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## A Weekend Getaway in the City of Roses

Hotel Rose Portland has lots to offer families and couples

We love our home, our community, and Kitsap County, but the mood struck us to get out of town for a few days, see some new things, make some new discoveries, and have some new and different experiences. So, we decided to head to Portland for some pre-Thanksgiving respite.

I'm so glad we did! We were unplugged and unscheduled for three days and returned home rested, relaxed, and replenished. And ready to tackle the chaos of the holiday season.

We were welcomed as guests to [Hotel Rose Portland](#), formerly Hotel Fifty, which was recently acquired and rebranded by Pineapple Hospitality. Last year, my daughter and I were guests at The Maxwell Hotel near the Seattle Center, also owned and operated by Pineapple Hospitality, a family-run and Bellevue-based hospitality company.

Our getaway weekend began at this fun and funky (and friendly!) 140-room boutique hotel named Rose for Portland's nickname – the City of Roses.



The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of the downtown shopping district and a stones throw from the walking path and the Tom McCall Waterfront Park along the Willamette River and just south of the I-5 and I-84 interchange.

## The Room

Since its recent acquisition this year, updating has been done to make things more modern to align with the Pineapple Hospitality standard. The elevator is a little cold, as was the hallway upon our arrival, but our room overlooking the river was warm and inviting. It was a quaint room for two adults and two kids – cozy and a great place to sleep or hang out before and after exploring what the city has to offer.

The bed coverings, ergonomic desk chair, iPod docking station, 42” flatscreen TV, Kuerig coffee maker, and phone are very current, posh amenities. In contrast, couple pieces of an older style hotel remain like the lounge chair and side table, giving it a retro feel.

A sliding door doubled as a closet and bathroom door, depending on the desired function at the time. The kids found it difficult to open and close, as did I, at times. The bathrooms have been remodeled and feature walk-in showers with rainhead fixtures and a newer toilet. A fan to clear the steamy air after a shower was the only other option we expected and searched for unsuccessfully.

All of us found the beds with Simmons© Beautyrest Black™ Beverly Hills™ Plush memory foam bedding very comfortable with very plush pillows. Sigh. So cozy! And when I wasn't sleeping, I made good use of the complimentary Wi-Fi, laptop safe, and mini refrigerator.

## What to do

Hotel Rose offers urban contemporary and comfortable accommodations and is conveniently located near many of Portland's most popular shopping destinations, tourist attractions, parks, restaurants and more.

Sandwiched comfortably between the beauty and expanse of the beautiful Willamette River and downtown, there is no shortage of activities to choose from. Across the street at the river you can stroll the riverwalk or sit at the waterfront and enjoy the scenery. Head the other direction, and you're immediately downtown and surrounded by shopping (oodles of shopping!) and restaurants. From upscale stores like Michael Kors and Coach, to more reasonably-priced outlets like Nordstrom Rack and Gap, there are a huge variety and number of places to go within walking distance. (And if you feel like exploring further than that, Hotel Rose offers [complimentary bicycle rentals](#) and come

with locks and helmets.)

Pioneer Place Mall is only a couple blocks away and has a fun little toy store, and there is also an independent toy seller called Finnegan's Toys & Gifts that's about 10 blocks away. The afternoon we walked there, the city was putting up the city center Christmas tree at Pioneer Courtyard Square. White lights encircled each trunk of the trees along many of the streets downtown, setting the scene for a festive holiday season. It's a beautiful time of year to visit.

*Note: As with any big city, this area has its share of transient population. They weren't terribly imposing upon us personally, but my small-town kids are somewhat alarmed and unsettled by them. Just to forewarn you.*

Hotel Rose will gladly supply you with a map of downtown, including recommendations on places to go and things to do. Beyond the immediate vicinity, there are many fun places to go and explore when you're there, such as the Oregon Zoo, Multnomah Falls, and Portland Children's Museum.

One of the places we went for one full day and a portion of another day was the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry ([OMSI](#)). It took us less than 5 minutes to get there from Hotel Rose.



OMSI reminded me of the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. There are lots of interactive displays and exhibits for kids and adults alike. We spent a lot of time in Turbine Hall and it's ball room, earthquake house, paper airplane manufacturing, lots of brain teasers, science labs like hands-on chemistry and physics, and much much more.



OMSI has a Science Playground for visitors six and under, which we were all too old for, but it looked fun! They also have a submarine you can tour, a planetarium, a theater, and touring exhibits that stop through (like the current Sherlock Holmes).

### **Bottom Line**

Hotel Rose is a great place for families, couples, and business travelers. Whether you're looking for a staycation, a weekend getaway, or a comfortable place to stay after an event in Portland, Hotel Rose should be at the top of your list. You can even [bring your pet!](#)

They offer a [Best Rate Guarantee](#), plus you can get your [third night free](#) just by signing up for their [monthly newsletter!](#) Two other specials going on now include a [percentage off](#) if you stay before Dec. 30. They also have a [New Year's Eve deal](#) for grown-ups.

No matter when you visit, don't forget the added touch of a complimentary pineapple mini-cupcake and Kobo's coffee, available in the lobby from 3-7 pm every day (yum!).

