

Family fun for all ages » Travel Portland

Whether your children are just learning to crawl or have long since mastered their iPhones, Portland's abundant kid-friendly activities keep the good times rolling. Here's a rundown of play-perfect suggestions for kids of all ages.

Young 'uns (ages 0-5)

What toddler doesn't love a train? All the more reason to climb aboard Portland's user-friendly [MAX light rail](#) (which announces its departures with a retro bell clang) to catch a ride to the Washington Park station, where you'll disembark in the Robertson Tunnel — at 260 feet below ground, the deepest transit station in North America. Up top, walk a few steps to the [Portland Children's Museum](#), where little ones can wonder at the illuminated Twilight Trail, tumble down a soft slide in the Baby's Garden, and explore the "Zaney Maze," an outdoor space packed with art installations, interactive exhibits and secret passages.

On hot days head for splash-worthy [Jamison Square](#) in the Pearl District. Like a geyser, the fountain's waterfalls stop, drain and cascade again. To chill out even more, order some homemade scoops at nearby [Cool Moon Ice Cream](#).

Big Kids (6-10)

If Bill Nye "the Science Guy" were to design the world's most fun-packed laboratory, odds are he'd look to [OMSI \(Oregon Museum of Science and Industry\)](#) for inspiration. Inside, brainpower boosts — and belly laughs — come courtesy of hundreds of interactive displays. Ride in a motion simulator, sit back for an IMAX film, then board a full-size submarine — the USS *Blueback* — docked outside in the Willamette River.

Budding biologists flock to the [World Forestry Center](#) and the adjacent [Oregon Zoo](#), where 64 park-like acres boast natural enclosures that evoke everything from African savannahs to tropical rainforests.

The [Portland Art Museum](#) offers family-focused tours every Sunday (psst: kids under 17 get in free). Cap the day at [McMenamins Kennedy School](#), where class consists of watching movies on a big screen and snacking on slices of pizza. Plus, mom and dad can sip on a wide selection of local handcrafted ales.

So Not-a-Kid-Anymore (11 and up)

Got a trend-savvy tween or two? [Portland Saturday Market](#) is the go-to spot for creative crafts, handmade art and jewelry, and other one-of-a-kind finds. Book lovers could devote an entire week to exploring the block-size [Powell's City of Books](#), which augments its 1.5 million new and used books with offbeat local souvenirs and gifts.

Adventurous families can take to the air via [Konect Aviation](#) helicopter tours, blast up the Willamette River with a [Willamette Jetboat](#) tour or cruise along riverfront bike paths with a four-seat "surrey" bike rental from [Kerr Bikes](#).

And old-fashioned thrills abound at [Oaks Amusement Park](#), which boasts retro roller coasters, a Ferris wheel and even a roller-skating rink. Parents can foster some competitive spirit, too: Challenge the kiddos to a putting match at downtown's [Glowing Greens](#), where ultraviolet black lights amp up a 3-D, pirate-themed indoor miniature golf course, or round out the day with a battle of wits at [Mississippi Pizza](#), which hosts a kid-friendly spelling bee the first Saturday each month. Who said parents can't spell fun?

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