



Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler Tour  
With  
Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC

The warm August weather offered a perfect opportunity to head over the mountain and visit the Columbia Gorge area for a ride on the Historic Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler boat along the scenic Columbia river.

This Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, all-inclusive tour included a picnic lunch on the waterfront, passage for the 3 hour tour on the sternwheeler and transportation from Bend and Sunriver. Gadabout Adventures can be reached at 541-593-6200 or at our web site at [www.gadaboutadventures.com](http://www.gadaboutadventures.com) to receive a Calendar of Tours.

Our began in Bend and traveled North to Madras where we had to detour up Highway 197 due to the roaring forest fires along our original route, Highway 35, which would have taken us through some very pretty fruit orchards and farm lands. However, having to detour allowed us to pass through the historic Ghost Town of Shaniko, Oregon and several other quaint rural farming communities including Kent, Grass Valley, Moro and others.

After arriving safely in Cascade Locks, Oregon, we boarded the Sternwheeler from Marine Park at Cascade Locks, in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic area. The weather was clear and sunny with little wind and promised a glorious day on the water. Our vessel for the journey is an authentic triple-deck paddle wheeler, providing

360 degrees of breathtaking vistas of the Cascade River and surrounding Oregon and Washington terrain.



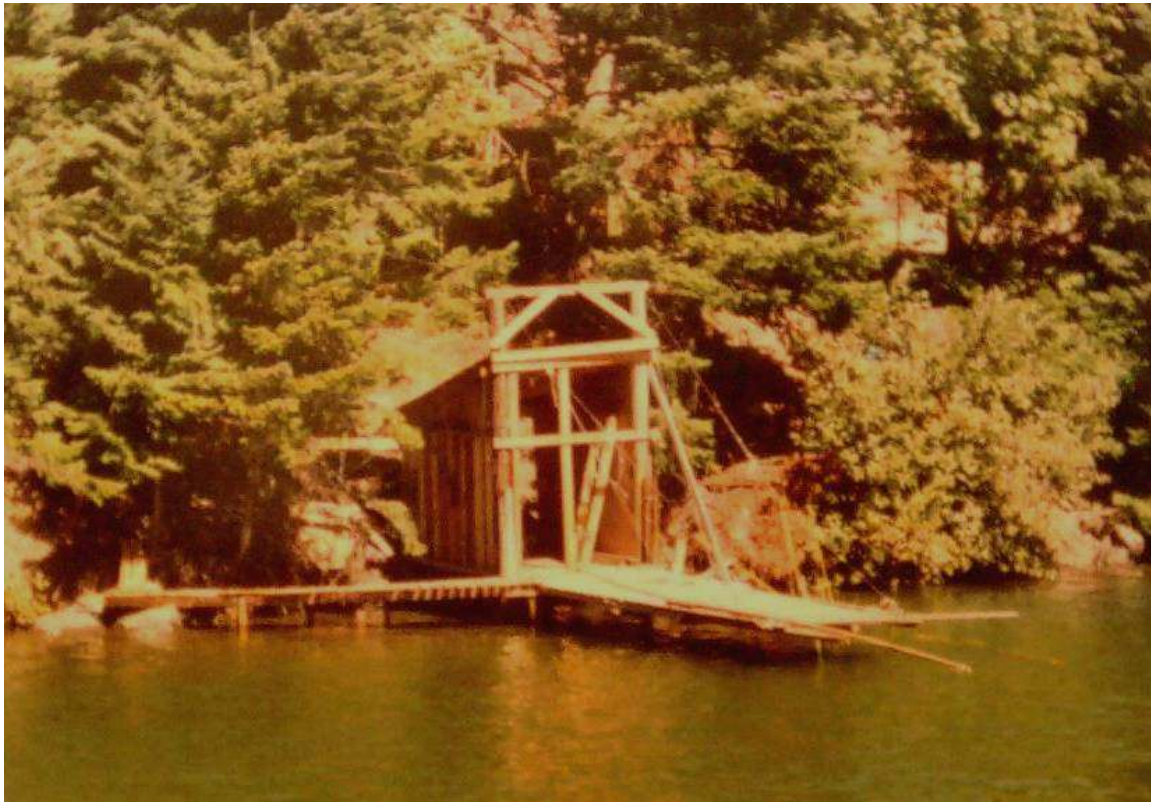
The history of Cascade Locks is intimately tied to the Columbia River. The small settlement that grew up on the banks of the river helped early travelers portage around the rapids, first by foot, then by mule-drawn rail cars, steam engines and finally riverboats.

Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery portaged around the rapids of the Cascades in 1805. They wrote in their journal, "this great chute of falls is about 1/2 a mile with the water of this great river compressed within the space of 150 paces...great number of both large and small rocks, water passing with great velocity forming & boiling in a horrible manner, with a fall of about 20 feet" (October 30- November 1, 1805).

Navigating West with the flow of the river, we passed under the famous Bridge of the Gods, constructed in 1921, which is the oldest and third largest bridge on the Columbia river. Several miles downstream we come to Bonneville Dam and the end of the first leg of our journey and turn into the current for the slow and arduous paddle upstream. The Captain turned up the steam and soon we were traveling at a pretty good clip.

Passing through the Columbia narrows in the area of Port Rains, Washington, we passed many rustic looking Native American fishing huts and piers such as the one pictured. These platforms have been used for Salmon fishing by dip net fishing for hundreds of years by the Columbia River Native Indians and were the main stay of their diet for many of those years before the modern convenience of grocery stores were available. Many of

them are still used daily throughout the year and are inherited by future generations to ensure their access to the bountiful Salmon runs.



Our captain provided narration on Lewis and Clark's Expedition in the Columbia gorge, the Oregon Trail, the Bridge of the Gods, and the history of riverboats on the Columbia River during our cruise back up the river to Stevenson, Washington which was the top of cruise circuit. The Captain also spoke to us about the history of the Cascades Locks. The original locks used for boat passage were located at Cascade Locks, our original port, and were used for many years and was the site of the boom town of Whiskey Flats.

Upon returning to Cascade Locks we retreated to the river-side park area for a nice picnic lunch in the sunshine with a beautiful view of the river and Washington beyond. The end of the day found us making our way back to Bend with plenty of conversation, jokes, stories and riddles to entertain us during the drive, full of the exhilaration of a day full of sun out on the water and plenty of little known history of the Columbia and surrounding areas.

Gadabout Serene Adventures, LLC, located in Sunriver, OR, thanks you for joining us in a fun and educational day for a ride on the Columbia Sternwheeler.

Robin & Danita Parker, Owners / Operators  
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