

Portland Out & About Guide

Portland hosts a wide range of LGBTQ+ events every night of the week, and the LGBTQ+ community is among America's most vibrant and visible, where you can find everything from dance parties and comedy nights to drag bingo, drag brunch, and drag shows. No matter how you express, there's somewhere cool and safe for you to meet people like yourself and have a good time. Here's an updated guide to Portland's LGBTQ+ nightlife and seasonal events.

Restaurants

Mothers Bistro ~ 121 SW 3rd ave, Portland, OR 97204

With slow-cooked meals that take hours to prepare and hand-made dumplings, stews, roasts, and braises, Mother's Bistro & Bar offers arguably the best American comfort food in downtown Portland. Start with Matzo Ball Soup, then enjoy Mom's Meatloaf & Gravy or Grilled Wild Salmon. With a play area for kids and their intimate Velvet Lounge Bar, families and couples can enjoy eating out in downtown Portland.

Higgins Restaurant & Bar ~ 1239 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205

Enjoy dishes like Roast Pacific cod with tomatoes, fennel, spinach and heirloom beans; and Cretan zucchini cakes with basmati rice, tomato salad, tahini sauce, and tzatzik. Higgins Restaurant and Bar takes advantage of Portland's proximity to the Willamette Valley, where they source most of their ingredients from small farms, and they believe strongly in sustainable farming, rooting their cuisine in what is fresh in Northwest soil.

Jakes Famous Crawfish ~ 401 SW 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97205

A downtown Portland landmark for over 110 years, Jake's Famous Crawfish is one of the best places to enjoy seafood in Portland. With dishes like creamy Dungeness Crab Leg Tortellini with gorgonzola cheese; and Wild Sockeye Salmon grilled or oven roasted on a cedar plank, seafood lovers will fall in love with this restaurant. Finish dinner with a slice of Jake's Famous Truffle Cake or Oregon Mixed Berry Shortcake.

Southpark Seafood ~ 901 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97205

Southpark Seafood is a chic Northwest eatery featuring sustainable seafood and farm-fresh ingredients. As a proud partner of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch® program, Southpark Seafood only serves seafood that has been fished or farmed in ways that minimize their environmental impact. For 22 years, this definitive Portland restaurant has been a local favorite. With the city's largest selection of oysters and a menu that changes every single day, we dare you to find a better place for a dozen on the half shell.

Portland City Grill ~ 111 SW 5th Ave 30th Floor, Portland, OR 97204

New American dishes with an Asian touch, plus a happy hour, served with a 30th-floor skyline view.

Bollywood Theater ~ 2039 NE Alberta Street, Portland, OR 97211

Bollywood Theater focuses more on the experience of eating than anything else, all the way down to the tin cups and plates diners eat off of. Everything is served small-plate style, making it easy to try everything. The gobi manchurian (fried cauliflower with lemon, curry, and sweet and sour sauce) is an delicious toe-dip into the flavor pool, and if you're feeling emboldened, the paneer mekhani (a cheese, tomato and cashew curry with saffron rice) is a treat. There are also several vegan and gluten-free options.

Food Carts

Various Locations ~ Portland is known for its food carts, there more to try than what is listed, you can inquire at the front desk for more information or visit www.travelportland.com/culture/food-cart-pods/

Cartlandia Food Cart Pod

Located in Southeast Portland, home to The Blue Room, a full service bar with 18 beers and ciders on tap, a family and dog friendly outdoor beer garden and more than 30 carts representing 15 different countries.

Prost Marketplace

Located on North Mississippi Avenue, options include vegan-friendly rice bowls packed with fresh ingredients at **Native Bowl**, acclaimed barbecue from **Matts BBQ**, Korean-style tacos from **Koi Fusion** and delectable breakfast sandwiches from **Fried Egg I'm in Love**. The pod is anchored by brick-and-mortar German pub **Prost!** where you are welcome to eat your cart meal if you buy a drink, or try a drink from cocktail cart **Bloodbuzz!**

Carts on Foster

Carts on Foster is an all weather pod on Southeast Foster Road, to sample from over a dozen food carts. Order from **Bari Food Cart** for some classic Italian street food or indulge in flakey fish and chips from **Year of the Fish**. Complete your meal with a drink from **Pod Bar**, boasting an impressive tap list alongside craft ciders and nonalcoholic drinks. You can even get a haircut after lunch in the '70s-inspired vintage trailer that houses **Salon Bucci**.

Variety, Comedy, Storytelling & Bingo

Alberta Street Pub ~ 1036 NE Alberta

All-ages events are rare enough in Portland, yet Stefhannie Nichole Aria and Ava Cado put on a monthly all-ages drag show, giving the under-21 queens a chance to cut their teeth.

BOYeurism ~ **Bossanova Ballroom**, 722 E Burnside

Whoopie! A Sex-Positive Variety Show Two body-positive queer revues under one roof! Isaiah Esquire and Johnny Nuriel's *BOYeurism* is a literally flaming, mostly male show perfect for the Burning Man bachelorette, while Amory Jane and Lady Coquine's *Whoopie!* prioritizes storytelling, comedy, and cabaret in their celebrations of sex positivity. Both shows have awesome raffle prizes.

Incite: Queer Writers Read ~ Literary Arts, 925 SW Washington

Kate Carroll de Gutes and Kate Gray prompt LGBTQ+ writers around a central theme and host a bimonthly parlor for them to read their works.

Killer Queen ~ Clinton St. Theater, 2522 SE Clinton

Violet Hex hosts a monthly all-ages drag revue, giving anyone who can't or won't go to bars the chance to experience outrageous, high-energy, and high-art drag in a theater setting.

Melange ~ White Owl Social Club, 1305 SE 8th

Meaning "mixture" or "mixed" in French, Melange prioritizes the talents of queer performers of color in Portland and Eugene, and is one of the few spots in town to see drag kings.

Outlandish ~ Kickstand Comedy Club, 16 NW Broadway

Belinda Carroll's latest venture is a queer-centric late-night talk show and variety revue, one of the first shows to open at Old Town's new Chicago-inspired comedy club.

Out Loud ~ Kelly's Olympian, 426 SW Washington

A brand-new, bimonthly showcase for local LGBTQ+ musicians, benefitting the Q Center.

Poison Waters & Friends' Drag Queen Bingo ~ Mission Theater, 1624 NW Glisan

Poison Waters doesn't get dressed up to just spin the bingo bucket. No, she brings her friends to put on a full show for the same price of admission as a bingo-only night.

Queen-go ~ *Various locations*

Nae Nae Dominatrix spends one week hosting bingo at the Society Hotel in Old Town, then the next week across the river at the Night Light Lounge, which is home to her weekly drag brunch.

Sexy Bingo ~ Triple Nickel, 3646 SE Belmont

If you've ever wanted Courtney Love to host your bingo night, Patrick Buckmaster's monthly bingo night is for you.

Slant! Live Queer Storytelling ~ Mississippi Studios, 3939 N Mississippi, seasonal

They were gone for a minute, but the crew behind Slant! Live Queer Storytelling is back, celebrating the time-honored tradition of live storytelling from across the LGBTQ+ community.

Smut ~ Funhouse Lounge, 2432 SE 11th

Portland Queer Comedy Festival co-founder Belinda Carroll hosts what she calls an "XXX-ish" comedy show with R-rated LGBTQ+/ally humor and a featured burlesque dancer.

The Alliance, the Gay Agenda ~ Alberta Street Pub, 1036 NE Alberta

Corina Lucas is among Portland's funniest comedians, and she makes regular space for fellow LGBTQ+ comedians outside traditionally gay bars with her monthly Gay Agenda show, and her weekly Alliance show (the latter of which is co-hosted by Jake Silberman).

Thursdays ~ QuarterWorld, 4811 SE Hawthorne

Meet gaymers monthly for pinball and arcade games, or play bingo hosted by Flawless Shade, who hosts karaoke at Capitol Bar, trivia at Victoria Bar, and drag at CC Slaughters. **Wacky Tacky Daytime Drag** (*Red Light Clothing Exchange, 3590 SE Hawthorne*)

Not only can the under-21 crowd see drag, but anyone looking to escape the bar scene can go to one of the few alcohol-free shows in town.

Bars & Dancing

CC Slaughters & Rainbow Lounge ~ 219 NW Davis

CC Slaughters & Rainbow Lounge is your prototypical gay bar. It's split into two spaces, joined by a video slot parlor. The Rainbow Lounge is next to Darcelle XV Showplace (see below), and is perfect for a cocktail, chatting, or attending a viewing party, while CC's dance floor hosts multiple drag revues and party nights every day of the week.

Crush ~ 1400 SE Morrison

Crush is among Portland's coziest, most queer-friendly bars, and is presently Southeast Portland's only LGBTQ+ bar. Crush offers a foodie-friendly menu, crafted cocktails, sidewalk patio, burlesque-drag revues, stand-up comedy shows, nonbinary concerts, and pants-free dance parties.

Darcelle XV Showplace ~ 208 NW 3rd

This is Portland's longest-running LGBTQ+ bar, and home to legendary performer Darcelle XV. Darcelle's is the go-to place for the most traditional style of drag: heavy makeup, classic gowns, and groan-worthy jokes from some of Portland's finest queens, including Poison Waters, Bolivia Carmichaels, Alexis Campbell Starr, and Darcelle herself.

Eagle ~ 835 N Lombard

Eagle is under new management, but that hasn't affected the vibe at this North Portland gay bar. Eagle has pool, a covered smoking patio, and no-frills drinks, and primarily appeals to gay men who like Tom of Finland and Robert Mapplethorpe, if you know what I mean.

Escape Bar & Grill ~ 9004 NE Sandy

Escape Bar & Grill serves the LGBTQ+ community and friends closest to I-205 with pool, karaoke, games, and a full menu. Escape is probably the closest thing Portland has to a full-time lesbian bar, though it welcomes anyone who wants to have a good time.

Local Lounge ~ 3536 NE MLK

This is a neighborhood bar with a calendar full of drag revues, variety shows, karaoke nights, and dance parties. While it shows LGBTQ+ artwork and serves brunch and tasting parties for restaurant pop-ups, Local Lounge has an unpretentious atmosphere with \$1 tacos.

Santé Bar ~ 411 NW Park

A piano bar offering cocktails, live jazz, TV musical viewing parties, and open mics with everything from storytelling and poetry to live music. It's technically in the Pearl District, but is an easy walk from the Old Town gay bars.

Scandals ~ 1125 SW Harvey Milk

At 40 years young, Scandals is among Portland's longest-running LGBTQ+ bars and is the last vestige of downtown's long-gone Vaseline Alley gay district. Scandals features pool tables, a sidewalk patio, trivia, viewing parties, karaoke, and monthly live jazz. You can order food from neighboring dive restaurant the Roxy and bring it over. Every June during Pride, Scandals shuts down their section of street for an epic block party.

Silverado ~ 610 NW Couch

The Pacific Northwest's longest-operating male strip club moved last winter, setting up shop next to the Star Theater in a former sports bar. It doesn't look like much on the surface, because the real party is in the basement. There aren't as many poles as the previous location, but there's no shortage of sexy male dancers.

Stag PDX ~ 317 NW Broadway

It could be due to the management change, but lately Stag has been celebrating bodies that stray away from the classic *Magic Mike* image. Drag queen MCs host different music themed nights—like trap, Latin, and pop—as well as a weekly amateur night and a drag brunch. Two nights a month, their stage exclusively features trans dancers of all expressions.