

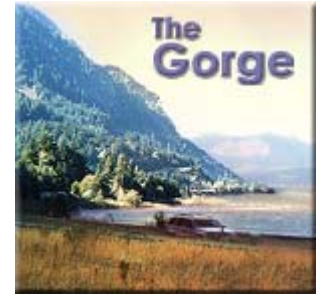


The Gorge

On the Columbia River, Oregon

By Laura Dawn Lewis

Few places on this planet compare to the beauty and grandeur of The Columbia River Gorge. The Columbia River is the second longest river in the United States and it divides the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho as it winds through the lush green forests and long ago volcanic lava beds changing radically into a land of barren plateaus as it trudges between the high desserts of Eastern Washington and Oregon.



For the Outdoorsman

Most of the key attractions are easily accessible to the elderly even the handicap. For the more adventurous, All along this 84 mile route (each way) you'll find hiking trails, picnic areas, fishing streams, giant waterfalls just a few hundred feet off the highway, world class wind surfing and many quaint hotels, motels and restaurants. If you bring the kids with you, stop by the Cascade Locks and Salmon Hatchery/ladders or the Bonneville Dam for a unique educational experience. You'll need a [NW Forest Pass](#) (\$5 a day or \$30 a year) for overnight and some day camp areas.



For the Scholar

If you attended college in Oregon or Washington and opted for *Rocks for Jocks* (AKA Geology), mapping the wide variety of geological creations from wind, water, volcanoes and earthquakes in The Gorge was a required excursion. Fortunately the students at [Portland State University](#) have done this for you. Feel free to dazzle your spouse, date or kids with your knowledge! We won't tell where you got it!



About the Weather

The Gorge is prone to severe wind and weather (ice, sleet and snow). If you're towing a trailer or in a motor home, check the Gorge forecast before venturing in, especially during the winter months. Also, bring wind gear if you don't want to freeze, even in the summer. Once you get off the river, you'll be warm but it can get very cold very fast!

Our favorite romantic stop is to have dinner at the [Multnomah Falls Lodge](#) or to camp and eat breakfast with the sunrise coming over the river.

The Route:

The Route is Simple and is 84 miles from Portland to the Dalles If you choose to travel on the Washington side, use State Route (SR) 14. Our route follows Interstate 84 on the Oregon side are the main highways along the Columbia River. Four bridges help you get from one side of the river to the other: Cascade Locks/Stevenson; Hood River/Bingen; The Dalles/Dallesport, and Biggs/Maryhill.

Crown Point photograph courtesy of the US Forestry Department. All others are the Property of Couples Company.

The Gorge: Map & Points of Interest

Eagle Creek Campground & Trail	<i>1st campground in the National Forest system</i>
Deschutes River Crossing	<i>Oregon Trail</i>
#1: Multnomah Falls	<i>Take exit 31 off of I-84.</i>
Multnomah Falls Lodge	<i>Take exit 31 off of I-84.</i>
#3: Hood River Windsurfing	<i>Hood River, OR</i>
Latourell Falls	<i>You can walk behind this fall Exit 28 off I-84</i>
Sheppards Dell Falls	<i>Exit 28 off I-84</i>
Bridal Veil Falls	<i>Exit 28 off I-84</i>
Wahkeena Falls	<i>0.5 miles west of Multnomah Falls</i>
Fairy Falls	<i>1.1 miles up from the trailhead of Wahkeena Trail #420. You can access this trailhead at Wahkeena Falls, which is 0.5 miles west of Multnomah Falls</i>
Triple Falls	<i>Oneonta Trail #424, 1.7 miles from its trailhead</i>
#4: Rock Fort	<i>Lewis & Clark encampment, The Dalles, OR</i>
Horsetail Falls	<i>Horsetail Creek can be viewed from a turnout on the Historic Highway, 2.5 miles east of Multnomah Falls</i>
Horsethief Lake State Park	<i>View petroglyphs east of Dallesport, Washington by appointment only (509) 767-1159</i>
The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center	<i>The Dalles</i>
Wasco County Historical Museum	<i>The Dalles</i>
Hood River County Historical Museum	<i>Hood River, OR</i>
Gorge Heritage Museum	<i>Bingen, WA</i>
Maryhill Museum of Art	<i>Goldendale, WA</i>
Hutson Museum	<i>Parkdale, OR</i>
Bonneville Dam Visitor Center	<i>Oregon and Washington</i>
#2: Fort Cascades-Historic Trail	<i>Oregon and Washington</i>

	Multnomah Falls	Bonneville Dam	Cascade Locks	Hood River	The Dalles
Portland	31	39	44	63	84

