hawthorn Bridge and a short walk north along the waterfront). There's nothing like seeing the city from the river. They also offer lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch cruises.

Bedtime. Within shouting distance of the district's northern boundary, the Hotel Eastlund (hoteleatlund.com) is Portland's finest new boutique hotel, offering Forbes four-star rooms, thoughtful amenities and a killer rooftop bar and restaurant, the Altavira City Tavern. Just inside the CEID, Jupiter Hotel (jupiterhotel.com) is a Portland mainstay, with cozy rooms and the Doug Fir, the hotel's restaurant, lounge and club. **BY ADAM SAWYER**