Reed Admission Tours
For a more in-depth look at campus, you are welcome to join a student-led, guided tour offered by the Office of Admission. Tours include academic and admission information, buildings covered in this guide, additional campus sights, and a healthy dose of Reed lore and trivia. Tours are available Monday–Friday and select Saturdays; please call 503/777-7511 to schedule your visit.

Reed Canyon
reed.edu/canyon

The Reed canyon is an urban oasis. Declared a wildlife refuge by the state of Oregon in 1913, this 28-acre headwater forest was left largely untouched and unmarked until restoration efforts began in earnest in 1999. Restoration goals include improving diversity of wildlife, managing invasive plant species, restoring native plant communities, and increasing potential habitat for salmon and other resident fish. Reed biology classes use the canyon as an on-site lab, and both professors and students regularly run research projects in the canyon habitat. Students also gain hands-on experience in restoration work as canyon crew employees.

Canyon Animals
Hiking along a trail or peering from one of the two canyon bridges, you might spot a great blue heron, a belted kingfisher, a turtle, or a river otter.

Birds: More than 80 species of birds live in or visit the canyon, including great blue and green-backed herons, belted kingfishers, warblers, western scrub-jays, Cooper’s hawks, and bald eagles (not resident).

Fish: Six native fish have been found in the canyon: speckled dace, red-sided shiner, stickleback, sculpin, rainbow/steelhead trout, and brook lamprey. All native fish species are increasing or holding in a stable state. You might also spot some coho or Chinook salmon exploring the clean, clear canyon waters.

Mammals: Beavers, coyotes, river otters, minks, and more have been seen.

Amphibians: The canyon hosts many amphibians, including salamanders, newts, and frogs.

For an extensive list of canyon animals, visit reed.edu/canyon/natu/animals/.

Canyon Plants
The list of verdant canyon flora is extensive and includes trees, shrubs, herbs, wetland plants, and fungi. All work done in the canyon focuses on eliminating invasive weeds and giving native species a place to thrive. Common canyon plants include the following:

- Douglas fir
- Vine maple
- Red elderberry
- Many types of fern

For an extensive list of canyon plants, visit reed.edu/canyon/natu/plants/.

Canyon Day
Join us twice a year for Canyon Day, Reed’s oldest tradition. Spend a morning in a beautiful setting restoring native plant habitat, enhancing water quality, and enjoying live music, food, and company. Canyon Day generally happens in early October and early April each year. See events.reed.edu for exact dates.

Canyon Sights

Reed Lake
This is the oldest naturally occurring lake in Portland. The six springs that feed the lake provide the purest source of freshwater in the city. This water feeds the last stream in city limits that flows freely from its source all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Centennial Orchard
The orchard at the east end of the canyon features a variety of fruit trees, including pear, cherry, and plum, along with grapes, berries, and nut trees. In honor of the college’s centennial in 2011, students did extensive restoration work in the orchard and then-president Colin Diver planted an English walnut tree.

Fish Ladder
In 2001, the college constructed a fish ladder to reconnect Reed Lake to the lower Johnson Creek Watershed basin for resident and spawning fish. See if you can spot any passing through!
Welcome to Reed College, a place that inspires and transforms. We invite you to enjoy our distinct environment as you tour the campus. This self-guided tour provides you with an overview of major campus sights.

Reed is an institution of liberal arts and science, situated on 116 acres, two minutes from the heart of Portland, a city the New York Times calls “the most European of American cities, literate and small-scale, a pleasant surprise around every corner.” For more than a century the college has been a haven for a diverse group of scholars who inhabit creative thought, mine the material, and make it meaningful. Founded in 1908 in accordance with the wills of Amanda and Simeon Reed, the college held its first classes in 1911. Reed has always been dedicated to the intrinsic value of learning and governed by the highest standards of scholarly practice, critical thought, and creativity. Today, the college enrolls nearly 1,400 students from all over the world. The 9:1 student/teacher ratio and conference-style classes guarantee an immersive learning experience.

Other Campus Buildings

- A number of academic and administrative buildings are located on the south end of campus. Stroll along the paths beyond the library to discover the following:
  - Rawson Laboratory of Physics Named for A R Rawson, professor of physics, 1915–63.
  - Arthur F. Scott Laboratory of Chemistry Named for Chemistry professor and acting president, 1923–79.
  - Psychology Building Named for a variety of public lectures and readings.
  - Studio Art Building Named for the Studio Art Gallery, which often features student work.

Trees of Reed

- There are many distinctive trees on the Reed campus. Some of the most notable have been designated as heritage trees, so recognized for their size, age, and historical or horticultural significance. For a detailed account of campus trees, visit reed.edu/trees.

- Japanese Cherry Prunus serrulata
- European Beech Fagus sylvatica
- Ginkgo biloba
- Black Oak Quercus velutina

Art on Campus

- Staging works of art around campus, both in buildings and outdoors. Below are permanent sculptures that you may encounter on your tour:
- Windsong Mike Martin
- Radial College Pylon Peter Tchen
- Trigger Lee Kelly
- Spireix Lee Kelly

Start your tour

at Performing Arts Building, located at the west end of campus. For more on the features and history of campus buildings, visit www.reed.edu/facilities_services

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Performing Arts Building (PAB)

Oasis Architecture of Portland and Tucker Duchs Associate of New York, 2011

Students from all majors participate in the rich performing arts opportunities at Reed. The 80,000-square-foot PAB includes educational and performance spaces, offices, scene and costume shops, collaborative spaces, and a multimedia lab and library. Two theaters provide venues for student and faculty productions. In 2013, the PAB won the People’s Choice Award from the American Institute of Architects Portland. Check the marquee at the building’s west entrance for upcoming events.

Playing Fields

Harry Weese & Assoc., 1965; Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, 1997 (renovation); named for Reed trustee John Cloy and his spouse, Betty, 1998

GCCC is home to many campus services. Common—the dining hall—is open to the public; grab a snack to fuel your explorations. Pick up Reed garb, groceries, and a good read at the bookstore on the lower level. You’ll also find an ATM and a mail room downstairs. Meeting rooms and offices fill the rest of the building. Behind the building is Carl Ampruische, named for Professor Harry Carl French (1923–48). Take a break and view Reed Lake from seating built by alumni and volunteers in 1988.

The Student Union (SU)

A.E. Doyle, 1921, Harry Weese & Assoc., 1965 (renovation); Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, 1997 (renovation)

 närmed for reed board member Audrey B. Wattek

The Student Union (SU) is a space for relaxation by day and concerts and dances by night. The student radio station, KRRC, broadcasts from the SU, and the college’s unofficial mascot—a large, cement garden statue known as the Doyle Owl—has been known to make appearances at SU events. Excellent coffee and treats are available at the student-run Paradis Café, a Reed mission since the early ‘80s.

Main Campus Tour

2,000 students in grades K–12 participate annually in field trips to Reed. Elite now houses classrooms and administrative offices. The building’s brick and limestone are patterned after St. John’s, college at Oxford. Reed about namesake Thomas Ellet. The building is the college’s official flagship, the Griffin, is a monument to the seal of the city. Taken from the coat of arms of the Simon Reed family, the Griffin is a mythical bird-eagle-agonion who is the enemy of ignorance. The chapel on the third floor includes architectural details that date back to the tenth century.

Vollum College Center

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, 1988, 1989 (renovation); named for Vollum College Center founder Howard Vollum ’56 and his wife, Hans Vollum is home to Reed’s largest academic lecture hall, which is also a venue for public talks and readings. Classroom and faculty and staff offices fill the remaining space. If you need a break, find the bench behind the building and enjoy the sound of the fountain and lovely view of the campus.

Eric V. Hauser Memorial Library


Hauser Library is the academic heart of campus. The library is home to over 640,000 volumes, including a copy of every Reed student thesis ever written. The 1989 postmodern Gothic addition preserved the original Tudor Gothic exterior by incorporating it into the central reading room. Legend has it that a group of audacious students also managed to convert an MG convertible in the building’s foundation during the renovation. The library includes the Reed archives, special collections, an instructional media center, and a visual resources collection. Ask at the circulation desk about the library’s many resources and services.