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FOR A CLEAN GETAWAY

ON THE TRAIL WITH
OUR NEXT GOVERNOR?

Boston

THE Travel

ISSUE

ESCAPE! THE 10 BEST TRIPS TO CURE YOUR WINTER BLUES



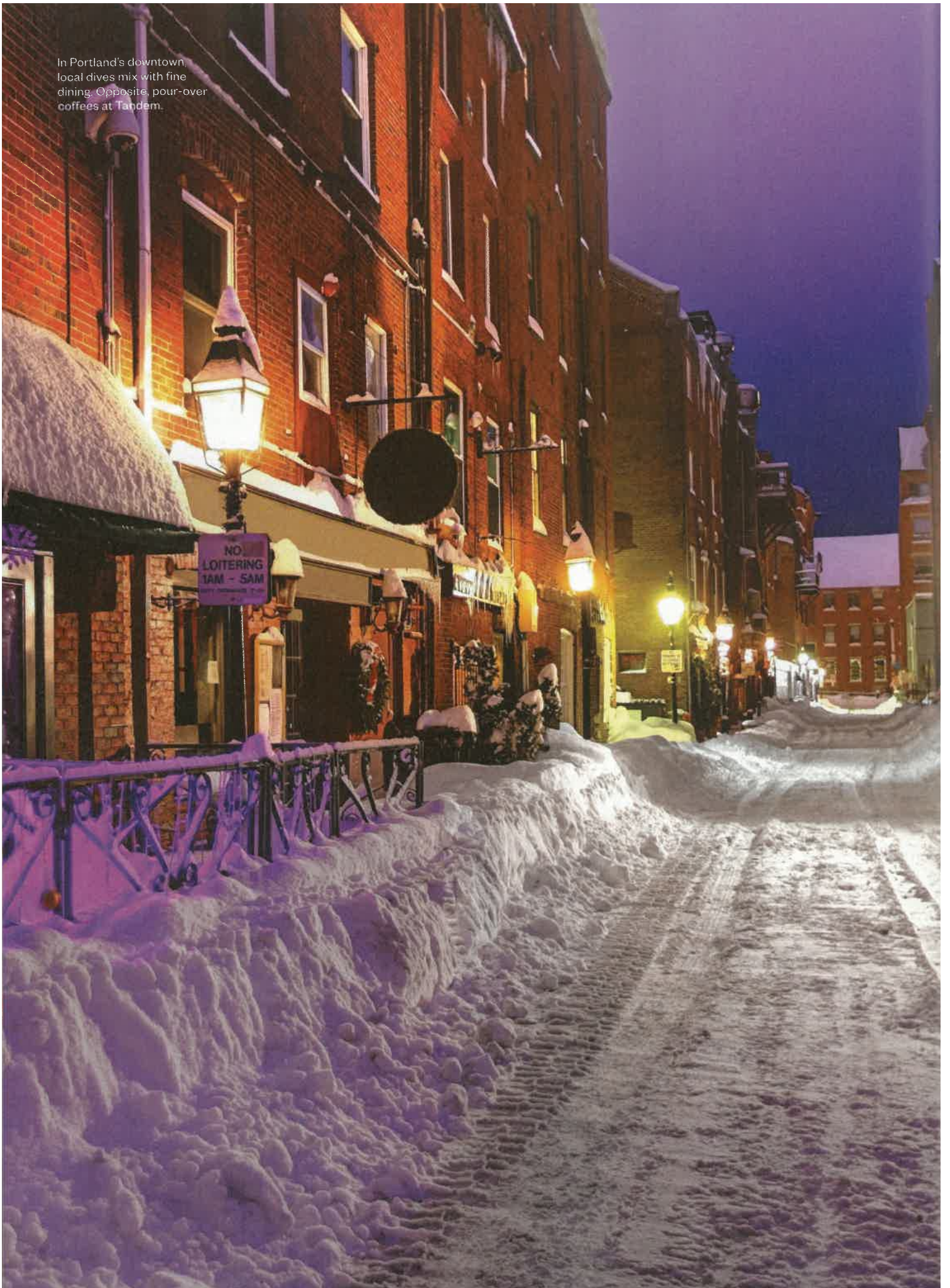
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In Portland's downtown, local dives mix with fine dining. Opposite, pour-over coffees at Tandem.





EAT AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

Portland, Maine

By JENNA PELLETIER

During winter, the cold waters of Casco Bay give the wind a mean, briny edge as it whips through Portland. But even on the bitterest days, you'll find hearty fans waiting outside **Duckfat's** door for a cone of golden *frites* and a crisp, decadent meatloaf panini. A few blocks west, you'll see the hungry line up outside of wood-fired **Fore Street** to score the day-of reservations handed out at 5 p.m. When the cold bites here in one of the country's most restaurant-dense cities, Portlanders bite right back.

The East End's up-and-coming Washington Avenue is a perfect entrée into this gastronomic boomtown. Start with a study of Maine versus Massachusetts oysters at **the Shop**, a new raw bar by the folks behind Duxbury's Island Creek Oysters. Then pick your next stop by your drink of choice.

Steps away, there's the wine bar **Drifters Wife**, a tasting room dedicated to **Oxbow's** Belgian-style brews, and another pouring **Hardshore Distilling Company's** floral gin. For dinner? Cross the street for Maine *uni* spoons and brothy duck hot pots at Japanese-style gastropub **Izakaya Minato**.

Once you're ready to check in for the night, consider the **Press Hotel**, in the former home of the *Portland Press Herald* downtown. Or try the **Danforth Inn**, a 19th-century mansion with nine luxe rooms in the West End's historical district. (Nab one with a fireplace!)

The next day, ease into morning over a cup of espresso and a hunk of coconut-spelt teacake at **Tandem Coffee + Bakery**, a former gas station turned airy café. It's all the fuel you'll need for an excursion to **Portland Flea-For-All** on Congress Street, where more than 60 vendors hawk vintage goods, or to the **Portland Museum of Art**, which showcases an extensive Winslow Homer collection.

Still hungry? Go ahead and wander until you find an inviting spot—it might just be the next big thing.



GETTING THERE

Two-hour drive from Boston



INSIDER TIP

Score deals on duck boots and flannel at L.L. Bean's vast complex of stores, a quick drive away in nearby Freeport. Maine Beer Co.'s tasting room is also there, so stop in for a pour of Peeper en route to the outlet stores.



HOW TO LEAVE THE KIDS BEHIND, GUILT-FREE

A step-by-step guide to letting go.

By BRITTANY JASNOFF

1 Get into a fight over dinner about the last time you did anything romantic together. Angrily book tickets to make a point. Forget to cancel them within 24 hours. Congratulations! You're going on vacation.

2 To avoid any pre-travel tears, book the earliest possible flight so you have to say goodbye the night before. Remember, this is worth it when you're trying to make a clean getaway.

3 Purchase an international plan for your cell phone. Tell yourself it's for emergencies only. Then use up all the data that night checking the baby monitor.

4 Go to post a picture on Facebook and miss your spa appointment thumbing through photos of your kids eating breakfast and watching TV. Forget to post the vacation selfie.

5 Remember that your spouse is an actual person, and not just the stranger who drives your tots around. First one to mention the kids at dinner takes a shot.

6 Be careful. Have *too* much fun, and you might come home with another little one onboard.