

# COLUMBIA & SNAKE RIVER CRUISE

September 1-9, 2024

Set sail on the Columbia and Snake Rivers aboard the *American Empress* on a seven-night cruise offering an enchanting blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. Along the way, discover the captivating towns of Astoria, Stevenson, The Dalles, Richland, and Clarkston on included hop-on, hop-off tours. Be immersed in the rich heritage of the Pacific Northwest, explore historical landmarks, and enjoy the breathtaking scenery!

Space is limited.  
**Register  
today!**







Columbia River Gorge



American Queen Steamboat Company

Flavel House

## DAY 1 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

## VANCOUVER, WA

Today we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Portland, OR. Upon arrival we'll embark on a **panoramic city tour** of the "City of Roses" on the way to our hotel in **Vancouver, WA**, just across the Columbia River. After settling into the **Hilton Vancouver (or similar)**, the remainder of the day is your to explore Vancouver. There's Lewis and Clark history, an abundance of quirky shops, excellent restaurants, and a growing craft brew scene. Whether you are interested in delving into history, enjoying the outdoors, or indulging in delicious cuisine, Vancouver has something for everyone!

*Note: The airport location and airline will be confirmed nine months before departure.*

## DAY 2 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

## VANCOUVER, WA

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before we transfer to the pier to **board the American Empress for the next seven nights**. The largest overnight riverboat west of the Mississippi, this beautiful and authentic paddlewheeler is designed to evoke the elegance and charm of the nineteenth century. The *American Empress* boasts dining inspired by the Pacific Northwest's varied cultural and culinary influences, lively entertainment and talks by knowledgeable Riverlorians, and luxurious suites and amenities. The ship also holds a vast collection of some of the most intricate artifacts and artwork of Native Alaska, Russia, the Gold Rush, and the sternwheeler era. Time will be available to settle into our staterooms before we set sail on the Columbia River. Over the next week, we will venture along the rivers of the Pacific Northwest through beautiful landscapes that transform from a majestic wall of spruce and pine to rolling hills speckled with vineyards and cherry trees!

## DAY 3 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

## ASTORIA, OR

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Surrounded by forests, boasting three rivers, and situated a stone's throw away from the Pacific, **Astoria, OR**, is a picturesque port city with Victorian-era homes etched into hills overlooking the Columbia River. Astoria is known to be the oldest American settlement west of the Rocky Mountains, inhabited for thousands of years by the Clatsop Tribe. Astoria has a rich history that reflects the many influences the town has had from people and cultures around the world. Many of its current residents are descendants from early settlers, many of whom were Chinese and played a significant role in Astoria's history, especially in the canneries, railroads, and the jetties at the Columbia River. The Garden of Surging Waves is a beautiful park that celebrates and honors Astoria's relationship with China over the years. Join today's **hop-on, hop-off tour** to explore the Astoria Riverwalk overlooking the Columbia River. The walkway stretches the entire length of the city's waterfront, connecting restaurants and breweries, museums, historic canneries, and docks. Other stops on the tour include the Flavel House; Astoria Colum; the Heritage Museum, where Clatsop County's rich and exciting history is featured; and the Columbia River Maritime Museum. The museum teaches the history of the mighty Columbia through interactive displays, galleries, and collections (*Please note all hop-on, hop-off stops are subject to 2024 scheduling*).

## DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

## STEVENSON, WA

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Watch small river towns and lush landscapes slowly glide by as we sail to **Stevenson, WA**. Nestled between the Columbia River to the south and the mountains and basalt cliffs of the Columbia River Gorge to the north, Stevenson offers a respite from the hustle and bustle of larger ports. The area has been home to Native American settlements for thousands of years. Their villages were focal points for commerce and social gatherings as they came to trade and fish along the riverbanks. Later, in 1843, the Oregon Trail brought the first of a great wave of settlers – pioneers portaged around the Cascade Rapids on their way to the Willamette Valley. Some of these pioneers chose to stay. The Stevenson family from Missouri, who settled in the gorge in the 1800s, founded the town. Under the auspices of the Stevenson Land Company, George Stevenson established the town along the lower flat near the river and expanded the original dock to serve the daily arrivals of sternwheelers. On the **hop-on, hop-off tour**, the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center is a favorite. Here you can explore Native American legends, petroglyphs, and artifacts telling the story of the gorge. The Bonneville Dam is another interesting stop where you can see the operation of the two hydroelectric powerhouses and watch migrating fish travel upstream from the underwater viewing rooms next to the fish ladders. To explore Stevenson, hop off in the downtown area to enjoy the many antique shops, boutiques, historic buildings with vintage interiors, beautiful gardens, and restaurants.



Fish ladder at Bonneville Dam



Clarkston

#### DAY 5 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

#### THE DALLES, OR

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

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, adventurers, gunslingers, and scallywags who loaded their wagons onto rafts or barges and floated down the Columbia to the mouth of the Willamette River, then upriver to Oregon City. The Barlow Trail was constructed later to permit an overland crossing. The Dalles was also the site of Fort Dalles. Established in 1850 to protect immigrants after the Whitman Massacre, it was the only military post between the Pacific Coast and Wyoming. Stops on today's **hop-on, hop-off tour** include the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum, the original Wasco County Courthouse Museum, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Dalles Museum, the National Neon Sign Museum, and The Dalles City Hall & Fire Museum. At the Discovery Center, there are beautiful paved walking trails, a pond, and scenic overlooks. There are also exhibits on the volcanic activity and floods that shaped the gorge, the flora and fauna of the region, and its 11,000 years of cultural history. You won't want to miss the live birds of prey program! The National Neon Museum is a walk through the evolution of light, from the earliest light bulb to the introduction of neon in the United States, while the Fire Museum is filled with information about the area's firefighting history.

#### DAY 6 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

#### RIVER CRUISING

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Behold the beauty of nature as we enjoy a day of scenic river cruising. Picturesque canyon walls and fascinating volcanic formations will keep us guessing as to what lies around the next bend. As we wind through the dramatic mountains and forested ridges of the great Pacific Northwest, consider joining the Riverlorian on deck for insightful and entertaining narration.

#### DAY 7 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

#### RICHLAND, WA

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

**Richland** is located near the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers, the northernmost point reached by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. Incorporated in 1910, Richland remained a small agricultural community until the U.S. Army purchased 640 square miles of land during World War II, evicting the 300 residents of Richland as well as those of the now vanished towns of White Bluffs and Hanford. The army turned it into a bedroom community for workers at its Manhattan Project facility who produced plutonium during World War II and the Cold War. The Richland **hop-on, hop-off tour** will immerse us in the city's history and the ecology of the area. The REACH Museum celebrates the stories of the Columbia River basin and its people, including the town's role in the top-secret Manhattan Project. Uncover the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition at Sacajawea State Park or delve into the history of Franklin County at the Franklin County Historical Society and Museum. Those interested in aviation will enjoy the look back at World War II history at the Pasco Aviation Museum.

#### DAY 8 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

#### CLARKSTON, WA

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Nestled at the union of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, **Clarkston** was settled in 1862 by Robert Bracken and was officially incorporated in 1902. Before becoming an official town the area was known by various names, including Jawbone Flats, Lewiston, and Concord – after the city in Massachusetts. The name Clarkston honors the legacy of William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition fame. Directly east across the Snake River is Lewiston, ID, the larger and older of the two towns, named for Meriwether Lewis. The spirit of adventure, picturesque vistas, year-round mild temperatures and a deep history make this scenic inland port a desirable stop to learn the rich cultural heritage of the region and its first people, the legendary Nimiipuu, at the Nez Perce National Historical Park during today's **hop-on, hop-off tour** of Clarkston. The Nez Perce County Historical Society Museum Campus also explores Nez Perce history, plus the contributions of Chinese people to the area, life on the river, and wine growing and agriculture in the county. The shops and restaurants of Port Drive and 9th Street and the Lewis and Clark State College Center for Arts & History are also along the route. After an exciting day, we'll return to the ship for a final evening aboard the *American Empress*.

#### DAY 9 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

#### HOME

(Breakfast)

Following breakfast we will disembark and transfer to the airport for our flight home.





## INCLUSIONS

- Round-Trip Airport Transfers
- Round-Trip Air to Portland & Return From Spokane (air allowance of \$700)
- Transfers to Hotel/Pier/Airport
- 1 Night's Accommodations on Land
- Porter Service of One Bag Per Person at Hotel
- 7-Night Cruise in Stateroom Category of Choice
- 1 Meal on Land & All Onboard Meals
- Complimentary Beverages on Board (including alcohol)
- Taxes & Gratuities for Included Services
- 5 Hop-on, Hop-off Tours

**Not included in the price of this tour:** meals other than those listed on the itinerary, beverages other than tea/coffee/water with included meals on land, premium alcohol on board, items of a personal nature/souvenirs, phone calls and faxes from hotel/ship, premium shore excursions, travel protection plan, current baggage fees at the airport as assessed by the airline, fees related to any COVID-19 requirements for this destination, and any service not listed in the above inclusions.

### Activity Level: Minimal to Moderate

In order to participate in this tour, **you must:**

- Be able to walk/stand 2-3 hours at a time at an easy pace in all weather conditions
- Be able to maneuver some stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces without assistance

**DOCUMENTATION:** A current government-issued photo ID is required for this trip. **Effective May 7, 2025: All travelers on domestic flights must have a Real ID-compliant form of identification to board. Driver's licenses with a star inside a gold circle in the upper corner are Real ID-compliant, as are passports. You can apply to get a compliant ID by visiting your local DMV.**

**OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN:** Connect Club recommends that you purchase a Travel Protection Plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected so you can relax and enjoy your trip. Participants may purchase this coverage from the provider of your choice. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan, 360° Group Premier provided by Travel Insurance Services, that helps provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, theft or damage, medical expense and emergency evacuation coverage, and more. For more information, please see the product flyer included with this brochure. If you would like to purchase the offered plan, please check the applicable box on the registration form. Please Note: The plan cannot be purchased after final payment. To view/download the Policy, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, go to: <https://policy.travelexinsurance.com/GPB-0521>. To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. The purchase of this product is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service. Your travel retailer might not be licensed to sell travel insurance and will only be able to provide general information about the product. An unlicensed travel retailer may not answer questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance offered and may not evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. The products being offered provide insurance coverage that only applies during your covered trip. You may have insurance coverage from other sources that provide similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon the coverage. You may wish to compare the terms of the travel policy offered through Travel Insurance Services with any existing life, health, home, and automobile insurance policies you may have. If you have questions about your coverage under your existing insurance policies, contact your insurer or insurance agent or broker. Travel Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is offered on behalf of and under the direction of Travel Insurance Services. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276.7D4

**CANCELLATION:** Full refund of all monies is made if cancellation is received in writing to Star Destinations prior to final payment, less the non-refundable \$250 and 3% credit card transaction fee (if a credit card is used). A 100% fee is charged if the cancellation occurs between final payment and departure. If the reason for cancellation is due to a medical or other reason that is covered by Travel Protection, you may be eligible for reimbursement for such fees from your Travel Protection Plan provider.

**TRAVELERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** You must advise Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) at the time of registration of any disability requiring special attention. SDI will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of travelers. The Americans with Disabilities Act is applicable only in the U.S., and accommodations outside the U.S. may be more limited. Travelers requiring assistance are required to be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the assistance. Neither SDI personnel nor its suppliers may lift or physically assist with travelers' special needs including, but not limited to, walking, dining, or other routine activities. Travelers thinking they may need assistance should call SDI to determine what accommodations may reasonably be provided. Arrangements at an additional cost are the financial responsibility of the traveler.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) acts as an agent for suppliers such as airlines, hotels or activities to provide you with the travel services and accommodations. Although great care is taken in choosing suppliers, we are unable to control them and therefore cannot be held responsible or liable for their acts or omissions. Should a contracted supplier be unable to perform required services, SDI reserves the right to substitute advertised services with similar services. SDI is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs or expenses arising out of injury, accident or death, damage, loss, trip delay or delay of baggage, or other inconvenience resulting from mechanical breakdowns, fire, theft, civil disturbances, government actions, weather, and other factors beyond our control. In the case of a pandemic or worldwide disturbance that interrupts or cancels your planned tour, SDI will do everything possible to retrieve any refundable components of your tour but cannot be held responsible for any non-refundable portions of the tour. In addition, SDI reserves the right to vary the tour price advertised or printed to cover any increase in air fare, volatile fuel prices, government taxes and charges, exchange rate fluctuations, or other tour-related tariffs or newly announced travel costs. In the current travel environment, pricing may be increased due to unexpected requirements for health and safety of tour members. Due to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, destination areas may implement restrictions and requirements that may add additional costs beyond our control. Be aware that any public interaction carries a risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Travelers assume personal risk upon tour registration, and SDI cannot be held responsible in the event of infectious disease exposure. If you request a variation or change to your booking, SDI may choose to accept or reject that request. If accepted, you are responsible for any fees associated with it. If the minimum number of passengers required to operate the tour is not met, SDI reserves the right to cancel the tour.

It is the sole discretion of SDI to refuse transport to any passenger, or require any passenger to leave the tour, if it is reasonably believed that the passenger (1) is dangerous to others or to himself or herself; (2) is engaged in, or is threatening to engage in behavior that may adversely affect the safety, security, enjoyment, or well-being of other passengers, including behavior that is disruptive, verbally or physically abusive, obnoxious, harassing, or obscene; or (3) has failed or refused to follow SDI's rules and procedures or the instructions of its representatives. In the event a passenger is removed, such passenger may be left at any location without any liability to SDI or its representatives. SDI shall not be required to refund any portion of the price paid by any passenger who is removed, nor shall SDI be responsible for any further expenses incurred by the passenger. SDI shall be entitled to recover from the passenger any costs or expenses incurred by SDI or its representatives in the removal of the passenger or the exercise or enforcement of this clause.

## TOUR PRICING\*

Per Person  
Double Occupancy

<b>Cat. C</b>	Deluxe Veranda Stateroom (200 sq ft)**	<b>\$6,365</b>
<b>Cat. E</b>	Veranda Stateroom (170 sq ft)**	<b>\$6,665</b>
<b>Cat. B</b>	Superior Veranda Stateroom (224-245 sq ft)**	<b>\$7,865</b>

\*Tour cost subject to 3% credit card transaction fee.  
\*\*Staterooms subject to availability at time of registration.

## OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

**Connect Club RECOMMENDS all travelers purchase a Travel Protection Plan. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan provided by Travel Insurance Services:**

per person, double: Cat. C & E - \$644; Cat. B - \$736  
(Payment may be sent with your deposit or with final payment to Connect Club)

Travel Protection Plan may be purchased any time before or with final payment.

To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. Travel Insurance Services Inc. ("Travel Insurance") maintains an updated list of alerts and financial defaults on its website available at <https://www.travelexinsurance.com/customer-service/travel-alerts/travel-supplier>.

Visit <https://travelexinsurance.com/docs/ny-phn-covid-19-comp> to view a special notice for NY residents regarding coverage related to COVID-19. Travel Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276.7D6

**A \$500 deposit per person is required with your registration form in order to reserve your spot by:**

**JANUARY 30, 2024**

((\$250 is non-refundable))

**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE:**

**APRIL 25, 2024**

**To register online, visit:**

[www.stardestinations.com/travel-clubs](http://www.stardestinations.com/travel-clubs)

Password: CSBConnect

For further information or questions, please contact:

**Rhonda Mart, Connect Club Coordinator**

**(712) 792-4346 ext. 209**

**connect@csbcarroll.com**

