

LOS ANGELES  
FLOWER DISTRICT

## FLORAL ATTRACTIONS

The best sightseeing might be bursting into bloom at the West's most alluring public gardens, flower farm stays, and festivals. *By Alex Schechter*

**YOU'VE PATIENTLY WAITED** out winter, and now that April's here, it's time to break out the compost, bury dahlia bulbs, admire French tulips, and scatter the earth with seeds. On the other hand, maybe it's also time to hit the road. More than ever, flower farmers are throwing open the gates for in-depth workshops, dinner parties, and sweet-scented sleepovers that will have you dreaming in color. The action starts as the first daffodils explode out of the dewy

greenery and lasts all the way through the chrysanthemums' end-of-summer coda. You can camp out in a rose-filled forest, get a primer on harvesting squash blossoms, or run your fingers through vast, fragrant fields of lavender. The best part as a visitor, of course, is that you're just passing through and get to leave the weeding to someone else. So take a beat, set aside those well-worn trowels and gardening gloves, and pack your bags—the world is in bloom.

KRISTINE CRAMER



LEARN

## Green thumb 101



In a mile-high valley near the St. Vrain River stands an expansive organic farm with a restored Airstream, alpacas, goats, llamas, and, yes, fields of cultivated blooms. Open to visitors, Betsy Burton and Mike Whipp's **Lyons Farmette** ([lyonsfarmette.com](http://lyonsfarmette.com)) near Boulder, Colorado, offers a spring curriculum that ranges from beekeeping to chicken raising to calligraphy. Or stop by on April 7 for a daylong workshop in the barn to learn how to grow eye-popping varieties. As the growing season comes to a close in the fall, look for a hands-on edible-flower cooking class to learn how to make (wait for it) lavender honey ice cream.

LEFT: THE OUTDOOR LIVING ROOM AT LYONS FARMETTE. ABOVE: LYONS FARMETTE'S BEEKEEPER.

SLEEP

## Flower beds and breakfasts

There are few things more bucolic than a farm stay: romantic old barns, lazy country roads, and good, rich earth underfoot. But what if you were surrounded by something more sweet-scented than vegetables and chicken coops? At **Rose Story Farm** (from \$1,429; [rosestoryfarm.com](http://rosestoryfarm.com)) in coastal Carpinteria, California, owner Danielle Hahn grows more than 200 cultivars of the property's namesake plant and rents out guest rooms in the meticulously refurbished 1890s country house. Once you've sniffed your way through row after row of sensory delight, relax in the cooling

lap pool or tinkle the ivories on the downstairs piano. In more of a mountain mood? In the high desert just outside Albuquerque, a private residence built in 1934 by John Gaw Meem—otherwise known as the father of Pueblo Revival architecture—lives on as **Los Poblanos Historic Inn & Organic Farm** (from \$205; [lospoblanos.com](http://lospoblanos.com)), where a working lavender farm complements rooms with kiva fireplaces, loaner bikes for scenic rides along the Rio Grande, and a restored dairy barn that houses a farm-to-table restaurant, bar, and small-batch bakery.



ROSE STORY FARM

## CAMP

## Fields of dreams

Two Hipcamp sites ([hipcamp.com](http://hipcamp.com)) along the Pacific coast let you pitch a tent right next to their gardens.



**ROSE CREEK RETREAT**  
*Rosburg, Washington*

**THE DIGS**

A cluster of three secluded campgrounds (\$33) at the mouth of the Columbia River.

**WHAT'S GROWING**

Thirty kinds of wild roses flourishing amid native trees and huckleberry bushes.

**FRINGE BENEFIT**

You might see eagles swooping overhead as the sun sets over the water.



**OZ FARM**  
*Manchester, California*

**THE DIGS**

A 1960s meditation retreat revamped as a rustic campsite (\$75) inside a redwood grove.

**WHAT'S GROWING**

An apple orchard full of delicate blossoms, and 15 varieties of cut flowers.

**FRINGE BENEFIT**

To sleep indoors, opt for one of the funky cabins (from \$125) scattered around the property.

## SEE

## Early-bird floral fix

The **Original Los Angeles Flower Market** ([originallaflowermarket.com](http://originallaflowermarket.com)) is one of the city's most underrated—and, at \$2 admission, cheapest—attractions. Combined, this and the market across the street make up the largest wholesale flower district in America, home to 100 vendors specializing in everything from orchids to bouquet-friendly greenery like leather-leaf fern. The market operates on a different schedule from much of the city, opening as early as 6 a.m. (on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays).

Time it right, and you can get in your day's eye candy.



**VANILLA ROSE TEA**  
**AT PORTLAND'S**  
**TEA BAR**



## ITINERARY

## Oregon's trail of petals

With its enduring love of all things handcrafted—including bouquets—Portland is an easy target for flower fans. Start in the heart of the city, then explore the fertile Willamette Valley just to the south, where wine and roses both flourish along winding country lanes.

**DAY 1**

**4 P.M.** PDX's three **Tea Bar** ([drinkteabar.com](http://drinkteabar.com)) outlets are more about leaves than blossoms. Famous for their vibrant matcha, they also sell lovely herbal infusions; pick up a package of their heavenly blend of chamomile and Egyptian rose petals.

**5 P.M.** Stop by **Cascade Brewing Barrel House** ([cascadebrewingbarrelhouse.com](http://cascadebrewingbarrelhouse.com)) in Central Eastside for a Rose City Sour brewed with rose petals, rose hips, and hibiscus tea.

**8 P.M.** Just 23 miles to the southeast in Newberg, the luxurious

**Allison Inn & Spa** (from \$420; [theallison.com](http://theallison.com)) feels pretty far away from the city with its private balconies flanked by meadow gardens and sloping hillside vineyards. Head downstairs to the spa for a 30-minute milk-bath treatment that incorporates soothing botanicals.

**DAY 2**

**11:30 A.M.** From March 23 through April 30, the 40-acre **Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm** (\$5; [woodenshoe.com](http://woodenshoe.com)) near Woodburn celebrates with a tulip festival, inviting families to picnic among Apricot Parrots, Snow Crystals, and Kingsbloods. Bring lunch.

**3 P.M.** Just northwest of Salem, on a ridge that looks toward the coastal range, the family-run **Bryn Mawr Vineyards** ([brynmawrvineyards.com](http://brynmawrvineyards.com)) is beloved for its vibrant Chardonnay and delicate, savory, and even floral Pinot Noir. After a tasting on the patio (\$15/person), take a stroll through the owners' private rose garden. 🌹