

These Great Places

The Pacific Northwest is such an amazing place, so we went to the local experts for answers:



Eugene: The lovely *Shelby Rose* is our guide for this organic, all natural, and

green college town:

1. What makes Eugene wonderful?

Eugene is one of the most bike friendly cities in the country. And, I believe there are a number of entrepreneurs in this town as it is large enough to create a business with promising customers and small enough that word of mouth and advertising spreads fast. Artists and food.

2. Where to get a real taste of Eugene?

Pizza Research Institute aka PRI. They make some of the most interesting pizza pies you may ever eat. Ordering a Chefs Choice you receive a mandala of the freshest local ingredients. Using toppings such as corn on the cob, cottage cheese, and peaches. Its one of the first restaurants that I was told I NEEDED to go to when I first moved to town.

3. Free Fun in Eugene?

That is a hard question. I would have to say that if fun = nature, then hiking Spencer's Butte is probably the best free fun you can get. It is just a little drive up a hill and then a 15-20 min hike to the top of the butte, but you can see all of Eugene from atop with some of the best sunsets.

Portland: Who knows a town better than a clown? Nobody! *Dingo*, take it away:



1. What makes Portland wonderful?

Portland is wonderful because the city is healthy, not just healthy from a perfect storm of good

ideas that rushed in a few years ago...I'm talking about healthy from living in a city with so much to do! Everyone is always chasing buses, diving in elevators, dodging trains and running from muggers. Everyone is running, skating, jogging, biking all over. In a town full of date spots where every one is healthy... even old people "Get Some", and that's a good thing. Also, I think Portland is wonderful because you can ask your friends "Anyone have a straight jacket I can borrow?" and the response would be "What color?" At one point I knew two men in Portland who paid their rent sword fighting...and they didn't even know each other!:)

2. Where to get a real taste of Portland?

Best place for a taste of

Portland is any of the farmers markets around, they are easy to find online. Fresh, local, that food adds years to yur life! Right now we are pretty much unimpressed with any of the restaurants in our area so I stick to cheap junk food at the video lottery, had a \$2 brat yesterday that was Da Bomb!

3. Free Fun in Portland? Free fun is the city parks system, get a bike and a map, it's all lined out on the streets. They will even lend you out a gazebo and turn the power on if you just ask the right folks. In the cold weather my fav free fun is also biking (tall bikes in awful weather is really exhilarating. It's free and legal to be nude in Portland so running down the street naked is fun and free but that freedom ends at the first sight of arousal, so if that's your option for free fun, make it a no-chub zone.



Portland is so great we got two opinions, here is future physicist Joseph Thiebes:

1. What makes Portland wonderful?

The thing I love most about Portland is its seamless combination of city life and the natural world. I can go for a hike in the city limits and catch a Shakespeare play on my way from the trail-head to home. That, and there is no need to own a car here since the public transportation and cycling infrastructure is so advanced.

2. Where to get a real taste of Portland?

Taking the question literally here... Portland is foodie heaven. You can get any cuisine you've ever heard of here. That said, I think that the best representative of Portland's inventive food culture can be found at Voodoo Doughnut. The bacon maple bar is a must for every person's bucket list of things to try.

3. Free Fun in Portland?

Mt. Tabor is a nice park to visit. It's an extinct volcano and the top offers spectacular views of the city to the west, and of Mt. Hood to the east. Aside from that, if you have a bicycle there are a lot of fun rides to take; my favorite being the Springwater Corridor trail.



Astoria:

As the oldest settlement west of the rockies, we felt obligated to get answers from old Astoria, so we asked writer and actor *Bill*

Honl, whose family has lived in the town for 150 years!

1. What makes Astoria wonderful?

Astoria has a rich and strange history. Groups of immigrants from Hawaii,

India, China, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Mexico have come and stayed. Chinese gangs had wars here. Sailors were shanghai'd. In the present day, Astoria is no less interesting. (It is a lot less dangerous though.) The people who live here are what make the community unique. Astoria is a place where loggers, old hippies, cable guys, occupy activists, fishermen, coastguard personnel, metal heads and neo-hippies all live and work together. There is a large arts and music community, and live theater in the area is often as good or better than the professional theater I have seen in Portland. When things go wrong, people here actually take care of each other, whether they are strangers or not. Astoria isn't free of the small town bullshit that you find everywhere, but the fantastic people make it worth my while to put up with the dicks. I've lived a bunch of places, but I chose to come back to Astoria and stay.

2. Where to get a real taste of Astoria?

On almost any budget, The Bowpicker Fish and Chips, a couple of blocks from the river, up 17th Street. It's not near the old fishing boat, it is the old fishing boat. It's in a repurposed bowpicking gillnetter. The fish and chips are incredible, especially the tuna. (Remember, Astoria is the birthplace of Bumblebee Tuna.)

3. Free Fun in Astoria? I can't keep this to just one thing, so here is my list.

1) The River Walk. This goes along Astoria's waterfront. There are working fish processing plants, historical and informational markers, and it's not possible to take a bad picture. There is an amazing amount of wildlife to see, bald eagles, seals, cormorants and a bunch of other birds that I'm not sure what they actually are. Some of them are crows. I'm pretty sure about that.

2) The Astor Column has one of the most beautiful views you will ever see, especially from the observation deck at the top. The official name is the "Astoria Column", but nobody who is actually from here calls it that. It's the Astor Column. As an added bonus, if you are there at night and they forget to lock the door you can pee off the top and the lights make it look like sparks.

3) The Doughboy Monument is the only public restroom on the National Register of Historic Buildings. The decor isn't retro, it really is old. It's usually clean enough to use. Oh and it memorializes Astoria's war dead from WWI.

Honorable mention goes to the Astoria Trolley. It only costs a dollar and you can ride it all day as long as you don't get off it. The conductor gives a historical tour of the waterfront and at a dollar a pop it's a cheap way to get from one end

of town to the other if you aren't in a hurry.



Seattle: For answers about the "Emerald City" we asked longtime rocker and artist *Eric Carnell*:

1. What makes Seattle wonderful?

Seattle is a wonderful place

primarily because of the people. Logistically Seattle has always been isolated from the rest of the country because of the surrounding water, mountains and rugged terrain one must cross to get here. Although this has some negative effects on people's psyche, the overall effect is that people are generally more engaged in what's happening around them than other places. We have the highest literacy rate in the country, more youth driven arts than any other place in the country, still have independent mom and pop record stores, and an arts community that is really supportive.

2. Where to get a real taste of Seattle?

That is kind of hard, because there is so much interesting stuff here, and this can be taken so many ways. I think I will have to go with Discovery Park, located in Magnolia. It is a huge park, that was a military facility. It now hosts a 2.5 mile circular loop trail with deep forest and sand cliffs, Daybreak Star First Nations Cultural Center, and West Point Lighthouse, and there is still some military housing, that kind of seems abandoned, but isn't. Straight out of a 50's horror film. Most of the park may only be accessed on foot, which leaves it in a moderately natural state. There was actually a series of cougar sightings in the park a couple years back.

3. Free Fun in Seattle?

There is a ton of free stuff in Seattle. Most Art Museums are open the first Thursday of the month for free, including Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Frye, Museum of Flight, etc. and the smaller independent galleries have an art walk that night. The Center for Wooden boats is really cool has a bunch of free stuff, and has a free boat trip round Lake Union on Sundays. Olympic Sculpture Park is free and super cool, and also sponsors free concerts during summer months. Pike Place Market is really cool, touristy yes, but still a cool place. Hiram M. Chittenden Locks' is cool too. You can watch salmon climb the fish ladder, or if the time is right watch them flood the Locks' and watch boats go out to sea...as soon as I send this out, I'm gonna realize I forgot my favorite places, but there you go...

more? check out the website for more. <http://www.wtffest.com>

CONTINUED FROM PG 1: with outrageous college tuitions and scandalous student loans! They have seen the creation of thought crimes such as racism and sexism and a PC world of oppression -- artists jailed for their drawings, musicians arrested for lyrics, a new generation of book banning - classics such as *Huckleberry Finn*, *Of Mice And Men*, *The Catcher In The Rye*, pulled from library shelves.

Why would they bother with a world that has never bothered for them? Ours is a world full of incredible lies, as many who claim to want to improve the life for all and better the environment, who claim openness, while they drive SUVs, work for Monsanto, pop their plastic wrapped dinner into the microwave, and openly criticism anything they disagree with without trying to understand it. This is much of the world we see - all of us. It feels hopeless, but it cannot be, we cannot allow it to be.

As Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that

ever does"!

Together these artists, authors, poets, and others - from four generations of the counterculture will explore what has and has not worked from each of their respective generations, what has been overlooked, and how they can come together to create real change - whether through art, literature, filmmaking, music or all of them. Our revolution is re-evolution to a new understanding and a fresh perspective. We step out of the line toward the meat grinders of the soul that school and business, and all of the other institutional practices of our so-called modern society, and walk our own paths to a future of freedom, joy, and creativity.

The importance of seeing these diverse thinkers and creatives come together and hash things out is what will lead to new conversations, and new approaches to solve the age old problems and the brand new ones that burden and continue to destroy the world with corporate greed, domination, and the weak and wicked leaders who continue to sell the people out for their own

personal gains. Time for the creative to create a plan, and start that new world the intellectuals have been talking about for decades now.

We need to look to the leaders of these counterculture movements - from art to politics, movies to poetry and music - the answers can be found in the hearts of the creative, the sensitive, and the experienced. All of these differing views and viewpoints, will be represented at WTF Fest -- Four generations all looking at the world through completely different glasses. It will certainly make for an exciting and conflicting event, as these creatives collide, parts of WTF Fest will be uncomfortable, maybe even ugly, but it is this very conversation that America is so afraid to have that we need so much right now!

"This is something everyone who believes in free speech, and sees our rights slipping away should attend!" says poet Dave Densmore, "USE IT OR LOSE IT!! and we've lost far too damn much already!"