COLUMBIA & SNAKE RIVERS REGION

VACATION GUIDE

Your vacation planner for:
Snake River Basin
Oregon Trail
Columbia River Gorge
Southeast Washington
Walla Walla to Lewiston

Presented by
NORTHWEST TRAVEL
2006-2007
LONG BEFORE PIONEERS headed west on the Oregon Trail, a history of geologic events shaped and re-shaped the landscape of the Northwest. Evidence of this can be found in layers of basalt lava, unearthed fossils, and eroded canyons. Wind, water, fire, and ice all contributed to how this landscape appeared before our time, and how it looks today.

Geologic events span a timeline that is difficult to fathom. For example, geologists believe the oldest known rocks on earth were created 4 billion years ago, the extinction of dinosaurs and the creation of the Rocky Mountains happened 65 million years ago, and glacial flooding occurred 15,000 to 20,000 years ago. By this timetable, most of our canyons, rivers, and lakes are relatively young. For as developed as the Northwest has become, one of its best assets is that there is still so much pristine territory ready for exploration.

This annual guide takes you through two of the worlds most intriguing geologic spectacles: the Columbia River Gorge and Snake River Plain. Highlighting communities, attractions, and roadside geology, the guide follows the Snake River through Idaho and along the Columbia River on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the Gorge.
In researching the special geology text for this guide, the editors used the following books:


The editors especially thank Ewart Baldwin, Professor Emeritus at the University of Oregon, for reviewing portions of the text for accuracy.
**OREGON TRAIL**

This section of the guide covers the area where the waters of the Snake River flow to the Columbia River, following I-84 from the Oregon-Idaho border through Eastern Oregon to the Columbia Gorge. This route passes historical sites along the original Oregon Trail as well as such fascinating geological features as Hells Canyon and the Blue and Wallowa mountains. Most of the land formations you see on this route were created by volcanic activity, later carved by rivers and glaciers.

**Nyssa**

Settlers came to the Oregon Territory for many reasons, some simpler than others. If you come to understand history, seek adventure, or learn the geology, you’ll start your journey at Nyssa.

Visit the **Oregon Trail Agricultural Museum and Visitor Center**. An interesting side trip west of here is Keeney Pass, which once tested the endurance of the settler’s oxen. An interpretive wayside explains the wagon wheel ruts that remain visible after 150 years.

**Ontario**

Ontario is Oregon’s eastern gateway, on the banks of the Snake River. The **Four Rivers Cultural Center** (541-889-8191) opened in 1997 and highlights the confluence of cultures in the Treasure Valley, where the Snake, Malheur, Owyhee, and Payette rivers converge. Japanese and European Americans, American Indians, and Hispanics have settled this area, working through differences and building communities. The center’s exhibits provide an interactive experience on how this was achieved.

**Vale**

Off I-84 is the small town of Vale where Oregon Trail pioneers rested along the Malheur River. Pioneer life is depicted in a collection of murals downtown, one of which is filled with images of Hispanic, Japanese, Chinese, and Basque heritages. Vale is the county seat for Malheur County, the only county in Oregon on Mountain Time.

A visit to the **Rinehart Stone House** (541-473-2070) will help you understand life on the road for weary pioneers. Built in 1872, the first permanent structure in the county, it housed later Oregon Trail travelers. Today it houses a museum and is open from May through October, 12 noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. A mural walking tour brochure is available here.

**Farewell Bend**

Farewell Bend is located on the southern tip of Brownlee Reservoir.
Farewell Bend State Park (541-869-2365) provides year-round camping and recreation along the river. Campers can even spend a night in an authentic covered wagon or teepee. The park offers interpretive programs from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Fridays and Saturdays at dusk.

North from Farewell Bend, you can follow the old highway or the interstate. Old Hwy 30 takes you through Huntington, a historic railroad town; I-84 pulls away from the Snake and moves inland.

North of Farewell Bend is the Weatherby Rest Area. Nearby, the pioneers had to travel out of Burnt River canyon, a treacherous ascent that took four to five days.

The coastline of what is now Oregon once arced from the Blue and Wallowa mountains in eastern Oregon to the Klamath Mountains in southern Oregon. Earth's colliding tectonic plates forced mud and sand from the ocean floor under the continent, causing land to pile up in the form of these mountains. Rock that didn't stack up sank below the continent, melted, and came to the surface in the form of basalt or lava erupting from volcanoes—the Cascades.

Baker City

Near the foot of the Elkhorn Ridge of the Blue Mountains and the southern edge of the Wallowas, gold fever struck in the 1860s and the town of Baker City sprang up. One hundred of the town's buildings are included in its National Historic District. Oregon's largest gold nugget, the Armstrong Nugget (80.4 ounces), is on display at US Bank.

The Adler House Museum was the former home of Leo Adler, a local businessman and philanthropist. Built in 1889, this home has been renovated, and original Victorian furnishings have restored it to its original grandeur.

The Oregon Trail Regional Museum, once the town's natatorium, is the home of the region's historical artifacts and the Cavin Warfel mineral, gem, and semi-precious stones collection, one of the largest private collections in the West.

One of the biggest draws to Baker City is the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (541-523-1843) at the summit of Flagstaff Hill, 5 miles east of town on Hwy 86. Interactive displays and living history demonstrations of the Oregon Trail provide more than a passive viewing experience. The dioramas, life-size models, artifacts, and sound recordings put visitors in the center of history.
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La Grande Area & Union County: 1-800-848-9969 or www.visitlagrande.com
Enterprise & Wallowa County: 1-800-585-4121 or www.wallowacountychamber.com

Photo by David Jensen
Hells Canyon National Scenic Byway and All American Road

Hwy 86 marks the southeastern jumping-off point for the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, a 218-mile loop that travels through the towns of Richland, Halfway, Pine Creek, and Oxbow at the southern end of the Hells Canyon National Recreational Area. For the most spectacular views from the rim, take a side trip to Hat Point Lookout. At Hat Point you are looking down more than a mile to the river. Allow 3 to 4 hours for this trip: plan a picnic or camp at the rustic Forest Service Campground.

Halfway

Halfway is in Pine Valley at the foot of the Wallowa Mountains. The lush, green views are a photographer’s dream. Originally a service community for the surrounding mines, now it is a flourishing town with an eclectic mix of shops and amenities. It is the southern gateway to wilderness and river-based recreation in the summer and a popular destination for snowmobilers in the winter.

Oxbow

At the river’s edge, Oxbow once was a thriving mining community and now serves as the residential area for Idaho Power Company employees working on the dam complex. Idaho Power has built four full-service campgrounds along the Snake. Copperfield Park is at Oxbow on the Oregon side.

Turning north off Hwy 86 onto Forest Service Road 39 will lead you into the Wallowa Mountains and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Hells Canyon Overlook provides panoramic views of the canyon. For the most spectacular views from the rim, take a side trip to Hat Point Lookout.

At 1-1/2-miles deep, Hells Canyon is a 1/2-mile deeper than the Grand Canyon. Canyon walls serve as a cross-section of eastern Oregon geology, a timeline illustrated in rocks and sediment. The older rocks were once part of the Blue Mountains, but were covered by layers of basalt from erupting volcanic fissures, which then buckled and were carved into what you see today.

Returning on FS Road 39 from the lookout, the scenic byway leads to Hwy 82, the town of Joseph, and Wallowa Lake.

Joseph

Joseph is a flourishing art community with a national reputation for top bronze artists, foundries, and a variety of galleries. Foundry and museum tours are offered daily through the summer season. This is the end of the line for the Eagle Cap Excursion Train.

Wallowa Lake and the surrounding area were part of the ancestral homelands of the Wallowa Band of Nez Perce, and a monument to Chief Joseph rests at the north end of the lake. At this summer playground, visitors can parasail, horseback ride, or hike into the Eagle Cap Wilderness and ride the tramway for spectacular views from atop the 8256-foot summit of Mt. Howard.

More than 6 miles long and shaped by glaciers, Wallowa Lake has nearly perfect examples of lateral and terminal moraines, which are formed by rock and soil debris deposited by a glacier.

The byway continues on Hwy 82 through the Wallowa Valley and the towns of Enterprise, Lostine, Wallowa, and Minam.

Enterprise

Travelers always enjoy the big black Clydesdale draft horses grazing in the pasture just before the city limits of Enterprise, the largest of the Wallowa Valley communities. This is an excellent base point for an excursion into the Eagle Cap Wilderness just south of town.

The U.S. Forest Service Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center, 88401 Hwy 82 (541-426-5546), is a must-see for visitors. You’ll find exhibits about the area’s wildlife and environment, books, brochures, and maps.

Hurricane Creek Llama Treks

Enterprise has led hikers through mountain and wilderness areas with their staff of experienced guides and faithful pack llamas since 1985. The llamas also can be rented independently.

Lostine

A tiny turn-of-the-century town, Lostine has second-hand stores and a combination sporting goods, grocery, and dry goods store. It’s fun to be in town during their annual Flea Market the first weekend of July.

Wallowa and Minam

Wallowa is the gathering place for the Wallowa band of the Nez Perce during their annual TamKaliks, Friendship Feast and Pow Wow. It is home to a Nez Perce museum and interpretive center. The area was a traditional fishing spot for Nez Perce, and is still known for great fishing. Leaving Wallowa, the byway follows the Wallowa River to Minam, where the rivers meet and flow into the Grande Ronde River a few miles downstream. The rivers offer excellent steelhead fishing and rafting.

Elgin

Leaving the river basin, the route traverses the mountain pass and farmlands of the Grande Ronde Valley to the communities of Elgin, and La Grande. Elgin is the former location of Fort Baker and is the gateway to outdoor recreation in the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The beautifully restored Elgin Opera House presents movies, concerts, and live theater.

La Grande

Nestled in the fertile Grande Ronde Valley north of Union is the town of La Grande. This area enticed early settlers, drawing some back from the Willamette Valley with agricultural promise and gold in the Blue Mountains.
Start your exploration of town with a visit to the Eastern Oregon Fire Museum and Visitor Center. Peruse the great shops and restaurants in the National Historic District. Pick up a guide to the Grande Tour, and discover the valley and its heritage.

For a different kind of flashback in time, visit the La Grande Drive-In theater, family-owned and operated since the 1950s, now open in summers with first-run movies.

A side trip up the Grande Ronde River on Hwy 244 provides ample opportunities for fishing, camping, enjoying the scenery, or a visit to the huge Winom-Frazier Off-Highway Vehicle Trail Complex.

Cove
East of La Grande on Hwy 237 is the tiny town of Cove, known for its sweet cherries, and the Gilstrap Brothers Winery, the only winery east of the Cascades in Oregon.

Union
Along Hwy 237 farther south is the town of Union, known for its Victorian residential and commercial buildings, including the restored Union Hotel and the Union County Museum. The museum features the history of cowboys and displays the area’s settlement era.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course, a links-style public course, offers exciting play on varied terrain.

For a picnic or a hike or to fish or camp, travel on Hwy 203 south up the tumbling river to Catherine Creek State Park, which offers nearby trail access into the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

For the pioneers, the rugged Blue Mountains were the last great obstacle before reaching the Columbia River. Today, this challenge is preserved with the Oregon Trail Interpretive Park at Blue Mountain Crossing. Take exit 248 off I–84, 6 miles past Hilgard Junction. A paved half-mile trail guides visitors along some of the best preserved sections of the Old Emigrant Road. The park is open from May through October.

Most of the rock you see in this area is basalt lava from Columbia basalt flows. The variety of colors is caused by the rock’s mineral content and exposure to weather. The dramatic columnar forms took shape as lava flows cooled.

The grounds of what is now Emigrant Springs State Park once provided a resting stop for pioneers to replenish their water supply shortly after crossing the summit of the Blue Mountains. Today the park has a seasonal campground with a horse camp and year-round log cabin accommodations.

Pendleton
Continuing along I–84 from La Grande, drivers pass through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and into Pendleton. Pendleton is the land of ranchers and cowboys, celebrating each September with the Pendleton Round-Up, a rodeo and city party that draws cowboys and cowgirls from across the West and around the world. The Round-Up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame is moving into its new expanded museum in 2006, and commemorates the history of America’s largest rodeo.
The Bar M Ranch provides a western ranch vacation on 2500 acres along the Umatilla River in the Blue Mountains. The ranch offers geothermally heated pools, horseback rides, and family entertainment throughout the year.

Four miles east of Pendleton is the Wildhorse Casino Resort, which features an 18-hole golf course, hotel, casino, RV park, and the renowned Tamastslikt Cultural Institute, which tells the tribe's history and describes the effects of immigrants arrival on the land and natives.

Visit the Umatilla County Historical Society Museum, now called The Heritage Station, housed in a former railway depot dating back to 1909.

The Pendleton Woolen Mills were founded at the turn of the 20th century by English weaver Thomas Kay. Free tours of the mill are offered Monday through Friday, and the mill store is open every day.

Another popular activity in Pendleton is the tour of the Pendleton Underground. Long ago, a web of passageways was constructed as freight tunnels under the street. Businesses grew, frequented by gamblers, bootleggers, opium dealers, and other questionable characters. Underground tours now pass through Pendleton’s Historic District. (800-226-6398; www.pendletonundergroundtours.org)

As you enjoy the turn-of-the-century architecture and many antique stores, take time to stop in at Hamley’s, a 100 year-old western store that was recently restored to its former resplendence. Watch the saddle makers craft custom-designed saddles and visit the western art gallery upstairs.

The Dalles was a center for American Indian trade for 10,000 years, making it one of the oldest inhabited areas in North America, representing a historical and geological crossroad on the Oregon Trail. Downtown has several interesting landmarks, including the City Park with its Oregon Trail marker, St. Peter’s Church built in 1897, the Baldwin Saloon, Pulpit Rock, and the Original Wasco County Courthouse.

Two museums in The Dalles tell the story of the Gorge. The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, official interpretive center for the Gorge National Scenic Area, and the Wasco County Historical Museum depict the county’s overlapping history of American Indians, explorers, missionaries, and immigrants. Both are located under one roof at Crate’s Point.

Check out Seufert Park east of town for a free train tour of The Dalles Dam and Locks during the summer months. Then head over to Celilo Falls Park where a tribute stands to the tribes who once used the falls for salmon fishing. The waterfall, or cataract, was submerged when the gates at The Dalles Dam closed in March 1957. However, American Indians have retained the right to dip-net for salmon near the dam and the nearby bridge.

Oregon Trail Living History Park stages presentations on a seasonal basis to show an amalgam of landscape and stories from American Indians, explorers, and pioneers. A great follow-up to this site is the grounds of old Fort Dalles and the Fort Dalles Museum.

Eagle Cap Wilderness.

National Wildlife Refuge and 6 miles south of the Columbia River, making it a great central location for recreational activities. Visitors will find railroad cars and memorabilia at the Maxwell Siding Railroad Museum. Golfers enjoy a selection of three courses in the area. Boardman

The actual Oregon Trail dips southwest of Echo, crossing Hwy 207 south of Hermiston, Hwy 74 at Cecil, Hwy 19 south of Arlington, and Hwy 97 at Wasco before arcing northwest again near 1-84. Drivers who follow the trail by way of I-84 through Boardman get their first glimpse of the mighty Columbia River.

Boardman is near the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge, where you can do more than observe the wildlife of the area; you can actually walk with its residents. After a nice jaunt on the nature trails, take a self-guided car tour of the area.

Arlington

Arlington once sat alongside the Columbia River and was known as Alkali. Its name was changed in 1885 to reflect a more progressive attitude and in later years, the town was moved uphill to escape the backwaters of the John Day Dam. From this point long ago, pioneers made the difficult decision to travel the Columbia in Hudson’s Bay Company flat-bottomed boats, follow the difficult terrain along the south bank, or climb across the Columbia Plateau. Today, Arlington is home to the Big River Band Festival, held annually in June.

Moro

Head west through the town of Rufus, then turn south to the late-19th century railroad town of Wasco where the Oregon Trail intersects with Hwy 97. A few miles farther south is Moro. The award-winning Sherman County Historical Museum is in Moro. View thousands of artifacts in exhibits that depict the lives of farming and ranch families and American Indians.

Biggs

Head north on Hwy 97 to Biggs where American Indians traded with the pioneers. A short hiking trail along Fulton Canyon follows the Oregon Trail, connecting with Hwy 206, which leads to Wasco and continues on to the small town of Condon.

The Journey through Time Scenic Byway begins along the Columbia River in Biggs. It starts on Hwy 97 and turns into Hwys 218, 19, 26, and 7 before ending in Baker City. The byway winds past the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and such features as Cathedral Rock and Turtle Cove, where excavators found 25-million-year-old turtle fossils.

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

A few miles west of Biggs, the Oregon Trail continues and Columbia River Gorge country begins. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area runs alongside the 80-mile and, in places, 4000-foot-deep Gorge that marks the border between Oregon and Washington.

Like the Snake River canyon, the Columbia Gorge is one of the world’s most intriguing geological wonders. Over the last 17 million years, volcanic activity and basalt lava floods, not to mention glacial floods, have affected the direction of the mighty river.

The second-longest river in the continental United States, the Columbia begins in southern British Columbia, and flows through a major mountain range as it journeys south then west to the Pacific. The ancient river was so powerful that natural dams created by basalt flows didn’t obstruct its path for very long. Today, the 1243-mile river dumps 250,000 cubic feet of water per second into the ocean.

The Dalles

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Historic Columbia River Highway

The Historic Columbia River Highway, Hwy 30, was constructed between 1914 and 1922 and was heralded as one of the greatest engineering feats of the modern age. But traffic was so heavy along the scenic highway that it needed to be replaced by I-84. Today, what remains is simply beautiful. Segments of the old highway are accessible from The Dalles traveling west to Mosier, then east of Multnomah Falls to Troutdale.

In the 1920s Harlen Bretz was the first to voice his theories about the glacial flooding that occurred 10,000 to 20,000 years ago after the last Ice Age. His theories have become widely accepted in recent years, thanks to satellite imaging and radiocarbon dating.

Rowena

The town of Rowena has had a rise-and-fall relationship with history. From its booming railroad days of the 1880s to financial decline from harsh weather and bypassing freeways, Rowena has become a popular spot for Gorge windsurfers.

West of town is the Rowena Plateau offering a spectacular view of the surrounding Gorge. Visit the Tom McCall Preserve, a 230-acre stretch of diverse plants and wildlife. And on the west side of the plateau, you can look down into Rowena Dell, once named Hog Canyon because settlers let hogs loose here to kill rattlesnakes.

Mosier

In Mosier a sawmill was first constructed in 1854, followed by construction of a Columbia River landing at Rock Creek.

West of town on the Historic Columbia River Highway, the Mosier Twin Tunnels, once closed because of falling rock, have been restored for hikers and bicyclists.

Mt. Hood Scenic Loop

Near Hood River another scenic drive emerges, looping around one of Oregon's best known geologic landmarks, Mt. Hood. Hwy 35 heads south along the East Fork Hood River, then turns west and becomes Hwy 26, passing entrances to Mt. Hood Meadows, Timberline Lodge, and Wildwood Recreational Area in Welches. The loop from Multnomah Falls to Hood River around the mountain and back to the falls on I-84 takes about 3-1/2 hours.

Visitors to Mt. Hood seldom think of the massive geologic feature on which they are skiing or snowboarding. To them, the mountain represents recreation at its finest, a year-round haven that averages the longest ski season in North America. But underneath is an active volcano that rumbles on occasion and could erupt like Washington's Mount St. Helens. Unfortunately, we know very little about what to expect from the mountains in the Cascade Range. History tells us about the events of only the last few thousand years, while the volcanoes are actually millions of years old.

Hood River

Welcome to the windsurfing capital, Hood River. Pioneers fought the cold, fierce winds to drive cattle single-file along the river, while their families floated by with the wagons strapped to rafts. Today, visitors battle the winds for recreational purposes.

Drive to Oak Street to see the historic downtown area, full of interesting old buildings, including the comfortable and romantic Hood River Hotel, as well as the Hood River Depot, which serves the Mt. Hood Railroad. Passenger tours are conducted in the spring, summer, and fall. Stop by the Hood River County Historical Museum (closed in winter) and the renowned International Museum of Carousel Art.

Don't miss the Columbia Gorge Hotel on the west end of town. In the days steamers cruised the waters of the river from the Cascades to The Dalles, ship captains would sound the whistle—once for each guest on board—to alert the hotel of how many guests to expect for the night. Maids then quickly made up the appropriate number of beds. The hotel is well-known for its elegance, stunning view and delicious “farm” breakfasts.

Cascade Locks

Upon entering the town of Cascade Locks, imagine the treacherous Columbia River in the mid-1800s. The river dropped 60 feet in 3 miles, including the Great Shute, which plummeted 20 feet in 400 yards. Portaging around this area was a necessity. Settlers landed, reassembled their wagons, and squeezed by on the southern shore.

Cascade Locks Marine Park hosts the sternwheeler Columbia Gorge, where visitors can cruise the river as...
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The last leg of Lewis & Clark’s journey to the Pacific Ocean was easily the most scenic with spectacular vistas at every turn. Pioneers on the Oregon Trail were also awed by the snow crested mountains and plunging waterfalls. Today’s explorers will experience the same exhilarating sights carved by the forces of nature through the millennia. Many exciting attractions await your discovery.

The Gorge is an exciting and active region throughout the year. There is always something fun to do or interesting to see. Please visit our web site for an up-to-date schedule of events in the Gorge.

Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association
800-98-GORGE (800-984-6743) • www.crgva.org • Email: crgva@gorge.net

Columbia Gorge Photo by Tom Iraci, Courtesy USDA Forest Service
COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

The 598-passenger Columbia Gorge docks at Marine Park in Cascade Locks

and held its grand opening May 5, 1918. The newly restored historic building opened April 2006 with a “Grand Re-Opening” planned for May 5, 2006.

**Troutdale**

As you cross the Sandy River and leave the Columbia Gorge, you enter the city of Troutdale. When the early settlers first arrived at this spot, they had to decide whether to resume their water journey down the Columbia or turn inland at the mouth of the Sandy River and claim land.

**Troutdale’s Downtown** has been revitalized and features antique and specialty shops and art galleries. Bargain hunters looking for great deals on name-brands head to the Columbia Gorge Premium Outlets.

**Harlow House** is one of the oldest buildings in town. Constructed in 1900, it is now a museum operated by the Troutdale Historical Society.

**Oregon City**

For those who chose to turn inland at the mouth of the Sandy River, their trail ended in Oregon City, the official end of the **Oregon Trail**. After 200 miles and many months, settlers finally arrived at Abernethy Green in Oregon City, the oldest incorporated city west of the Mississippi. Dr. John McLoughlin, father of Oregon, founded Oregon City at the site of the mighty Willamette Falls. Visitors can see his house and scores of other places listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**At the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center**, interpreters tell stories of the Oregon Trail, Oregon City, and the settling of the West. Visitors can also enjoy the remarkable digital experience, “Bound for Oregon.” The Museum of the Oregon Territory, overlooking the Falls, showcases exhibits on Native American, industrial, and social history. (503-657-9336; www.HistoricOregonCity.com)

**Portland**

From Oregon City and the end of the Oregon Trail, it’s just a short drive to the rose city, Portland. Take as much time as you can to explore Oregon’s largest city. There’s plenty to do and see in one of the country’s most charming and eclectic metropolitan areas. Check out **Powell’s City of Books**, the **International Rose Test Garden** at Washington Park, and **Pioneer Courthouse Square**. Consider a June visit during the city’s spectacular annual **Rose Festival**.

Be sure to visit the Portland **Saturday Market**, open weekends from March through December and located under the picturesque west end of the Burnside Bridge.

**Oregon Zoo** is one of the most popular visitor attractions in the city. It covers 64 acres and is home to more than 1000 animals. Many of the species are endangered or threatened. “Eagle Canyon” and “Cascade Streams” are under construction as the newest exhibit, “Cascade Canyon Trail” gets ready to open.

**Portland Art Museum** is the oldest art museum in the Northwest. The museum’s collection includes works of European painting and sculpture, English silver, Asian art, and Pre-Columbian art among others.

**Portland’s Classical Chinese Garden** is said to be the “most exquisite, authentic Suzhou-style garden ever built outside China.” The garden is open daily and is located in Portland’s Old Town/Chinatown.

**Mt. Tabor Park** sits on top of an interesting geologic feature—an extinct volcano. The cinders from the volcanic cone have been used to pave Mt. Tabor’s road, and a permanent exhibit explaining the geology is displayed at the park. It is one of the best places in town to view Oregon’s tallest peak—Mt. Hood.

**Vancouver**

When you’re ready to move on from the bustle of Portland, drive north on I-5 and cross the Columbia to Vancouver, where you’ll begin your trek eastward on the Washington side of the Gorge. Many of the features of the Gorge are so large that the best way to view the Oregon side is from the Washington side, and vice versa.

**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site** contains a reconstruction of the headquarters and supply depot for the Hudson’s Bay Company. The fort, located within a park reserve, includes the bastion, chief factor’s house, bake house, kitchen, wash house, blacksmiths shop, fur store, Indian trade shop, and dispensary. The Reserve maintains the historic Vancouver Barracks, Officers
Row, Pearson Air Museum, and the General O.O. Howard House. On the Fourth of July, the site has one of the largest fireworks shows west of the Mississippi.

**Pearson Air Museum** is located on the oldest operating airport in the United States, and the site where three Soviet aviators completed the first non-stop flight from the former Soviet Union to the United States in 1937.

**Washougal**

From Vancouver, our journey takes us east along Hwy 14, the Lewis and Clark Highway. About 15 miles from Vancouver is Parker’s Landing Historic Park. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the landing was an important depot for early sternwheelers.

A few miles east, you reenter the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Look for a historical marker commemorating the 1792 exploration by a party of British seamen led by Lieutenant William R. Broughton. The seamen were the first white men to explore north of the mouth of the Columbia and claimed the area for Great Britain. That claim stood until 1846, when the 49th parallel was set as the United States Canada border. This section of highway has plenty of turnouts for those who want to stop and admire the scenery. Plan to take your time—many of the curves are rated at 40 mph or less.

**Beacon Rock State Park**

Beacon Rock State Park is an ideal spot to do a little exploring. The park has a campground, boat launch, picnic area, and hiking trails to areas such as Hamilton Mountain and Pool of the Winds, as well as a trail to the summit for hardy souls. Beacon Rock, an 840-foot basalt plug, is a major landmark of the Gorge and was named by Lewis and Clark.

Five miles east of Beacon Rock is the north side of Bonneville Dam, a real treat for travelers who may be familiar with the dam from only the Oregon side. The Washington Shore Visitor Complex is open daily. Highlights include a 10-minute film and a room with an underwater view of salmon migrating up a fish ladder.

**Bridge of the Gods**

For those lonesome for Oregon, the Bridge of the Gods looms ahead. For one dollar you can travel across the Columbia to Cascade Locks. Carson is home to a Northwest original, Carson Mineral Hot Springs Resort. (800-607-3678).

Continuing east on Hwy 14, turn north just before milepost 57 to visit the Little Salmon National Fish Hatchery. Here you can view spring and fall Chinook salmon from an outdoor viewing platform, as well as an indoor underwater viewing tank. Hours are 7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday through Friday. Continuing east at milepost 61.5 is the Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery. Turn south to the hatchery on the banks of the Columbia. No fish are there in the summer months, but salmon exhibits, picnic facilities, and restrooms are provided along with one of the best spots to watch hundreds of windsurfers.

**Bingen-White Salmon-Lyle Area**

Via the Hood River Toll Bridge, visitors once again can sneak across the state line for six bits, but if you linger on the Washington side, there are more scenic surprises to come. The most spectacular is the grand view (and photo opportunity) of the bridge on a clear day with breathtaking Mt. Hood in the background. The small communities offer recreation of all kinds—windsurfing and whitewater raft trips on the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers to mention a few. In White Salmon, a beautiful Glockenspiel in the City Hall Bell Tower plays “mini concerts” at 12 and 5 P.M. each day. The area is home to many artists, some known around the world. Klickitat County is also home to many wineries as you continue east on Hwy 14 toward Bingen, and north on Hwy 141 toward Husum.

**Horse Thief Lake State Park**

The lake, home to many wineries as you continue east on Hwy 14 toward Bingen, and north on Hwy 141 toward Husum. The lake, home to many wineries, is also home to many wineries as you continue east on Hwy 14 toward Bingen, and north on Hwy 141 toward Husum.

**Stevenson**

Along an historic waterfront, this small town has art galleries, antique shops, lodging that range from log cabins to luxurious suites, and a variety of restaurants and gift shops. Visitors are also enticed with a multitude of water sports, including kayaking, kite boarding, windsurfing, jet skiing and of course, fishing.

**A Peek at Mt. St. Helens**

Traveling east of Stevenson on Hwy 14, turn north onto Wind River Hwy, travel through the town of Carson, and head north (summer months only) to the southeast entrance of Mt. St. Helens where you can look into the crater. It is a beautiful 73-mile trip through the Gifford Pinchot National Forest with signs directing you along the way. About 14 miles into the trip is the Carson National Fish Hatchery where you can view large spring Chinook salmon. The area has picnic tables, water, grills and public restrooms. Carson is home to a Northwest original, Carson Mineral Hot Springs Resort. (800-607-3678).

Continuing east on Hwy 14, turn north just before milepost 57 to visit the Little Salmon National Fish Hatchery. Here you can view spring and fall Chinook salmon from an outdoor viewing platform, as well as an indoor underwater viewing tank. Hours are 7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday through Friday. Continuing east at milepost 61.5 is the Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery. Turn south to the hatchery on the banks of the Columbia. No fish are there in the summer months, but salmon exhibits, picnic facilities, and restrooms are provided along with one of the best spots to watch hundreds of windsurfers.

**Washington**

After a visit to Horsethief Lake State Park and viewing the pictographs, it’s only natural to want to...
learn more about native sites along the Columbia. Driving 8 miles east brings you to another important gathering spot for the first Americans, the site of Celilo Falls. For thousands of years Celilo Falls was a major destination for Northwest Indian tribes where they met to fish and trade.

Maryhill
In fewer than 5 miles you’ll be leaving the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, but your tour of the north side of the river is far from complete. At Maryhill, check out the Stonehenge Memorial, a monumental replica that entrepreneur Sam Hill built of concrete as a memorial to servicemen killed in World War I. Not far from the memorial, Maryhill State Park overlooks the Columbia. It’s another great location to watch windsurfers.

Make time to visit the Maryhill Museum. Many exhibits change from season to season, and special events are held often. Collection highlights include Rodin sculptures, American Indian artifacts, Russian icons, and the Queen Marie Gallery containing items donated by the Romanian queen who attended the dedication of the museum in 1926. Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery came through this part of Klickitat County in 1805. On their return trip, they crossed the land where the museum now stands.

Goldendale
Ten miles north of the Columbia, on a shortcut to the Yakima Valley, is the small town of Goldendale. The community is home to many family festivals, including Goldendale Community Days in early June and the Klickitat County Fair and Rodeo during Labor Day weekend.

If you love the night sky, you’ve probably already heard of the Goldendale Observatory State Park. Here, you learn about celestial bodies and get a chance to view them with one of the country’s largest telescopes available for public viewing.

For a taste of the area’s past, visit the Presby Mansion on Broadway Street, April through October. The furnishings, displays, and library in the 20-room house are from the Klickitat County Historical Society’s collection and typify life in the early 1900s.

Bickleton
Promoting itself as the Bluebird Capital of the World, Bickleton features hundreds of little blue-roofed white houses that make perfect homes for the bluebirds that visit every spring and summer. Most of the houses are nailed to the top of fence posts. They are taken down in winter to be cleaned for next year’s arrivals.

Be sure and stop by Cleveland Park to see the historic carousel and its 24 wooden horses. Built in the early 1900s by the Herschell–Spillman Company, it runs for only two days a year, the second weekend in June during the Pioneer Picnic and Rodeo. The Bickleton Highway runs from Goldendale to Mabton leading to Sunnyside, 32 miles from Bickleton on I-82.
FROM ITS BEGINNINGS in British Columbia through its 1240-mile journey to the Pacific, the Columbia River is the lifeblood of the Northwest, shaping the land, nourishing wildlife, and providing power and irrigation. Traveling through southeast Washington, you’ll see and taste the effect irrigation has had in developing the region. Prior to irrigation, the land was shaped much as the land of northeast Oregon, by basalt lava flows from volcanic eruptions. During the past century, the area has become rich in agriculture—growing mostly tree fruits, especially the famous Washington apple. In recent years, the valley has become the largest wine region in the state, producing more than 90 percent of the state's wine grapes. Agriculture tours have grown to include wine-tasting tours. Within the Columbia Valley are four of Washington's five AVAs (American Viticultural Areas) and more than 80 wineries, many of them open for tastings.

**Tri-Cities**

We begin in the Tri-Cities area, 25 miles north of the Oregon border on I-82. From the Columbia Valley through the Yakima Valley, the region is earning fame as a producer of fine wines. More than a dozen wineries are located in the Tri-Cities, many open for wine tasting. The Tri-Cities of Pasco, Kennewick, and Richland offer recreation, museums, parks, and festivals.

The Hanford Site, on the north end of Richland, has been off-limits to the public since the heyday of the Manhattan Project. The Hanford site no longer produces plutonium and the facility is now a leader in the development of environmental cleanup.

The Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science, and Technology in Richland has displays, interactive exhibits and video-tapes focusing on science and technology in the area. Interactive exhibits include scale models of nuclear reactors from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Historical exhibits pertain to the settlement of the area.

A segment of the Columbia has been designated the Hanford Reach National Monument to protect the 51-mile stretch of unbridled river that flows through a spectacular landscape of white bluffs, dunes, and desert plateaus. Commercial jet boat tours are allowed in this area.

Sacajawea State Park and Interpretive Center on the southeast edge of Pasco was the actual campsite of Lewis and Clark from October 16 through 18, 1805. The explorers described, in their journal, meeting with and obtaining food from several American Indian tribes at this large village. Visit the park to view...
The rivers are an important part of the central Washington area, giving water to crops and providing an important source of recreation.

The confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. Yes, that very same Snake River that you followed through Idaho finishes its thousand-mile journey right here. The explorers experience here will be celebrated at a Lewis and Clark Heritage Festival October 21, with events at Sacajawea State Park.

Be sure to stop by the Tri-Cities Visitor & Convention Bureau in Kennewick for brochures that list everything from sporting events to festivals to local driving tours, including wineries. You may just want to stick around a little longer.

Sunnyside

Farther up the valley is Sunnyside, a community well-known for its festive events. The annual Cinco de Mayo celebration features a parade and a block party and is a local favorite, as is the annual Sunshine Days in September. And, of course, the nationally renowned Country Christmas Lighted Farm Implement Parade is a sight never to be forgotten, featuring tractors, combines, harrow beds, grape pickers, and other farm implements decked out with holiday flair.

If driving through this farmland makes you hungry, visit the Darigold Dairy Fair cheese plant and tasting room. In addition to free tours and samples of cheeses, you can sample their ice cream, too. Tours are given daily, and it is open seven days a week, all year.

Toppenish

Toppenish is "Where the West still lives." As the city center of the Yakama Indian Reservation, it offers a real feel for the native culture in this region. The city’s mural project is a work-in-progress, with 67 completed murals in downtown, representing its diverse artistic culture. On the first Saturday in June, Toppenish holds its annual Mural-in-a-Day fair, when a group of area artists collaborate to produce a mural in eight hours.

Visit the popular Yakama Nation Cultural Center, which is as much a community center as it is a museum and library. The center also has a restaurant, convention facility, movie theater, and gift shop.

Not to be missed is the American Hop Museum, named for the Yakima Valley’s contribution of more than 75 percent of total U.S. hop crops. Next, go across the street to the Northern Pacific Rail and Steam Museum. Both are open May through October.

Yakima

Yakima Valley is considered the "fruit basket" of the state, home to orchards abundant with apples, cherries, peaches, pears, nectarines, and plums in addition to the expanses of vineyards. The number of wineries in the area has grown to between 45 and 50, becoming an increasingly popular attraction.

The Yakima Valley Appellation (see our annual guide to Wine Country) lies along the same latitude as the great French wine-producing regions, and the region touts its Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Zinfandel, and more. A fun time to visit is during events such as Red Wine and Chocolate, President’s Day Weekend, Spring Barrel Tasting during the last full weekend in April, and Thanksgiving in Wine Country, Friday through Sunday following Thanksgiving Day.

Several museums in Yakima are worth visiting, such as the Yakima Electric Railway Museum with its historic display of trolley cars.

Ellensburg

Leaving Yakima, you have a couple of choices heading to Ellensburg. You can hop back on I-82 for the quick route north. Or you can take the scenic alternative along Hwy 821. Canyon Road, as it is called, twists and turns as it hugs the Yakima River.

The area’s history is expertly chronicled at the Kittitas County Historical Museum, housed in an 1889 two-story brick building. For a self-guided tour of Ellensburg’s other historic buildings, ask for a map at the museum, the chamber of commerce, or a number of other local businesses.

Catch a glimpse of the “good ol’ days,” at Thorp Mill, 8 miles northwest of town. This 1883 flour mill is a National Historic Landmark. If it’s Western art you fancy, head to the Clymer Museum, which pays tribute to native son John Ford Clymer. His fascinating work includes everything from Saturday Evening Post covers to Old West paintings. The 32nd annual Western Art Show is May 19 through 21 in 2006 at the Kittitas Valley Event Center.

Cle Elum

Cle Elum is about 25 miles to the northwest. The community is a gateway to the Cascades, and home to the Historical Telephone Museum, open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Nearby Roslyn is also worth a stop, with its many cemeteries. Fans of the television show "Northern Exposure" may notice some familiar sites in Roslyn, because the show was filmed here.

Vantage

If you’ve been away from the Columbia River too long and are becoming restless for its magnificent expanse, head east from Ellensburg 26 miles on I-90 to the community of Vantage. The town is a favorite with rock climbers who scale nearby basalt cliffs.

Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park sits on the west side of Wanapum Lake, a dammed section of the Columbia. Pieces of exposed petrified wood, including gingko, and logs 5 million to 20 million years old were found in this area. The park has picnic sites, an interpretive center, and hiking trails. Camping is available nearby at Wanapum State Park.
George

Heading north through the fertile Quincy Valley takes you though the town of George (as in George, Washington). The town was founded in 1957 by Charles Brown, its first mayor.

The Gorge Amphitheater is a few miles west of here. If you're traveling through the area in the summer and wonder why there's an abundance of people around, take a moment and listen. You might hear strains of rock 'n' roll or country western music cranking out from top-notch music acts at this amazing outdoor venue. The natural amphitheater holds 20,000 fans for acts such as Dave Matthews Band, OzzFest, Tim McGraw, and Tom Petty.

South of Wenatchee, you will see large ripples in the land and giant boulders, although it is easier to see from the air. The ripples and boulders are signs that glaciers moved through the area. As the ice eroded the land, it deposited rock from other areas of the continent.

Wenatchee

Plan on spending some time in Wenatchee. Along with its neighbor across the Columbia, East Wenatchee, this growing community has something for everybody. If you like to jog, you'll love the 11-mile paved Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail; it crosses the Columbia twice and is a favorite with pedestrians, cyclists, and skaters.

Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center showcases local and regional history, as well as the arts. Visitors enjoy the apple industry display; Clovis, the American Indian exhibit; “Home Address: Anywhere in the Air” explores early aviation through the story of Clyde Pangborn and his record-setting, non-stop transpacific flight; and more. The museum is open all year, except some holidays.

If you enjoy gardens, stop at Ohme Gardens, just north of Wenatchee. Here you'll find one of the most impressive alpine gardens in the country. Once nine-acres of dusty sagebrush, today these terraced gardens feature tall evergreens, waterfalls, and ponds accessed by winding stone paths.

Rocky Reach Dam, built between 1956 and 1962, generates electricity, controls the level of the Columbia, and created Lake Entiat. But a stop at Rocky Reach may take a little longer than expected. The dam is almost as much a museum as a powerhouse, with galleries explaining the history of the Columbia and of electricity. Rocky Reach’s 15 acres of landscaped gardens and lawns delight travelers.
fishing, hiking, biking, and hunting. Trails lead to the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

Natural disasters occur in the Northwest, and Entiat has had its share, besides the fact that the town “up and moved” to accommodate Rocky Reach Dam. North of town, look for the Earthquake Point roadside historical marker describing a massive 1872 quake that created the rockslide that blocked the Columbia for hours.

Continue on to Chelan to enjoy fun in the sun at one of the Northwest’s premier playgrounds located at the southern end of Lake Chelan. Sitting deep in a glacially carved valley, approximately 55-mile-long Lake Chelan attracts visitors because of its natural beauty, as well as its range of water sports during summer. The Lake Chelan Valley is also a well-known winter recreational destination with panoramic scenery and more than 200 miles of groomed trails.

Lake Chelan is also the water highway that leads to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and the southern end of North Cascades National Park. The lake is the third deepest in the United States at 1486 feet deep. Only Crater Lake and Lake Tahoe are deeper.

Cruise aboard the Lady of the Lake II, the Lady Express, or a new high-speed catamaran to the isolated village of Stehekin at the lake’s northern end. You’ll find rustic accommodations to full-service lodging, great food, and information on trekking into the surrounding wilderness.

Folks interested in camping with a lake view should check out the campgrounds at one of the state parks, one about 9 miles and one 20 miles west of Chelan. The city of Chelan on the lake’s southeast shore and neighboring Manson are bustling waterfront resort towns in the summer, with a wide range of accommodations and dining.

Just an hour and a half away, you can visit the mother of all Northwest dams, the Grand Coulee Dam. The dam controls the mighty Columbia River and is 550 feet high, 500 feet wide at its base, and 5223 feet long. Grand Coulee Dam has a sturdy natural foundation of granite. The basalt lava flow that covered this area’s surface has eroded away over time, exposing the granite.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake stretches for more than 150 miles. Much of it was designated the Coulee Dam National Recreation Area in the 2006/2007 edition.
1946 and is an excellent place for boating, house boating, fishing, camping, and swimming. **Spokane**

Spokane is the largest city in what is referred to as the Inland Empire. From American Indian encampments to a Bing Crosby museum, there’s plenty to see and do in this friendly town.

The **Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture**, in the Cheney Cowles Center, underwent a $39 million expansion and renovation, reopening in 2001. The museum’s collections include over 68,000 objects representing fine art and material from the Americas, Europe, and Asia. (509-456-3931; www.northwestmuseum.org)

No visit to Spokane is complete without a visit to some of the city’s many parks. **Riverfront Park** is home to The Childhood Express, a giant Radio Flyer wagon made into a slide that delights the young and young-at-heart, and the historic Looff Carrousel. Surrounding the park are historic neighborhoods. Several walking tours reveal the city’s past.

Wildlife watchers flock to the **Little Spokane River Natural Area** a few miles northwest of the city. The wildlife area features a great blue heron rookery, and in winter, bald eagles. The area is popular with canoeists, but for those who prefer to walk, there’s a 6-mile trail that passes by historical petroglyphs.

For a change of pace, visit the **Cat Tales Zoological Park** on North Newport Hwy in Mead. The park is a sanctuary for 42 big cats and other rescued animals, as well as a training center for future zookeepers. The park, 15 miles north of Spokane, is open year-round. (509-238-4126; www.cattales.org)

Why do the hills seem to be rolling like that? The hills in this area are sediment deposits; high winds blew in loess, or dust, in much the same way sand dunes are created. Over time, loess creates deep, nutrient-rich, fertile soil, which helps explain why this area of Washington is well-known for its agriculture.

**Pullman**

An hour south of Spokane you will find the rolling hills, the rich and beautiful farmland of the Palouse and Pullman.

**Washington State University** is in Pullman. The university, home of the Cougars, has two great museums on campus: the **Museum of Anthropology** and the **Museum of Art**.

**Moscow**

The other hub is 8 miles to the east of Pullman and across the Idaho border. The college town of Moscow has been listed as one of the best 100 Small Arts Towns in America and is also home to the prestigious **Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival** held every February.

The **McConnell Mansion** adds Victorian flare to an area closely associated with untamed rogues and cowboys. The restored mansion was built late in the 19th century by Governor William McConnell and is now operated by the Latah County Historical Society. Another great site is the **Appaloosa Museum**, featuring the history of Idaho’s state horse. Artifacts associated with the appaloosa are on display. Watch appaloosas graze behind the museum during summer.
WALLA WALLA TO LEWISTON

This scenic country rests on the southern edge of the rolling pastoral Palouse. With the rugged Blue Mountains and the Umatilla National Forest to the south, this is a wholesome land steeped in tradition, rich in agriculture, and full of promise.

Walla Walla

The city of Walla Walla was named one of the 100 Best Art Towns in America, and it is rich in history. When the Lewis and Clark expedition passed through this area in 1805 and 1806, William Clark wrote in his journal that the locals were "...the most hospitable, honest, and sincere people that we have met with in our voyage." You’ll feel the same way today.

Visit the Fort Walla Walla Museum to see a life-size diorama of Lewis and Clark meeting with Yelleppt, leader of the Walla Walla Indians. The display illustrates a trade in which Clark gave Yelleppt a military sabre and Yelleppt gifted an “elegant white horse” to Clark, according to his journal.

Seven miles west of town, tour the Whitman Mission National Historic Site. In 1836, Marcus and Narcissa Whitman built a mission at this location to minister to the Cayuse Indians. The trip west was monumental as Narcissa Whitman and fellow traveler Eliza Spalding became the first white women to cross the continent. Their trek inspired others to follow, but unfortunately, they brought with them diseases against which the Cayuse had no immunities. After a deadly measles epidemic decimated the tribe, a band of the Cayuse killed the Whitmans and 11 others at the mission. The National Park Service operates a visitor’s center at the monument marking the site.

Dayton

The Touchet River flows through the little town of Dayton on Hwy 12, adding to this agricultural community’s peaceful atmosphere. Take a self-guided walking tour of Dayton to view some of the 117 homes and buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Main Street Dayton has a special role in the Lewis and Clark expedition; returning east through the territory the explorers deviated from their course to go through this area, which is often referred to as the Forgotten Trail.

The Dayton Historical Depot, built in 1883, is the oldest existing railroad depot in the state. It is now the town museum, open Tuesday through Saturday. Dayton is home to All Wheels Weekend, a classic car show held on Father’s Day weekend.

Pomeroy

Continuing on Hwy 12, Pomeroy is the kind of place where there are no stoplights and many of the buildings from the turn of the century remain in good order. Though small, it has old-fashioned charm that allows you to envision horse-drawn carriages rolling down the street.

The Pataha Flour Mill processed farmer’s grain into flour from 1878 until it closed in 1941. It is now The Mill Kitchen, a restaurant and gift shop with a reputation for scrumptious food and payment is by donation at this ministry-based establishment. The restaurant is generally open Tuesday through Saturday but hours vary (509-843-3799). You can tour the mill, with all of the original machinery still intact.

Clarkston

Hwy 12 rolls north from Dayton, then south, and finally east along the Pataha Valley, close to the winding Snake River. It then

WALLA WALLA TO LEWISTON VISITOR INFORMATION

Clarkston Chamber of Commerce
502 Bridge Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
800-933-2128
www.clarkstonchamber.org

Dayton Chamber of Commerce
166 E Main
Dayton, WA 99328
800-882-6299
www.historicdayton.com

Hells Canyon Visitor Association
504 Bridge Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
877-774-7248
www.hellscanyonvisitor.com

Lewiston Chamber of Commerce
111 Main Street, Suite 120
Lewiston, ID 83501
208-743-3531
www.lewistonchamber.org

Pomeroy Chamber of Commerce
747 E Main
Pomeroy, WA 99347
509-843-5011
www.pomeroychamberofcommerce.com

Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center
29 E Sumach
Walla Walla, WA 99362
877-WW-VISIT
www.wwvchamber.com

Phto by Bud Henderson

Reenactors bring history alive at many historic sites.
slides alongside the mighty river a few miles before reaching the twin cities of Clarkston, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho.

**Side trip**

To take a side trip, we continue east on Hwy 12 from Lewiston to Lolo, Montana, where Hwy 12 starts, backtracking the route that the explorers traveled into what is now Idaho.

Heading west like the explorers, this spectacular drive follows the Lochsa River from its headwaters near the Montana/Idaho border to its confluence with the Selway River at Lowell where they form the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River. The drive skirts the small towns of Kooskia and Kamiah, and goes through Orofino where you can take a short side trip to Ahsahka and the Dworshak Dam. Here several streams come together and flow to Lewiston.

**End side trip**

Back in Lewiston, the Clearwater and Snake River National Recreation Trail is a 16-mile wheelchair-accessible trail that connects parks, historic sites, and natural attractions along the Clearwater and Snake rivers.

**Lewiston**

It seems appropriate that we end our journey with the two towns that are named for the very men who made the Oregon Trail migration possible: William Clark and Meriwether Lewis. The town of Lewiston has grown to be the larger of the two and was the original site of Idaho’s state capital.

**The Lewis–Clark Center for Art & History** showcases the Beuk Aie Temple and artifacts from Lewiston’s Chinese community. Housed in an 1884 building, the center also presents concerts, recitals, and literary events.

For 200 developed acres along the Snake River, Hells Gate State Park offers grassy picnic areas and a large swimming beach. It is a perfect place to relax and enjoy the view of the Snake River as it winds through the deep gorge.

The fun on the Snake River doesn’t end in either of these cities— actually it’s just the beginning. Lewiston and Clarkston are the hub for adventure on the Snake River through a variety of local outfitters that offer raft and jet boat trips through one of the country’s most dramatic natural settings, Hells Canyon. At more than 8000 feet deep, Hells Canyon by raft or jet boat is a trip to be remembered for a lifetime, and a great way to end your journey.

Thrilling white water and fascinating petroglyphs, magnificent wildlife, and rugged scenery all bring the wild nature of the Snake and the lands of the Northwest into perspective.
Call 1-800-332-1843 or visit www.eova.com to request your free Eastern Oregon Regional Trip Planner.