



Aloha USA

CITY

TABS ON
TRAVEL TODAY
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Portland: It's More Cool Than Weird



There's many quirky and cool reasons to fall in love with Portland, and it's a destination that's growing in popularity for Kiwi travellers, says Hawaiian Airlines New Zealand manager Rusty Williss.

“Portland has a great muso-café-food-ee vibe, and when you couple this with the fact the city is embracing travelling by bike and a strong eco-conscience, it really is a less of the weird and more of the cool kind of place to visit,” adds Williss.



Daytrippers

For clients looking for day trip options within a 60 minute drive from PDX suggest: A half-day trip to the Columbia River Gorge and Multnomah Falls; a day trip to Mt Hood (a dormant volcano offering year-round skiing); or a day trip to the Willamette Valley for wine tasting. The region is home to over 500 wineries, and the Pinot Noir is a highlight.

Travel Oregon says the city is an ideal suggestion for clients looking for something a bit different, those who love the outdoors and the west coast USA vibe.

Self-drive is popular through the region and Oregon is a great combination with Seattle Washington or California (also points on HA's US network).

... Hop To It

Portland is a mecca for micro-breweries and urban wineries, says HA's Rusty Williss. “So many to sample, and happily, many walking taste tours are offered,” he adds.

Travel Portland says the city has 75 breweries, more than any other city in the world. It is becoming known as Beer-vana, in fact there's even a tour company of the same name. Williss also recommends the Volstead Vodka label made at House Spirits (with a distillery centrally located on Washington St or a tasting room at PDX airport near Gate C8).



When To Visit

Portland has year-round appeal, depending on client's interests. In the northern Spring and Autumn the weather is sunny, and great for driving says Travel Oregon. US public holidays and Jul/Aug are the peak times for Northern Americans—so clients looking to avoid the crowds should avoid these times. The northern winter months are great for clients who want to head to the snow, or take in some storm watching in combination with Portland.

Top Five PDX Trips

A Brewvana craft beer tour (brewvana.com); taking in one of Downtown Portland food truck tours; a city highlights tour (including downtown Portland to the Pearl District to Nob Hill. Up the hill to Pittock Mansion and see Lan Su Chinese Garden. Stroll through the International Rose Test Garden, located in Washington Park); a Downtown Portland biking tour (pedalbiketours.com) and a coffee tour (thirdwavecoffeetours.com).

HNL Stopover

Those choosing to break the journey in HNL Hawaii before connecting through to PDX can choose to stay on Oahu, or to visit Maui as they can fly the domestic PDX sector daily. However HA urges agents can remind clients to keep the complimentary headsets from their international sector for use on the domestic flight.

Getting There

HA offers connections AKL-HNL-PDX Wed-Sun. Clients have around 2hrs 45 mins in transit in HNL before they board HA26 onward to Portland. The total flying time is 16 hours, and travellers depart and arrive in the evening. HA also operates daily flights ex Honolulu and Maui to PDX (from OGG on HA's new A321 Neo).

Tax Free Shopping



Shopping is tax free within Portland and the state. Urge clients to head to the downtown area for a vast array of department stores, or head to Northwest, a Victorian lined residential area packed with boutiques, national retailers and restaurants with sidewalk seating. HA reminds gents that its passengers get a 2x 32kg bag allowance.

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