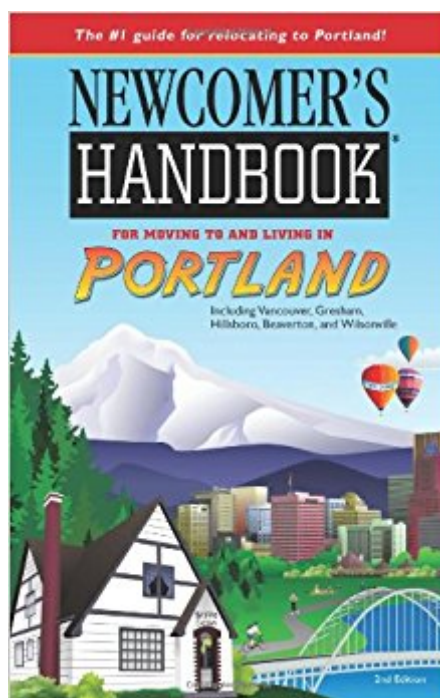


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# Newcomer's Handbook For Moving To And Living In Portland



## Synopsis

Our second edition of the Newcomer's Handbook for Portland, this thirteenth title in the series approaches Portland with a sensibility appropriate to the city--with humor and a bit of delight in the quirkiness that exemplifies the Rose City. The guidebook features in-depth Portland neighborhood and suburban community profiles as well as chapters on all aspects of local life. Welcome to Portland, one of the most livable urban areas in America! Call it Stumptown, Rose City, Beervana, Bridgetown, Puddletown, or PDX, it's your town now. (Just don't call it Portland, or-eh-GONE. The state name is pronounced OR-uh-gun. Practice before you arrive.) Portland is located at the northern end of the fertile Willamette Valley, roughly an hour east of the coast it's called the coast here, not the shore or the beach and an hour west of the crest of the Cascade Mountains. The high desert is a two-hour drive to the east, and world-class wineries are less than an hour southwest. Abundant recreational opportunities make the city a favorite of outdoor enthusiasts, and from the city's West Hills, and even from some downtown office buildings, it's possible to see the Columbia River Gorge and five snowcapped volcanoes: Mounts Hood, St. Helens, Adams, Rainier, and Jefferson. Top that, Topeka! Of course, Portland's appeal transcends its spectacular setting. The city is known for its vibrant neighborhoods, progressive urban planning, environmental awareness, liberal politics, coffeehouse and brewpub culture, and, yes, for its rain. So what's it really like here? Well, though Portland enjoys more than its fair share of pleasant, well-preserved urban neighborhoods, connected to one another by bike lanes and transit and state law limiting the extent of urban sprawl it is also afflicted with strip malls, traffic congestion, ill-conceived development, and other assorted ills of the modern American metropolis. The key difference is that in Portland you can arrange your life so that you don't have to deal with those problems. If you want to live in a close-in neighborhood, within walking distance of cafés and food markets, and ride your bike to work every day, you can. (You won't necessarily be able to afford a house in such a neighborhood, however.) If you prefer to live in a suburban community, you can do that, too. As for politics, Portlanders on average are more liberal than the citizens of the typical American burg when Money magazine rated Portland the country's best place to live in 2000, it warned conservatives to stay away but the city has a surprising diversity of political opinion, ranging from a strong libertarian contingent to a small community of Trotskyites. (The latter get nervous around ice picks.) Suburban communities are generally more conservative, and the region as a whole is probably no more liberal (or conservative) than any other large coastal metropolitan area. If it's craft beer or coffee you're after, suffice it to say you won't be disappointed. There are 38 breweries in the Portland metro area, and locally produced craft beer makes up 11% of Oregon's beer consumption. (That figure may

sound low, but it s by far the highest rate in the country.) And Portland's coffee scene is every bit the equal of Seattle's, with local roasters winning awards for both quality and sustainable business practices. Don't miss the burgeoning tea scene, either, based on well-established local tea manufacturers as well as an increasing number of unique tea houses. Many Portlanders consider coffee (or tea) essential for coping with the rain. Ah, the rain. While it s true that Portland has its share of rainy days, much of the city's rainfall arrives in the form of a fine mist or drizzle. Often a day that starts out cloudy becomes bright and sunny by afternoon (or vice versa).

## **Book Information**

Series: Newcomers Handbook for Moving to and Living in Portland

Paperback: 544 pages

Publisher: First Books; 2nd edition (May 11, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0982347618

ISBN-13: 978-0982347614

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,165,732 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Travel > United States > Oregon > Portland](#)

## **Customer Reviews**

Bryan Geon moved to Portland in 1993 as a fresh-faced college grad. Since then, he has lived in four of the city's five sections and in three different Oregon counties (although not simultaneously). He moved away several times to experience life in states that begin with the letter M (Michigan, Minnesota, and Maryland, along with college years in Massachusetts), but he has always returned inexorably to the City of Roses, like a swallow coming back to Capistrano (with the significant difference that the author is not a bird). Although he grew up in California, he married a native Oregonian. This act made him eligible for state citizenship. When not practicing law or writing, he enjoys traipsing around the Northwest and spending time with his two sons, both proud native Portlanders.

Even a couple of years can make a difference in describing some neighborhoods, but this guide did help us get a little better acclimated to Portland before we moved. It takes time and experience to

really get to know any place. But this guide is very thorough, going in depth to the history of each area and what types of culture is in each neighborhood. Portland is a larger city with a more small town feel, as each neighborhood has it's own "culture" and feel. This book is right to break each area into neighborhood descriptions to go more in depth.

Great book for someone moving to Portland, or even someone who has been there for years. Loved the sections on transportation, banking, shopping, etc. The information has really helped us plan our move there. And I plan to use it for many more years, as there are always new places to explore in Portland!

I ordered this book because I am planning on moving to Portland in the near future and I wanted to do some research on neighborhoods. This book is chock full of information. The sections describing neighborhoods have been really helpful when I've been browsing rentals on craigslist. Bryan Geon offers a realistic depiction of each neighborhood including it's history, economic standing, amenities, types of people living there, walkability and access to public transportation. A lot of the info is probably going to be more useful once I'm there but it's so great to have all of this in one place - like who to call for cable service, utilities, trash pick up days. Especially as I may not have internet access right away. Lots of helpful websites and phone numbers. I also love the section describing a year of events in Portland - it's a great overview to how much there is to do there. He also includes information about surrounding areas including parts of Southern Washington. I have a feeling I'm going to be dog earring many pages while I continue to plan my move and after I get settled in. Every city should have a Newcomers Handbook!

Good book overall with a great deal of information on portland and it's surrounding areas. It could use some photos to brighten the text filled pages up.

We found the organization of the book very good. We visited some of the places outlined and were gratified that we had the book because in a couple of cases, we would not have gone otherwise.

My daughter recently moved to Portland, Oregon, and she has found this handbook concerning living in Portland, Oregon, extremely helpful.

Well written with good info you can use! Will save alot of time with trial and error when visiting... I

think its great!

The 2nd Edition of THE NEWCOMER'S HANDBOOK FOR MOVING TO AND LIVING IN PORTLAND, OREGON is a great new book about Portland, Oregon, and its environs, covering everything you need to know about the area, including recreation, dining, nightlife, shopping, sightseeing, and neighborhoods. There's precious little about the City of Roses and its major suburbs (Beaverton, Happy Valley, Hillsboro, Aloha, West Linn, Tigard, Tualatin, Lake Oswego) that's not covered here. In addition, the book covers areas that others miss such as West Haven, Raleigh Hills, West Slope, Cedar Mill, Garden Home, Bethany, North Plains, and Dunthorpe, as well as discussing the ins and outs of all of the major neighborhoods in the city itself from posh Hillside, Sylvan, Healy Heights, and Southwest Hills to low-rent Eliot. Overall, whether you're planning to move to Portland, or are simply interested in the West Coast in general, DO NOT PASS THIS BOOK UP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!!

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