

PRIDE of PORTLAND Chorus DIRECTOR SEARCH

Portland, Oregon Fact Sheet

Welcome to Portland, the City of Roses! You might think living in Portland is like what you see on the show *Portlandia*, but, in reality, it's so much more. Yes, it's full of **independent bookstores** and hipsters, and is **super bike-friendly**, but it's also home to **professional sports teams, breweries,** and massive parks with hiking trails.

Living in Portland puts you geographically between the **Columbia** and **Willamette** rivers, the former creating a natural border between Oregon and Washington State. Hills, rivers and the distant **Cascade Mountains** dominate the visual landscape.

Portland is **Oregon's largest city** and home to a little over 630,000 people living within its borders. It's the 26th largest city in the United States. If you zoom out a little, the Portland metro area looks much larger; it includes seven counties, two of which site inside Southwest Washington. The total population of Greater Portland is about 2.4 million people.

Portland bears several widely-used nicknames:

- ♪ **Rose City** (official city nickname) or **City of Roses**
- ♪ **Puddletown** (because it rains a lot)
- ♪ **Stumptown** (many stumps were left by deforestation caused by rapid city growth around 1847)
- ♪ **PDX** (call sign for Portland International Airport)
- ♪ **Bridge City** (there are 12 bridges across the Willamette River)
- ♪ **Rip City** (name after a three-point play made during the Portland Trail Blazers' first season)

Portland Weather

Portland's climate is mild. According to U.S. Climate Data, the annual average high temperature is 63.3°F and the annual average low temperature is 45.7°F.

Living in Portland means enduring a lot of rain and cloudy skies from October to the end of May and even a little during the summer. Portland averages 42 inches of rainfall each year. You can also expect 155 days each year wherein some measurable amount of rain falls.

The Northwest Friendly Attitude

Portland is known for being a friendly town where people are nice to strangers. Living in Portland means your Uber driver will probably expect you to sit in the front seat. People smile, wave and chat with strangers. Drivers don't use their horns in traffic.

Portlanders eschew dress codes; people wear whatever they like. You'll see a tuxedo with tails next to shorts and Birkenstocks in the lobby before the opera. However, one garment all Portlanders wear is a rainproof jacket.



Portland Lifestyle

PDX is known as a progressive city. Like most cities on the West Coast, the majority political ideology is left-of-center. Inclusive and progressive events, like Pride, are well-attended.

Respect for the environment and conservation of natural resources is strongly encouraged. Recycling is the norm and kitchen compost is picked up curbside. Plastic grocery bags are not available.

Are you a vegan who only uses beauty products with earth-friendly ingredients? You'll discover that finding alternative products is easier living in Portland. Looking for locally-grown, organic produce? There's a good chance you'll find some nearby because there are 21 farmer's markets in Portland, Oregon from which to choose.

Transportation

Portland's public transportation agency, TriMet, operates the area's highly-acclaimed light rail system called Metropolitan Area Express (MAX). MAX spans the entire city of Portland, primarily on an East/West axis. Getting from the Portland International Airport (PDX) to downtown is quite easy.

TriMet also has a top-notch bus system, as well as a downtown street car system. Conveniently, one ticket is good for all three modes of transportation (light rail, bus or streetcar).

Commuter biking is popular in Portland, also known as "Bike City U.S.A." Seven percent (7%) of Portlanders commute to work by bicycle, making up the nation's highest percentage of bike commuters. Many larger employers even have showers for employees who take advantage of 315 miles of bikeways to get to work. TravelPortland offers a lot of helpful information about getting around PDX by bike.

Tilikum Crossing is the first major bridge in the U.S. designed for transit vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians but not cars.

The public transportation in Portland is comprehensive and easy to use. Ride sharing and car sharing apps make it easy to not own a car.



The Food Scene in Portland

Portland is a mecca for **microbrews**, **artisan coffee roasting**, **chocolatiers**, pizza, bread, **pastries** and more. Oregon has an **established wine industry** and local production of crops that are just meant to be distilled. Along with a **booming restaurant and bar scene**, including high-profile bartenders committed to crafting quality cocktails, it makes sense that Portland has a growing handcrafted, small batch distillery scene as well. Oregon boasts a dozen distilleries, with at least eight in Portland.



Things To Do in Portland

Portland has **11,697 acres of parks**, including Forest Park, which is the **United States' largest urban forest**, at 5,157 acres. With 70 miles of trails, it's a **hiker, mountain biker and runner heaven**. Other parks in town include a golf course, swimming pools, picnic areas and off-leash dog areas.

In the summer, you can float the Willamette River or enjoy several fountains and splash pads all over the city to cool off on hot days. A few parks offer beach areas. Yes, Portland has beaches, even downtown in Tom McCall Bowl Beach. Just be careful of goose droppings!

Art & Culture

You can't live in or visit Portland without encountering public art. You'll find public art integrated into architectural façades, along the street, in the parks, inside public buildings and in the sculpture garden outside of the Portland Art Museum.

For fine art, there are **dozens of art galleries** across the city. You'll find a high concentration in downtown's Pearl District. **Three monthly art walks** give anyone living in Portland an opportunity to have a look at the latest work from local artists. First Thursdays, put on by Portland Art Dealers Association (PDA), happen in the Pearl District. First Fridays are a little more spread out, hosted by Central Eastside galleries. In the summer (June, July and August), there is an **arts showcase** on the last Thursday of each month on NE Alberta Street.



Other cultural favorites include **Portland Art Museum** (visual arts), **Oregon Symphony** (popular and classical music), **Portland Opera**, **Portland Center Stage** (classical and contemporary plays), **Artists Repertory Theater**, **Whitebird Dance Project**, **Chamber Music NW**, **Oregon Ballet Theater**, **Light Opera of Portland**, **Broadway Rose Theater**, **Third Rail**, and so many more.

Portland Sports Teams

While there's no NFL team in Portland and your summertime beer and hot dogs will be enjoyed at a Portland Pickles or Hillsboro Hops baseball game, Portlanders rabidly huddle around the **Timbers** soccer and **Trail Blazers** basketball. Portland is the kind of place where old fashioned water cooler talk about sports is still a thing. Sports fans here are on the same page.

Things To Do near Portland

Columbia River Gorge

Head up the river from Portland, due east, and you'll start wedging your way through the Columbia River Gorge. There are 77 waterfalls and countless hiking trails to explore, many with breathtaking views.

Mount Hood

Keep heading a little farther east, into the Cascade Mountain Range, and you'll be greeted by Mt. Hood. Skiing and snowboarding are popular wintertime activities in the Northwest. Timberline Lodge and Mt. Hood Meadows are the closest ski areas to the city, about 1.5 hours by car.

Wine Country

Hop in your car and explore the Willamette Valley, best-known for Pinot Noir wine and home of world-class wineries. The soil, climate and latitude (45° North) compare to France's Burgundy winemaking region.

Oregon Coast

Drive 1.5 hours west of city and you'll find yourself on the Oregon Coast, a safe bet for summer fun. Enjoy the beaches and surf or, if it's a cloudy day, hang out in a local brew pub or tour the newly remodeled Tillamook Cheese Factory.



Jobs in Portland

Like much of the West Coast, technology startups are popular here. They've even earned us a new moniker – because we don't have enough already – **Silicon Forest**. The quality of life in the Greater Portland area also draws in established companies like **Intel**, the largest employer in town at 18,000 people. **WaferTech** and **Mentor Graphics** are close by.

Apparel is a big deal here. Portland is home to **Nike World Headquarters** and **Adidas North America**. We've also got **Columbia Sportswear**, **Keen**, **Under Armour**, and **Dr. Martens' US Headquarters**. You can even keep all your shoes and garments organized with containers made by Portland-based **Storables**.

Top employers in manufacturing include Daimler Trucks North America, Boeing and Precision Castparts. The hospitals, OHSU, Kaiser, and Providence Health employ 40,000 people among them. Food service and tourism-related industries also contribute to Portland's diverse and vibrant economy.

Annual Events in Portland

Portland's most notable annual event has to be **The World Naked Bike Ride** which takes place every June. The ride is exactly what it sounds like; thousands of people ride in their birthday suits across town!

The biggest event is the annual **Rose Festival** which spans both May and June each year. The Rose Festival has three big parades, several runs/walks, concerts, carnival rides and a fireworks display over the Willamette River. Since 1907, the Rose Festival gives Portlanders an annual call-to-action: brush off your winter blues and get into the summer spirit!

Interesting Facts About Portland

Portland was once known as '**The Clearing**'. Asa Lovejoy and Francis Pettygrove flipped a coin in 1845 to determine the city's name. Lovejoy, from Massachusetts, wanted to name the new settlement Boston. Pettygrove, from Maine, wanted to name the new town Portland. Pettygrove won.

Portland has **52 bronze drinking fountains**, known as '**Benson Bubblers**'. Refreshing, clean mountain water from the Bull Run watershed pours out of them 365 days a year.

Portland is one of four cities in the United States to have an **extinct volcano** within its boundaries: **Mt. Tabor**. If you drive 1.5 hours north of the city, you can visit an even bigger active volcano, **Mt. St. Helens**.

If you're moving to Portland, you'll have to get used to the idea of someone else refueling your vehicle. Oregon and New Jersey are the only two states where it is illegal to pump your own gas.

Shoppers will love the fact that **Oregon doesn't have a sales tax** at the point-of-sale. However, if you imbibe in spirits from time to time, you'll pay the second highest alcohol taxes in the United States.

Living in Portland means you're never far from a **good hiking trail**, **beach**, **ski slope** or a **winery**.

Your sense of adventure and willingness to explore will be rewarded!

