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The Spontaneous Weekend > Portland

All you need is a long weekend and a last-minute plane ticket and you get: great food, indie chicks, microbrews, and a ballpark in the heart of the city. Here's the three-day plan for the Pacific Northwest's most dynamic town



Portland, Oregon, has it all figured out: Beers from native microbreweries dominate the taps. High-end restaurants and fast-food joints alike support local farmers. A non-corporatized DIY ethos prevails. And you can take it all in over a long weekend. Crash at the **Hotel Lucia** (hotellucia.com) or, starting this September, at the **Ace Hotel** (theacehotel.com) and follow this guide to the West Coast's most integrated metropolis.

Friday

→ Two decades ago, the neighborhood now called The Pearl was a sparsely populated warehouse district. Now it's a picture of eco-friendly urban renewal. Take a morning tour of the area with Portlander David Schargel (portlandwalkingtours.com). Grab lunch—duck confit Reuben, Hair of the Dog beer—at Park Kitchen (422 NW 9th, 503-223-7275) and dessert at Pearl Bakery (102 NW 9th, 503-827-0919). Walk it off en route to Tanner Springs Park, bordered by an undulating barrier made from reclaimed railroad tracks. For dinner, head to Michael and Naomi Heberoy's acclaimed clarklewis (1001 SE Water, 503-235-2294) and eat wood-fired Italian food in a converted garage. Before turning in, catch a set at the hard-rocking Portland institution Dante's (1 SW 3rd, 503-226-6630).

Saturday

→ Shop for picnic fare at the Portland Farmers Market. Grab Dave's Killer Bread, Fraga Farm cheese, and paté from Viande Meats & Sausage. Then explore Washington and Forest parks. The former is home to the International Rose Test Garden (400 SW Kingston, 503-823-3636), where you can stop to smell 8,000 rosebushes; the latter is the largest forested city park in the country. Return to civilization with a bottle of Portland Brewing Company's Benchmark Old Ale and a plate of briny oysters at Higgins (1239 SW Broadway, 503-222-9070) before heading to dinner at Wildwood (1221 NW 21st, 503-248-9663). The two restaurants represent the twin pillars of Portland-style haute cuisine. Cab it to the Doug Fir (830 E. Burnside, 503-231-9663) for great indie music and an introduction to perhaps the world's only example of Bauhaus/Lumberjack architecture.

Sunday

→ The single best walk-in eating experience in the city is Sunday brunch at Simpatica Dining Hall (828 SE Ash, 503-235-1600). Get the bacon cheeseburger, the chorizo, the biscuits and gravy; it's all from scratch. Afterward, check out a Triple-A game at the 20,000-seat PGE Park (1844 SW Morrison), where the Portland Beavers have played since 1906, or head to North Mississippi Avenue—Portland's next big thing. It's still pre-condo at this point, but the cool kids are already in place, as are a collection of fine independent businesses like the local clothing label Sameunderneath (503-223-3592), Bridge City Comics (503-282-5484), and Amnesia Brewing (503-281-7708). Close out your trip in their beer garden with a Copacetic IPA and savor that famous Portland buzz before jetting home. —HOWIE KAHN



1. The scene at clarklewis.
2. The Portland skyline, with Mount Hood looming large in the background.
3. Portlanders enjoy a streetside beer.
4. A sampling of Portland's abundant microbrews.
5. An indie chick rocks Dante's.
6. The Bauhaus/Lumberjack architecture of Doug Fir.



5 Point Plan for June | Snap Away



→ It used to be that if you wanted a big optical zoom, you needed a large, bulky camera—not exactly a gadget that screams “spontaneous weekend.” But with the Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ1, you can now get those faraway shots in a compact package—it's the world's lightest 10x optical-zoom camera. It also has a 2.5-inch LCD screen and optical image stabilization, so your pictures will be fuzz-free no matter how spontaneous you are. \$350, www.panasonic.com