COLUMBIA & SNAKE RIVERS JOURNEY
7 Days | NG Sea Lion - 62 Guests | NG Quest - 100 Guests | Expeditions in: Apr/Sep/Oct | $4,490 to $8,890

Discover the history, geology, excellent food and wine, and the sheer beauty of the Pacific Northwest. We travel through the region as early explorers, settlers, and natives did—by the waterways that stretch far inland from the Pacific Ocean.

DAY 1: Portland, Oregon/Embark Ship
Arrive in Portland located on the Columbia and Willamette rivers, in the shadow of snow-capped Mt. Hood. The city is known for its eco-friendliness, microbreweries, and coffeehouses. This afternoon board our ship the National Geographic Quest and discover why Portland is nicknamed “Bridgetown” as we sail under eight of the city’s 12 eclectic bridges along the Willamette River, the first of five rivers you will encounter on this voyage. (D)

DAY 2: Astoria
We begin our journey by navigating the Columbia to the mouth of the river at Astoria. At Cape Disappointment where Meriwether Lewis saw the Pacific in November of 1805, explore the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, see Cape Disappointment Lighthouse and the north jetty of the Columbia River Bar. Visit the Columbia River Maritime Museum, which chronicles the history of river navigation and all aspects of maritime commerce in the region. Hear harrowing stories of crossing “The Bar” at the mouth of the Columbia, one of the most dangerous passages in the world. In the afternoon explore the Astoria area with several options to choose from. (B,L,D)
DAY 3: Columbia River Gorge/Hood River
Spend your morning visiting the stunning Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, Washington, featuring 15,000 years of cultural and natural history of the Columbia Gorge with displays both inside and outside. Or trek up the iconic Beacon Rock, the 848-foot basalt column that once formed the core of an ancient volcano. Lewis and Clark camped here on their way west, and it was at Beacon Rock that they first noticed the tides affecting the water levels in the Columbia River, more than 120 miles from its mouth.

Continue through the Gorge to Hood River, located in the shadows of majestic Mount Hood where you will enjoy a farm-to-table orchard lunch overlooking the golden Hood River Valley. The valley is known for its fruit growing orchards—including one of the world’s largest pear growing areas. After lunch you’ll have the option to visit the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum and explore one of the largest collections of still-functioning antique cars and planes in the country or trek the trails of Tom McCall Nature Preserve which is home to over 200 plant species. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Cruising
Today we will spend the day cruising through some of the most scenic and geologically interesting stretches of the Columbia River and the Columbia Plateau. Our onboard geologist and naturalists will talk with you about the Columbian Basalt Flows and the Missoula Floods that sculpted the landscape 13,000 years ago. Relive the historic tales of the Corps of Discovery through the eyes of the historian as you sail by landmarks from their epic journey. Or unwind with a massage from the wellness specialist. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Exploring the Palouse River
The still water of the Palouse River is the perfect mirror for the surrounding basalt cliffs as we set off cruising on our Zodiac and kayak adventures. Visit Palouse Falls, where cascading waters plunge 198 feet into the pool below. These falls and the canyon are an important feature of the channeled scablands created by the great Missoula Floods that swept periodically across the region. Afterwards, sail up the Snake River, enjoying a taste of local specialties. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Clarkston, Washington
At Clarkston, we find ourselves at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, more than 450 miles from the sea. The name Clarkston is in reference to William Clark and is located directly across the river from Lewiston, Idaho, which is named for Meriwether Lewis, though neither of them ever traveled to the Clarkston side of the river.

Travel by comfortable jet boat into one of North America’s most scenic spots, spectacular Hells Canyon. The 125-mile long canyon was carved by the waters of the Snake River and at 7,993 feet is North America’s deepest river gorge—most of it inaccessible by road. The earliest known settlers in the canyon were the Nez Percé tribe and, as you travel up the river, look to the hillslides and see remnants of their ancestral horse trails along with pictographs and petroglyphs on the rock formations. In the afternoon, join your fellow travelers in the lounge for songs and stories by a local Nez Percé storyteller.

2019 Departure Dates:
9 Sep, 15 Sep, 21 Sep, 27 Sep
3 Oct, 9 Oct, 15 Oct

2020 Departure Dates:
26 Apr
2 May
13 Sep, 19 Sep, 25 Sep
1 Oct, 7 Oct, 13 Oct

Important Flight Information
We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements. Please call for airfares from your departure city.
Some departures may travel in reverse.

Advance Payment:
$750

Sample Airfares:
Business (TBD)
Airfares are subject to change

Cost Includes:
Accommodations aboard ship; meals as indicated; excursions; services of expedition leader, naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks; entrance fees; all port charges and service taxes; Scheduled group airport transfers to/from the ship*

Cost Not Included:
Air transportation; voyage DVD; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, etc.; discretionary tips for ship’s crew.
*Embarkation airport transfer in Portland.

Special Offers
$500 AIR CREDIT
Book now to receive a $500 air credit per person on select departures. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers, or extensions. Call for details.
This evening, enjoy the company of a local winemaker onboard and sip of their wines while you hear about how the geology of the area surrounding the Lewis-Clark Valley AVA, the newest Viticultural Area in the United States, affects the flavors of their wines. (Note: Winemaker on board eastbound itinerary only.) (B,L,D)

**DAY 7: Clarkston/Disembark**

After breakfast this morning transfer to the airport for your connecting flights home. Choose to fly from nearby Lewiston, Idaho, or travel though the picturesque landscapes of the Palouse to Spokane, Washington, located two hours away. (B)
We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or lost of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

Learn more about our Travel Protection “Plus” Plan:  [https://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/](https://www.expeditions.com/TravelProtection/)

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