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TAKE MONDAY OFF

## How to Spend a Perfect Long Weekend in Portland

Oregon's determinedly quirky city makes for a boredom-free three-day escape—especially on two wheels. Here, a guide on where to stay, eat, caffeinate and bike all over the city



1 of 26

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By Lucy Feldman

April 27, 2017 10:38 a.m. ET

**BEFORE PORTLAND, ORE.,** established itself as a hipster utopia and beleaguered punch line—a land of vegan tattoos, fastidious food-truck chefs and all things crafty and pickled—visitors were already taken with its abundant natural attributes. The Willamette River divides the city, forest trails wind throughout it, and Mount Hood and the coast each sit just over an hour's drive away. A cleverly planned long weekend in Portland will tap both aspects: sampling urban obsessiveness and the abundant verdure of the Pacific Northwest.

On the city's east side is the stuff of "Portlandia"—a cluster of crafting collectives (Welding Basics, anyone?) and shops selling everything from Feminine Divine Tea to taxidermied antelopes. On the tonier west side, you'll find discerning boutiques, stately watering holes, lush gardens and forested parks. Don't miss the riverfront and its 12 bridges, many of which are pedestrian-friendly. In fact, much of the city ministers to pedestrians and cyclists, thanks to extensive public transit and bike lanes, and an enduring small-town ethos. Stand at a crosswalk and just try to wave a car past—you've initiated a standoff of politeness. Here's our recommended three-day itinerary.

### DAY ONE // FRIDAY

**5 p.m.** Land at Portland International Airport and make note of its oddly high-profile teal carpet (know of any other airport rugs with a fervent Instagram following?) before



PHOTO: DAN MATUNINA

hopping on the Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) train. It's a 40-minute ride into the city to the cheap-and-cheerful **Society Hotel**, housed in a recently reclaimed 1880s lodging house (*from \$135 a night for a private room, [thesocietyhotel.com](http://thesocietyhotel.com)*). For more luxurious digs, ride the MAX 10 minutes farther to **Sentinel Hotel**, an elegant mash-up of two historic buildings (*from \$185 a night, [sentinelhotel.com](http://sentinelhotel.com)*).



The Sentinel Hotel. PHOTO: DAVE LAURIDSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

*Ave., [teotepdx.com](http://teotepdx.com)*).

**7 p.m.** Dinner time. The Portland Streetcar loops around the busiest areas of the city on both sides of the river. Hop on a blue line train (pay the \$2 fare with cash or pay through the PDX Streetcar Mobile app), grab a window seat and ride across the water to SE Grand Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard. An 8-minute walk east brings you to **Teote Areperia**, where a La Cena Carne platter loaded with spicy, saucy Latin-American shredded meats, beans, fried plantains and hot buttered arepas awaits. Dig in on the patio near the fire pit (*1615 SE 12th*

**9 p.m.** All that feasting calls for a little healthy movement. Walk 10 minutes to **Pips & Bounce**, a ping-pong social club. Rent a table for 30 minutes for \$15, and have yourself a volley while sipping a “Pong-tail” or an Oregon beer on tap. Friday night is Cosmic Pong—expect black lights (*833 SE Belmont St., [pipsandbounce.com](http://pipsandbounce.com)*).

## DAY TWO // SATURDAY

**8:30 a.m.** Start your Saturday with a jolt to-go, practically de rigueur in this caffeine-addicted city, from **Case Study Coffee Roasters** (*802 SW 10th Ave., [casestudycoffee.com](http://casestudycoffee.com)*), then wander south through downtown for about 15 minutes to the **Portland Farmers' Market** at Portland State University, a year-round destination with



over 140 vendors at the height of the summer season ([portlandfarmersmarket.org/our-markets](http://portlandfarmersmarket.org/our-markets)).

**9:15 a.m.** You may have noticed searing-orange bicycles racked around the city. Nike's **Biketown bike share** program allows you to rent one for \$2.50 per 30-minute ride, or \$12 for the day ([biketownpdx.com](http://biketownpdx.com)). Pick up your ride outside the Smith Memorial Student Union (between SW Mill St. and SW Harrison St.). Ride over Tilikum Crossing—the newest of Portland's bridges, accessible only to pedestrians, cyclists and mass-transit vehicles—to Clinton Street on the east side.

**10:15 a.m.** Since you'll be biking around for the balance of the day, carbo-load at **Off the Waffle**. Try the signature Liege waffle, crisply caramelized on the outside ([2601 SE Clinton St., offthewaffle.com](http://2601 SE Clinton St., offthewaffle.com)).



Tidbit Food Farm PHOTO: DAVE LAURIDSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**11:15 a.m.** Five minutes on your bike brings you to the east side's Division Street, a strip of cult coffee shops, boutiques and a slew of popular dining spots, including **Tidbit Food Farm**, a cluster of food trucks in a charmingly scruffy garden ([SE 28th Place and Division St.](http://SE 28th Place and Division St.)). Lock up your bike at one of the public racks (locks provided; press "hold" so

no one else takes it). Grab another coffee—or at least snap an Instagram—at **Stumptown Coffee's** first location, a landmark in Portland's coffee culture ([4525 SE Division St., stumptowncoffee.com](http://4525 SE Division St., stumptowncoffee.com)), then scope out stationery shop **Little Otsu**, catnip for paper hoarders ([3225 SE Division St., littleotsu.com](http://3225 SE Division St., littleotsu.com)) and nearby art gallery **Nationale** ([3360 SE Division St., nationale.us](http://3360 SE Division St., nationale.us)).

**1 p.m.** Once you hit 38th Avenue, cycle north about 10 blocks to Hawthorne Boulevard, one of the original meccas for the plaid-shirted and wool-beanie-topped natives. **Jackpot Records** carries a vast collection of rock, jazz, hip hop and soul vinyl ([3574 SE Hawthorne Blvd., jackpotrecords.com](http://3574 SE Hawthorne Blvd., jackpotrecords.com)), while quirky little **Perfume House** stocks nearly as many fragrances ([3328 SE Hawthorne Blvd., theperfumehouse.com](http://3328 SE Hawthorne Blvd., theperfumehouse.com)). Finally, check out **Tender Loving Empire**, both a record label and a retail shop with locally made jewelry and beauty products ([3541 SE Hawthorne Blvd., tenderlovingempire.com](http://3541 SE Hawthorne Blvd., tenderlovingempire.com)).

**2 p.m.** For lunch, head to **Fried Egg I'm in Love**, a rock 'n' roll-themed egg-sandwich food truck, featuring local farm eggs and sourdough bread from Portland French Bakery. Order the Yolko Ono—homemade pesto, parmesan and a sausage patty all sandwiched around an expertly fried egg—and take a seat at one of the picnic benches ([3207 SE Hawthorne Blvd., friedegglove.com](http://3207 SE Hawthorne Blvd., friedegglove.com)).

**3 p.m.** Follow that cheesy sandwich with a stop at nearby **Commons Brewery**, which offers 13 beers on tap; typically all but one are made on-site. Sip your way through a flight, with a view of the brewers at work ([630 SE Belmont St., commonsbrewery.com](http://630 SE Belmont St., commonsbrewery.com)).

**4:30 p.m.** Hop on the bike for a five-minute ride to Stark Street, where you'll find the "vegan mini mall," featuring vegan cafe **Sweatpea Baking Co.** ([1205 SE Stark St.](http://1205 SE Stark St.);

*sweetpeabaking.com*), vegan grocery store **Food Fight!** (1217 SE Stark St.; *foodfightgrocery.com*), vegan boutique **Herbivore Clothing Co.** (1211 SE Stark St.; *www.herbivoreclothing.com*) and vegan tattoo parlor **Scapegoat Tattoo**. If you're wondering what makes a tattoo vegan: Scapegoat's inks, unlike standard ones, contain no bone char or other animal products (1223 SE Stark St., *scapegoattattoo.com*).

**5 p.m.** Feeling inspired by all this local industry? Around the corner is the “maker space” Art Design Portland, aka **ADX**, a multiroom jungle of equipment, including tablesaws, torches, a laser cutter, jewelry tools and a screen-printing press. Your mission: Build and wire a one-of-a-kind Edison-bulb lamp with the help of an instructor—or dream up a project of your own. Schedule private classes in advance 417 SE 11th Ave., *adxportland.com*).

**8 p.m.** Dinner is only a 12-minute ride away, at Pine Street Market in Old Town, on the west side, where the vendors include some of the city's most crowded-about chefs. Ditch today's bike on the rack at SW 2nd Avenue and head inside. Try **Marukin Ramen**, one of the famed Japanese chain's hot bowls, or **Pollo Bravo** for rotisserie chicken and tapas. For dessert, scoop up a dipped cone or ice cream sundae from **Wiz Bang Bar**, a soft-serve spot from popular ice-cream maker Salt & Straw (126 SW 2nd Ave., *pinestreetpdx.com*).

**10 p.m.** End the night with a drink at the century-old **Jake's Famous Crawfish**, a short stroll away. Pull up a bar stool, order a nightcap and ask the bartender about the bullet holes in the wall (401 SW 12th Ave., *mccormickandschmicks.com*).

## DAY THREE // SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.** Hop on the streetcar's green line and ride it up to Marshall Street and NW 23rd Avenue, the main shopping drag in the Alphabet District. Your breakfast stop is **Blue Star Donuts**, which uses seasonal local ingredients (921 NW 23rd Ave.; *bluestardonuts.com*). A doughnut needs a friend, so head one block to **Barista** for a cup of coffee (823 NW 23rd Ave., *baristapdx.com*).

**11 a.m.** When you're ready to move on, grab a new bike at the Biketown rack on 23rd Avenue and NW Kearney Street (or, if your legs need a break, order an Uber or Lyft) and head over to **Washington Park**. The 410-acre green space features multiple gardens, an arboretum and the Portland Zoo (*explorewashingtonpark.org*). Start at the **Portland Japanese Garden**, which recently underwent a \$33.5 million expansion featuring a new cultural village designed by renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma (611 SW Kingston Ave., *japanesegarden.com*).

**12:45 p.m.** Just below the Japanese Garden is the **International Rose Test Garden**. Sniff around the rows of over 10,000 rose plants (and 650 varieties), and pause on a bench to take in the city views (400 SW Kingston Ave.).

**1:30 p.m.** A quick downhill ride drops you at **Verde Cocina en la Perla** for lunch. Return the bike at NW Flanders Street and NW 14th Avenue, a block away, before sitting down for a Mexican brunch featuring generous portions of local vegetables, handmade corn tortillas and farm-fresh eggs. Whatever you're getting, add the bacon—or, as they call it, “smoked candy” (524 NW 14th Ave., *verdecocinamarket.com*).

**3 p.m.** Stroll around the Pearl District, a former warehouse zone turned stylish retail destination, and pop into **Hunt & Gather**, an art and home goods store (1302 NW Hoyt St.; *huntgather.com*) and **MadeHere PDX**, which features only locally made items, from leather bags to cooking skillets (40 NW 10th Ave., *madeherepdx.com*).



ON THE OREGON TRAIL Bike-share riders pass by Powell's, one of the country's largest bookstores. PHOTO: DAVE LAURIDSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**4:30 p.m.** Make your way to **Powell's**, an iconic bookstore that occupies an entire city block. Duck into the rare book room; at least one title dates back to 1480 (*1005 W Burnside St., powells.com*).

**6 p.m.** Just up the street is the **People's Bike Library of Portland**, a public art piece featuring a pole stacked with children's bicycles (*corner of SW 13th Ave. and W. Burnside Ave.*). The tower is dedicated to Portland's bike culture and specifically the Zoobombers, a cycling group. Every Sunday, the Zoobombers unlock the mini bikes from their pedestal, hop on the MAX train to the top of Washington Park, then speed down through the hills after dark. If you're feeling adventurous, skip the rest of the day's plan and hang around to join up at around 8:30 p.m.



The whole roasted thornyhead fish at Headwaters restaurant at the historic Heathman hotel. PHOTO: DAVE LAURIDSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**7 p.m.** For dinner, head several blocks south for a seafood feast at **Headwaters**. James Beard Award winner Vitaly Paley's fourth and newest restaurant in the city, it's

embedded in the historic Heathman Hotel. Start with something fresh from the sea bar, like diver scallops served with foie gras, or smoked fish with herring schmear (recipe courtesy of Mr. Paley's grandmother). Follow with halibut en papillote or grilled octopus (1001 SW Broadway, [headwaterspdx.com](http://headwaterspdx.com)).

**9:30 p.m.** A lazy 10-minute stroll will bring you to another of Portland's oldest restaurants, established in 1879: **Huber's Cafe**. Order a "Spanish Coffee," which comes with a fiery show—the bartender will fling and light your rum, triple sec, kahlua and coffee cocktail aflame and top it with cream and a dash of nutmeg before sliding it your way (411 SW 3rd Ave., [hubers.com](http://hubers.com)).

## DAY FOUR // MONDAY



SOAK IT ALL IN Knot Springs spa, with its various hot and cold pools, overlooks the Willamette River. PHOTO: DAVE LAURIDSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**9 a.m.** After two nonstop days, you've earned a little R&R. Report to the new **Knot Springs** spa first thing in the morning for a Thai massage. Plan to spend time before or after the massage in the pools, where floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the river and the city skyline (book a week in advance; 33 NW 3rd Ave., [knotsprings.com](http://knotsprings.com)).

**12:30 p.m.** Next up: **Steven Smith Teamaker's tasting room**. Curate your own tasting flight from a list of over 30 varieties made on-site, such as Astoria's Amaro, a combo of cascara, honeybush and other botanicals, or order a tea on tap, served chilled and slightly carbonated (110 SE Washington St., [smithtea.com](http://smithtea.com)).

**1:15 p.m.** Just across the street, settle in for a cozy lunch at **Olympia Provisions**. Surround yourself with boards piled high with charcuterie and cheese, served with house-made pickles and other trimmings (107 SE Washington St., [olympiaprovisions.com](http://olympiaprovisions.com)).

**2:30 p.m.** At the cavernous **Grand Marketplace**, an eight-minute walk away, drift among the vintage wares and wears, from typewriters to faux furs (1005 SE Grand Ave., [grandmarketplacepdx.com](http://grandmarketplacepdx.com)).

**3:30 p.m.** Pick up a new bike at SE 6th Avenue and SE Alder Street for a scenic riverside ride to Mississippi Avenue along the tree-lined esplanade. Don't miss **Paxton Gate**, a taxidermy specialty shop artfully crammed with curios, from shark eyeballs to hanging heads galore (4204 N. Mississippi Ave., [paxtongate.com](http://paxtongate.com)).

**4:30 p.m.** Before heading to the airport, grab a final beer and a burger at **Ecliptic Brewing**—maybe the farro burger with pickled carrots, since you're unlikely to find one back home (825 North Cook St., [eclipticbrewing.com](http://eclipticbrewing.com)).





Tony Tellin leads the tea-making process at Steven Smith Teamaker. PHOTO: DAVE LAURIDSEN FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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