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meet Sumadra, the newest addition to the zoo. Born on Aug. 23, 2008, Sumadra is a young, Asian elephant, growing larger every day. In 1962, another Oregon Zoo elephant, Packy, became the first elephant born in the Western Hemisphere in 44 years. With 27 elephants born at the zoo since then, the program has remained one of the most prominent in the world. Zoo hours are 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sep 16–Apr 14), 9 a.m.–6 p.m. (Apr 15–Sep 15), admission \$7–\$10, 4001 SW Canyon Rd., (503) 226-1561, www.oregonzoo.org.

A **river cruise** aboard the vessels of the Portland Spirit lets you take in the splendor along one of the two rivers that run through Portland, the Willamette or Columbia. You can enjoy the sight of Portland's stunning skyline silhouetted against a fiery sunset from the comfort of the dining room or on the ships' decks. You can also cruise along the Columbia on the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler that departs from Cascade Locks. Live entertainment and narration of the sights accompany every cruise. Lunch, dinner, and brunch cruises are available with menus of freshly prepared Northwest cuisine. Menus vary daily, but examples include an open-faced Dungeness Crab melt and Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Pasta Shells with Tomato-Basil Cream Sauce. If you'd simply like to take in the sights without dining, there are also sightseeing cruises, and a fast-paced version aboard the Outrageous Jet Boat. Dining cruises last about two hours, \$38–\$68. Jet Boat Tours range from two hours to all day, \$28–\$94, (503) 224-3900 or (800) 224-3901, www.portlandspirit.com.

They say that laughter adds years to your life, so laugh it up at Harvey's Comedy Club, Portland's **all-comedy nightclub**. Comedians featured on Showtime and HBO, as well as rising stars, promise to leave your sides aching and your eyes watering. While you watch the show, you can dine on traditional diner-type fare including hamburgers, sandwiches, and mozzarella sticks. Tickets are \$15, showtimes Wed & Thu 8 p.m., Fri 7:30 & 10 p.m., Sat 5, 7:30 & 10 p.m., Sun 7 p.m., 436 NW 6th Ave., (503) 241-0338, www.harveyscomedyclub.com.

What visit to the Northwest would be complete without the perfect souvenir to commemorate it? **Shopping** is abundant at the stylish Pioneer Place Mall in the heart of downtown. This mall spans four city blocks and rises four levels high. At each level, stop and look over the railing where you will see a gently lit fountain and seating area. It is an upscale shopping experience with stores such as Louis Vuitton, Swarovski, and, Coach. And the best part: there's no sales tax! The mall is open Mon–Fri 9:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat 9:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m., 700 SW 5th Ave., (503) 228-5800, www.pioneerplace.com. You'll also find unique boutiques and one-of-a-kind shops on NW 23rd St.

Celebrated for the last 102 years, the **Rose Festival** is a two-week celebration of



Clockwise from above: Light aircraft usually land on Rwy 28R; The Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler cruises along the Columbia River; Portland has great public transportation; The thunderous roar of the mighty Multnomah Falls is a sheer spectacle.

the history and beauty of Portland. It kicks off with the Starlight Parade in downtown, and Waterfront Park is transformed into Waterfront Village. With rides, games, food, and music, it is the festival's single largest event. There is also Fleet Week where Navy and Coast Guard ships storm the Waterfront and are open for public tours. The events culminate with the Grand Floral Parade which runs from the Memorial Coliseum to downtown. Each of the floats is comprised of myriad flowers weaving intricately detailed designs. In 2009, the Rose Festival is May 28–Jun 14, (503) 227-2681, www.rosefestival.org.

Where to Stay

As Oregon's biggest city, Portland has a wide range of accommodations, from the modern to the charming. Downtown, there are a multitude of unique hotels with luxurious amenities. Near Multnomah Falls, the places to stay are few, but boast unforgettable charm.

At the **Hotel Lucia**, you can curl up on the modernily-decorated plush pillow-top beds and let your worries melt away. In the lobby, a circular black table sits in the middle of the room with a bowl of green apples in its center. Continue your gaze beyond the table to the sitting area—a carefully coordinated array of black and white puffy sofas and armchairs. Large black-and-white photographs adorn the walls in a pattern that easily moves the eye from one photo to another. The hotel's modern elegance is apparent from top to bottom, and the clean lines, sleek furniture, and one-of-a-kind comfort make it a place to visit time and again. The photographs in the corridor, lobby, and on room walls are by Pulitzer Prize winner David Hume Kennerly who was the personal photographer of President Gerald Ford, and was present during the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Each room is equipped with iPod docking stations, Torrefazione coffee, Tazo teas, and flat-screen TVs. Rooms reflect modern style and feature Queen Deluxe or Premium King

beds with high thread-count duvet covering the pillow-top mattresses, rooms \$127–\$700, 400 SW Broadway, (503) 225-1717 or (866) 986-8086, www.hotellucia.com.

The Columbia River Gorge has a tendency to cast a spell over those who visit with its stunning vistas and scenery. So, visit the **Bridal Veil Lodge Bed and Breakfast**, four miles west of Multnomah Falls and the only nearby place to stay. Since 1927, the lodge has been a popular place for travelers, and while the amenities have of course followed the transition to the 21st century, the style and charm of the early 1900s remain. Surrounded by trees, the Cottage room is light and airy. Large skylights let in plenty of natural light, and a cozy seating area next to the picture windows creates the setting for complete seclusion. Medium-colored wood paneling adorns the walls, and the white and pink accents create a rustic feel without overdoing it. In the morning, awake to a hearty homemade breakfast crafted with premium Northwest ingredients. The lodge is directly across from its namesake, the Bridal Veil Falls. Not as large as Multnomah, but still plenty powerful, it warrants a look, and there are some good hiking trails. Rooms run \$125 per night with breakfast, Historic Columbia River Hwy, Bridal Veil, (503) 695-2333, www.bridalveilodge.com.

Named one of Travel & Leisure's "Top 500 Hotels in the World," the **Hotel Monaco** is sure to please. Inspired by the Anglo-Chinois, it combines a palette of colors like pine green and Persian Blue with rich accents. The artful swirled designs on the curtains and furniture also add a whimsical and Persian twist to this modernily stylish abode. The private collection adorning the walls of each floor showcases the work of local artists. Each of the 221 rooms come with a 32-inch plasma TV, evening turn-down service, 24-hour room service, and plush animal-print bathrobes. In the heart of downtown, it is also close to Pioneer Place Mall and the Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Rooms