

**For NEA-Retired West Regional – March 31- April 2, 2009**

**Portland, Oregon – The “City of Roses” blossoms**

**Come early and stay after! With day trips that delight and a nightlife that bedazzles, Portland is a welcoming destination, anytime.**

Set on the Willamette River, Portland combines a sophisticated, cosmopolitan atmosphere with refreshingly friendly, small-town warmth that makes it a natural for tours of all types. Whether in groups or individually, visitors can enjoy the city’s livability by cruising our scenic rivers, strolling through numerous gardens and parks, shopping in our tempting array of stores and boutiques, then wrapping up the day with world-class dining and entertainment.

The NEA-Retired West Regional hotel, 10 miles from downtown Portland, will dazzle participants with its views of Mt. Hood and the beautiful Columbia River as it flows by.

Located on Oregon’s northern border, Portland is midway between the mountains of the Cascade Range and the coast of the Pacific Ocean. First impressions have visitors seeing green. The green, that is, of the trees and parks that dominate Portland’s landscape. Often taking up huge chunks of prime downtown real estate, Portland’s parks are very much a part of the quality of life here.

In this city of eccentricities, fanciful touches harmonize with a reverence for nature. The combination gives Portland a sweetly offbeat appeal. Where else can you find sidewalks paved with famous quotes, more microbreweries and brewpubs than any other city in the United States, a bevy of coffee shops selling unique Northwest blends, or the country’s largest independent bookstore, Powell’s City of Books, blanketing a city block with more than a million volumes?

Pedestrian-friendly streets and undersized city blocks bode well for touring on foot – a great way to discover Portland’s distinct neighborhoods. Let the laid-back pace take over as you explore the art galleries of the Pearl District, the Portland Art Museum, the Classical Chinese Garden in historic Old Town/Chinatown and the cafes and boutiques along NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Visitors will enjoy the convenience of the sleek European-designed Portland Streetcar line and the innovative MAX light rail system.

No visit to Portland is complete without a day spent in Washington Park, home to some of Portland’s finest attractions including the famous International Rose Test Garden, the Oregon Zoo and Japanese Garden. A romantic stroll or leisurely bike ride along the Eastbank Esplanade is a must, with its spectacular city views and its 1,200-foot floating walkway.

And best of all you can take home a piece of Portland — tax-free. There is no sales tax in Oregon, and Portland’s walkable neighborhoods are filled with boutiques and specialty stores offering superb shopping.

For assistance in planning your trip to the gem of the Northwest, contact Travel Portland at 1.877.678.5263 or [info@travelportland.com](mailto:info@travelportland.com) or explore online at [www.travelportland.com](http://www.travelportland.com). Further help can be obtained by emailing NEA-Retired-Oregon member Ray Johnson at [rayugene@att.net](mailto:rayugene@att.net).

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**Join Narrated Evening Tour (Dinner on Your Own)  
Wednesday, April 1**

To help you enjoy Portland, the Host Committee for the NEA-Retired West Regional is arranging a narrated tour by motor coach of our favorite city for Wednesday, April 1. The cost will include roundtrip transportation from the West Regional hotel to downtown Portland, departing at 5:30 p.m. and returning by 10 p.m,

Following the tour portion, the coach will drop you off at one of a number of stops with local members to assist you in selecting a fine Portland restaurant from a list of many, for your dining pleasure. The restaurant cost is not included as part of the tour.

The cost for the transportation will be \$20 per person. To assure a space, your check must be received by February 28 and made out to Oregon Education Association (OEA). Send checks and your local contact information to: Attn. Jerry Wilkins, NEA-Retired-Oregon, 6900 SW Atlanta St., Portland, OR 97223-8598