the unofficial guide to WDS PORTLAND

-tate newburgh for location180

I by no means would consider myself an expert on Portland, but I am a local who eats out a little too often :).

I love to wander around this city, try new places, and explore new neighborhoods. Lucky for you this conference is in my hood- so I know all (ok many) of its secrets.

I moved to Portland for an internship with every intention of leaving after 6 months... five years later, I'm still here and couldn't imagine myself living anywhere else, because I LOVE this city.

A few things I love:

The people here are seriously so nice. Yeah, we might keep to ourselves... but if you spark up a conversation with anyone they will chat and most likely even invite you to join them for coffee when you're done. I mean even the crazies always compliment you- if you need at ego boost make eye contact with one of them :)

Calling Portland a city is a stretch... it's more like a big town. It takes no longer then 20 mins to get anywhere. And the whole "big town" is broken into neighborhoods, each is like its own community with its own vibe. Because of this you really do get to know your neighbors, and the lady at the Thai restaurant down the street really will recognize you - not that I know that from experience or anything...

I don't know if it's because I moved here from a series of strip malls disguised as a town or what, but everything here seems so much more thoughtful. Let me explain. We aren't a town of chain restaurants or or big box stores... I'm pretty sure we don't have a Walmart in our city limits. People here are very interested in buying local, recycling and eating organic. I'm not saying we are all healthy or each saving the world by any means, it just adds up to make Portland unique.

Portland is an hour from the coast and an hour from the mountains - I love that. But even more than its proximity I love that it's SO green and pretty here, it really is a beautiful "big town".

So, let me be the first person to welcome you to Portland. Come hungry and very well rested, there's so much to see while you're here. Have fun!

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THE BASICS

Portland is broken into 4 quadrants, the East and West are divided by the Willamette River, and the North and South are divided by Burnside Street. From there the quadrants are broken down into Neighborhoods. For example WDS is downtown. Sounds simple enough, right?

As much as I love all of Portland, this guide will almost entirely focus on the west side of the river and places that are within walking distance of the conference: Downtown, Chinatown/Old Town, Pearl District, and Northwest/Nob Hill).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

While most places in this guide are walakable from the conference, it doesn't hurt to know a little bit public transportation just in case :)

There are three routes you can go: the MAX (our train/lightrail), the Streetcar, or the bus. Check out **this link** for schedules and maps of all three.

Note: If you're taking the Max in the morning to the conference, you want to get off at the 6th and Madison stop and walk 2 blocks south to Broadway (7th) and Main

There are also a bunch of cab companies. I tend to stick with Radio Cab 503-227-1212 or Broadway Cab 503-333-3333. At night it is pretty easy to just hail one if you don't feel like waiting.

GOOD EATS

Portland is quickly becoming known for good, fresh food at great prices. Consider us a budget foodie destination :).

We have a bit of a reputation for food carts… and lucky for you there are a few pods within walking distance from the conference (Alder Street, 5th and Stark, and Portland State University).

If you're a foodie, start following the **Food Carts on Twitter** now, and get the lowdown on everything going on.

Once you're here you can take a look at their website for all of the info on locations and offerings.

Check out **this link** to maps and all the info on Portland food carts or follow them

Note: A lot of these carts take cards, but you really should try to be nice and bring cash.

Note #2: If you need to have vegan or gluten free options Portland is pretty open to it. Just ask your server, often times there's a separate menu for you!

If you're having trouble with addresses, it's easiest to remember that anything north of Burnside is known as the "alphabet district". The streets go from B (actually A, on Ankeny) to somewhere close to Z. Burnside, Couch, Davis, Everett...you get the picture.

If you're looking for specific spot, keep this in mind.

Café Yumm: Healthy "fast food" famous for their Yumm sauce and bowls. Very Oregon. (vegan friendly)
Downtown at 3rd and Morrison

Chipotle: This one's for Chris :)
Downtown at 2nd and Yamhill

Flying Elephants Deli: a quick meal made fresh daily with local ingredients
812 SW Park

Gruner: Hearty German food, try the doughnuts! YUM. Also good happy hour cocktails.
527 SW 12th Ave

Henrys Tavern: Classic pub food with more beers on tap then anywhere else in Portland. In the original Henry Weinhard's brewery.
Pearl District at 12th and Burnside

Isabel: Fresh local food with a great indoor/outdoor atmosphere (vegan friendly)
Pearl District at 10th and Flanders

Kenny and Zukes: Portland's definitive Jewish Deli with hearty servings of "real" food. Check their menu, but they are particularly well known for their Corned Beef.
Downtown at 10th and Stark (close to the Ace Hotel)

Kinara: My neighborhood Thai restaurant... I may be biased, but it is great! (vegan friendly)
1126 SW 18th Street

Laughing Planet: this is a very "Oregon" burrito joint- casual, corky and vegan friendly
721 NW 9th Ave

Little Big Burger: The name kinda says it all, but if you're a french fry connoisseur don't miss their truffle fries.
Pearl District at 10th and Couch.

Little Bird Bistro: Locally sourced, rich comfort food (it's a little bit of a splurge)
Downtown at 219 SW 6th Ave

Ping: The sister-restaurant to one of Portlands highest rated restaurants, Pok Pok. Inspired by Thai street food, make sure to try the wings.
Old town at 102 NW 4th Ave

Prasad: Delicious sustainable organic food- try their bowls! (vegan friendly)
Pearl District at 9th and Davis

Veritable Quandry: A little bit more expensive, but has great outdoor seating near the waterfront. A great spot before or after the Blues Festival.
Downtown at 1220 SW 1st Ave

Violetta: This is an amazing gourmet burger spot in Directors Park. Comes complete with a fountain and excellent people watching.
Downtown at SW Taylor and Park

BARS WITH A VIEW

It's a small city, but Portland is beautiful... if you get a chance to check out a view it will be worth it to see the river and bridges as well as views of Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Hood.

Departure: Portland meets Vegas - but worth the overpriced beers for the best rooftop patio in the city.
Downtown in the Nines Hotel at 525 SW Morrison

Portland City Grill: Classic old-school Portland with an incredible view. Expensive dinner, but happy hour is worth it. From 4 to Close on Sunday.
Downtown on 30th floor of US Bancorp tower at 111 SW 5th Ave

COCKTAIL BARS

I mentioned that Portland is a thoughtful city, just watch how much care and craft go into a cocktail at any of these bars... beware that the prices will reflect this "craft"

Tear Drop: Calm environment, hands down best cocktails in Portland.
Pearl District at 10th and Everett

Central: Speak easy-esque, known for absinthe cocktails. Small, but cool park-like outdoor seating.
Old Town at 220 SW Ankeny

Gilt club: Portland classic and seen on the very first episode of the show Portlandia.
Pearl District at 306 NW Broadway

Clyde Common: A favorite of last year's attendees and some of the best bartenders in town.
Downtown near Ace Hotel at 10th and Stark

BREWERIES

More so than just about anything else, Portland is known for its beer. There are more breweries per-capita and overall in Portland than any other city in the country.

We know our beer. Here are some of the best breweries that are close to WDS.

Rogue Brewery: Home of the famous Dead Guy Ale and Yellow Snow.
Pearl District at 14th and Flanders

Deschutes Brewery: Deschutes arguably makes the most consistent, interesting beers in Oregon.
Pearl District at 11th and Davis St.

Mcmenamins Ringlers Pub: There are McMenamins everywhere in Oregon. But a great spot if you need a place for a big group is Ringlers, right below the Crystal Ballroom (home of this years closing party)
Downtown-ish at 13th and Burnside

Rock Bottom: Not exactly unique to Portland, but it's got a great location and some good beers to boot.
Downtown at 2nd and Morrison

Bridgeport Brewery: The Bridgeport IPA is one of the more well known beers to come out of Portland. A great spot for a drink before the opening party at Pure Space.
Pearl District on 13th and Marshall

DIVE BARS

Looking for a place to get cheap drinks with all your friend? Look no further. Along with your cheap drinks, definitely expect a seedy atmosphere, and more often than not, free popcorn!

Marathon: A big bar that's a total dive during week nights but draws a younger crowd on the weekends. Drinks for four will cost less than one at Teardrop.
Northwest on 17th and Burnside

The Matador: One of Portlands most historic dive bars. Not huge, but very cheap.
Right across from Jeld-Wen Field on 19th and Burnside

Slab Town: A short walk if you're staying at the NW Hostel, and just a couple blocks from the opening party.
In Nob Hill on 1033 NW 16th Ave

Shanghai Tunnel: The dive bar with the best story by far, make sure to head downstairs.
In Old Town on 2nd and Ankeny

PLACES TO PARTY

I know you wanna have fun while you are here, and while I wouldn't call any of these classy, or really unique to Portland... these are all great places to have fun!

Gypsy: Fishbowls, dancing and Karaoke, what more could you need?
In Nob Hill on 21st and Irving

Blitz: Think frat house meets Portland. A popular afterhours spot for many attendees last year due to it's size and activities, such as: shuffle board, ping pong, tvs and pool
In the Pearl District on 10th and Couch AND in Nob Hill at 21st and Everett

Kells: The biggest Irish pub in Portland. Full of live music and AMAZING sweet potato fries
In Old Town on 112 SW 2nd

Boiler Room: Karaoke with a (somewhat) classier vibe than some other karaoke bars.
In Old Town on 2nd and Davis

On Deck: Large sports bar with a HUGE outdoor patio. More expensive than some divier sports bars.
Near opening party in the Peal District at 910 NW 14th Ave

COFFEE AND TREATS

Second to beer, Portland is really well known for its coffee culture.

World Cup: Staying at the NW Hostel? This is right across the street.
In Northwest at 1740 NW Glisan

Stumptown: Perhaps the most well known coffee company in Portland. There are Stumptown locations all over, but the closest to the conference is in the Ace Hotel at 11th and Stark.
Want a place to work? Try the one at SW Third and Pine.

Starbucks: Needs to explanation. There are Starbucks everywhere. If you can't find one, you aren't trying very hard.

CoffeeHouse Northwest: Sean's favorite coffee shop.
In Northwest on 19th and Burnside
across from Jeld-Wen Field

Cacao: Want the best drinking chocolate you've ever had? Head here.
In the Heathman Hotel at 712 SW Salmon
(right by WDS)

Voodoo Doughnuts: A trip to Portland isn't complete without a trip to Voodoo. A true Portland landmark.
In Old Town at 3rd and Ankeny

Le Happy: Crepes and cute "french" atmosphere, worth the walk to its seemingly seedy locale.
In Northwest on 16th and Lovejoy

St. Cupcake: The best mini-cupcakes you've ever had. They also have vegan options.
Downtown at 11th and Morrison

FUN TO SEE

If you have some extra time to explore, these are a few great Portland staples.

Powells Book Store: This new/used bookstore requires a map, enough said.
In the Pearl District on 10th and Burnside

Portland Art Museum: Home to WDS 2011.
Downtown in the Park Blocks at 1219 SW Park Ave

Jackpot Records: An Awesome, classic record store.
Downtown on 203 SW 9th

The International Rose Test Garden: The most varities of roses you'll ever see. Also has a fantastic view of the city.
In Goose Hollow in Washington Park

Farmers market: Near Portland State in the south Park Blocks. Open Saturday from 8:30-2.
Near Portland State in the Park Blocks at Park and Mill Street.

Ground Kontrol: Want awesome vintage video games and cheap beers? Look no further.
In Old Town at 5th and Couch

If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to let me know via twitter (@tatecreates) or email (tatenewburgh@gmail.com).
I'll be around all weekend!

And please, enjoy our city!