

www.expochristmasbazaar.com

Portland Expo Center

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Hours: Fridays & Saturdays: 10am to 6pm, both Sundays: 10am to 5pm

Nov. 25-27 & Dec. 2-4

America's Largest Christmas Bazaar celebrates its 30th year

Portland – The 30th Annual Christmas Bazaar opens the day after Thanksgiving. This 900 booth event fills the halls of the Expo Center with all kinds of holiday gifts from unique handcrafted items to this year's 'hot' products. With holiday music in the air (courtesy of radio station K103's holiday programming), shoppers can stroll the aisles and see everything from custom made rain slickers for the family dog to handcrafted sterling jewelry. 'Hot' products vary every year. This year they include Air Swimmers, amazing five foot long fish that 'swim' in the air and are controlled by you, feather hair accessories and dwarf vibration speakers.

Artisan's Alleys: One in each hall, these blocks of space total 450 booths dedicated to local artisans. These two areas show off the creativity and entrepreneurial talents that always amaze the attendees. Just a few examples are: catnip disguised as spring rolls, exotic wood mushrooms, journals to write in made from vintage children's books, handmade soap with colorful figurines embedded inside, horseshoe art, Live Out Loud art (a crafter who makes monster related handbags and accessories), West Coast Juju (who makes adorable crocheted items with only the good fortune of the owner in mind), 16 flavors of pepper jelly, and several booths with unique, personalized ornaments.

Separating the handcrafted products makes it easy to shop if you want something made from the heart for someone you love.

The rest of the show offers everything from lotions, potions, essential oils, puzzles, bedding, jams and jellies, BBQ sauce, imported items from all over the world, Scentsy candles, pet i.d. tags, golfing gear, college team ornaments, Christmas stockings, diecast cars, bobble heads, wine for the holidays, gourmet olives, fudge, fleece clothing, pickled garlic, candy, bread baskets, wine bags, cosmetics, Hawaiian print bags, decorations, Santas, and just about anything you've never thought of.

Santa's Village: Built especially for this show, Santa's Village is a fun stop during your visit. Of course Santa is in the village, along with creatures and hobbit-like homes. And while you're there, you can take a ride on one of the most beautiful full sized carousels in the area.

Adopt a pet: The Oregon Humane Society will have animals that need homes. Or you can contribute by buying an OHS coffee mug, catnip toy, t-shirt or dog treat.

You can make a contribution to **The Doenbecher Children's Program** by taking home a hand-blown ornament or a raffle ticket for a new car.

Sunshine Division Day: On Friday, December 2nd, admission is free with two cans of food for this worthy organization.

Admission: \$7 adults, \$6.50 seniors 65 and over, \$3 children 12-17, under 12 free.
Parking at the Expo \$8 or ride the MAX Yellow Line right to the parking lot.