

American Empress Riverboat Cruise on the Columbia & Snake Rivers of the Pacific NW



Planned & hosted by Deb Harkness
June 10-19, 2023 (10 days)

Here's another trip of a lifetime! Come join us as we leisurely cruise the Columbia & Snake Rivers of Washington & Oregon, all while on board the American Empress Paddle wheeler Riverboat. Here, the paths paved by Lewis & Clark, steer thru the timbers & wild coastline, along with the beautiful wine country & rich native American history. New adventures are always just around the bend. While on board this all-inclusive cruise you'll enjoy 3 great meals every day, nightly entertainment, daily stops in awesome ports, shore excursions, plus top-notch state rooms to lay your head down at night in.

Day 1, Sat. June 10

You will be asked to meet in Ft. Dodge where an afternoon shuttle will be waiting to transport us from Ft. Dodge to Minneapolis/St. Paul for an overnight stay.

Day 2, Sun. June 11 (B)

This morning after breakfast at the hotel, a hotel shuttle will take us to the airport for our late morning **non-stop flight to Portland, Oregon**. Upon arrival in Portland we will be met by a shuttle bus for transportation to our **Vancouver, Washington** pre-cruise night lodging.

Day 3, Mon. June 12 (B,L,D)

Today is Cruise Day! But we have a fun day planned for you prior to our sailing later this afternoon. Today we will explore the unique beauty of **Mount St. Helen**, known for it's powerful catastrophic explosion in 1980. Get a once-in-a-lifetime view of the mountain's treasures, including the 'blast zone', where you can see first-hand how nature heals itself. A truly unique experience!! Then after our return to Vancouver we will board the **American Empress Riverboat** for what we hope to be an experience of a lifetime. Our home away from home for the next 8 days & nights. Tonight, after settling into your stateroom, you'll enjoy a fabulous dinner. Casual dress wear is the dress code for the dining room for the entire cruise. No need for the fancy clothes! The dinner menu cuisine each night will highlight the geographical area we are cruising through. (You will always have other menu choices as well.)

Day 4, Tues. June 13 (B,L,D)

As we awake this morning to the soothing sounds of the peaceful water passing us by, grab yourself a cup of coffee & come sit on the deck with us as we take in the beauty of what Mother Nature has surrounded us with..... Today we cruise into the Port of **Astoria, Washington**. Surrounded by forests, boasting 3 rivers, & situated a stone's throw away from the Pacific Ocean, Astoria is a picturesque port city etched into the hills overlooking the Columbia River. Today, as a part of the all-inclusive package, you will have the option to explore this area on a **complimentary hop on-hop off bus tour**. During the tour the bus will be stopping at numerous locations. You, if you choose, can hop off the bus, explore the area for as long as you like, & then reboard the next bus that comes through & continue on your journey... Each port stop we have doesn't leave port until late afternoon, so you will have most of the day to explore.

Day 5, Wed. June 14 (B,L,D)

A true R & R Day! Today is s '**River Cruise**' day as we sale the gorgeous scenery along the Columbia River. We'll take in the **Columbia River Gorge**, a site like no other! You'll be awed with the beauty this area has to offer.

So keep your cameras close at hand! This is also a good day to enjoy some of the activities on board the vessel.

(continued on back)

**\$7699 per person
double occupancy**

Call for single rate pricing

Your Travel Experience Includes:

- ~Roundtrip air travel
- ~Transfers between airports/hotels/cruise ports
- ~Prepaid gratuities
- ~Lodging for 9 nights (including 7 aboard the cruise ship)
- ~Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person
- ~Tickets to all listed attractions & 3 shore excursions: Visit to Mount St. Helen, Multnomah Falls Visit & Jet Boat Tour through Hells Canyon
- ~23 meals (including all on board the American Empress)

ACTIVITY LEVEL:
Fairly active,
moderate pace

NORTHLAND TRAVEL

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i **PRO TIP:**
Travel Insurance:
Available at a group rate for this
tour. Call for details & pricing.

Day 6, Thurs. June 15 (B,L,D)

Nestled between the Columbia River to the south & the mountains & cliffs of the **Columbia River Gorge** to the north, Stevenson, Wash. is an area that has been home to Native American settlements for hundreds of years. Today, while visiting Stevenson, we will take in a premium shore excursion (included in your Northland package), a visit to **Multnomah Falls**. As we disembark off of the Riverboat we will board a bus that will take us along the 'Old Scenic Highway', experiencing the outstanding beauty of the Pacific Northwest. We'll feel the mist of Oregon's tallest & most mighty waterfall, Multnomah Falls, as it crashes down on the rocky cliffs below. Watch in awe as this 611-foot natural wonder demonstrates the power & beauty of nature in her rawest form. This port also offers the **complimentary hop-on, hop-off bus** which will take you to the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center as well as to **Bonneville Dam**.

Day 7, Fri. June 16 (B,L,D)

The Dalles, Oregon is our port of call today. Known as the end of the Oregon Trail, the Dalles holds a unique place in history, as the gateway to the Inland Empire. The Dalles was the jumping off spot for pioneers, soldiers, gold miners, scallywags & such. All who loaded their wagons onto rafts & barges & floated down the Columbia River. Another **complimentary hop on-hop off bus** is offered here today & will take in such stops as the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & the Fort Dalles Museum.

Day 8, Sat. June 17 (B,L,D)

Step off the boat in **Richland, Washington** this morning into a perfectly polished park & take a short stroll to downtown eateries, shops & attractions. Or venture to **Walla Walla**, where around every bend is an iconic winery, unforgettable view, or epic adventure. With more than 120 wineries & 2800 acres of grapes, Walla Walla is recognized as one of the finest wine regions in the nation. Or climb aboard one of the **complimentary hop on hop off buses** that will take you to **Sacajawea State Park**.

Day 9, Sun. June 18 (B,L,D)

Today we float into **Clarkston, Washington** for our final port of call. Clarkston is nestled at the union of the Snake & Clearwater Rivers & the town honors the legacy of William Clark, of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Directly east across the Snake River is Lewiston, Idaho, named for Meriwether Lewis. To end our cruise today we are including in another premium shore excursion. We're off on a **jet boat ride into Hells Canyon**, North America's deepest gorge!!!! We'll board the comfort Jet Boat & let the fun begin! Enjoy the spectacular views, as the captain narrates on the history of the area, the geology & the wildlife. What a way to end an epic adventure!! One last night on the Riverboat tonight to appreciate all that we have seen, all that we have done, & all the great memories that have been made...

Day 10, Mon. June 19 (B)

They say all good things must come to an end & today is that day. After disembarkation off of the Riverboat in Clarkston we are shuttled to **Spokane, Washington** for our non-stop flight back to Minneapolis/St. Paul. There we'll be met by our local shuttle bus that will then return us back to Ft. Dodge. Bringing to a close yet another trip of a lifetime!

\$1500 deposit
per person due at time of
reservation
Final payment due by
February 8, 2023

Cancellations Terms:

From receipt of deposit – Feb. 8, 2023 = \$300/person
Feb. 9 – March 8 = 25% penalty
March 9 – April 6 = 50% penalty
April 7 – May 9 = 75% penalty
On or after May 10 = 100% penalty

****This tour is confirmed a definite go, regardless of participant numbers. Due to the smaller size of this vessel, Northland Travel has only a limited number of staterooms available, so early sign up is strongly encouraged!**

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