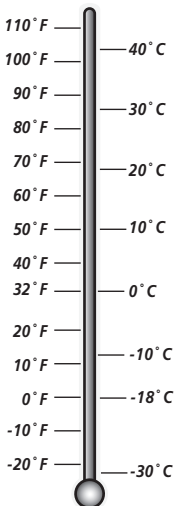


Frommer's Portable Portland



METRIC CONVERSIONS

TEMPERATURE



To convert F to C:
subtract 32 and
multiply by $\frac{5}{9}$ (0.555)

To convert C to F:
multiply by 1.8
and add 32
 $32^{\circ}\text{F} = 0^{\circ}\text{C}$

LIQUID VOLUME

To convert..... multiply by

U.S. gallons to liters	3.79
Liters to U.S. gallons	0.26
U.S. gallons to imperial gallons	0.83
Imperial gallons to U.S. gallons	1.20
Imperial gallons to liters	4.55
Liters to imperial gallons	0.22

1 liter = 0.26 U.S. gallon
1 U.S. gallon = 3.8 liters

DISTANCE

To convert..... multiply by

inches to centimeters	2.54
centimeters to inches	0.39
feet to meters	0.30
meters to feet	3.28
yards to meters	0.91
meters to yards	1.09
miles to kilometers	1.61
kilometers to miles	0.62

1 ft = 0.30 m 1 mile = 1.6 km
1 m = 3.3 ft 1 km = 0.62 mile

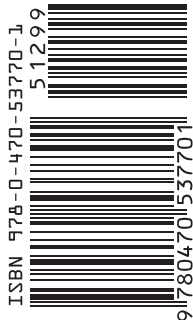
WEIGHT

To convert..... multiply by

Ounces to grams	28.35
Grams to ounces	0.035
Pounds to kilograms	0.45
Kilograms to pounds	2.20

1 ounce = 28 grams
1 pound = 0.4555 kilogram

1 gram = 0.04 ounce
1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds



Frommer's®

P o r t a b l e
Portland

6th Edition

by Karl Samson



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karl Samson lives in Oregon, where he spends his time juggling his obsessions with traveling, gardening, outdoor sports, and wine. Each winter, to dry out his webbed feet, he flees the soggy Northwest to update the *Frommer's Arizona* guide. Karl is also the author of *Frommer's Seattle* and *Frommer's Washington State*.

HOW TO CONTACT US

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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AN ADDITIONAL NOTE

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time—and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Keep a close eye on cameras, purses, and wallets, all favorite targets of thieves and pickpockets.

FROMMER'S STAR RATINGS, ICONS & ABBREVIATIONS

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system**. In country, state, and regional guides, we also rate towns and regions to help you narrow down your choices and budget your time accordingly. Hotels and restaurants are rated on a scale of zero (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). Attractions, shopping, nightlife, towns, and regions are rated according to the following scale: zero stars (recommended), one star (highly recommended), two stars (very highly recommended), and three stars (must-see).

In addition to the star-rating system, we also use **seven feature icons** that point you to the great deals, in-the-know advice, and unique experiences that separate travelers from tourists. Throughout the book, look for:

- Finds** Special finds—those places only insiders know about
- Fun Facts** Fun facts—details that make travelers more informed and their trips more fun
- Kids** Best bets for kids and advice for the whole family
- Moments** Special moments—those experiences that memories are made of
- Overrated** Places or experiences not worth your time or money
- Tips** Insider tips—great ways to save time and money
- Value** Great values—where to get the best deals

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express	DISC	Discover	V	Visa
DC	Diners Club	MC	MasterCard		

TRAVEL RESOURCES AT FROMMERS.COM

Frommer's travel resources don't end with this guide. **Frommers.com** has travel information on more than 4,000 destinations. We update features regularly, giving you access to the most current trip-planning information and the best airfare, lodging, and car-rental bargains. You can also listen to podcasts, connect with other Frommers.com members through our active-reader forums, share your travel photos, read blogs from guidebook editors and fellow travelers, and much more.

The Best of Portland

When I first moved to Portland in 1990, I marveled at how much the city resembled the small cities of Europe. Compact, accessible, clean, friendly. All these descriptors still hold true today, and, in some ways, the city feels even more European than ever before. There's a streetcar that winds its way across town connecting neighborhoods with distinctly different characters. There are Amsterdam-style bike lanes, and morning and evening, a fleet of bicycle commuters pedals between jobs in downtown Portland and homes across the Willamette River. There are a surprising number of those adorable little Smart cars so popular in Europe. There are even food carts that sell waffles like the ones I used to get in Amsterdam and perfect Belgian *frites*.

In recent years, as Portland has become ever more urban and urbane, it has also become more youthful. Young, creative college graduates have been moving here in droves. They come because this city has a buzz going on. Compared to other West Coast cities, it's a cheap place to live. There's great beer, a burgeoning cocktail scene, plenty of great restaurants, and, of course, hundreds of food carts where you can get a great meal for under \$10. Best of all, you don't need a car. Those same attributes also make Portland a great place to visit. Cheap food, good beer, and no need to rent a car? Sign me up.

Situated at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, Portland, Oregon, with a metropolitan population of roughly two million, is a city of discreet charms. That it claims a rose garden as one of its biggest attractions should give you an idea of just how laid-back this city is. Portlanders still take time to stop and smell the flowers. Spend much time here, and you, too, will likely feel the leisurely pace seeping into your bones.

Portland does not have any major tourist sites. Instead, it is a city of quiet charms that must be searched for and savored—the shade of the stately elms in the South Park Blocks, the tranquillity of the Japanese Garden, the view from the grounds of Pittock Mansion, the miles of hiking trails in Forest Park. Sure, there's a good art museum and a world-class science museum, but these are not nearly as important to Portlanders as the city's many parks and public gardens. Not only does Portland claim beautiful rose gardens, the most authentic

Japanese garden in North America, and the largest classical Chinese garden in the country, but it also has the world's smallest city park and one of the largest forested urban parks in the country.

The city is also the nation's microbrew capital. Espresso may be the beverage that gets this town going in the morning, but it is micro-brewed beer that helps the city maintain its mellow character. There are so many brewpubs here in Portland that the city has been called Beervana and Munich on the Willamette. Wine bars are also popular hangouts, which shouldn't come as a surprise, considering how close the city is to the Willamette Valley wine country. Recently, the city has also become a center for microdistilleries. Order a cocktail in Portland, and it just might be made with local rum, vodka, gin, or even absinthe.

Portland itself may be short on things for visitors to do, but the city's surroundings certainly are not. Within a 1½- to 2-hour drive from Portland, you can be strolling a Pacific Ocean beach, walking beside a waterfall in the Columbia Gorge, hiking on Mount Hood (a dormant volcano as picture-perfect as Mount Fuji), driving through the Mount St. Helens blast zone, or sampling world-class pinot noirs in the Oregon wine country. It is this proximity to the outdoors that makes Portland a great city to use as a base for exploring some of the best of the Northwest.

1 THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

- **Strolling the Grounds of the Japanese Garden:** This is the best Japanese garden in the United States, perhaps the best anywhere outside of Japan. My favorite time to visit is in June when the Japanese irises are in bloom. The city has no better stress-reducer. See p. 81.
- **Beer Sampling at Brewpubs:** They may not have invented beer here in Portland, but they certainly have turned it into an art form. Whether you're looking for a cozy corner pub or an upscale taproom, you'll find a brewpub where you can feel comfortable sampling local brewmasters' concoctions. See "Brewpubs," in chapter 9.
- **Driving and Hiking in the Gorge:** No matter what time of year, the drive up the Columbia Gorge is spectacular. Once you arrive, get out of your car and take one of the dozens of easily accessible hiking trails throughout the gorge. If you've got time to spare, take the scenic highway; if not, take I-84. On either route, be sure to pull off at Multnomah Falls. For an alternative point of view, drive

the Washington side of the river and stop to hike to the top of Beacon Rock. See chapter 10, “Side Trips from Portland.”

- **Concerts at the Schnitz:** The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, home to the Oregon Symphony, is a restored 1920s movie palace and is the city’s most impressive place to attend a performance. Even if the show doesn’t meet your expectations, you can enjoy the classic architectural details. See p. 106.
- **Summertime Concerts at the Oregon Zoo:** Summertime in Portland means partying with the pachyderms. Throughout the summer, you can catch live music at the zoo’s amphitheater. Musical styles include blues, rock, bluegrass, folk, Celtic, and jazz. Often, for just the price of zoo admission, you can catch the concert and tour the zoo (if you arrive early enough). Picnics are encouraged, but no alcohol is allowed into the zoo (however, beer and wine are on sale during concerts). See p. 108.
- **Summer Festivals at Waterfront Park:** Each summer, Waterfront Park, which stretches along the Willamette River in downtown Portland, becomes the staging ground for everything from Rose Festival events to the Oregon Brewers Festival. Some festivals are free and some have small cover charges, but all are lots of fun. See p. 13.
- **Wine Tasting in the Nearby Wine Country:** Within less than an hour’s drive of Portland are dozens of wineries that are open to the public on a regular basis. Most of these wineries specialize in pinot noir and pinot gris, and many produce wines of superior quality. The chance to spend an afternoon wine tasting is one of the best reasons to visit Portland. See chapter 10, “Side Trips from Portland.”

2 THE BEST SPLURGE HOTELS

- **Hotel Fifty** (50 SW Morrison St.; ☎ 877/237-6775 or 503/221-0711; www.hotelfifty.com): Although it is totally unassuming from the outside, the Hotel Fifty, with its contemporary interior decor, is a surprisingly stylish hotel. The property is only steps from the Willamette River (although not actually on the water), and is also close to businesses, fine restaurants, and shopping. See p. 37.
- **Hotel Monaco** (506 SW Washington St.; ☎ 888/207-2201 or 503/222-0001; www.monaco-portland.com): With a delightfully theatrical room decor, a good restaurant, free evening wine, and an artistic aesthetic, this hotel has everything necessary to make a visit to Portland unforgettable. See p. 38.
- **Hotel Vintage Plaza** (422 SW Broadway; ☎ 800/243-0555 or 503/228-1212; www.vintageplaza.com): If you’re looking for the

most romantic room in town, book a starlight room at the Vintage Plaza. Located on one of the hotel's upper floors, these rooms are basically solariums with curving walls of glass that let you lie in bed and gaze up at the stars. Just be sure to come in the summer when the sky is clear. See p. 40.

- **Inn @ Northrup Station** (2025 NW Northrup St.; ☎ 800/224-1180 or 503/224-0543; www.northrupstation.com): If you want to stay someplace that reflects your taste for contemporary styling, then the Inn @ Northrup Station should be your first choice in town. Not only is this place cool and colorful, but several good restaurants and bars are within just a few blocks. See p. 42.
- **The Nines** (525 SW Morrison St.; ☎ 877/229-9995; <http://thenines.com>): Located on the upper floors of a historic department store building in downtown Portland, this luxurious hotel is as eclectic as Portland, yet it is utterly sophisticated. There's a farm-to-table restaurant in the atrium lobby, a library with a pool table, and a rooftop restaurant and lounge popular with Portland's pretty people. See p. 36.
- **RiverPlace Hotel** (1510 SW Harbor Way; ☎ 800/227-1333 or 503/228-3233; www.riverplacehotel.com): Although it's only a few blocks from downtown businesses, this boutique hotel wedged between the Willamette River and Waterfront Park feels a world away from the city. In summer the park hosts countless festivals, and if you book the right room, you can have a box seat for a concert in the park. See p. 39.

3 THE BEST MODERATELY PRICED HOTELS

- **Ace Hotel** (1022 SW Stark St.; ☎ 503/228-2277; www.acehotel.com). You don't actually have to be young and hip to stay at this hotel, but a youthful attitude certainly helps. The funky industrial-salvage decor makes this the most distinctive hotel in Portland, and if you opt for a room with a shared bathroom, the rates are the best in downtown. See p. 41.
- **Avalon Hotel & Spa** (0455 SW Hamilton Court; ☎ 888/556-4402 or 503/802-5800; www.avalonhotelandspa.com): Located just south of downtown Portland, along a wooded section of the Willamette River waterfront, the Avalon is not only one of the most affordably luxurious hotels in the city, but it also has its own spa and boasts stylishly modern decor. See p. 39.
- **The Benson** (309 SW Broadway; ☎ 800/663-1144 or 503/228-2000; www.bensonhotel.com): With its walnut paneling, Italian

marble, and crystal chandeliers, The Benson is the pinnacle of 19th-century elegance. Order a snifter of brandy, sink into one of the chairs by the fireplace, and conjure up your past life as a railroad baron. In your room, you'll sleep on a Tempur-Pedic bed. See p. 40.

- **Homewood Suites by Hilton Vancouver/Portland** (701 SE Columbia Shores Blvd., Vancouver; ☎ 800/225-5466 or 360/750-1100; www.homewoodsuites.com): Although it is located in Vancouver, Washington, 20 minutes from downtown Portland, this hotel is a good bet for families. Guest rooms are more like apartments, and rates include breakfast and a big spread of evening appetizers. A 5-mile-long paved riverside trail is conveniently located across the street. See p. 46.
- **Jupiter Hotel** (800 E. Burnside St.; ☎ 877/800-0004 or 503/230-9200; www.jupiterhotel.com): This renovated motel in inner southeast Portland is one of the city's hotels of choice for cash-strapped art-school hipsters when they come to Portland to check out the nightlife. To make the scene at one of the city's hippest nightclubs, hotel guests need only walk across the courtyard to the Doug Fir Lounge. See p. 45.
- **The Lakeshore Inn** (210 N. State St., Lake Oswego; ☎ 800/215-6431 or 503/636-9679; www.thelakeshoreinn.com): How about a waterfront motel in Portland's most prestigious suburb for under \$100? Try the Lakeshore Inn, a small motel right on Lake Oswego with a swimming pool on a dock. The catch is that the hotel is 7 miles from downtown Portland. See p. 48.
- **McMenamins Edgefield** (2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale; ☎ 800/669-8610 or 503/669-8610; www.mcmenamins.com): What can you say about a hotel that's located in a renovated poor farm and has a brewery, winery, distillery, movie theater, and golf course? Cheers! At McMenamins Edgefield, on the eastern edge of the Portland metro area, a local brewpub empire has created one of the most unusual lodgings in the state. See p. 48. The affiliated **McMenamins Kennedy School**, 5736 NE 33rd Ave. (☎ 888/249-3983 or 503/249-3983; www.mcmenamins.com), is very similar and closer to downtown Portland. See p. 45.

4 THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE DINING EXPERIENCES

- **Andina** (1314 NW Glisan St.; ☎ 503/228-9535; www.andina-restaurant.com): Portland takes food very seriously, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that one of the city's best restaurants serves a

type of cuisine you likely have never tried before. Andina serves modern Peruvian food, and the flavors are some of the most exciting you will encounter. See p. 54.

- **Bijou Café** (132 SW Third Ave.; ☎ 503/222-3187): Organic coffee, eggs from free-range chickens, buckwheat pancakes, oyster hash, and brioche French toast are the sort of menu offerings that have made this downtown breakfast place a perennial favorite of Portlanders. See p. 53.
- **Chart House** (5700 SW Terwilliger Blvd.; ☎ 503/246-6963; www.chart-house.com): The Chart House may be part of an upscale restaurant chain, but the view from the hillside setting south of downtown Portland just can't be beat. Down at the foot of the hill is the Willamette River, and over the rooftops and tree-tops of Portland are Mount Hood and Mount St. Helens. See p. 58.
- **fenouil** (900 NW 11th Ave.; ☎ 503/525-2225; www.fenouilthepearl.com): This Pearl District French restaurant may be one of Portland's most expensive places to eat, but the palatial surroundings make dinner (or lunch) here such an enjoyable experience that you hardly notice that big bill on your credit card. See p. 54.
- **Higgins** (1239 SW Broadway; ☎ 503/222-9070; www.higgins.ypguides.net): Chef Greg Higgins pushes the envelope of contemporary cuisine here at his eponymous restaurant, but he also sprinkles the menu with plenty of familiar comfort foods. Sample some of Portland's best food in the formal dining room or in the casual back-room bar area. See p. 50.
- **Jake's Famous Crawfish** (401 SW 12th Ave.; ☎ 503/226-1419; www.jakesfamouscrawfish.com): Get 'em while they're hot at Jake's, where crawfish are the stars of the menu. This classic seafood restaurant has been around for almost a century and serves truckloads of crawfish every year. Plenty of other good seafood dishes are on the menu as well. See p. 52.
- **Pok Pok** (3226 SE Division St.; ☎ 503/232-1387; www.pokpokpdx.com): Over the years, I've spent a lot of time in Thailand, and I have never found a more authentic Thai restaurant this side of the Gulf of Siam. This is just the sort of place I've frequented on beaches all over Thailand. See p. 63.
- **Toro Bravo** (120 NE Russell St.; ☎ 503/281-4464; www.torobravopdx.com): Wow! That's how I felt the first time I ate at this casual Spanish tapas restaurant. So impressed were my dinner companions that they began applauding the many laudable flavors that had passed across our table in the course of an evening. See p. 60.

5 THE BEST THINGS TO DO FOR FREE (OR ALMOST)

- **Sunset from Council Crest:** Portland is a city backed by hills that reach 1,000 feet high, and the view from atop Council Crest is the finest in the city. From here you can see Mounts Rainier, St. Helens, Adams, and Hood. The view is particularly memorable at sunset. Bring a picnic. See p. 80.
- **Hanging Out at Powell's:** They don't call Powell's the City of Books for nothing. This bookstore, which sells both new and used books, is so big you have to get a map at the front door. No matter how much time I spend here, it's never enough. A large cafe makes it easy to while away the hours. See p. 100.
- **Free Rides on the Vintage Trolleys:** MAX light-rail trolleys, and the Portland Streetcar are all free within a large area, mostly downtown, known as the Free Rail Zone. That alone should be enough to get you on some form of public transit while you're in town, but if you're really lucky, you might catch one of the vintage trolley cars. The trolleys don't climb any San Francisco-style hills, but they are still fun to ride. See p. 32.
- **People-Watching at Pioneer Courthouse Square:** This is the heart and soul of downtown Portland, and no matter what time of year or what the weather, people gather here. Grab a latte at the Starbucks and sit by the waterfall fountain. In summer, catch one of the frequent concerts here; at any time of year you might catch a rally, performance, or installation of some kind. Don't miss the Weather Machine show at noon. See chapter 6.
- **An Afternoon at the Portland Saturday Market:** This large arts-and-crafts market is an outdoor showcase for hundreds of the Northwest's creative artisans. You'll find fascinating one-of-a-kind clothes, jewelry, kitchenwares, musical instruments, and much, much more. The food stalls serve great fast food, too. See p. 104.
- **First Thursday Art Walk:** On the first Thursday of every month, Portland goes on an art binge. People get dressed up and go gallery-hopping from art opening to art opening. There are usually hors d'oeuvres and wine available, and lots of live music on the street. The galleries stay open until 9pm. See p. 99.
- **Stopping to Smell the Roses:** Portland is known as the City of Roses, and at the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park, you can find out why. This is a test garden for new varieties of roses, so you'll probably have to wait a few years before you can buy any of the beautiful roses you see here. See p. 80.

6 THE BEST OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- **Kayaking Around Ross Island:** Seattle may be considered the sea-kayaking capital of the Northwest, but Portland's not a bad kayaking spot either. You can paddle on the Columbia or Willamette rivers, but my favorite easy paddle is around Ross Island in the Willamette River. You can even paddle past the submarine at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and pull out at Waterfront Park. See p. 90.
- **Mountain Biking Leif Erikson Drive:** Forest Park is one of the largest forested city parks in the country, and running its length is the unpaved Leif Erikson Drive. The road is closed to cars and extends for 12 miles. Along the way you will catch occasional views of the Columbia River. This is a fairly easy ride, without any strenuous climbs. See p. 88.
- **Hiking Forest Park's Wildwood Trail:** Within Forest Park's boundaries are also some 75 miles of hiking trails. The Wildwood Trail stretches for nearly 30 miles, from one end of the park to the other. While you probably won't have time to hike the entire trail, choose from any one of the shorter loops. See p. 89.
- **Hiking and Skiing on Mount Hood:** Less than an hour from Portland, Mount Hood offers year-round skiing and hiking. Timberline Lodge, high on this dormant volcano's slopes, was built by the WPA during the Great Depression and is a showcase of craftsmanship. See chapter 10, "Side Trips from Portland."
- **Picnicking at the Hoyt Arboretum:** Picnicking may not be a particularly strenuous outdoor activity, but an alfresco meal on a grassy hillside surrounded by rare and unusual trees sure is memorable. Before your picnic, you can work up an appetite by hiking some of the arboretum's 12 miles of trails. See p. 89.

7 THE BEST ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

- **Going Below Decks in a Real Submarine:** At the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), you can poke around inside the USS *Blueback*, a retired Navy submarine that was used in the filming of *The Hunt for Red October*. The sub is now permanently docked in the Willamette River outside the museum's back door. See p. 76.

- **Virtual Parachuting:** At the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, you and the kids can pretend to be smoke jumpers parachuting into the woods to put out a forest fire. The virtual parachute exhibit lets you strap into a harness and try to hit a video target on the floor. See p. 82.
- **Flying Over the Water:** Giant jet boats roar up the Willamette River from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to the thundering cascades of Willamette Falls in Oregon City. Along the way, you'll get a unique perspective on life in Portland. See p. 22.
- **Roller-Skating at Oaks Park:** At the quaintly old-fashioned Oaks Park Amusement Center, you can roller-skate to the tune of a Wurlitzer organ. The skating rink here is the largest wood-floored rink in the West. You and the kids can also try out the thrill rides and arcades. See p. 85.
- **Riding the Rails in Washington Park:** At the Oregon Zoo, you not only can ponder the pachyderms and gaze at grizzlies, but you also can go for a ride on a scaled-down train that runs between the zoo and the International Rose Test Garden and the Japanese Garden. Near the end of the line with the gardens, you'll also find the Rose Garden Children's Park, a big, colorful playground. See p. 85.

Planning Your Trip to Portland

If you're planning a trip to Portland, chances are good that you've heard something or read something recently about this notoriously liberal city. In particular, if you read the *New York Times*, you are probably desperate to find out whether you will be as welcome in Portland as your dog, whether you're allowed to enter the city if you aren't a model-thin "creative" wearing skinny black jeans, whether you'll have to rent a bicycle instead of a car, or whether it's true that all the restaurants in Portland are food carts and you have to eat your meal on the sidewalk.

Well, you'll be happy to know that the answers to these questions are yes, yes, no, and no. While dogs are ubiquitous in Portland, you don't have to bring one with you, but if you do happen to be traveling with Fido, you'll find that the hotels of Portland are very pet-friendly. Although Portland is overflowing with young and, more often than not, unemployed "creatives," you don't have to look good in skinny jeans to feel at home in Portland (but it helps). Also, if you're a bit behind the times, you don't have to be a granola-crunchy, Gore-Tex-wearing ultra-athlete (that's so '90s). Yes, Portland is bicycle-friendly to the point of indecency, but they haven't banned cars (yet). Food carts are all the rage in Portland, but there are also plenty of brick-and-mortar restaurants. All kidding aside, this chapter will answer a lot of your basic trip-planning questions, and for additional help in planning your trip and for more on-the-ground resources in Portland, please see chapter 11, "Fast Facts."

1 WHEN TO GO

One of your first considerations when planning your trip should be when to visit. While summer is the sunniest season in Portland and the obvious time to visit, it's also the most crowded time of year. Although the city is not yet so popular that you can't usually get a room in town at the last minute, you'll definitely have more choices if you plan ahead. If, on the other hand, you visit in one of the rainier months, between October and May, you'll find lower hotel room rates and almost as much to see and do.

THE WEATHER

You've heard about the horrible weather in the Northwest. It rains all year, right? Wrong! The Portland area has some of the most beautiful summer weather in the country—warm, sunny days with clear blue skies and cool nights perfect for sleeping. During July, August, and September, it almost never rains.

And the rest of the year? Well, yes, it rains in those months and it rains regularly. But the rain is generally a fine mist—not the torrential downpours most people associate with the word *rain*. The average annual rainfall in Portland is less than it is in New York; Boston; Washington, D.C.; or Atlanta (but Portland has more days of rain and more cloudy days). A raincoat and a sweater or jacket are a way of life here, with Gore-Tex the preferred material.

Winters here aren't too bad, either. They're warmer than in the Northeast, although there is snow in the nearby mountains. In fact, there's so much snow on Mount Hood—only 90 minutes from downtown Portland—that you can ski right through the summer.

All in all, the best months to visit are August and September, and if you're headed to the coast, September is definitely the best month. Octobers can be very pleasant if the rainy season starts slowly. Even in the spring there are weeks, here and there, when the sun shines, and even when it doesn't, the spring flower displays around Portland are so colorful that you hardly notice that the skies are gray.

Of course, you're skeptical, so here are the statistics:

Portland's Average Temperature & Days of Rain

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp. (°F)	40	43	46	50	57	63	68	67	63	54	46	41
Temp. (°C)	4	6	8	10	14	17	20	19	17	12	8	5
Rain (Days)	18	16	17	14	12	10	4	5	8	13	18	19

HOLIDAYS

Banks, government offices, post offices, and many stores, restaurants, and museums are closed on the following legal national holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day), the third Monday in January (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), the third Monday in February (Presidents' Day), the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4 (Independence Day), the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans' Day/Armistice Day), the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), and December 25 (Christmas). The Tuesday after the first Monday in November is Election Day, a federal government holiday in presidential-election years (held every 4 years, and next in 2012).

PORTLAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a calendar of special events in and around Portland, contact Travel Portland (see p. 28), which lists special events in a couple of its publications and also on its website (www.travelportland.com). The *Oregonian* newspaper also lists special events at www.oregonlive.com. To find out what's going on during your visit, pick up a free copy of *Willamette Week* (www.wweek.com) or buy the Friday or Sunday *Oregonian*. Some of the larger and more popular special and free events are listed there.

FEBRUARY

The Portland International Film Festival, Portland. Although not one of the country's top film festivals, plenty of interesting foreign films and documentaries are shown. Screenings are held at various theaters around the city. ☎ 503/221-1156; www.nwfilm.org. Last 3 weeks of February.

MARCH

Tulip Fest, Woodburn. Bold swaths of color paint the landscape at the Wooden Shoe Bulb Company's annual celebration of tulips. ☎ 800/711-2006 or 503/634-2243; www.woodenshoe.com. Late March to early May.

APRIL

Elephantastic!, Portland. The Oregon Zoo is known for its Asian elephants, and each year in mid-April, the zoo's mascot, Packy, gets a party complete with a mammoth birthday cake. ☎ 503/226-1561; www.oregonzoo.org. Mid-April.

MAY

Mother's Day Rhododendron Show, Portland. At Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, blooming rhododendrons and azaleas transform the tranquil garden into a mass of blazing color. ☎ 503/771-8386. Mother's Day.

Memorial Day Weekend in the Wine Country, throughout the wine country surrounding Portland. This is 1 of 2 weekends celebrated by Willamette Valley wineries with special tastings and events. Many wineries not usually open to the public open on this weekend. ☎ 503/646-2985; www.willamettewines.com. Memorial Day weekend.

JUNE

Portland Rose Festival. From its beginnings back in 1888, the Rose Festival has blossomed into Portland's biggest celebration. The festivities now span nearly a month and include the nation's second-largest all-floral parade, a starlight parade, rose queen contest, music festival, and dragon-boat races. ☎ 503/227-2681;

www.rosefestival.org. Most events (some of which are free) take place during the middle 2 weeks of June.

JULY

Waterfront Blues Festival, Portland. This is Portland's biggest summer party and takes place in Waterfront Park. Expect lots of big names in blues. ☎ 503/973-FEST (3378); www.waterfrontbluesfest.com. Fourth of July weekend.

Oregon Brewers Festival, Waterfront Park. One of the country's largest festivals of independent craft brewers features lots of local and international microbrews and music. ☎ 503/778-5917; www.oregonbrewfest.com. Last weekend in July.

Noon Tunes (☎ 503/223-1613), Pioneer Courthouse Square. This is a series of free lunchtime concerts featuring everything from classical music to bluegrass to jazz to Japanese *taiko* drumming. They're held every Tuesday and Thursday in July and August.

Summer Concerts at Oregon Zoo, Oregon Zoo (☎ 503/226-1561; www.oregonzoo.org). Regional and nationally known performers appear at the zoo's amphitheater. Ticket prices range from \$11 to \$23. July and August.

AUGUST

Mount Hood Jazz Festival, Gresham (less than 30 min. from Portland). For the jazz fan, this is the most important festival of the summer. ☎ 503/661-2700; www.mthoodjazz.com. Mid-August.

The Bite of Oregon, Waterfront Park (☎ 503/248-0600; www.biteoforegon.com). Portland restaurants serve up sample portions of their specialties at this food-and-music festival. It's a true gustatory extravaganza and also includes wine tastings and live music. This is a benefit for Special Olympics Oregon. Mid-August.

SEPTEMBER

Oktoberfest, Oaks Park Amusement Center (☎ 503/233-5777; www.oakspark.com). A large and crowded Oktoberfest with lots of polkaing in the beer hall. Late September.

OCTOBER

Portland Marathon, downtown Portland (☎ 503/226-1111; www.portlandmarathon.org). Features a variety of competitions. Early October.

Howloween at the Zoo, Oregon Zoo (☎ 503/226-1561; www.oregonzoo.org). Sort of a trick-or-treat scavenger hunt, with lots of activities for kids. Last weekend in October.

NOVEMBER

Wine Country Thanksgiving, Willamette Valley. About 30 miles outside of Portland, more than 100 wineries open their doors for

tastings of new releases, usually with food and live music. ☎ 503/646-2985; www.willamettewines.com. Thanksgiving weekend.

Christmas at Pittock Mansion, Pittock Mansion (☎ 503/823-3623; www.pittockmansion.org). Each year, this grand French Renaissance-style château is decorated according to an annual theme. Mid-November to end of December.

DECEMBER

Zoo Lights, Oregon Zoo (☎ 503/226-1561; www.oregonzoo.org). One of Portland's most impressive holiday light shows is at the Oregon Zoo. No, they don't put lights on the animals, but just about everything else seems to get covered. Month of December (closed Dec 24–25).

Holiday Ale Festival, Pioneer Courthouse Square. Strong winter ales are showcased at this beer-geek dream festival under a huge tent in downtown Portland. ☎ 503/252-9899; www.holidayale.com. First weekend in December.

Holiday Parade of Ships, Willamette and Columbia rivers. Boats decked out in fanciful holiday lights parade and circle on the rivers after nightfall. www.christmasships.org. Mid-December.

New Year's Eve, Portland. Pioneer Courthouse Square is ground zero for Portland partyers on New Year's Eve. ☎ 877/678-5263 or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com. December 31.

2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

PASSPORTS

Virtually every traveler (including U.S. citizens) entering the U.S.—by air, land, or sea—is now required to present a valid passport. There are, however, exceptions for American and Canadian citizens age 17 and over who are entering by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, or South America. In this situation, the traveler needs either a valid passport, passport card, Frequent Traveler card (NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST), or Enhanced Driver's License. For information on how to obtain a passport, see “Passports” in chapter 11.

VISAS

For specifics on how to get a visa, see “Visas” in chapter 11, “Fast Facts.”

The U.S. State Department has a **Visa Waiver Program (VWP)** allowing citizens of the following countries to enter the United States

without a visa for stays of up to 90 days: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Citizens of Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Republic of Korea, and Slovakia are soon to be admitted to the VWP. (**Note:** This list was accurate at press time. For the most up-to-date list of countries in the VWP, consult <http://travel.state.gov/visa>.)

Even though a visa isn't necessary, in an effort to help U.S. officials check travelers against terror watch lists before they arrive at U.S. borders, visitors from VWP countries must register online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) before boarding a plane or a boat to the U.S. Travelers will complete an electronic application providing basic personal and travel eligibility information. The Department of Homeland Security recommends filling out the form at least 3 days before traveling. Authorizations will be valid for up to 2 years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first. Currently, there is no fee for the online application. **Note:** Any passport issued on or after October 26, 2006, by a VWP country must be an **e-Passport** for VWP travelers to be eligible to enter the U.S. without a visa. Citizens of these nations also need to present a round-trip air or cruise ticket upon arrival. E-Passports contain computer chips capable of storing biometric information, such as the required digital photograph of the holder. If your passport doesn't have this feature, you can still travel without a visa if it is a valid passport issued before October 26, 2005, and includes a machine-readable zone, or between October 26, 2005, and October 25, 2006, and includes a digital photograph. For more information, go to <http://travel.state.gov/visa>. Canadian citizens may enter the United States without visas; they will need to show passports (if traveling by air) and proof of residence, however.

Citizens of all other countries must have (1) a valid passport that expires at least 6 months later than the scheduled end of their visit to the U.S., and (2) a tourist visa.

CUSTOMS

What You Can Bring into the U.S.

Every visitor more than 21 years of age may bring in, free of duty, the following: (1) 1 liter of wine or hard liquor; (2) 200 cigarettes, 100 cigars (but not from Cuba), or 3 pounds of smoking tobacco; and (3) \$100 worth of gifts. These exemptions are offered to travelers who

spend at least 72 hours in the United States and who have not claimed them within the preceding 6 months. It is forbidden to bring into the country almost any meat products (including canned, fresh, and dried meat products such as bouillon, soup mixes, and so forth). Generally, condiments including vinegars, oils, spices, coffee, tea, and some cheeses and baked goods are permitted. Avoid rice products, as rice can often harbor insects. Bringing fruit and vegetables is not advised, though not prohibited. Customs will allow produce depending on where you got it and where you're going after you arrive in the U.S. International visitors may carry in or out up to \$10,000 in U.S. or foreign currency with no formalities; larger sums must be declared to U.S. Customs on entering or leaving, which includes filing form CM 4790. For details regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection, consult your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or **U.S. Customs** (www.customs.gov).

What You Can Take Home from the U.S.

For information on what you're allowed to bring home, contact one of the following agencies: **U.S. Citizens:** U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP), 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20229 (☎ **877/287-8667**; www.cbp.gov); **Canadian Citizens:** Canada Border Services Agency (☎ **800/461-9999** in Canada, or 204/983-3500; www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca); **U.K. Citizens:** HM Customs & Excise at ☎ **0845/010-9000** (from outside the U.K., 020/8929-0152); or consult their website at www.hmce.gov.uk; **Australian Citizens:** Australian Customs Service at ☎ **1300/363-263**, or log on to www.customs.gov.au; **New Zealand Citizens:** **New Zealand Customs**, The Customhouse, 17–21 Whitmore St., P.O. Box 2218, Wellington (☎ **04/473-6099** or 0800/428-786; www.customs.govt.nz).

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Unless you're arriving from an area known to be suffering from an epidemic (particularly cholera or yellow fever), inoculations or vaccinations are not required for entry into the United States. If you have a medical condition that requires syringe-administered medications, carry a valid signed prescription from your physician; syringes in carry-on baggage will be inspected. Insulin in any form should have the proper pharmaceutical documentation. If you have a disease that requires treatment with narcotics, you should also carry documented proof with you—smuggling narcotics aboard a plane carries severe penalties in the U.S.

3 GETTING THERE & GETTING AROUND

GETTING TO PORTLAND

By Plane

Portland International Airport (PDX; ☎ 877/739-4636 or 503/460-4234; www.flypdx.com) is located 10 miles northeast of downtown Portland, adjacent to the Columbia River. There are information booths in the baggage-claim area where you can pick up maps and brochures and find out about transportation into the city. Many hotels near the airport provide courtesy shuttle service to and from the airport; be sure to ask when you make a reservation.

To find out which airlines travel to Portland, please see “Airline, Hotel & Car Rental Websites,” p. 149.

GETTING INTO THE CITY BY CAR If you’ve rented a car at the airport and want to reach central Portland, follow signs for downtown. These signs will point you first to I-205 and then I-84 west, which brings you to the Willamette River. Take the Morrison Bridge exit to cross the river. The trip takes about 20 minutes and is entirely on interstates. For more information on renting a car, see “Getting Around,” in chapter 3.

GETTING INTO THE CITY BY TAXI, SHUTTLE, BUS, OR LIGHT RAIL If you haven’t rented a car at the airport, the best way to get into town is to take the **Airport MAX (Red Line)** light-rail line. The MAX operates daily roughly every 15 minutes between 5am and midnight, and the trip from the airport to Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland takes approximately 40 minutes. The adult fare is \$2.30. (All but one or two of the downtown hotels lie within 4 or 5 blocks of the square; plan on walking since taxis in Portland don’t generally cruise for fares. Folks arriving with a lot of luggage will be better off taking a cab or shuttle van from the airport.) For more information on this service, contact **TriMet** (☎ 503/238-7433; www.trimet.org).

A taxi to downtown generally costs between \$35 and \$40.

By Car

The distance to Portland from Seattle is 175 miles; from Spokane, 350 miles; from Vancouver, British Columbia, 285 miles; from San Francisco, 640 miles; and from Los Angeles, 1,015 miles.

From California, I-5 runs up through the length of the state and continues north toward the Canadian border; it passes through the heart of Portland. If you’re coming from the east, I-84 runs from Idaho to Oregon, eventually ending in Portland.

18 One of the most important benefits of belonging to the **American Automobile Association** ((☎ 800/222-4357; www.aaa.com) is that they supply members with emergency road service. In Portland, AAA is located at 600 SW Market St. ((☎ 800/452-1643 or 503/222-6734; www.aaaorid.com).

By Train
Amtrak's ((☎ 800/872-7245; www.amtrak.com) *Coast Starlight* train connects Portland with Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, and stops at historic **Union Station**, 800 NW Sixth Ave., about 10 blocks from the heart of downtown Portland. Between Portland and Seattle are both regular trains and modern European-style Talgo trains, which make the trip in 3½ to 4 hours, as opposed to 4½ hours on the regular train. On either type of train, one-way fares between Seattle and Portland are \$28. The Talgo train, called *Cascades*, runs between Eugene, Oregon, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Taxis are usually waiting to meet trains and can take you to your hotel. Alternatively, you might be able to get your hotel to send a van to pick you up, or, if you are renting a car from a downtown car-rental office, the agency will usually pick you up at the station. The MAX Yellow and Green lines both run past Union Station and can take you into downtown Portland. Because Union Station is within the Free Rail Zone, you don't have to pay to ride MAX into downtown.

By Bus
Portland is served by **Greyhound Bus Lines**. The bus station is at 550 NW Sixth Ave. ((☎ 800/231-2222 or 503/243-2361; www.greyhound.com), on the north side of downtown near Union Station. From Seattle to Portland, it's around \$29 one-way and \$53 round-trip. The trip takes 3½ to 4½ hours.

Although you could easily walk from the station into the heart of downtown, you have to pass through a somewhat rough neighborhood for a few blocks. Although this area is currently undergoing a renaissance and is not nearly as bad as it once was, I don't recommend walking, especially after dark.

4 MONEY & COSTS

The Value of the U.S. Dollar vs. Other Popular Currencies

US\$	Can\$	UK£	Euro (€)	Aus\$	NZ\$
\$1	C\$1.08	£0.61	€0.68	A\$1.11	NZ\$1.39

Frommer's lists exact prices in the local currency. The currency conversions quoted above were correct at press time. However, rates fluctuate, so before departing consult a currency exchange website such as **www.oanda.com/convert/classic** to check up-to-the-minute rates.

Portland is not yet a major international tourist destination, and while it is possible to spend \$400 or more per night for a room, there are only a couple of hotels in the city where this is possible. For the most part, Portland's top hotels have summer (high-season) room rates of around \$200 or less. Compared to most major cities, downtown Portland hotels are real bargains.

Likewise, restaurants tend to be very reasonably priced. Sure, there are restaurants here where you can spend \$60 or more on dinner (not including alcohol), but such restaurants tend to be the exception. Want a smokin' deal on dining out? At most of the highly acclaimed food carts of Portland, a lunch worthy of mention in national publications will run you little more than \$6 or \$7.

ATMS

Nationwide, the easiest and best way to get cash away from home is from an ATM (automated teller machine), sometimes referred to as a "cash machine" or "cashpoint." The **Cirrus** (☎ 800/424-7787; www.mastercard.com) and **PLUS** (www.visa.com) networks span the country; you can find them even in remote regions. Go to your bank card's website to find ATM locations at your destination. Be sure you know your daily withdrawal limit before you depart. Four-digit PINs work fine in Oregon.

Note: Many banks impose a fee every time you use a card at another bank's ATM, and that fee is often higher for international transactions (up to \$5 or more) than for domestic ones (where they're rarely more than \$2). In addition, the bank from which you withdraw cash may charge its own fee. Visitors from outside the U.S. should also find out whether their bank assesses a fee on charges incurred abroad.

CREDIT CARDS & DEBIT CARDS

Credit cards are the most widely used form of payment in the U.S. It's highly recommended that you travel with at least one major credit card; options include Visa (Barclaycard in Britain), **MasterCard** (Eurocard in Europe, Access in Britain, Chargex in Canada), **American Express**, **Diners Club**, and **Discover**. MasterCard and Visa are the two most commonly accepted credit cards. You must have a credit card to rent a car, and hotels and airlines usually require a credit card imprint as a deposit against expenses.

You can withdraw cash advances from your credit cards at banks or ATMs, but high fees make credit card cash advances a pricey way to get cash. Keep in mind that you'll pay interest from the moment of your withdrawal, even if you pay your monthly bills on time. Also, note that many banks now assess a 1% to 3% "transaction fee" on **all** charges you incur abroad (whether you're using the local currency or your native currency).

5 HEALTH & SAFETY

STAYING HEALTHY

If you suffer from a chronic illness, consult your doctor before your departure. Pack **prescription medications** in your carry-on luggage, and carry them in their original containers, with pharmacy labels—otherwise they won't make it through airport security. Visitors from outside the U.S. should carry generic names of prescription drugs. For U.S. travelers, most reliable healthcare plans provide coverage if you get sick away from home. Foreign visitors may have to pay all medical costs upfront and be reimbursed later. For more information, visit www.frommers.com/planning.

Hospitals are listed in chapter 11, "Fast Facts."

STAYING SAFE

Because of its relatively small size and progressive emphasis on keeping the downtown alive and growing, Portland is still a safe city. However, the nightlife district that sprawls along West Burnside Street and into the Chinatown and Old Town neighborhoods is best avoided late at night. The area is notorious for attracting drug dealers and prostitutes, and the police stay busy here on weekend nights. Add to this the presence of hundreds of down-and-out homeless men congregating on the sidewalks outside the area's many missions and homeless shelters and you have the sort of area where you just don't want to be alone on foot after dark. Be sure to take extra precaution when leaving a bar or club late at night, and consider taking a cab back to your hotel rather than walking.

If you plan to go hiking in Forest Park, don't leave anything valuable in your car. This holds true in the Skidmore Historic District (Old Town) as well.

6 SPECIALIZED TRAVEL RESOURCES

GAYS & LESBIANS

Portland ranks right up there with San Francisco and Seattle as one of the most gay-friendly cities in the country. Currently, Portland has an openly gay mayor, and in recent years, the city has also developed a reputation for being a particularly welcoming city for lesbians. Several of the city's best bed-and-breakfast inns are gay-friendly establishments. The best place to learn more about the Portland gay and lesbian community is at www.travelportland.com/lgbt. These Web pages are maintained by Travel Portland, the official Portland visitors bureau. Travel Portland also publishes *Out in Portland*, a brochure for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender visitors. Gay and lesbian travelers visiting Portland should also be sure to pick up a free copy of *Just Out* (☎ 503/236-1252; www.justout.com), a bimonthly newspaper for the gay community. You can usually find copies at **Powell's Books**, 1005 W. Burnside St. Another publication to look for is *Portland's Gay & Lesbian Community Yellow Pages* (☎ 503/230-7701; www.pdxgayyellowpages.com), which is also usually available at Powell's.

For a list of gay-friendly accommodations in the Portland area, go to the **Purple Roofs** website (www.purpleroofs.com). For more gay and lesbian travel resources, visit www.frommers.com.

TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES

Most disabilities shouldn't stop anyone from traveling in the U.S. Thanks to provisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act, most public places are required to comply with disability-friendly regulations. Almost all public establishments (including hotels, restaurants, museums, and such, but not including certain National Historic Landmarks) and at least some modes of public transportation provide accessible entrances and other facilities for those with disabilities. With its relatively flat downtown, short blocks, and free downtown rail transit, Portland is, for the most part, an easy city for travelers with disabilities to negotiate.

For information on organizations that offer resources to travelers with disabilities, go to www.frommers.com.

You don't have to be a young, athletic, wine-drinking foodie to enjoy a vacation in Portland. This city is also a great place for a family vacation. Washington Park, accessible from downtown Portland on the MAX light rail, is ground zero for family fun in Portland. Here you'll find both the **Oregon Zoo** and the **Portland Children's Museum**, and from the zoo, you can take a scaled-down train to the **Rose Garden Children's Park**. **OMSI**, the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, is another good place to spend the day with the kids. Not only has the museum got loads to do, but jet boats that roar up and down the Willamette River leave from here as well. Summer or winter, the older kids will have a ball on Mount Hood, where there are ski areas in winter and an action park in summer. All-suite hotels make good bets for family visits, and there are plenty of kid-friendly restaurants, including one, **Old Wives' Tales**, that has a play area and has been keeping families fed for 30 years now.

Families visiting Portland should be sure to take note of family admission fees at many museums and other attractions. These admission prices are often less than what it would cost for individual tickets for the whole family. At hotels and motels, children usually stay free if they share their parent's room and no extra bed or crib is required, and sometimes they also get to eat for free in the hotel dining room. Be sure to ask.

To locate particularly kid-friendly accommodations, restaurants, and attractions, refer to the "Kids" icon throughout this guide, and for a list of more family-friendly travel resources, turn to the experts at www.frommers.com.

SENIOR TRAVEL

Don't be shy about asking for discounts, but always carry some kind of identification, such as a driver's license, that shows your date of birth—especially if you've kept your youthful glow. In Portland most attractions, theaters, and tour companies offer senior discounts. These can add up to substantial savings, but you have to remember to ask.

For information on organizations that offer resources to seniors, go to www.frommers.com.

7 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Often held up as an example of a city that is doing things right environmentally, Portland has long boasted of its many parks and green spaces. However, in recent years the greening of Portland has been less about vegetation and more about population density. By encouraging

compact mixed-use developments and expanding its public-transit options, the city has been able to get people out of their cars. The city's state-mandated urban-growth boundary has also helped the city to remain fairly compact. Instead of building sprawling suburbs, the city has emphasized infill housing and encouraged the growth of urban villages.

What this all means for the visitor is that Portland is an easy place to reduce your carbon footprint while on vacation. Sure, you'll probably arrive by plane, but once you're here, you can rely on public transportation to get you to most of the places you want to go. You can also rent a bike and join the throngs of cyclists who commute daily between downtown and neighborhoods on the east side of the Willamette River. It is an impressive sight to watch the evening cycle commuters crossing the Hawthorne Bridge by the dozens—and they often make better time than the car commuters.

Many restaurants in Portland have adopted the mantra of “fresh, local, organic,” and with the incomparable bounties of the Willamette Valley and Oregon coast close at hand, it is very easy to adhere to these tenets of sustainability. Wild salmon? No problem. Organic wine? Got it. Foraged fiddleheads and wild forest mushrooms? Of course. Many menus even mention what local farms provided the ingredients for your dish, and if you want to meet some of those local farmers, head to the Saturday **Portland Farmers Market** (p. 74), located downtown and accessible by streetcar. In the “Where to Dine” chapter of this book I have made a point of mentioning restaurants that are doing their part for the environment. If, when planning your trip to Portland, you check restaurant websites, you'll likely find that other Portland restaurants are also emphasizing sustainability.

Even bed-and-breakfast inns and major hotel chains are going green. The **Oregon Bed and Breakfast Guild** (www.obbg.org) has a green certification program. Major chains doing their part to become more sustainable include Starwood (Sheraton, W Hotels, Westin), Kimpton, and Hilton.

If you rent a car from Alamo, Enterprise, or National, you can opt to pay a small additional amount to offset carbon-dioxide emissions. You can also choose to rent a hybrid from Enterprise and other rental-car companies.

Want to reduce your carbon footprint even more? Ride a bike. Portland is one of the most bicycle-friendly cities in the U.S. Currently, downtown Portland's **Hotel Monaco** (p. 38) even offers a “Carless Vacation” package. You can also just rent a bike and head out on your own. The city has a well-marked network of bike routes, including special bike lanes downtown. Of course, if you're not a

24 cyclist, Portland also has a great public transit system that includes light rail, streetcars, buses, and even an aerial tram.

For more information on green building and sustainable development issues in Portland, contact **Ecotrust**, 721 NW Ninth Ave., Ste. 200, Portland, OR 97209 (☎ **503/227-6225**; www.ecotrust.org); or, in this same green building, the city of Portland's **Bureau of Planning and Sustainability**, 721 NW Ninth Ave., Ste. 350, Portland, OR 97209 (☎ **503/823-7222**; www.portlandonline.com/osd).

8 SPECIAL-INTEREST TRIPS

FOOD & WINE TRIPS/COOKING CLASSES

Portland is a city of foodies, and if the city's many great restaurants are one of your main reasons for visiting, then you might also want to consider taking a cooking class while you're in town. Cooking classes are offered by the **Oregon Culinary Institute**, 1717 SW Madison St. (☎ **888/624-2433**; www.oregonculinaryinstitute.com), a school that offers both cooking classes and degree programs in cooking and restaurant management; and **In Good Taste**, 231 NW 11th Ave. (☎ **503/248-2015**; www.ingoodtastestore.com), a combination kitchen-supply shop and cooking school. The latter offers the city's most popular cooking classes and is conveniently located in the Pearl District. For information on tours of the nearby wine country, see chapter 10.

9 STAYING CONNECTED

TELEPHONES

Generally, hotel surcharges on long-distance and local calls are astronomical, so you're better off using your **cellphone** or a **public pay telephone**. Many convenience stores and packaging services sell **pre-paid calling cards** in denominations up to \$50; for international visitors these can be the least expensive way to call home. Many public pay phones at airports now accept American Express, MasterCard, and Visa credit cards. **Local calls** made from pay phones in most locales usually cost 50¢. Most long-distance and international calls can be dialed directly from any phone. **For calls within the United States and to Canada**, dial 1 followed by the area code and the seven-digit number. **For other international calls**, dial 011 followed by the country code, city code, and the number you are calling.

For **reversed-charge or collect calls**, and for person-to-person calls, dial the number 0 then the area code and number; an operator will come on the line, and you should specify whether you are calling collect, person-to-person, or both. If your operator-assisted call is international, ask for the overseas operator.

For **local directory assistance** (“information”), dial 411; for long-distance information, dial 1, then the appropriate area code and 555-1212.

CELLPHONES

Just because your cellphone works at home doesn’t mean it’ll work everywhere in the U.S. (thanks to our nation’s fragmented cellphone system). It’s a good bet that your phone will work in Oregon’s major cities, but take a look at your wireless company’s coverage map on its website before heading out; T-Mobile, Sprint, and Nextel are particularly weak in rural areas. Verizon and AT&T seem to provide the best coverage around Oregon, but once you leave the I-5 and I-84 corridors, service can get spotty, especially in the mountains and in eastern Oregon. (To see where GSM phones work in the U.S., check out www.t-mobile.com/coverage.)

You can rent a cellphone from **Roberts Rent-a-Phone** (☎ 800/964-2468; www.roberts-rent-a-phone.com).

INTERNET & E-MAIL

Without Your Own Computer

If you need to check e-mail while you’re in Portland, first check with your hotel, or, if you have your own laptop with a wireless card, find a cafe with Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity) access. Otherwise, visit a **FedEx Office**. There’s one downtown at 221 SW Alder St. (☎ 503/224-6550; www.fedex.com/us/office), and in Northwest Portland at 475 NW 23rd Ave. (☎ 503/222-4133). You can also try the **Multnomah County Library**, 801 SW 10th Ave. (☎ 503/988-5123; www.multcolib.org), which is Portland’s main library and offers online services.

With Your Own Computer

More and more hotels, resorts, airports, cafes, and retailers are going Wi-Fi, becoming “hotspots” that offer free high-speed Wi-Fi access or charge a small fee for usage. Most laptops sold today have built-in wireless capability. To find public Wi-Fi hotspots at your destination, go to www.jiwire.com; its Hotspot Finder holds the world’s largest directory of public wireless hotspots.

Getting to Know Portland

Portland is a compact city that takes great pride in its extensive and effective public transit system. As a visitor, you'll find the public transportation system can take you from the airport to downtown, and from downtown to nearly every major attraction in the city as well as to the hiking trails in the forest hills west of Portland. In fact, unless you're heading out of the city on an excursion, you won't need to rent a car.

1 ORIENTATION

CITY LAYOUT

Portland is in northwestern Oregon at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. To the west are the West Hills, which rise to more than 1,000 feet. Some 90 miles west of the city are the spectacular Oregon coast and the Pacific Ocean. To the east are rolling hills that extend to the Cascade Range, about 50 miles away. The most prominent peak in this section of the Cascades is Mount Hood (11,239 ft.), a dormant volcanic peak that looms over the city on clear days. From many parts of Portland it's also possible to see Mount St. Helens, a volcano that erupted violently in 1980.

With about two million people in the entire metropolitan area, Portland remains a relatively small city. This is especially evident when you begin to explore the compact downtown area. Nearly everything is accessible on foot, and the city does everything it can to encourage walking and using public transit.

MAIN ARTERIES & STREETS **I-84 (Banfield Fwy. or Expwy.)** enters Portland from the east. East of the city is **I-205**, which bypasses downtown Portland and runs past the airport. **I-5** runs through on a north-south axis, passing along the east bank of the Willamette River directly across from downtown. **I-405** circles around the west and south sides of downtown. **U.S. 26 (Sunset Hwy.)** leaves downtown heading west toward Beaverton and the coast. **Oregon Hwy. 217** runs south from U.S. 26 in Beaverton.

Fun Facts Did You Know?

- The flasher in the famous “Expose Yourself to Art” poster is none other than Bud Clark, the former mayor of Portland.
- Portland is the only city in the United States with an extinct volcano within the city limits (Mount Tabor).
- Matt Groening, creator of *The Simpsons*, got his start in Portland.
- More Asian elephants have been born in Portland (at the Oregon Zoo) than in any other city in North America.
- Twenty downtown water fountains were a gift to the city from teetotaling early-20th-century timber baron Simon Benson, who wanted his mill workers to have something other than alcohol to drink during the day.

The most important artery within Portland is **Burnside Street**. This is the dividing line between north and south Portland. Dividing the city from east to west is the **Willamette River**, which is crossed by eight bridges in the downtown area. From north to south, these bridges are the Fremont, Broadway, Steel, Burnside, Morrison, Hawthorne, Marquam, and Ross Island. Additional bridges beyond the downtown area include the Sellwood Bridge, located south of downtown near the city of Lake Oswego, and the St. John’s Bridge, which connects Northwest Portland with north Portland.

For the sake of convenience, we have defined downtown Portland as the 300-block area within the **Free Rail Zone** (Formerly Fareless Square). This is the area (shaded in on the map on p. 37) in which you can ride for free on the MAX light-rail system and the Portland Streetcar. Downtown, the zone is bounded by I-405 on the west and south, by Irving Street on the north, and by the Willamette River on the east. A Free Rail Zone extension also allows transit riders to travel free between downtown Portland and both the Oregon Convention Center and Lloyd Center Mall. There is no charge to ride the MAX light-rail trolleys that connect downtown with the Rose Quarter and Lloyd District across the Willamette River in northeast Portland.

FINDING AN ADDRESS Almost all addresses in Portland, and for miles beyond, include a map quadrant—NE (northeast), SW (southwest), and so forth. The dividing line between east and west is the Willamette River; between north and south it’s Burnside Street. Any

downtown address will be labeled either SW (southwest) or NW (northwest). An exception to this rule is the area known as North Portland, which is the area across the Willamette River from downtown going toward the Columbia River and Vancouver, Washington. Streets here have a plain “North” designation. Also, Burnside Street is designated either “East” or “West.”

Avenues run north-south and streets run east-west. Street names are the same on both sides of the Willamette River. Consequently, there is a SW Yamhill Street and a SE Yamhill Street. In Northwest Portland, street names are alphabetical going north from Burnside to Wilson. Naito Parkway is the street nearest the Willamette River on the west side, and Water Avenue is the nearest on the east side. Beyond these are numbered avenues. On the west side you’ll also find Broadway and Park Avenue between Sixth Avenue and Ninth Avenue. With each block, the addresses increase by 100, avenues beginning at the Willamette River and streets beginning at Burnside Street. Odd numbers are generally on the west and north sides of the street, and even numbers on the east and south sides.

Here’s an example: You want to go to 1327 SW Ninth Ave. Because it’s in the 1300 block, you’ll find it 13 blocks south of Burnside and, because it’s an odd number, on the west side of the street.

STREET MAPS Stop by **Travel Portland**, 701 SW Sixth Ave., Ste. 1 (☎ 877/678-5263 or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com), in Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland for a free map of the city.

Powell’s City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside St. (☎ 800/878-7323 or 503/228-4651; www.powells.com), has an excellent free map of downtown that includes a walking-tour route and information on many of the sights you’ll pass along the way.

Members of the **American Automobile Association (AAA)** can get a free map of the city at the AAA offices at 600 SW Market St. (☎ 503/222-6734; www.aaaorid.com).

PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS IN BRIEF

Portland’s neighborhoods are mostly dictated by geography. The Willamette River forms a natural dividing line between the eastern and western portions of the city, while the Columbia River forms a boundary with the state of Washington on the north. The West Hills, comprising Portland’s prime residential neighborhoods, are a beautiful backdrop for this attractive city. Covered in evergreens, the hills rise to a height of 1,000 feet at the edge of downtown. Within these hills are the Oregon Zoo, the International Rose Test Garden, the Japanese Garden, and several other attractions.

For a map of Portland neighborhoods, see the “Portland Attractions” map on p. 71.

Downtown This term usually refers to the business and shopping district south of Burnside and north of Jackson Street between the Willamette River and 13th Avenue. Here you’ll find a dozen or more high-end hotels, dozens of restaurants of all types, and loads of shopping. Within downtown’s **Cultural District** (along Broadway and the South Park Blocks) are most of the city’s performing arts venues and a couple of museums.

Skidmore Historic District/Old Town Portland’s original commercial core centers around SW Ankeny Street and SW First Avenue. Many of the restored buildings have become retail stores, but despite the presence of the **Saturday Market**, the neighborhood has never become a popular shopping district, mostly because of its welfare hotels, missions, street people, and drug dealing. However, with its many clubs and bars, it is the city’s main nightlife district. The neighborhood is safe during the day, but visitors should exercise caution at night.

Chinatown Portland has had a Chinatown almost since its earliest days. This small area, with its numerous Chinese groceries and restaurants, is wedged between the Pearl District and Old Town and is entered through the colorful Chinatown Gate at West Burnside Street and Fourth Avenue. The neighborhood’s main attraction is the impressive **Lan Su Chinese Garden**. Because of its proximity to bars on West Burnside Street and the homeless missions and welfare hotels in Old Town, this is not a good neighborhood to explore late at night. However, it has been undergoing something of a renaissance in recent years.

The Pearl District This neighborhood of galleries, residential and business lofts, cafes, breweries, and shops is bounded by the North Park Blocks, Overton Street, I-405, and Burnside Street. Crowds of people come here on **First Thursday** (the first Thurs of every month) when art galleries and other businesses are open late. This is Portland’s hip urban loft scene and one of the city’s main upscale-restaurant neighborhoods.

Northwest/Nob Hill Located along NW 23rd and NW 21st avenues, this is one of Portland’s two most fashionable neighborhoods. Here you’ll find some of the city’s best restaurants, as well as lots of cafes, boutiques, and national chain stores. Surrounding the two main business streets of the neighborhood are blocks of restored Victorian homes on shady tree-lined streets.

South Waterfront This is the newest neighborhood in Portland and is a collection of high-rise offices and condominiums a half-mile south of Waterfront Park. The South Waterfront is where you'll find the lower terminal for the Portland Aerial Tram.

Irvington Though neither as attractive nor as large as the Northwest/Nob Hill neighborhood, Irvington, centered around Broadway in northeast Portland, is almost as hip. For several blocks along Broadway (around NE 15th Ave.) you'll find interesting boutiques and numerous good, inexpensive restaurants.

Hawthorne District This southeast Portland neighborhood is full of eclectic boutiques, moderately priced restaurants, and hip college students from nearby **Reed College**. Just south of Hawthorne Boulevard, beginning at SE 12th Avenue, you'll find the interesting **Ladd's Addition** neighborhood, which has five rose gardens and a great pastry shop. Belmont Street, just north of Hawthorne Boulevard, and Division Street, to the south, are two of the city's up-and-coming hip neighborhoods, and both areas are well worth exploring.

Sellwood/Westmoreland Situated in southeast Portland, this is the city's antiques district and contains many restored Victorian houses. Just north of the Sellwood antiques district, surrounding the intersection of SE Milwaukie Avenue and SE Bybee Boulevard, you'll find the heart of the Eastmoreland neighborhood, home to numerous good restaurants.

Alberta Arts District This neighborhood, a mile to the east of I-5 and stretching for another mile to the east, is Portland's most multicultural and creative neighborhood. The area has been rapidly gentrifying, and because the old houses have character yet are fairly small, it's a popular neighborhood with young, liberal families. Neighborhood shops are full of alternative-lifestyle fashions, avant-garde art, and lots of the unexpected and the uncategorizable. Cafes, pubs, and inexpensive restaurants provide plenty of places for making the scene. On the **Last Thursday** of each month the neighborhood throws a blocks-long art-oriented street party.

North Mississippi Avenue Anchored by the ReBuilding Center, a sort of warehouse-size thrift store full of building materials, this quirky neighborhood is another of the rapidly gentrifying Portland neighborhoods favored by youthful and liberal-minded types. With plenty of good restaurants, a brewpub, popular music venues, and a couple of great coffeehouses, North Mississippi is a fun neighborhood to explore if you want to get a feel for what it's like to live in Portland.

2 GETTING AROUND

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

For bus, MAX, and Portland Streetcar information, contact the **TriMet Customer Assistance Office** (☎ 503/238-7433; www.trimet.org).

FREE RIDES Portland is committed to keeping its downtown uncongested, and to this end has invested heavily in its public transportation system. The single greatest innovation—as well as a good reason to ride the MAX light-rail system and the Portland Streetcar—is that they're free within an area known as the **Free Rail Zone**. That's right, free!

There are 300 blocks of downtown included in the Free Rail Zone, and as long as you stay within the boundaries, you don't pay a cent. The Free Rail Zone covers the area between I-405 on the south and west, Hoyt Street on the north, and the Willamette River on the east. The Free Rail Zone extension also makes it possible to take the MAX light-rail trolley between downtown Portland and both the Rose Quarter (site of the Oregon Convention Center) and the Lloyd District (site of the Lloyd Center Mall), which are both across the Willamette River in northeast Portland.

BY BUS TriMet buses operate daily over an extensive network. You can pick up the *TriMet Schedule Book*, which lists all the bus routes with times, or individual route maps and time schedules, at the **TriMet Ticket Office**, 701 SW Sixth Ave. (☎ 503/238-7433; www.trimet.org), which is behind and beneath the waterfall fountain at Pioneer Courthouse Square. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm. On Saturdays between 10am and 4pm, there are no attendants on duty, but you can still buy tickets from vending machines and pick up maps and schedule books. Bus and MAX passes and transit information are also available at area Fred Meyer, Safeway, and most Albertsons grocery stores.

Adult fares on TriMet buses, and, outside the Free Rail Zone, on both MAX light-rail trains and Portland Streetcars are \$2 or \$2.30, depending on how far you travel. Seniors 65 years and older pay 95¢ with valid proof of age; children 7 through 17 pay \$1.50. You can also make free transfers between the bus and both the MAX light-rail system and the Portland Streetcar. All-day tickets costing \$4.75 are good for travel to all zones and are valid on buses, MAX, and streetcars. These tickets can be purchased from any bus driver, at MAX stops, and on board Portland Streetcars.

32 BY LIGHT RAIL The **Metropolitan Area Express (MAX)** is Portland's aboveground light-rail system that connects downtown Portland with the airport (Red Line), the eastern suburb of Gresham (Blue Line), the western suburbs of Beaverton (Red and Blue lines) and Hillsboro (Blue Line), North Portland (Yellow Line), and Clackamas (Green Line). MAX is basically a modern trolley, but there are also replicas of vintage trolley cars (☎ **503/323-7363**) that operate downtown on Sunday afternoons. The Red and Blue lines operate along SW First Avenue and SW Morrison and SW Yamhill streets. The Yellow and Green lines operate along the Transit Mall which is along SW Fifth and SW Sixth avenues. Transfers to the bus are free.

MAX is free within the Free Rail Zone, which includes all of the downtown area. A Free Rail Zone extension also makes it possible to ride the MAX between downtown Portland and both the Rose Quarter (site of the Oregon Convention Center) and the Lloyd District (site of the Lloyd Center Mall). Both are across the Willamette River in northeast Portland. If you are traveling outside of the Free Rail Zone, be sure to buy your ticket and stamp it in the time-punch machine on the platform before you board MAX. There are ticket-vending machines at all MAX stops that tell you how much to pay for your destination; these machines also give change. The MAX driver cannot sell tickets. Fares are the same as on buses. There are ticket inspectors who randomly check and issue a hefty fine to passengers without stamped tickets.

The **Portland Streetcar** (☎ **503/238-RIDE** [7433]; www.portlandstreetcar.org) operates from the South Waterfront District (site of the Portland Aerial Tram) south of downtown, through Portland State University, downtown, and the Pearl District to Northwest Portland. The route includes not only the attractions of the Cultural District but also all the restaurants and great shopping in the Pearl District and along NW 21st and 23rd avenues, which makes this streetcar a great way for visitors to get from downtown (where most of the hotels are located) to the neighborhoods with a high concentration of restaurants. Streetcar fares for trips outside the Free Rail Zone are \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for youths, and 95¢ for seniors. Note that these fares are valid all day, so once you've paid your fare, you won't have to buy another ticket all day.

Hospitals aren't usually considered tourist destinations, but in Portland's case, one medical center, the Oregon Health & Sciences University Hospital, has become something of an accidental destination. The hillside hospital is connected to the newly developed South Waterfront District by the **Portland Aerial Tram** (www.portlandtram.org), and this tram has become a popular Portland excursion. There may not be much to do once you get to the hospital, but the

ride up and back sure is fun and provides great views over the city. The tram's silvery, egg-shaped gondolas operate Monday through Friday from 5:30am to 9:30pm and Saturday from 9am to 5pm (also Sun 1–5pm from mid-May to mid-Sept, with departures every 6 minutes. The round-trip fare is \$4 and children 5 and under ride free. You'll find the lower terminal on SW Bond Street, ½ mile south of downtown. The Portland Streetcar stops at the tram station.

BY CAR

CAR RENTALS Portland is a compact city, and public transit will get you to most attractions within its limits. However, if you are planning to explore outside the city—and Portland's greatest attractions, such as Mount Hood and the Columbia River Gorge, lie not in the city itself but in the countryside within an hour's drive—you'll definitely need a car.

The major car-rental companies are all represented in Portland and have desks at Portland International Airport, which is the most convenient place to pick up a car. There are also many independent and small car-rental agencies listed in the Portland Yellow Pages. At press time, weekly rates for a compact car in July (high-season rates) were running around \$260 (\$335 with taxes). Expect lower rates in the rainy months.

On the ground floor of the airport parking deck, across the street from the baggage-claim area, you'll find the following companies: **Avis** (☎ 800/331-1212 or 503/249-4950; www.avis.com), **Budget** (☎ 800/527-0700 or 503/249-6331; www.budget.com), **Dollar** (☎ 800/800-3665 or 503/249-4792; www.dollar.com), **Enterprise** (☎ 800/261-7331 or 503/252-1500; www.enterprise.com); and **Hertz** (☎ 800/654-3131 or 503/528-7900; www.hertz.com). Outside the airport, but with desks adjacent to the other car-rental desks, are **Alamo** (☎ 877/222-9075 or 503/249-4900; www.goalamo.com), **National** (☎ 877/222-9058 or 503/249-4900; www.nationalcar.com), and **Thrifty** (☎ 800/847-4389 or 503/254-6564; www.thrifty.com).

PARKING Throughout most of downtown Portland and the Pearl District, you won't find any parking meters on the streets. However, in the middle of every block, you will find an electronic parking meter that takes coins, credit cards, and debit cards. These machines issue little parking receipts that you then have to tape in the curbside window of your car. Although a bit inconvenient, this system allows you to buy time while parked in one space and still use your remaining time if you move your car to another space. In most parts of town, you don't have to feed the meters after 7pm, but there are some exceptions, so be sure to read the meter where you park to be sure of the hours during which you will have to pay for parking. Also keep in

34 mind that you must pay for parking on Sundays from 1 to 7pm. The hourly rate is \$1.60.

The best parking deal in town is at the **Smart Park** garages, where the cost is \$1.50 per hour for the first 4 hours (but after that the hourly rate jumps to \$4 or \$5, so you'd be well advised to move your car), \$4 to \$5 for the entire evening after 6pm. Look for the red, white, and black signs featuring the image of a smart parking attendant. You'll find Smart Park garages at First Avenue and Jefferson Street, Fourth Avenue and Yamhill Street, 10th Avenue and Yamhill Street, Third Avenue and Alder Street, O'Bryant Square, Naito Parkway and Davis Street, and Station Place (in the Pearl District near Union Station). More than 75 downtown merchants validate Smart Park tickets for 2 hours if you spend at least \$25, so don't forget to take your ticket along with you.

SPECIAL DRIVING RULES You may turn right on a red light after a full stop, and if you are in the far left lane of a one-way street, you may turn left into the adjacent left lane of a one-way street at a red light after a full stop. Everyone in a moving vehicle is required to wear a seat belt.

BY TAXI

Because most everything in Portland is fairly close, getting around by taxi can be economical. Although there are almost always taxis waiting in line at major hotels, you won't find them cruising the streets—you'll have to phone for one. **Broadway Cab** (☎ 503/227-1234; www.broadwaycab.com) and **Radio Cab** (☎ 503/227-1212; www.radiocab.net) charge \$2.50 for the first mile, \$2.30 for each additional mile, and \$1 for additional passengers.

ON FOOT

City blocks in Portland are about half the size of most city blocks elsewhere, and the entire downtown area covers only about 13 blocks by 26 blocks. This makes Portland a very easy place to explore on foot. The sidewalks are wide and there are many fountains, works of art, and small parks with benches.

Where to Stay

Whether you are looking for a downtown corporate high-rise, a restored historic hotel, a hip boutique hotel, a romantic B&B, or just something relatively inexpensive, you'll find it in Portland. You even have a couple of good choices for riverfront hotels.

If your budget won't allow for a first-class downtown business hotel, try near the airport or elsewhere on the outskirts of the city (Troutdale and Gresham on the east side; Beaverton and Hillsboro on the west; Wilsonville and Lake Oswego in the south; and Vancouver, Washington, in the north), where you're more likely to find inexpensive to moderately priced motels.

You'll find the greatest concentration of bed-and-breakfasts in the Irvington neighborhood of northeast Portland. This area is close to downtown and is generally quite convenient.

In the following listings, price categories are based on the rate for a double room in high season. (Most hotels charge the same for a single or double room.) Keep in mind that the rates listed do not include local room taxes, which vary between 7% and 12.5%.

For comparison purposes, we list what hotels call "rack rates," or walk-in rates—but you should never have to pay these highly inflated prices. Various discounts (Internet specials, advance-purchase, AAA, senior, corporate, and Entertainment Book) often reduce these rates, so be sure to ask. In fact, you can often get a discounted corporate rate simply by flashing a business card (your own, that is). At inexpensive chain motels, there are almost always discounted rates for AAA members and seniors.

You'll also find that room rates are almost always considerably lower October through April (the rainy season), and large downtown hotels often offer weekend discounts of up to 50% throughout the year. Some of the large, upscale hotel chains have now gone to an airline-type rate system based on occupancy, so if you call early enough, before a hotel books up, you might get a really good rate. On the other hand, call at the last minute and you might catch a cancellation and still be offered a low rate. However, it's always advisable to make reservations as far in advance as possible if you're planning to visit during the busy summer months. Also be sure to ask about special packages (romance, golf, or theater), which most of the more expensive hotels usually offer.

36 Most hotels offer nonsmoking rooms, and most bed-and-breakfasts are exclusively nonsmoking. The majority of hotels also offer wheelchair-accessible rooms.

HELPING HANDS

If you're having trouble booking a room, try **Travel Portland**, 701 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97205 (☎ 877/678-5263 or 503/275-8355; www.travelportland.com), which offers a reservation service for the Portland metro area.

For information on **bed-and-breakfasts** in the Portland area, contact the **Oregon Bed and Breakfast Guild** (☎ 800/944-6196; www.obbg.org).

1 DOWNTOWN

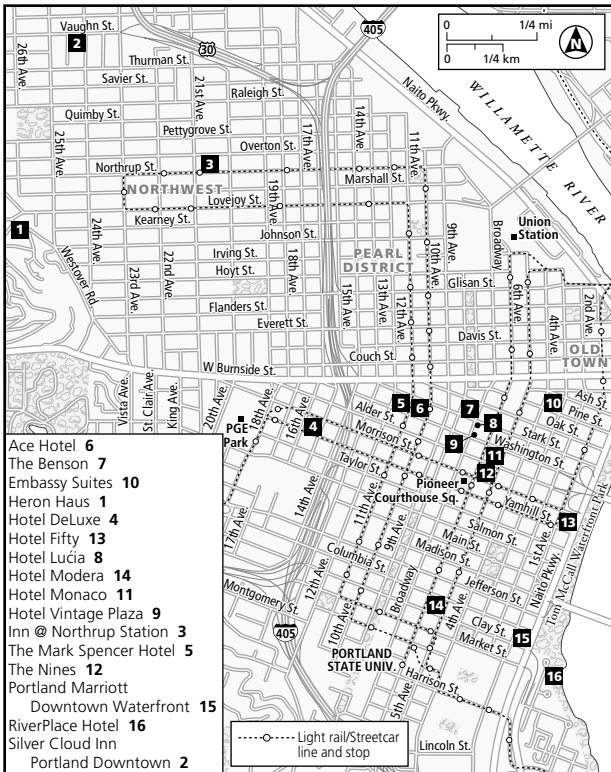
VERY EXPENSIVE

The Nines ★★★ Do you love to shop? Well, book a room at the Nines, and you'll be staying upstairs from **Macy's**. The Nines, the most stylish and sophisticated hotel in Portland, is on the upper floors of the historic Meier & Frank Building, which houses the famous department store on its lower floors. In the separate eighth-floor atrium lobby, you'd never guess there were shoppers searching for deals beneath your feet. Rooms here are designed in a hip interpretation of French Provincial styling. A rooftop lounge, a library with a billiard table, and glass-box seating areas in the lobby give this place a unique feel. The Nines is very service-oriented, and in the evenings attracts Portland's beautiful people to its restaurant and lounge.

525 SW Morrison St., Portland, OR 97204. ☎ 877/229-9995. Fax 503/222-9997. <http://thenines.com>. 331 units. \$179–\$449 double; \$259–\$1,000 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$32. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; 2 lounges; concierge; executive-level rooms; exercise room; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, hair dryer, minibar, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

EXPENSIVE

Hotel deLuxe ★★ If you're a fan of 1930s-to-1950s Hollywood movies, then this glamorous hotel should be your first choice in Portland. Not only are there old black-and-white photos of movie stars throughout the hotel, but the lobby, with its potted palms, gilded plasterwork ceiling, and crystal chandeliers, is prime for an entrance by Fred and Ginger. Guest rooms are equally classic, though with a hip aesthetic geared toward younger travelers. There are iPod docks and flat-panel HDTVs, plus pillow-top mattresses and pillow menus.



Sure, the basic rooms are small, but they're so pretty, it's easy to overlook the tight quarters. It's all delightfully playful, which is a welcome change from downtown's many sterile corporate business hotels.

729 SW 15th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. ☎ **866/895-2094** or 503/219-2094. Fax 503/219-2095. www.hoteldeluxeportland.com. 130 units. \$129–\$219 double; \$169–\$389 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$25. Pets accepted (\$45 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; exercise room; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, minibar, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

Hotel Fifty ★ Value Overlooking Waterfront Park and located on the MAX light-rail line, this 1960s vintage hotel is a bit nondescript from the outside, but the inside is surprisingly stylish. The property is only steps from the Willamette River (although not actually on the

38 water), and is also close to businesses, fine restaurants, and shopping. Guest rooms are stylishly modern without being aggressively hip and are much larger than the rooms at the **Hotel Modera** (Portland's hippest boutique hotel).

50 SW Morrison St., Portland, OR 97204-3390. ☎ **877/237-6775** or 503/221-0711. Fax 503/484-1417. www.hotelfifty.com. 140 units. \$119–\$339 double; \$199–\$429 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$25; self-parking \$20. Pets accepted (\$50 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

Hotel Monaco ★★ Located a block from Pioneer Courthouse Square and within a few blocks of the best downtown shopping, this playful yet sophisticated hotel is housed in what was originally a department store. Artwork by Northwest artists fills the lobby, and in the afternoon there are complimentary tastings of Northwest wines. Guest rooms, most of which are suites, have a whimsical decor—striped wallpaper, big padded headboards on the beds, red couches. In other words, colors and patterns everywhere, but it all comes together in a pleasantly theatrical fashion that makes these some of my favorite rooms in Portland. In the suites, sliding French doors with curtains divide the living room from the bedrooms.

506 SW Washington St., Portland, OR 97204. ☎ **888/207-2201** or 503/222-0001. Fax 503/222-0004. www.monaco-portland.com. 221 units. \$139–\$289 double; \$159–\$459 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$31. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; bikes; concierge; exercise room and access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, CD player, fridge, hair dryer, minibar, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

Embassy Suites ★ **Kids** **Value** Located in the restored former Multnomah Hotel, which originally opened in 1912, the Embassy Suites has a large, beautiful lobby that is a masterpiece of gilded plasterwork. The accommodations here are primarily two-room suites, with the exception of a handful of studio suites. In keeping with the historic nature of the hotel, the suites have classically styled furnishings. What's much more important, though, is that they give you lots of room to spread out, a rarity in downtown hotels.

319 SW Pine St., Portland, OR 97204. ☎ **800/EMBASSY** (362-2779) or 503/279-9000. Fax 503/497-9051. www.embassyportland.com. 276 units. \$139–\$209 double. Rates include full breakfast and nightly manager's reception. Children 18 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$28; self-parking \$18. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; exercise room; Jacuzzi; indoor pool; room service; sauna; day spa. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront Located just across Waterfront Park and Naito Parkway from the Willamette River, the high-rise Portland Marriott offers great views of Mount

Hood from its upper east-side rooms, and this alone would be reason enough to stay here. The park across the street serves as the site of virtually all of Portland's main festivals. Otherwise, this standard corporate high-rise doesn't have a whole lot of character. Most of the guest rooms have small balconies.

1401 SW Naito Pkwy., Portland, OR 97201. ☎ **800/228-9290** or 503/226-7600. Fax 503/221-1789. www.marriott.com/pdxor. 503 units. \$109–\$259 double; \$400–\$600 suite. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$28. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; 1 lounge; bikes; concierge; executive-level rooms; exercise room; Jacuzzi; indoor pool; room service; sauna. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

RiverPlace Hotel ★★★ With the Willamette River at its back doorstep and the sloping lawns of Waterfront Park to one side, the RiverPlace is Portland's only downtown waterfront hotel. This alone would be enough to recommend the hotel, but its quiet boutique atmosphere would make it an excellent choice even if it weren't on the water. More than half the understated, contemporary rooms are suites, some of which have wood-burning fireplaces and whirlpool baths. However, the river-view standard king rooms are the best deal. The hotel's restaurant overlooks the river, and there's also a bar with a patio overlooking the river. All in all, what you're paying for here is primarily the waterfront locale.

1510 SW Harbor Way, Portland, OR 97201. ☎ **800/227-1333** or 503/228-3233. Fax 503/295-6190. www.riverplacehotel.com. 84 units. \$189–\$239 double; \$219–\$269 junior suite; \$219 and up suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$28. Pets accepted (\$50 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; access to nearby health club; Jacuzzi; room service; sauna; day spa. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, CD player, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

MODERATE

Avalon Hotel & Spa ★★★ This hotel sits right on the banks of the Willamette River a mile south of downtown and half a mile south of the new South Waterfront District. Although this location is a bit inconvenient for exploring the city on foot, there is a riverside bike path right in front of the hotel, making this a good bet if you're a jogger or if you like to take leisurely walks. The Avalon's contemporary decor makes it one of the most stylish hotels in the city, and the riverfront rooms, most of which have balconies, provide good views and a chance to breathe in some fresh air. The hotel's stylish restaurant boasts the same great river views and walls of glass to make the most of the setting. A full-service spa gives this luxurious boutique hotel the feel of a much larger resort.

0455 SW Hamilton Court, Portland, OR 97239. ☎ **888/556-4402** or 503/802-5800. Fax 503/802-5820. www.avalonhotelandspa.com. 99 units. \$129–\$209 double; \$219–\$499 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 17 and under stay

40 free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$19. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; health club; room service; day spa. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

The Benson ★★ Built in 1912, The Benson exudes old-world sophistication and elegance. In the French baroque lobby, walnut paneling frames a marble fireplace, Austrian crystal chandeliers hang from the ornate plasterwork ceiling, and a marble staircase allows for grand entrances. These are the poshest digs in Portland, and guest rooms are luxuriously furnished in a plush Euro-luxe styling. Rooms vary considerably in size, and most of the deluxe kings are particularly spacious. However, the corner junior suites, which are large and have lots of windows, are the hotel's best deal. All the guest rooms have Tempur-Pedic mattresses. The hotel's **London Grill** is well known for its Sunday brunch, and **El Gaucho**, just off the lobby, serves some of the best steaks in Portland. In the lobby, the elegant Palm Court lounge has live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.

309 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ☎ **800/663-1144** or 503/228-2000. Fax 503/471-3920. www.bensonhotel.com. 287 units. \$129–\$229 double; \$189–\$299 junior suite; \$450–\$1,200 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$29. Pets accepted (\$25 fee). **Amenities:** 3 restaurants; 2 lounges; babysitting; concierge; exercise room and access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, minibar, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

WHERE TO STAY

4

DOWNTOWN

Hotel Lucía ★★ Portland may not have a W Hotel, but it does have the Lucía, which is just as hip. Located across from the prestigious and very traditional Benson hotel, the Lucía is the Portland address of choice for young business travelers with a taste for contemporary style. There's a strong emphasis on the visual arts here, with paintings by Northwest and national artists and black-and-white photos by famed White House photographer David Hume Kennerly throughout the hotel. Guest rooms are some of the prettiest in the city, with pillow-top mattresses and bathrooms that have lots of chrome and frosted-glass counters. The hotel's restaurant, **Typhoon!** (p. 57), is one of Portland's best Thai restaurants.

400 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ☎ **866/986-8086** or 503/225-1717. Fax 503/225-1919. www.hotellucia.com. 127 units. \$129–\$309 double; \$249–\$759 suite. Children 12 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$29. Pets accepted (\$45 fee). **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; 2 lounges; concierge; exercise room; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, minibar, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

Hotel Vintage Plaza ★★ This hotel, which was built in 1894 and underwent a major renovation in 2009, is *the* place to stay in Portland if you are a wine lover. A wine theme dominates the hotel's decor, and there are complimentary evening tastings of Northwest

wines. There are a wide variety of room types here, and though the standard rooms are worth recommending, the Starlight rooms and bi-level suites are the real scene stealers. The Starlight rooms in particular are truly extraordinary. Though small, they have solarium-style windows that provide romantic views at night and let in floods of light during the day. The bi-level suites, some with Japanese soaking tubs, are equally attractive spaces. The hotel's **Pazzo Ristorante** is a contemporary trattoria.

422 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205. ☎ **800/243-0555** or 503/228-1212. Fax 503/228-3598. www.vintageplaza.com. 117 units. \$129–\$305 double; \$170–\$440 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$31. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; exercise room; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, minibar, Wi-Fi.

INEXPENSIVE

Ace Hotel ★ Bauhaus meets industrial salvage center at this über-hip hotel a block away from **Powell's City of Books**. Young creative types will adore the fun and funky atmosphere that conjures up cheap European hotels of the past. In the lobby, a large, old industrial door serves as a giant coffee table, while over in the corner, there's a vintage photo booth. Every guest room is different, with very unusual murals on the walls. There are Pendleton blankets on the platform beds, and, in rooms with private bathrooms, you might find an old wooden apple crate serving as a step up into the claw-foot tub. Book one of the larger rooms and you can play old vinyl records on a genuine turntable. How cool is that? A hip espresso bar and eclectic restaurant are off the lobby. Ask for a room in back if you're a light sleeper.

1022 SW Stark St., Portland, OR 97205. ☎ **503/228-2277**. Fax 503/228-2297. www.acehotel.com. 79 units (10 with shared bathroom). \$95 double with shared bathroom; \$140 double with private bathroom; \$250 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$20. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** 3 restaurants; lounge; bikes; concierge; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, Wi-Fi.

Hotel Modera ★ The Modera is sexy and stylish. Its garden courtyard, with a living wall of greenery, is one of the prettiest hotel spaces in downtown Portland. A gravel patio with firepits lends the restaurant's outdoor dining area the feel of an Arizona resort, and the utterly hip and boldly contemporary decor will make young creative types feel right at home. The drawback is that the basic rooms are absolutely tiny and don't even have a comfortable chair in which to relax. So, if you want to stay at this hip hotel and you want enough room for you and your suitcases, splurge on a suite.

515 Clay St., Portland, OR 97201. ☎ **877/484-1084** or 503/484-1084. Fax 503/226-0447. 174 units. \$129–\$159 double; \$289 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Valet parking \$20. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

42 **The Mark Spencer Hotel** **Value** This economically priced downtown hotel just off West Burnside Street is ideally situated around the corner from both **Powell's City of Books** and **Jake's Famous Crawfish** (p. 52). The trendy Pearl District begins only a couple of blocks from the hotel, and the Portland Streetcar stops nearby. The rooms and suites here are a bit dated in their decor, but all have kitchenettes. When you've had enough of wandering the city streets, head up to the hotel's rooftop garden deck for a different perspective on Portland. The Mark Spencer is a favorite of touring Broadway shows when they're in town.

409 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. ☎ **800/548-3934** or 503/224-3293. Fax 503/223-7848. www.markspencer.com. 101 units. \$79–\$159 double; \$99–\$209 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$16. Pets accepted (\$15 per day). **Amenities:** Concierge; access to nearby health club. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, kitchenette, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

2 NOB HILL & NORTHWEST PORTLAND

EXPENSIVE

Heron Haus ★ A short walk from the bustling Nob Hill shopping and dining district of Northwest Portland, the Heron Haus B&B offers outstanding accommodations, spectacular views, and tranquil surroundings. Surprisingly, the house still features some of the original plumbing. In most places this would be a liability, but not here, since the same man who plumbed Portland's famous **Pittock Mansion** (p. 82) did the plumbing here. Many of that building's unusual bathroom features are also found at the Heron Haus—one shower has *seven* shower heads. In another room there's a modern whirlpool spa with excellent views of the city. All the rooms have fireplaces.

2545 NW Westover Rd., Portland, OR 97210. ☎ **503/274-1846**. Fax 503/248-4055. www.heronhaus.com. 6 units. \$145–\$195 double. Rates include continental breakfast. 2-night minimum some holiday weekends. AE, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Inn @ Northrup Station ★ **Finds** Colorful, hip, retro. These words best describe this hotel in the shady Nob Hill neighborhood. On top of its high style, the hotel has large rooms with kitchens or kitchenettes, and the Portland Streetcar stops right outside, which makes this a quiet yet convenient hotel for exploring many of the city's most interesting neighborhoods. The colorful retro decor really sets this all-suite hotel apart from more cookie-cutter corporate hotels

around town, and if you appreciate bright colors and contemporary styling, this should be your first choice in town. Lots of the rooms here have balconies, and there's a rooftop terrace. The hotel's location in a quiet residential neighborhood is another plus, and some of Portland's top restaurants are within a short walk.

2025 NW Northrup St., Portland, OR 97209. ☎ **800/224-1180** or 503/224-0543. Fax 503/273-2102. www.northrupstation.com. 70 units. \$129–\$199 double. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Access to nearby health club. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

MODERATE

Silver Cloud Inn Portland Downtown This hotel is on the edge of Portland's trendy Nob Hill neighborhood, and though it's also near an industrial area, it is still a very attractive and comfortable place. While the rooms fronting on Vaughn Street are well insulated against traffic noise, I still prefer the rooms on the other side of the building. Reasonable rates are the main draw here, but the rooms are also well designed. All the rooms were completely remodeled in 2009. The minisuites have separate seating areas, which makes them good bets for families. The best thing about the hotel is its location within a 5-minute drive (or 15-min. walk) of both Forest Park and several of the city's best restaurants. To find the hotel, take I-405 to Ore. 30 west and get off at the Vaughn Street exit.

2426 NW Vaughn St., Portland, OR 97210. ☎ **800/205-6939** or 503/242-2400. Fax 503/242-1770. www.silvercloud.com. 82 units. \$129–\$179 double. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Concierge; exercise room and access to nearby health club. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

3 NORTHEAST & SOUTHEAST PORTLAND

EXPENSIVE

Lion and the Rose Victorian Bed & Breakfast Inn ★ This imposing Queen Anne–style Victorian inn, located in the historic Irvington District a block off NE Broadway, is a real gem. In the Lavonna Room, there's a turret sitting area and a Sleep Number bed, while in the Starina Room you'll find an imposing Edwardian bed and armoire. The Garden Room has a claw-foot tub; other bathrooms are small but attractive. If you have problems climbing stairs, ask for the ground floor's Rose Room, which has a whirlpool tub, or the Victorian apartment, which is on the basement level. Breakfasts



Family-Friendly Hotels

Embassy Suites (p. 38) Located in the center of the city, this renovated historic hotel offers spacious rooms (mostly two-room suites). You and the kids will have room to spread out and can hang out by the indoor pool when you tire of exploring Portland.

Homewood Suites by Hilton Vancouver/Portland (p. 46) This hotel is on the north side of the Columbia River, in Vancouver, Washington. A paved riverside trail, a fun family restaurant, and a brewpub—not to mention its location right across the street from the river—all add up to convenience for families. That you'll get a one- or two-bedroom apartment with a full kitchen just makes life on vacation that much easier.

The Lakeshore Inn (p. 48) This reasonably priced inn is right on the shore of Lake Oswego, a short drive south of downtown Portland, and it also has a pool. The big rooms with kitchenettes are great for families; for more space, opt for a one- or two-bedroom suite.

are sumptuous affairs, great for lingering. Restaurants, cafes, eclectic boutiques, and a huge shopping mall are all within 4 blocks.

1810 NE 15th Ave., Portland, OR 97212. ☎ **800/955-1647** or 503/287-9245. Fax 503/287-9247. www.lionrose.com. 8 units. \$134–\$224 double (lower rates without breakfast). Rates include full breakfast. 2-night minimum on holiday weekends. AE, DISC, MC, V. No children under 10. **Amenities:** Concierge. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

MODERATE

Portland's White House ★★ With massive columns framing the portico, a circular driveway, and, in the front garden, a bubbling fountain, this imposing Greek revival mansion bears a more than passing resemblance to its namesake in Washington, D.C. Behind the mahogany front doors, a grand foyer with original hand-painted wall murals is flanked by a parlor and the formal dining room, where the large breakfast is served beneath sparkling crystal chandeliers. Canopy beds, antique furnishings, and bathrooms with claw-foot or whirlpool tubs further the feeling of luxury here. Request the balcony room, and you can gaze out past the Greek columns and imagine you're in the Oval Office. There are also three rooms in the restored carriage house.

1914 NE 22nd Ave., Portland, OR 97212. ☎ **800/272-7131** or 503/287-7131. Fax 503/249-1641. www.portlandwhitehouse.com. 8 units. \$125–\$225 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi.

INEXPENSIVE

Everett Street Guesthouse **(Finds)** No teddy bears, no frilly curtains, no potpourri—that's the mantra at this gorgeous hideaway on a quiet residential street in northeast Portland. Innkeeper Terry Rusinow, who once owned a craft gallery in the California wine country, has an impeccable eye for interior decor. This little inn has two rooms and a lovely cottage with a kitchenette in the backyard. When you stay in the main house, you almost feel as though you've rented the entire place. Note that this is a nonsmoking and perfume-free house, and there is a resident cat. There are loads of great restaurants within walking distance.

2306 NE Everett St., Portland, OR 97232. ☎ **503/230-0211** or 503/830-0650. www.everettstreetguesthouse.com. 3 units. \$70–\$80 double; \$100 cottage. Rates include continental breakfast (except in cottage). 2-night minimum (3 nights in cottage). MC, V. No children. **Amenities:** Bikes; concierge. *In room:* Wi-Fi, no phone.

Jupiter Hotel **(Finds)** Once an aging mid-century motel, the Jupiter has undergone an extreme makeover and is now an über-hip address for the Portland arts crowd. With its glowing blue wall panels, piped-in music in the courtyard, and log-cabin-swank **Doug Fir Lounge**, the Jupiter has enough happening to keep the party going all night long, so don't plan on getting much sleep if you stay here. Platform beds, photo-murals on the walls, and lots of retro accents provide guest rooms that are plenty stylish for young travelers on a tight budget.

800 E. Burnside St., Portland, OR 97214. ☎ **877/800-0004** or 503/230-9200. www.jupiterhotel.com. 80 units. \$99–\$149 double; \$350–\$400 suite. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Parking \$8. Pets accepted (\$30 per night). **Amenities:** Restaurant; 2 lounges; bikes; concierge; access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

McMenamins Kennedy School **(Finds)** The Kennedy School, which was an elementary school from 1915 to 1975, is owned by the same local brewing company that turned Portland's old poor farm into the most entertaining and unusual lodge in the state (see the listing for **McMenamins Edgefield** on p. 48). In the guest rooms you'll still find the original blackboards and great big school clocks (you know, like the one you used to watch so expectantly). However, the classroom/guest rooms here now have their own bathrooms, so you won't have to raise your hand or walk down the hall. On the premises you'll also find a restaurant, a movie theater pub, a cigar bar,

46 and a big hot soaking pool. The Kennedy School is located north of the stylish Irvington neighborhood in an up-and-coming part of the city that dates from the early years of the 20th century.

5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland, OR 97211. ☎ **888/249-3983** or 503/249-3983. www.mcmenamins.com. 35 units. \$109–\$135 double. Children 6 and under stay free. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; 5 lounges; soaking pool. *In room:* A/C, Wi-Fi.

4 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

Just across the Columbia River from Portland, Vancouver, Washington, is an economical area from which to explore Portland.

MODERATE

The Heathman Lodge ★  **Value** Mountain lodge meets urban chic at this suburban Vancouver hotel adjacent to the Vancouver Mall. Just 20 minutes by car from downtown Portland, the hotel is well placed for exploring both the Columbia Gorge and Mount St. Helens. With its log, stone, and cedar-shingle construction, this hotel conjures up the Northwest's historic mountain lodges. As at Timberline Lodge on Oregon's Mount Hood, the Heathman Lodge is filled with artwork and embellished with rugged Northwest-inspired craftwork, including totem poles, Eskimo kayak frames, and Pendleton blankets. Guest rooms feature a mix of rustic pine and peeled-hickory furniture, as well as rawhide lampshades and Pendleton-inspired bedspreads. Most rooms also have Tempur-Pedic mattresses.

7801 NE Greenwood Dr., Vancouver, WA 98662. ☎ **888/475-3100** or 360/254-3100. Fax 360/254-6100. www.heathmanlodge.com. 182 units. \$79–\$149 double; \$159–\$350 suite. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; exercise room and access to nearby health club; Jacuzzi; indoor pool; room service; sauna. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Homewood Suites by Hilton Vancouver/Portland

Located across the street from the Columbia River, this modern all-suite hotel is a great choice for families. The hotel charges surprisingly reasonable rates for large apartmentlike accommodations that include full kitchens. Rates include not only a large breakfast, but afternoon snacks as well (Mon–Thurs). These snacks are substantial enough to pass for dinner if you aren't too hungry. The hotel is right across the street from both a beach-themed restaurant and a brewpub. Across the street, you'll also find a paved riverside path that's great for walking or jogging. The only drawback is that it's a 15- to 20-minute drive to downtown Portland.

701 SE Columbia Shores Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661. ☎ **800/225-5466** or 360/750-1100. Fax 360/750-4899. www.homewoodsuites.com. 104 units. \$139–\$209 double. Rates include full breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. Pets accepted (\$25 fee, \$10 per night). **Amenities:** Exercise room; Jacuzzi; outdoor pool. *In room:* A/C, TV, CD player, hair dryer, kitchen, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

5 THE AIRPORT AREA & TROUTDALE

INEXPENSIVE

Aloft Portland Airport at Cascade Station ★ **Kids** **Value** Like a kinder, gentler W hotel, the Aloft is hip and playful without being totally in-your-face about it. This location just outside the airport may not put you in the heart of Portland, but you can get downtown easily on the MAX light rail and won't even need a car. Because this is primarily a business hotel, the guest rooms are wired to the max, but with 9-foot ceilings and big windows, the rooms also feel quite spacious. Best of all, you spend a fraction of what you would pay downtown, especially on weekends when rates here are real deals. With treats for kids and games in the lounge, this hotel is also a good bet for families.

9920 NE Cascades Pkwy., Portland, OR 97220. ☎ **877/GO-ALOFT** (462-5638) or 503/200-5678. Fax 503/200-5244. <http://aloftportland.com>. 136 units. \$79–\$189 double. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted. **Amenities:** Lounge; free airport transfers; exercise room; indoor pool. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Clarion Hotel Conveniently located right outside the airport, this hotel has one of the best backyards of any hotel in the Portland area. A lake, lawns, and trees create a tranquil setting despite the proximity of both the airport and a busy nearby road. Rooms are designed primarily for business travelers, but even if you aren't here on an expense account, the rooms are a good value, especially those with whirlpool tubs or gas fireplaces. Best of all, almost every room has a view of the lake. An indoor pool is another big plus. To find this hotel, take the complimentary airport shuttle or head straight out of the airport, drive under the I-205 overpass, and watch for the hotel sign ahead on the left.

11518 NE Glenn Widing Dr., Portland, OR 97220. ☎ **800/205-7892** or 503/252-2222. Fax 503/257-7008. www.choicehotels.com. 101 units. \$79–\$159 double. Rates include full breakfast. Children 18 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Free parking. **Amenities:** Free airport transfers; exercise room; Jacuzzi; indoor pool; Wi-Fi. *In room:* A/C, TV, fridge, hair dryer, Internet.

48 McMenamins Edgefield ★★ **Finds** Ideally situated for exploring the Columbia Gorge and Mount Hood, this flagship of the McMenamins microbrewery empire is the former Multnomah County poor farm. Today, the property includes not only tastefully decorated guest rooms with antique furnishings, but a brewery, a pub, a beer garden, a restaurant, a movie theater, a winery, a wine-tasting room, a distillery, two golf courses, a cigar bar in an old shed, and extensive gardens. With so much in one spot, this makes a great base for exploring the area. The beautiful grounds give this inn the feel of a remote retreat, though you are still within 30 minutes of Portland. 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale, OR 97060. ☎ **800/669-8610** or 503/669-8610. www.mcmenamins.com. 114 units (100 with shared bathroom). \$60–\$105 double with shared bathroom; \$120–\$175 double with private bathroom; \$30 hostel bed per person. Children 6 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 3 restaurants; 6 lounges; 2 par-3 golf courses; soaking pool; spa; Wi-Fi. *In room:* No phone.

6 WESTSIDE SUBURBS

INEXPENSIVE

The Lakeshore Inn **Finds** **Kids** Considering that the town of Lake Oswego is Portland's most affluent bedroom community, this hotel is quite reasonably priced. It's right on the lake, and there's a pool on the water's edge, making it a great place to stay in summer. Rooms have standard motel furnishings but are large and have kitchenettes and lakefront decks. There are also one- and two-bedroom suites. The 7-mile drive into downtown Portland follows the Willamette River and is quite pleasant. There are several restaurants and cafes within walking distance.

210 N. State St., Lake Oswego, OR 97034. ☎ **800/215-6431** or 503/636-9679. Fax 503/636-6959. www.thelakeshoreinn.com. 33 units. May–Sept \$99–\$129 double, \$129–\$189 suite; Oct–Apr \$89–\$99 double, \$109–\$149 suite. Rates include continental breakfast. Children 3 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$10 per night). **Amenities:** Access to nearby health club; outdoor pool. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, hair dryer, kitchenette, Wi-Fi.

Where to Dine

The Portland restaurant scene is hot and it's not just because of all the wood ovens. The city has developed a reputation to rival Seattle's when it comes to great restaurants. What's driving this restaurant renaissance are lots of creative young chefs and their affinity for local produce and wines from Willamette Valley wineries. The bounty of ingredients that can be sourced locally is mind-boggling. There are organic fruit and vegetables, local hazelnuts and walnuts, wild mushrooms, and even Oregon truffles, as well as pinot noir, pinot gris, pinot blanc. The list goes on and on. All I can say is, cheers!

The only catch is that the Portland dining scene is spread out, and some of the most talked-about restaurants are basically neighborhood spots in up-and-coming residential districts away from the city center. Even more inconvenient is that these great neighborhood restaurants often don't take reservations. For this reason, I'm still partial to the less hyped but more reliable restaurants downtown and in the Pearl District and the Nob Hill/Northwest neighborhoods.

1 DOWNTOWN (INCLUDING THE SKIDMORE HISTORIC DISTRICT & CHINATOWN)

EXPENSIVE

The Heathman Restaurant and Bar ★★★ NORTHWEST/FRENCH Serving Northwest cuisine with a French accent, the Heathman Restaurant is Portland's grande dame nouvelle/regional restaurant. Philippe Boulot, a James Beard Foundation Award winner, changes his menu daily, but one thing remains constant: The ingredients used are the freshest of Oregon and Northwest seafood, meat, wild game, and produce. The interior is Art Deco-inspired, and the atmosphere bistrolike. An extensive wine list spotlights Oregon wines. The Heathman Hotel has an extensive collection of classic and contemporary art, and on the restaurant walls you'll find Andy Warhol's *Endangered Species* series.

In the Heathman Hotel, 1001 SW Broadway. ☎ 503/790-7752. www.heathmanrestaurantandbar.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$11–\$18 lunch, \$15–\$31 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 6:30–11am, 11:30am–3pm,

50 and 5:30–10pm; Fri 6:30–11am, 11:30am–3pm, and 5:30–11pm; Sat 6:30am–3pm and 5:30–11pm; Sun 6:30am–3pm and 5:30–10pm.

Higgins ★★★ NORTHWEST/MEDITERRANEAN Higgins strikes a perfect balance between contemporary and classic in both decor and cuisine. The menu, which changes frequently, explores contemporary culinary horizons, while the decor in the tri-level dining room features wood paneling and elegant place settings. Despite all this, the restaurant remains unpretentious, and portions can be surprisingly generous for a high-end restaurant. Flavors change with the season, but are often both subtle and earthy. Such dishes as a risotto of chanterelle mushrooms, sweet corn, and chilies highlight the restaurant's emphasis on seasonal ingredients. Be sure to leave room for dessert, and if you happen to be a beer lover, you'll be glad to know that Higgins has one of the most interesting beer selections in town (and plenty of good wine, too).

1239 SW Broadway. ☎ **503/222-9070**. www.higgins.ypguides.net) Reservations recommended. Main courses \$9–\$18 lunch, \$20–\$37 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5–10:30pm; Sat–Sun 5–10:30pm; bistro menu served in the bar daily until btw. 11pm and midnight.

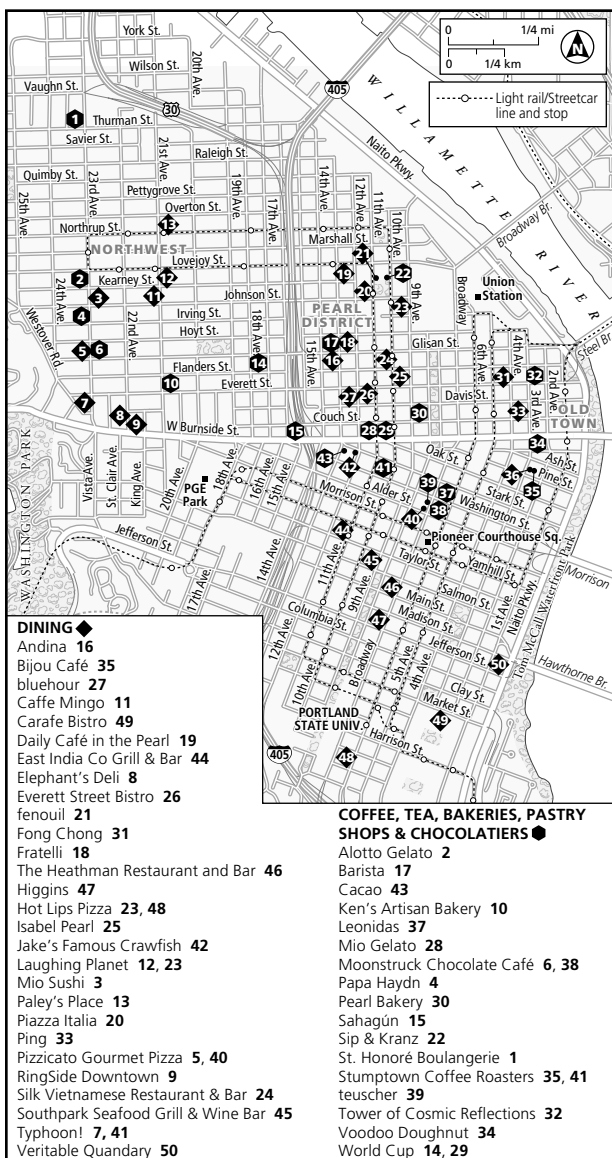
Veritable Quandary ★★ NEW AMERICAN With the prettiest garden patio in downtown Portland, the VQ, as it's known to locals, is a little historic gem of a restaurant and should not be missed on a summer visit. The restaurant is conveniently located in an old brick building just a block off Waterfront Park, and windows and the patio look out on a small tree-shaded pocket park. The menu changes daily, but keep an eye out for the grilled prawns, and don't pass up the *osso buco*. The chef here pulls in all kinds of influences, so don't be surprised if you find bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with goat cheese or duck-confit spring rolls served with wasabi-ginger sauce.

1220 SW First Ave. ☎ **503/227-7342**. www.veritablequandary.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$11–\$15 lunch, \$19–\$29 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5–10pm; Sat–Sun 9:30am–3pm and 5–10pm.

MODERATE

There's an outpost of **Typhoon!** at 410 SW Broadway (☎ **503/224-8285**), in the Hotel Lucia. See the complete review on p. 57.

Carafe Bistro ★★ FRENCH With its small zinc bar, wicker patio chairs, and warm interior hues, Carafe feels just the way you'd expect a neighborhood bistro in Paris to feel. The menu is simple bistro fare (everything from baked escargot to *croque monsieur*), and there are economical nightly three-course prix-fixe dinners for \$25. With many appetizers, salads, and side dishes, you can easily assemble



52 a thoroughly Gallic meal. On top of all this, Carafe is right across the street from **Keller Auditorium**.

200 SW Market St. ☎ **503/248-0004**. www.carafebistro.com. Main courses \$10–\$20. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–9pm; Sat 5–9pm.

East India Co Grill & Bar ★ INDIAN A convenient location directly behind the main library, a large, pretty space with white leather booths, superb Indian food, and reasonable prices. What's not to like about this upscale Indian restaurant in downtown Portland? Be sure to start with the fragrant and flavorful *papdi chat*, a sort of Indian Napoleon. The prix-fixe menu is such a deal that it's hard to resist, but the regular menu includes lots of great dishes, including grilled fish; crab cakes with fennel, chilies, ginger, and coconut; and creamy *malai kofta* (dumplings stuffed with nuts and raisins and cooked in creamy gravy). This is the sort of place you eat at once and then have to return to as soon as possible (perhaps lunch tomorrow). The bar mixes some interesting cocktails and there's a good wine list.

821 SW 11th Ave. ☎ **503/227-8815**. <http://eastindiapdx.com>. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$9–\$16 lunch, \$12–\$21 dinner; \$20 prix fixe. AE, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10pm.

Jake's Famous Crawfish ★★ SEAFOOD Jake's has been a Portland institution since 1909 and boasts a back bar that came all the way around Cape Horn in 1880. Much of the rest of the decor looks just as old and well-worn as the bar and therein lies this restaurant's charm. However, it's the great seafood at reasonable prices that makes this place a real winner. There's a daily menu listing a dozen or more specials, but there's really no question about what to eat at Jake's: crawfish, which is always on the menu and served several different ways. Monday through Friday from 3 to 6pm and Monday through Saturday from 10pm to close, bar appetizers are \$1.95 to \$4.95. The noise level after work, when local businesspeople pack the bar, can be high, and the wait for a table can be long if you don't make a reservation, but don't let these obstacles put you off.

401 SW 12th Ave. ☎ **503/226-1419**. www.jakesfamouscrawfish.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8–\$17 lunch, \$15–\$50 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11:30am–midnight; Sun 3–10pm.

Southpark Seafood Grill & Wine Bar ★★ **Value** MEDITERRANEAN/SEAFOOD With its high ceiling, long heavy drapes, and interesting wall mural, the wine bar here is a contemporary interpretation of late-19th-century Paris, and the main dining room is both comfortable and classy. For a starter, don't pass up the fried calamari served with a delicious sauce of one sort or another. Equally delicious is the butternut squash and ricotta-filled ravioli with toasted

hazelnuts, which comes in a rich Marsala wine sauce that begs to be sopped up with the crusty bread. An extensive wine list presents some compelling choices, and the desserts are consistently excellent.

901 SW Salmon St. ☎ **503/326-1300**. www.southparkseafood.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8–\$17 lunch, \$15–\$28 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 11:30am–midnight.

INEXPENSIVE

Bijou Café ★ (Kids) NATURAL FOODS Although the Bijou is ostensibly just a breakfast joint, the folks who run the restaurant take food very seriously. The fresh oyster hash is an absolutely unforgettable way to start the day, as is the brioche French toast. Other big hits include the sautéed potatoes and the muffins, which come with full breakfasts; don't leave without trying them. Local and organic products are used as often as possible at this comfortably old-fashioned, yet thoroughly modern café.

132 SW Third Ave. ☎ **503/222-3187**. Breakfast and lunch \$7.50–\$14. MC, V. Mon–Fri 7am–2pm; Sat–Sun 8am–2pm.

Fong Chong CHINESE This place may not look like much from the outside (or from the inside, for that matter), but the throngs of people crowding the tables in the middle of the day should give you an idea that this place has good dim sum. This traditional Chinese midday meal of small plates is ordered off of carts that are wheeled around the dining room and is served throughout the day. With lots of steamed dumplings, pot stickers, and shrimp balls, it's easy to order more than you can eat. Pace yourself. Located 2 blocks from the **Lan Su Chinese Garden**, this is a great place to stick with the Chinese theme after a visit to the gardens.

301 NW Fourth Ave. ☎ **503/228-6868**. Main courses \$7–\$11; dim sum \$3.50–\$6.50. MC, V. Daily 10am–9pm.

Ping ★★ PAN-ASIAN I've spent a lot of time in Southeast Asia, and, with one exception, no other restaurant I've ever been to on this side of the Pacific comes as close to a Southeast Asian dining experience as Ping (the exception is Ping's southeast Portland sister restaurant, **Pok Pok**). The menu here is long, packed with dishes you've likely never heard of or tasted before, and, best of all, cheap. To be sure, this place is for adventurous diners (fish-ball skewers; toasted, dried cuttlefish; quail-egg skewers; chicken-liver skewers; deep-fried tiny fish). Go ahead, take your palate on a flavor-packed culinary journey you won't soon forget.

102 NW Fourth Ave. ☎ **503/229-7464**. www.pingpdx.com. Reservations accepted for parties of 5 or more. Main courses \$6.50–\$12. AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11am–10pm; Sat 5–10pm.

2 NORTHWEST PORTLAND (INCLUDING THE PEARL DISTRICT & NOB HILL)

EXPENSIVE

Andina ★★ PERUVIAN If you've never tried Peruvian food before, don't miss an opportunity to eat at Andina. If you have had Peruvian food before, don't miss an opportunity to eat at Andina. It's that simple. I've been known to eat here several times in the same week, because I just couldn't get enough of the spicy bread-dipping sauces, the grilled octopus, and the beautifully presented *causa* (mashed purple potatoes flavored with lime and layered with savory fillings; I like the smoked-trout filling best). Because there is so much on the menu to try, I suggest sticking with the small plates and trying lots of them. Also, be sure to have a glass of the unusual *chicha morada*, a juice made from purple corn.

1314 NW Glisan St. ☎ **503/228-9535**. www.andinarestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Small plates \$8.50–\$29; main courses \$16–\$29. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–9:30pm (tapas until 11pm); Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10:30pm (tapas until midnight).

bluehour ★ MEDITERRANEAN Restaurateur Bruce Carey has long been one of the movers and shakers on the Portland restaurant scene, and at this high-style restaurant, he continues to wow local trendsetters. Located in a converted warehouse that serves as headquarters for Portland advertising giant Wieden+Kennedy, bluehour has a very theatrical atmosphere. Don't-miss dishes include gnocchi with black truffles and bacon-wrapped seared scallops, but the menu also always has lots of creative, seasonal dishes (watermelon soup with mint oil, Alsatian-style onion tart with morel mushrooms). This is Portland's most haute restaurant—though it's also the sort of place where being seen by the right people is as important as the food.

250 NW 13th Ave. ☎ **503/226-3394**. www.bluehouronline.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main dishes \$10–\$18 lunch, \$26–\$39 dinner. AE, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10pm; Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10:30pm; Sat 5–10:30pm; Sun 10am–3:30pm and 5–9pm.

fenouil ★★★ FRENCH Rarely do I feel so good about spending so much on dinner as I do when I eat here at the Pearl District's poshest restaurant. With two-story walls of glass that look out to the pretty little Jamison Square park and with a large patio that in summer puts you right in the park, fenouil couldn't possibly be better placed. Throw in a gorgeous interior decor, and you have the perfect special-occasion restaurant. Be sure to start with the onion soup, which is the

best my wife and I have ever had. Also, no matter what you order for an entree, get a side of truffle-oil french fries. The menu includes plenty of classic dishes, but it also holds plenty of unexpected surprises. You can save money by coming for lunch or eating a light meal in the bar.

900 NW 11th Ave. ☎ **503/525-2225**. www.fenouilinthepearl.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$21–\$35. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–10pm; Fri–Sat 11:30am–11pm; Sun 9am–9pm.

Paley's Place ★★ **NORTHWEST/FRENCH** Located in a Victorian-era house, Paley's is another favorite of Portland foodies. Chef Vitaly Paley continues to receive accolades year after year, and back in 2005 he won a James Beard Foundation Award. The menu relies extensively on the freshest local organic ingredients and ranges from traditional bistro fare to dishes with complex flavors and a hint of Northwest inspiration. Whether you're in the mood for olive-oil poached halibut, rabbit ravioli or crab-and-corn risotto, you'll certainly find something that appeals to you. If you've never tried sweetbreads, this is the place to do so, and the signature *frites*, with a mustard aioli, are not to be missed. Big on wines, Paley's offers wine tastings on Wednesdays. For dessert, I can't pass up the warm chocolate soufflé cake with outrageously rich house-made ice cream. Inside, the restaurant is small and stylishly comfortable but can be quite noisy.

1204 NW 21st Ave. ☎ **503/243-2403**. www.paleysplace.net. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$18–\$43. AE, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 5:30–10pm; Fri–Sat 5:30–11pm; Sun 5–10pm.

RingSide Downtown ★ **STEAK** Despite the location on a rather unattractive stretch of West Burnside Street, RingSide has been a favorite Portland steakhouse for more than 60 years. Boxing may be the main theme of the restaurant, but the name is a two-fisted pun that also refers to the incomparable onion rings that are an essential part of any meal here. Have your rings with a side order of one of their perfectly cooked steaks for a real knockout meal. The three-course prix-fixe dinners are only \$25 if you order before 5:45pm or after 9pm.

2165 W. Burnside St. ☎ **503/223-1513**. www.ringsidesteakhouse.com. Reservations highly recommended. Steaks \$28–\$65; other main courses \$21–\$59. AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 5pm–midnight; Sun 4–11:30pm.

MODERATE

Caffe Mingo ★★ **(Finds) ITALIAN** This intimate little neighborhood restaurant has terrific food and relatively reasonable prices. If there's any problem with this immensely popular place, it's that you almost always have to wait for a table, and they only take reservations for large parties. The solution? Get here as early as possible. The menu

56 is short and focuses on painstakingly prepared Italian comfort food. Just about all the items on the menu are winners, from the antipasto platter, which might include roasted fennel, fresh mozzarella, and roasted red pepper, to an unusual penne pasta dish with tender beef braised in chianti and espresso. The *panna cotta* dessert (“cooked cream” with fruit) is reason enough to come back here again and again, even if you have to wait in the rain to get a seat.

807 NW 21st Ave. ☎ **503/226-4646**. www.barmingtonw.com. Reservations accepted only for parties of 6 or more. Main courses \$12–\$24. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 5–10pm; Fri–Sat 5–10:30pm; Sun 4:30–9:30pm.

Fratelli ★★ REGIONAL ITALIAN In this rustic-yet-chic restaurant, cement walls provide a striking contrast to dramatic draperies and softly glowing candles. Dishes are consistently good, with surprisingly moderate prices for the Pearl District. Be sure to start with the mix-and-match antipasto plate that might include chicken-liver mousse on crostini; mozzarella with prosciutto and sun-dried tomato purée; frittata with seasonal vegetables; and sautéed prosciutto with melon and mint. The polenta with wild mushrooms and the seared chicken wrapped in prosciutto are longtime favorites here. This restaurant’s aesthetic and menu are similar to **Caffe Mingo’s** (see above), but at Fratelli you can make reservations.

1230 NW Hoyt St. ☎ **503/241-8800**. www.fratellicucina.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$13–\$21. AE, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 5–9pm; Fri–Sat 5–10pm.

Piazza Italia ★★ ITALIAN Portland has more than its fair share of good Italian restaurants, but none feels as much like a trip to Italy as this one. The staff speaks Italian most of the time and the TV over the bar is usually tuned to Italian soap operas and soccer matches. Just inside the front door is a glass case full of the imported meats, cheeses, and olives that go into the antipasto plate. This place is small and has a very limited menu, but it’s always bustling. Try the simple linguine *squarciarella*, made with eggs, prosciutto, onions, and Parmesan cheese. During the summer, the tables on the sidewalk are the in-demand seats.

1129 NW Johnson St. ☎ **503/478-0619**. www.piazzaportland.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8.75–\$16. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–10pm; Sun noon–8pm.

Silk Vietnamese Restaurant & Bar ★ VIETNAMESE If you associate Formica tables and fluorescent lights with Vietnamese restaurants, think again. This is one of the most stylish restaurants in town, with rippling walls of backlit glass and decor drawing on a modern Asian aesthetic. The prices, however, are quite reasonable, especially for the Pearl District. You can get flavorful *pho* soup (a

Vietnamese staple), but I prefer the more substantial entrees, as well as such unusual dishes as banana-flower salad and the clay-pot catfish.

1012 NW Glisan St. (☎ **503/248-2172**). www.silkbyphovan.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8–\$14 lunch, \$9–\$22 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11am–3pm and 5–10pm.

Typhoon! ★ THAI Located just off NW 23rd Avenue, this Thai restaurant is one of my favorites in town for its many unusual menu offerings that generally aren't available at other Portland Thai restaurants. Be sure to start a meal with the *miang kum*, which consists of dried shrimp, tiny chilies, ginger, lime, peanuts, shallots, and toasted coconut drizzled with a sweet-and-sour sauce and wrapped up in a spinach leaf. The burst of flavors on your taste buds is absolutely astounding. (I first had this in Thailand and waited years to get it in the United States.) The whole front wall of the restaurant slides away for Thai-style open-air dining in the summer. There is an extensive tea list.

There's another **Typhoon!** at 410 SW Broadway (☎ **503/224-8285**), in the Hotel Lucía.

2310 NW Everett St. (☎ **503/243-7557**). www.typhoonrestaurants.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$9–\$24. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 4:30–9pm; Fri 11:30am–2:30pm and 4:30–10pm; Sat noon–3pm and 4:30–10pm; Sun noon–3pm and 4:30–9pm.

INEXPENSIVE

Daily Café in the Pearl AMERICAN/SANDWICHES Healthy, flavorful breakfasts and creative sandwiches are the mainstays of this hip-yet-casual urban café in the heart of the Pearl District. On sunny days, take your meal out onto the converted loading dock and ogle all the buff people coming and going from the area's gym. This is primarily a lunch spot, serving the likes of saltimbocca and fajita panini, but dinners are also served. Other Daily Cafés can be found in southeast Portland inside **Rejuvenation House Parts**, 1100 SE Grand Ave. (☎ **503/234-8189**); and in the south waterfront district in the OHSU Center for Health and Healing, 3355 SW Bond Ave. (☎ **503/224-9691**).

902 NW 13th Ave. (☎ **503/242-1916**). www.dailycafe.net. Main courses \$4.25–\$9 lunch, \$8–\$18 dinner. AE, MC, V. Mon–Tues 7am–5pm; Wed–Sat 7am–9pm; Sun 9am–5pm.

Elephant's Deli DELI This is definitely not your corner deli, and it pushes the boundaries of what can even be considered a deli. Elephant's is a behemoth, which of course makes the name appropriate, and it's mouthwateringly diverse in its food offerings. Whether you want some pastrami to go or a full gourmet meal, you can get it here, and this is the best place in town to put together a picnic before heading up to

58 Washington Park. Want a cocktail? Elephant's has a full bar and plenty of good appetizers to accompany the drinks. Now, don't you wish you had one of these pachyderms in your town? Be sure to check out the economical Monday night fireside dinners.

115 NW 22nd Ave. ☎ **503/299-6304**. www.elephantsdeli.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses \$3.50–\$15. AE, MC, V. Mon–Sat 7am–7:30pm; Sun 9:30am–6:30pm.

3 SOUTHWEST PORTLAND

EXPENSIVE

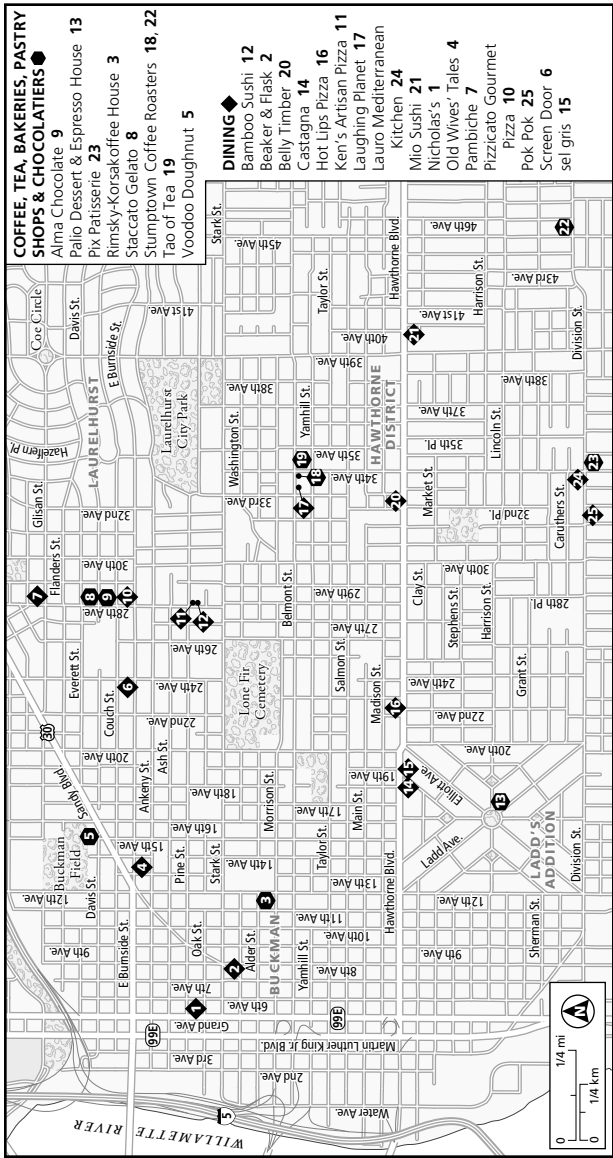
Chart House ★★ SEAFOOD Although this place is part of a chain with lots of outposts all over California and the rest of the West, it also happens to boast the best view of any restaurant in Portland. On top of that, it serves the best New England clam chowder in the state. While you savor your chowder, you can marvel at the views of the Willamette River, Mount Hood, and Mount St. Helens. Fresh fish—grilled, baked, or blackened—is the house specialty. You'll also find a selection of excellent steaks. No dinner here is complete without the hot chocolate lava cake, which has to be ordered at the start of your meal. I recommend coming here for lunch or the early-bird dinner specials, which cost \$18 to \$20 and are available Monday through Thursday between 5 and 6pm. Because the Chart House is a 10-minute drive from downtown Portland, you should be sure to call ahead and get driving directions.

5700 SW Terwilliger Blvd. ☎ **503/246-6963**. www.chart-house.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$9–\$23 lunch, \$20–\$45 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–2pm and 5–9:30pm; Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5–10pm; Sat 5–10pm; Sun 5–9pm.

4 NORTH & NORTHEAST PORTLAND

MODERATE

Pambiche  **CUBAN** Driving past this tiny hole-in-the-wall neighborhood eatery, you'd never guess that it's one of Portland's most popular restaurants. But you can't pass by the old building, which is painted garish tropical colors, without giving it a glance. Don't just gawk—get in there! The food is straight out of Havana, with taro-root fritters, codfish-and-potato croquettes, fried yucca root, and fried bananas. And that's just on the appetizer list. Don't fill up on all those





Family-Friendly Restaurants

Bijou Café (p. 53) Parents who care about the food their children eat will want to bring the family to this cozy old-fashioned diner that serves great breakfasts made with organic ingredients.

Old Wives' Tales (p. 65) This place has been keeping young, liberal-minded families contentedly dining out for 3 decades now. A dining room with an attached children's playroom assures mom and dad of an enjoyable evening out.

tasty little tropical treats, though; the main dishes, such as shrimp Creole, Cuban-style beef hash, and oxtail braised in red wine, are all served in huge portions.

2811 NE Glisan St. ☎ **503/233-0511**. www.pambiche.com. Main courses \$8–\$11 lunch, \$8.50–\$19 dinner. MC, V. Sun–Thurs 7am–10pm; Fri–Sat 7am–midnight.

Screen Door ★ SOUTHERN Shrimp and grits, fried green tomatoes, Carolina pulled-pork barbecue, po' boys. I don't think we're in Oregon anymore, Toto. This casual restaurant just a few blocks from the restaurant-heavy crossroads of East Burnside Street and 28th Avenue serves down-home Southern comfort food in huge portions, and the northwesterners who eat here seem to love it. Since this is Portland, though, you can get a side of organic vegetables from a weekly list of half a dozen different sides/starters. Be sure to order corn bread and the sweet-potato fries.

2337 E. Burnside St. ☎ **503/542-0880**. www.screendoorrestaurant.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses \$9.75–\$16. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Fri 5:30–10pm; Sat 9am–2:30pm and 5:30–10pm; Sun 9am–2:30pm and 5:30–9pm.

Toro Bravo ★★★ SPANISH I don't usually applaud for a meal, but the first time I ate at this neighborhood restaurant, my dinner companions and I just couldn't help ourselves. A meal here is so filled with seductive flavors that the smile that lights up your face after your first bite (perhaps brandy-soaked prunes stuffed with foie gras or bacon-wrapped dates) remains there right through dessert (olive oil cake with apricot caramel or maybe a crepe filled with lemon curd). In between, every plate is a revelation—spicy octopus-and-squid stew, smoked pork rillettes with marmalade and toast, Spanish pepper salad with shaved Manchego cheese. Just be sure to order the house-smoked coppa

steak—phenomenal. Tapas prices are low, but you'll likely eat enough that the tab will add up.

120 NE Russell St. ☎ **503/281-4464**. www.torobravopdx.com. Reservations accepted only for parties of 7 or more and only Sun–Thurs. Tapas \$1–\$15. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 5–10pm; Fri–Sat 5–11pm.

5 SOUTHEAST PORTLAND

EXPENSIVE

Castagna ★★ NEW AMERICAN In late 2009, Castagna, long a Portland foodies' favorite, underwent an extreme makeover. The dining room, always exceedingly stark, got a warmer and cozier (yet still minimalist) remodel, and the menu, well, the menu now is like nothing else in town. Dishes still tend toward simple preparations that allow the freshness of the ingredients to express themselves, but preparations make use of unusual ingredients and techniques of molecular gastronomy (ingredients might be cooked *sous vide* [in a hot-water bath] or frozen in liquid nitrogen). Rather than being divided into appetizers, soups, salads, and entrees, the seasonal menu highlights a single ingredient around which each dish is focused. Aged rib-eye steak might be blanketed in smoked fat or salt cod might come with pickled, grilled, and smoked onions. In addition to the main dining room, there is an adjacent cafe serving much simpler and less expensive fare.

1752 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ☎ **503/231-7373**. www.castagnarestaurant.com. Reservations highly recommended in restaurant; only accepted for parties of 5 or more in cafe. Main dishes \$23–\$35, 3-course dinner \$30; cafe main courses \$11–\$22. AE, DISC, MC, V. Main restaurant Wed–Thurs 5:30–9:30pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–10:30pm; cafe Tues–Thurs 11:30am–2pm and 5–10pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–2pm and 5–11pm, Sun 5–9:30pm.

sel gris ★★ NEW AMERICAN Portland has scads of neighborhood restaurants. Some are hype, and some are hubris, and some are actually worth searching out. This restaurant falls squarely in the latter camp. Walk, ride a bike, or take the bus, whatever, just get yourself to this nondescript stretch of Hawthorne Boulevard and prepare to be wowed. Sweetbreads are a specialty of chef Daniel Mondok, three-time winner of Iron Chef Oregon, and you would be remiss if you did not order these creamy, crunchy delicacies. And what goes with sweetbreads? Why, foie gras, of course. Go ahead, try once, and then become a vegetarian. Hesitant? Order the magret duck, which comes with foie gras. Not a fan of organ meats? How about the “tongue ’n’ cheek” entree—braised pork cheek and grilled tongue. Definitely a

62 restaurant for foodies. Sit at the counter, and you can watch all these dishes being prepared.

1852 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ☎ **503/517-7770**. www.selgrisrestaurant.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$25–\$32. AE, MC, V. Mon–Sat 5:30–9 or 10pm.

MODERATE

Bamboo Sushi JAPANESE Sure, sushi is everywhere in Portland, but here at Bamboo Sushi, the seafood is sustainably harvested. In fact, Bamboo claims to be the first certified sustainable sushi restaurant in the world, so if you want to feast on fresh sushi and still have a clear conscience, order your California roll here. Wild salmon is something of a specialty here (I like the spicy salmon roll). There are also plenty of other good seafood dishes on the menu besides sushi. I like the albacore carpaccio and the Hawaiian-style tuna *poke*, which is made with seaweed and sesame sauce. There are plenty of vegetarian and vegan dishes as well, and good deals during happy hour.

310 SE 28th Ave. ☎ **503/232-5255**. www.bamboosushipdx.com. Reservations accepted for parties of 7 or more Sun–Thurs. Main courses \$10–\$15. AE, DISC, MC, V. Daily 5–10pm.

Beaker & Flask ★★ NEW AMERICAN If I were a foodie visiting Portland, I would eat every meal here. At Beaker & Flask, I once had the perfect mushroom appetizer—chanterelles perfectly cooked, with a dash of melt-in-your-mouth bone marrow added. I followed that with grilled and smoked mackerel atop potato salad and Dungeness crab. It was at once creamy, smoky, and oily, and when I ordered it, the waiter made sure I was familiar with mackerel before taking my order to the kitchen. Likewise, if I were a cocktail geek visiting Portland, I would do all my drinking at Beaker & Flask. I once had the perfect Sazerac cocktail here (this New Orleans staple is said to be the original American cocktail). Oh, and the pork cheeks with pickled octopus? Don't say no.

720 SE Sandy Blvd. ☎ **503/235-8180**. www.beakerandflask.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$15–\$22. DISC, MC, V. Mon–Wed 5pm–midnight; Thurs–Sat 5pm–1am.

Belly Timber ★★ NEW AMERICAN The name may be strange (it's Victorian-era slang for food), but the belly timber here is bodacious, and the setting, in a beautiful Victorian house, is elegant yet casual. The menu is among the most creative in town, and with lots of small plates and entrees that can be ordered in half portions. The menu starts with "The Whole Hog," a selection of appetizers that includes such unusual dishes as pork terrine (sausage), pork rillette (pâté), pigstrami (pork pastrami), a ham hock hot pot, and even crispy fried pig tail. Not a pork fan? Don't worry, there are lots of

options, including such seasonal dishes as sweet corn soup with matsutake mushrooms, ham, and a quail egg; and salmon with roasted fennel, preserved lemon, and black-olive purée. There's even a burger that's served with fries and bone-meal aioli.

3257 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ☎ **503/235-3277**. www.bellytimberrestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$10–\$19. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Sat 5–9 or 10pm; Sun 9am–2pm and 5–9 or 10pm.

Ken's Artisan Pizza ★ PIZZA The aroma hits you as soon as you walk in the front door of this causal neighborhood restaurant just a few blocks south of East Burnside Street. Heavenly smells mingle with the tang of wood smoke from the oven in which the pizzas here are baked. Start your meal with the wood-oven-roasted vegetable plate, which comes with a trio of seasonal veggies that are wonderfully sauced. You could make a meal on this platter alone, but since this is a pizza place, you have to have a pie. My wife and I always get the one with fennel sausage and roasted onion, but the *amatriciana*, with house-cured pancetta, is good, too.

304 SE 28th Ave. (at Pine St.). ☎ **503/517-9951**. www.kensartisan.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses \$11–\$14. MC, V. Tues–Sat 5–10pm.

Lauro Mediterranean Kitchen ★★ MEDITERRANEAN Dark, romantic, and stylish, this sleek southeast Portland restaurant, in one of the city's best restaurant districts, is well worth the drive from downtown. The menu changes seasonally, but the paella, which is always on the menu, is a good bet. You might start with *canja*, a Portuguese soup made with lemon and mint, or *kefta*, which are Lebanese lamb kabobs. The *daube a la Provençal*, braised beef with red wine and fried polenta, is another perennial favorite that always seems to be on the menu. Prices here are considerably lower than they would be for comparable food in the Pearl District.

3377 SE Division St. ☎ **503/239-7000**. www.laurokitchen.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$12–\$21. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Mon 5–9pm; Tues–Thurs 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–9pm; Fri–Sat 11:30am–2:30pm and 5–10pm.

Pok Pok ★ THAI I spent part of my childhood in Thailand and have returned many times as an adult, so trust me when I say that Pok Pok is the most authentic Thai restaurant I've ever eaten at outside of Thailand. Not only are the flavors of the dishes here some of the most vibrant and exotic you'll ever taste, but the whole atmosphere succeeds in conjuring up casual restaurants on the beaches of Thailand. Get the *kai yang* (grilled chicken) and *khao man som tam* (green papaya salad) for an absolute classic straight off the streets of Bangkok. Some people fault this place for serving skimpy portions, but it's the same way in Thailand. Just order another dish; you'll be glad you did.

Breakfast: The Most Important Meal of the Day

I have to admit, I'm not a fan of going out for long, sit-down breakfasts. At home, I always start my day with a big breakfast, but when I'm on vacation, just give me a cappuccino and a pastry, and I'm perfectly content. I just don't want to sit around waiting for food first thing in the morning, especially when there's a new city to be explored. I have, however, found that I am in the minority. I regularly get letters from readers recommending breakfast places, and even my wife has tried to convince me of the folly of my ways. If you happen to be a breakfast person and are desperately seeking sustenance in the AM, check out the following places.

Bijou and **Daily Café**, two other good breakfast places, are listed elsewhere in this chapter.

The Original Pancake House, 8601 SW 24th Ave. (☎ **503/246-9007**; www.originalpancakehouse.com) Maybe you've got one of these places in your city (they're in 26 states), but this is the **original** Original Pancake House. Founded in Portland in 1953, this place still has lines out the door every weekend. Get the apple pancake or the Dutch baby.

Everett Street Bistro, 1140 NW Everett St. (☎ **503/467-4990**; www.everettstreetbistro.com) Dutch baby pancakes, Grand Marnier French toast, wild mushroom scrambles. It's easy to see why this place is packed for breakfast on weekends.

Isabel Pearl, 330 NW 10th Ave. (☎ **503/222-4333**; www.isabelscantina.com) This glass-walled jewel box of a restaurant in the Pearl District serves big, creative breakfasts. Try the coconut French toast or pesto scramble.

3226 SE Division St. (☎ **503/232-1387**. www.pokpokpdx.com. Reservations accepted for parties of 5 or more. Main courses \$8–\$14. AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri 11:30am–10pm; Sat–Sun 5–10pm.

INEXPENSIVE

Nicholas's (☎ **Finds** MIDDLE EASTERN This little hole in the wall on an unattractive stretch of Grand Avenue is usually packed at meal-times, and it's not the decor or ambience that pulls people in. The big draw is the great food and cheap prices. In spite of the heat from the

pizza oven and the crowded conditions, the customers and waitstaff still manage to be friendly. My favorite dish is the *Manakish*, a Mediterranean pizza with *zabtar* (a mix of thyme, oregano, sesame seeds, olive oil, and lemony-flavored sumac). Also available are a creamy hummus, falafel, and kabobs.

318 SE Grand Ave. (btw. Pine and Oak sts.). ☎ 503/235-5123. www.nicholasrestaurant.com. Reservations not accepted. Main courses \$4.75–\$13. No credit cards. Mon–Sat 10am–9pm; Sun noon–9pm.

Old Wives' Tales  **INTERNATIONAL** This restaurant has been feeding liberal, counterculture families for 3 decades now and continues to be a favorite as much for its soul-satisfying food as for its children's play area. While the kids entertain themselves in the playroom, parents can enjoy such perennial favorites as spanakopita, Greek pasta, burritos, and enchiladas. There are also soup and salad bars, lots of good sandwiches, and plenty of interesting side dishes. Vegetarians and the gluten-intolerant get lots of choices. The children's menu is, of course, the most extensive in town.

1300 E. Burnside St. ☎ 503/238-0470. www.oldwivestalesrestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$6–\$17. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 8am–8pm; Fri–Sat 8am–9pm.

6 COFFEE, TEA, BAKERIES & PASTRY SHOPS

CAFES

If you're in search of Portland's cafe culture or just need a good cup of coffee, I recommend the following places:

With an upscale interior decor and a social conscience, **World Cup**, 1740 NW Glisan St. (☎ 503/228-4152; www.worldcupcoffee.com), in the Nob Hill neighborhood, is a coffee haven for the politically correct. There's another World Cup inside **Powell's City of Books**, 1005 W. Burnside St. (☎ 503/228-4651, ext. 1234).

Many a Portlander swears by the coffee at **Stumptown Coffee Roasters**, 128 SW Third Ave. (☎ 503/295-6144; www.stumptowncoffee.com), a big, trendy cafe with an art-school aesthetic. Whether you go for the French press or a double shot of espresso, you're sure to be satisfied. There's another Stumptown in the lobby of the **Ace Hotel**, 1026 SW Stark St. (☎ 503/224-9060). Over on the east side of the Willamette River are Stumptown's two original cafes: 4525 SE Division St. (☎ 503/230-7702) and 3356 SE Belmont St. (☎ 503/232-8889), which both tend to attract a young, hip clientele.

If you've been shopping your way through the Pearl District for hours and desperately need a place to sit down for a latte, head to **Sip & Kranz**, 901 NW 10th Ave. (☎ 503/336-1335; www.sipandkranz.com), the neighborhood's most stylish coffee lounge. Right outside the front door is the popular Jamison Square park, where all summer long, kids splash in the wading pool fountain. Alternatively, there's **Barista**, 539 NW 13th Ave. (☎ 503/274-1211; www.baristapdx.com), which some people claim makes the best coffee in Portland. You can get vacuum-pot coffee here, and the baristas have even won awards for their espresso drinks.

Not a coffee drinker? Try the funky **Tao of Tea**, 3430 SE Belmont St. (☎ 503/736-0119; www.taooftea.com), which feels like it could be in some Kathmandu back alley and specializes in traditional Chinese tea service. There's a second tearoom, called the **Tower of Cosmic Reflections**, inside the Lan Su Chinese Garden, 239 NW Everett St. (☎ 503/224-8455).

All you chocoholics out there will be relieved to know that Portland is a fabulous town for chocolate addicts. Whether you're looking for a handmade truffle, a fair-trade chocolate bar, or a cup of drinking chocolate, there's a chocolatier in town for you. If hot chocolate, not coffee, is your cup of choice, then be sure to stop by **Moonstruck Chocolate Café**, 608 SW Alder St. (☎ 503/241-0955; www.moonstruckchocolate.com), where you can choose from a wide variety of hot chocolate drinks. There's another Moonstruck in the Nob Hill neighborhood at 526 NW 23rd Ave. (☎ 503/542-3400). **Cacao**, 414 SW 13th Ave. (☎ 503/241-0656; www.cacaodrinkchocolate.com), just off West Burnside Street, offers a variety of chocolate confections from some of the Northwest's most noteworthy purveyors. **Alma Chocolate**, 140 NE 28th Ave. (☎ 503/517-0262; www.almachocolate.com), uses fair-trade and organic ingredients in its chocolates. For hand-dipped truffles, head to **Sahagún**, 10 NW 16th Ave. (☎ 503/274-7065; www.sahagunchocolates.com). Even big European chocolatiers have shops here in town. From Belgium come the pralines, butter creams, and ganaches of **Leonidas**, 607 SW Washington St. (☎ 503/224-9247; www.leonidasportland.com); and from Switzerland come the truffles of **teuscher**, 531 SW Broadway (☎ 503/827-0587; www.teuscherportland.com). March through November, it's even possible to take a chocolate walking tour with **Chocolate Tasting and More** (www.chocolatetastingandmore.com), which offers its tours through the **West Linn Parks & Recreation Department** (☎ 503/557-4700; www.westlinnoregon.gov/parksrec). Tours are \$42 per person.

BAKERIES, PASTRY SHOPS & GELATERIAS

Pearl Bakery ★★, 102 NW Ninth Ave. (☎ 503/827-0910; www.pearlbakery.com), in the heart of the Pearl District, is famous in Portland for its breads and European-style pastries. The *gibassier*, a chewy sweet roll fragrant with anise and orange, is an absolute revelation. The gleaming bakery/cafe is also good for sandwiches, such as a roasted eggplant and tomato pesto on crusty bread.

Say the words “Papa Haydn” to a Portlander, and you’ll see a blissful smile appear. What is it about this little bistro that makes locals start gushing superlatives? The desserts. The lemon chiffon torte, raspberry gâteau, black velvet, and tiramisu at **Papa Haydn West ★★**, 701 NW 23rd Ave. (☎ 503/228-7317; www.papahaydn.com), are legendary. There’s another location at 5829 SE Milwaukie Ave. (☎ 503/232-9440) in the Westmoreland neighborhood.

Also in the Nob Hill neighborhood, you’ll find **Ken’s Artisan Bakery**, 338 NW 21st Ave. (☎ 503/248-2202; www.kensartisan.com). Ken’s doesn’t do a wide variety of pastries, but what it does do, it does very well. Yum! Try the fruit tarts. However, my current favorite bakery in the neighborhood is the utterly Gallic **St. Honoré Boulangerie**, 2335 NW Thurman St. (☎ 503/445-4342; www.sainthonorebakery.com); not only does this place turn out awesome pastries and breads, but you can read *Le Monde* while eating your croissant.

Located in Ladd’s Addition, an old neighborhood full of big trees and Craftsman-style bungalows, **Palio Dessert & Espresso House ★**, 1996 SE Ladd Ave. (☎ 503/232-9412; www.palio-in-ladds.com), is a very relaxed place with a timeless European quality. To get there, take Hawthorne Boulevard east to the corner of 12th Avenue and Hawthorne, and then go diagonally down Ladd Avenue.

The **Rimsky-Korsakoff House ★**, 707 SE 12th Ave. (☎ 503/232-2640), a classic old-style coffeehouse, has been Portland’s favorite dessert hangout for more than 25 years. Live classical music and great desserts keep patrons loyal. It’s open from 7pm to midnight on Sunday through Thursday and 7pm until 1am on Friday and Saturday.

We’ve saved the best for last: **Pix Patisserie**, 3402 SE Division St. (☎ 503/232-4407; www.pixpatisserie.com), makes by far the most decadent pastries in Portland. Every sweet little jewel here is a work of art, and it can sometimes be a real challenge to desecrate these creations with a fork. Go ahead, take a bite—you won’t soon forget the experience. There’s a second Pix at 3901 N. Williams Ave. (☎ 503/282-6539).

If doughnuts are your guilty pleasure of choice, then do not miss Portland's **Voodoo Doughnut**, 22 SW Third Ave. (☎ 503/241-4704; <http://voodoodoughnut.com>). Open 24 hours a day and boasting that "the magic is in the hole," this downtown nightlife-district hole in the wall is not your usual doughnut shop. There are voodoo-doll doughnuts, bacon-topped maple bars, vegan doughnuts, and even x-rated doughnuts. There's a second Voodoo Doughnut across the river at 1501 NE Davis St. (☎ 503/235-2666). This one is closed from 3 to 6am.

If it's hot out and nothing will do but something cold and creamy, check out one of Portland's gelaterias. These Italian-style frozen-dessert parlors have taken Portland by storm. In the Nob Hill neighborhood, there's **Alotto Gelato**, 931 NW 23rd Ave. (☎ 503/228-1709; <http://alottogelato.biz>); in the Pearl District, there's **Mio Gelato**, 25 NW 11th Ave. (☎ 503/226-8002; <http://mio-gelato.com>); and in northeast Portland, just off East Burnside Street, there's **Staccato Gelato**, 232 NE 28th Ave. (☎ 503/231-7100; www.staccatogelato.com).

7 QUICK BITES & CHEAP EATS

If you're just looking for something quick, cheap, and good to eat, there are lots of great options around the city. Designer pizzas topped with anything from roasted eggplant to wild mushrooms to Thai peanut sauce can be had at **Pizzicato Gourmet Pizza** ★ (www.pizzicatopizza.com). Find them downtown at 705 SW Alder St. (☎ 503/226-1007); in Northwest Portland at 505 NW 23rd Ave. (☎ 503/242-0023); and in southeast Portland at 2811 E. Burnside St. (☎ 503/236-6045). However, if you find yourself near a **Hot Lips Pizza** (www.hotlipspizza.com), give it a try. They're located at SE Hawthorne Boulevard and SE 22nd Avenue (☎ 503/234-9999), in the EcoTrust building at NW 10th Avenue and NW Irving Street (☎ 503/595-2342), and SW Sixth Avenue at SW Hall Street (☎ 503/224-0311). For inexpensive sushi, stop by one of Portland's many outposts of **Mio Sushi** (www.miosushi.com). Locations include 2271 NW Johnson St. (☎ 503/221-1469), 3962 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (☎ 503/230-6981), and 4204 NE Halsey St. (☎ 503/288-4778). For fast organic and mostly vegetarian food, search out a **Laughing Planet** (www.laughingplanetcafe.com). You'll find them at 721 NW Ninth Ave. (☎ 503/505-5020); 922 NW 21st Ave. (☎ 503/445-1319), 3320 SE Belmont St. (☎ 503/235-6472), and 3765 N. Mississippi St. (☎ 503/467-4146).

Go Cart

As in most cities, restaurants in downtown Portland tend to be either cheap lunch spots for the cubical proles or expense-account places for management. If your vacation budget falls closer to the former category than to the latter, then you may want to eat a la cart. In recent years, Portland has become famous for its many food carts. You'll find these carts and trailers in parking lots all over town, with concentrations at the corner of SW Stark Street and SW Fifth Avenue and the corners of SW Alder Street and both SW Ninth Avenue and SW 10th Avenue. The following are some of my personal favorite carts. For more information on Portland food carts, go to <http://foodcartsportland.com>.

Potato Champion, SE 12th Ave. and Hawthorne Blvd. (www.potatochampion.com). I used to write about Amsterdam and Brussels for Frommer's guides, and in both cities, I lived on the exquisite fries. You can now get those great *frites* here in Portland at this cart, which stays open late and also serves *poutine*, the national dish of Quebec.

Flavour Spot, N Mississippi Ave. and N Fremont St. (☎ 503/282-YUMM [9866]; www.flavourspot.com) Waffle sandwiches. Nuff said? Try the sausage and maple. Yumm!

Nong's Khao Man Gai, SW Alder St. between SW 10th and SW 11th ave. (☎ 971/255-3480; www.khaomangai.com) A pile of rice, a heap of boiled chicken, a cup of broth with vegetables. How can such simple ingredients become the stuff of Portland legends? The sauce. It is heavenly. Order extra.

Savor Soup House, SW Alder St. and SW 10th Ave. (☎ 503/750-5634; www.savorsouphouse.com) It's cold. It's rainy. It's time for hot soup, and this downtown cart is the place to take the chill off. Pair your soup with a grilled cheese sandwich for the ultimate comfort meal. Now, where did I leave my blanket?

Spella Caffé, SW Ninth Ave. and SW Alder St. (☎ 503/421-9273; <http://spellacaffe.com>) In a city known for its great espresso, can it be true that the best espressos and cappuccinos are served out of a cart in a downtown parking lot? Don't leave town without doing your own taste test.

Exploring Portland

Most American cities boast about their museums and historic buildings, shopping, and restaurants; Portland, as always, is different. Ask a Portlander about the city's must-see attractions, and you'll probably be directed to the Japanese Garden, the International Rose Test Garden, and the Lan Su Chinese Garden (formerly known as the Portland Classical Chinese Garden). Gardening is a Portland obsession, and thanks to the weather here, you'll find some of the finest public gardens in the country. There are not only the three world-class public gardens already mentioned but plenty of other noteworthy public gardens and parks as well. Visiting all the city's gardens alone can take up 2 or 3 days of touring, so leave plenty of time in your schedule if you have a green thumb.

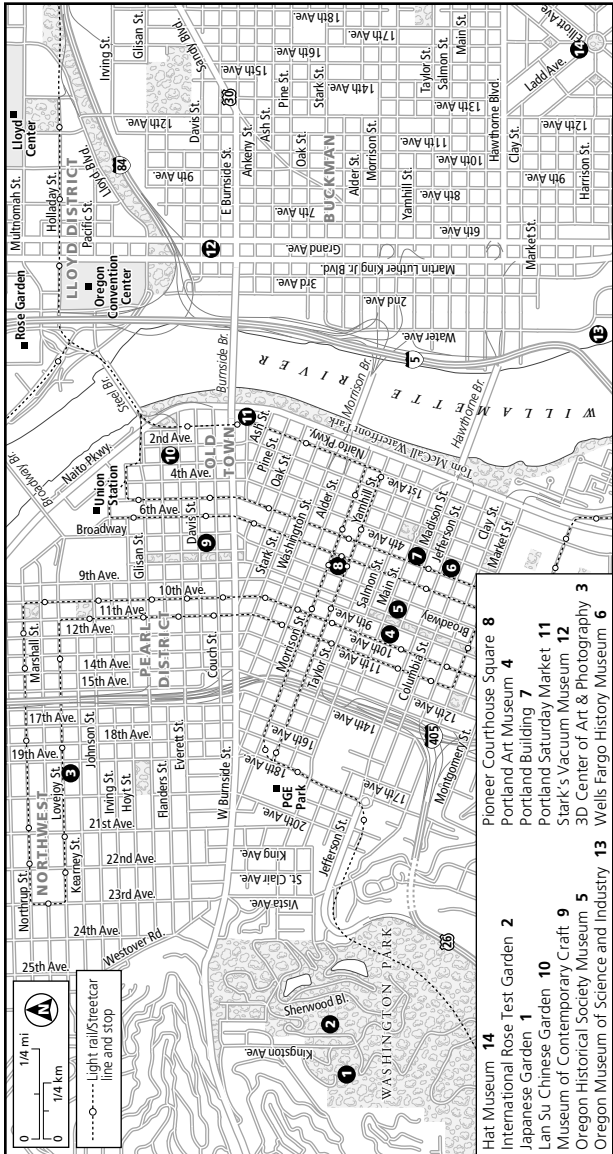
This isn't to say that there are no noteworthy historic buildings in the city or that the Portland Art Museum, which often hosts blockbuster exhibits, isn't worth visiting. And when it comes to museums, Portland is just a little bit out of the ordinary. There's a museum of 3-D photography, and a Wells Fargo museum. These little museums can be a lot of fun to visit, and you should try to slip one or two of them into your busy vacation schedule.

Once you've seen the city's main attractions, it's time to start learning why everyone loves living here so much. Portlanders for the most part are active types, who enjoy skiing on Mount Hood and hiking in the Columbia Gorge just as much as they enjoy going to art museums, so no visit to Portland would be complete without venturing out into the Oregon countryside. Within 1½ hours you can be skiing on Mount Hood, walking beside the chilly waters of the Pacific, sampling pinot noir in wine country, or hiking beside a waterfall in the Columbia Gorge. But for those who prefer urban activities, the museums and parks listed below should satisfy.

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

IF YOU HAVE 1 DAY

Start your day in Washington Park at the **International Rose Test Garden** (roses are in bloom June–Oct) and the **Japanese Garden**



Moments **Keep Portland Weird**

"Keep Portland weird," an often-seen bumper sticker here in Stumptown, has become something of a mantra for many Portlanders. This town attracts a lot of independent thinkers, counterculturalists, and artistic types of all sorts. Not surprisingly, some of these people have chosen to share their personal passions through small, private museums. Here are some of my favorites.

- **The Hat Museum**, 1928 SE Ladd Ave. (in the Ladd-Reingold House) (☎ **503/232-0433**; www.thehatmuseum.com): Hundreds of hats and lots more. Tours by costumed museum owner. Open daily 10am to 6pm; admission is \$15 and reservations are required.
- **Mike's Movie Memorabilia Collection**, 4320 SE Belmont St. (☎ **503/234-4363**; www.moviemadnessvideo.com): Costumes and props from Hollywood movies inside a video-rental store. Open Sunday to Thursday 10am to 11pm, Friday to Saturday 10am to midnight; admission is free.
- **Stark's Vacuum Museum**, 107 NE Grand Ave. (☎ **503/232-4101**; www.starks.com): A vacuum-cleaner store with vacuums dating from the 1880s to the 1960s. This place really sucks. Open Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 11am to 5pm; admission is free.
- **3D Center of Art & Photography**, 1928 NW Lovejoy St. (☎ **503/227-6667**; www.3dcenter.us): Contemporary and vintage 3-D photos and art. Open Thursday to Saturday 11am to 5pm, Sunday 1 to 5pm; on first Thursday of the month, it's also open 6 to 9pm. Admission is \$5.
- **Wells Fargo History Museum**, 1300 SW Fifth Ave. (☎ **503/886-1102**; www.wellsfargohistory.com): Stagecoaches in the soggy Northwest? Yee-haw. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm; admission is free.

(lovely any time of year). After touring these two gardens, head to downtown Portland. If you can make it to **Pioneer Courthouse Square** by noon, you can catch the day's weather prediction on the **Weather Machine** sculpture. From here, head over to the South Park Blocks and visit the **Portland Art Museum**, which usually has

some big show going on. Next, take a free ride on the MAX light-rail line and get off at the **Lan Su Chinese Garden**. If it's the weekend, be sure to squeeze in time to visit the **Saturday Market** (open both Sat and Sun; closed Jan–Feb), which is just a few blocks from the Chinese garden.

IF YOU HAVE 2 DAYS

Follow the 1-day strategy as outlined above. On your second day, visit the **Oregon Historical Society Museum**, take in the Saturday Market if you haven't already, and then walk through **Waterfront Park**, which is on the banks of the Willamette River. Take a scenic cruise or jet-boat tour on the river or do some quiet paddling on a guided sea-kayak tour.

IF YOU HAVE 3 DAYS

Follow the outline above for your first 2 days in town. On your third day, head up the **Columbia Gorge** to see its many beautiful waterfalls. If you get an early start, you can loop all the way around **Mount Hood** and maybe get in a little hiking from historic **Timberline Lodge**.

IF YOU HAVE 4 DAYS OR MORE

Follow the 3-day strategy as outlined above, and then see chapter 10 for more information on the following side trips. On day 4, head over to the coast; it's only about 1½ hours away. You can stroll around historic **Astoria** or artsy **Cannon Beach** and explore nearby **Ecola Beach State Park**. Then make your way down the coast, stopping at other small state parks along the way. You can head back to Portland from **Tillamook**. If you have time, do part or all of the **Three Capes Scenic Loop** outside of Tillamook before returning to Portland.

On day 5, venture north to **Mount St. Helens** for the day to see the devastation that was caused when this volcano erupted back in 1980. If you're a wine fancier, you could also head west from Portland for some **wine tasting**.

1 DOWNTOWN PORTLAND'S CULTURAL DISTRICT

Any visit to Portland should start at the corner of SW Broadway and Yamhill Street at **Pioneer Courthouse Square**. The brick-paved square is an outdoor stage for everything from flower displays to concerts to protest rallies, but just a few decades ago this beautiful area was nothing but a parking lot. The parking lot was created in 1951 (in the days before historic preservation) when the Portland

74 Hotel, an architectural gem of a Queen Anne–style château, was torn down.

Today the square, with its waterfall fountain and free-standing columns, is Portland's favorite gathering spot, especially at noon, when the **Weather Machine** ★, a mechanical sculpture, forecasts the weather for the next 24 hours. Amid a fanfare of music and flashing lights, the Weather Machine sends up clouds of mist and then either a sun (clear weather), a dragon (stormy weather), or a blue heron (clouds and drizzle) appears.

Keep your eyes on the square's brick pavement, too. Every brick contains a name (or names) or statement, and some are rather curious. Also on the square, you'll find the **Travel Portland** visitor information center and a Starbucks. Unfortunately, you'll also find plenty of street kids hanging out here all hours of the day and night, so don't be surprised if they ask you for spare change.

Also not to be missed in this neighborhood are *Portlandia* ★★ and the **Portland Building**, 1120 SW Fifth Ave. The symbol of the city, *Portlandia* is the second-largest hammered bronze statue in the country (the largest is the Statue of Liberty). The massive kneeling figure holds a trident in one hand and reaches toward the street with the other. This classically designed figure perches incongruously above the entrance to architect Michael Graves's controversial Portland Building, considered to be the first postmodern structure in the United States. Today, anyone familiar with the bizarre constructions of Los Angeles architect Frank Gehry would find it difficult to understand how such an innocuous and attractive building could have ever raised such a fuss, but it did just that in the early 1980s.

Shopping for produce may not be on your usual vacation itinerary, but the **Portland Farmers Market** (☎ 503/241-0032; www.portlandfarmersmarket.org), which can be found in this neighborhood's South Park Blocks between SW Harrison and SW Montgomery streets, is such a quintessentially Portland experience that you will not be able to say you have gained a sense of what this city is about unless you visit. Portland is a city obsessed with food, and nowhere is this more apparent than at this weekly market. Fresh berries, wild mushrooms and other foraged produce, salmon, oysters, pastries, artisan breads, hazelnuts, local wines—you'll find all of this and more here at the market. Live music and cooking demonstrations by local chefs add to the market's appeal. The market is held on Saturdays from 8:30am to 2pm between April and October, and from 9am to 2pm in November and December.

Oregon Historical Society Museum ★ In the middle of the 19th century, the Oregon Territory was a land of promise and plenty. Thousands of hardy individuals set out along the Oregon Trail, crossing

a vast and rugged country to reach the fertile valleys of this region. Others came by ship around Cape Horn. If you'd like to learn about the people who discovered Oregon before you, visit this well-designed museum. Fascinating exhibits chronicle Oregon's history from before the arrival of the first Europeans to well into the 20th century. Museum docents, with roots stretching back to the days of the Oregon Trail, are often on hand to answer questions. You can't miss this museum—look for the eight-story-high trompe l'oeil mural stretching across the front.

1200 SW Park Ave. ☎ **503/222-1741**. www.ohs.org. Admission \$11 adults, \$9 students and seniors, \$5 children 6–18, free for children 5 and under. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm; Sun noon–5pm. Closed New Year's Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Bus: 6 or 8. MAX: Library Station. Portland Streetcar: Art Museum (northbound); 11th Ave. and Jefferson St. (southbound).

Portland Art Museum ★★ This is the oldest art museum in the Northwest, and it has an excellent collection of modern and contemporary art, which begins with European Impressionists and moves right up to the present. However, the best reason to visit is to see the extensive collection of Native American art and artifacts. There's also a good collection of Northwest contemporary art that includes a fascinating two-story wall of “artifacts” by glass artist William Morris. Other collections include European, Asian, and American art, and there's a small sculpture court. The Portland Art Museum is frequently the Northwest stop for touring blockbuster exhibits.

1219 SW Park Ave. ☎ **503/226-2811**. www.portlandartmuseum.org. Admission \$12 adults, \$9 seniors and college students, free for children 17 and under. Tues–Wed and Sat 10am–5pm; Thurs–Fri 10am–8pm; Sun noon–5pm. Closed New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Bus: 6. MAX: Library Station. Portland Streetcar: Art Museum (northbound); 11th Ave. and Jefferson St. (southbound).

2 SKIDMORE HISTORIC DISTRICT, CHINATOWN & THE WILLAMETTE RIVER WATERFRONT

If Pioneer Courthouse Square is the city's living room, **Waterfront Park ★**, along the Willamette River, is the city's front-yard play area. There are acres of lawns, shade trees, sculptures, and fountains, and the paved path through the park is popular with in-line skaters and joggers. This park also serves as the site of numerous festivals each summer. Also in the park is the Japanese-American Historical Plaza, dedicated to Japanese Americans who were sent to internment camps during World War II.

Just north of this plaza, a pedestrian walkway crosses the Steel Bridge to the east side of the Willamette River and the **Vera Katz**

76 Eastbank Esplanade, which stretches for about 1½ miles along the east bank of the river. Although this paved multiuse path gets a lot of traffic noise from the adjacent freeway, it offers great views of the Portland skyline. Along the route there are small parks and gardens, interesting sculptures, and benches for sitting and soaking up the view. The highlight of this path is a section that floats right on the river and is attached to pilings in much the same way that a floating dock is constructed. You can access the Eastbank Esplanade by way of the pedestrian pathway on the Steel Bridge. This bridge is at the north end of Waterfront Park.

Museum of Contemporary Craft ★★ Founded in 1937, this is one of the country's finest museums of contemporary craft. Throughout the year, works from the permanent collection share space with changing exhibits that might focus on an individual artist or a single theme. Cutting-edge ceramics and jewelry are always highlights of exhibits here, but you might catch a show focusing on crafts incorporating bamboo or an exhibition of artist-made books. From the museum, it is just a few blocks to the art galleries in the Pearl District.

724 NW Davis St. ☎ **503/223-2654**. <http://museumofcontemporarycraft.org>. Free admission. Tues–Sat 11am–6pm (1st Thurs of the month until 8pm). Closed New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Bus: 9 or 17.

Oregon Maritime Center & Museum This floating museum is housed in the historic steam-powered stern-wheeler *Portland*, which is docked at Waterfront Park. Inside are models of ships that once plied the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Also on display are early navigation instruments, artifacts from the battleship *Oregon*, old ship hardware, and other maritime memorabilia. However, the main reason to visit this museum is for the free guided tours of the *Portland*.

SW Pine St. and SW Naito Pkwy. ☎ **503/224-7724**. www.oregonmaritimemuseum.org. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$3 youths 6–17, free for children 5 and under. Wed–Sun 11am–4pm. Bus: 12, 16, 19, or 20. MAX: Skidmore Fountain Station.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) ★ 

Located on the east bank of the Willamette River across from the south end of Waterfront Park, this modern science museum has six huge halls, and both kids and adults find the exhibits fun and fascinating. This is a hands-on museum, and everyone is urged to get involved with displays, from a science playground for young children to physics and chemistry labs for older children. There's plenty of pure entertainment at an **OMNIMAX theater** and the **Kendall Planetarium**, which features laser-light shows and astronomy presentations. The USS *Blueback* submarine (used in the film *The Hunt for Red October*) is docked here, and tours are given daily.

A paved pathway runs beside OMSI and heads north to the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade and south 3 miles to Oaks Bottom amusement park. Along the pathway beside the museum, there are several interesting informational plaques about the history of Portland and its relationship to the Willamette River. OMSI is also the departure point for several different boat cruises up and down the Willamette River.

1945 SE Water Ave. ☎ **800/955-6674** or 503/797-4000. www.oms.edu. Museum \$9 adults, \$7 seniors and children 3–13; OMNIMAX shows \$11 adults, \$9 seniors and children 3–13; \$5.75 submarine tours, planetarium shows, and matinee laser-light shows; \$7.50 evening laser shows; discounted combination tickets available. Mid-June to Aug daily 9:30am–7pm; Sept to mid-June Tues–Sun 9:30am–5:30pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bus: 4, 14, or 33.

Lan Su Chinese Garden ★★ This classically styled Chinese garden takes up an entire city block and is the largest of its type outside of China. The walls surrounding these gardens in Portland's Chinatown separate the urban 21st century from the timeless Chinese landscape within, which is designed to evoke the wild mountains of China and to create a tranquil oasis within an urban setting. The gardens surround a small pond, which, at one end, has a rock wall meant to conjure up the sort of images often seen in Chinese scroll paintings. Numerous pavilions, a small bridge, and a winding pathway provide ever-changing views of the gardens. With its many paved paths and small viewing pavilions, this garden has a completely different feel from the Japanese Garden. Try to visit as soon as the gardens open in the morning; when the crowds descend and the guided tours start circulating—well, so much for tranquillity. On the other hand, if you want to learn more about the garden, you can join a guided tour at noon or 1pm. Be sure to stop and have a cup of tea and maybe a snack in the garden's tearoom.

NW Everett St. and NW Third Ave. ☎ **503/228-8131**. www.lansugarden.org. Admission \$8.50 adults, \$7.50 seniors, \$6.50 students and children 6–18, free for children 5 and under. Apr–Oct daily 10am–6pm; Nov–Mar daily 10am–5pm. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Bus: 1, 4, 8, 33, or 77. MAX: Old Town/Chinatown Station.

Portland Saturday Market ★★ The Portland Saturday Market (actually held on both Sat and Sun) is arguably the city's best-loved event. For years the Northwest has attracted artists and craftspeople, and every Saturday and Sunday nearly 300 of them can be found selling their creations here. In addition to the dozens of crafts stalls, you'll find ethnic and unusual foods and lots of free entertainment. This is one of the best places in Portland to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts. The atmosphere is always cheerful and the crowds colorful. Located on the riverfront adjacent to the historic Skidmore District,

Pearls in the Pearl District

The Pearl District is Portland's hottest neighborhood, and in addition to all the restaurants, wine bars, and boutiques, there are some fun works of public art, a beautiful little park that looks like it could be in Paris, and an innovative green space that is something of a quiet natural area within an urban setting.

Stroll through the tree-shaded parks of the North Park Blocks, which form the eastern edge of the Pearl District, and, at the Burnside Street end, you'll see a huge Chinese bronze elephant that was a gift from one of Portland's sister cities. A couple of blocks north of this elephant, watch for a bronze dog-bowl water fountain set in a checkerboard floor of stone. This odd sculpture was created by William Wegman, famous for his humorous photos of his dogs.

Right in the heart of the Pearl District, at the corner of NW Johnson Street and NW 10th Avenue, you'll find Jamison Square, a park with an unusual wall-like cascading waterfall that fills a shallow pool. Around the graveled areas of the park, you'll find bistro chairs where you can sit and enjoy a latte from a nearby espresso bar. Be sure to notice the totem-pole-inspired sculptures along the western edge of the park. Two blocks north of Jamison Square, at the corner of NW 10th Avenue and NW Marshall Street, you'll find Tanner Springs Park, an unusual little natural area that revives the springs that once flowed here while at the same time commemorating the railroad yards that predate the Pearl District's many new developments.

Portland Saturday Market makes an excellent starting or finishing point for a walk around Portland's downtown historic neighborhood. On Sunday, on-street parking is free.

Underneath the west end of the Burnside Bridge along SW Naito Pkwy. ☎ **503/222-6072**. www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com. Free admission. Last weekend in Feb to Christmas Eve Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11am–4:30pm. Bus: 12, 19, or 20. MAX: Skidmore Fountain Station.

3 WASHINGTON PARK & PORTLAND'S WEST HILLS

Portland is justifiably proud of its green spaces, and foremost among them are Washington Park and Forest Park.

Within Washington Park, you'll find the **Japanese Garden** and **International Rose Test Garden**, which are adjacent to one another on the more developed east side of the park (see the listings below). On the west side of the park (farther from the city center), you'll find not only the Hoyt Arboretum but also the Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, and the Portland Children's Museum.

The 187-acre **Hoyt Arboretum**, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd. ★ (☎ 503/865-8733; www.hoytarboretum.org) includes over 1,000 species of trees and shrubs from temperate regions around the world and has several miles of hiking trails. At the south end of the arboretum, adjacent to the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum and the Oregon Zoo, is the **Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial**. At the arboretum's visitor center (Mon–Fri 9am–4pm and Sat 9am–3pm), you can pick up maps and guides to the arboretum. The arboretum can be reached either from the Oregon Zoo/World Forestry Center Discovery Museum/Portland Children's Museum area or by following the arboretum signs from West Burnside Street.

To the north of Hoyt Arboretum is **Forest Park** ★★ (☎ 503/823-PLAY [7529]), which, with more than 5,000 acres of forest, is one of the largest forested city parks in the United States. Within the park, there are more than 74 miles of trails and old fire roads for hiking, jogging, and mountain biking. More than 100 species of birds call this forest home, making it a great spot for urban bird-watching. Along the forest trails, you can see huge old trees and find quiet picnic spots tucked away in the woods. One of the most convenient park access points is at the top of NW Thurman Street (just keep heading uphill until the road dead-ends). You can also park at the Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center (see above) or the Audubon Society (see below), pick up a map of Forest Park, and head out from either of these locations.

Adjacent to Forest Park, you'll also find the **Portland Audubon Society**, 5151 NW Cornell Rd. (☎ 503/292-6855; www.audubonportland.org), which has a couple of miles of hiking trails on its forested property. In keeping with its mission to promote enjoyment, understanding, and protection of the natural world, these nature trails are open to the public. You can also visit the Nature Store or wildlife care center here. To find this facility from downtown Portland, first drive to NW 23rd Avenue, and then head uphill on NW Lovejoy

Great Photo Ops

If you've seen a photo of Portland with conical snow-covered Mount Hood looming in the background and you want to snap a similar photo while you're in town, there are several places to try. Most popular are probably the terraces of the International Rose Test Garden and from behind the pavilion at the Japanese Garden. Another great view can be glimpsed from the grounds of the Pittock Mansion. All three of these places are described in detail elsewhere in this chapter.

One other not-to-be-missed vista is located atop Council Crest, a hilltop park in Portland's West Hills. To reach this park, take the Sylvan exit off U.S. 26 west of downtown Portland, turn south and then east (left) on Humphrey Boulevard, and then follow the signs. Alternatively, you can follow SW Broadway south out of downtown Portland and follow the signs. This road winds through attractive hillside neighborhoods for a way before reaching Council Crest.

Street, which becomes NW Cornell Road. (**Warning:** Car break-ins are commonplace at the parking area just down the road from the Audubon Society, so don't leave anything of value in your car.)

By car, the easiest route to the Washington Park attractions from downtown Portland is to take SW Jefferson Street west, turn right onto SW 18th Avenue, left on SW Salmon Street, right on SW King Street, and then left onto SW Park Place. Although this sounds confusing, you'll find most of the route well marked with "Scenic Drive" signs. Alternatively, you can drive west on West Burnside Street and watch for signs to the arboretum, or take the zoo exit off U.S. 26. All of these attractions can also be reached via bus no. 63. You can also take the MAX line to the Washington Park Station, which is adjacent to the Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, Portland Children's Museum, and Hoyt Arboretum. From here, it is possible (in the summer months) to take a bus shuttle to the Japanese Garden and International Rose Test Garden. There's also a miniature train that runs from the zoo to a station near the two public gardens. However, to ride this train, you must first pay zoo admission.

International Rose Test Garden ★★ Covering more than 5 acres of hillside in the West Hills above downtown Portland, these are among the largest and oldest rose test gardens in the United States

and are the only city-maintained test gardens to bestow awards on each year's best roses. The gardens were established in 1917 by the American Rose Society and are used as a testing ground for new varieties of roses. Though you will probably see some familiar roses in the Gold Medal Garden, most of the 400 varieties on display are new hybrids being tested before marketing. Among the various gardens here, which have blooms from late spring through early winter, you'll find a separate garden of miniature roses and a Shakespeare Garden that includes flowers mentioned in the Bard's works. After seeing these acres of roses, you'll understand why Portland is known as the City of Roses and why the Rose Festival in June is the city's biggest annual celebration. The small Rose Garden Store, 850 SW Rose Garden Way (☎ 503/227-7033) is packed with rose-inspired products.

400 SW Kingston Ave., Washington Park. ☎ 503/823-3636. www.rosegardenstore.com. Free admission (donations accepted). Daily 7:30am–9pm. Bus: 63.

The Japanese Garden ★★ ★ Considered the finest example of a Japanese garden in North America, this exquisitely manicured green space should not be missed. Not only are there five different styles of Japanese gardens scattered over 5½ acres, but there's also a view of volcanic Mount Hood, which bears a strong resemblance to Mount Fuji.

Although Japanese gardens are traditionally not designed with colorful floral displays, this one definitely has its seasonal highlights. In early spring there are the cherry trees, in mid-spring there are the azaleas, in late spring a huge wisteria bursts into bloom, and in early summer, large Japanese irises color the banks of a pond. Amid the gardens, there's a beautiful and very realistic waterfall.

This is a tranquil spot and is even more peaceful on rainy days, when the crowds stay away, so don't pass up a visit just because of inclement weather. Also, April through October, on the third Saturday of each month, there's a demonstration of the Japanese tea ceremony in the garden's teahouse. During these same months, there are daily free guided tours of the gardens.

611 SW Kingston Ave. (in Washington Park). ☎ 503/223-1321. www.japanese-garden.com. Admission \$8 adults, \$6.75 seniors and college students, \$5.25 youths 6–17, free for children 5 and under. Apr–Sept Mon noon–7pm, Tues–Sun 10am–7pm; Oct–Mar Mon noon–4pm, Tues–Sun 10am–4pm. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station (then, in summer months, take the shuttle bus or the zoo train).

Oregon Zoo ★ (Kids) The Oregon Zoo is perhaps best known for its elephants and has the most successful breeding herd in captivity. However, in recent years, the zoo has been adding new exhibits and branching out beyond the world of pachyderms. The Africa exhibit,

All Aboard!

The **Washington Park and Zoo Railway** travels between the zoo and the International Rose Test Garden and Japanese Garden. Tickets for the miniature railway are \$5 (free for children 2 and under). There's also a shorter route that just loops around the zoo.

which includes a very lifelike rainforest and a savanna populated by zebras, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, and other animals, is one of the most realistic habitats you'll ever see at a zoo. Equally impressive is the Alaskan tundra exhibit, with grizzly bears, wolves, and musk oxen. The Cascade Crest exhibit includes a mountain goat habitat, and in the Steller Cove exhibit, you can watch the antics of Steller sea lions and sea otters. Don't miss the bat house or the Amazon Flooded Forest exhibit. In the summer, there are outdoor concerts in the zoo's amphitheater; admission prices vary.

4001 SW Canyon Rd., Washington Park. ☎ **503/226-1561**. www.oregonzoo.org. Admission \$11 adults, \$9 seniors, \$7.50 children 3–11, free for children 2 and under. Apr 15–Sept 15 daily 9am–6pm; Sept 16–Apr 14 daily 9am–4pm. Closed Christmas. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station.

Pittock Mansion ★ At nearly the highest point in the West Hills, 1,000 feet above sea level, stands the most impressive mansion in Portland. Once slated to be torn down to make way for new housing, this grand château, built by the founder of Portland's *Oregonian* newspaper, is fully restored and open to the public. Built in 1914 in a French Renaissance style, the mansion featured many innovations, including a built-in vacuum system and amazing multiple shower heads in the bathrooms. Today it's furnished with 18th- and 19th-century antiques, much as it might have been at the time the Pittocks lived here. With an expansive view over the city to the Cascade Range, the lawns surrounding the mansion are great for picnics. You can also access Forest Park's Wildwood Trail from here.

3229 NW Pittock Dr. ☎ **503/823-3623**. www.pittockmansion.org. Admission \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 children 6–18. July–Aug daily 10am–4pm; Sept–Dec and Feb–June daily 11am–4pm. Closed Christmas and the month of Jan.

World Forestry Center Discovery Museum ★ Although Oregon depends less and less on the timber industry with each passing year, this museum is still busy educating visitors about the importance of forest resources around the world. Among the main exhibits are installations focusing on the forests of Russia, China, South Africa, and the Amazon. One exhibit lets you practice being a smoke

jumper (firefighter), while another takes you on a video raft ride. There are also interesting temporary exhibits staged here throughout the year, from photographic exhibits to displays of the woodworkers' art.

4033 SW Canyon Rd. ☎ **503/228-1367**. www.worldforestry.org. Admission \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 children 3–18, free for children 2 and under. Daily 10am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station.

4 PORTLAND'S OTHER PUBLIC GARDENS

If roses are your passion, you'll also want to check out the **Peninsula Park Rose Garden** at the corner of North Portland Boulevard and North Albina Avenue (take the Portland Blvd. exit off I-5 and go 2 blocks east), which has even more rosebushes than the International Rose Test Garden.

The Berry Botanic Garden ★ Originally founded as a private garden, the Berry Botanic Garden is now one of Portland's favorite public gardens. Among the highlights is a large, forestlike collection of mature rhododendron shrubs. There are also rock gardens with unusual plants, a native plant trail, and a fern garden. The garden is open by reservation only.

11505 SW Summerville Ave. ☎ **503/636-4112**. www.berrybot.org. Adults \$5. Open daylight hours by appointment. Bus: 35.

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden ★ Nowhere do rhododendrons do better than in the cool, rainy Northwest, and nowhere in Portland is there a more impressive planting of rhodies than at Crystal Springs. Eight months out of the year, this is a tranquil garden, with a waterfall, a lake, and ducks to feed. But when the rhododendrons and azaleas bloom from March to June, it becomes a spectacular mass of blazing color. The Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale is held here on Mother's Day weekend.

SE 28th Ave. (1 block north of SE Woodstock Blvd.). ☎ **503/771-8386**. www.portlandonline.com/parks. Admission \$3 Mar 1 to Labor Day Thurs–Mon 10am–6pm; free at other times. Apr–Sept daily 6am–10pm; Oct–Mar daily 6am–6pm. Bus: 19.

Elk Rock Gardens of the Bishop's Close ★ Set on a steep hillside above the Willamette River between Portland and Lake Oswego, this was once a private garden but was donated to the local Episcopal bishop of Oregon on the condition that it be opened to the public. The mature gardens are at their best through the spring and

The World's Smallest Park

Don't blink as you cross the median strip on Naito Parkway at the corner of SW Taylor Street, or you might just walk right past Mill Ends Park, the smallest public park in the world.

Covering a whopping 452 square inches of land, this park was the whimsical creation of local journalist Dick Fagen. After a telephone pole was removed from the middle of Naito Parkway (then known as Front Ave.), Fagen dubbed the phone pole hole Mill Ends Park (Mill Ends, a lumber mill term, was the name of Fagen's newspaper column). The columnist, whose office looked down on the hole in the middle of Front Avenue, peopled the imaginary park with leprechauns and would often write of the park's goings-on in his column. On St. Patrick's Day 1976, it was officially designated a Portland city park. Rumor has it that despite its diminutive size, the park has been the site of several weddings (although the parks department has never issued a wedding permit for it).

early summer. There's also an excellent view of Mount Hood from the grounds.

11800 SW Military Lane. ☎ **800/452-2562** or 503/636-5613. www.diocese-oregon.org/theclose. Free admission. Daily 8am–5pm. Bus: 35.

The Grotto—The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother

Although this forested 62-acre sanctuary is first and foremost a Catholic religious shrine (with a marble replica of Michelangelo's Pietà set in a shallow rock cave at the foot of a cliff), the grounds are quite beautiful. The gardens are at their best in the early summer and during the Christmas season, when the grounds are decorated with thousands of lights and are open after dark. An elevator ride to the top of the bluff offers panoramic views of the Cascade Range, the Columbia River, and Mount St. Helens. There are also two chapels on the grounds, a gift shop, and a coffee shop. The Grotto is open to visitors of all faiths.

8840 NE Skidmore St. (NE 85th Ave. and Sandy Blvd.) ☎ **503/254-7371**. www.thegrotto.org. Free admission (except during Christmas Festival of Lights: \$7.50 adults, \$3 children 3–12, free for children 2 and under); elevator \$3.50 adults, \$2.50 seniors and students. Summer daily 9am–8:30pm; winter daily 9am–4pm; spring and fall daily 9am–5:30pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bus: 12.

5 ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS

In addition to the attractions listed below, the kids will especially enjoy the **Oregon Museum of Science and Industry** (p. 76), which has lots of hands-on exhibits, and the **Oregon Zoo** (p. 81). From inside the zoo, it's possible to take a small train through Washington Park to the International Rose Test Garden, below which there is the **Rose Garden Children's Park**, a colorful play area for younger children. The **Salmon Street Springs fountain**, in downtown's Waterfront Park (at SW Naito Pkwy. and SW Salmon St.), is another fun place to take the kids. During hot summer months, there are always lots of happy kids playing in the jets of water that erupt from the pavement here. There are also big lawns in **Waterfront Park**, so the kids can run off plenty of excess energy. There's also a splashy play-pond at **Jamison Square** in the Pearl District.

Oaks Park Amusement Center  What would summer be without the screams of happy thrill seekers risking life and limb on a roller coaster? Covering more than 44 acres, this amusement park first opened in 1905 to coincide with the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, which is informally referred to as a World's Fair. Beneath the shady oaks for which the park is named, you'll find waterfront picnic sites, miniature golf, music, and plenty of thrilling rides. Here in the park, you'll also find one of the largest roller-skating rinks in the West, and an organist still plays a Wurlitzer pipe organ for the skaters.

7805 SE Oaks Park Way (east end of the Sellwood Bridge). ☎ **503/233-5777**. www.oakspark.com. Free admission; individual-ride tickets \$2.25, limited-ride bracelet \$12, deluxe-ride bracelet \$15. Rides open Apr–Sept; skating rink open year-round. Hours vary seasonally; call for details. Bus: 70.

Portland Children's Museum ★  Located across the parking lot from the Oregon Zoo, this large, modern children's museum includes exhibits for children ages 1 to 13. Kids can play in a magical forest, go shopping in a kid-size grocery store, or help build a house. However, it is the Water Works exhibit that is likely to make the biggest splash with your kids. There are also six studios with changing exhibits and opportunities for exploring the visual, literary, and performing arts. Combined with the nearby zoo, this museum makes for an easy all-day kid-oriented outing.

4015 SW Canyon Rd. ☎ **503/223-6500**. www.portlandcm.org. Admission \$8 adults and children, \$7 seniors, free for children 1 and under Summer daily 9am–5pm; other months Tues–Sun 9am–5pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Dec 24–25. Bus: 63. MAX: Washington Park Station.

6 ORGANIZED TOURS

CRUISES

With two large rivers winding through the city, Portland is a town that needs to be seen from the water. Try the **Portland Spirit** (☎ 800/224-3901 or 503/224-3900; www.portlandspirit.com), a 150-foot yacht that specializes in meal cruises. Lunch, brunch, and dinner cruises feature Northwest cuisine with views of the city skyline. There are also basic sightseeing cruises, and on Friday nights July through September. There are also Friday afternoon cocktail cruises with a live band. Call for reservations and schedule. Prices range from \$28 to \$68 for adults and \$18 to \$63 for children. This company also operates jet-boat tours that go up the Columbia River to the Bonneville Dam and down the Columbia to Astoria. Shorter jet-boat tours that focus on the history of Portland's many bridges are also offered.

For high-speed tours up the Willamette River, book a tour with **Willamette Jetboat Excursions** ★ (☎ 888/538-2628 or 503/231-1532; www.willamettejet.com). These high-powered open-air boats blast their way from downtown Portland to the impressive Willamette Falls at Oregon City. The 2-hour tours, which start at OMSI, are \$35 for adults and \$23 for children 4 to 11, and free for children 3 and under. Tours are offered May through September. There are also less expensive 1-hour tours, but these do not go upriver to the falls.

BUS TOURS

When you're ready to get out of town and see some of the Oregon countryside, contact **Eco Tours of Oregon** (☎ 888/TOURS-33 [868-7733] or 503/245-1428; www.ecotours-of-oregon.com), which offers bus tours to the Oregon coast, to wine country, and up the Columbia River Gorge. Tour prices range from \$60 to \$90.

If you're a fan of the movie *Twilight* and want to see some of the sites where it was filmed, contact **Portland Movie Tours** (☎ 503/686-8113; www.portlandmovietours.com), which, in addition to its two popular *Twilight* tours, offers a general tour of Portland film locations. Tours cost \$25 per person. There are also North Oregon Coast Tours that leave from Seaside and go to Astoria, where such films as *Goonies* and *Kindergarten Cop* were filmed.

If you're a beer geek and want to learn more about the local micro-brewing scene here in Beervana, you can book a tour on the **Portland Brew Bus** (☎ 503/647-0021; www.brewbus.com). These tours head out on Saturday afternoons and cost \$45 per person.

RAIL EXCURSIONS

While Portland is busy reviving trolleys and streetcars as viable mass transit options, the **Willamette Shore Trolley** ★ (☎ 503/697-7436; <http://oerhs.org/wst/index.htm>) offers scenic excursions along the Willamette River in historic trolley cars (including a double-decker model) from the early part of the 20th century. The old wooden trolleys rumble over trestles and through a tunnel as they cover the 7 miles between Portland and the upscale suburb of Lake Oswego (a 40-min. trip). Along the way, you pass through shady corridors with lots of views of the river and glimpses into the yards of posh riverfront homes. In Lake Oswego, the trolley station is on North State Street, between A Avenue and Foothills Road. In Portland, the station is about 1 mile south of downtown (and ¼ mile south of the Portland Aerial Tram) in the South Waterfront District off Macadam Avenue at the corner of SW Moody Avenue and SW Bancroft Street. The round-trip fare is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, and \$6 for children 3 to 12. The trolleys usually run between May and October and then again during the Christmas season; call for a schedule.

WALKING TOURS

Peter's Walking Tours of Portland (☎ 503/704-7900; www.walkportland.com), led by Peter Chausse, are a great way to learn more about Portland. The walking tours of downtown last 3 hours and take in the city's fountains, parks, historic places, art, and architecture. Tours are by reservation and cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for teens (free for children 7 and under with a paying adult).

Two or three times a year, Sharon Wood Wortman, author of *The Portland Bridge Book*, offers a **Bridge Tour** that explores several Portland bridges. These tours are offered through the Outdoor Recreation Program of **Portland Parks and Recreation** (☎ 503/823-2525; www.portlandonline.com/parks). Many other walking tours are also available through Portland Parks and Recreation.

The seamy underbelly of history is laid bare on **Portland Underground Tours** ★ (☎ 503/622-4798; www.members.tripod.com/cgs-mthood), which are operated by the Cascade Geographic Society and head down below street level in the historic Old Town neighborhood. On these unusual tours, which are only for those who are steady on their feet and able to duck under pipes and joists and such, you'll hear tales of the days when Portland was known as one of the most dangerous ports on the Pacific Rim. Sailors were regularly shanghaied (kidnapped) from bars and brothels in this area and a vast network of tunnels and underground rooms was developed to support the shanghaiing business. Tours cost \$13 for adults and \$8 for children 11 and under and are offered by reservation only.

WINERY TOURS

If you're interested in learning more about Oregon wines, contact **Grape Escape** (☎ 503/283-3380; www.grapeescapetours.com), which offers in-depth winery tours of the Willamette Valley. All-day tours include stops at several wineries, appetizers, lunch, and dessert, and pickup and drop-off at your hotel. Call for rates (\$120–\$275 per person). For people with less time, there are half-day afternoon trips that take in three wineries (\$75 per person). **Oregon Wine Tours** (☎ 503/681-WINE [9463]; www.orwinetours.com) offers similar all-day tours that stop at four or five wineries. These tours cost \$165 each if there are just two of you. If you've got a group and want to tour wine country in a 1959 Chrysler stretch limousine, contact **Classic Tours** (☎ 503/297-2824; www.classictoursusa.com).

For information on touring wine country on your own, see “Winery Tours,” in chapter 10.

7 OUTDOOR PURSUITS

If you're planning ahead for a visit to Portland, contact **Metro**, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232-2736 (☎ 503/797-1850; www.metro-region.org/parks), for its *Metro GreenScene* publication that lists tours, hikes, classes, and other outdoor activities and events being held in the Portland metro area.

BIKING

Portland is a very bicycle-friendly city, and you'll notice plenty of cyclists on the streets. There are also miles of paved bike paths around the city, and some good mountain-biking areas as well. For mountain-bike rentals, head to **Fat Tire Farm**, 2714 NW Thurman St. (☎ 503/222-3276; www.fattirefarm.com), where bikes go for \$40 to \$60 for a 24-hour rental. Straight up Thurman Street from this bike shop, you'll find the trail head for **Leif Erikson Drive**, an old gravel road that is Forest Park's favorite route for cyclists and runners (the road is closed to motor vehicles); the trail is 12 miles long.

If you'd like to explore Portland's riverfront bike paths, stop in at **Waterfront Bicycles**, 10 SW Ash St., Ste. 100 (☎ 503/227-1719; www.waterfrontbikes.net), where you can rent a bike for \$9 to \$15 per hour or \$35 to \$100 per half-day. From here head through Waterfront Park, cross the Steel Bridge, and ride down the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade path. This trail leads 4 miles south to the upscale Sellwood neighborhood.

GOLF

If you're a golfer, don't forget to bring your clubs along on a trip to Portland. There are plenty of public courses around the area, and greens fees at municipal courses range from \$22 to \$42 for 18 holes. Municipal golf courses operated by the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation include **Redtail Golf Course**, 8200 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (☎ 503/646-5166; www.golfredtail.com); **Eastmoreland Golf Course**, 2425 SE Bybee Blvd. (☎ 503/775-2900; www.eastmorelandgolfcourse.com), which is the second-oldest golf course in the state (this one gets my vote for best municipal course); **Heron Lakes Golf Course**, 3500 N. Victory Blvd. (☎ 503/289-1818; www.heronlakesgolf.com), which has two courses designed by Robert Trent Jones; and **Rose City Golf Course**, 2200 NE 71st Ave. (☎ 503/253-4744; www.rosecitygc.com), on the site of a former country club. For more information, log on to www.portlandonline.com/parks.

If you want to tee off where the pros play, head west from Portland 20 miles to **Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club ★★**, 12930 NW Old Pumpkin Ridge Rd., North Plains (☎ 503/647-4747; www.pumpkinridge.com), a 36-hole course that has hosted the U.S. Women's Open. Greens fees in summer range from \$90 to \$150 on the one course that is open to the public.

Also west of the city, on the south side of Hillsboro, you'll find the **Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club ★★**, 4805 SW 229th Ave., Aloha (☎ 503/649-8191; www.reservegolf.com). Greens fees in summer range from \$79 to \$89 depending on the day of the week.

HIKING

Hiking opportunities abound in the Portland area. For shorter hikes, you don't even have to leave the city; just head to **Forest Park**. Bordered by West Burnside Street on the south, Newberry Road on the north, St. Helens Road on the east, and Skyline Boulevard on the west, this is one of the largest forested city parks in the country. Within this urban wilderness, you'll find more than 70 miles of trails. One of my favorite access points is at the top of NW Thurman Street in Northwest Portland. (After a hike, you can stop for a post-exercise payoff at a neighborhood brewpub, an espresso bar, or a bakery along NW 23rd Ave. or NW 21st Ave.) The 30-mile **Wildwood Trail** is the longest trail in the park and along its length offers lots of options for loop hikes. For a roughly 2.5-mile hike, head up Leif Erikson Drive to a left onto the Wild Cherry Trail to a right onto the Wildwood Trail to a right onto the Dogwood Trail, and then a right on Leif Erikson Drive to get you back to the trail head. There are also good sections of trail to hike in the vicinity of the Hoyt Arboretum. To reach the arboretum's **visitor center**, 4000 SW Fairview Blvd. (Mon–Fri 9am–4pm and Sat 9am–3pm),

drive west on West Burnside Street from downtown Portland and follow signs to the arboretum. You can get a trail map here at the visitor center.

About 5 miles south of downtown, you'll find **Tryon Creek State Park** off Terwilliger Boulevard. This park is similar to Forest Park and is best known for its displays of trillium flowers in the spring. There are several miles of walking trails within the park, and a bike path to downtown Portland starts here.

You can buy or rent camping equipment from **REI Co-Op**, 1405 NW Johnson St. (☎ 503/221-1938; www.rei.com). This huge outdoor recreation supply store also sells books on hiking in the area.

SEA KAYAKING

If you want to check out the Portland skyline from water level, arrange for a sea kayak tour with the **Portland River Company ★★**, 6600 SW Macadam Ave. (☎ 888/238-2059 or 503/459-4050; www.portlandrivercompany.com), which operates tours out of the RiverPlace Marina at the south end of Waterfront Park. A 2½-hour tour that circles nearby Ross Island costs \$45 to \$47 per person. This company also rents sea kayaks (to experienced paddlers) for \$10 to \$20 per hour.

SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

Several ski resorts are situated on the slopes of Mount Hood within about an hour's drive of Portland. **Timberline Ski Area** even boasts summer skiing. There are also many miles of marked cross-country ski trails. The best cross-country skiing on Mount Hood is at the Nordic center at **Mount Hood Meadows**, and at **Teacup Lake**, which is along Ore. 35 near the turnoff for Mount Hood Meadows. You'll find numerous ski and snowboard rental shops in the town of Sandy, which is on the way from Portland to Mount Hood, and ski areas also rent equipment.

Timberline Ski Area (☎ 503/272-3158 or 503/222-2211 for snow report; www.timberlinelodge.com) is the highest ski area on Mount Hood and has one slope that is open throughout the summer. This is the site of the historic **Timberline Lodge**. Adult lift-ticket prices range from \$25 for night skiing to between \$54 and \$59 for an all-day pass. Call for hours of operation.

Mount Hood Meadows ★★ (☎ 800/SKI-HOOD [754-4663], 503/227-7669 for snow report; www.skihood.com), 12 miles northeast of Government Camp on Ore. 35 is the largest ski resort on Mount Hood, with more than 2,000 skiable acres, 2,777 vertical feet of slopes, five high-speed quad lifts, and a wide variety of terrain. This is the closest Mount Hood comes to having a destination ski resort, and consequently, it is here that you'll find the most out-of-state skiers. Lift-ticket

prices range from \$25 for night skiing to between \$57 and \$69 for an all-day pass. Call for hours of operation.

Mt. Hood Skibowl (☎ 503/272-3206, 800/754-2695 or 503/222-2695 for snow report; www.skibowl.com) is located in Government Camp on U.S. 26 and is the closest ski area to Portland. Skibowl offers 1,500 vertical feet of skiing and has more expert slopes than any other ski area on the mountain. This is also one of the largest lighted ski areas in the country. Adult lift-ticket prices range from \$35 to \$43 for an all-day pass (\$26 for night skiing). Call for hours of operation.

Mount Hood Meadows and Mt. Hood Skibowl both have cross-country skiing (though only Mount Hood Meadows has a Nordic Center and groomed fee-access trails).

WHITE-WATER RAFTING

The Cascade Range produces some of the best white-water rafting in the country, and the White Salmon, Sandy, and Clackamas rivers all offer plenty of rafting opportunities within an hour or two of Portland. The Sandy and the Clackamas are the two closest rivers.

Trips on the Clackamas, North Santiam, Molalla, and Hood rivers are offered by **Blue Sky Whitewater Rafting** (☎ 800/898-6398 or 503/630-3163; www.blueskyrafting.com), which charges \$47 to \$60 for a half-day trip and \$75 to \$90 for a full-day trip. **River Drifters** (☎ 800/972-0430 or 800/226-1001; www.riverdrifters.net) offers trips on the Sandy, White Salmon, Deschutes, Clackamas, and North Santiam rivers for between \$70 and \$95 for a full day (half-day trips are also available). **Zoller's Outdoor Odysseys, Inc.** (☎ 800/366-2004 or 509/493-2641; www.zooraft.com) offers half-day trips on the White Salmon for \$65 and all-day trips on the Klickitat for \$90.

8 SPECTATOR SPORTS

Tickets to events at the Rose Garden arena and Memorial Coliseum are sold through the **Rose Quarter** box office (☎ 503/797-9619; www.rosequarter.com). The Rose Garden arena is home to the Portland Trail Blazers and is the main focal point of Portland's **Rose Quarter**. This sports-and-entertainment neighborhood includes the Rose Garden, Memorial Coliseum, and several restaurants and bars. To reach the Rose Garden or adjacent Memorial Coliseum, take the Rose Quarter exit off I-5. Parking is expensive, so you might want to consider taking the MAX light-rail line from downtown Portland (the Rose Quarter stop is in the Free Rail Zone).

92 **AUTO RACING** **Portland International Raceway**, West Delta Park, 1940 N. Victory Blvd. (☎ 503/823-RACE [7223]; www.portlandraceway.com), hosts road races, drag races, motocross and other motorcycle races, go-kart races, and even vintage-car races. February through October are the busiest months here.

BASEBALL The **Portland Beavers** (☎ 503/553-5400 or 503/224-4400 for tickets; www.portlandbeavers.com), the AAA affiliate of the San Diego Padres, play minor-league ball at PGE Park, SW 20th Avenue and Morrison Street. Tickets are \$8 to \$16.

BASKETBALL The NBA's **Portland Trail Blazers** (☎ 503/797-9600; www.nba.com/blazers) do well enough each year to have earned them a very loyal following. Unfortunately, they have a habit of not quite making it all the way to the top. The Blazers pound the boards at the Rose Garden arena. Call for current schedule and ticket information. Tickets are \$35 to \$225. If the Blazers are doing well, you can bet that tickets will be hard to come by.

9 DAY SPAS

If you prefer massages and facials to hikes in the woods, consider spending a few hours at a day spa. These facilities typically offer massages, facials, body wraps, and the like. Portland day spas include the **Nourish by Spa Chakra at Avalon Hotel & Spa**, 0455 SW Hamilton Court (☎ 503/802-5900; www.nourish-spapo.com); and **Salon Nyla—The Day Spa**, 327 SW Pine St. (☎ 503/228-0389; www.salonnyla.com), which is adjacent to the Embassy Suites hotel. In the Pearl District, try **Aequis**, 422 NW 13th Ave. (☎ 503/223-7847; www.aequisspa.com), which is an Asian-inspired retreat. Expect to pay about \$85 or \$135 for a 1-hour massage and \$160 to more than \$1,000 for a multi-treatment spa package.

Walking Tour of Portland

Portland's compactness makes it an ideal city to explore on foot. There's no better way to get a feel for this city than to stroll through Waterfront Park, around downtown, and over to the hip and bustling Pearl District. If you're here on the weekend, you'll also be able to visit the Portland Saturday Market. For additional information on several stops in this stroll, see chapter 6.

WALKING TOUR

THE BEST OF DOWNTOWN, CHINATOWN & THE PEARL DISTRICT

- START:** Lan Su Chinese Garden.
- FINISH:** Tanner Springs Park.
- TIME:** Allow all day for this walking tour, including stops at attractions, breaks, and shops.
- BEST TIMES:** Saturday and Sunday between March and December, when the Portland Saturday Market is open; start early in the day so you can visit the Chinese garden before the crowds arrive.
- WORST TIMES:** Monday, when museums are closed.

Every decade or so Portland seems to come up with a great idea for reinventing its inner city. Back in the 1970s, it was the removal of a highway so a park could be built along the Willamette River waterfront. In the 1980s, it was the preservation of the Skidmore Historic District (Old Town), the city's last remaining 19th-century downtown commercial neighborhood. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, an area of Northwest Portland that consisted of old warehouses and a sprawling railroad yard became the new frontier. Now known as the Pearl District, this latter area has become the hottest real estate in the city and is frequently flaunted as an example of how cities can do things right by creating urban villages. After starting out in the city's small Chinatown, this walking tour meanders through the above-mentioned neighborhoods, plus the city's vibrant downtown core, showcasing more than a century of Portland urban living.

Begin your walking tour at the corner of NW Everett Street and NW Third Avenue at the:

① Lan Su Chinese Garden

This is the largest classical Suzhou-style Chinese garden outside of China. With its tiled roofs, pond, bridges, and landscaping that conjures up images from Chinese scroll paintings, the garden is an urban oasis.

If it's a Saturday or Sunday between March and December, walk east on NW Everett Street to NW Naito Parkway and turn right. In 3 blocks, you'll likely spot the crowds of people at the:

② Portland Saturday Market

Here you'll find a wide variety of crafts by Northwest artisans. Typically nearly 300 artisans plus entertainers and food vendors set up shop, and though a lot of what's sold here these days tends to be cheap gifts, there are still plenty of quality vendors of fine crafts.

From the Portland Saturday Market, walk south through:

③ Waterfront Park

This long swath of green fronts the Willamette River and was once the site of a highway. Today the park hosts summertime festivals and is a popular place for jogging, bicycling, and strolling by the river. If you're a serious power-walker and want to add an extra 3 miles of walking to this tour, you can walk a loop around the Willamette by crossing the Steel Bridge (at the north end of Waterfront Park) to the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade and then returning to the west bank via the Hawthorne Bridge.

Just about the first thing you'll see when you enter Waterfront Park is the:

④ Oregon Maritime Center and Museum

This floating museum is housed in the stern-wheeler *Portland* and is dedicated to Oregon's shipping history. Walk down the gangplank, and you can take a tour of this old paddle-wheeler.

Continue through the park for about 7 blocks and cross back over Naito Parkway at SW Taylor Street, where, in the middle of the parkway, you'll find:

⑤ Mill Ends Park

Covering a grand total of only 452 square *inches*, this diminutive public space is the world's smallest public park. It was the fictitious creation of a journalist whose office looked down on a hole where a telephone pole had been removed.

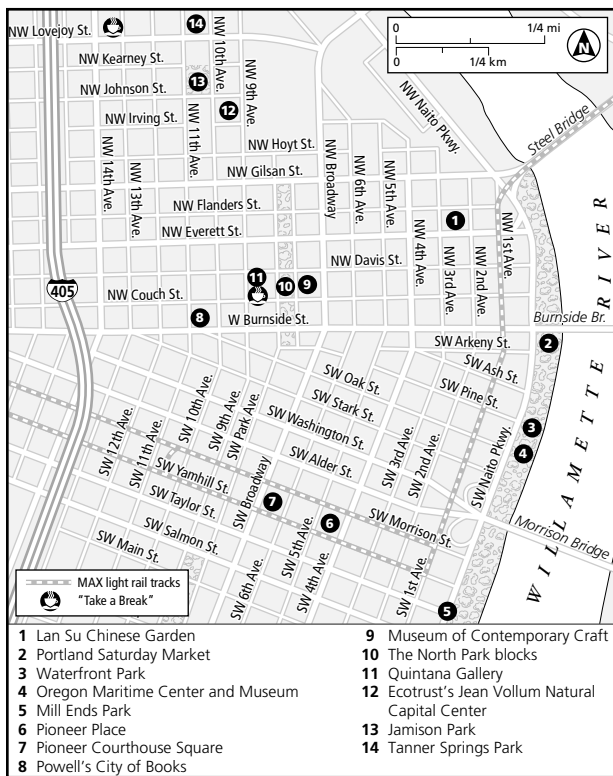
Continue up SW Taylor Street, turn right on SW Fourth Avenue, and then left on SW Yamhill Street, where you'll find:

⑥ Pioneer Place

This is Portland's premier downtown shopping mall, so if you're in the mood to do some shopping, be sure to take a stroll around inside.

Walking Tour: Downtown, Chinatown & the Pearl District

95



WALKING TOUR OF PORTLAND

7

DOWNTOWN, CHINATOWN & THE PEARL DISTRICT

From the mall, continue up SW Yamhill Street two blocks to:

7 Pioneer Courthouse Square

This brick-paved square hosts countless events each year, from free concerts to protest rallies. The square has numerous sculptures, and is also home to the city's main visitor center. If you can get here by noon, you can catch the midday performance of the square's Weather Machine, a mechanical sculpture.

From the square, walk up SW Yamhill Street to the corner of SW 10th Avenue, where you can catch a free northbound Portland Streetcar to the corner of NW Couch Street, which is the site of:

8 Powell's City of Books

This massive bookstore has long been Portland's favorite hangout for bookworms, and schedules frequent author appearances and book signings. You can easily spend hours perusing the three floors of books here. If your energy level flags, you can get a light meal or espresso in the bookstore's cafe.



TAKE A BREAK

Even if you haven't yet worked up an appetite, stop at **Pearl Bakery**, 102 NW Ninth Ave. (☎ 503/827-0910). Don't pass up an opportunity to sample the pastries at this classic little bakery on the edge of the Pearl District. The *gibassier* roll is my favorite.

From Powell's, walk down NW Couch Street, through the North Park Blocks, and turn left on NW Eighth Avenue, which will bring you to the:

9 Museum of Contemporary Craft

If you stopped at the Portland Saturday Market, you've already seen that artisans abound in this city. At this small museum, you can peruse exhibits displaying works by some of the nation's foremost craftspeople. The crafts on display here are always on the cutting edge.

From this museum, cross the street and stroll through the:

10 North Park Blocks

These shady blocks are among the prettiest parks in downtown Portland. In the block between NW Couch and West Burnside streets, you'll see a large Chinese bronze elephant sculpture that was donated to the city. If you then walk north through the Park Blocks to the NW Park Avenue side of the parks between NW Davis and NW Everett streets, you'll come across one of the most unusual sculptures/fountains in the city. The *Portland Dog Bowl* was created by celebrated dog photographer William Wegman and consists of a bronze dog-bowl water fountain on a stone checkerboard-patterned "floor."

Now walk back to NW Davis Street and turn right. At the next corner, NW Ninth Avenue, turn left, and in the middle of the block, at 120 NW Ninth Ave., you'll find:

11 Quintana Gallery

You simply won't find a better selection of Northwest Coast Native American art than at this little gallery. There are both traditional and contemporary pieces by Native American artists from the Northwest and beyond.

Now continue west to NW 10th Avenue and turn right. In 6 blocks, at the corner of NW 10th and NW Irving Street, you'll find one of the most unusual buildings in the Pearl District:

12 Ecotrust's Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center

You'll immediately notice that the facade of this building is a merger between historic building and modern architecture. What you can't see are all the environmentally aware "green" building techniques that were used in this structure's renovation. Recycled materials have been used extensively throughout the building. The roof has been transformed into a garden to reduce storm-water runoff. Even the parking lot got a green makeover: The lot drains rainwater into a bioswale of shrubs and other plants that absorbs contaminants and also reduces storm-water runoff. Today the building is home to environmental and other nonprofit organizations. You'll also find a Patagonia store, a pizza counter, and a cafe specializing in burritos and quesadillas.

Diagonally across the intersection from the Ecotrust building is:

13 Jamison Park

With its crushed rock plaza, wooden sidewalk, benches, and bistro tables, this little park looks as though it could have been transported from some neighborhood in Paris. Although this is a great place to just sit in the sun and read a book, it is particularly popular with families, who let the kids play in the park's unusual pondlike water feature, which has a long waterfall wall along one side.

Continue 2 more blocks on NW 10th Avenue and you'll come to the unusual little:

14 Tanner Springs Park

This park is something of an architectural natural area that conjures up the ghosts of both the springs that once flowed on this spot and the railroad yards that were here before the Pearl District's blocks of new high-rises. This is a pleasant place to sit down and rest after a long and exhausting exploration of the city.



TAKE A BREAK

No Portland peregrination would be complete without a stop to quaff a craft beer at a brewpub. Three blocks from Tanner Springs Park, you can heft a pint at **Bridgeport Brewpub & Bakery**, 1313 NW Marshall St. (☎ 503/241-3612), one of Portland's oldest ale-houses.

Shopping

Portland has no sales tax, making it a popular shopping destination for Washingtonians, who cross the Columbia River to avoid paying their state's substantial sales tax.

1 THE SHOPPING SCENE

The blocks around Pioneer Courthouse Square are the heartland of upscale shopping in Portland. It's here that you'll find Nordstrom, Macy's, NIKETOWN, Saks Fifth Avenue, Tiffany & Co., Pioneer Place shopping mall, and numerous upscale boutiques and shops.

However, Portland's hippest shopping districts are the **Pearl District** and **Nob Hill/Northwest**, both of which are in Northwest Portland. Most of the Pearl District's best shopping is along NW 10th and 11th avenues going north from West Burnside Street. Here you'll find all kinds of trendy boutiques, art galleries, and home-furnishing stores. The best Nob Hill shopping is along NW 23rd Avenue going north from West Burnside Street. Both neighborhoods have block after block of interesting, hip boutiques, and, along NW 23rd Avenue, a few national chains such as Gap, Urban Outfitters, and Pottery Barn.

For shops with a more down-to-earth, funky flavor, head out to the **Hawthorne District**, which is the city's counterculture shopping area (lots of tie-dye and imports). Other youth-oriented shopping neighborhoods include NE Alberta Street and North Mississippi Street.

Most small stores in Portland are open Monday through Saturday from 9 or 10am to 5 or 6pm. Shopping malls are usually open Monday through Friday from 9 or 10am to 9pm, Saturday from 9 or 10am to between 6 and 9pm, and Sunday from 11am until 6pm. Many department stores stay open past 6pm. Most art galleries and antiques stores are closed on Monday.

2 SHOPPING A TO Z

ANTIQUES

The **Sellwood/Westmoreland** neighborhood (south of downtown at the east end of the Sellwood Bridge) is Portland's main antiques-shopping district, with about a dozen antiques shops and antiques

malls along SE 13th Avenue and SE Milwaukie Avenue. With its old Victorian homes and 19th-century architecture, Sellwood and Westmoreland are the ideal setting for these shops. There are plenty of good restaurants in the area in case it turns into an all-day outing.

You'll also find two large antiques malls (under the same ownership) nearby on Milwaukie Avenue: **Stars**, at 7027 SE Milwaukie Ave. (☎ 503/239-0346); and **Stars & Splendid**, 7030 SE Milwaukie Ave. (☎ 503/235-5990).

ART GALLERIES

On the **first Thursday of the month**, galleries in downtown Portland schedule coordinated openings in the evening. Stroll from one gallery to the next, meeting artists and perhaps buying an original work of art. On the last Thursday of each month, galleries in the NE Alberta Street neighborhood stage a similar event. This latter event tends to attract a young and culturally diverse crowd. To find NE Alberta Street, drive north from downtown Portland on I-5 and watch for the NE Alberta Street exit.

Augen Gallery When it opened nearly 20 years ago, the Augen Gallery focused on internationally recognized artists such as Jim Dine, Andy Warhol, and David Hockney. Today, the gallery has expanded its repertoire to regional contemporary painters and printmakers as well. There's a second location at 817 SW Second Ave. (☎ 503/224-8182). 716 NW Davis St. ☎ 503/546-5056. www.augen-gallery.com.

Blackfish Gallery Artist-owned since 1979, the Blackfish is a large space featuring contemporary images. Since this gallery is a cooperative, it doesn't have the same constraints as a commercial art gallery and thus can present more cutting-edge and thought-provoking work. 420 NW Ninth Ave. ☎ 503/224-2634. www.blackfish.com.

The Bullseye Connection Gallery Located in the Pearl District, the Bullseye Gallery is Portland's premier art-glass gallery and shows the artwork of internationally acclaimed glass artists. 300 NW 13th Ave. ☎ 503/227-0222. www.bullseyegallery.com.

The Laura Russo Gallery The focus here is on Northwest contemporary artists, showcasing talented emerging artists as well as the estates of well-known regional artists. Laura Russo has been on the Portland art scene for many years and is highly respected. 805 NW 21st Ave. ☎ 503/226-2754. www.laurarusso.com.

Metalurges This attractive little light-filled gallery in southeast Portland showcases the work of metalworker Susan Levine. You'll find colorful metal clocks, mirrors, outdoor sculptures, and other works.

The City of Books

Portland's own **Powell's City of Books**, 1005 W. Burnside St. (☎ **800/878-7323** or 503/228-4651; www.powells.com), is the bookstore to end all bookstores. Powell's, which covers an entire city block three floors deep, claims to be the world's largest bookstore. At any given time, the store has roughly three-quarters of a million books on the shelves. Both new and used books are shelved side by side, which is why browsing is what Powell's is all about.

Once inside the store, be sure to pick up a store map, which will direct you to the color-coded rooms. Serious book collectors won't want to miss a visit to the Rare Book Room.

One warning: If you haven't got at least an hour of free time, enter at your own risk. It's so easy to lose track of time at Powell's that many customers miss meals and end up in the store's in-house cafe.

Believe it or not, City of Books is even bigger than what you see here; it has several satellite stores, including **Powell's Technical Books**, 33 NW Park Ave.; **Powell's Books for Home and Garden**, 3747 SE Hawthorne Blvd.; **Powell's Books on Hawthorne**, 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.; and **Powell's Books at PDX**, Portland International Airport, 7000 NE Airport Way, Ste. 2250.

Other local artists are also represented. Hours are limited, so call first. 3601 SE Division St. ☎ **503/230-0588**. www.metalurges.com.

Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery This downtown gallery has a wide selection of works by 250 Northwest artists. Sales here help support the Portland Art Museum. 1237 SW 10th Ave. ☎ **503/224-0674**. www.portlandartmuseum.org.

Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery This gallery represents a long list of both talented newcomers and masters from the Northwest. Solo shows and salon-style group shows are held here. 929 NW Flinders St. ☎ **503/228-6665**. www.pulliamdeffenbaugh.com.

Quintana Galleries This large, bright space is a virtual museum of Native American art, selling everything from Northwest Coast Indian masks to Navajo rugs to contemporary paintings and sculptures

by Native American artists. They also carry a smattering of Native American artifacts from both the Northwest and the Southwest. The jewelry selection is outstanding. 120 NW Ninth Ave. ☎ 800/321-1729 or 503/223-1729. www.quintanagalleries.com.

BOOKS

Major chain bookstores in Portland include **Barnes & Noble**, 1720 N. Jantzen Beach Center (☎ 503/283-2800; www.barnesandnoble.com), and **Borders**, 708 SW Third Ave. (☎ 503/220-5911; www.borders.com). For information on Portland's massive **Powell's City of Books**, see the box above.

CRAFTS

For the largest selection of local crafts, visit the **Portland Saturday Market** (see "Markets," below), which is a showcase for local crafts.

The Gallery at Museum of Contemporary Craft In business since 1937, and located on the North Park Blocks on the edge of the Pearl District, this is the nation's oldest not-for-profit art gallery. It shows only works of clay, glass, fiber, metal, and wood. The bulk of the large gallery is filled with glass and ceramic pieces. There are also several cabinets of jewelry. 724 NW Davis St. ☎ 503/546-2654. www.contemporarycrafts.org.

Hoffman Gallery The Hoffman Gallery is on the campus of the Oregon College of Art and Craft, one of the nation's foremost crafts education centers since 1906. The gallery hosts installations and group shows by local, national, and international artists. The adjacent gift shop has a good selection of handcrafted items. 8245 SW Barnes Rd. ☎ 503/297-5544. www.ocac.edu.

The Real Mother Goose This is Portland's premier fine crafts shop and one of the top such shops in the United States. It showcases only the very best contemporary American crafts, including imaginative ceramics, colorful art glass, intricate jewelry, exquisite wooden furniture, and sculptural works. Hundreds of craftspeople and artists from all over the United States are represented here. 901 SW Yamhill St. ☎ 503/223-9510. www.therealmothergoose.com. Also at Portland International Airport, Main Terminal (☎ 503/284-9929).

Twist This large store has quite a massive selection of wildly colorful and imaginative furniture, crockery, glassware, and lamps, and also a limited but impressive selection of handmade jewelry by artists from around the United States. 30 NW 23rd Place. ☎ 503/224-0334. www.twistonline.com. Also at Pioneer Place, 700 SW Fifth Ave. (☎ 503/222-3137).

102 DEPARTMENT STORES

Macy's Completely renovated and remodeled in 2007, this department store is in a historic building overlooking Pioneer Courthouse Square. If you didn't find it at Nordstrom, across the square, maybe you'll find it here. 621 SW Fifth Ave. ☎ 503/223-0512. www.macys.com.

Nordstrom Directly across the street from Pioneer Courthouse Square, Nordstrom is a top-of-the-line department store that originated in Seattle and takes great pride in its personal service and friendliness. 701 SW Broadway. ☎ 503/224-6666. www.nordstrom.com. Also at 1001 Lloyd Center (☎ 503/287-2444) and 9700 SW Washington Square Rd., Tigard (☎ 503/620-0555).

FASHION

Men's & Women's

Langlitz Leathers This family-run shop produces the Rolls Royce of leather jackets. Even though there may be a wait (the shop turns out only six handmade jackets a day), motorcyclists ride their Harleys all the way from the East Coast to be fitted. 2443-A SE Division St. ☎ 503/235-0959. www.langlitz.com.

Portland Outdoor Store In business since 1919, this Western-wear store is a Portland institution that feels little changed from decades ago. The big neon sign out front and the old general store atmosphere are enough to pull in even people who aren't into playing cowboy or cowgirl. 304 SW Third Ave. ☎ 800/222-1051 or 503/222-1051.

The Portland Pendleton Shop Pendleton wool is as much a part of life in the Northwest as forests and salmon. This company's fine wool fashions for men and women define the country-club look in the Northwest and in many other parts of the United States. Pleated skirts and tweed jackets are de rigueur here, as are the colorful blankets that have warmed generations of Northwesterners through long chilly winters. 900 SW Fifth Ave. (entrance is actually on Fourth Ave. btw. Salmon and Taylor sts.). ☎ 503/242-0037. www.pendleton-usa.com.

SPORTSWEAR

Columbia Sportswear Company This flagship store is surprisingly low-key, given that the nearby Nike flagship store and REI in Seattle are designed to knock your socks off. Displays showing Columbia Sportswear's well-made outdoor clothing and sportswear are rustic, with lots of natural wood. The most dramatic architectural feature of the store is the entryway—a very wide tree trunk seems to support the roof. 911 SW Broadway. ☎ 503/226-6800. www.columbia.com.

Columbia Sportswear Company Factory Outlet Store  This outlet store in the Sellwood neighborhood south of downtown and

across the river sells remainders and past-season styles from the above-mentioned sportswear company, which is one of the Northwest's premier outdoor clothing manufacturers. You'll pay 30% to 50% less here than you will at the downtown flagship store. 1323 SE Tacoma St. ☎ 503/238-0118. www.columbia.com.

Nike Factory Company Store **Value** The Nike outlet is one season behind the current season at NIKETOWN (see below), selling Swoosh-brand running, aerobic, tennis, golf, basketball, kids, and you-name-it shoes, sports clothing, and accessories at discounted prices. 2650 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ☎ 503/281-5901. www.nike.com.

NIKETOWN Portland Sure, you may have a NIKETOWN back home, but this one is the closest to Nike's headquarters in nearby Beaverton, which somehow makes it just a little bit special. A true shopping experience. 930 SW Sixth Ave. ☎ 503/221-6453. www.nike.com.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

CHANGES/Designs to Wear This shop specializes in handmade clothing, including hand-woven scarves, jackets, shawls, hand-painted silks, and other wearable art. 927 SW Yamhill St. ☎ 503/223-3737. www.therealmothergoose.com.

Imelda's Ooooh! Look at those, and those, and those! That's the usual response when women first gaze through the window of Imelda's. If you live for shoes (don't deny it; you know you do), do not miss Imelda's. There's a second shop at 3426 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (☎ 503/233-7476). 935 NW Everett St. ☎ 503/595-4970. imeldasandlouies.com.

Kathleen's of Dublin The classic styles here, imported from Ireland, Scotland, and the Celtic isles, are meant to last a lifetime, not just a season, and many are made from Irish linen and wool. 737 SW Salmon St. ☎ 503/224-4869. www.kathleensofdublin.com.

Paloma Clothing In business for more than 30 years, this store specializes in comfortable and artistic clothes for travel, work, and play, and has long been one of my wife's favorite places to shop. The store is a short drive from downtown, so call for directions. Hillsdale Shopping Center, 6316 SW Capitol Hwy. ☎ 503/246-3417. www.paloma clothing.com.

Seaplane Portland's most celebrated boutique, featured in numerous national fashion magazines, is a collective of cutting-edge fashion designers. The styles here are definitely for the young fashionistas, but even if you aren't about to wear any of these outfits, you should stop by to see what local designers are up to. 2266 NW Lovejoy St. ☎ 503/234-2409. www.e-seaplane.com.

104 CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Hanna Andersson If you've ever seen the Hanna Andersson catalog, you know about the classic kids' clothes that they sell here. Moms and grandmas should not miss an opportunity to visit one of this company's brick-and-mortar stores. 327 NW 10th Ave. ☎ 503/321-5275. www.hannaandersson.com.

GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

For unique locally made souvenirs, your best bet is the **Portland Saturday Market** (see "Markets," below, for details).

Made in Oregon This is your one-stop shop for all manner of made-in-Oregon gifts, food products, and clothing. Every product sold is either grown, caught, or made in Oregon. You'll find smoked salmon, filberts, jams and jellies, Pendleton woolens, and Oregon wines. All branches are open daily, but hours vary from store to store. 700 SW Fifth Ave., Ste. 1053 (in Pioneer Place mall). ☎ 866/257-0938 or 503/241-3630. www.madeinoregon.com. Also at Portland International Airport (☎ 503/282-7827); and in Lloyd Center mall, SE Multnomah St. and SE Broadway (☎ 503/282-7636).

MALLS & SHOPPING CENTERS

Pioneer Place Just a block from Pioneer Courthouse Square, this is Portland's most upscale shopping center. Anchored by a Saks Fifth Avenue, Pioneer Place is filled with stores selling designer fashions and expensive gifts. 700 SW Fifth Ave. (btw. Third and Fifth aves.). ☎ 503/228-5800. www.pioneerplace.com.

MARKETS

Portland Saturday Market The Portland Saturday Market (held on both Sat and Sun) is a Portland tradition. Every weekend, nearly 300 artists and craftspeople can be found selling their creations at this open-air market. In addition to the dozens of crafts stalls, you'll find ethnic and unusual foods, and lots of free entertainment. This is one of the best places in Portland to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts that are small enough to fit into your suitcase. On Sunday, on-street parking is free. The market is open from the last weekend in February to Christmas Eve, Saturdays 10am to 5pm and Sundays 11am to 4:30pm. 108 W. Burnside St. (actually under the west end of the Burnside Bridge on SW Naito Pkwy.). ☎ 503/222-6072. www.portlandsaturdaymarket.com.

TOYS

Finnegan's Toys and Gifts This is the largest toy store in downtown Portland and appeals to the kid in all of us. It'll have your inner child kicking and screaming if you don't buy that silly little toy you

never got when you were young. 922 SW Yamhill St. ☎ 503/221-0306. **105**
www.finneganstoys.com.

WINE & SPIRITS

Just as Portland is a center for craft brewing, it has recently also become a center for microdistilleries. In southeast Portland, you'll find Distillery Row, an area that is home to six small distilleries, all of which are open for tastings at least 1 day a week. To learn more, go to **www.distilleryrowpdx.com**.

Clear Creek Distillery The Portland area is not known just for microbrews and pinot noir, it also produces some outstanding liquors. This distillery in Northwest Portland produces astonishingly fragrant and flavorful fruit spirits in a variety of European styles. There are apple and pear brandies (with fruit in the bottles), grappas, eaux-de-vie, and fruit liqueurs. You can sample them all at this tasting room. 2389 NW Wilson St. ☎ 503/248-9470. **www.clearcreekdistillery.com**.

Oregon Wines on Broadway This cozy wine bar/shop is located diagonally across from the Hotel Vintage Plaza in downtown Portland. Here you can taste some of Oregon's fine wines, including 30 different pinot noirs, as well as chardonnays, Gewürztraminers and Washington State cabernet sauvignons, merlots, and Syrahs. 515 SW Broadway. ☎ 800/943-8858 or 503/228-4655. **www.oregonwinesonbroadway.com**.

Portland After Dark

Portland is Oregon's cultural mecca, and the city's symphony orchestra, ballet, and opera are all well regarded. A lively theater scene includes plenty of mainstream and fringe theater companies that offer classic and contemporary plays. In summer, festivals move the city's cultural activities outdoors.

To find out what's going on during your visit, pick up a copy of *Willamette Week*, Portland's free weekly arts-and-entertainment newspaper. *The Oregonian*, the city's daily newspaper, also publishes lots of entertainment-related information in its Friday "A&E" section and also in the Sunday edition of the paper.

1 THE PERFORMING ARTS

For the most part, the Portland performing-arts scene revolves around the **Portland Center for the Performing Arts (PCPA)**, 1111 SW Broadway (☎ 503/248-4335; www.pcpa.com), which comprises five performance spaces in three buildings. The **Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**, 1037 SW Broadway, known locally as the Schnitz, is an immaculately restored 1920s movie palace that still displays the original Portland theater sign and marquee out front and is home to the Oregon Symphony. This hall also hosts popular music performances, lectures, and many other special events. Directly across Main Street from the Schnitz, at 1111 SW Broadway, is the glass jewel box known as **Antoinette Hatfield Hall**. This building houses the **Newmark** and **Dolores Winningstad theaters** and **Brunish Hall**. The two theaters host stage productions by local and visiting companies. Free tours of all three of these theaters are held Wednesdays at 11am and Saturdays every half-hour between 11am and 1pm.

A few blocks away from this concentration of venues is the 3,000-seat **Keller Auditorium**, 222 SW Clay St., the largest of the four halls and the home of the Portland Opera and the Oregon Ballet Theatre. The auditorium was constructed shortly after World War I and completely remodeled in the 1960s. In addition to the resident companies mentioned above, these halls host numerous visiting companies each year, including touring Broadway shows.

The PCPA's box office is open for ticket sales Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. Tickets to PCPA performances, and also performances at many other venues around the city, are also sold through either **Ticketmaster** (☎ 800/745-3000 or 800/982-2787; www.ticketmaster.com), which has outlets at area Fred Meyer stores, or **Tickets West** (☎ 800/992-8499 or 503/224-8499; www.ticketswest.com), which has outlets at area Safeway stores. The PCPA also has a **Half-Price Ticket Hotline** (☎ 503/432-2960) that sells day-of-show, half-price tickets.

One other performing arts venue worth checking out is the **Old Church**, 1422 SW 11th Ave. (☎ 503/222-2031; www.oldchurch.org). Built in 1883, this wooden Carpenter Gothic church is a Portland landmark. It incorporates a grand traditional design, but was constructed with spare ornamentation. Today the building serves as a community facility, and every Wednesday at noon it hosts free lunchtime concerts. There are also many other performances held here throughout the year.

DANCE

The **Oregon Ballet Theatre** (☎ 888/922-5538 or 503/222-5538; www.obt.org), which performs at the Keller Auditorium and the Newmark Theatre (see above), is best loved for its performances each December of *The Nutcracker*. The rest of each season includes performances of classic and contemporary ballets (tickets \$17–\$130).

Fans of modern dance should be sure to check to see what's being staged by **White Bird** (☎ 503/245-1600; www.whitebird.org). This organization brings in such celebrated companies as Twyla Tharp Dance, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Also keep an eye out for performances by **Imago Theatre**, 17 SE Eighth Ave. (☎ 503/231-9581; www.imagotheatre.com), which, though it is also a live theater company, is best known for its wildly creative productions of *Frogz* and *Biglittlethings*, both of which are fanciful dance performances that appeal to both adults and children. **Do Jump**, Echo Theatre, 1515 SE 37th Ave. (☎ 503/231-1232; www.dojump.org), is another highly creative dance company worth watching for. Their performances incorporate dance, acrobatics, aerial work, and plenty of humor.

OPERA & CLASSICAL MUSIC

Founded in 1896, the **Oregon Symphony** (☎ 800/228-7343 or 503/228-1353; www.orsymphony.org), which performs at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway (see above), is the oldest symphony orchestra on the West Coast, and is currently under the baton

108 of conductor Carlos Kalmar. Each year between September and May, the symphony stages several series, including classical, pops, and children's concerts. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$102 (seniors and students may purchase half-price tickets 1 hr. before classical and pops concerts).

Each season, the **Portland Opera** ((☎ 866/739-6737 or 503/241-1802; www.portlandopera.org), which performs primarily at Keller Auditorium, SW Third Avenue and SW Clay Street (see above), offers five different productions that include both grand opera and light opera. The season runs September through May. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$135.

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

When summer hits, Portlanders like to head outdoors to hear music. The city's top outdoor music series is held at the **Oregon Zoo**, 4001 SW Canyon Rd. ((☎ 503/226-1561; www.oregonzoo.org), which brings in the likes of the Joan Baez, Indigo Girls, and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Ticket prices range from \$11 to \$23.

THEATER

Portland Center Stage, 128 NW 11th Ave. ((☎ 503/445-3700; www.pcs.org), Portland's largest professional theater company, holds performances in the Pearl District's converted Portland Armory building, which now goes by the name Gerding Theater at the Armory. They stage a combination of 9 to 10 classic and contemporary plays during their September-to-June season (tickets \$27–\$75).

Portland's other main theater company, **Artists Repertory Theatre**, 1515 SW Morrison St. ((☎ 503/241-1278; www.artistsrep.org), often stages more daring plays. They can be hit-or-miss, but they're frequently very thought-provoking. The season often includes a world premiere. Tickets run \$25 to \$47.

If it's musicals you want, head to the Keller Auditorium, where you can catch the **Broadway Across America** series ((☎ 503/241-1802; www.broadwayacrossamerica.com). Tickets mostly range from around \$20 to \$65, but some shows are more expensive.

2 THE CLUB & MUSIC SCENE

CABARET

Darcelle's XV In business since 1967 and run by Portland's best-loved cross-dresser, this cabaret is a campy Portland institution with a female-impersonator show that has been a huge hit for years. There are shows Wednesday through Saturday. 208 NW Third Ave. ((☎ 503/222-5338. www.darcellexv.com. Cover \$15. Reservations recommended.

DANCE CLUBS

See also the listing for **Saucebox**, below, under “Bars”; this restaurant and bar becomes a dance club at night, when a DJ begins spinning tunes.

Andrea's Cha-Cha Club Located in the basement of the Grand Cafe and open Wednesday through Saturday nights, this is Portland's premier dance spot for fans of Latin dancing. Whether it's cha-cha, salsa, or the latest dance craze from south of the border, they'll be doing it here. Lessons are available starting at 9pm. 832 SE Grand Ave. ☎ 503/230-1166. Cover \$4.

JAZZ

Jimmy Mak's This Pearl District club is the best place in Portland to catch some live jazz and is considered one of the best jazz clubs in the country. With great resident groups performing on weeknights and guest performers on weekends, Jimmy Mak's showcases some of Portland's best jazz musicians. 221 NW 10th Ave. ☎ 503/295-6542. www.jimmymaks.com. Cover free-\$35.

ROCK, BLUES & FOLK

Aladdin Theater This former movie theater now serves as one of Portland's main venues for touring performers such as Richard Thompson, Bruce Cockburn, Judy Collins, and Greg Brown. The very diverse musical spectrum represented includes blues, rock, ethnic, country, folk, and jazz. 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave. ☎ 503/234-9694. www.aladdin-theater.com. Tickets \$15-\$42.

Artichoke Music This music store has long been a favorite hangout of Portland acoustic and folk musicians and singer-songwriters, and in a back room, the store stages weekly performances. Currently, in addition to concerts, there is a Thursday night songwriter roundup, a Friday night coffeehouse, and a Saturday night song circle. 3130 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ☎ 503/232-8845. www.artichokemusic.com. Cover \$5-\$10.

Berbati's Pan Located in Old Town, this is one of Portland's best and most popular rock clubs. A wide variety of acts play here, primarily the best of the local rock scene and bands on the verge of breaking into the national limelight. Be sure to check out the back bar, which is 150 years old. 10 SW Third Ave. ☎ 503/226-2122. www.berbati.com. Cover free-\$25.

Crystal Ballroom The Crystal Ballroom first opened in 1914, and since then has seen performers ranging from early jazz musicians to James Brown, Marvin Gaye, and the Grateful Dead. The McMenamin brothers (of local brewing fame) renovated the Crystal Ballroom in 1997 and refurbished its dance floor, which, due to its

110 mechanics, feels as if it's floating. The ballroom now hosts a variety of performances and special events nearly every night of the week. **Lola's Room**, a smaller version of the Ballroom, is on the second floor and also has a floating dance floor. You'll find **Ringlers Pub** (a colorful brewpub) on the ground floor. 1332 W. Burnside St. ☎ 503/225-0047. www.danceonair.com. Cover \$5–\$30.

Doug Fir Lounge North-woods log-cabin styling meets Scandinavian modern at this eclectic underground alt-rock club in the burgeoning lower Burnside neighborhood of southeast Portland. The club is associated with the über-hip **Jupiter Hotel**. 830 E. Burnside St. ☎ 503/231-9663. www.dougfirlounge.com. Cover free–\$25.

Mississippi Studios This little performance space in north Portland has become one of the city's premier alternative music venues, and the calendar here is both varied and affordable. 3939 N. Mississippi Ave. ☎ 503/288-3895. www.mississippistudios.com. Cover \$8–\$23.

Wonder Ballroom Originally opened in 1914 as a hall for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Wonder Ballroom is another of Portland's restored ballrooms that now serves as a popular venue for everything from hip-hop to swing to bluegrass. Best of all, **Toro Bravo**, one of my favorite Portland restaurants, is in the same block. 128 NE Russell St. ☎ 503/284-8686. www.wonderballroom.com. Cover \$13–\$25.

3 THE BAR & PUB SCENE

BARS

Bartini Located just off NW 21st Avenue, this dark little bar specializes in, you guessed it, martinis. In fact, they've got a list of more than 100 martinis on offer. Good happy hour, too. 2108 NW Glisan St. ☎ 503/224-7919. www.urbanfondue.com.

Departure ★★ This rooftop bar and restaurant is atop the historic Meier & Frank department store building, which is now home to both a Macy's and, on its upper floors, the **Nines**, Portland's swankiest hotel. This futuristic lounge has two patios with fabulous views over the rooftops of Portland. People definitely get dressed up here. 525 SW Morrison St. ☎ 503/802-5370. http://departureportland.com.

Huber's No night out on the town in Portland is complete until you've stopped in at Huber's for a Spanish coffee. These potent pick-me-ups are made with rum, Kahlúa, Triple Sec, coffee, and cream, and the preparation of each drink is an impressive show. 411 SW Third Ave. ☎ 503/228-5686. www.hubers.com.

Jake's Famous Crawfish In business since 1892, Jake's is a Portland institution and should not be missed (see the full review on p. 52). The bar is one of the busiest in town when the downtown offices let out. 401 SW 12th Ave. ☎ 503/226-1419. www.jakesfamouscrawfish.com.

McCormick and Schmick's Harborside Pilsner Room Located at the south end of Waterfront Park overlooking the Willamette River and RiverPlace Marina, this restaurant/bar is affiliated with Hood River's Full Sail brewery and keeps plenty of Full Sail brews on tap (plus other area beers as well). The crowd is upscale, the view one of the best in town. 0309 SW Montgomery St. ☎ 503/220-1865. www.mccormickandschmicks.com.

Mint/820 Mixologist Lucy Brennan, owner of this swanky place, has single-handedly turned Portland into a town full of cocktail connoisseurs. Using fresh fruit juices, purées, and unusual ingredients, Brennan has reinvented the cocktail. How about a beet-infused martini or a creamy avocado cocktail? 816 N. Russell St. ☎ 503/284-5518. www.mintand820.com.

¡Oba! One of the Pearl District's most popular drinking spots, this big bar/nuevo Latino restaurant has a tropical feel despite the warehouse district locale. After work, the bar is always packed with the stylish and the upwardly mobile taking advantage of great happy hour deals. Don't miss the tropical-fruit margaritas! 555 NW 12th Ave. ☎ 503/228-6161. www.obarestaurant.com.

Portland City Grill Located way up on the 30th floor, this restaurant/bar has the best view in downtown Portland. Come for the great happy hour so you can catch the sunset and a little live piano music. This is definitely a singles scene. Unico/U.S. Bancorp Tower, 111 SW Fifth Ave. ☎ 503/450-0030. www.portlandcitygrill.com.

Saucebox Popular with the city's dressed-in-black scene makers, this downtown restaurant/bar is a large, dramatically lit dark box that can be very noisy. DJs spin music most nights, transforming this bar into a dance club. Great cocktails. 214 SW Broadway. ☎ 503/241-3393. www.saucebox.com.

Teardrop Lounge Small, stylish, sophisticated, and serving some of the most creative cocktails in Portland, this Pearl District bar makes its own bitters and the various unusual tinctures that it uses in its drinks. They also do a great job with classics. 1015 NW Everett St. ☎ 503/445-8109. www.teardroplounge.com.

Vault Martini No need for a combination or secret code to get into this Vault, but it does help to dress the part when drinking at this trendy Pearl District bar. The decor is sleek and stylish, and the cocktail

112 menu is lengthy. This is one of the Pearl District's busiest singles' bars. 226 NW 12th Ave. ☎ 503/224-4909. www.vault-martini.com.

PUBS

Bailey's Tap Room This downtown beer shrine is far more sophisticated than the east side's Green Dragon, but always has an equally eclectic lineup of kegs on tap. The location, in the heart of the hotel district, makes it a very convenient place to sample some of the best Oregon beers. 213 SW Broadway. ☎ 503/295-1004. www.baileystaproom.com.

Green Dragon This warehouse-like inner Southeast pub is the quintessential Portland beer-geek hangout. Although it is owned by Rogue Brewing, it pours beers from lots of other breweries from around the country. 928 SE Ninth St. ☎ 503/517-0660. www.pdxgreendragon.com.

BREW PUBS

Although brewpubs have now become commonplace throughout much of the country, here in Portland, they're still brewing beers the likes of which you won't taste in too many other places this side of the Atlantic. This is the heart of the Northwest craft-brewing explosion, and if you're a beer connoisseur, you owe it to yourself to go directly to the source.

Brewpubs have become big business in Portland, and there are now glitzy upscale pubs as well as warehouse-district locals. No matter what vision you have of the ideal brewpub, you're likely to find it. Whether you're wearing bike shorts or a three-piece suit, there's a pub in Portland where you can enjoy a handcrafted beer, a light meal, and a convivial atmosphere.

With dozens of brewpubs in the Portland metropolitan area, the McMenamins chain is Portland's biggest brewpub empire. The owners think of themselves as court jesters, mixing brewing fanaticism with a Deadhead aesthetic. Throw in historic preservation and a strong belief in family-friendly neighborhood pubs and you'll understand why these joints are so popular.

DOWNTOWN

Ringlers Pub With mosaic pillars framing the bar, Indonesian antiques, and big old signs all around, this cavernous place is about as eclectic a brewpub as you'll ever find. A block away are the two associated pubs of **Ringlers Annex**, 1223 SW Stark St. (☎ 503/525-0520), which is in a flatiron building. One of these pubs is below street level with a beer-cellar feel, and the other has walls of multipaned glass. These three pubs get my vote for most atmospheric alehouses in town. 1332 W. Burnside St. ☎ 503/225-0627. www.mcmenamins.com.

NORTHWEST PORTLAND

Bridgeport Brewpub & Bakery This stylish brewpub, bakery, and restaurant is one of Portland's oldest brewpubs. On any given day, you'll find eight or more Bridgeport beers on tap. This place is loud, but the beers (and the food) are good. Don't miss the upstairs bar area. 1313 NW Marshall St. ☎ 503/241-3612. www.bridgeportbrew.com.

Deschutes Brewing ★ This brewpub is a satellite of my favorite central Oregon brewery, and although located in a converted industrial space, the pub has a mountain-lodge style similar to that of the famous **Timberline Lodge** on Mount Hood. There is always a wide range of beers on tap. 210 NW 11th Ave. ☎ 503/296-4906. www.deschutesbrewery.com.

Laurelwood NW Public House Laurelwood is another Portland brewery that has several locations around the metro area. While the main brewery and pub is in northeast Portland, I prefer this location, in a converted 1902-vintage house that is convenient to all the great shops along NW 23rd Avenue. If it's sunny out, don't miss the second-floor balcony. 2327 NW Kearney St. ☎ 503/228-5553. www.laurelwoodbrewpub.com.

Lucky Labrador Beer Hall Housed in a former trucking warehouse, where a 5-ton crane still hangs in the beer hall, this is a haven of beer-driven funkiness in the trendy Northwest neighborhood. You'll find all the great beers from southeast Portland's original Lucky Lab, but a limited food menu. 1945 NW Quimby St. ☎ 503/517-4352. www.luckylab.com.

Rogue Distillery & Public House ★ This Pearl District pub is an outpost of a popular microbrewery headquartered in the Oregon coast community of Newport. Rogue produces just about the widest variety of beers in the state, and, best of all, keeps lots of them on tap at this pub. If you're a fan of barley-wine ale, don't miss their Old Crustacean. 1339 NW Flanders St. ☎ 503/222-5910. www.rogue.com.

SOUTHEAST

The Lucky Labrador Brew Pub With a warehouse-size room, industrial feel, and picnic tables on the loading dock out back, this brewpub is a classic of southeast Portland. The crowd is young, and dogs are welcome. (They don't even have to be Labs.) 915 SE Hawthorne Blvd. ☎ 503/236-3555. www.luckylab.com.

Roots Organic Brewing Company Leave it to Portland, craft-brewing capital of the country, to have an all-organic brewpub. But wait, Roots is more than just an organic brewery, it crafts some of the most distinctive beers in town, including a unique ale made with heather flowers instead of hops. 1520 SE Seventh Ave. ☎ 503/235-7668. www.rootsorganicbrewing.com.

114 **NORTHEAST & NORTH PORTLAND**

Amnesia Brewing Company With the look of an old warehouse and a “beer garden” in the parking lot, this little north Portland brewpub is another of Portland’s old-school brewpubs, which means laid-back in the extreme. The beers are good, but the food is pretty limited. 832 N. Beech St. ☎ **503/281-7708**.

McMenamins Kennedy School Never thought they’d ever start serving beer in elementary school, did you? However, in the hands of the local McMenamins brewpub empire, an old northeast Portland school is now a sprawling complex complete with brewpub, beer garden, movie-theater pub, and even a bed-and-breakfast inn. Order up a pint and wander the halls checking out all the cool artwork. 5736 NE 33rd Ave. ☎ **503/249-3983**. www.mcmenamins.com.

Widmer Brewing and Gasthaus Located on the edge of a rapidly reviving industrial area just north of the Rose Garden arena, this place has the feel of a classic blue-collar pub. This pub is part of Portland’s largest craft-brewing company, which is best known for its Hefeweizen. German and American food is served. On the MAX Yellow Line. 929 N. Russell St. ☎ **503/281-3333**. www.widmer.com.

WINE BARS

MetroVino With 80 wines available by the glass, this Pearl District wine bar is an oenophile’s dream come true. A blackboard lists interesting wine flights (trios of wine samples), and the kitchen turns out good food to accompany your wine. The decor is very conservative, which seems to attract the neighborhood’s moneyed set. 1139 NW 11th Ave. ☎ **503/517-7778**. www.metrovinopdx.com.

Noble Rot Located on the fourth floor of a modern Lower Burnside building, this stylish wine bar has a killer view of the downtown Portland skyline. You can get various wine flights (selections of 2-oz. tastings), and there are plenty of Oregon wines available. The wine bar also serves excellent food. By the way, *noble rot* is a type of grape fungus that is utilized in the production of sweet dessert wines. 1111 E Burnside St. ☎ **503/233-1999**. www.noblerotpdx.com.

Oregon Wines on Broadway ★ With just a handful of stools at the bar and a couple of cozy tables, this tiny place is the best spot in Portland to learn about Oregon wines. On any given night there will be 30 Oregon pinot noirs available by the glass, and plenty of white wines as well. 515 SW Broadway. ☎ **800/943-8858** or 503/228-4655. www.oregonwinesonbroadway.com.

Southpark Seafood Grill & Wine Bar With its high ceiling, long heavy drapes, and lively wall mural, the wine bar at Southpark (see the full dining review on p. 52) is a contemporary interpretation

Moments A Portland Original: The Theater Pub

Portland brewpub magnates the McMenamin brothers (www.mcmenamins.com) have a novel way to sell their craft ales—in movie pubs. Although it's often hard to concentrate on the screen, it's always a lot of fun to attend a show. The movies are usually recent releases that have played the main theaters but have not yet made it onto DVD. Theaters include the **Bagdad Theater**, 3702 SE Hawthorne Blvd. (☎ 503/236-9234), a restored classic Arabian Nights movie palace; the **Mission Theater**, 1624 NW Glisan St. (☎ 503/223-4527), which was the first McMenamins theater pub; the **Kennedy School Theater**, 5736 NE 33rd Ave. (☎ 503/249-3983), in a former elementary school; and the **Edgefield Theater**, 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale (☎ 503/669-8610). You can also have beer and pizza with your movie at the **Laurelhurst Theater**, 2735 E. Burnside St. (☎ 503/232-5511; www.laurelhursttheater.com), which is not a McMenamins establishment.

of a Parisian cafe from the turn of the last century. Very romantic. 901 SW Salmon St. ☎ 503/326-1300. www.southparkseafood.com.

Thirst Wine Bar & Bistro This may not be the most stylish wine bar in town, but it has by far the best view of any Portland wine bar. Thirst looks out over the RiverPlace Marina and the Willamette River, and, when the weather is good, you can sit at an outdoor table on the esplanade. 0315 SW Montgomery St. ☎ 503/295-2747. www.thirstwinebar.com.

Vino Paradiso Located in the heart of the Pearl District, this is Portland's swankiest wine bar and has live music as well as lots of good wines. There are also some tasty menu items to go with your wine. 417 NW 10th Ave. ☎ 503/295-9536. www.vinoparadiso.com.

4 THE GAY & LESBIAN NIGHTLIFE SCENE

BARS

Crush Bar This big, hip bar is over in southeast Portland and attracts a very diverse crowd that includes not only gay men but lesbians and straights as well. DJs spin dance tunes Friday and Saturday nights. 1400 SE Morrison St. ☎ 503/235-8150. www.crushbar.com.

116 Scandal's In business for more 30 years, this bar/restaurant is both literally and figuratively at the center of the Portland gay bar scene. Try to get a window seat so you can keep an eye on passersby on the sidewalk. 1125 SW Stark St. ☎ **503/227-5887**. www.scandalspdx.com.

DANCE CLUBS

Boxxes/Redcap Garage Billing itself as Portland's original gay dance club, Boxxes and the connected Redcap Garage together provide a dynamic duo of dance floors. You can work up an appetite from all that dancing, and then head to the club's Fish Grotto Seafood Restaurant for a meal. 1035 SW Stark St. ☎ **503/226-4171**. www.boxxes.com. Cover free-\$3.

C.C. Slaughters Popular with a young crowd, this big Old Town nightclub spins disco sounds most nights, with a night of country music each week. 219 NW Davis St. ☎ **503/248-9135**. www.ccslaughterspdx.com. No cover.

The Egyptian Club Portland is well known for its large lesbian community, and this bar has long been a favorite with young, partying women. The club is really three clubs in one, with a poolroom, karaoke bar, and dance bar. Lots of special events, too. 3701 SE Division St. ☎ **503/236-8689**. www.eroompdx.com. Cover free-\$5.

The Embers/Avenue Though primarily a gay disco, Embers is also popular with straights. There are always lots of flashing lights and sweaty bodies until the early morning. Currently Wednesday is Goth night and Sunday is Latino night. Look for drag shows several nights a week. 110 NW Broadway. ☎ **503/222-3082**. www.emberspdx.net. Cover free-\$6.

Side Trips from Portland

Portland likes to boast of its proximity to both the mountains and the beach, and no visit would be complete without a trip to either. Within a 90-minute drive, you can be walking on a Pacific Ocean beach or skiing on Mount Hood (even in the middle of summer, when there is lift-accessed snow skiing at one ski area). A drive through the Columbia River Gorge, a National Scenic Area, is an absolute must; if wine is your interest, you can spend a day visiting wineries and driving through the rolling farmland that enticed pioneers to travel the Oregon Trail beginning in the 1840s; and if you remember May 18, 1980, visit Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument for a close-up view of the natural disaster that took place on that day.

1 THE COLUMBIA GORGE & MOUNT HOOD LOOP

If you have time for only one excursion from Portland, I strongly urge you to do the Mount Hood Loop. This is a long trip, so start your day as early as possible.

To begin your trip, take I-84 east out of Portland. At Troutdale, take the exit marked **Historic Columbia River Highway** (U.S. 30) ★★. This scenic highway was built between 1913 and 1922, and it was an engineering marvel in its day. However, the feat is dwarfed by the spectacular vistas that present themselves along its twisting, turning route. To learn more about the road and how it was built, stop at **Vista House** ★★, 40700 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy. (☎ 503/695-2230; <http://vistahouse.com>), 733 feet above the river on **Crown Point**. Although there are displays of historical photos here at Vista House, most visitors can't concentrate on the exhibits, preferring to gaze at the breathtaking views that stretch for 30 miles up and down the Columbia River. Vista House is open daily from 9am to 6pm.

Between Troutdale and Ainsworth State Park, 22 miles east, you'll pass numerous waterfalls, including Latourelle, Shepherds Dell, Bridal Veil, Wahkeena, Horsetail, Oneonta, and **Multnomah Falls** ★★. At

118 620 feet from lip to pool, Multnomah Falls is the tallest waterfall in Oregon and is one of the state's top tourist attractions. Expect crowds. A paved trail leads from the base of the falls to the top and connects with other unpaved trails that are usually not at all crowded.

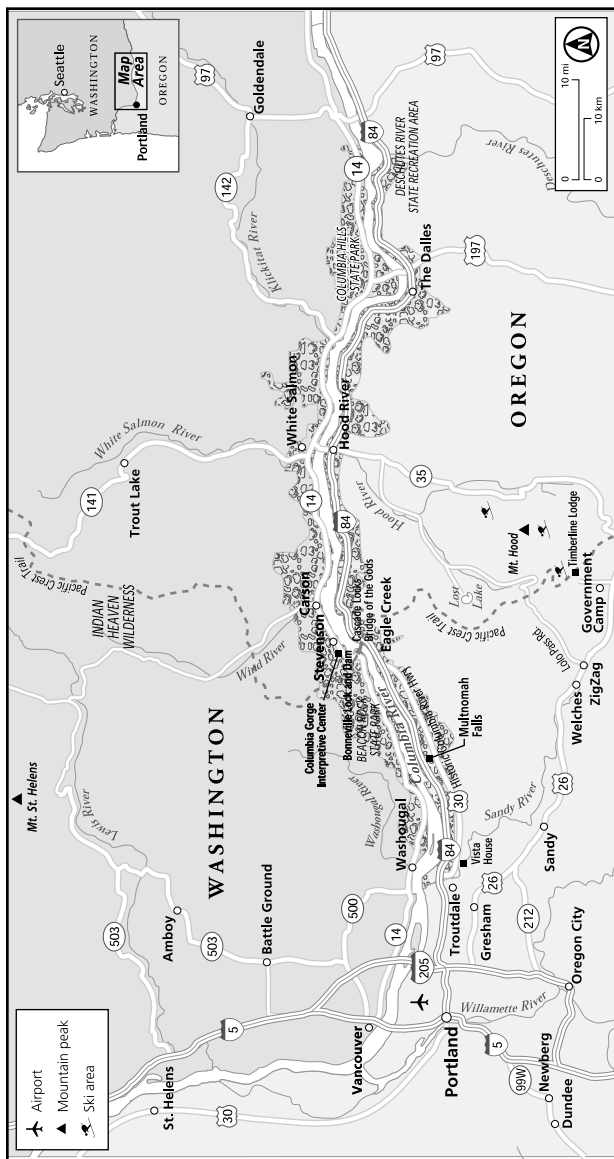
Not far beyond Multnomah Falls, you'll come to the narrow **Oneonta Gorge ★★**. This narrow cleft in the rock has long been a popular summertime walk for the sure of foot. The gorge can usually be explored for about ¼ mile upstream to a waterfall that pours into a small pool of very cold water. There is no trail here; you just hike up the creek itself, so wear shoes that can get wet.

The next stop on your tour should be **Bonneville Lock and Dam ★**. One of the dam's most important features, attracting thousands of visitors each year, is its fish ladder, which allows the upriver migration of salmon. Underwater windows let visitors see fish as they pass through the ladder. Visit the adjacent fish hatchery to learn how trout, salmon, and steelhead are raised before they are released into the river, and be sure not to miss the underwater viewing window at the sturgeon pond. June and September are the best months to observe salmon at the fish ladder.

The Bonneville Lock and Dam is the first of many on the Columbia River and it has been the focus of a heated environmental debate over saving the region's dwindling native wild salmon populations. Despite fish ladders and fish hatcheries, wild salmon have been fighting an upstream battle for survival for many years. Adult salmon heading upriver to spawn have to contend with fishermen (both commercial and sport) and spawning beds that are sometimes destroyed or silted up, often by the common practice of clear-cutting timber from steep mountainsides. Among the perils faced by young salmon heading downstream are slow, warm waters that delay the journey to the Pacific Ocean, electrical turbines in dams (these kill countless fish), and irrigation culverts that often lead salmon out into farm fields. Effective means to promote salmon survival continue to be sought, and it is hoped that the dams that once brought prosperity and cheap electricity to the Northwest won't bring about the demise of one of the Northwest's most important icons.

Not far past the dam is the **Bridge of the Gods**, a two-lane toll bridge that connects Oregon to Washington at the site where a Native American legend says a natural bridge once stood. Geologists are now convinced that this legend has its basis in a relatively recent geological event—a massive landslide that may have occurred as recently as 250 years ago. The slide completely blocked the river, and when the Columbia finally poured over the top of this natural dam, the resulting 100-foot flood downstream rapidly eroded the natural earthen dam, leaving only huge slabs of rocks in the riverbed. These rocks

Columbia Gorge & Mount Hood Loop 119



SIDE TRIPS FROM PORTLAND

2

THE COLUMBIA GORGE & MOUNT HOOD LOOP

120 created the cascades for which both the Cascade Range and Cascade Locks were named.

On the Oregon side of the Bridge of the Gods is the town of **Cascade Locks**, where you can see the navigational locks that were built to enable river traffic to avoid the treacherous passage through the cascades that once existed here. In early years, many boats were portaged around the cascades instead of attempting the dangerous trip. When the locks were opened in 1896, they made traveling between the Dalles and Portland much easier. But the completion of the Historic Columbia River Highway in 1922 made the trip even easier by land. With the construction of the Bonneville Dam, the cascades were flooded, and the locks became superfluous.

The **Port of Cascade Locks Visitors Center**, which has displays on river travel in the past, is also the ticket office for the **stern-wheeler Columbia Gorge ★★** (☎ 800/224-3901 or 541/224-3900; www.sternwheeler.com), which makes regular trips on the river. These cruises, which run from May to October, provide a great perspective on the gorge. Fares for the 2-hour scenic cruises are \$28 for adults, \$18 for children; dinner and brunch cruises run \$48 to \$68 for adults and \$24 to \$63 for children. These cruises should not be missed on a visit to the Columbia Gorge.

On the Washington side of the Columbia River, east of the Bridge of the Gods, is the **Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center ★★**, 990 SW Rock Creek Dr., Stevenson (☎ 800/991-2338; www.columbiagorge.org). This modern museum is the single best introduction to the natural and human history of the Columbia Gorge and has a superb view (when it's not cloudy). Exhibits focus on the gorge's early Native American inhabitants and the development of the area by white settlers. A relic here that you can't miss is a 37-foot-high replica of a 19th-century fish wheel, which demonstrates how salmon runs were decimated in the past. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, \$5 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. The center is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

Anyone who windsurfs has likely heard of the town of **Hood River ★★**. Due to the strong winds that blow through the gorge in summer, the section of the Columbia River near this town is one of the most popular windsurfing spots in the world. Almost every other car in this once-sleepy little town seems to have a sailboard on the roof. If you want to try this sport yourself, stop by one of the many sailboard shops downtown for information on rentals and lessons.

If you are staying overnight on the loop, you might want to consider getting out of your car and riding the rails. The **Mount Hood Railroad ★**, 110 Railroad Ave., Hood River (☎ 800/872-4661 or 541/386-3556; www.mthoodrr.com), operates an excursion train from

late March to late December carrying passengers up the Hood River Valley from the town of Hood River to Odell or Parkdale and back. The Mount Hood Railroad Depot, built in 1911, is a National Historic Site. For the 2-hour excursion, fares are \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors, and \$15 for children 2 to 12; fares on the 4-hour excursions are \$30 for adults, \$26 for seniors, and \$18 for children. The schedule varies with the season (July–Aug, the train runs Tues–Sun), so call ahead to make a reservation. There are also regularly scheduled dinner, brunch, and other specialty excursions.

From Hood River, turn south on Ore. 35, passing through thousands of acres of apple and pear orchards. Every fall, roadside stands in this area sell fresh fruit and fruit products. The orchards are especially beautiful in the spring, when the trees are in bloom. No matter what time of year, you will have the snow-covered peak of Mount Hood in view as you drive through the orchards, making them all the more spectacular.

Just after Ore. 35 merges into U.S. 26, turn right onto the road to **Timberline Lodge ★★**. As the name implies, this lodge is at the tree line, and a July or August walk on one of the trails in the vicinity will lead you through wildflower-filled meadows. Surprisingly, because of the snowfields above the lodge, you can also ski and snowboard here all summer long.

To return to Portland, take U.S. 26 west to Gresham, and then follow signs for I-84.

WHERE TO STAY

Columbia Gorge Hotel ★ Just west of Hood River off I-84, this little oasis of luxury offers a genteel atmosphere that was once enjoyed by Rudolph Valentino and Clark Gable. With its yellow-stucco walls and red-tile roofs, this hotel would be at home in Beverly Hills, and the hotel gardens could hold their own amid the many public gardens of Victoria, British Columbia. The hotel is perched more than 200 feet above the river on a steep cliff, and it is difficult to take your eyes off the view. Be forewarned, though, that most of the rooms are rather cramped, as are the bathrooms.

4000 Westcliff Dr., Hood River, OR 97031. ☎ **800/345-1921** or 541/386-5566. Fax 541/386-9141. www.columbiagorgehotel.com. 39 units. \$169–\$239 double. Children 4 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$20 per night). **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Skamania Lodge ★★★ Boasting the most spectacular vistas of any hotel in the gorge, Skamania Lodge is the only golf resort around. But it's also well-situated for other activities, whether you brought your sailboard, mountain bike, or hiking boots (there's even a hiking

122 trail on the property). The decor is classically rustic, with lots of rock and natural wood, and throughout the hotel, Northwest Indian artworks and artifacts are displayed. Huge windows in the lobby have superb views of the gorge. Of course, the river-view guest rooms are more expensive than the forest-view rooms (which overlook more parking lot than forest), but these rooms are well worth the extra cost. There are also rooms with fireplaces. The hotel's dining room has great gorge vistas and is the best place in the area for a meal with a view.

1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, WA 98648. ☎ **800/221-7117** or 509/427-7700. Fax 509/427-2547. www.skamania.com. 254 units. \$119–\$279 double; \$199–\$279 suite. Children 16 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$50 per night). **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; lounge; bikes; exercise room; 18-hole golf course; Jacuzzi; indoor pool; room service; sauna; full-service spa; 2 tennis courts. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, minibar, Wi-Fi.

Timberline Lodge ★★ Constructed during the Great Depression of the 1930s as a WPA project, this classic alpine ski lodge overflows with craftsmanship. The grand stone fireplace, huge exposed beams, and wide-plank floors of the lobby impress every first-time visitor. Woodcarvings, imaginative wrought-iron fixtures, hand-hooked rugs, and handmade furniture complete the rustic picture. Unfortunately, guest rooms, which vary considerably in size, are not as impressive as the public areas of the lodge. The smallest rooms lack private bathrooms, and windows in most rooms fail to take advantage of the phenomenal views that could be had here. The lodge's dining room doesn't offer much in the way of mountain views, but it serves the best food in the region. You can always visit the Ram's Head lounge on the balcony for a better view of Mount Hood.

Timberline Lodge, OR 97028. ☎ **800/547-1406** or 503/272-3311. Fax 503/272-3145. www.timberlinelodge.com. 70 units (10 with shared bathroom). \$110–\$125 double with shared bathroom; \$155–\$290 double with private bathroom. Children 11 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; 2 lounges; exercise room; Jacuzzi; year-round outdoor pool; sauna. *In room (except those with shared bathroom):* Hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

WHERE TO DINE

Although I like to bring a picnic lunch and eat with a view, there are also some very good restaurants in the Columbia Gorge and on Mount Hood. The best places to eat are the dining rooms at Skamania Lodge and Timberline Lodge (see above).

Celilo Restaurant ★★ NORTHWEST This sister restaurant to the ever-popular Sixth Street Bistro (also in Hood River) is an utterly hip and sophisticated alternative to the homey restaurants that have long dominated in Hood River. Think timber-town natural-wood decor meets modern urban-design aesthetic, and you'll have a good

idea of what this place is like. The concept of fresh and local drives the kitchen here, so you can count on the menu sticking to whatever is in season—luckily, that can cover a lot of territory in this fertile region. Dishes with house-made pasta are always a good bet, and, in the fall, you might get your noodles sauced with fresh chanterelle mushrooms. Lots of fresh herbs flavor many of the dishes here.

16 Oak St., Hood River. ☎ **541/386-5710**. www.celilorestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8–\$22. AE, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11:30am–3pm and 5–9:30 or 10pm; Sun 9am–3pm and 5–9:30 or 10pm.

Nora's Table ★★ NORTHWEST The menu here is as eclectic as the population of Hood River: South Indian mussel curry; house-made gnocchi with brown butter, hazelnuts, sage, pumpkin, and blue cheese; seared rockfish tacos with chipotle slaw; coho salmon on white beans, chard, and celeriac with tomato confit and fennel *frites*. And everything is so delicious, you just want to keep going back again and again. Owner Kathy Watson formerly operated the restaurant Viento across the river in Bingen, Washington, another favorite of mine. If you're concerned with sustainability and carbon footprints, note that the wine list here is made up exclusively of wines from the Columbia Gorge. Look for Nora's downstairs and just off Oak Street.

110 Fifth St., Hood River. ☎ **541/387-4000**. <http://norastable.com>. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$11–\$21. MC, V. Tues–Sat 5–9pm.

2 THE NORTHERN OREGON COAST

One of the most beautiful shorelines in the United States, the spectacular Oregon coast is this state's main tourist destination, and it offers countless summer vacation spots along its length. The closest beaches are less than 2 hours away from Portland and offer everything from rugged coves to long sandy beaches, artists' communities to classic family beach towns.

ASTORIA

Astoria, situated on the banks of the Columbia River just inland from the river's mouth, is the oldest American community west of the Mississippi. More a river port than a beach town, Astoria's greatest attraction lies in its hillsides of restored Victorian homes and the scenic views across the Columbia to the hills of southwestern Washington. The combination of historical character, scenic vistas, a lively arts community, and some interesting museums make this one of the most intriguing towns on the Oregon coast. From Portland, take U.S. 30 west. From the north or south, take U.S. 101.

Don't miss the boldly designed **Columbia River Maritime Museum ★★**, 1792 Marine Dr. (☎ 503/325-2323; www.crmn.org), which tells the story of the Columbia River's maritime history. High seas and constantly shifting sands make this one of the world's most difficult rivers to enter; displays of shipwrecks, lighthouses, and historical lifesaving missions testify to the danger.

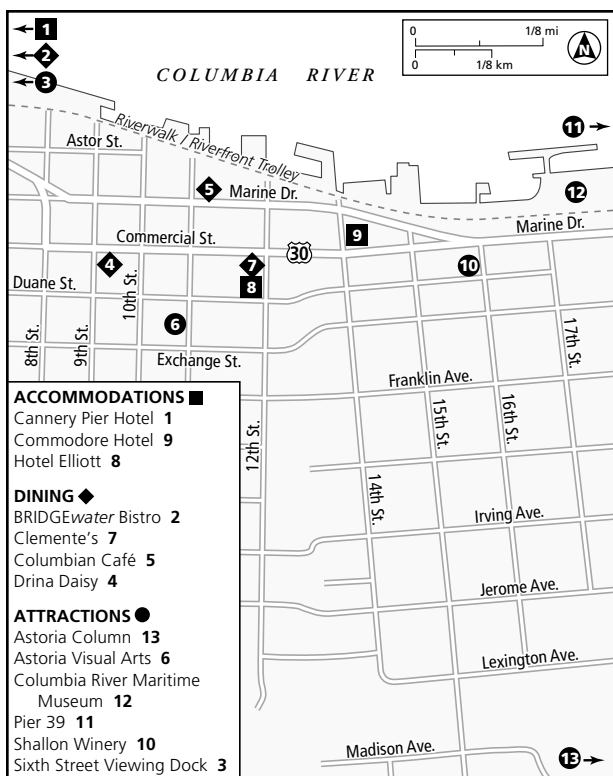
During the winter of 1805–06, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and the other members of the Corps of Discovery camped at a spot near the mouth of the Columbia River. They built a log stockade and named their encampment Fort Clatsop after the local Clatsop Indians who had befriended them. At **Lewis and Clark National Historical Park ★★**, 92343 Fort Clatsop Rd. (off U.S. 101, 5 miles southwest of Astoria) (☎ 503/861-2471; www.nps.gov/lewi), a replica of the fort provides an insightful glimpse into what life was like that dreary, wet winter more than 200 years ago. This historical park includes not only the fort, but also the 6.5-mile Fort to Sea Trail, and several sites in Washington state.

Atop Coxcomb Hill, which is reached by driving up 16th Street and following the signs, you'll find the **Astoria Column** (☎ 503/325-2963; www.astoriacolumn.org). Built in 1926, the column was patterned after Trajan's Column in Rome and stands 125 feet tall. On the exterior wall, a mural depicts the history of the area. There are 164 steps up to the top of the column, and on a clear day the view makes the climb well worth the effort.

There are several places in downtown where you can linger by the riverside atop the docks that once made up much of the city's waterfront. Stop by the **Sixth Street Viewing Dock**, where a raised viewing platform, as well as a fishing dock, enables you to gaze out at the massive Astoria-Megler Bridge, stretching for more than 4 miles across the mouth of the river. Also keep an eye out for sea lions.

The Astoria waterfront is rapidly turning into a shoreline of waterfront condos and hotels, but you can still catch a glimpse of the old days on the waterfront on the east end of town at **Pier 39**, 100 39th St. (☎ 503/325-2502; www.pier39-astoria.com). Originally built in 1875, this cannery was home to Bumble Bee Seafoods, which was founded here in Astoria. Today the old cannery is the largest and oldest building on the waterfront, and inside you'll find displays on the cannery's history. The pier is also home to a brewpub and a coffee-house. On the breakwater adjacent to Pier 39, sea lions can often be seen and heard.

Right in downtown Astoria, you'll find one of the most unusual wineries in the state. **Shallon Winery**, 1598 Duane St. (☎ 503/325-5978; www.shallon.com), specializes in fruit wines, but it is the unique whey wines that are winemaker Paul van der Veldt's greatest



achievement. The Cran du Lait, made with local cranberries and whey from the Tillamook cheese factory, is surprisingly smooth and drinkable.

If you'd like to see what local artists are up to, stop by the gallery of **Astoria Visual Arts**, 453-A 11th St. (☎ 503/325-4589; www.astoriaarts.com), a nonprofit arts organization.

Where to Stay

Cannery Pier Hotel ★★ This hotel is one of my favorite lodgings on the Oregon coast, although it is actually on the Columbia River and not the Pacific Ocean. In fact, this hotel isn't just on the waterfront, it's *in* the river. Built 600 feet out in the river on an old cannery pier, this modern hotel fits in perfectly with the old wooden

126 waterfront buildings around Astoria. Guest rooms are exceedingly comfortable, with window seats, little balconies, gas fireplaces, and super-plush beds. In the bathrooms, you'll find a claw-foot tub, from which you can gaze out at the river while you soak. Your view will take in not only the waters of the mighty Columbia River, but also the Astoria-Megler Bridge looming high overhead and tankers and cruise ships rumbling up and down the river.

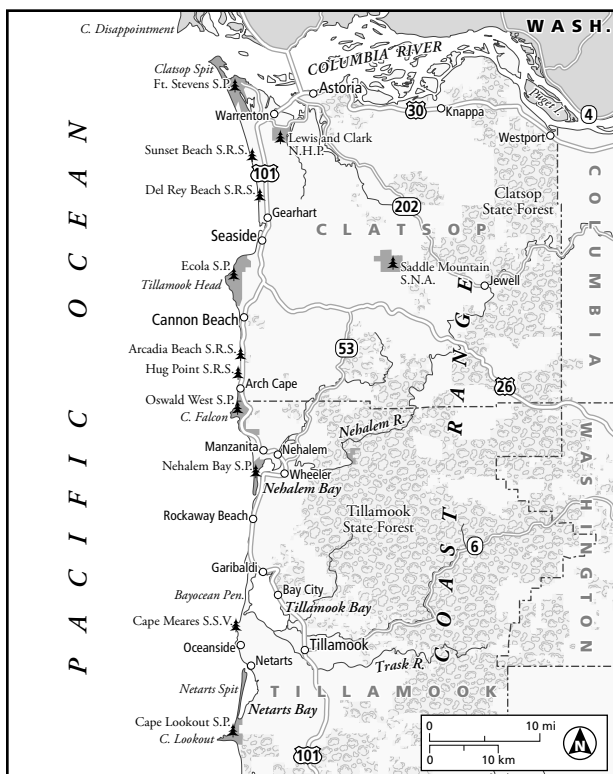
10 Basin St., Astoria, OR 97103. ☎ **888/325-4996** or 503/325-4996. Fax 503/325-8350. www.cannerypierhotel.com. 46 units. Summer \$319 double, \$350–\$550 suite; other months \$169–\$209 double, \$350–\$550 suite. Rates include continental breakfast and evening wine and appetizers. Children 18 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$25 per day). **Amenities:** Bikes; exercise room and access to nearby health club; sauna; spa. *In room:* TV, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Commodore Hotel With its interesting mid-20th-century downtown, Astoria attracts a surprising number of artists and other young people seeking to carve out a niche in an urban setting. So it comes as no surprise that this city at the mouth of the Columbia River now has a hip budget hotel comparable to the Ace Hotel in downtown Portland. The renovation of this old hotel was done on a tight budget, and rooms are minimalist and modern. Basic rooms are tiny and have only sinks, not full bathrooms, but have a very hip feel. There are also larger rooms with attached bathrooms, at least one of which has a river view. The lobby has a cool 3-D wall collage of salvaged objects and old books and maps. Be forewarned that some rooms get a lot of street noise. Definitely an urban experience for young, heavy sleepers.

258 14th St., Astoria, OR 97103. ☎ **503/325-4747**. www.commodoreastoria.com. 18 units, 12 with shared bathroom. \$69–\$89 double with shared bath; \$99–\$179 double with private bath. AE, DISC, MC, V. *In room:* TV/DVD, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

Hotel Elliott ★ Historic hotels are few and far between on the Oregon coast, but even if they were a dime a dozen, this beautiful hotel would be the best. The Elliott blends a vintage feel with a thoroughly modern interior decor. Rooms have lots of nice touches, including heated tile floors in the bathrooms, handblown glass globes on reading lights, regional artwork, furniture with comfortable contemporary styling, plush feather-top beds, and, in suites, granite-topped wet bars. Down in the cellar, there's a cigar-and-wine bar, and up on the roof, there's a rooftop garden with fire pits and grand views.

357 12th St., Astoria, OR 97103. ☎ **877/378-1924** or 503/325-2222. www.hotelelliott.com. 32 units. Summer \$169–\$229 double, \$239–\$650 suite; other months \$109–\$169 double, \$179–\$650 suite. Rates include continental breakfast and weekend evening wine reception. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$25 fee). **Amenities:** Lounge; access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* TV/DVD, hair dryer, Internet.



Where to Dine

BRIDGEwater Bistro ★★ NORTHWEST Located inside a restored red cannery building with the Astoria-Megler Bridge looming overhead and the Cannery Pier Hotel just across the water, this restaurant sums up the new Astoria. Melding a historic cannery building with a contemporary design aesthetic, the BRIDGEwater offers casual sophistication and creative cuisine. The menu here is long, with lots of small plates and a variety of both traditional fare and more creative regional dishes. There's something for everyone, from pickled herring and lamb skewers to Dungeness crab cheesecake and spice-encrusted duck with wild blackberries. The BRIDGEwater shares space with the Flying Dutchman Winery tasting room.

Biking the Oregon Coast

The Oregon coast is one of the nation's best-known bicycle tour routes, ranking right up there with the back roads of Vermont, the Napa Valley, and the San Juan Islands. Cyclists will find breathtaking scenery, interesting towns, parks and beaches to explore, wide shoulders, and well-spaced places to stay. You can stay in campgrounds, but if you can afford it, an inn-to-inn pedal down this coast is the way to go; as you slowly grind your way up hill after hill, you'll appreciate not having to carry camping gear.

The entire route, from Astoria to California, covers between 368 and 378 miles (depending on your route) and includes a daunting 16,000 total feet of climbing. Although most of the route is on U.S. 101, which is a 55-mph highway for most of its length, the designated coast route leaves the highway for less crowded and more scenic roads whenever possible.

For a map and guide to bicycling the Oregon coast, contact the **Oregon Department of Transportation** (☎ 503/986-3556; www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/bikeped).

20 Basin St. ☎ 503/325-6777. www.bridgewaterbistro.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8–\$23 lunch, \$14–\$27 dinner. AE, MC, V. Mon–Sat 11:30am–9pm; Sun 11am–9pm.

Clemente's ★★ MEDITERRANEAN/SEAFOOD This casual little place may ostensibly be a Mediterranean restaurant specializing in seafood, but lots of people know it for its great fish and chips, which are available with a variety of seafood, including salmon, albacore tuna, shrimp, and oysters. However, they also do a good cioppino. At dinner, try the pesto halibut or the sole piccata. Clemente's also works hard to reduce its carbon footprint, purchases local ingredients as much as possible, and has its waste oil converted to biodiesel.

1198 Commercial St. ☎ 503/325-1067. www.clementesrestaurant.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$10–\$15 lunch, \$12–\$31 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Sun 11am–3pm and 5–9pm.

Columbian Café ★ (Finds) VEGETARIAN/SEAFOOD With offbeat and eclectic decor, this tiny place looks a bit like a cross between a college hangout and a seaport diner, and, indeed, the clientele reflects this atmosphere. There are only a handful of booths and a lunch counter, and the café's reputation for good vegetarian fare

keeps the seats full. Crepes are the house specialty and come with a variety of fillings, including avocado, tomato, and cheese, or curried bananas. Dinner offers a bit more variety, with an emphasis on seafood, and there are always lots of specials. Even the condiments here, including pepper jelly and garlic jelly, are homemade. Next door, and affiliated with the café, are the Voodoo Room nightclub and the Columbian Theater movie theater.

1114 Marine Dr. ☎ **503/325-2233**. www.columbianvoodoo.com. Main courses \$3–\$14 breakfast or lunch, \$21–\$24 dinner. No credit cards. Mon–Tues 8am–2pm; Wed–Fri 8am–2pm and 5–8pm; Sat 10am–2pm and 5–8pm; Sun 10am–2pm.

Drina Daisy BOSNIAN Ever had Bosnian food? Probably not, but here in Astoria, you can give it a try. The specialty here is whole spit-roasted lamb, but since it is not always available, you should be sure to call in advance to see if it will be on the menu the night you plan to dine here. Even if there's no lamb roasting on the spit when you're in town, there are plenty of other tasty dishes to try, including beef in phyllo dough, stuffed cabbage with beef or vegetables, and Bosnian goulash flavored with paprika. Be sure to finish your meal with a little cup of thick, Sarajevo-style coffee or Bosnian espresso, which is topped with whipped cream.

915 Commercial St. ☎ **503/338-2912**. www.drinadaisy.com. Main courses \$9–\$16 lunch, \$14–\$24 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Wed–Sun 11am–10pm.

CANNON BEACH TO NEHALEM BAY

The quickest route from Portland to the Oregon coast (80 miles) is via U.S. 26, also called the **Sunset Highway**. If you've got kids with you, turn north at the junction with U.S. 101 and head into **Seaside**, the coast's most traditional beach town (beachside promenade, a public aquarium, saltwater taffy, arcade games, the works).

Otherwise, head south and watch for the turnoff to **Cannon Beach ★★**, the artsiest little town on the Oregon coast. It's packed with weathered cedar-shingle buildings, picket fences behind drifts of nasturtiums, quiet gravel lanes, interesting little art galleries, and massive rock monoliths rising from the surf just off the wide, sandy beach. If it weren't for all the other people who think Cannon Beach is a wonderful place, this town would be perfect. Cannon Beach is suffering from its own quaintness and the inevitable upscaling that ensues when a place begins to gain national recognition. Despite the crowds, it still has a village atmosphere, and summer throngs and traffic jams can do nothing to assault the fortresslike beauty of the rocks that lie just offshore.

Located just north of the town of Cannon Beach is **Ecola Beach State Park ★★** (☎ **800/551-6949** or 503/436-2844; www.oregonstateparks.org), which provides some of the most spectacular views on

the coast. Several trails offer a chance to walk a lush forest of old-growth spruce, hemlock, and Douglas fir. For great views to the south, head to the Ecola Point picnic area, which is to your left just after you enter the park. A relatively easy 3-mile round-trip hiking trail connects this picnic area with Indian Beach.

Cannon Beach was named for a cannon that washed ashore here after the USS *Shark*, a military vessel, sank in 1849. Just offshore from the south end of town is **Haystack Rock ★★**, a massive 235-foot-tall island that is the most photographed rock on the coast. Rising up from the sand and waves at the low-tide line, Haystack Rock is a popular destination for beachcombers and tide-pool explorers.

Every summer in early June, Cannon Beach celebrates **Sandcastle Day**, a festival that attracts numerous sand sculptors and thousands of appreciative viewers. Any time of year you'll find the winds here ideal for kite flying. However, forget about doing any swimming; the waters here, and all along the Oregon coast, are too cold and rough for swimming.

Heading south out of Cannon Beach on U.S. 101, watch for the **Arcadia Beach Wayside ★★**. This is one of the prettiest little beaches in the area, with haystack rocks and a headland that blocks the northwest winds in the summer months.

A little farther south, you'll come to **Hug Point State Recreation Site ★★**, with more headland-framed beach. Here you can also see an old stretch of the original coast highway. Although the old highway was mostly just the beach, here at Hug Point the road was blasted into a headland, thus hugging the point.

A little farther south you'll come to the rugged **Oswald West State Park ★★** (☎ 800/551-6949; www.oregonstateparks.org), named for the governor who promoted legislation to preserve all Oregon beaches as public property. The beach is in a cove that can be reached only by walking a quarter-mile through dense forest; once you're there, all you'll hear is the crashing of the surf. The beach is strewn with huge driftwood logs that give it a wild look. High bluffs rise up at both ends of the cove, and it is possible to hike to the top of them. This is a popular surfing spot.

U.S. 101 continues south from Oswald West State Park and climbs up over **Neahkahnie Mountain ★**. Legend has it that at the base of this ocean-side mountain, the survivors of a wrecked Spanish galleon buried a fortune in gold. Keep your eyes open for elk, which frequently graze in the meadows here.

Just below this wind-swept mountain is the quiet beach town of **Manzanita ★★**. With Neahkahnie Mountain rising to the north, a long stretch of sandy beach fronting the town, and **Nehalem Bay State Park ★** (☎ 800/551-6949 or 503/368-5154; www.oregonstateparks.org) to the south of town, Manzanita is one of my favorite Oregon beach towns.

WHERE TO STAY

In Cannon Beach

Stephanie Inn ★★ The Stephanie Inn is the most classically romantic inn on the Oregon coast—the perfect place for an anniversary or other special weekend away. With flower boxes beneath the windows and neatly manicured gardens by the entry, the inn is reminiscent of New England's country inns, but the beach out the back door is definitely of Pacific Northwest origin. Inside, the lobby feels warm and cozy with its river-rock fireplace, huge wood columns, and beamed ceiling. The guest rooms, all individually decorated, are equally cozy, and most have double whirlpool tubs and gas fireplaces. The higher you go in the three-story inn, the better the views and the more spacious the outdoor spaces (patios, balconies, and decks). A bounteous breakfast buffet is served each morning, and complimentary afternoon wine and evening nightcaps are also served. Creative four-course prix-fixe dinners (\$59) are served in the evening (reservations are required). Various spa services are offered.

2740 S. Pacific St. (P.O. Box 219), Cannon Beach, OR 97110. ☎ 800/633-3466 or 503/436-2221. www.stephanie-inn.com. 41 units. \$369–\$509 double; \$529–\$609 suite. Rates include full breakfast. Children 13 and over are welcome. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; access to nearby health club; room service. *In room:* A/C, TV/DVD, CD player, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.



Fun Facts

Cannon Beach Trivia

- Cannon Beach was named for a cannon that washed ashore after the U.S. Navy schooner *Shark* wrecked on the coast north of here in 1846.
- Cannon Beach's Haystack Rock, which rises 235 feet above the water, is the most photographed monolith on the Oregon coast.
- The offshore rocks are protected nesting grounds for sea birds. Watch for tufted puffins, something of a Cannon Beach mascot.
- Tillamook Rock is the site of the **Tillamook Rock Lighthouse** (aka "Terrible Tilly"), which was subject to huge storm waves that occasionally sent large rocks crashing through the light, 133 feet above sea level. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1957 and is now used as a columbarium (a vault for the interment of the ashes of people who have been cremated).

Arch Cape House ★★ **Finds** A cedar-shingled château on the Oregon coast? Seems like a natural to me. Not only is this country inn a gorgeous interpretation of a French château, but it is one of the most luxurious lodging places on the entire coast. Each of the rooms fulfills a different fantasy of the perfect romantic escape. There is the Tower Room, with its circular breakfast nook and soaking tub; the Tapestry Room, with a stained-glass ceiling and a soaking tub; and the Tuscan spa, with a stone sink and private sauna. Lavish three-course breakfasts are served in the conservatory, and a dining room serves full dinners as well. So luxurious is this place that the fact that you aren't right on the beach doesn't even seem to matter.

31970 E. Ocean Lane, Arch Cape, OR 97102. ☎ **800/436-2848** or 503/436-2800. Fax 503/436-1206. www.archcapeinn.com. 10 units. \$179–\$399 double. Rates include full breakfast and evening wine social hour. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$35 fee). No children 14 and under. **Amenities:** Restaurant; concierge; room service; sauna. *In room:* TV/VCR, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

In Manzanita

Coast Cabins ★★ **Finds** These five modern cabins are set back a way from the beach but are the most impressive cabins on the entire coast. Done in a sort of modern interpretation of Scandinavian cabins, these accommodations are designed as romantic getaways for couples. Two of the cabins are tall, two-story structures, and the second-floor bedrooms have walls of windows. The cabin interiors are well designed and artfully decorated, with such touches as Tibetan carpets, original art, and unusual lighting fixtures. Now imagine the burnished glow of the cabins' cedar exteriors accented by lovely terraced perennial gardens, and you'll have an idea of just how the perfect getaway on the Oregon coast should look. Three vacation-rental homes are also available.

635 Laneda Ave., Manzanita, OR 97130. ☎ **503/368-7113**. www.coastcabins.com. 5 units. \$125–\$375 double. 2-night minimum on weekends and throughout the summer. AE, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$30 deposit plus \$25 per night). **Amenities:** Access to nearby health club; sauna. *In room:* TV/VCR/DVD, CD player, hair dryer, kitchen, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

WHERE TO DINE

In Cannon Beach

Bistro ★ **NORTHWEST** If you're looking for atmosphere and good food, this is the place. Bistro is set back a bit from the street behind a small garden and down a brick walkway. Step through the door and you'll think you've just walked into a French country inn. Stucco walls, old prints of flowers, and fresh flowers on the tables are the only decor this tiny place can afford without growing cramped. Dining choices here include well prepared seafood dishes such as sautéed scallops with sun-dried tomatoes, capers, parsley, and white

wine; grilled halibut with mango, avocado, and citrus salsa; and a fragrant seafood stew. **133**

263 N. Hemlock St. ☎ **503/436-2661**. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$12–\$26. DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 5–8 or 8:30pm, Fri–Sat 5–9 or 9:30pm; closed Tues–Wed in off season.

Newman's at 988 ★★ FRENCH/ITALIAN Chef/owner John Newman was for many years the executive chef at Cannon Beach's Stephanie Inn, and here, in his own restaurant, he continues to wow both new and longtime customers. The restaurant, inside a cottage, is small, dark, and very romantic, the perfect place for a special night out. The menu is short, but you can expect such delicacies as foie gras pasta with shaved black truffles, wild mushroom polenta, fresh fish with caviar butter, and lobster ravioli with hazelnuts and Marsala-cream sauce.

988 S. Hemlock St. ☎ **503/436-1151**. www.newmansat988.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$19–\$26. AE, DISC, MC, V. Summer daily 5:30–9pm; other months closed Mon.

TILLAMOOK & THE THREE CAPES SCENIC LOOP

The other dramatic stretch of beach close to Portland is west of the dairy-farming town of Tillamook and is called the **Three Capes Scenic Loop ★★**. To reach this rugged stretch of coast, head west from Portland on U.S. 26 (Sunset Hwy.), and, about 25 miles west of Portland near the town of Banks, take Ore. 6 toward Tillamook. Allow about 2 hours to get to Tillamook from Portland.

Two miles north of **Tillamook** on U.S. 101, you can visit the **Tillamook Cheese Factory ★**, 4175 U.S. 101 N. (☎ **800/542-7290** or 503/815-1300; www.tillamookcheese.com). The Tillamook area is one of Oregon's main dairy-farming locations, and much of the milk is turned into cheddar cheese and butter. Today the factory is one of the most popular attractions on the Oregon coast. You can watch the cheese-making process through large windows, buy an ice-cream cone, and pick up an assortment of tasty cheeses for a picnic.

Just west of Tillamook is the start of the Three Capes Scenic Loop, which leads to Cape Meares, Cape Lookout, and Cape Kiwanda, all of which provide stunning vistas of rocky cliffs, misty mountains, and booming surf. As the name implies, this is a very scenic stretch of road, and there are plenty of places to stop and enjoy the views and the beaches.

Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint ★ perches high atop the cape, with the Cape Meares lighthouse just a short walk from the parking lot. This lighthouse, 200 feet above the water, was built in 1890. Today it has been replaced by an automated light a few feet

Stormy Weather

Throughout the winter, Oregon's rocky shores and haystack rocks feel the effects of storms that originate far to the north in cold polar waters. As these storms slam ashore, sometimes with winds topping 100 mph, their huge waves smash against the rocks with breathtaking force, sending spray flying. The perfect storm-watching days come right after a big storm, when the waves are still big but the sky is clear. This is also the best time to go beachcombing—it's your best chance to find the rare handblown Japanese glass fishing floats that sometimes wash ashore on the Oregon coast.

away. Be sure to visit the **octopus tree** here in the park. This Sitka spruce has been twisted and sculpted by harsh weather.

As you come down from the cape, you'll reach the village of **Oceanside ★**, which clings to the steep slopes above a small cove. One tavern, one restaurant, and one cafe are the only commercial establishments, and that's the way folks here like it. If you walk north along the beach, you'll find a pedestrian tunnel through the headland that protects this hillside community. Through the tunnel is another beautiful stretch of beach.

South of Oceanside, the road runs along a flat stretch of beach before reaching **Cape Lookout State Park ★★** (☎ 800/551-6949 or 503/842-4981; www.oregonstateparks.org). Cape Lookout, a steep forested ridge jutting out into the Pacific, is an excellent place for whale-watching in the spring. A trail leads out to the end of the point from either the main (lower) parking area or the parking area at the top of the ridge. From the upper parking lot, it is a 5-mile round-trip hike to the end of the point.

South of Cape Lookout you come to **Pacific City** and **Cape Kiwanda ★★**, the last of the three capes on this scenic loop. Cape Kiwanda, a state natural area, is a sandstone headland backed by a huge sand dune. It's fun to climb to the top and then run down. From the top of this giant dune, it is sometimes possible to spot spouting gray whales. Just offshore is another **Haystack Rock ★★**, every bit as picturesque as the one in Cannon Beach. Because this huge rock breaks the waves, the beach here is used by beach-launched dories, as well as surfers. The **Pelican Pub & Brewery** right on the beach here makes a good spot for dinner before heading back to Portland.

To return to Portland from Pacific City, follow signs to U.S. 101 and head north to **Tillamook**. From there, just retrace your outbound route by taking Ore. 6 back to U.S. 26.

WHERE TO STAY

Inn at Cape Kiwanda ★★ **(Finds)** Although it's across the street from the beach (and **Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area**), this modern cedar-shingled three-story hotel has one of the best views on the Oregon coast: Directly offshore rises **Haystack Rock**, a huge jug-handled monolith. Since a great view isn't quite enough, the hotel was designed with contemporary rooms, all of which have balconies and fireplaces. A few have whirlpool tubs, and there is also a very luxurious suite. The corner rooms are my favorites. The inn also rents out modern timeshare cottages that are right on the beach. The inn is affiliated with the **Pelican Pub & Brewery**, which is right across the street, and on the inn's ground floor there is an art gallery and an espresso bar.

33105 Cape Kiwanda Dr., Pacific City, OR 97135. ☎ **888/965-7001** or 503/965-7001. Fax 503/965-7002. www.innatcapekiwanda.com. 35 units. \$139–\$329 double; \$229–\$359 suite. 2-night minimum on holidays, and on weekends July–Aug. Children 17 and under stay free in parent's room. AE, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$20). **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; exercise room; room service. *In room:* TV/DVD, fridge, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

WHERE TO DINE

Pelican Pub & Brewery ★ **PUB FOOD** With massive **Haystack Rock** looming just offshore and the huge dune of Cape Kiwanda just up the beach, this oceanfront brewpub claims the best view of any pub in Oregon. There's a good selection of brews, including Tsunami Stout and my personal favorite, the Doryman's Dark Ale. Sandwiches, burgers, great fish and chips, and pizzas are the menu mainstays here. Kids are welcome, and the beach location makes this a great spot for lunch or dinner if you're hanging out on the beach all day.

33180 Cape Kiwanda Dr., Pacific City. ☎ **503/965-7007**. www.pelicanbrewery.com. Main courses \$11–\$23. AE, DISC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs 8am–10pm; Fri–Sat 8am–11pm.

3 WINERY TOURS

For several decades now, Oregon wines, particularly pinot noirs, have been winning awards. This isn't surprising when you consider that Oregon is on the same latitude as the winegrowing regions of France. The climate is also very similar—cool, wet winters and springs and long, dry summers with warm days and cool nights. These are ideal

136 conditions for growing wine grapes, and local vineyards are making the most of a good situation.

For more information about the Oregon wine scene, including a calendar of winery events, pick up a copy of *Oregon Wine Press*, a monthly newspaper (available at area wine shops and wineries), or contact **Oregon Wine Press**, P.O. Box 727, McMinnville, OR 97128 (☎ 503/883-6266; www.oregonwinepress.com). **Willamette Valley Wineries**, P.O. Box 25162, Portland, OR 97298 (☎ 503/646-2985; www.willamettewines.com), a regional wineries association, publishes a free map and guide to the local wineries. You can pick up a copy at almost any area winery.

More than 160 wineries are within an hour's drive of Portland, and you could easily spend weeks or even months getting to know them (I know I have). However, for an afternoon of wine tasting, I suggest visiting only three or four wineries. A trip through wine country is a chance not only to sample a wide range of wines, but also to see the fertile valleys that lured pioneers across the Oregon Trail. I recommend taking along a picnic lunch, which you can, of course, supplement with a wine purchase. Most wineries have picnic tables, and many of them have lovely views. During the summer many wineries stage weekend festivals that include live music.

Start a Willamette Valley wine tour by taking U.S. 26 west from Portland to Ore. 217. Drive south to the Scholls Ferry Road exit (Ore. 210), and continue southwest on Scholls Ferry Road for about 8 miles to **Ponzi Vineyards**, 14665 SW Winery Lane (☎ 503/628-1227; www.ponziwines.com), which was one of the first wineries in Oregon. Nearby you can stop at **Hoffman Farms Store**, 22242 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (☎ 503/628-5418; www.hoffmanfarmsstore.com), where in the summer, you can buy fresh berries, or **Oregon Heritage Farms**, 22801 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (☎ 503/628-2775; www.oregonheritagefarm.com), which sells apples and cider in the autumn months. Follow signs toward Newberg, and you'll soon come to **Smith Berry Barn Farm and Garden Market**, 24500 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (☎ 503/628-2172; www.smithberrybarn.com), where you can get fresh berries in summer, plus gourmet foods and lots more. Across the street from this big red barn, you'll find the **South Store Café**, 24485 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. (☎ 503/628-1920; www.southstorecafe.com), my favorite area lunch spot. Scholls Ferry Road becomes Hillsboro Highway (Ore. 219) at this point and leads over Chehalem Mountain to the heart of the wine country. A little way up this road, you'll come to **Mountainside Lavender Farm**, 17805 SW Hillsboro Hwy. (☎ 503/936-6744; www.mountainsidelavender.com), where you can pick your own lavender during the summer.

In Newberg, turn west on Ore. 99W, and in Dundee, you'll find **Dobbes Family Estate**, 240 SE Fifth St. (☎ 503/538-1141; www.dobbesfamilyestate.com), which makes a wide range of excellent wines, and **Argyle Winery**, 691 Ore. 99W, Dundee (☎ 888/427-4953 or 503/538-8520; www.argylewinery.com), which is well known for its sparkling wines. From the highway, head up into the hills to **Torii Mor Winery**, 18323 NE Fairview Dr. (☎ 503/538-2279; www.toriiomorwinery.com), and **Lange Estate Winery & Vineyards**, 18380 NE Buena Vista Rd. (☎ 503/538-6476; www.langewinery.com), two of the area's top pinot noir producers.

Continue a little past Dundee, and you can visit three of the most highly regarded wineries in the state: **Archery Summit**, 18599 NE Archery Summit Rd., Dayton (☎ 503/864-4300; www.archerysummit.com); **Domaine Drouhin Oregon**, 6750 Breyman Orchards Rd., Dayton (☎ 503/864-2700; www.domainedrouhin.com); and **Domaine Serene**, 6555 Hilltop Lane, Dayton (☎ 866/864-6555 or 503/864-4600; www.domaineserene.com). All three of these wineries produce world-class pinot noir.

In the town of Carlton, 7 miles north of McMinnville on Ore. 47, you'll find the wine country's highest concentration of wineries and tasting rooms. At the **Tasting Room**, 105 W. Main St. (☎ 503/852-6733; www.pinot-noir.com), you can taste wines from wineries that are not usually open to the public. Most wines featured here are from wineries in the immediate vicinity of Carlton. Also here in Carlton, you'll find the **Carlton Winemakers Studio**, 801 N. Scott St. (☎ 503/852-6100; www.winemakersstudio.com), which represents numerous wineries, including Andrew Rich Wines and Hamacher Wines. Adjacent to this latter winery, you'll find **Cana's Feast Winery**, 750 Lincoln St. (☎ 503/852-0002; www.canasfeastwinery.com), which is known for its big, full-bodied red wines. A few blocks away, you can stop in at **Tyrus Evan/The Depot**, 120 N. Pine St. (☎ 503/852-7010), which specializes in bordeaux and Rhone varietals. Outside the town of Yamhill, don't miss the impressive **Willakenzie Estate**, 19143 NE Laughlin Rd., Yamhill (☎ 888/953-9463 or 503/662-3280; www.willakenzie.com), or **Penner-Ash Wine Cellars**, 15771 NE Ribbon Ridge Rd. (☎ 503/554-5545; www.pennerash.com).

WHERE TO STAY

Abbey Road Farm ★★ This is one of the most unusual bed-and-breakfast inns in Oregon and should be your first choice for a wine-country getaway. The large and luxurious guest rooms are located in a building that was constructed from three large metal silos. Now, lest you think you'll be sleeping in a barn, let me assure you that the silos

Leave the Driving to Us

If you're interested in learning more about Oregon wines, contact **Grape Escape** ( **503/283-3380**; www.grapeescape.com), which offers in-depth winery tours of the Willamette Valley. All-day tours include stops at several wineries, appetizers, lunch, and dessert, and pickup and drop-off at your hotel. Call for rates (\$120–\$275 per person). For people with less time, there are half-day afternoon trips that take in three wineries (\$75 per person). **Oregon Wine Tours** ( **503/681-WINE** [9463]; www.orwinetours.com) offers similar all-day tours that stop at four or five wineries. These tours cost \$165 each if there are just two of you. If you've got a group and want to tour wine country in a 1959 Chrysler stretch limousine, contact **Classic Tours** ( **503/297-2824**; www.classictoursusa.com).

have been transformed into architectural gems, a testament to the imagination of owners John and Judi Stuart. The large guest rooms have whirlpool tubs, memory-foam beds, contemporary country decor, and bucolic views. When you're not out wine touring, you can visit with the goats, sheep, llamas, chickens, and other farm animals that live here. A three-bedroom farmhouse is also available for rent.

10501 NE Abbey Rd., Carlton, OR 97111.  **503/852-6278**. www.abbeyroadfarm.com. 5 units. \$210 double; \$375 house (2-night minimum). Rates include full breakfast (except in farmhouse). 2-night minimum on weekends. AE, MC, V. No children. **Amenities:** Concierge; Wi-Fi. *In room:* A/C, CD player, hair dryer, MP3 docking station.

The Allison Inn & Spa ★★★ Opened in 2009, this is the first and only wine-country resort in Oregon, and what a place it is. The Allison is both gorgeous and green-built. With lots of natural wood and stone both inside and out, the hotel has a distinctly Northwest feel. Guest rooms are large, with plush headboards and big soaking tubs where you can gaze at the fire in the gas fireplace. Window seats and balconies let you enjoy the views of the green Oregon landscape. Over the indoor pool, which has a huge roll-back door that gives it the feel of being outdoors, there is a living roof constructed with live plants to reduce rainwater runoff, and photovoltaic panels. The hotel's restaurant, **Jory** (see below), is one of the finest in wine country and should not be missed.

2525 Allison Lane, Newberg, OR 97132.  **877/294-2525** or 503/554-2525. www.theallison.com. 85 units. \$295–\$375 double; \$450–\$1,100 suite. Children 12 and

under stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Pets accepted (\$50 fee). **Amenities:** Restaurant; lounge; concierge; exercise room; Jacuzzi; indoor pool; room service; full-service spa. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, MP3 docking station, Wi-Fi.

Black Walnut Inn ★★★ Perched high in the Red Hills of Dundee with a view that seems to take in all of Oregon wine country, this inn looks for all the world as though it had been transported here from Tuscany. Guest rooms are luxuriously homey and gorgeously decorated, and some are absolutely huge. Some have antique furnishings and some are more contemporary, so there's a room that's just right for nearly anyone. Some rooms have a soaking tub, and all have a balcony or patio. The gardens and patios here are the perfect place to sip a glass of wine at sunset.

9600 NE Worden Hill Rd., Dundee, OR 97115. ☎ **866/429-4114** or 503/538-8663. Fax 503/538-4194. www.blackwalnut-inn.com. 9 units. \$295-\$495 suite. Rates include full breakfast and afternoon appetizers. AE, MC, V. Children 12 and older accepted. **Amenities:** Concierge. *In room:* A/C, TV/VCR, CD player, hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

WHERE TO DINE

Cuvée ★★ FRENCH Chef/owner Gilbert Henry had long established himself as one of the top toques in Portland before moving to the small town of Carlton in the heart of the wine country. Here Henry's classic French cuisine is the perfect foil for fine wines from Carlton-area wineries. The menu leans toward seafood dishes, which go well with local pinot gris, but there's also usually a lamb dish (perhaps Moroccan lamb tagine) on the menu. Be sure to start your meal with some oysters or sautéed wild mushrooms and local pinot gris or chardonnay.

214 W. Main St., Carlton. ☎ **503/852-6555**. www.cuveedining.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$11-\$13 lunch, \$21-\$23 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Wed-Fri 5:30-9:30pm; Sat noon-3pm and 5:30-9:30pm; Sun noon-3pm and 5-8pm.

The Joel Palmer House ★★★ FRENCH/NORTHWEST If you love mushrooms in all their earthy guises, then you'll find culinary nirvana in this downtown Dayton restaurant, east of McMinnville. Chef/owner Jack Czarnecki is a man obsessed with mushrooms, and nearly every dish has mushrooms in it. Start your meal with the extraordinary wild-mushroom soup made with suillis mushrooms, then move on to the filet mignon with porcini sauce or the beef stroganoff with wild mushrooms. The rack of lamb with a hazelnut-pepper sauce, though it lacks mushrooms, is a quintessential wine-country entree. Mushroom lovers will be in good hands if they opt for the "Mushroom Madness" prix-fixe dinner. The extensive wine list features Oregon wines. The restaurant is in a house built in the 1850s and is quite formal.

600 Ferry St., Dayton. ☎ **503/864-2995**. www.joelpalmerhouse.com. Reservations highly recommended. Main courses \$29–\$37; prix-fixe menu \$75. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Sat 5–9pm. Closed late Dec to late Jan.

Jory Restaurant ★★ NORTHWEST Fresh-from-the-farm is the focus at this elegant restaurant in the luxurious **Allison Inn**, Oregon's first wine-country resort. The menu is driven by the seasons, and if you visit during the fall, you'll likely find a variety of wild mushrooms on the menu. I recommend ordering them in as many dishes as you can; they are the stars of an autumn meal in wine country. Any time of year, the steak for two, a Tuscan-inspired wood-grilled prime rib-eye is a huge hit. While the dining room has walls of glass looking south across the valley and there is a delightful terrace for alfresco summer meals, if it's already dark and there are only two of you, I recommend sitting at the counter facing the open, showcase kitchen. It is absolutely fascinating to watch the chefs prepare the evening's many meals.

The Allison Hotel, 2525 Allison Lane, Newberg. ☎ **503/554-2526**. www.theallison.com. Reservations recommended. AE, DISC, MC, V. Main courses \$12–\$18 lunch, \$23–\$36 dinner. Mon–Thurs 6:30–10:30am, 11:30am–2pm, and 5:30–9pm; Fri–Sat 6:30–10:30am, 11:30am–2pm, and 5:30–10pm; Sun 10am–2pm and 5:30–9pm.

The Painted Lady ★★ FRENCH/NORTHWEST Located just off Ore. 99W in a restored Victorian home in downtown Newberg, the Painted Lady brings sophistication and creativity to a town that has long thought of Chinese and Mexican as exotic foods. Chef/owner Allen Routt, whose credentials include study at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, serves three-course prix-fixe dinners that nonetheless offer plenty of choices. The menu changes with the seasons, but a recent night featured, among many other offerings, corn bisque with Dungeness crab salad; halibut with basil chutney; rabbit roulade on cauliflower purée; and for dessert, chèvre cheesecake with Oregon cherries.

201 S. College St., Newberg. ☎ **503/538-3850**. www.thepaintedladyrestaurant.com. Reservations highly recommended. Prix-fixe menus \$60 (\$100 with wine). AE, DISC, MC, V. Wed–Sun 5–10pm.

Tina's ★★ CONTINENTAL/NORTHWEST Despite its rather small and nondescript building right on the highway in Dundee, Tina's has long been one of the Yamhill County wine country's premier restaurants, and with its contemporary menu and decor, it's my favorite place to eat in the area. The menu changes regularly and features a balance between the traditional (rib-eye steak with Roquefort butter) and the less familiar (roasted duck breast with corn soufflé and pomegranate demi-glace), which keeps a wide range of diners content. The wine selection, of course, emphasizes local wines.

760 Ore. 99W, Dundee. ☎ 503/538-8880. www.tinasdundee.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses \$8–\$10 lunch, \$22–\$36 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Tues–Fri 11:30am–2pm and 5–9pm; Sat–Sun 5–9pm.

4 MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT

Named in 1792 by Capt. George Vancouver for his friend Baron St. Helens, Mount St. Helens was once considered the most perfect of the Cascade peaks, a snow-covered cone rising above lush forests. However, on May 18, 1980, all that changed when Mount St. Helens erupted with a violent explosion.

The eruption blew out the side of the volcano and removed the top 1,300 feet of the peak, causing the largest landslide in recorded history. This blast is estimated to have traveled at up to 650 mph, with air temperatures of up to 800°F (427°C). The eruption also sent more than 540 million tons of ash nearly 16 miles into the atmosphere. This massive volume of ash rained down on an area of 22,000 square miles and could be measured as far away as Denver.

Today the volcano and 110,000 acres of both devastated and undisturbed forests have been preserved as **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**. Several visitor centers provide information on the eruption and the subsequent changes that have taken place here.

The monument is located roughly 90 miles north of Portland off I-5 (take the Castle Rock exit). Admission to the monument is \$8 for adults and free for children 15 and under. If you just want to park at one of the monument's trail heads and go for a hike, all you need is a valid Northwest Forest Pass, which costs \$5 per car per day. If it's winter, you'll need a Sno-Park Permit (\$10–\$11 per day).

For more information on the national monument, contact **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**, 42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd., Amboy, WA 98601 (☎ 360/449-7800; www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/mshnm).

The best place to start an exploration of the monument is the **Mount St. Helens Visitor Center at Silver Lake** (☎ 360/274-0962; www.parks.wa.gov/mountsthelens.asp), which is operated by Washington State Parks and is located at Silver Lake, 5 miles east of Castle Rock on Wash. 504. The visitor center houses extensive exhibits on the eruption and its effects on the region. Mid-May through September, it's open daily from 9am to 5pm (until 4pm in other months). Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children 7 to 17, and free for children 6 and under. A family pass is \$8.

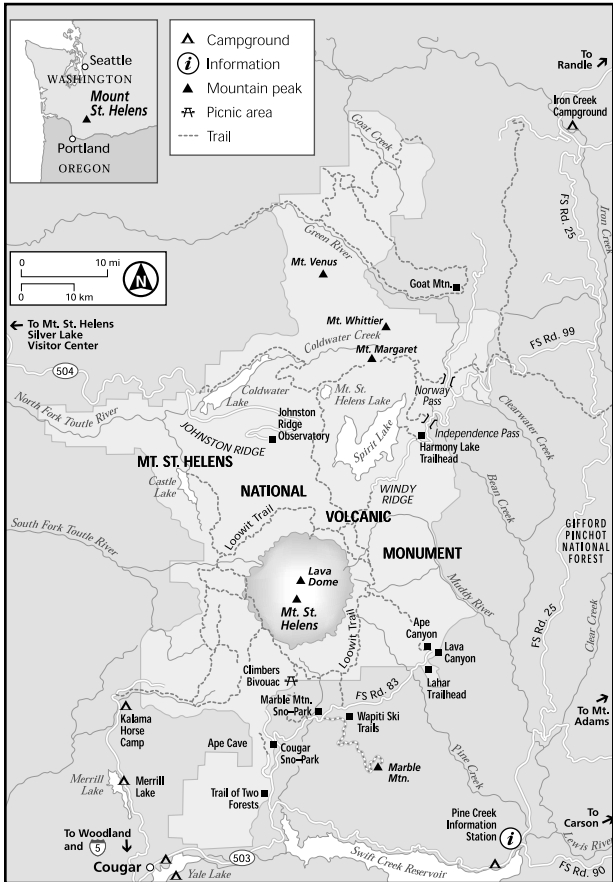
Continuing east from the visitor center, at milepost 27, you'll come to the **Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center** (☎ 360/274-5200; www.hoffstadtbluffs.com). This is primarily a snack bar and takeoff site for 30-minute helicopter flights over Mount St. Helens (\$169 with a three-person minimum), but it also has great views. In summer, this visitor center is open daily from 9am to 7pm; other months it's open Thursday through Monday from 9am to 7pm.

A few miles farther, just past milepost 33, is the **Charles W. Bingham Forest Learning Center at Mount St. Helens** (☎ 360/274-7750; www.mountsthelens.com/Forest-Learning-Center.html), open mid-May through mid-October daily from 10am to 6pm (until 5pm in Oct). This is primarily a promotional center for the timber industry, but, in a theater designed to resemble an ash-covered landscape, you can watch a short, fascinating video about the eruption. Outside both the Hoffstadt Bluffs Visitor Center and the Forest Learning Center, you can usually see numerous elk on the floor of the Toutle River Valley far below.

Of the many visitor centers, none offers a more awe-inspiring view than that from the **Johnston Ridge Observatory**, 24000 Spirit Lake Hwy. (☎ 360/274-2140), at the eastern end of Wash. 504. Built into the mountainside and designed to blend into the landscape, this observatory houses the equipment that is still used to monitor activity within Mount St. Helens. The observatory is open from mid-May to October, daily from 10am to 6pm. Admission is \$8 for persons 16 and older, and free for anyone age 15 and under. If you're up for a bit of hiking, the best choice on this side of the monument is the **Boundary Ridge Trail**, which heads east from the Johnston Ridge Observatory, with a jaw-dropping view of the blast zone the entire way. This trail leads for many miles across the monument, so you can hike as much or as little as you want. There is a good turnaround point about 1 mile out from the observatory.

If you're an experienced hiker in good physical condition, the climb to the summit of Mount St. Helens is a must. From the trail head on the south side of the mountain, the hike takes 8 to 10 hours and can require an ice ax. Climbing permits, which cost \$22 between April and October and are free other months, are required and are only available through the **Mount St. Helens Institute**, 42218 NE Yale Bridge Rd., Amboy, WA 98601 (☎ 360/449-7887; www.mshinstitute.org). Because the climb is very popular, you'll need to make a reservation. Reservations are taken beginning in early February, and summer weekends book up fast. Between November 1 and March 31, no reservation is necessary—but expect lots of snow. Due to volcanic activity in recent years, the rim is sometimes closed to hikers, so be sure to check the current status.

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SIDE TRIPS FROM PORTLAND

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MOUNT ST. HELENS

The south side of the monument was the least affected by the eruption, and consequently does not offer the dramatic scenes of devastation as on the east and west sides. However, this area offers some good hiking and a couple of very interesting volcanic features. The first one you'll come to is the **Ape Cave**, a lava tube that was formed 1,900 years ago when lava poured from the volcano. When the lava finally stopped flowing, it left a 2-mile-long cave that is the

144 longest continuous lava tube in the Western Hemisphere. At the Ape's headquarters, you can join a regular ranger-led exploration of the cave or rent a lantern for exploring the cave on your own. This center is open daily from 10am to 5pm between late June and Labor Day.

Hikers will find many other hiking trails within the monument, some in blast zones and some in forests that were left undamaged by the eruption. Ask at any visitor center for trail information.

Fast Facts

1 FAST FACTS: PORTLAND

AREA CODES The Portland metro area has two area codes—503 and 971—and it is necessary to dial all 10 digits of a telephone number, even when making local calls.

AUTOMOBILE ORGANIZATIONS The **American Automobile Association** (☎ 800/452-1643; www.aaaorid.com) has a Portland office at 600 SW Market St. (☎ 503/222-6734), which offers free city maps to members.

BABYSITTERS If your hotel doesn't offer babysitting services, call **Northwest Nannies** (☎ 503/245-5288; www.nwnanny.com).

BUSINESS HOURS The following are general guidelines; specific establishments' hours may vary. Banks are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm (some also on Sat 9am–noon). Stores are open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm and Sunday from noon to 5pm (malls usually stay open until 9pm Mon–Sat). Bars can stay open until 1am.

DENTIST Contact the **Multnomah Dental Society** (☎ 503/513-5010; www.multnomahdental.org) for a referral.

DOCTOR If you need a physician referral while in Portland, contact the **Legacy Referral Service** (☎ 877/435-3500; www.legacyhealth.org).

DRINKING LAWS The legal minimum drinking age in Oregon is 21. Aside from on-premise sales of cocktails in bars and restaurants, hard liquor can only be purchased in liquor stores. Beer and wine are available in convenience stores and grocery stores.

DRIVING RULES See “Getting There & Getting Around,” in chapter 2.

ELECTRICITY Like Canada, the U.S. uses 110–120 volts AC (60 cycles), compared to 220–240 volts AC (50 cycles) in most of Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Downward converters that change 220–240 volts to 110–120 volts are difficult to find in the U.S., so bring one with you.

146 EMBASSIES & CONSULATES All embassies are located in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Some consulates are located in major U.S. cities, and most nations have a mission to the United Nations in New York City. If your country isn't listed below, call for directory information in Washington, D.C. (☎ 202/555-1212) or check www.embassy.org/embassies.

The embassy of **Australia** is at 1601 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (☎ 202/797-3000; www.usa.embassy.gov.au).

The embassy of **Canada** is at 501 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 (☎ 202/682-1740; www.canadianembassy.org). Other Canadian consulates are in Buffalo (New York), Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle.

The embassy of **Ireland** is at 2234 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (☎ 202/462-3939; www.irelandemb.org). Irish consulates are in Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and other cities. See website for complete listing.

The embassy of **New Zealand** is at 37 Observatory Circle NW, Washington, DC 20008 (☎ 202/328-4800; www.nzembassy.com). New Zealand consulates are in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The embassy of the **United Kingdom** is at 3100 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (☎ 202/588-7800; www.britainusa.com). Other British consulates are in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

EMERGENCIES Call ☎ 911 for fire, police, and ambulance.

EYEGLOSS REPAIR Check out Binyon's, 803 SW Morrison St. (☎ 503/226-6688; www.binyons.com).

GASOLINE (PETROL) At press time, in the Portland area, the cost of gasoline (also known as gas, but never petrol), was hovering around \$2.75 per gallon. Taxes are already included in the printed price. One U.S. gallon equals 3.8 liters or .85 imperial gallons. Fill-up locations are known as gas or service stations.

HOLIDAYS Banks, government offices, post offices, and many stores, restaurants, and museums are closed on the following legal national holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day), the third Monday in January (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), the third Monday in February (Presidents' Day), the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4 (Independence Day), the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans Day/Armistice Day), the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), and December 25 (Christmas). The Tuesday after the first Monday in November is Election Day, a federal government holiday in presidential-election years (held every 4 years, and next in 2012).

HOSPITALS Three conveniently located area hospitals are **Legacy** 147 **Good Samaritan**, 1015 NW 22nd Ave. (☎ 503/413-7711; www.legacyhealth.org); **Providence Portland Medical Center**, 4805 NE Glisan St. (☎ 503/215-1111; www.providence.org); and the **Oregon Health & Sciences University Hospital**, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd. (☎ 503/494-8311; www.ohsu.edu), which is just southwest of the city center and has a walk-in clinic.

INSURANCE For information on traveler's insurance, trip cancellation insurance, and medical insurance while traveling please visit www.frommers.com/planning.

MAIL At press time, domestic postage rates were 28¢ for a postcard and 44¢ for a letter. For international mail, a first-class letter of up to 1 ounce costs 98¢ (75¢ to Canada and 79¢ to Mexico); a first-class postcard costs the same as a letter. For more information go to www.usps.com.

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES Portland's morning daily newspaper is *The Oregonian*. For arts and entertainment information, consult the "A&E" section of the Friday *Oregonian* or pick up a free copy of *Willamette Week* at bookstores, convenience stores, cafes, and sidewalk newspaper boxes. *Portland Monthly* is a lifestyle magazine that offers good coverage of what's hot in Portland.

PASSPORTS See www.frommers.com/planning for information on how to obtain a passport. See "Embassies & Consulates," above, for whom to contact if you lose yours while traveling in the U.S. For other information, please contact the following agencies:

For Residents of Australia Contact the **Australian Passport Information Service** at ☎ 131-232, or visit the government website at www.passports.gov.au.

For Residents of Canada Contact the central **Passport Office**, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G3 (☎ 800/567-6868; www.ppt.gc.ca).

For Residents of Ireland Contact the **Passport Office**, Setanta Centre, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 (☎ 01/671-1633; www.irlgov.ie/iveagh).

For Residents of New Zealand Contact the **Passports Office** at ☎ 0800/225-050 in New Zealand or 04/474-8100, or log on to www.passports.govt.nz.

For Residents of the United Kingdom Visit your nearest passport office, major post office, or travel agency or contact the **United Kingdom Passport Service** at ☎ 0870/521-0410 or search its website at www.ukpa.gov.uk.

For Residents of the United States To find your regional passport office, either check the U.S. State Department website (www.state.gov) or call the **National Passport Information Center** toll-free number ((☎ 877/487-2778) for automated information.

PHARMACIES Convenient to most downtown hotels, **Central Drug**, 538 SW Fourth Ave. ((☎ 503/226-2222; www.centraldrugportland.com), is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

PHOTOGRAPHIC NEEDS **Camera World**, 400 SW Sixth Ave. ((☎ 503/205-5900; <http://cameraworld.com>), is the largest camera and video store in the city.

POLICE To reach the police, dial ☎ 911.

POST OFFICES The most convenient downtown post office is University Station, 1505 SW Sixth Ave. ((☎ 800/ASK-USPS [275-8777] or 503/274-1362; www.usps.com), open Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm, Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

SMOKING Smoking indoors in public places is prohibited in Oregon.

TAXES Portland is a shopper's paradise—there's no sales tax. However, there is a 12.5% tax on hotel rooms within the city and a 12.5% tax on car rentals (plus an additional airport-use fee if you pick up your rental car at the airport; this additional fee is anywhere from around 10% to around 16%). Outside the city, the room tax varies.

TAXIS See section 2, "Getting Around," in chapter 3.

TIME The continental United States is divided into **four time zones**: Eastern Standard Time (EST), Central Standard Time (CST), Mountain Standard Time (MST), and Pacific Standard Time (PST). Alaska and Hawaii have their own zones. For example, when it's 9am in Los Angeles (PST), it's 7am in Honolulu (HST), 10am in Denver (MST), 11am in Chicago (CST), noon in New York City (EST), 5pm in London (GMT), and 2am the next day in Sydney. Portland is on Pacific Standard Time (PST), making it 3 hours behind the East Coast.

Daylight saving time is in effect from 1am on the second Sunday in March to 1am on the first Sunday in November, except in Arizona, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Daylight saving time moves the clock 1 hour ahead of standard time.

TIPPING Tips are a very important part of certain workers' income, and gratuities are the standard way of showing appreciation for services provided. (Tipping is certainly not compulsory if the service is poor!) In hotels, tip **bellhops** at least \$1 per bag (\$2–\$3 if you have a lot of luggage) and tip the **chamber staff** \$1 to \$2 per day (more if you've left a disaster area for him or her to clean up). Tip the **doorman** or **concierge** only if he or she has provided you with some

specific service (for example, calling a cab for you or obtaining difficult-to-get theater tickets). Tip the **valet-parking attendant** \$1 every time you get your car.

In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip **service staff** 15% to 20% of the check, tip **bartenders** 10% to 15%, tip **checkroom attendants** \$1 per garment, and tip **valet-parking attendants** \$1 per vehicle.

As for other service personnel, tip **cabdrivers** 15% of the fare; tip **skycaps** at airports at least \$1 per bag (\$2–\$3 if you have a lot of luggage); and tip **hairstylists** and **barbers** 15% to 20%.

TOILETS You won't find public toilets or "restrooms" on the streets in most U.S. cities but they can be found in hotel lobbies, bars, restaurants, museums, department stores, railway and bus stations, and service stations. A public restroom is located underneath Starbucks coffee shop in Pioneer Courthouse Square. Large hotels and fast-food restaurants are often the best bet for clean facilities.

VISAS For information about U.S. visas go to <http://travel.state.gov> and click on "Visas." Or go to one of the following websites:

Australian citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information from the **U.S. Embassy Canberra**, Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600 (☎ 02/6214-5600) or by checking the U.S. Diplomatic Mission's website at <http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/consular>.

British subjects can obtain up-to-date visa information by calling the **U.S. Embassy Visa Information Line** (☎ 0891/200-290) or by visiting the "Visas to the U.S." section of the American Embassy London's website at www.usembassy.org.uk.

Irish citizens can obtain up-to-date visa information through the **Embassy of the USA Dublin**, 42 Elgin Rd., Dublin 4, Ireland (☎ 353/1-668-8777; or by checking the "Visas to the U.S." section of the website at <http://dublin.usembassy.gov>.

Citizens of **New Zealand** can obtain up-to-date visa information by contacting the **U.S. Embassy New Zealand**, 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington (☎ 644/462-6000), or get the information directly from the website at <http://wellington.usembassy.gov>.

2 AIRLINE, HOTEL & CAR RENTAL WEBSITES

MAJOR AIRLINES

Air Canada
www.aircanada.com

Alaska Airlines/ Horizon Air
www.alaskaair.com

150 American Airlines

www.aa.com

Continental Airlines

www.continental.com

Delta Air Lines

www.delta.com

Hawaiian Airlines

www.hawaiianair.com

United Airlines

www.united.com

US Airways

www.usairways.com

BUDGET AIRLINES

Frontier Airlines

www.frontierairlines.com

JetBlue Airways

www.jetblue.com

Southwest Airlines

www.southwest.com

MAJOR HOTEL & MOTEL CHAINS

Best Western International

www.bestwestern.com

Clarion Hotels

www.choicehotels.com

Comfort Inns

www.ComfortInn.com

Courtyard by Marriott

www.marriott.com/courtyard

Crowne Plaza Hotels

www.ichotelsgroup.com/crowneplaza

Days Inn

www.daysinn.com

Doubletree Hotels

www.doubletree.com

Econo Lodges

www.choicehotels.com

Embassy Suites

www.embassysuites.com

Farfield Inn by Marriott

www.farfieldinn.com

Hampton Inn

www.hamptoninn1.hilton.com

Hilton Hotels

www.hilton.com

Holiday Inn

www.holidayinn.com

Hyatt

www.hyatt.com

La Quinta Inns and Suites

www.lq.com

Marriott

www.marriott.com

Motel 6

www.motel6.com

Quality

www.QualityInn.ChoiceHotels.com

Radisson Hotels & Resorts

www.radisson.com

Ramada Worldwide

www.ramada.com

Red Lion Hotels

www.redlion.rdln.com

www.marriott.com/residenceinn

Rodeway Inns

www.RodewayInn.com

Sheraton Hotels & Resorts

www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton

Super 8 Motels
www.super8.com

Travelodge
www.travelodge.com

Vagabond Inns
www.vagabondinn.com

Westin Hotels & Resorts
www.starwoodhotels.com/westin

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts
www.wyndham.com

CAR RENTAL AGENCIES

Alamo
www.alamo.com

Avis
www.avis.com

Budget
www.budget.com

Dollar
www.dollar.com

Enterprise
www.enterprise.com

Hertz
www.hertz.com

National
www.nationalcar.com

Thrifty
www.thrifty.com

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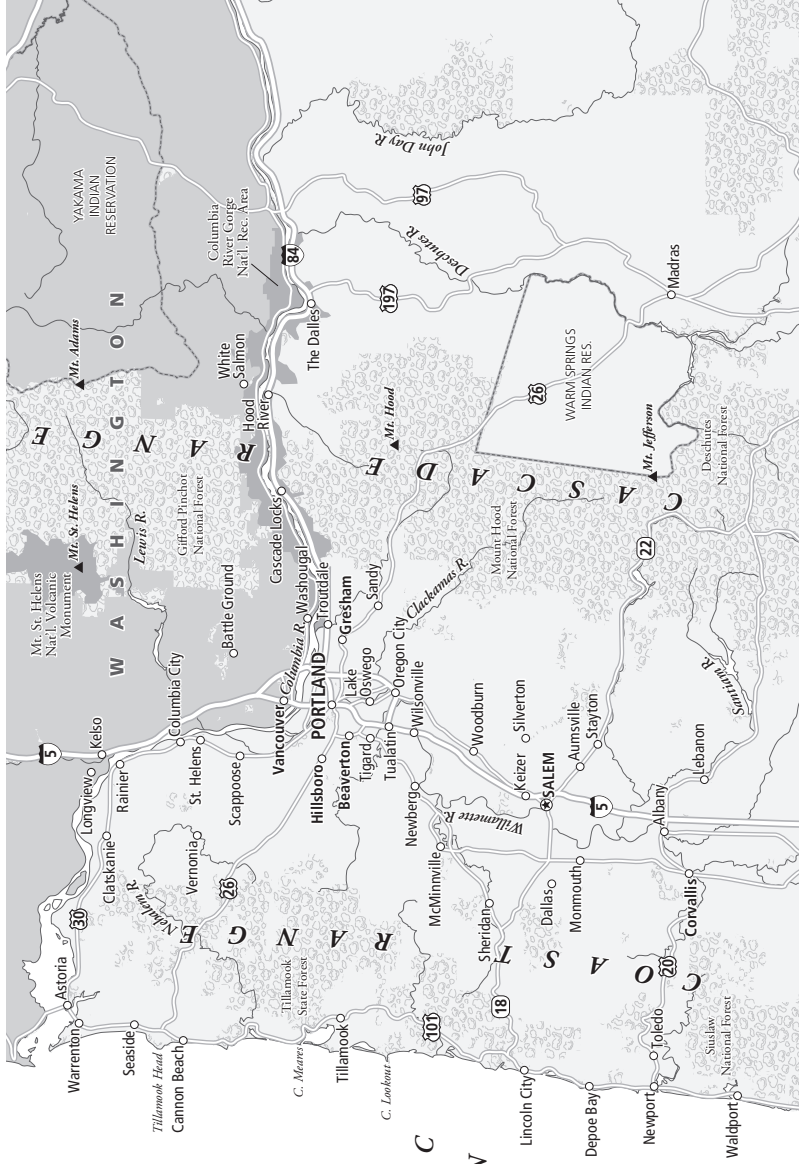
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