

# Portland: Keeping it both Real, and Weird

Portland won me over from the start; This quirky, liberal, funky town has a pretty cool vibe. Within a few days, it jumped to the top of my list of favourite cities in the world.

My little bit weird and favourite thing to do: is that people looked you right in the eye and gave a genuine smile. And this my friends is the place to do it, people weren't glued to their mobiles, avoiding eye contact so much like the rest of the world – nope – straight in the eye look with a real smile... and that my friend, is priceless!

The city, for those that are unaware, is also the inspiration and muse of the much-loved quirky little bit weird show ['Portlandia'](#). If you've not seen it, be sure to check it out before you go.

Yes, the city is weird in the best of ways; its bike friendly, food cart crazy. Home of the alternative crowd – dare I say, critical thinkers... that are all growing their own food and beards (other than the ladies).

For a crafty creative like me, it's a huge Creative Mecca – one that must be visited and walked around at least once in this lifetime. It features some of the Best indie craft fairs, such as; [crafty wonderland](#), [renegade Craft Fair](#), [Picnic Music+Arts Festival](#), [Portland Fleaforall](#). All worth visiting, be sure to check the dates before you go.

## My Portland Recommendations:

## To Sleep:

I used **Airbnb**, and stayed in Val's [Buddha room](#) – If I could've I would've moved in stayed forever! A lush, green and safe neighbourhood, a short walk to top local eateries, shops and gardens.

## Where to Eat in Portland



[Brass Tacks](#), Most delicious Sandwiches I've ever eaten, ever! (This folks, is saying something – no not because I eat tones of sandwiches, but because I am an older than 29 ;-)). I had the vegan 'Meatball Wizard, and Salamigeddon'. Makes my mouth water just thinking about them!

[Sweeedeede](#) – this home cooked food rocked it! I loved the homely unpretentious vibe as much as the outstanding quality of their food...

[Salt & Straw](#); The Best Ice Cream; with flavours like Pear and Blue Cheese, Honey Lavender and Strawberry Honey Balsamic with Black pepper. As well as the standard classics. Don't wait for summer; these are worth checking out all year round.

[Que Sabosa](#), it the best Mexican food cart, I had the Burrito

that was filled with fresh roasted vegetables, and mind blowing handmade sauces – that you don't come across this side of the border – authenticity all the way. @ N Williams.

Others recommend [voodoo doughnuts](#). I didn't get any, I walked passed saw the line of people waiting, wondering if it was a pop concert. But no, it gets this busy – so I put it top of my list for my next visit. I didn't even wait in line at the Vatican, sorry dude's can't wait in line for doughnuts....

## Where to shop in Portlandia

[Crafty wonderland pop up shop](#): I recommend you visit Portland in June for the real event, which I missed. This pop-up soothed the pain. I was awestruck by the stunning and unique handcrafted items on display. There ain't no suitcase big enough to fit all I wanted to buy (no credit card limit high enough either).

[Collage craft supplies](#) If you craft, pondering the idea of crafting this is the supply store to go to. I spent hours and hours in there – it has everything and more.

[Contemporary museum of Craft](#): This has rotating exhibitions of fine quality handcrafted artisan good are. Let's say its many leagues above what I fathom to make.

– [Mississippi Ave](#): This is the street where you want to hang, shop and live nearby, it has the quaintest, to unique shops. There are too many to list in one post.

## What to visit/ do

[City parkland](#), huge, walk-worthy and a must visit. I wish I'd put more time aside for this, as you could take a picnic and get lost in there for a very long time.

[Powells Bookshop](#): filled to the brim with both the best

collection of new and used books. I never buy books when travelling, but made the exception as there were a few books that I knew I'd not find anywhere else. This alone would be worth living close to Portland for. Also check out their schedule they often have speakers, authors or evenings of banter.

[Made here PDX](#) for best artisan handcrafted goods for both men & women.

To finish off, to prove that Portland is weird, here are a few unknown yet interesting facts;

- It's illegal to walk across the street with your shoes untied.
- It's illegal to whistle underwater.
- It's against Portland law to modify the weather without obtaining a license first. Luckily this is not something I attempted to do while there ☐ Does make me wonder if anyone has this license?...

Despite what others say about the weirdness, I felt more at home in Portland than I have anywhere in a long time. I had some deep thought-provoking conversations with some incredible people, saw and bought some amazing handmade wares, was inspired by all the creative craftiness that I saw – and ate some of the best food of my life. This is my kind of city, for visiting or living and any time in Portland is time well spent.

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