

Everything you need to know about
MOVING TO

PDX





Portland
Oregon

OLD TOWN

RAMPAK SIGNS

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1 IS PORTLAND RIGHT FOR YOU

In this guide we hope to give you an idea of what it is like to live in the great city of Portlandia, and to help you feel at home here before you even arrive.

Portlandlandia: Land of the Weird

In case you haven't heard, Portland is a little different than most cities. In fact, it prides itself on being different and this has attracted people from all over the world seeking something different, something unique, and something, well, weird.



In this guide we hope to give you an idea of what it is like to live in the great city of Portlandia and to help you feel at home here before you even arrive.

But first, you need to determine if Portland is right for you. This guide will do its best to help you determine this, but we highly recommend coming to visit on your own. Come see the neighborhoods, talk to the locals, try the food, the beer, the coffee, visit Powell's, and experience the weirdness firsthand. You really have to see it to understand it.

General Background

Portland is the largest city in Oregon and the third largest in the Pacific Northwest. With over half a million people (as of the 2010 U.S. Census), Portland ranks the 28th most populous city in the country. There are about 2.3



million people in the metropolitan area alone, which pushes the city up to the 19th most populous metropolitan area in the U.S.

Despite being a “large” city, Portland maintains a very small-town feel. Locals maintain a strong sense of community as well as a shared passion for their city. One of the first things you’ll notice while visiting is the laid-back, friendly, go-at-your-own-pace vibe in everything from the drivers to people walking down the street. Seeing someone rush down a sidewalk or hearing a car honk their horn is a very, very rare sight.

The city is also known as one of the greenest cities in the world for its strategic land planning, transit systems and culture. Portland is a place where it is cool to talk recycling, grow your own food and spend lots of time outside. Lending to the literal greenness, Portland has 236,000 trees lining streets and approximately 1.2 million park trees according to the Urban Forestry department. Portlanders like to spend as much time as possible outside, whether biking, hiking, dining or attending many of the outdoor festivals and fairs.



The temperate climate also enables Portlanders to be outside all year long. One of the widest misconceptions of Portland is that it rains all the time. However, between June and September Portland receives on average of 4.5" of rain, a small fraction of the 36" of annual rain on average.

Even during the wet season, mid-fall through mid-spring, temperatures remain on average around 40 degrees. Portland typically receives little to no snow, despite how far north the city is. If you do not enjoy shoveling snow and can tolerate overcast winters, Portland may be the place for you!

Culture & Lifestyle

Portland's art scene is alive and well. With plenty of classical venues such as the Oregon Ballet Theater, Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera and many other theaters for plays and acting, the city offers more than the Hipster scene it is known for. For those who would like to participate, Portland is not only the "karaoke capital of the world," but "one of the most exciting music scenes in America" according to the New York Times.

Portland is known for its artisan and local foods, microbrews and a rising distilling scene. Nestled in the Willamette valley atop rich volcanic soil, combined with wet winters and sunny summers creates some of the best produce. Portland has an obsession with organic high quality food, which creates a foodie's paradise that truly cannot be beat. In 2010, the Washington Post called Portland "one of the best places in the country to

dine". Portland also offers one of the best selections for vegetarian and vegan dining options. In other words, you're going to have a hard time finding a city with better food anywhere in the world (at least we think so).

Portland's beer scene remains second to none, as it is the #1 place in the country for craft beer and has more breweries than any other city in the world. According to its 2013 listing, CNN ranks Portland as the #1 best beer town in the U.S.

Portland is also the self-proclaimed America's Bicycle Capital, with approximately 6% (as of 2012 USA Today) of the population biking to work (10 times the national average and highest in the country). This is in part to the green lifestyle embraced by the population as well as the city's efforts to make cycling an integral part of everyday life.

[View additional resources](#)

2 FINDING A JOB

This section is most relevant for people looking for a job after deciding Portland is right for them. If you already have a job waiting for you, you can go ahead and skip this section.

PDX

PRICKLY ASH

★ Chinese Street Food ★

The 'Mo PORTLAND-STYLE CHINESE ROUJIAO FLATBREAD SANDWICH ★

- 1 PORK BELLY MO \$6
Slow-cooked pork belly, scallions, bean sprouts, and cilantro
- 2 RED OIL CHICKEN MO \$6
Chicken breast, scallions, and garlic ginger braised Chinese greens and pickled vegetables (carrots, cabbages, and daikon)
- 3 CRISPY MUSHROOM MO \$6
Crispy mushrooms, garlic ginger braised Chinese greens, and hoisin sauce
- 4 CHINESE "PO-BOY" MO \$6
Hoisin-glazed, crispy fried chicken, scallions, cabbages, and scallion sauce, topped with pickled cilantro

SPECIAL ADD CHIPS, PEANUTS, OR PICKLES + A DRINK \$2
SIDE SALAD + A DRINK \$3 DRINKS \$1.50

Sides

- SZECHUAN CHIPS \$2
Hand-cut french fries, scallions, and hoisin sauce
- SZECHUAN PICKLES \$1.50
Hand-cut pickles and scallions, topped with scallion oil
- VINEGAR PEANUTS \$1.50
Hand-cut peanuts, scallions, and hoisin sauce
- NAPPA SALAD \$2
Nappa cabbage, scallions, and hoisin sauce
- SESAME NOODLE \$3
Cold sesame sauce with shredded napa cabbage, scallions, and hoisin sauce
- CHINESE GREENS \$2
Hoisin-glazed, fresh greens, and scallions

What is Prickly Ash?
Zhouhou's (pronounced 'Zhou Hou') Prickly Ash is a Portland, Oregon, street food stand that serves up delicious, authentic Chinese street food. Prickly Ash is the only Portland-based Chinese street food stand that has been featured in the local media.

PRICKLY ASH
Portland's Best Street Food

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Portland's Economy

Portland offers many competitive advantages that make it a great place for companies and startups. Relatively low energy costs, international airport, intercontinental railways and large marine shipping facilities all offer incentives for businesses to locate here. As a result of Portland's competitive advantages and quality of life, many firms have headquartered here such as Adidas, Daimler Trucks, Vestas Wind Systems, Kindercare, Keen, Hi-tec Sports, Nike, Columbia, Conway and Intel.

Like many cities, Portland is experiencing technology and startup growth. The city has more than 1,200 technology companies (according to City-data), with the largest one being the semiconductor firm Intel, employing more than 15,000 people in the Portland area. This has earned the city yet another

nickname, Silicon Forest. Like the rest of the country, however, the city was hit hard by the recession. The unemployment rate is tied with the national average at just above 7%.

Portland's economy is currently shifting from manufacturing oriented towards the service sector. Many startups, micro-breweries, bike shops, advertising and media firms and apparel companies have all been successful, leading beards, tattoos, and plaid to become the new suit-and-tie.

Local businesses are truly thriving in Portland. With a culture that favors the small mom-and-pop coffeeshop over the big chain restaurants, locals are quick to support small business and become loyal customers. There is huge opportunity for local companies that make a good product and treat their customer well, as seen in the number of food trucks that have grown into full restaurants.

Below you can find links to job search engines to find the right job for you in Portland. If school is your goal to realign your career path, Portland is also home to many universities and colleges.

[View additional resources](#)

3 SELECTING THE RIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD

The best part of Portland is that there are 90+ neighborhoods and associations registered with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Each and every one of them is different and it is just as important to find the right neighborhood as it is to find the right apartment, condo or house.

The North

North Portland is located north of the Columbia river and west of Interstate 5, and is sometimes called NoPo. This area is mixed between residential, commercial, industrial and large warehouses for the Port of Portland. NoPo remains slightly isolated from the rest of Portland, something to keep in mind depending on if you have a car. This area also remains relatively affordable due to the slight rundown feel in some areas and remoteness. This neighborhood does offer the feel of a small town while being a quick drive from Downtown.

Neighborhood Highlights:

- Affordable housing
- Close to Downtown
- Small town feel

The Northeast

Northeast Portland is the large area north of Burnside and east of the Willamette river. This area is split with some parts embracing nature with tree-lined historic neighborhoods and other parts representing working-class neighborhoods and industrial parks due to the proximity to the airport. Arenas and the Convention Center can be found in this district, along with many popular shopping centers and plentiful transit options.

Neighborhood Highlights:

- Close to the airport
- Shopping, business and entertainment
- Public Transportation

The Northwest

The Northwest is the area in between Burnside, the Willamette and the Columbia rivers. This area includes Downtown, Old-town Chinatown, the Pearl and the Alphabet District. This area is densely populated from residences to retail and features high rises, old Victorian and craftsman homes and warehouses within walking distance to everything. Bordering part of the Northwest is Forest Park, the largest forested natural area within city limits in the United States.

Neighborhood Highlights:

- Walker-friendly
- Parks and trails
- Diverse housing options

The Southeast

The Southeast section is the area south of Burnside and east of the Willamette river. This area is full of cafés, vintage stores and many great restaurants. This section encompasses the warehouse district along the water through historic Ladd's addition to Hawthorne and Belmont. In this neighborhood you can also find Mt. Tabor, an old dormant volcano, that offers plenty of trails and great views of the city. If you enjoy small unique stores, micro-pubs, bookstores and distillery row (the SE is home to many of Portland's distilleries), this may be a great place for you.

Neighborhood Highlights:

- Hipster-friendly
- Vintage feel
- Unique stores and restaurants
- Trails and hikes

The Southwest

The Southwest district is the area south of Burnside and west of the Willamette river. Portland State University (PSU), the largest university in Oregon, can be found here. The University, right in the heart of Downtown, has a beautiful campus surrounded by greenery and museums. Interstate 405 divides the Southwest into two sections, the historic Downtown section and the modern section featuring high rises along the Southwest waterfront.

Neighborhood Highlights:

- Portland State University
- Beautiful waterfront
- Nature meets modern

The Suburbs

If city living is not for you, but you are still interested in being near all the quiriness that Portland has to offer, there are many suburbs that carry Portland's charm and are easy to get into.

Vancouver, Washington lies just over the Columbia river to the north. The city offers affordable housing, easy transit system into Portland and no income tax. The state of Washington does have a high sales tax (especially on alcohol), which may be something to consider.

Hillsboro and Beaverton are suburbs farther from Portland than Vancouver, but the public transportation makes it much easier to get into town. The Red and Blue Max lines, as well as several buses run to and from these areas. These suburbs also host many of Portland's largest companies, such as Nike and Columbia.

Clackamas and Troutdale are the eastward suburbs still offering proximity to Portland through the TriMet public transportation system and offer slightly more affordable housing.

Neighborhood Highlights:

- Affordable Housing
- No Income tax (in some areas)
- Public Transportation

[View additional resources](#)

4 FINDING THE RIGHT APARTMENT

Portland offers an array of apartment rentals, from high rises to apartments converted from older homes. Each apartment community has its own distinctive personality, so there is certainly something for everyone.

Things to Consider

Finding the right apartment in Portland is no different than finding an apartment in any other city. During your apartment search, consider some of these factors:

- Do you want a new(er) or vintage apartment?
- Do you want to be within walking distance to restaurants, bars, etc.?
- Do you want/need access to public transportation?
- Are you moving with a pet?

From moving across the country to moving down the street, finding a new home can be stressful. It is important to determine the factors that are absolutely essential to your new apartment (i.e. pet friendly and close to public transportation) and the factors that you are willing to settle on (no Washer/Dryer in the apartment unit).

Portland offers an array of apartment rentals, from high rises to apartments converted from older homes. Each apartment community has its own distinctive personality, so there is certainly something for everyone.

Part 1: Search

There are several available resources to begin your apartment search, including apartments.com, Craigslist, and Zillow. These resources allow you to filter your search, so you can view apartments that meet your exact specifications (budget, pet friendly, number of bedrooms, etc.).

Create a spreadsheet or document that will help you keep track of the places you like. Zillow offers a “heart” button, which saves that apartment to your favorites. If using Craigslist or another option, copy and paste the post link so you can access it again later.

Part 2: Contact

Once you have a list of apartment options, you will want to contact each one by either phone or email to find out their availability and their pricing information. Apartments do not always update their information on a regular basis, so it is very important to contact the community directly for the most up-to-date and accurate information.

After speaking to the apartment representative, record this information on your spreadsheet or document. After you have browsed tens or hundreds of apartments, the information can run together or become overwhelming. It is very important to make notes on each one that you can review later.

Part 3: Visit

Visiting Portland to choose your new home in person is the best option. Apartment websites can be confusing and the photos do not always reflect the actual state of the complex and/or unit. Once you have narrowed down your apartment search to your top choices (~5 apartments), make appointments with each to tour the community. Bring a camera to take pictures and a notebook to take notes.

After each tour, write down your favorite thing about the apartment and your least favorite thing. For example, you may love the open floor plan of the unit, but do not like that the apartment community does not have its own gym.

Once you have toured all of the apartments on your list, rank them from favorite to least favorite. Compare your top two by looking at the pictures again and considering your must-haves and your negotiables. If there is time, visit your top two again to not only explore the apartment, but to explore the surrounding neighborhood and community. If possible, ask current tenants their thoughts on the apartment community.

You may be wondering, **What if I cannot visit in person?**

You may not be able to view an apartment in person because you do not live in the area or time constraints do not allow you to make appointments with every complex you are interested in. Some moves must happen very quickly (especially job related moves), so you may not have the opportunity for months of researching and/or multiple visits.

Suggestion 1:

Use a service specifically designed to help individuals who are moving to Portland who are not from the area and/or need help finding an apartment. If you do not have the time to research hundreds of apartments or you want more pictures of a community you are interested in or you want to know what kind of neighborhood a specific apartment is in, we are here to help!

Contact us here to receive FREE personalized assistance on finding an apartment in Portland!

[Contact Us for Free Help](#)

Suggestion 2:

If you have family or friends in the Portland area, ask if they can look at a few places on your behalf. Request that they take pictures and make notes of what they like and do not like. Family and friends are trusted individuals who will not let you choose a place crawling in roaches or in a bad neighborhood.

Suggestion 3:

Form good relationships with the apartment representatives. If you live out of town, call the community and explain your circumstances. More than likely, the representatives will help in the transition process. Ask if they can email you additional pictures on top of what is available on their website. They may have video tours available for those not able to come in person as well.

Part 4: Decision

Once you have decided on your perfect apartment, you will be required to sign a lease agreement. Like any contract, take time to read over the expectations of the apartment community and what you can/cannot do.

Don't be afraid to negotiate! If apartment parking is \$100 a spot, ask if they will take \$75. Parking, pet rent, and security deposits are good areas of negotiation.

5

MOVING YOUR STUFF TO PORTLAND

Getting your belongings from point A to point incredible (aka Portland) can be quite the adventure, especially if you're moving from far away. Let us help you decide how to do it.

Should you use a U-Haul or a moving company or your mom's van? There is no shortage of options and plenty of pros and cons to each, which can make this a difficult decision for most people.

To make this part easier on you, we have given you a list of each option for the most common moving situations. Scroll to the one the best describes you and read our advice, then check out the additional resources for more help on choosing a specific company.

I live within a day's drive of Portland

Mom's Mini-van

We highly recommend recruiting friend's and family to help transport your things. This may not be the most convenient for them, but it will certainly be the cheapest option for you.



BEST OPTION

Local Moving Company

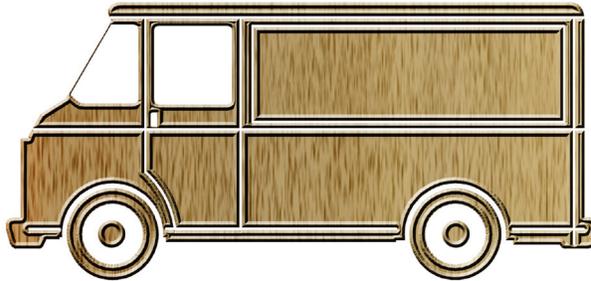
Nothing will help you start fitting in to Portland than supporting local business. Hire a local company (there are some really cool ones) to help with your move.

U-Haul (Or similar service)

Renting a trailer will be your best bet if your car is capable of pulling it. Aim to get a smaller one and take several trips if you are on a budget.

I live within **a couple days drive** of Portland

BEST OPTION



U-Haul (Or similar service)

Renting a trailer will be your best bet if your car is capable of pulling it. U-Haul also has some options for shippable “pods” to simplify things.

Moving company

Best for moving houses, when you have a lot of stuff to bring. These will be the most expensive, but you will get help moving things in and out of your home. Make sure you check out our resources on how to pick a moving company.

I live **really dang far away** (Chicago or Florida, for Example)

BEST OPTION

Moving Company

This will be your best bet. Research on our resource page some companies and be sure to call and get a quote. Look for companies that don't contract their driving to smaller, less well-run businesses.



U-Haul (Or similar service)

If shipping your stuff is too expensive, go for a U-Haul. You'll have to drive it yourself and need to be experienced in driving a larger vehicle, but you'll have peace of mind knowing where your stuff is. That said, be careful of overnight stops along the way. U-Hauls can be targets of theft.

[View additional resources](#)

6

SETTING IN IN YOUR NEW CITY

Take time to get to know your new city. Visit movetopdx.com for even more ideas of what to do once you've made it to Portland.



You're Finally Here

Now the fun begins! Once you get into Portland and start getting settled, you can go out and explore the city and all it has to offer. You're finally here! Just some minor details: finding doctors, the vet, new schools, drivers licenses, your new favorite beer/bar/café and what to do this weekend! For suggestions on what to do and how to make the most of your new home, check out our blog available on the site (insert link). For everything else, please see the resources on our website.



We hope you enjoy Portland as much as we do. We would love to hear about your experience moving, any help you could have used, tips you could provide to those moving or just general thoughts. If you have not moved yet, we will see you soon.



Remember, you can contact us here for **FREE**

[View additional resources](#)