

Where's the

There's something about those long and languid summer days that makes seizing the cooler nights an imperative. Portland's Old Port offers a plethora of opportunities (despite the complaints of a few killjoy guests at nearby hotels) to get loose and loud well into the witching hours.

SUMMER CITY CLASSICS

In Portland, it's not always at the trendy newcomer locales that you'll find the really good times. Some of the city's most tried-and-true do it best, with the characteristic warmth and laid-back atmospheres most conducive to high spirits and hedonism.

Remember those illicit backyard parties of your underage youth, the ones your friends threw while their overly trusting parents were vacationing in Italy? Blaring and ram-bunctious with stale Doritos and warm, flat beer in red Solo

PARTY?

Where the music's hot, where the beer's cold, where everybody is.

BY KAREN HOFREITER

On the Beach

Old Orchard Beach is an epicenter of loud music and dancing every night of the summer. The Brunswick pub deck is the place for live music. Line-up includes: Hello Newman, June 17; Quiet Riot Act, June 19; Dan Merrill, June 24; Tickle!, July 1; Stolen Mojo, July 3; Sons of the Beach, July 10; The Inflatables, July 16; Diezel, July 23; Mitch Alden, August 1; Stolen Mojo, August 6; The Dapper Gents Duo, August 9; MB Padfield, August 16; Jodie Cunningham, August 20; The Hurricanes, August 27; Alex Roy, August 31.



On the Pier

The Maine State Pier lineup for this summer includes: Dashboard Confessional, June 15; Awolnation, June 21; Barenaked Ladies, June 24; Josh Turner, June 25; Whitesnake, June 26; Melissa Etheridge, July 2; The Beach Boys, July 7; Lee Brice, July 8; 311, July 17; Slightly Stoopid, July 21; Joe Walsh, July 28; George Thorogood, August 5; Philip Phillips and Matt Nathanson, August 7; Gov't Mule and Blackberry Smoke, August 11; Hunter Hayes, August 12; Bush and Chevelle, August 13; Dark Star Orchestra, August 14; Flogging Molly, August 16; Goo Goo Dolls, August 17; The Band Perry, August 18; Bonnie Raitt, August 19; and Blues Traveler and The Wallflowers, August 28.

Swap these out for authentic toasted tortilla chips and local craft beer and that's exactly the vibe you'll find on a summer's eve at **Amigos Mexican Restaurant** (9 Dana Street, Portland 772-0772). In the outdoor space out back strings of lights along the high wood fencing, a band tucked in the corner, and the youthful, shoulder-to-shoulder crowd create that homegrown, thrown-together-last-minute atmosphere of an authentic party. As a local party fiend put it: "The name of the place should be 'The IT bar of the Old Port.' It's just dive-bar enough to scare away the high-maintenance types, the whiners, the snobs, the yuppies, and the hipsters... and the patio is where it's at!" (Yelp, September 2015).

The nightly live jams coming from the wharf-side deck at the **Portland Lobster Company** (180 Commercial Street, Portland, 775-2112, portland-lobstercompany.com) liven up this long stretch of Commercial Street. It's hard not to be lured over for a beer, bite, and perhaps a little boogie—if there's space, that is—in the "crowded, hectic atmosphere" (Tripadvisor reviewer, Killington, VT, De-

ember 2015). The incredibly popular lobster and seafood joint is almost always packed with locals and tourists alike, cramming in to crack lobsters and sip Maine-brewed summer ales, while soaking up the live music lacing the fragrant sea breeze. "This place is straight up ROCKING what seems like every day of the week during peak season." (Yelp reviewer, Flushing, NY,

February 2016).

Head just around the corner and you'll find another deck for dancing at **The Porthole** (20 Custom House Wharf, Portland, (773-4653, portholemaine.com). The expansive wharf-side patio draws high-spirited hordes on balmy summer nights with live local acts, plates

In the Park

Every summer L.L.Bean hosts free concerts in Discovery Park, Freeport. This year's lineup: Thirdstory, July 3; David Mallett and the Mallett Brothers Band, July 4 at 7:30pm, followed by fireswork around 9pm; Frankie Ballard, July 23; Grace Potter, July 30; Lyle Lovett and His Large Band, August 6; The Lone Bellow, August 13; The Ballroom Thieves, August 20.



FROM TOP: WATERFRONT CONCERTS; COURTESY GRACE POTTER; BLUES TRAVELER

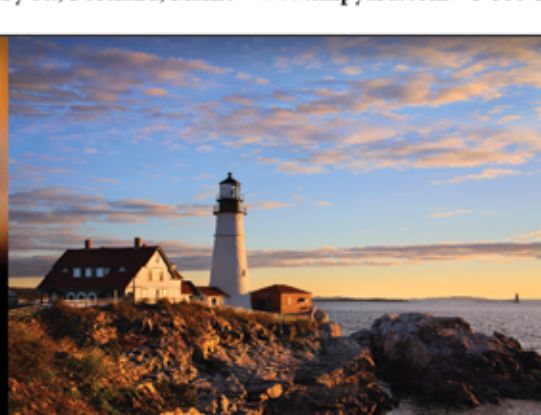


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Foreigner will be playing in Rangeley on July 30th with the mountains of Western Maine as the back drop.



of briny oysters, and no-frills cocktails. From post-work suits ditching their jackets and loosening their ties during happy hour, to slap-happy tourists already on their sixth round, there's "plenty of people-watching;

young folks dressed for the clubs, old folks dancing to music..." (Yelp reviewer, El Dorado, CA, August 2013).

Another famed Portland patio sits on the rooftop of **Brian Boru** (57 Center Street,

Portland, 780-1506, brianboruportland.com). At this classic Irish pub, join the sea of sunglasses while guzzling Guinness or sipping cider and listening to live bands (Thursday-Sunday) cranking out everything from reggae to funk to rock and pop covers. While some may not be too keen on the craic—"a really LOUD bar" (Yelp, Wilmington, DE, September 2015)—for the rest of us, that's the whole point. As a native Irishman raved, "This bar is without doubt one of the reasons I'd return to Portland for a night out. The rooftop bar was busy and with the live band playing the atmosphere was wonderful" (Tripadvisor, August 2015).

REALLY LOUD AND REALLY BIG

Portland's premier outdoor concert venues offer a slew of national acts for all tastes...as long as your taste is big, bold, and blasting. Join the 3,000 revelers at the **Maine State Pier** (Commercial and Franklin streets, Portland, Box Office 358-9327, waterfrontconcerts.com) and catch acts like Top-40 rapper **Fat Joe** (June

FROM LEFT: PHOTO BY NICK LEADLEY, COURTESY RANGELEY HEALTH AND WELLNESS; THE PORTHOLE

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Along the Waterfront

4); indie rock band **Dashboard Confessional** (June 15); and the epitome-of-summer crooners, the **Beach Boys** (July 7). Beyond the masses and the mammoth steel-frame stage, serene sailboats float through Casco Bay, providing an picturesque backdrop to the revelry.

The recently reopened **Thompson's Point** (Thompson's Point Road, Portland, (207) 747-5288, statetheatreportland.com

Porthole's lineup for this summer includes: Ben Kilcollins, June 15; Dapper Duo, June 16; Northern Groove, June 17; Isaiah Bennet, June 22; Ragged Jack, June 25; Scotty Lank, June 28; Slygo Road, July 3; North of Nashville, July 16; The DumBum Show, July 28; Downeast Soul Coalition, July 29; Whiskey Militia, July 31; Marshall Nelson, August 4; Sam Shain, August 8; Jenna Pigney, August 13; Mike Krapovicky, August 16; Jim Gallant, August 19; Best Not Broken, August 25; Dean Ford & The Keepsakes, August 26; Radio Revival, August 28.

Portland Lobster Co.'s lineup for this summer includes: Eric Bettencourt & Friends (every Wednesday) June 25; The Still, June 27; Conner Garvey & Friends, June 28; The Shakes, June 30. July 7, Downeast Soul Coalition; July 15, The Loud Fun; July 18, Muddy Ruckus; July 24, Mitch Alden Duo; July 28, The Shakes; July 31, Free Volt.

for event listings) also boasts a stellar lineup this summer. Enjoy acts like progressive rock group **Moe.** (June 17) and the feel-good reggae tunes of **Michael Franti & Spearhead** (June 15) while enjoying the view over the Fore River and feasting on food truck favorites from CN Shawarma and Fishin' Ships. Last summer's concert-goers always mention the incredible sunsets from the open-air venue. After all, "Who doesn't

dig music next to the ocean???" (Facebook fan, October 2015).

WEEKEND WIND-DOWN

Just because it's Sunday and you're back to the grind in 12 hours doesn't have to mean a dreary night in. Taking in a film at Congress Square Park is the perfect chilled yet social last call to a party warrior weekend. Grab your camp chair and drink cooler and join the audience for classic thrillers like *North by Northwest* and *Psycho*; retro rom-coms like

Breakfast at Tiffany's and *Manhattan*; and beloved blockbusters like *E.T.*, *Indiana Jones*, and *Star Wars*. Laugh, cry, and get goose bumps in unison while the weekend slips behind the giant silver screen and the rush of traffic and pedestrians on Congress Street fades to a peaceful lull. **Portland Summer Film Series** (Congress Square Park, Portland, portlandsummerfilms.com; see website for schedules and times). ■

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