

Portland Portland Heights to Zoo

This walk combines stunning views of downtown and the Cascades, 19th century homes, wooded paths and a ride on Portland's only subway. Stop for a snack at Strohecker's Grocery on your way to an afternoon visiting the animals at the Oregon Zoo.

From SW 18th Avenue and Jefferson Street, walk south on 18th, passing underneath Highway 26. Immediately after the tunnel, turn left on an asphalt path. Turn right onto 16th Avenue and then right on Montgomery, which winds uphill. Take a stairway on the left that leads up to Vista Avenue. At the top of the stairs, turn left on Vista, then left on Jackson. Turn right on 18th, a steep street along which a cable car operated in the 1890s. Follow 18th to Spring Street, named after the spring that once fed the neighborhood fire station. Turn right on Spring and pass the fire station, Ainsworth School and the Ainsworth Greenspace, with its 60-meter-long pedestrian bridge.

Emerge from the bridge onto St. Helens Court, turn right and then left onto Montgomery Drive. After 0.5 mile, turn right on Patton Road, passing Strohecker's. In business over 100 years, it specializes in rare and gourmet foods. Across from Heather Lane, turn right off Patton onto the Marquam Trail. Follow it through the woods and across Highway 26 to the zoo.

After visiting the zoo, head to the Washington Park MAX station; the elevator drops you 260 feet to the deepest transit station in North America. Take the train east one stop to the starting point.

5.6 miles • 11,756 steps • difficulty • 45.517, -122.692

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A Ride to the Top

Predecessors of electric streetcars, cable cars were powered by cables that pulled cars along the tracks, making them ideal for hilly terrain. The Portland Heights Cable Car line was built in 1887 along Chapman Street (now 18th Avenue). It started near today's Goose Hollow MAX station and climbed the hill via a wooden trestle built over the ravine at Montgomery Drive and Cable Avenue. Cars traveled 1,000 feet at a 20 percent grade to Jackson Street, where the line continued on grade to its turnaround on Spring Street. The trestle was torn down in 1903 after several runaway crashes. Service was replaced by the Council Crest streetcar, which carried passengers over the newly constructed Vista Bridge. That line ran until the 1950s.



Polar Bears at the Oregon Zoo



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