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Rain or shine, Portland beckons

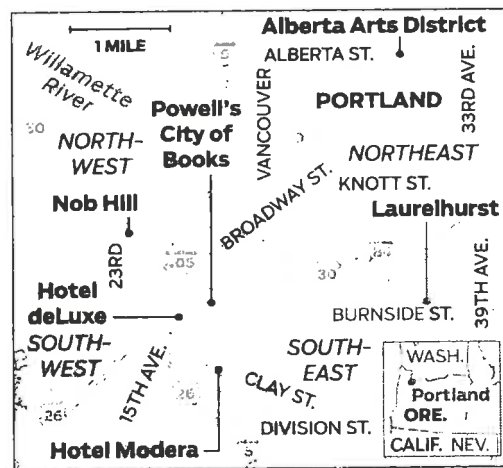
By Lauren Viera
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Friday

Portland is divided into five districts—Northeast, Northwest, Southwest/Downtown, Southeast and North Portland—each with its own neighborhoods and personality. Your best bet for lodging is downtown. Recommended: the boutique **Hotel Modera** (515 SW Clay St.; 877-484-1084; www.hotelmodera.com), in the historic South Park Blocks. The gut-rehabbed Modera emerged last spring with a luxe lobby, spacious, souped-up guest rooms (starting at \$139) and a courtyard with native plants and shrubs furnished with inviting fire pits. Just east of PGE Park, **Hotel deLuxe** (729 SW 15th Ave.; 866-986-8085; www.hoteldeluxeportland.com) offers top-notch service in an award-winning renovated Art-Deco building. Luxury amenities such as the pillow menu complement comfortable, well-appointed rooms (starting at \$127) priced lower than they should be.

Most downtown hotels are within walking distance of Portland's trifecta of public transportation options: the light rail MAX, the TriMet bus and the streetcar, all of which are free when traveling within the high-traffic Fareless Square region. Catch the 12, 19 or 20 bus across the Burnside Bridge to your first amazing meal of the weekend: dinner at **Le Pigeon** (738 E. Burnside St.; 503-546-8796; www.lepigeon.com). When it comes to locally harvested, expertly prepared dishes, Portland rules—and Le Pigeon is proof. It's exquisite. And tiny. Three communal tables are crammed around a large open kitchen, lined with front-row action bar seats. French bread and sea-salted Plugra butter whet the palate for the specialty here, squab, though rotations on the minimal menu include beef cheeks, a delectable squash tart and French-inspired classics.

As a post-dinner constitutional, head west



SOURCE: ESRI, TeleAtlas

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