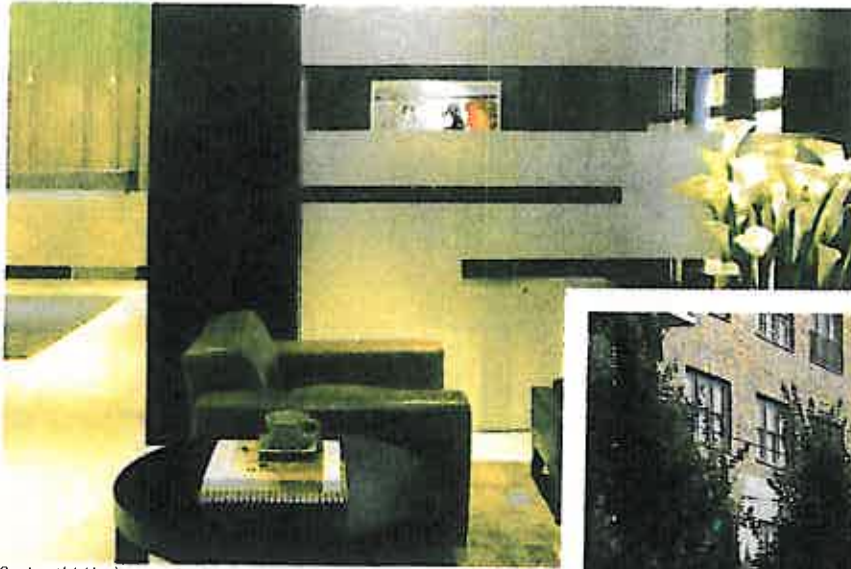


PORTLAND

THE JEWEL OF THE NORTHWEST



Courtesy Hotel Lucia



Courtesy Travel Portland

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Portland is a city of contradictions and well-kept secrets.

It offers most of the scenic, cultural and recreational amenities of the other big cities in the Pacific Northwest—Seattle and Vancouver—but at a fraction of the cost.

It's a city largely made up of people from someplace else, folks from all walks of life who've come for the area's thriving economy and myriad things to do, and who sing the praises of their city without falling into the trap of provincial snobbery.

Though Portlanders march to the beat of their own drummer—there's a six-month wait for tattoos here—they are largely welcoming, laidback and only too eager to share with visitors all that their city and region has to offer.

Many Portlanders are hard-pressed to name a specific GLBT neighborhood in the city. Overall, it's extremely gay-friendly—they're about to have a gay mayor, in fact—and, as such, gay and lesbian businesses haven't been confined to one part of town. All GLBT travelers, whether into shopping, dining, culture or sports, can find plenty to do in the City of Roses.

Everything's gone green

a "green" lifestyle is not just routine lip service from government or business interests. Rather, it's the culmination of decades-long planning and development that ensures the city makes the most of its natural resources.

Twenty-five percent of Portlanders bike to work, for example, and municipal authorities are committed to keeping urban sprawl in check. Numerous restaurants are green, described by locals by the type of food they serve and whether they're "sustainable" or not. There's even a local chain of sustainable fast-food restaurants, Burgerville (burgerville.com), which uses only locally grown ingredients—seasonal favorites include Walla Walla onion rings in the summer and hazelnut chocolate shakes in the winter.

Getting around

You won't need a car if you're staying in Portland—the city's TriMet transit system (trimet.org) covers most neighborhoods.

Downtown is accessible from the airport via the MAX light rail service, and the excellent streetcar system connects northwest Portland, Portland City Center and the South Waterfront District. If you're riding between areas within the "fareless square" the rides are free. Stations are every 2-3 blocks

hoods of interest to GLBT visitors are the Downtown Cultural District, the Pearl District and Nob Hill.

The Downtown Cultural District takes its name from the museums, theaters and other performance venues that are found in the pedestrian-friendly area. Here you'll find the Portland Art Museum (portlandartmuseum.org), 1219 S.W. Park Ave., well known for its centers for Native American and Northwest art, along with the Portland Center for the Performing Arts (pcpa.com).

Downtown is home to quite a few boutique hotels, a good choice being Hotel Lucia (hotellucia.com), 400 SW Broadway St. Photographs by Pulitzer prize-winning photographer David Hume Kennerly adorn the tastefully appointed interiors. Room amenities include flat-panel TV, iPod docking station, robes and service that pretty much promises "anything you want." Besides a menu for room service, there's a menu for different types of pillows and different types of spiritual tomes if the Gideon's Bible doesn't jibe with your religion.

Adjacent to downtown Portland, the Pearl District (explorethepearl.com) is a con-

entire city block, with a selection of about one-million titles.

Nob Hill (nobhillbiz.com), upscale like its namesake in San Francisco, includes restored Victorian homes and high-end stores and restaurants. A walk along 21st Street, Portland's "Restaurant Row," takes you past dozens of Portland's poshest restaurants, among them Paley's Place (paleysplace.net), 1204 NW 21st St.

Great accommodations near Nob Hill can be found at the Northrup Station (northrupstation.com), 2025 NW Northrup. Referencing both mid-century modern Google architecture and 1970s and 1980s nostalgia, it offers rooms that come complete with European plan kitchens and flat-panel televisions, among other amenities. The colorful breakfast room features large containers that are always filled with Starburst Fruit Chews and Tootsie Pops.

Other neighborhoods of interest include the Hawthorne District and Northeast Portland.

Tax-free shopping

Oregon, with no sales tax, makes for a terrific shopping