



Salem, Oregon



Salem is the capital city of Oregon and is situated on both banks of the Willamette River. The city was originally referred to as “Chemeketa,” a Kalapooya Indian name meaning “place of rest.” Methodist missionaries who came to minister to the Native Americans in 1834 preferred the name “Salem,” from the Hebrew word “shalom,” or “peace.”

Mission Mill Museum preserves three 19th century Mission houses and the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill and also interprets Western Oregon’s settlement and industry. Bush House Museum is an Italianate-style Victorian mansion and conservatory in Bush’s Pasture Park and displays changing exhibits, original fine art, and furnishings. Located among historic gardens and nature trails, the Historic Deepwood Estate is an 1894 Queen Anne Victorian that features Povey stained glass windows and golden oak woodwork. The Hallie Ford Museum of Art on the campus of Willamette University exhibits Asian, European, and Native American art as well as regional, historic, and contemporary art. Forest History Center/Oregon Department of Forestry contains displays about forest fire lookouts, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and logging and firefighting tools. Oregon State Hospital Museum of Mental Health depicts the history of mental illness and its treatments through the collections of Oregon’s historic state hospital.

The Oregon State Capitol built in 1938 contains Greek marble throughout the building and murals that portray the history of Oregon.

Salem’s many venues for performing arts include the Historic Elsinore Theatre, The Reed Opera House, Pentacle Theatre, Grand Theater, and Willamette University’s Hudson Hall-Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center. The Senate-Aires Men’s Chorus, Oregon Symphony, Salem Chamber Orchestra, Salem Concert Band, Salem Pops Orchestra, and Enlightened Theatrics constitute some of the local performing groups.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Three condominium projects are located in the downtown area, including one luxury project and two that are moderately priced. Two neighborhoods with historic designations are located near the downtown and close to Salem Hospital. The Gaiety Hill-Bush’s Pasture Park Historic District features about 40 bungalows that were constructed between 1905 and 1920 and face Bush’s Pasture Park. Other home styles in Bush’s Park area include Italianate, Rural Gothic, Queen Anne, English Cottage, Colonial, Cape Cod, Norman Farmhouse, and French Renaissance. The Court-Chemeketa Historic District reflects the domestic designs popular in the period between 1860 and 1937. Located on the southern tip of downtown and near the hospital, the Fairmount Hills neighborhood is home to the Governor’s mansion and features a mix of styles, including Cape Cods, Arts and Crafts, Victorians, and French country. The Grant neighborhood is filled with Arts and Crafts bungalows, Cape Cods, Norman farmhouses, and a few Four Square-styled homes.

Mid-century modern homes can be found in Candalaria, which was developed between 1950 and 1970; many homes have views of the Coastal Range. The oldest section of the Cambridge neighborhood, Cambridge Woods, was built between 1970 and 1980 and contains contemporary styled homes in heavily wooded lots. Larger homes situated on larger lots were built in Cambridge Heights and Cambridge Crest in the late 1990s. As a result of development that started in the 1960s and continued into the early 2000s, Chatnika Heights has a wide range of architectural styles and variations in landscaping and home sizes.

Newly constructed subdivisions include Bailey Ridge, which has one- and two-story homes on small lots. Bella Cresta will have luxury homes on larger lots, some with mountain or territorial views. Architecture styles vary greatly in West Meadows Estates. The Heights features large homes, some with mountain views.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Salem has 46 developed parks with amenities that include playgrounds; ball fields; soccer fields; tennis, horseshoe, and basketball courts; skate bowl and ramp; Wallace Marine Park Softball Complex; off-leash dog parks;

walk/bike paths; and a 9-hole disc golf course. Riverfront Park features an amphitheater; Salem’s Riverfront Carousel, with its 42 hand-carved wooden horses and two “Oregon Trail” wagons; A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village; and the EcoEarth Globe, which reflects the world’s land and water diversity.

State Capitol State Park is one of Oregon’s newest state parks and is located within the boundaries of the Capitol grounds. The park features three fountains and a display of flags from every state arranged in a circle near the Moon Tree, a state heritage tree.

The 90-acre Bush’s Pasture Park has public rose gardens, playgrounds, trails, and other amenities in addition to the Bush House Museum and Conservatory.

The Adelman Peony Gardens, Schreiner’s Iris Gardens, Sebright Gardens, and Willamette University’s Martha Springer Botanical Garden and Rose Garden are located in Salem.

The nearby Enchanted Forest is a storybook-based theme park that includes a fairytale village, haunted house, western mining town, and a log flume ride.

The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes is a league baseball team.

EDUCATION

Salem-Keizer Public Schools educates more than 40,000 students from Salem and Kaiser in 42 elementary schools, 11 middle schools, 8 high schools, and 4 charter schools.

Higher education is available at Willamette University, which is a private liberal arts university. The university is co-located with Tokyo International University of America, which offers English communication skills and other subjects to Japanese students. Corban University is an independent Christian university that offers professional, liberal arts, and ministry programs. Northwest University Salem Campus prepares students with a professional degree in biblical and ministerial studies. Linfield College’s Salem campus offers bachelor’s degrees in selected fields and focuses on adult students.

Three Chemeketa Community College campuses are located in Salem: Northwest Viticulture Center, Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry, and Lancaster Campus. The Institute of Technology trains students as medical and clerical support personnel and as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning technicians.

HEALTH CARE

Salem is served by Salem Hospital, which has 454 acute care beds. Long-term acute care, physical rehabilitation, and substance abuse treatment facilities are also available.

CITY STATS

2012

City Population	157,429
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	396,338
Per Capita Personal Income, Salem, OR, MSA	\$34,711