Travel + Leisure readers have come to a consensus: The best domestic airports are not only easy to navigate, but a joy to linger in. This year’s World’s Best winners, as voted by their readers, scored high marks in all areas, including access, check-in/security, restaurants/bars, shopping and design. And, for the seventh time in a row, PDX came out on top.

We keep winning year after year because of our commitment to providing an exceptional experience for our travelers. And, from offering the best in local flavors to delivering outstanding customer service, we know it’s the #PDXPeople that make this place great. So mark your calendar now for an epic end-of-summer event celebrating YOU on Sept. 10-13. You’ll learn all about PDX Next and how we’re focused on making this airport better for everyone in the years to come, plus enjoy great prizes, tasty treats and tons of swag!

Customer Compliments

“After an airport pickup, we got stuck on I-205 with a gushing leak in our radiator hose. Even though we were no longer at PDX, Port of Portland Police Officers Jason McKay and Joshua Bledsoe stopped, made sure we were ok, put out flares and gave us extra in case they went out while we waited for a tow truck. Thank goodness they did because people thought the emergency lane was another drivable lane! We made it home safe and sound, thanks to their kindness.”

Carisa Schram, Vancouver, Wash.
Green Plate Program Makes Enhanced Return

For many of us, PDX feels like home. And this month we’re kicking that homely experience up a notch – providing real dishes and silverware to those who dine at the counter service restaurants in Clocktower Plaza: Bangkok Xpress, Blue Star Donuts, Cubo de Cuba, Flying Elephants Delicatessen and Panda Express.

If this sounds familiar, that’s because it is. Back in 2017, we piloted the Green Plate program for dine-in customers after learning that to-go containers and utensils made up nearly 1/3 of waste in the food court area. When combined with the fact that more than 75% of customers ordered their food “for here,” the switch to durable dishes seemed like the perfect solution. The results proved it was. The pilot program with PDX food carts saw a 73% reduction in to-go packaging waste; 374 pounds of food waste was collected and composted and 10,000 dishes were reused.

Now the program is back and better than ever. This time around, we have capacity to include all the counter service restaurants in Clocktower Plaza. And we’ve grown beyond green: Each business has a different color plate, making it easy for Relay Resources staff to return clean plates to the right location. Plates will still be collected in bus tubs by the trash and recycling stations, leftover food will be composted, and dishes will be washed in the on-site dishwasher. Most important, the program is now permanent and, as new food carts and restaurants open, we’ll continue to look at expansion.

The next time you head to Clocktower Plaza for a meal, make sure to tell the person at the counter that you’d like to dine in. It’s one small way to have an environmental impact while helping our airport truly feel like home.

Subscribe to PDXaminer online

Go to bit.ly/pdxaminer, fill out the simple registration form, selecting “News for Airport Employees” from the list of topics, and hit submit.

5 Things You’ll Love About PDX Next

Over the next few years, you’ll see more construction at the airport as we update and upgrade to deliver a convenient, comfortable, uniquely PDX experience for both employees and travelers. As the airport you love gets even better, here are five things you can start looking forward to with PDX Next:

1. Lots of open space, natural light and Pacific Northwest touches, including Mount Hood views and indoor plants.
2. More comfortable places to sit, work, eat and relax.
3. Faster Wi-Fi and more power outlets for charging your phone.
4. More frequent and efficient employee shuttle bus service.
5. A spacious and flexible new main terminal with expanded security checkpoints.

Want to know more? Head to PDXnext.com and watch for the September PDXaminer, which will feature more on our plans to say goodbye to Concourse A and hello to a bright and beautiful new Concourse B.

Did You Know?

On Aug. 4-17, TriMet crews are improving MAX tracks between the Rose Quarter and Lloyd Center MAX stations. During this period, the Red Line will only run between PDX and Gateway Transit Center – there will be a shuttle bus from the Kenton MAX station to PDX so you don’t have to transfer multiple times to get to the airport. More info at trimet.org/alerts/lloyd.

New Shopping and Dining Options Coming to PDX

So what does America’s Best Airport do to become even...better? We add nine new retail shops and restaurants that include an exciting mix of local favorites and nationally recognized names!

You’ll soon have even more choices in the terminal: Seven spaces will open in summer 2020 within the Concourse E extension; the other two outlets will open in the spring of 2021 as part of the upgrades and updates to Concourse B. Perhaps even more exciting, when these new concessions open at PDX, 26% of our airport’s concessions will be women- and minority-owned businesses. From Tillamook and Screen Door to Evergreens and a Lightning Bar Collective spot highlighting women in aviation, learn more about what’s ahead at go.pdx.com/NewConcessions.

Win Big with PDX Loves PDX Instagram Contest

To celebrate the new dining options coming to the airport, we’re teaming up with Feast Portland to offer one lucky winner an exclusive Feast 2019 experience! From Aug. 2-15, follow @pdxairport and @feastportland on Instagram to find out how you could win two event package passes, industry party access and special prizes from the Port of Portland.

Coming in August to Clocktower Plaza, watch for veggie- and vegan-friendly Indian food cart Maruti!
Our summer series rolled on with tastings from Hopworks and Tamale Boy in July. If you missed these opportunities for food, drink and PDX swag, have no fear! There’s more to come with Brewfest (Aug. 2), Westward Whiskey (Aug. 16) and Deschutes (Aug. 23).

In late July, Airport Operations Supervisor Julia Johnson helped coordinate a competition to see which airline representative could collect the most foreign object debris, also known as FOD. Picking up FOD is critically important to maintaining a safe airport environment, as debris on the ground can damage aircraft engines, puncture tires, trip pedestrians and more.

Alaska Airlines’ Operations Station Manager Joe Gutierrez (left) took home the trophy for filling his bag with the most debris, which ranged from old hazard cones to wrappers and plastic bottles. And, while the organized FOD walk was fun, it also served as an important reminder: Every PDX employee – whether they work indoors or outside – has a responsibility to make sure items are placed in proper receptacles. FOD is mostly trash after all!

Art@PDX: Daniel Robinson’s Oil Paintings Capture Spirit, Beauty of Oregon

Daniel Robinson is the latest local artist to grace the PDX Concourse Connector with 14 unique oil paintings that illuminate American and Oregon landscapes with stunning mastery, stillness and strength. Combining classical influences from social realism with an eloquent use of light, shadow and color, Robinson’s “In Oregon” paintings are imbued with a fundamental beauty that celebrates the magnificent sights to be discovered in our region.