

Beaches, Birds and Brews *Play & Stay* Weekend

Washougal, WA

May 19 – 21, 2017



Discover Washington's land of "rushing waters"—Washougal, a river town that's evolving into a gorge destination. In this inaugural *Columbia Gorge Getaway* weekend exploring the gorge's riverfront towns, join a small group to learn on location from Washougal historians, conservationists and advocates. From our base at the hotel, we'll travel to all sites on foot, except for the last day.

Washougal is Washington's western gateway to the Columbia River Gorge. It's home to beautiful Cottonwood Beach, the spectacular 1,049-acre Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the century-old Pendleton Woolen Mills, a downtown filled with cafés and brewpubs, and a fast-evolving waterfront and urban trail scene.

Your Hosts

Laura O. Foster, author of *Columbia Gorge Getaways: 12 Weekend Adventures, from Towns to Trails*, and Renee Tkach, Friends of the Columbia Gorge's Gorge Towns to Trails Project Manager. Along the way we'll be joined by Washougal-based experts who'll talk about the area's history, conservation achievements, migratory and resident birds, breweries, and economic development.

Registration

\$306 covers two nights of lodging in a *standard king** room, two breakfasts, beer tastings at three breweries, admission to Two Rivers Heritage Museum, multiple on-site interpretive presentations, and a gift bag to help you enjoy this and future gorge explorations. **Not included:** other meals, drinks or purchases.

****Inquire with the hotel about single guest package price and room upgrades/options.***

Itinerary

Stay at the Best Western Plus Parkersville Inn and Suites, 121 S. 2nd Street. It's next to the Port of Camas-Washougal's large pleasure-boat marina and the new Washougal Waterfront Park.

Friday, May 19

1:30 p.m.

Before meeting up with the group, you may want to take the free 45-minute tour of Pendleton Woolen Mills. The 1:30 p.m. tour is the last factory tour of the week; it covers areas where wool is dyed, spun and woven. To reserve a space call the Mill Store: 360-835-1118.

3 to 5 p.m.

Check in to your room. Go for a swim in the hotel's indoor pool, or explore the adjacent Marina Park and Parker's Landing Historical Park, home to Washougal's first Euro-American settlers.

6 p.m.

Meet your hosts and fellow weekenders at a short orientation and overview of the *Gorge Towns to Trails* vision of a gorge-wide trail network. Afterwards, we'll walk 0.3 mile to Doomsday Brewing Company for a beer tasting, brewery tour and dinner.

After dinner, walk back to the hotel and watch the sun set from Washougal Waterfront Park, at the former site of the Hambleton Lumber Mill. As part of *Gorge Towns to Trails*, future trails will lead from it to Washougal's historic Steamboat Landing Park, Cottonwood Beach, Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge and towns and trails east in the gorge.

Day's route mileage: Less than 1 mile, plus optional explorations

Saturday, May 20

6 a.m. *Optional walk* for early risers. This will be a face-paced, 4-mile walk from the hotel to the Washougal River and back, taking advantage of the beautiful Washougal River Greenway Trail.

8 a.m.

Enjoy the full complimentary breakfast at Best Western Plus Parkersville Inn and Suites.

9 a.m.

As a group, we'll walk 1.4 miles east along the river, and learn about Washougal's steamboat era at Steamboat Landing Park. From the park, we'll stop to admire a petroglyph-lined pedestrian tunnel under SR 14 that leads to downtown Washougal.

10 a.m.

Gather at Two Rivers Heritage Museum, 1 Durgan Street. Washougal historian and museum docent René Carroll will join us in this excellently curated museum. She and docents will offer stories and answer questions as we explore exhibits on local mining, logging, textiles and other topics.

11:45 a.m.

We'll walk 500 feet from the museum to Pendleton Woolen Mills for a short, guided tour of the Mill Store. (There's time for shopping before or after this.) Afterwards walk the few blocks to Main Street for lunch, with a brief stop at Reflection Plaza. Here in 1882, the town dug its first well. Today the plaza is home to a bronze, life-sized Seaman, the dog who accompanied Lewis and Clark in 1804. From the plaza, the group disperses for lunch. Options include OurBar, the Big

Foot Inn, Amnesia Brewing, and the Sushi Joint.

2 p.m.

Regroup at Amnesia Brewing on Main Street for a beer tasting and tour.

3 p.m.

From Main Street, walk back to the Best Western (1.5 miles), or extend the day's explorations with a 1.4-mile walk (one-way) from downtown out to and along the Dike Trail to Cottonwood Beach at Captain William Clark Park. Here in 1806, the Corps of Discovery camped for a week. From Cottonwood Beach, walk back along the river 2.5 miles to the Best Western.

5 p.m.

Eat in the back room at the Puffin Café, a floating restaurant at the Port of Camas-Washougal's 350-slip pleasure boat marina. Enjoy great people- and boat-watching.

7 p.m.

Walk up the boat ramp from the café to a riverfront conference room at the Port offices. Here, we'll learn more about Washougal history, including Lewis and Clark's sojourn and Captain William Broughton's time here, from river historian and advocate Roger Daniels. He was instrumental in the preservation of Washougal's Parker's Landing—site of the region's first pioneer community—and serves in an advisory capacity for the town's waterfront redevelopment. Appointed by Governor Gary Locke, he was chair of Washington's Lewis & Clark Advisory Committee in 2006, which was instrumental in creating Captain William Clark Park.

Day's route mileage: Approximately 3 miles, or 5.5 miles with optional walk to Cottonwood Beach.

Sunday, May 21**7 a.m.**

Enjoy the full, complimentary hotel breakfast. Afterwards, check out of your room.

9 a.m.

Drive to Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (3.8 miles east of the hotel) where we'll meet naturalist, environmental advocate and founding member of Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards and Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Wilson Cady, who will introduce us to the refuge and its history. Jared Strawderman of Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards will then take us on a birding walk along the Gibbons Creek Trail (2.2 miles) while enjoying views of Mt. Hood, Crown Point, and the Columbia River.

Noon

Drive 2 miles from the refuge to 54-40 Brewing Company for lunch and beer tasting, the final event of the weekend.

Day's route mileage: Approximately 2 miles in the refuge on the birding/history walk, with options to extend.