If you go to TOPS® International Recognition Days (IRD) in Portland, Oregon, this July, you’ll want to take full advantage of all the wonderful things to do nearby. But don’t limit yourself to just these suggestions. Go out and find your own adventure!

1. Head for a hike (or take a scheduled tour*) along the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and explore the many overlooks, trails and waterfalls that the canyon has to offer.

2. Enjoy tax-free shopping across the city. That’s right! In Portland, there’s no sales tax on local purchases. So, go ahead and buy that souvenir to take home!

3. Coast the Pacific Ocean on a whale watching tour*, and gaze in amazement at 40-ton gray whales up close in their natural habitat.

4. Find serenity in the Portland Japanese Garden, which encompasses 12 acres of calming walkways and streams, as well as a magnificent view of Mount Hood. Relax and restore!

5. Learn about the nature of active volcanos through documentary films and ranger talks at the Johnston Ridge Observatory, which sits in the heart of the Mount St. Helens* “blast zone.”

6. Stop and smell the roses—literally!—at the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park. Enjoy the fragrant bouquet of 8,000 individual rose bushes (comprising 600 varieties!).

7. Go wild at the Oregon Zoo! Home to more than 2,500 animals of 215 species, you’ll get a chance to see creatures from many different corners of the world.

8. Sample award-winning pinot noir, pinot gris, chardonnay and riesling from wineries of the Willamette Valley*. Selected bottles are also offered in Portland’s many wine bars.

9. When exploring downtown, early IRD arrivals can refresh and refuel with some healthy fare from the Shemanski Park Farmers Market, open on Wednesdays.

10. Get lost in Powell’s City of Books, generally considered to be the world’s largest used and new bookstore. You may find the perfect book for your trip back home.

*Some of these activities are included as part of tour packages available to coincide with IRD. For more information, go to www.tops.org and look under “Events.”