



# Portland, Maine

Portland, the largest city in Maine, was destroyed by fires on four occasions and, as a result, uses the image of the phoenix rising from the ashes on its city seal. Following the last fire in 1866, the city was rebuilt primarily with bricks in Victorian-era styles. The city encompasses five populated islands in the Casco Bay.

The Portland Museum of Art is one of Portland's many museums and features American, European, and Maine artists from the 18th century to the present. The Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art presents contemporary artwork by local, national, and international artists. Devoted exclusively to sub-Saharan African arts and culture, the Museum of African Culture is unique in northern New England. Art, artifacts, and documents that focus on life in Maine are exhibited at the Maine Historical Society Museum. The Portland Harbor Museum is devoted to Maine's maritime history. Other museums include the Children's Museum and Theatre; Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum; and International Cryptozoology Museum, which presents the study of hidden animals.

The Longfellow House, childhood home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is decorated with family memorabilia and original furnishings from the 1850s and is the oldest standing building in the city. Other historic homes in Portland include the Tate House, which was built in 1755 by a mast agent for the British Navy, and Victoria Mansion, which contains the original furnishings designed by Gustave Herter from the Victorian period. The Portland Observatory is the only remaining historic maritime signal station in the country.

Portland has many venues for the arts. Portland Stage Company produces 10 plays annually. The State Theater and Port City Music Hall host various musical acts. Theater, dance, and musical performances are held at St. Lawrence Arts Center and One Longfellow Square. Merrill Auditorium is home to the Portland Symphony Orchestra; PORTopera; and Portland Ovations, which sponsors music, dance, theater, and Broadway shows. Children's Museum and Theatre annually produces four shows by children and for children.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Portland's 18 neighborhoods can be classified as being located on the peninsula, off the peninsula, or the islands. Downtown Portland, located on the peninsula, features an art district with condominiums located on the upper floors of commercial buildings. The Western Promenade is an on-the-peninsula neighborhood developed during the later 19th and early 20th centuries and contains many Victorian-era mansions and estates built in Queen Anne, Romanesque, Italianate, Shingle, and Colonial Revival styles. This neighborhood is convenient to the city's three hospitals. Other on-the-peninsula neighborhoods like the West End and Munjoy Hill, also known as the East End, have a mix of single-, two-, and three-family houses and new condominium developments. Located between the downtown and the Back Cove, Bayside and East Bayside feature new high-density housing developments.

Deering Center is an off-the-peninsula neighborhood built during the first half of the 20th century and features single- and two-family houses with a more suburban, predominantly residential feel. Home styles include Italianate; Queen Anne; Colonial Revival; Foursquare; Craftsman bungalow; Sears kit; and New Englander, which is a farmhouse-influenced style. Some houses have been converted to multifamily use. Other off-the-peninsula neighborhoods include Stroudwater Village, which is one of the oldest settlements in Portland and features historic homes, and North Deering, which has a range of home styles, sizes, and prices. Most of the houses in North Deering were built during the 20th century; however, some lots are available for new construction. The off-the-peninsula area has many trails for hiking and cycling.

Among the islands, Peaks Island is the largest, is closest to the mainland, and is home to the most year-round residents. Cushing, Little Diamond, and Great Diamond Islands, as well as Peaks, are accessible to



the mainland by ferries that operate daily. Cliff Island, furthest from the mainland, is very rustic and home to many lobstermen. Access to Cushing Island is reserved for residents and their guests.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Portland has 38 parks, including two off-leash dog parks, four community centers (two fitted with pools), an outdoor pool, a municipal golf course, and an ice arena. Deering Oaks features the Karl Switzer Rose Circle, which contains over 600 roses and is an All-America Rose Selections bed for testing new rose varieties. In addition, this park has a large playground and a Saturday farmer's market. Baxter Woods is a nature reserve and home to the largest forest in Portland. The 3.5-mile circular trail around Back Cove is a preferred jogging, biking, and walking trail. Located behind the Longfellow House, Longfellow Garden is a Colonial Revival style-garden. East End Beach is Portland's only public beach. Portland also offers many opportunities for water-sports, such as sailing and fishing.

Portland is home to the Portland Pirates (ice hockey), Portland Sea Dogs (baseball), and Red Claws (basketball).

## EDUCATION

Portland Public Schools serve approximately 7,000 students in 10 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 4 high schools. The regional arts and technology high school offers courses in health care, robotics, and "green" construction.

Opportunities for higher education are available in Portland. The University of Southern Maine offers undergraduate and graduate programs in various fields, including nursing. The University of New England's Portland campus is the site of undergraduate and graduate degree programs in many health care fields, including nursing and pharmaceutical sciences. Portland's Maine Medical Center is a clinical campus for third-year students of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Maine College of Art offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in many fields of art. In addition, Southern Maine Community College offers courses at two Portland high schools.

## HEALTH CARE

Portland has 3 hospitals with a combined total of 867 licensed beds. In addition, the city is served by a freestanding acute rehabilitation hospital.

### CITY STATS

2008

City Population	63,008
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	516,826
Per Capita Personal Income, Portland-South Portland-Biddeford, ME (MSA)	\$41,473