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Trimet: Light Rail, Bus, Trolley Trimet is the umbrella agency for light rail (MAX trains), trolleys, and regular old buses. The Trimet website has a pretty nice trip planner. Space permitted, you can bring your bike on all Trimet transit. One Pass To Rule Them All, also known as the Hop Card, gives you access to all these forms of transit. You can re-up the card online. Light Rail map Within the city, MAX does a great job of moving you along a few primary corridors. However, numerous parts of the city are not reached directly by light rail. Bus The city offers numerous bus lines that can move you just about anywhere. The main disadvantage to the bus is that it can be slow, with less frequent service at night. Often, it's easy to match or beat the bus by taking your bike. Courtesy Cleveland CTA (same racks there) All buses have a rack for two bicycles on the front. This is really convenient if you want to ride your bike in one direction but use the bus for a return trip, or if the weather changes abruptly. You can also bring your bike on the MAX if it's not super crowded. FX Bus takes you far East. (Not to the Far East, however) Portland recently added the "FX2" bus line, featuring extra long articulated buses, a rapid line from downtown all the way to the suburb of Gresham. I've ridden these buses in Los Angeles, and can confirm they don't actually wheeze like an accordion when going around corners. I don't have much to say about the trolleys, as I hardly ever ride them. They serve a limited area, but if you are on their route and need to get from point A to point B, they should do just fine. Portlands public transportation system read, TriMet ranked 10th best in the nation this year. Thats according to a study released Tuesday by WalletHub, a consumer finance website based in Washington, D.C. The website examined the 100 largest U.S. cities and compared them based on 17 factors like the share of the overall commuting population that uses public transit, safety and reliability, access to jobs and the peak hours spent in congestion. TriMet, which has rail and bus services across the tri-county area, is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary. The agency is also hoping to start construction soon on its first high-capacity bus route and potentially the next light-rail spur, an extension from downtown Portland to Bridgeport Village. Seattle landed the top ranking on the 2019 list, narrowly besting Boston and San Francisco. As The Oregonian reported last year, the Seattle area has aggressively added light rail and streetcar lines. The region also has an expansive bus rapid transit network. According to WalletHubs study, Indianapolis has the worst public transit service of the nations 100 largest cities. Seattle had the third-shortest commuting time by public transportation, according to the list. Conversely, car commuters in Seattle tied for the third most time spent in congestion annually. See the whole study and ranking here. — Andrew Theenatheen@oregonian.com503-294-4026@andrewtheen Visit subscription.oregonlive.com/newsletters to get Oregonian/OregonLive journalism delivered to your email inbox. You can visit Portland with or without a car; the decision is yours. In stark contrast to all of the citys other oddities, Portland, Oregon, is geographically very straightforward. Portland is divided into quadrants by Burnside Street, separating north from south, and the powerful Willamette River, separating west from east. In terms of its size, Portland isnt very big or sprawling, but the city does manage to pack a lot of punch into its eclectic array of neighborhoods. You dont necessarily need a car to enjoy Portlands range of activities and sites, but your decision could depend on your itinerary and personal preference. Lets break it down. Weather in Portland All of Portlands lush greenery is a result of the rain that drizzles the city for the majority of the year outside of summer. Having a car can definitely help keep you dry if Portland weather decides to do what it does best. However, if youre not someone who melts in the rain, then pack your favorite rain jackets for your walks to and from the bus stop. Feel free to act out your favorite R&B music video. Excursions in Portland Depending on how long you will be staying in Portland, you might want to add on a day trip (or two or three) to see more of Oregon while youre in the area. While there are a few shuttles to popular spots like Multnomah Falls, these shuttles are very limited in reach and schedule. For visitors wanting freedom to roam Oregons wine country, the beautiful Oregon Coast, or even restaurants and shops within city limits that are farther away from transit lines, having a car can provide a lot more flexibility. Continue Reading Article After Our Video Traffic in Portland Oregon drivers are two things: really nice and a tad inefficient. No shade. This may be a pro or a con, depending on what kind of environment you normally drive in. In Portland, youll find that drivers rarely honk and will readily wave both pedestrians and other vehicles ahead of them, even out of turn. On the flip side, the leisurely pace of both the drivers and the low-speed limits may frustrate some travelers, especially during rush hour when it is apparent Portlands sudden population growth spurt outpaced its highway expansion. But rest assured, traffic is mostly contained to commuting hours and the highway is working on expansion. Cost For many (if not most) travelers, the decision to have a car in Portland may come down to the total price tag. A few factors to keep in mind when youre totaling your cost would be the cost of a hotel near a transit station that may be more expensive compared to a hotel with free parking that may be farther away from the city center. It can be helpful to map out which attractions and restaurants youd like to visit during your Portland trip to determine if you can visit most of them (or at least the ones that you want to prioritize) with just public transit and how many may require a car. Be mindful that rideshare cars like Lyft and Uber can be pricey in Portland (between \$35-\$50 one way from the airport) and may even add up to be the same price as a car rental for a day. Navigating Without a Car If you opt for a car-less visit to Portland, the good news is that most of the great things to do in Portland are accessible by the citys public transit, including Hoyt Arboretum for hiking and the world-renowned Portland Japanese Garden. The even better news about traversing Portland without a car is that you have multiple options for getting around town. TriMet is the citys public transit operator of buses, streetcars, and the MAX (Metropolitan Area Express) light rail trains. Portland public transit operates daily from about 5 am-midnight, with trains scheduled every 15 or so minutes during the busiest times of day to every 30 minutes after 9 pm. The TriMet system is very reasonably priced with a fare price of \$2.50 for two hours of unlimited travel (which you can mix and match between buses, streetcars, and MAX trains). An all-day pass is \$5, and there is also a 7-day visitor pass available for \$26. You can buy tickets from the kiosk at a station or download TriMets Hop Fastpass app, where you can easily reload from your phone and tap your phone as you board your transport of choice. If the weather is nice and/or you want to be a bit more active, Portland is one of the most bike-friendly big cities in the country. Portlands bike-share program called Biketown is a collaboration between Nike, Lyft, and the Portland Bureau of Transportation. With over 1,000 e-bikes spaced throughout the city, both visitors and residents can breeze through Portland at \$0.30 a minute (plus \$1 to unlock a bike). Portland is also a very walkable city, especially for those staying downtown and near the waterfront. A few hotels close to public transit in walkable areas of the city are the swanky Moxy Downtown hotel (home to one of the best breakfasts in Portland Sunrice), the Hoxton Portland in Chinatown if you want to be in the middle of all the nightlife, or KEX Portland hotel for an affordable but still incredibly chic experience. Navigating With a Car Whether you have your own set of wheels for your entire time in Portland or only a few days, the city is thankfully easy to navigate with a car. Unlike most large cities, Portland has pretty ample street parking, and on the east side of Portland, a lot of street parking is free. Evermore Guesthouse is a cozy bed and breakfast with free onsite parking for guests and is located right off Division Street, a hub for iconic and delicious Portland restaurants and eateries such as Mestizo, Xocolt, and Akadi. Hotels downtown usually charge between \$30-\$40 for valet parking, or guests can pay for street parking, which is free overnight in Portland; just dont forget to wake up to pay the meter in the morning! Parking in Portland is convenient and easy with Portlands Parking Kitty app, so pay for parking directly from your phone and even get notified when your session is about to end. Rates for parking downtown, the most expensive parking area in Portland, run about \$2.20 per hour, 8 am-7 pm, but you can pay for sessions as short as 15 minutes. If you dont prefer street parking or happen to visit during an event, parking garages are also plentiful in the downtown area, with rates from about \$2 an hour to \$15 for the whole day. Previously, pumping your own gas in Oregon was illegal, and each gas station had attendants to perform the service for you. As of 2023, a new law was signed lifting the ban on self-service. However, if you dont want to get out of your car (or if its raining and you just got your hair done), most gas stations still have at least one attendant readily available to help pump your gas for you. For the most part, Portland is one of the more gentle big cities to drive in there arent steep hills, aggressive drivers, or five lanes of traffic to cross to reach your sudden freeway exit. That said, be mindful of the one-way streets downtown and keep a cautious eye out for bikers. Once you leave the metro area, there currently are no toll roads or highways in or around Portland, which makes Oregon a great place for road trips as well. However, gas stations (and services) have become more scarce in rural destinations. On a visit to Portland, do as locals do and take advantage of the citys miles upon miles of protected bike lanes, efficient public transportation system and many (and we mean many) walkable bridges to get around. Renting a car is never necessary for Portland, with plenty of budget-friendly ways to explore the city car-free (and avoid the hassle of finding and paying for parking). There are plenty of ways to travel around Portland without renting a car. In addition to car- and ride-share services, the city also has an extensive public transportation system that includes bus service, the MAX Light Rail and a streetcar. There also the option to rent a bike or electric scooter or simply hoof it. TriMet bus and MAX Light Rail fares are as follows: Adult (ages 18-64): \$2.80 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$5.60 for a day pass Honored Citizen (ages 65 years and older; low income, Medicare or disability): \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.80 for a day pass Youth (ages 17-17): \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.80 for a day pass For the Portland Streetcar: Adult (ages 18-64): \$2.50 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$5 for a day pass Honored Citizen (ages 65 years and older; low income, Medicare or disability): \$1.25 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.50 for a day pass Youth (ages 17-17): \$1.25 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.50 for a day pass These fares are subject to change. Visit the TriMet website for the most up-to-date pricing information. Portland International Airport (PDX) boasts an easy light rail connection to downtown, local food and drink, free Wi-Fi, tax-free shopping with no markups and 500 flights daily. Union Station, with its elegant architecture and iconic Go By Train neon sign connects passengers with the city by bus, car and of course by train. Travel to and from Portland with ease on FlixBus and Greyhound buses both affordable services connect Portland with regional destinations near and far. TriMet manages the citys public transportation system, which includes bus service, the MAX light rail and a streetcar. Public transit offers one of the best ways to get around Portland on a budget, as tickets for one mode of transportation apply to them all. The TriMet bus system, which covers the city and its suburbs thoroughly, offers low fares, friendly drivers and full wheelchair accessibility. Most buses are equipped with bike racks, making mass transit more user-friendly for cyclists. Frequent bus service on more than a dozen bus lines keeps things moving; these lines come every 15 minutes or less most of the day, every day. The MAX Light Rail is the heart and soul of the citys public transportation system. It includes more than 90 stations, and its track stretches for 60 miles, connecting the city, airport and greater Portland region. All five lines (Blue, Red, Green, Yellow and Orange) run through downtown. The MAX is also a frequent service line, meaning it runs every 15 minutes or less. Portlands efficient light rail system connects the metro area and downtown core. Learn how to ride and where to go on MAX. The Portland Streetcar was built in 2011. The original line, now known as the NS line, travels Downtown from Portland State University to the Nob Hill neighborhood. The line goes directly through the Pearl District, a popular shopping and dining area. The A Loop and the B Loop provide service over Tilikum Crossing, the only bridge in the country dedicated exclusively to pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation traffic. The A Loop runs clockwise and connects the east and west sides of the city through the Pearl District, Broadway Bridge, Lloyd, OMSI, Tilikum Crossing and Portland State University. The B Loop passes through the same stops but moves counter-clockwise. The City of Roses built the nations first modern-day streetcar in 2001: the sleek and modern Portland Streetcar. TriMet encourages riders to use contactless bus fares through Hop Fastpass; here are the three ways to use the mobile app. After downloading the app to your mobile device, you can first pay with your phone using a credit or debit card in a mobile wallet like Apple Pay, Google Pay or Samsung Pay. A second option is to purchase a reloadable Hop card from a local retailer, supermarket or convenience store which can be added to the app to track rides and remaining fares. The last option is to purchase a virtual card, which is used similarly to the Hop card. Fares for the bus, MAX light rail and streetcar are: Adults (ages 18-64): \$2.80 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$5.60 for a day pass Honored Citizen (ages 65 years and older; low income, Medicare or disability); \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.80 for a day pass Youth (ages 17-17): \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.80 for a day pass Exploring Portland on two wheels is easy in this purposefully bike-friendly city. The City of Roses boasts miles of protected bike lanes, plenty of places to rent bikes and a treasure trove of bike maps to help you get from point A to B. Portlands bike-share program, Biketown, offers access to 1,000 bright-orange, electric bicycles. Once you have a bike, you may want to enjoy a free guided bike tour. Portland By Cycle from the Portland Bureau of Transportation offers them on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in July and August, while Friends on Bikes hosts regular group rides that cater specifically to women, trans and gender non-conforming people of color. One of the best ways to explore the Rose City is on two wheels. E-scooter sharing lets users rent vehicles via an app for one-way trips. Before boarding, check out our dos and donts for riding e-scooters in Portland. From city-run parking garages to private lots to an app for on-street parking, Portland offers reliable options for parking during your visit. Lyft and Uber both operate in Portland, providing cash-free rides scheduled via mobile app. Both companies serve Portland International Airport (PDX), picking up/drop-off of baggage claim at the far left end of the first island. Lyft serves the greater Portland metro area with basic service for up to four passengers and Lyft Plus, with room for up to six people. Uber serves Portland, Gresham, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard and Vancouver, Washington. Services include basic UberX and XL (for up to six passengers), Uber Access (wheelchair-accessible vehicles) and Uber Pedal (vehicles with bike racks). Those who wish to explore points of interest beyond the city limits, however, might consider renting a car to get from place to place. Another peer-to-peer car-sharing service, Getaround, is a free-to-join, Facebook-linked network currently in six U.S. cities that promises instant approval for membership applicants over 19 with good driving records. Turis is a peer-to-peer car-sharing service that allows owners to rent out their personal vehicles when theyre not using them to other members who want to rent them for a set time. Zipcar members from around the country can access a fleet of hundreds of new vehicles in designated parking spots throughout the Portland metro area; there are more than 80 cars in the central city alone. If youre looking to get out of town without renting a car, there are regional buses like Gorge Pass that offer many routes to see the sites, hike the waterfalls and experience the Fruit Loop in the scenic Columbia River Gorge; the Mt. Hood Express that runs from Sandy all the way to Timberline on Mount Hood; or the Columbia County Rider connecting you to outdoor adventures just outside of Portland. Last but not least, one of the most enjoyable means of getting around the City of Roses is on foot. With many walkable neighborhoods like the Alberta Arts District and Hawthorne, as well as a bustling downtown, those traveling on foot have plenty of places to see and explore. Tilikum Crossing, the only bridge in the country dedicated to light rail, buses, bicycles and pedestrians without automobile traffic, is a scenic way to explore. The bridge connects the South Waterfront to the Central Eastside. Was this page helpful? Portland has an enviable public transit system for a city of our size. TriMet buses, MAX Light Rail, Portland Streetcar, and even the Portland Aerial Tram make it easy to travel without a car. Public transit is often the best and most convenient way to access many popular destinations, since parking can be challenging and expensive. Its also a great way to reclaim personal time to catch up on emails, read or just gaze out the window when you let someone else do the driving. Portland public transit systems Area shuttles ACCESS Shuttle - Connects Cully neighborhood to Cornfoot, Alderwood and Parkrose/Sumner, weekday mornings and afternoons. Swan Island Shuttle - Connects Swan Island to the Rose Quarter Transit Center, weekday evenings. Washington Park Shuttle - Circulates within Washington Park, which can be accessed by MAX Red and Blue lines. Tools for planning your route What to know for your first trip More Tips Text TriMet customer service number, 503-238-7433- Save in your phone to reach customer service 7:30am to 5:30pm, seven days a week. Bringing your bike on public transit- Learn how to bring your bike on the bus, MAX Light Rail, and Portland Streetcar. Additional transit providers in the Portland Area- for connections to neighboring cities and counties; private taxis and shuttles also listed. MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM METRO AND THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION At the heart of Portlands world-class public transportation system is the Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) Light Rail, with almost 100 stations and 60 miles (96.6 km) of track connecting the city, airport and region. Find a stop nearest you with just an address or zip code on TriMets website youll also find more information on fares, navigating the city and possible disruptions of MAX service. The MAX Light Rail Red Line is the easiest way to travel to and from the airport, taking under 40 minutes. MAX has five lines, all of which run through downtown Portland. TriMet offers a downloadable MAX system map with a full list of stops on its website, but as a general rule, each of the five lines spread from the Portland city center to cover a different section of the city: Portlands convenient MAX Light Rail system allows locals and visitors alike to explore the city with ease. MAX trains run about every 15 minutes most of the day, every day. Most lines begin service around 4 a.m. and finish before midnight. A wide variety of MAX Park & Ride locations allow you to leave a vehicle for up to 24 hours, free of charge. A unique feature of the system, the MAX Orange Line uses Tilikum Crossing, Portlands first new span since 1973 and the nations longest bridge dedicated solely to transit, bicycles and pedestrians. (The Orange Line connects downtown Portland to the Central Eastside, Sellwood and Milwaukie, a suburb to the southeast.) Portland's MAX Light Rail system connects the city, airport and Portland region via 97 stations and 60 miles (96.6 km) of track. Portland's MAX Light Rail system connects the city, airport and Portland region via 97 stations and 60 miles (96.6 km) of track. The MAX Red Line is the easiest way to travel to and from the airport, with the ride between downtown and the airport taking under 40 minutes. As of January 2024, fares to ride the MAX Light Rail are as follows: Adult (ages 18-64): \$2.80 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$5.60 for a day pass Honored Citizen (ages 65 years and older; low income, Medicare or disability): \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.80 for a day pass Youth (ages 17-17): \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours; \$2.80 for a day pass The MAX has five lines, all of which run through downtown Portland (also known as city center). The Blue Line covers Hillsboro/City Center/Gresham; the Green Line covers Clackamas/City Center/PSU; the Red Line covers Airport/City Center/Beaverton; the Yellow Line covers Expo Center/City Center/PSU; and the Orange Line covers Milwaukie/City Center. For a more detailed list of stops, visit the Max Light Rail section of the TriMet website. While the MAX runs every 15 minutes or less every day, most of the day, it does not run 24 hours. Most lines begin service at 4 a.m. and end service around midnight. TriMet has information about the full schedules for each of the five lines (blue, green, red, yellow and orange) on its website. As of January 2024, for adults aged 18-64, its \$2.80 to ride for 2.5 hours or \$5.60 for a day pass. For youths aged 17 and Honored Citizens (passengers 65 and older, plus those on Medicare, those with disabilities and those who qualify based on income), its \$1.40 to ride for 2.5 hours or \$2.80 for a day pass. Children 6 and under ride free when accompanied by a paying passenger. The most recent fare information is available on the TriMet website. Riders can pay by using their contactless credit or debit card, mobile wallet (Apple Pay, Google Pay or Samsung Pay) or with a reloadable Hop card. There are also ticket machines at the light rail stations. Tap your form of payment on the green Hop readers every time you board. Signs at each station indicate when the MAX is coming and which lines are due. The line is illuminated on the front of each train, so youll never get confused about which train to board. Trains stop at every station, so theres no need to signal or inform the operator of your stop. For more information on riding the MAX, visit the TriMet website. The top speed for MAX Light Rail is 55 mph (88.5 km/h). For lodging that's easily accessible by MAX, explore hotel offerings in Portland's downtown, Northwest/Nob Hill and Lloyd neighborhoods. Here are even more local destinations you can easily access via MAX Light Rail: Trying to get somewhere that isnt easily reachable by MAX Light Rail? Portlands extensive bus system comprises more than 70 lines offering thorough service to the city and its suburbs read more on TriMets website. The City of Roses built the nations first modern-day streetcar in 2001: the sleek and modern Portland Streetcar. One of the best ways to explore the Rose City is on two wheels. E-scooter sharing lets users rent vehicles via an app for one-way trips. Before boarding, check out our dos and donts for riding e-scooters in Portland. Was this page helpful? Public Works Exploring Portland reveals transportation modes as diverse as its populace. Electric Scooters: Available for short-term rentals, these scooters are a fun way to cover small distances efficiently. Adhering to bike laws, theyre perfect for zipping around downtown while enjoying the open air. Car Sharing Services: Companies like Zipcar offer vehicles for rent by the hour or day, ideal for those who dont own a car but occasionally need one for specific tasks like grocery shopping or weekend trips. Ferries and Water Taxis: While less relied upon compared to other transportation methods, these services provide unique perspectives of the city's waterfront areas and are particularly popular during warmer months. Airports and Long-Distance Travel: Beyond the City For those planning to venture further afield, Portland's facilities make it easy to get from local to international destinations. Portland International Airport (PDX): Serving as a hub for both domestic and international flights, PDX is known for its efficient operations and locally inspired amenities, offering an immediate taste of Portland upon arrival. Union Station: This historic train station, located downtown, connects Portland to other major cities through Amtrak. Whether you're headed to Seattle or Los Angeles, train travel is a scenic and comfortable alternative. Bus Stations and Services: Greyhound and other long-distance bus services operate from Portland, providing budget-friendly travel options to various destinations across the United States. FAQs: Your Portland Transit Questions Answered Is public transportation in Portland reliable? Yes, TriMet's network is known for its punctuality and comprehensive coverage of the city. The integration of buses, streetcars, and light rails ensures a cohesive travel experience. How bike-friendly is Portland? Very! Portland boasts extensive bike paths and protective measures for cyclists. Programs like Biketown enhance convenience for both residents and visitors. What's the best way to get from the airport to downtown? The MAX Red Line offers a direct and cost-effective connection from PDX Airport to downtown Portland, running frequently throughout the day. Are electric scooter rentals safe? Yes, as long as they are used responsibly and according to local laws. Helmets are recommended, and staying within designated areas ensures a safe ride. How can I save on transportation costs while visiting? Consider investing in a TriMet day pass or using services like Biketown for cost-effective mobility. Exploring on foot or by bike can also reduce costs while offering unique sightseeing opportunities. Portland's diverse transportation options cater to various lifestyles and needs, embodying the citys character as flexible, eco-conscious, and innovative. Whether commuting daily or exploring the many attractions, Portlands transport system offers a dynamic blend of options to suit every traveler.

Does portland oregon have good public transportation. How is public transportation in portland oregon. Does portland have good public transportation. Does portland maine have public transportation. Portland transit. Does portland maine have good public transportation. Portland public transit. Does portland have a metro. Portland public transport.