

PORTLAND FROM  
PUBS TO POK POK  
AND PECULIARITIES

PHOTO: PORTLAND OREGON VISITORS ASSOCIATION

### POK POK

By 6 p.m. Andy Ricker's Thai food joint – in 2005 it was a tiny take-out shack – is packed. So leave your cell number and wait for a table at his Whiskey Soda Lounge across the street. Ricker sources foods you've likely never tried before and guaranteed to blow your mind (and your sinus). Start with the finger-licking fish sauce wings and ask your server to choose a drinking vinegar – ingredients are a guessing game.

[pokpokpdx.com](http://pokpokpdx.com)

### PRE-OWNED

The city boasts so many (about 50) vintage shops there's even vintage guides and tours. With an entire rack of Pendleton (Oregon based since 1863) wool duds, both ladies and gents love shopping at Animal Traffic. Portlanders covet the checked shirts. And if you're lucky, you might find a few iconic Pendleton blankets – albeit a little threadbare.

[animaltraffic.com](http://animaltraffic.com)

### PECULIARITIES

Peculiarium is a mix of museum, art gallery, ice cream parlour and guaranteed laughs. Zombies are a huge draw. And there's Paxton Gate, where "Martha Stewart meets David Lynch." This bizarre shop sells oddities inspired by the natural world, from taxidermy road kill to carnivorous plants.

[peculiarium.com](http://peculiarium.com), [paxtongatepdx.com](http://paxtongatepdx.com)

### PERFUMER

Why pay through the nose for perfume when you can get a custom made roll-on – sized to slip through airport security – for \$8? It helps to have an idea of what you like beforehand: The Essential Oil Company stocks more than 150 oils. I chose Portland Rain, with a drop of rose (Portland is also known as City of Roses).

[essentialoil.com](http://essentialoil.com)

### POWELL'S BOOKS

Maybe it's because Portlanders have plenty of time to read during 222 cloudy days per

year (150 of those raining), that the city holds the largest used-and-new bookstore in the world. A colour-coded map and/or an iPhone app can help navigate your way through this entire city block of nerdvana.

[powells.com](http://powells.com)

### PEARL DISTRICT

The Pearl is a shopping mecca. Warehouses converted to art galleries and interior design shops are downright dangerous, especially because there is no sales tax in Oregon. Take home unique food and wine items at World Foods.

### PUBS

Once named Beertown, USA, Portlanders are passionate about their beer. The city is home to almost 60 breweries and that doesn't even count bottle shops offering local and imported brews where you can BYOF, generally from a nearby food truck.

Side up to the bar at Deschutes Brewery and start with a tasting tray. Bridgeport Brewing

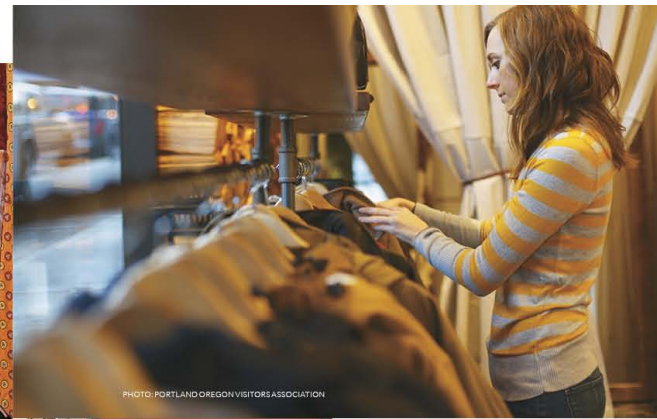


PHOTO: PORTLAND OREGON VISITORS ASSOCIATION



PHOTO: JANE MUNDY



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OPPOSITE PAGE: Ties and shoes displayed in one of more than 50 vintage shops in Portland.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Weird Portland at Peculiarities; the "Pig Out" sign at Lardo's; shopping in the city; a generous-sized sandwich at Lardo's; the Mercury wall at Powell's Books.



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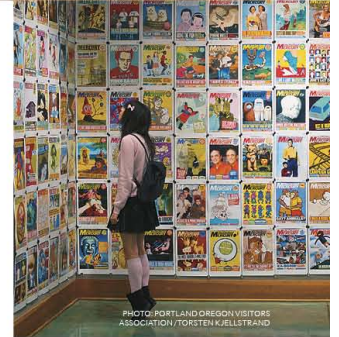


PHOTO: PORTLAND OREGON VISITORS ASSOCIATION/TORSTEN KJELLSTRAND

Company, Oregon's oldest craft brewery, serves up good pub-style nosh. And if you've brought the dog, Lucky Labrador Beer Hall has outdoor seating. Like the food here, beer packs lots of flavour. All hail Beervana!

### PINOT NOIR

Olympic Provisions Deli knows which Pinot Noir goes best with which pork product. Take a city wine tour with PDX Urban Wineries. Better yet, drive less than one hour to the source – Willamette Valley.

Tour Montinore Estate, where owner Rudy Marchesi's homemade pork salumi is hanging amongst 400 barrels of Pinot Noir. At Ponzi Vineyards enjoy a tasting and killer views from the family's stunning new building. Ponzi was one of the first Oregon wineries to produce estate-grown Pinot Noir.

The Willamette Valley is home to more than 200 wineries, so consider a sleepover. The McMenamans Grand Lodge was built in 1922 as a Masonic home and it is quirky!

[olympicprovisions.com](http://olympicprovisions.com), [montinore.coj](http://montinore.coj)  
[ponzwinewines.com](http://ponzwinewines.com)  
[mcmenamans.com/GrandLodge](http://mcmenamans.com/GrandLodge)

### PET-FRIENDLY HOTELS

The Ace Hotel attracts local hipsters and savvy travellers after the building – a former flophouse – got an industrial-chic makeover. Couches are cloaked in German Army surplus raingear. Bed down with army brown blankets. Pop into Stumptown Coffee Roasters next door and join the hotel lobby's communal coffee table. [acehotel.com/portland](http://acehotel.com/portland)

At The Hotel Vintage Plaza dogs get the royal treatment, as do humans with oversized Jacuzzi tubs in many spacious and quiet rooms. Join guests in the lobby for afternoon wine tastings of Oregon varietals.

[vintageplaza.com](http://vintageplaza.com)

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CHECK OUT [TRAVELPORTLAND.COM](http://TRAVELPORTLAND.COM)