

Los Angeles

MAGAZINE

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LAKE LAS VEGAS, NV

It's Vegas Without the Vegas

→ MANICURED AND compact, Lake Las Vegas is no Mead (ten minutes away), but you won't be saying that when you're kayaking across the water or sipping a shoreside margarita as the sun dips below the sienna ridgeline. Built into a rugged canyon, the nouveau-Med development could pass for the Grove's big sister, with golf courses, rustling palms, and splashing fountains. It's a nice way to stay within orbit of the Strip (20 minutes from here) when your progeny are with you. Keep them busy with the Adventure Camp at **Westin Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa** as you decompress in the spa or cast for bass in the lake. For dinner it's **Marssa**, the resort's lakefront Japanese restaurant, before a stop at **Aston MonteLago Village**—Lake Las Vegas's take on Venice—to get a scoop or two at **Tutti Gelati** and a moonlight gondola ride.



While You're There

Not enough to do in Portland? Visit Steve Jones, who was named best cheesemonger on the planet in the international Cheesemonger Invitational. His Cheese Bar will pair the right Oregon wine with your mac and can hook you up with the manchego of your dreams.



The Nines hotel in Portland

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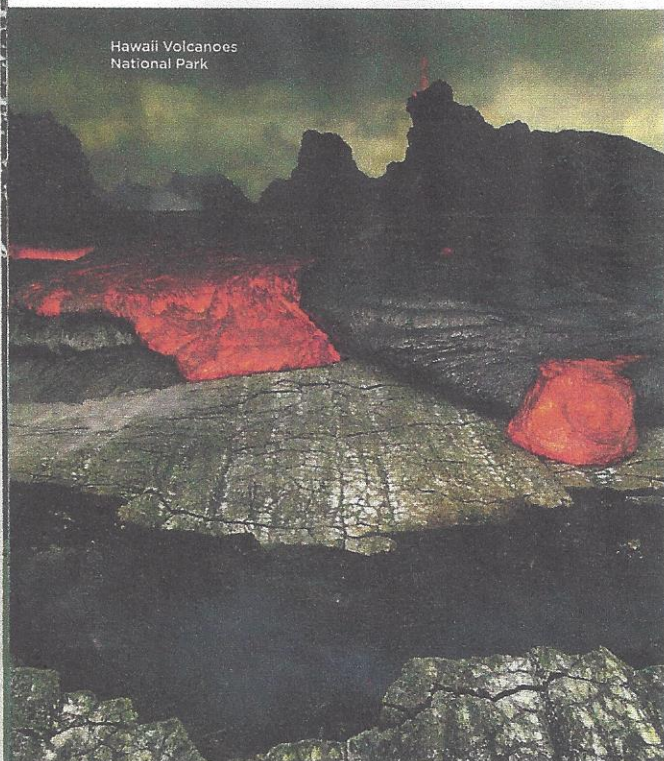
PORTLAND, OR

Master the Rose City

→ PORTLANDIA WILL woo you. Shack up in the arty Pearl District at **The Nines**, a historic department store that's been refashioned into a stylish hotel. The streetcar stops right outside, and the city is crosshatched with bike lanes. But just pedaling along the Willamette River with a rental from **Waterfront Bicycles** may be all you have time for this weekend. Across the water in the boho **Burnside** neighborhood, **Mississippi Avenue** has record stores and cafés, with a cluster of food carts

(the **Big Egg's** Monte Cristo has melted hearts) at **Mississippi Marketplace**. Farther south, on **Division Street**, **Pok Pok** serves Vietnamese street food-inspired fish sauce wings and drinking vinegars. About a mile away, caffeinate with a lauded *ristretto* at **Stumptown Coffee Roasters**. Back in downtown, the **Blue Heron** at **BridgePort Brewing Company** is a sudsy delight, while the off-menu burger at **Gabe Rucker's** Frenchy bistro **Little Bird** has the James Beard stamp of approval.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



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HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, HI

Get Up Close to a Smoldering Volcano

→ WITH DENSE rain forests, continuous eruptions, and new lava flows, things get pretty primal in the Big Island's **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**. Unpredictability comes with the territory, and when rains roll in, the cedar cottages and Japanese soaking tubs hidden among the ferns at **Volcano Rainforest Retreat** will satisfy anyone's hankering to hunker down. On cool nights warm up with the spicy soups and curries at **Thai Thai Restaurant**. Pack it in early because the time to visit

Kilauea's erupting **Halemauau Crater**, ten minutes away, is before dawn, when its lava lake glows against the plume of ash and steam, and the crowds are nonexistent. Nearby, the four-mile **Kilauea Iki Trail** drops through forest, then crosses a steaming crater that erupted in 1959. Kilauea has lured tourists for 170 years; in an 1877 building that was once a hotel, the **Volcano Art Center Gallery** exhibits works by the many painters, printmakers, and woodworkers who live in the area.