

Portland Insider's Guide

Produced by applied linguists @ Portland State University

NOTE: There are numerous more comprehensive guides available.

The suggestions here are our go-to picks for everyday living in Portland.

Attendees should double check any of the listed attractions online.

Activities in Portland	Food, Drink, and PDX Neighborhoods
<p>Outdoor activities Walk or run along the Willamette river: Run along the west side esplanade, cross east on any of the many bridges, then run along the Eastside Esplanade until you want to cross a bridge back to the west side (where the hotel is located).</p> <p>A possible run or walking loop: Hawthorne Bridge, Eastside Esplanade, Steel Bridge, Westside Esplanade back toward the conference venue.</p> <p>Rent a bike! There are orange bike-share "Biketown" stations all over town where you can rent an e-bike. One nice loop is from downtown along the riverfront and then over Tilikum crossing, down Springwater Corridor, over the Sellwood Bridge, and back up the trail on the other side of the river.</p> <p>Parks Hike or run around the linked Forest Park "America's premier urban forest" (15 bus to NW Thurman St and NW 29th Ave stop) and Washington Park, offering many miles of trails. The Rose Garden and Pittock Mansion are a couple of nice stops/destinations that are within a few miles of the conference venue. Washington Park also contains the Portland Children's Museum and the Oregon Zoo. (These last two are easily accessible by MAX train.)</p>	<p>Tea and Coffee Enjoy tea at some of Portland's numerous tea shops, including Smith Teamaker started by the founder of Stash and Tazo teas (two locations: 1) 110 SE Washington St; 2) 500 NW 23rd Ave), Behind the Museum Cafe (SW 10th and Jefferson) specializing in Japanese tea, or in the Lan Su Chinese Garden (239 NW Everett St). Order the Spanish coffee at Huber's, Portland's oldest restaurant (411 SW 3rd Ave) with a cool old "clubby" bar and good food. Also check out Stumptown Coffee and Barista, both at multiple locations and known as coffee lover's pilgrimage sites.</p> <p>Food carts (groups of which are called "cart pods"): *In PDX, cart food tends to be inexpensive and high quality. -PDX has 500+ carts clustered and scattered throughout the city -- check this link for locations -PSU Pod, very near the conference venue @ Southwest 4th Avenue between College and Hall streets. -Alder Food Cart Pod, @ Alder street between SW 9th and 10th. Walkable from the conference hotel. -Hawthorne Asylum Food Carts, 3713 SE Hawthorne BLVD; 21 food carts, beer & wine available, very festive -Cartopia, 1207 SE Hawthorne Blvd (great late-night eating!).</p> <p>Close(ish) Restaurants Get lunch or dinner at one of the excellent eateries at Pine Street Market, walkable from the conference venue. This is a big warehouse ringed by eateries with open seating. -Higgins Restaurant and Bar/Bistro: A classic tasty close place to eat, with a restaurant (\$\$) and adjoining Bistro (\$). -Zags Restaurant & Patio: Good, plus a great outdoor space (1408 SW 6th) -Little Bird Bistro (215 SW 6TH AVE) is amazing and is owned by the same James Beard award winning chef who operates -</p>

Mt. Tabor Park: Visit a dormant volcano! [take the 4 or 15 bus from downtown]

Enjoy the calm at the [Lan Su Chinese Garden](#) (walkable from conference or take MAX) or the [Japanese Garden](#) (MAX/bus into Washington Park).

Check out the [Farmers' Market](#) on Saturday at PSU @ SW Park and SW Montgomery. It's a manageable walk from the conference hotel and would be a nice lunch spot on the first day of the conference. Walk the Park Blocks, view the many mature elm trees.

Look for arts, crafts, and music at the [Saturday Market](#), under the Burnside Bridge (2 SW Naito Pkwy). Open daylight hours on weekends.

Ride the [Aerial Tram](#) for big views of Portland and the four visible mountains (weather depending) -- located in the South Waterfront neighborhood.

Indoor activities

Visit [Powell's Books](#) (SW 10th and Burnside), the largest new and used bookstore in the world -- a true cultural hub in Portland and easily accessible via the Street Car (walkable too).

[Portland Art Museum](#): 1219 SW Park Ave, showing a Rodin exhibit and some of Mark Rothko's work, with a permanent Rothko Pavilion under construction. Near the Portland State University campus.

Films and Theatres

See a movie at the **Baghdad** or **Hollywood Theater**. The Hollywood Theater sometimes has silent films with a live organist. The **Clinton Street Theater** (10 or 4 bus) and NW Film Center

[Le Pigeon](#) (across the river in the inner SE). Reservations suggested.

Pubs & Beer (a favorite activity in Portland!)

*Almost all pubs serve reasonable-to-excellent food, and many pubs/tap rooms allow outside food (but check first!).

-Wayfinder: 304 SE 2nd, in inner SE Portland. A recent addition to the Portland gastro pub scene with a fantastic outdoor beer garden.

-Baerlic Brewing: SE 11th Ave, Streetcar or 4 bus. Delicious Ranch Pizza available on site!

-Lucky Lab: A PDX classic in a warehouse space. Find this brew pub @ 915 SE Hawthorne. Take 4, 10, or 14 bus.

-Apex: SE 12th and Division, a true beer enthusiast's tap room with more than 50 taps. Beer only and cash only! No kids, dogs OK. Food can be brought in from nearby carts.

-Occidental Brewing, 6635 N Baltimore Ave, in the St John's neighborhood, Portland. German-themed beer made from Oregon hops and barley. Tap room with wursthaus restaurant across the courtyard.

-Prost! 4237 N Mississippi Ave in North Portland. Only 'bier' imported from Germany, a true novelty in Portland! Surrounded by food carts and outside food can be brought in.

-Ex Novo Brewing: 2326 N. Flint Ave, in North Portland. A non-profit brewery that donates profits to charity. Try the Elliot IPA!

-Breakside Brewery, a NE Portland landmark known as one of the pubs most popular with other brewers. Amazing IPAs, @ 820 NE Dekum.

-Griksen: SE 10th Ave, Streetcar or 4 bus

-Ground Breaker: SE 7th Ave., Streetcar or 4 bus (this one features **gluten free beer!**)

-Pips and Bounce for ping pong with beer/food (833 SE Belmont St, Portland, OR 97214).

Exploration: Fun parts of town

-For something close to the conference venue, check out the [The Park Blocks](#) (SW Park Avenue) and [Portland Art Museum](#) (1219 SW Park Ave). The Park Blocks and Portland Art Museum are located near [Portland State University](#) and form a lovely area to stroll.

-Alberta Arts District on Alberta Street in NE Portland, specifically between 14th and 28th. Lots of cart pods, restaurants, cafes, pubs and brew pubs, and bars.

(Downtown) show non mainstream films. Many Portland movie theatres provide food and beer/wine menus.

[Kennedy School](#) -- pub, restaurant, bar, and movie theatre, all in a refurbished elementary school (complete with a “detention room” for smokers!), located in NE Portland @ 5736 NE 33rd Ave.

The **nickel arcades** (like one of the [Wunderland](#) locations) or a barcade (like [Ground Kontrol](#)).

[Oregon Museum of Science and Industry](#) (OMSI) is just across the river from the conference hotel and is a good science museum with great exhibits for kids and adults. They’ll be hosting a special exhibit “The Art of the Brick” about art (really) made with Legos.

[Float On](#): Over stimulated at the conference? Check out an isolation tank!

Further information on Portland events and activities

-[Portland Events Calendar](#)

-[Portland-centric apps for your phone](#)

For current events, see also:

-[Portland Mercury](#) ‘News, Entertainment, Trouble’ (Portland’s irreverent weekly paper)

-[Willamette Week](#): Portland’s weekly paper

-**Hawthorne BLVD** between 12th and 50th in SE Portland. From the cart pod at Hawthorne & 12th (“cartopia”, with delicious [Lardo](#) across the street), walk east along Hawthorne to revel in street life, pubs, and 2nd hand stores.

-**Eats on Hawthorn in SE Portland**: The line is long at **Por que no**, but it moves quickly and is worth the wait. If you want local ice cream, **Ruby Jewel**, just a couple doors down, is super and you won’t have lines and hype like **Salt and Straw** on Division. Excellent happy hours at **Sapphire Hotel** and **Cafe Castagna**. **Common Grounds** and **Alberta Press** are wonderful local spots, especially for the Starbucks weary. **Fat Straw** is the bubble tea destination of choice for neighborhood residents; it has a mellow atmosphere and serves other teas as well as bahn mi.

-**Division Street in SE Portland**: [Bollywood Theatre](#), serving Indian street food at its hybridized best, is a convenient restaurant for larger groups of people without reservation. Check out **Petite Provence** for awesome pastries and bread; delicious, very rich food. **Maru** serves Japanese pub food; great prices during happy hour.

-Northwest Portland & the Pearl District

-Walk the streets of the **Pearl** -- lots and lots of **art galleries** and urban hipster atmosphere. Nearby, you can also get into already mentioned **Forest Park and Washington Park** -- with many miles of hiking and running trails (take 15 bus to NW Thurman St and NW29th Ave stop).

-**NW 21st and 23rd Avenues** for food and shopping that is within an easy walking distance and is serviced by the Street Car. Lots of places to eat and drink, plus you can check out the [The Peculiarium](#)!

-[Mississippi Avenue](#) and [North Williams](#) in North Portland: Lots of food, drink, and music venues to check out.

-Far North Portland (with a car)

Kelley Point Park provides a view of industrial Portland and the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Further west, **Sauvie Island**, a farming area ‘in’ the city, provides very good birding and a bucolic gentleness. Note: There is no city/village center (only farmland). Bus #16.