

Vancouver National Historic Reserve

Take a casual stroll through this magnificent 366 acre National Park site. Officer's Row features 22 homes on the National Historic Register. Three homes are open to the public; O.O. Howard House, Grant House and Marshall House. (360) 992-1820

Fort Vancouver (on the Reserve)

Enjoy guided tours and live re-enactments at this replica of Fort Vancouver. Must sees include the blacksmith shop, fur warehouse, heirloom gardens and trading post. (360) 696-7655

Pearson Air Museum (on the Reserve)

This museum hosts an extensive exhibit of vintage aircraft, a theater with brief, aircraft-related films, a computer resource center, and a hands-on activity center for kids. (360) 694-7026

Clark County Historical Museum

Built in 1909, the Carnegie Library was Vancouver's first public building with electricity. Native American, British fur-trappers, early settlers, U.S. Military 1849-1949, SP & P Railway and a research library. Free admission, 1511 Main St, Vancouver. (360) 695-4681

Two River's Heritage Museum

Artifacts include Native American relics, antique dolls and a large collection of antique clocks. 16th Street in Washougal. (360) 835-8742,

Water Resources Education Center

Visit the hands on interactive activities in the Exhibit Hall and the White Sturgeon Art Gallery. (360) 696-8478.

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

The 5000-acre refuge located along the Columbia River includes grasslands, riparian and upland forest and wetlands. Large numbers of sandhill cranes, swans, waterfowl and migratory songbirds can be viewed during their spring and fall migration. Ridgefield, (360) 887-4106

Steigerwald Lake Ntl. Wildlife Refuge

View many species in this 900-acre bird sanctuary. Hwy 14 in Washougal.

Fort Vancouver Tapestry

Fort Vancouver Tapestry Project: the history of Clark County including Lewis and Clark's journey. The 108' x 30" tapestry will be complete in 2005. For a viewing, call (360) 992-0975.

Visitor Information

Located at Vancouver National Historic Reserve, on Officer's Row, 1501 E. Evergreen Blvd., Vancouver, WA. For visitor information call (360) 750-1553, (877) 600-0800 or www.southwestwashington.com.

www.LewisAndClark-Clark.org

Phone: (360) 906-7119

Fax: (360) 906-0957

Lewis & Clark
Corps of Discovery

12 Days in
Clark County
Washington



www.LewisAndClark-Clark.org

November 3, 1805

Lewis and Clark entered the eastern border of Clark County in canoes on the Columbia River. It was here that they first noticed the tidal effects of the Pacific Ocean in the Columbia. "To all calculations it cannot be more than two hundred miles from this to the ocean. ..." Noted Clark

November 4, 1805

The Corps of Discovery observes the migratory fowl at their overnight stop: Post Office Lake; Clark wrote, "rained all the after part of the last night...I (s)lept but very little last night for the noise Kept during the whole of the night by the Swans, Geese, white and Grey Brant, Ducks &c. on a Small Sand Island close under the Lard; they were emensely noumerous, and their noise horid..."

March 29, 1806

Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge: Lewis and Clark pass the Chinook village of Cathlapotle and engage in trade. Clark notes "we exchanged our deer skins killed yesterday for dogs and purchased others to the number of 12 for provisions for the party, as the deer flesh is too poore for the men to subsist on and work hard as is necessary. I also purchased a sea otter robe. We purchased wappatoe and some pashaquar roots. gave a Medal of the small size to the principal chief,"

March 30, 1806

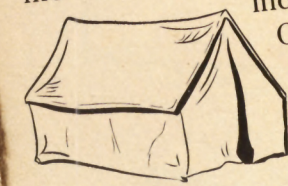
Envisioning Settlement Meriwether Lewis noted in his journal that this valley "would be copetent to the maintenance of 40 or 50 thousand souls if properly cultivated and is indeed the only desirable situation for a settlement which I have seen on the West side of the Rocky mountains."

Although he underestimated the size, Lewis was correct in that the Vancouver and Portland Metro Area has the largest population of any along the Lewis and Clark Trail.



March 31-April 6, 1806

Encamped at Cottonwood Beach in Washougal; Lewis and Clark decide to stop for 7 days and prepare for the return journey. Whitehouse described the decision to stay for six nights, "Our officers agreed to stay at this place, until our hunters kill 9 or 10 Elk & Jerk the meat to take with us.. Captain Clark took me & Six more of our party, and one Indian as a guide, in Order to go down the Columbia River to take a view of that River (Willamette), We proceeded on."



Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery

The Original Settlers



The stretch of the Columbia through what is now Clark County, a part of the traditional homeland of the Chinooks and Cowlitz, was one of the most heavily populated areas of any encountered by Lewis and Clark. The explorers observed a vast trade network that drew tribes from all over the west to barter food, clothing and other goods. This system afforded the Corps trading opportunities, exposure to local customs and the establishment of long-standing relationships as the area was settled by the United States.

Columbia River

President Thomas Jefferson's letter of instruction to Meriwether Lewis stated clearly that a primary objective for the expedition was to discover a "practicable" water-communication across the continent, for purposes of commerce." The Columbia River was the original people's chief trade route and its harvest of salmon was a mainstay of their material and spiritual culture. Two hundred years later, the river whose trade the Chinooks so deftly controlled remains the backbone of western river commerce.



Plentiful & Abundant

In Clark County, Washington, along the Columbia River, the open country near present-day Vancouver supported rich game herds, abundant waterfowl and food plants. The explorers rated the area as the best spot for settlement on the western side of the continental divide. Their diaries record five campsites in present-day Clark County. Lewis thought the area in and around Clark County was the best location for future settlers, and he was right. 200 years later, the Vancouver and Portland area has grown to be the most populated settlement of any along The Trail.



Exploring

Entrusted with scouting and recording a navigable waterway to the Pacific Ocean, Lewis and Clark's hearty team spent 3 days traveling through Clark County on their way to the Ocean, but a full 9 days negotiating the banks of the Columbia and exploring the Willamette Valley on their return trek.



Wildlife

On the journey, the Corps of Discovery viewed and wrote about many of the flora and fauna they encountered along the way. Their journals overflow with everything from recording the flight paths of migratory birds, encountering wild game and sampling northwest salmon.



The Lewis and Clark expedition is a documented exploration of epic proportions. They mapped the western terrain, collected natural specimens, recorded weather information and acted as ambassadors to members of the native cultures they encountered along the trail. Planning is underway to create

a commemoration appropriate to the immense implications and consequences of the expedition for the nation-to-be and for the nations encountered. We urge you to add your ideas and support to efforts that reach out to all individuals who will share in commemorating the historic events of 1803-1806.



★ Interpretive Signs

www.LewisAndClark-Clark.org