

**North Oregon Coast Tour
With
Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC**

Sunday morning and the Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, tour is on the road again, heading out for one last summer hurrah at the Oregon Coast before the snow settles in on Central Oregon.

The Gadabout Serene Adventures tour picked up passengers in Sunriver, Bend and Redmond for our three day trip to the beautiful northern Oregon Coast. The weather was turning cold and a fresh coat of snow covered all of the Cascade mountain range, creating a wonderful panoramic view of snow capped mountains for our early morning departure.

Traveling over Mount Hood via Government Camp, we took a break to stretch our legs and even throw a few snowballs around before stopping for lunch in the quaint little town of Sandy, Oregon. With our appetites satiated we boarded the bus, eagerly anticipating our afternoon arrival in Cannon Beach where we'll do a bit of shopping and perhaps take a stroll along the beach.

After a lovely drive through Portland we had a pleasant drive through the coastal mountain range where the fall colors were still quite beautiful, full of vibrant and varied reds, yellows and shades of gold. However, upon reaching Cannon Beach we encountered light rain and cool breezes which made it challenging to truly appreciate the ocean view and lightly populated beaches. The cool weather was no match for our good mood and the rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm for adventure in the least. We got right out there in the weather and still had a nice visit on the beach.

Next we traveled to Seaside, Oregon, where we spent our first night. Our accommodations, the Seaside Best Western, were exceptional. Every luxurious room offered expansive ocean and beach views and included all the amenities of home, including remote control fire places in every room! The service, staff and amenities at the Seaside Best Western were nothing short of "top-notch" which even included a nice "Welcome" message for us on the marquis at the front of the hotel. Many of our group were so impressed that they wanted to extend our stay to "several days at least"! Alas, we have too much to see and do and so were unable to fulfill that request.

After getting settled into the Best Western, we dined at the Shilo Restaurant, overlooking the ocean, with a three piece band playing gentle dinner music in the dining area. The food and service were fantastic, surpassed only by the conversation and camaraderie around the table!! After our luscious meal was complete and since it was still quite comfortable outside, many of our group decided to take a leisure stroll on the Promenade instead of taking the bus back to the hotel.

We awoke Monday morning to crystal clear sky and incredibly nice weather. It was so nice out that many of us took long strolls along the beach, enjoying the peace and quiet of the morning before the city came to life for the day. Other folks in the group enjoyed a leisure coffee or tea in the hotel restaurant while the remainder of the group chose to loiter in their room or stayed in bed a bit longer before check-out time.

Departing the Seaside Best Western, we were off to breakfast at the Pig-n-Pancake restaurant for a fun and tasty start of the day. Upon arrival we were dismayed to discover that the Pig-n-Pancake staff had misplaced our reservations and were therefore not ready to accommodate us immediately. The staff apologized profusely for the delay and promptly went about setting the buffet room for our use. With a tremendous effort from the staff they were able to seat the entire group in less than 10 minutes!

Leaving Seaside and the beautiful coastline behind us, we were off to the Astoria area to see the rustic Fort Clatsop and visitor center. Fort Clatsop, the winter encampment site of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was named in honor of the local Clatsop Indians. The 33-member party spent the winter of 1805-06 learning from the Clatsop people, making moccasins and buckskin clothing, storing food and reworking their maps and journals in preparation for their long journey back to St. Louis. The original fort deteriorated in the wet climate of the northwest, but in 1955, using Clark's sketches, area citizens and service clubs constructed a replica on the same site. Three years later it became a unit of the National Park Service, commemorating the national significance of this epic journey. Today, park rangers dress in buckskins, make candles, smoke meat, carve dugout canoes and fire flintlock rifles and muskets to reenact what life was like for the explorers. The authentic fort is furnished with hand-hewn wooden bunks, tables, benches and chairs, and serves as an "outdoor museum" that makes history fun for over 200,000 visitors a year, providing real life, hands-on experiences. The visitor center includes exhibits and audiovisual programs and the Fort Clatsop historical Association sells books, maps and postcards.

At the fort we enjoyed a guided tour and lecture on the area and history and then were free to wander and explore on our own. Several of our group even purchased unique souvenir items and trinkets for kids and grandkids from the gift shop.

After exploring Fort Clatsop and the visitor center most of us were famished and were more than ready for the short trip into Astoria to the Cannery Café, located right on the Columbia River. The Cannery Café is actually on the old fishing and cannery wharf out in the Columbia, so our dining room afforded a beautiful view of the river and boating traffic, with the expansive Astoria-Megler bridge stretching four miles across and 200 feet above the Columbia river.

After our fabulous lunch we gathered just outside the Cannery Café for a private tour of Astoria aboard the Astoria Trolley. Our conductor and his Wheelman were both well versed on the history and unique trivia on Astoria and the surrounding area. They showed us the historic wharf area, gave us some of the history of Astoria's colorful history and pointed out interested locales during our eight mile round trip. We even got to see and hear the resident colony of Sea Lions, a significant nuisance for the local

fishermen because they congregate on the fishing docks to bask in the sun. The Sea Lions have a major impact on the fishing industry because they tend to take single bites out of the Salmon, leaving the fish to go to waste. Another interesting challenge for the fishermen is keeping the Sea Lions off of their boats and several have been sunk under the burden of too many of the mammoth beasts crowding aboard when the docks get overcrowded. Sea Lions aside, the Astoria Trolley, Old Number 300, was built in 1913 by the American Car Company of St. Louis and was in service in San Antonio until 1933. From then until now, the trolley has gone through many alternating periods of love and neglect, the car body even serving as a lady's residence for a number of years. It has since been refurbished by an army of Astoria volunteers and is clickity-clacking along the Columbia Riverfront tracks, crossing the city from the Port of Astoria to the East End Mooring Basin and carrying plenty of passengers, more than a thousand riders on many weekends. Today we had it exclusively to ourselves and enjoyed every minute of the ride!

Finishing up in Astoria was the chance for a nostalgic visit to one of our passengers' former home, nestled on the hillside at the East end of town. Her former home, over 100 years old now, has been well kept and offered a charming glimpse into the life she lived as a younger woman. After reminiscing about life "back then" our route turns East, destination the Portland area to check into our hotel for the night and dinner, although we did make a requested stop for some adult liquid refreshments to enjoy during the leisure evening hours.

Portland was busy as ever and we arrived just in time to languish in the evening rush hour traffic. Aren't we all glad we don't live in that mess!! Several passengers, former Portland area residents, expressed much gratitude to be living away from the hustle and bustle of the metropolitan area that Portland has become.

Dinner on Monday night was a fiesta of fun, literally, since we dined at the Acapulco restaurant for excellent Mexican fare and several even enjoyed the margaritas. One of our group was dubbed "Margarita Mary" during the meal, after the amazing drink she ordered, which set the mood for good humored joking and teasing around the table.

Tuesday brought us another glorious day. The weather was perfect, warm, sunny and clear blue sky, for our next destination. After a casual Continental breakfast at the hotel we checked out, boarded the bus, and departed for the End of the Oregon Trail interpretive center.

We arrived at the End of the Oregon Trail center well ahead of our scheduled tour to discover that the center would not be open for almost an hour, however the kind staff took pity on us and opened the center early just for us. After a brief wait while the guide donned his period apparel, we were ushered in for a very informative and unique trip back to the early days of Oregon and the Lewis and Clark expedition. All in all, it was a very fascinating tour and lecture that included many artifacts, antiques and implements of life on the Oregon Trail and the Expedition.

After our learning experience at the museum, we made a stop for lunch at a favorite restaurant unavailable in the Central Oregon area – The Olive Garden! At long last we boarded the bus for the final leg of our trip, our return to Central Oregon and Bend. However, we did stop and enjoy Ice Cream and treats along the way and enjoyed the humorous movie “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” as we made our way up through the Santiam Pass. Along the way the fall colors were still spectacular and the afternoon lighting on the vibrant colors were almost distracting from the entertainment of the movie.

The Gadabout staff would like to express our appreciation and thanks for your participation in this trip. We all had a great time, saw wonderful, amazing and interesting things, learned some Oregon history and enjoyed each other’s company. We look forward to our next exciting adventure with you!!

Gadabout Serene Adventures, out of Sunriver, Oregon, provides scenic and recreational tours designed specifically for the senior citizen, including those who may have a limited level of physical ability. We incorporate the beauty of nature and the great outdoors into most of our adventures. We also believe that you should always keep learning, therefore, we include numerous adventures to discovery centers, museums and other places of culture to spark the mind and the heart. We offer weekly adventures from one to three days, between April and December, and have convenient pick-up locations in Sunriver and Bend. Additional pickup locations are sometimes available in Sisters, Redmond, La Pine, Madras, or Prineville depending upon the direction of our tour destination.

Gadabout Adventures can be reached at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at www.gadaboutadventures.com to receive a Calendar of Tours and other information.

Robin & Danita Parker, Owners / Operators
Gadabout Serene Adventure, LLC