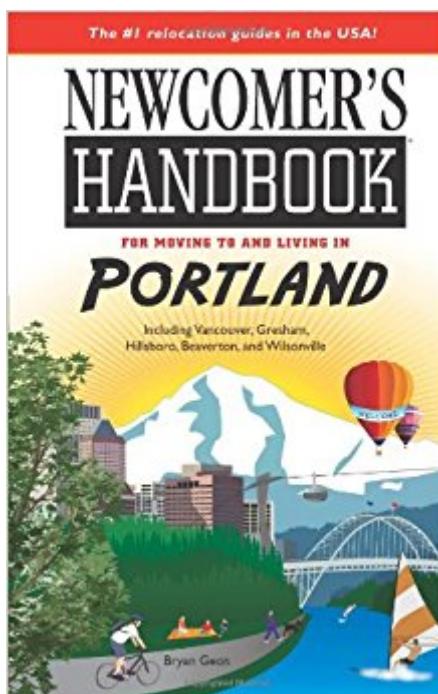


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# Newcomer's Handbook For Moving To And Living In Portland: Including Vancouver, Gresham, Hillsboro, Beaverton, And Wilsonville



## Synopsis

Our first-ever 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**

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## **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.

Only slightly outdated since it was written in 2007, but still gives you the general idea of places to go

and the general feeling of each town. I do feel like the person who wrote this book grew up in Oregon and has several prejudices against some towns. But all-in-all, it's an informative book the led us to some cool places while we were visiting in February.

THE NEWCOMER'S HANDBOOK FOR MOVING TO AND LIVING IN PORTLAND: INCLUDING VANCOUVER, GRESHAM, HILLSBORO, BEAVERTON, AND WILSONVILLE is an exceptional book for relocators. However, even non-relocators will find it very enjoyable. It features great coverage of the city of Portland, including the very desirable West Hills and Bridlemile sections, as well as its incorporated suburbs, yet it also covers unincorporated areas such as Oatfield (which is, for mail delivery purposes, part of Milwaukie), unincorporated western Multnomah county (which has both Portland AND Lake Oswego ZIP Codes), and Cedar Mill (which has a Portland ZIP Code), as well as the often-overlooked towns of Wilsonville and Happy Valley, and Vancouver, Washington and its suburbs. Many great ideas for education, dining, house-hunting, shopping, health/fitness, and recreation are included in this book. DON'T PASS THIS BOOK UP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!!!!!!!!!

So SO SOOOO helpful

Helped me a ton! Spent 50 years getting the whole SF Bay Area memorized, now this is a good start for me!

Great book for anyone looking to relocate - or even for locals. I could have done without the generic sections on how to hire a mover or buy a house, but it's well worth skipping these parts for the info to be gotten. Great overview of neighborhoods, local resources, parks, etc.

We were considering moving to Portland, Oregon and recently took a scouting mission there to see whether that was an idea worth pursuing. This book proved invaluable and I would highly recommend it to anyone considering the same thing. Its neighborhood descriptions were spot on and helped us focus our search.

nice

I bought this as a gift for a friend moving to Portland after Christmas. The reviews seem great, and

I'm sure she will love it. The reason for 2 stars is because I bought this in "like new" condition and it is definitely not. The edges of the pages are dirty. They are literally brown and very noticeable. There were placemarks throughout the book (not a huge deal) and small rips/creases. I wouldn't consider this "like new".

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