

HIDDEN PUBLIC SPACES



1 PORTLAND FREEDOM TRAIL

Commercial Street

The Portland Freedom Trail, which is part of the network of Maine Freedom Trails, is a series of historic markers throughout downtown that tell the story of the people and places that were a part of the Underground Railroad. The Maine Historical Society has a PDF of a self-guided walking tour of the Freedom Trail available for download at mainehistory.org. Points of interest on the trail are marked with a granite post and brass plaque.

2 HARBORWALK TRAIL

53 Portland Pier

Wander past J's Oyster, to the end of the Portland Pier for a view of DiMillo's floating restaurant and marina. The Fore River winds along the Portland waterfront and into Casco Bay, bringing lobsterman, kayakers, and the occasional seal frolicking in the sun. Soak in the sights and sounds of Portland's working waterfront from one of the many wharves and piers along Commercial Street.

3 BERLIN WALL

Long Wharf

Though privately owned by the DiMillo family, Long Wharf welcomes the public year-round. Enjoy a stroll past a variety of public art installations and historic monuments, including a section of the Berlin Wall. From Long Wharf, you can access many boat tours and read about the history of the DiMillo family and the floating restaurant. Take a photo in front of the Waves & Anchor fence next to Portland Lobster Co. for a fun memento!

4 POST OFFICE PARK

*Middle Street -
between Market Street & Exchange Street*

Just a short wander up through the Old Port from Commercial Street, you'll find a quaint park with an interesting history. Once the location of the original Post Office, the park is now home to: a rock sculpture that honors Casco Bay's Islands, red mailboxes - which were a gift from our sister City Shinagawa, Japan, and a small brick stage for performances. Directly across the street is Tommy's Park, another wonderful public space to sit, relax, and soak in the sights & sounds of the city.

5 CITY HALL

389 Congress Street

Located at the intersection of Exchange Street on Congress Street, Portland City Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places. Cherry trees flank the entrance, and the steps are a fun place to snap a photo or to admire the City seal up close. "Resurgam", the City's motto, highlights its resilience in rebuilding after the Great Fire of 1866. If you find yourself at City Hall during business hours, you can pop into the Clocktower Café (located in the basement) and grab a bite to eat, or wander in and admire some of the art collections throughout the building.

6 FIRST PARISH CHURCH

425 Congress Street

First Parish was built in 1825, to replace 'Old Jerusalem', which was the wooden predecessor of the current granite church. Inside this stunning building hangs a 600 pound cut-glass chandelier with a cannonball fused in the chain. The church has partnered with local tour operator Portland By The Foot to provide tours to the public. However, the public is always welcome to enjoy the lovely gardens that surround the church - a wonderful spot to pause and meditate. Fun fact: the Maine Constitution was drafted in the original wooden church (Old Jerusalem) in 1820.

7 LEWIS ART GALLERY AT THE PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

5 Monument Square

The Portland Public Library is a great place to browse a wide collection of books, music, and more. Many events happen here throughout the week and it is a wonderful place to use the internet, or to sit and read the paper. However, the PPL also has a stellar art gallery on the bottom floor that is open to the public and has a new exhibit each month. The library also boasts art on every floor, so be sure to take a long, meandering tour to see how many pieces you can spot.

8 LONGFELLOW HOUSE GARDEN

489 Congress Street

A favorite of local residents and downtown employees, the garden behind the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow house is sure to wow! The brick pathway leads from Congress Street, towards the Maine Historical Society library, and into the multi-tiered garden - complete with benches, a fountain, and many flowering plants. Though the garden is only open seasonally, you can always take in the history of the home of the Longfellows and pop into the MHS gift store or museum.

TOUR DURATION

20 - MINUTE WALK
(PLUS EXPLORING!)

TRAVEL DISTANCE

1 MILE



HIDDEN PUBLIC SPACES SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



PORTLAND
DOWNTOWN

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- 1 **PORTLAND FREEDOM TRAIL**
Commercial Street
- 2 **HARBORWALK TRAIL**
53 Portland Pier
- 3 **BERLIN WALL**
Long Wharf
- 4 **POST OFFICE PARK**
Middle Street -
between Market Street & Exchange Street
- 5 **CITY HALL**
389 Congress Street
- 6 **FIRST PARISH CHURCH**
425 Congress Street
- 7 **LEWIS GALLERY (at the Portland Public Library)**
5 Monument Square
- 8 **LONGFELLOW HOUSE GARDEN**
489 Congress Street



ABOUT PORTLAND DOWNTOWN

Portland Downtown, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, stimulates a thriving, vibrant, and sustainable downtown community.

ABOUT THE WALKING TOURS

Undergraduate students from USM's Tourism & Hospitality program designed custom self-guided walking tours through a creative academic curriculum in partnership with Portland Downtown. The City of Portland provided a matching grant to have the walking tours made into professionally designed brochures, which are available for free at locations around Portland and on-line. We hope you enjoy!



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