

## Columbia & Snake River Cruise | The Lewis & Clark Trail

Holiday Duration: 8 Nights



### Overview

#### Columbia & Snake River Cruise

Embrace the pioneering spirit of Lewis and Clark as you immerse yourself in the history of their expedition into the West. As you sail between Portland and Clarkson, you will marvel at the variety of scenery from the lush forest mountains to magnificent waterfalls and even desert canyons, the evolving terrain is unlike anywhere else in America. Watch as your ship navigates through the famed lock and dam system, an awe-inspiring testament to human engineering.

This itinerary is with American Cruise Line but there is a slightly different option with America Queen Voyages.

**This itinerary is flexible and can be tailor-made to suit you; if you want to add extra days in one area, extend the holiday or maybe change the direction of travel. Talk to one of our experts about how to make this holiday the perfect one for you.**



Here's a day-by-day guide to your itinerary. Feel free to ask us to add other days or ideas and excursions by contacting us directly, so we can give you the best price.

## **Day 1**



## **Portland**

### **Pre-cruise night**

Included in the cost of your cruise is a night in a down-town Portland selected by American Cruise Lines. Extra nights are available at an extra cost.

### **1 night Portland**

## **Day 2**





## **Portland to Cruising**

Meet in the lobby of your hotel for the transfer to the ship. Sail out of Portland with Mount Hood as your backdrop. There will be a Welcome Reception where you will meet the crew, your onboard experts and, of course, fellow guests. You will learn more about the adventures to come.

## **7 nights cruise**

### **Day 3**



## **Cruising to Astoria**

Dock in charming, Victorian downtown Astoria, where, as well as exploring the town and the Columbia River Maritime Museum, there are optional excursions to Cape Disappointment State Park and Fort Clatsop. Be sure to walk along the river, visit the Garden of the Surging Waves, the Astoria Column and the 1885 Flavel House Museum.

### **Day 4**



### **Astoria to Kalama**

You will have a very pretty drive to Mount St. Helens which erupted to dramatically on May 18, 1980. You will visit the Observatory and learn about the eruption and its after affects. You will also have a chance to explore the Kalama Interpretive Centre where you can see a replica of an 1800s warehouse and learn about the Cowlitz tribe who first lived in this area.

### **Day 5**



### **Kalama to Stevenson**

A day of diversity. You will go through the forest to see 620-feet Multnomah Falls in all its natural glory and then visit the Bonneville Dam Visitor's Centre to learn all about the science of hydroelectricity plus the Columbia River Gorge Interpretive Centre Museum or visit the small town of Stevenson.

### **Day 6**



### **Stevenson to Columbia River Gorge**

A day of cruising the Columbia River Gorge. There will be a selection of guest speakers with classes ranging from Art, Cooking, Mixology as well as talks about the region.

#### **Day 7**



### **Columbia River Gorge to Richland**

Richland sits at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia River. The ship docks close to the waterfront walking trails where you can explore the shops and local wineries. There are a variety of guided excursions to the REACH museum, the Sacajawea Interpretive Centre and a full day trip to Pendleton. (NB this highly recommended excursion needs to be booked in advance)

#### **Day 8**



### **Richland to Clarkston**

Today is your chance to cruise the Snake River. Spot white pelicans, osprey, bald eagles amongst many other birds as you glide through canyons and remote wilderness. You can take the Hells Canyon Boat adventure which explores the deepest canyon in North America. The scenery will take your breath away and the Native American pictographs and ancient rock formations are bound to be fascinating and you will have lunch at a private ranch within the canyon. The other alternative is the Hells Canyon Flightseeing adventure which again must be prebooked.

### **Day 9**



### **Clarkston to Lewiston**

Disembark after breakfast in Clarkson and be transferred to Lewiston airport for your onward flights.

You can see by the town names how important Lewis and Clark are to the area!



## **American Cruise Line**

Your cruise will be enhanced by engaging local guides who increase your understanding of fascinating landmarks, such as Mount St. Helens, famous for its eruption in 1980, and Multnomah Falls, an impressive 611-foot-tall cascade of falling water. Travel to scenic vineyards, where you can savour the area's finest varietals.

On board, delight in the ship's delicious cuisine, socialize at the daily cocktail hour, and enjoy onboard guest speaker presentations, featuring fascinating stories and insights about the region's history, environment, and culture. Unwind each evening with a diverse array of talented regional performers in the intimate performance lounge.

As this is a one-way journey between Portland, Oregon and Clarkston, Washington you will have plenty of time to explore all that the river has to offer. Your itinerary will vary depending on the direction of travel but in either case the cost includes the transfer between Clarkston and the airport as well as a complimentary hotel night before your cruise starts. Highlights will include Mount St. Helens, the Multnomah Falls, the Bonneville Dam, the underground tunnels of Pendleton and of course, the Columbia Gorge.

Your ship will either be a traditional but modern river boat or the American West, an authentic late 1800s design paddle-wheeler steamboat operated by American Cruise Lines. Today, however, the vessel is powered by a revolutionary hydraulic propulsion system providing a quieter, smoother and more environmentally friendly ride. A unique feature of the ship is a 45-foot-long bow ramp which allows passengers to disembark anywhere along the river as was done historically. There are 70 staterooms spread across 4 decks: all have picture windows or balconies with specially designed custom-made furniture. There are 4 lounges and bars, a library as well as the open-seating restaurant where chefs tailor delicious meals featuring locally produced seafood, fresh meat and in-season fruit and veg.

The emphasis of the cruise is on the scenery, culture and the social life on board. Expert lecturers will let you know about regional history and traditions. Much of the history revolves around the explorers Lewis and Clark and a bit research into this remarkable pair before you go would be beneficial.

Some of the excursions offered are complimentary. Others come with a charge.



### **American Queen Voyages**

American Queen Voyages operate a similar voyage aboard the American Empress. Her voyage is 9-days commencing in Vancouver (Portland, Oregon) calling in at Astoria, Stevenson, Washington, The Dalles, Oregon, Richland, Washington and finishing in Clarkston from where they offer a flight to Spokane where you could easily spend a couple of days. They also offer a round trip voyage from Portland.

The American Empress is a Sternwheeler built in 2003 to an original late 1800s design. She has 112 suites and staterooms spread over 4 decks, some with verandas and all with large picture windows. You will be able to enjoy not only delicious food in the Astoria Dining room on or deck in River Grill, but musical revues and cabaret shows in The Show Lounge and the Pilot House, the lounge and bar which is really the heart of the ship where everyone gathers to share their stories of the day, play games, have a drink and relax.

**Please ask us for details.**

**If you are interested in a holiday to America please contact us on 020 8776 8709 to discuss your plans with a USA expert, or send an email to [america@frontier-travel.co.uk](mailto:america@frontier-travel.co.uk) with your requirements and we will put together your ideal itinerary and quotation. Let us take you there.**