

Summertime means a road trip to Portland



signed with gorgeous chandeliers, pistachio-colored drapes, huge framed mirrors, plush booths, and fine cloth-topped tables, gives the impression of being expensive, but it's not. Five varieties of eggs Benedict, ranging from classic to seafood (Dungeness crab and Oregon bay shrimp cakes) are \$14 or less, and come sided with a sautéed mix of traditional and sweet potatoes. The highest-priced item on the breakfast/lunch menu is "The Elvis," a fit-for-a-king stack of pancakes with peanut butter, bacon, and bananas for \$17. Everything else, including omelets, hashes, waffles, and egg plates, falls somewhere between \$9 and \$15.

breakfasts all priced under \$12. I had the breakfast burrito filled with eggs, braised pork, green chilies, and potatoes, then finished with dollops of guacamole, cheddar cheese, and queso fresco. It ranks as one of my favorite breakfast meals. The Original's atmosphere is youthful and hip, yet unpretentious and comfortable.

RECOVERY

Two things help put you on the road to recovery, and the road back home after a long night out: massage and shopping.

The Avalon Hotel & Spa (www.avalonhotelandspa.com) is 10 minutes from downtown Portland, resting waterside and giving its guests a bit of privacy from the city bustle. The spa offers a basic menu of massages, body treatments, and reflexology, which should help restore your energy and get the blood circulating properly again. Something to note, the Avalon's male clientele – from my observation and from those I met in the locker room – is a healthy, attractive bunch of guys that includes college athletes, firemen, and business travelers. The whirlpool, steam room, and wet sauna in the men's area are recommended post-massage, or if you'd rather work out, a fitness area upstairs is available (inquire about use). The Avalon Spa is 13,000 square feet in size and has its own hair salon.

As for shopping, somewhat new to the scene is an H&M store at Pioneer Place in downtown (340 S.W. Morrison St.). The flagship UnderU4Men shop at 507 S.W. Broadway is great for browsing the latest fashions below the waistline. And, how can you visit Portland and not stock up on reading material with a pit stop at Powell's Books (1005 W. Burnside)? The mega bookstore's café is a nice spot to sip a latte and people-watch before returning to Seattle.

by Albert Rodriguez
SGN A&E Writer

Summer is roadtrip season – think downtown hotel and muddled cocktails, not sleeping bags and mosquito bites. If you're not into roughing it in the woods, try an overnighter to a less remote destination – perhaps an urban getaway to Portland.

Getting to the Rose City is as easy as gassing up the car, finding a friend to ride shotgun, and loading the iPod with summer jams from Katy Perry and Death Cab for Cutie. When you arrive in PDX, this is how you might spend the next 24 hours.

ALL-DAY HAPPY HOUR

Did I say all-day happy hour? Yes, I did! The Driftwood Room (www.hoteldeluxe-portland.com/hotel-deluxe-restaurant-bar) inside the glamorous Hotel deLuxe serves happy-hour drinks at happy-hour prices all the time. The darkly lit lounge, where Jennifer Aniston hung out while filming something forgettable, is wedged into a corner of this Pearl District hotel, which pays homage to Hollywood legends and cinema mavericks (Billy Wilder, hello?). New to the Driftwood Room is the Elizabeth Taylor signature cocktail, made with creme de violette and champagne – it's classy, refreshing, and diva-inspired. The \$6 croque monsieur was sinful, while the \$4 bowl of smoked chicken chowder was hearty and delivered piping hot. Unless you're a truly big eater, the portions at the Driftwood Room (the portabella burger is a meal) should provide enough fuel in the tank for the evening. Service is friendly – the bartender even printed out a list of movie times for me – and the sleek ambiance woos Portland's cool cats nightly.

CLUB HOPPING

The usual Gay suspects are still there – C.C. Slaughters, Boxes, Eagle, Hobo's – though I prefer Embers (110 N.W. Broadway) for some unexplainable sloppy reason. If you're feeling loungey, check out Teardrop (www.teardroplounge.com) or Vault

Martini (www.vault-martini.com), both of which draw significant Gay crowds, or for a mixed scene go to the Gilt Club (www.giltclub.com), also in the Pearl District. Just southwest of downtown, the Escape Nightclub (333 S.W. Park Ave.) is the spot to release your inner dance freak with music that ranges from industrial to new wave to house, and it's definitely more Gay than straight. Stripper withdraw! The boys at Silverado (318 S.W. 3rd Ave.) will gladly take it all off, and take your dollar bills at the same time. Should you desire an artsy setting, Valentine's (232 S.W. Ankeny St.) caters to straight, young hipsters, but there's usually a good band playing or visual art project on display – its loft-style digs with community tables on the main floor provide a great way to blend in with PDX scenesters.

OVERNIGHT

The Courtyard Marriott or Courtyard Portland City Center (www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/pdxpc-courtyard-portland-city-center) is right downtown and within walking distance of party zones, restaurants, and department stores. This sort-of-new 16-story property incorporates boutique features into what would otherwise be a standard corporate hotel, starting with its lobby decked out with suede chairs and couches, nifty lamps, dark wood paneling, and cream-colored carpet to match the furniture. My room was spacious with wonderful views of the city and a tastefully decorated interior: wall print of local scenery, window-side reading chair, and extended work desk with slide-out tray. The concourse level includes a foyer, a place to mingle away from the lobby fuss, and it provides four hard-wired computer stations with free internet. Convenient and slightly upscale, the Courtyard Marriott is suggested for those who want a little flair at minimal cost.

BREAKFAST

An interesting thing about Portland is that some of the best restaurants are inside hotels, such as Gracie's (www.graciesdining.com) at Hotel deLuxe. The dining room, de-

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