

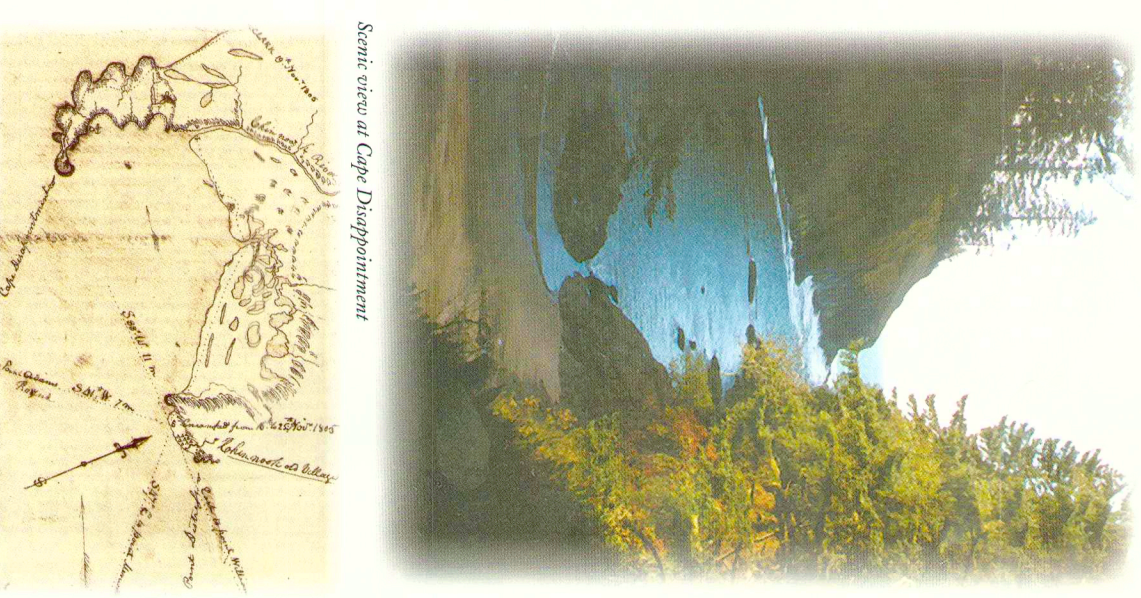
# The Adventures of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

The Lewis and Clark Expedition in what is now the state of Washington were among the most important, vivid, and compelling episodes of the entire journey. The Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery (the name given to the Expedition by President Thomas Jefferson) made its epic journey through present-day Washington in the fall of 1805 and spring of 1806.

The key to the successful conclusion of the Corps' mission to reach the Pacific Ocean was the navigation of the turbulent Snake and Columbia rivers. The party's success also was largely measure the result of information and provisions provided by the American Indian tribes they met and traded with almost every day in this region.

During the journey, the Corps experienced the vast, arid lands of the Columbia Plateau; an abundance of salmon and other fauna and flora; the incredible scenery of the Columbia River Gorge; the enormous trees of the coastal forest; and torrential wind and rain storms on the lower Columbia. Most notably, in what is now the state of Washington, the Expedition achieved President Jefferson's goal by reaching the Pacific Ocean.

## Read along, and learn more about the experiences of The Corps of Discovery in Washington.



Scenic view at Cape Disappointment

Clark and the men of the Columbia River and Cape Disappointment, St. Helens, Oregon, summer 1805. Courtesy of the Washington Historical Society.

**Authorities & References for This Guide**  
 Niskanen, David L., Director of the Washington State Historical Society  
 Kalkbrenner, Barbara J., Research Report, Lewis & Clark: Voyage of Discovery in Mid-Columbia River Region, September 1999 for the Tri-Cities Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council  
 Moulton, Gary E., "The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," Multiple Volumes, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986-2000.  
 Strong, Emory and Ruth, "Seeking Western Waters: The Lewis and Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific," Oregon Historical Society Press, 1995.  
 Other references are noted throughout the guide. Photos and images in this guide provided by Orla, unless otherwise noted.

## Finding Your Way Along the Trail

As you read through this guide, follow the compass points along the Lewis and Clark Trail. These points of interest are keyed to stories of the Expedition that occurred in each of the mapped regions. Arrows W← and →E indicate the direction the Corps of Discovery was traveling (westbound or eastbound) when the event occurred.

**Journal Excerpts:**  
 Text shown in quotation marks throughout this guide is exactly as it was recorded in the journals of members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with spelling, grammar, and punctuation left as found in the original text.

**Geographic Names:**  
 In many cases, Clark included Native American names from various dialects for features on his maps. Sometimes, the Corps of Discovery gave features new names, but only a few of these names are still recognized today.

**Legend**

- Lewis and Clark Highway
- Connecting/Principal Highways
- Water
- Lewis and Clark Expedition Route (westbound and eastbound)
- Overland Return Route 1806
- Cities/Towns

Note: See Regional Map for more detail

**Tribal Homelands - PALUS**

Approximate historic homelands of tribes along the trail. Because tribes typically migrated seasonally to fish, hunt, and trade, there are cases where traditional lands and trade routes may overlap. For example, many tribes traveled the overland trail to reach the Columbia Plateau.

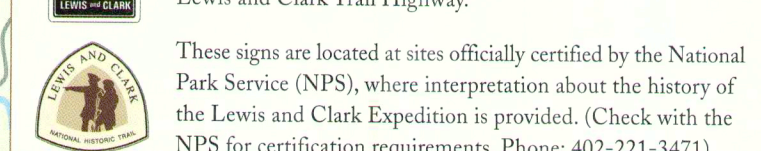
Sources: Tribal reviews: Dierich, Northwest Passage, The Great Columbia River, Hunt, Nib, & Hines, The Big River, Rudy and Brown, A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest

## Lewis and Clark Trail Highway

The state highway routes between Clarkston at the eastern state border and Long Beach at the Pacific Ocean shore are officially designated as the Lewis and Clark Trail Highway. (Note: These routes are the state highways closest to the historic trail, but do not always follow its exact course.)

Trailblazer logo signs exist along the entire route to mark the Lewis and Clark Trail Highway.

These signs are located at sites officially certified by the National Park Service (NPS), where interpretation about the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is provided. (Check with the NPS for certification requirements. Phone: 402-221-3471)



## The Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery

### Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805-1806

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most successful explorations in American history. President Thomas Jefferson commissioned the Expedition to map the way west through the recently purchased Louisiana Territory. He instructed the Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery, as the Expedition was officially named, to find a navigable passage to the Pacific Ocean.

The Expedition left its 1803-1804 winter camp near St. Louis on May 14, 1804 and proceeded up the Missouri River. Their flotilla reached the Mandan villages in present-day North Dakota in October, where they spent the winter of 1804-1805. Here, the party was joined by Touissant Charbonneau, his wife Sacagawea (a Shoshoni Indian woman), and their newborn son. The Corps continued its westward journey the spring of 1805.

On October 10, 1805, the 33-member Expedition entered what is now the state of Washington. As they paddled swiftly down the Snake and Columbia rivers, the explorers began to see signs that they were nearing the Pacific Coast.

On November 15, 1805, the Expedition reached "Station Camp," the place they recorded as the "End of Our Voyage." From this camp, members of the Expedition took side trips along the river's north bank to Cape Disappointment and broader views of the Pacific Ocean. On November 24th, after deliberating about where to locate winter camp, the

party decided to explore the south side of the river, and eventually established winter quarters at Fort Clatsop (near present-day Astoria).

As soon as they thought the mountains would be passable in the spring, Lewis and Clark and their party left Fort Clatsop on March 23, 1806. Following the river, first traveling in canoes and then on land, the Corps retraced their route up the Columbia to the mouth of the Walla Walla River. Here, Native Americans informed them of an overland trail to the Snake River. By following this "short-cut," they shaved many miles off the length of their return journey. The route from the Columbia River to the Snake River was one of the longest treks by land of the entire Expedition.

On May 5, 1806, the Expedition departed what is now the state of Washington and proceeded eastward, eventually reaching St. Louis on September 23, 1806.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition accomplished an extraordinary task under difficult circumstances. The party made many important observations related to the native peoples of the region, and the geography, wildlife, plants, and geology of the American West. As you read through the pages of this guide and travel along the Lewis and Clark Trail in Washington, you will share in the adventures of the members of the Corps of Discovery and learn more about their story.



## Map 1: Nez Perce Homelands & Snake River

Clearwater-Snake River Confluence  
 Autumn 1805: October 10-13 • Spring 1806: May 2-5

Map 2: "The Great Columbia River" at Last  
 Snake-Columbia River Confluence  
 Autumn 1805: October 12-19 • Spring 1806: April 27-May 2

Map 3: Back on the Map  
 Proceeding Down the Columbia  
 Autumn 1805: October 16-21 • Spring 1806: April 24-29

Map 4: Wild Waters  
 Passage Through the Columbia River Gorge  
 Autumn 1805: October 21-November 2 • Spring 1806: April 10-23

Map 5: Calmer and Broader Waters  
 The Wallamette-Columbia River Confluence  
 Autumn 1805: November 1-5 • Spring 1806: March 29-April 10

Map 6: Mist, Fog, and Tremendous Anticipation  
 Passage Through the Lower Columbia  
 Autumn 1805: November 4-7 • Spring 1806: March 24-30

Map 7: "Ocean in View O! the Joy!"  
 Arrival at the Mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean  
 Autumn 1805: November 7-26 • Spring 1806: March 23-24

## Map 1: Nez Perce Homelands & Snake River

Clearwater-Snake River Confluence  
 Autumn 1805: October 10-13 • Spring 1806: May 2-5

In the homelands of the Nez Perce people, the confluence of the Clearwater and Snake rivers was a major milestone for the Corps of Discovery's passage through the Northwest. Here, they continued down the waters that would lead them to the Columbia River and ultimately to their long sought-after goal, the Pacific Ocean. Some of the Expedition's significant events in this region are listed below.

- 1 The Rescue**  
 W← Weippe Prairie, east of Clarkston and Lewiston, was the location of the now legendary encounter with the Nez Perce people, who fed and housed the party during this part of the westward trek in 1805 and guided the Corps back through the Bitterroot Mountains on the return trip of 1806.
- 2 Snake River/Salmon River Relationship**  
 W← William Clark made a brilliant geographic deduction: the waters of the Snake River coming in from the south at the confluence with the Clearwater River were the same waters he had seen weeks earlier during the Corps' time in Sacagawea's homelands with the Lemhi Shoshoni, at the headwaters of the Salmon River (a tributary to the Snake).
- 3 A Place of Future Settlement**  
 →E On the return trip, the explorers noted that the Clearwater-Snake valley was a likely area to sustain future settlement and commerce, a correct prediction. Today, this area is home to the communities of Clarkston, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho.



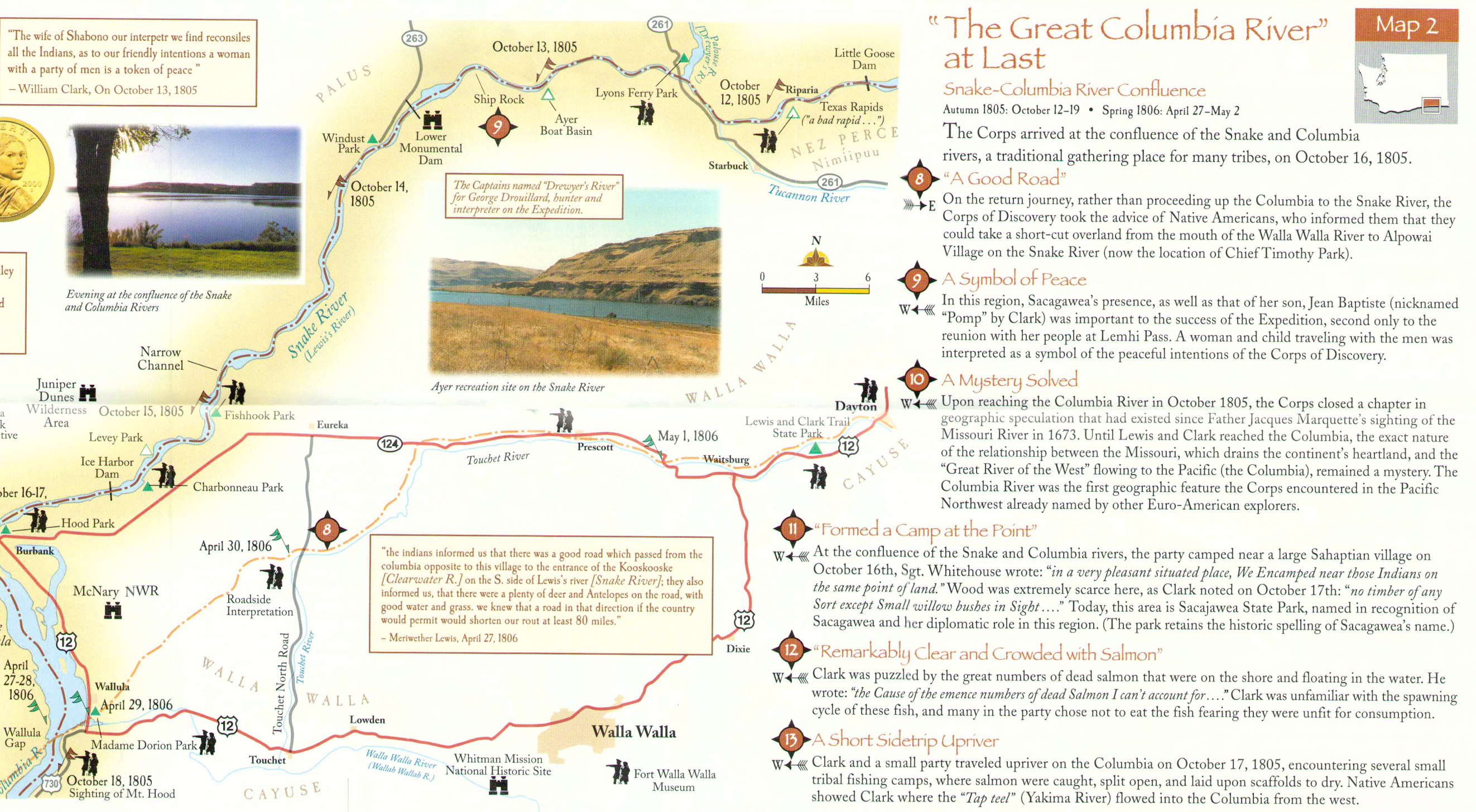
- 4 Not a Tree in Sight**  
 W← The Corps of Discovery had its first and completely unexpected encounter with a topographic zone unanticipated in American geographical speculation: the semi-arid plain of the Columbia, now known as the Columbia Plateau.
- 5 Temu'us was Five Years Old**  
 →E Temu'us (later known as Chief Timothy) lived in the village of Alpowai when Lewis and Clark passed through. Can you imagine how curious a five-year-old child might have been about these explorers from east of the mountains?
- 6 Meeting with the "Bighorn Chief"**  
 →E On Pataha Creek, a tributary of the Tucannon River, Lewis and Clark encountered a prominent Nez Perce chief who wore the horn of a bighorn sheep under his arm. This meeting was near Pomeroy. Today, the W. T. Wooten Wildlife Area southwest of Pomeroy supports a bighorn sheep population.
- 7 Centuries Old Short-Cut**  
 →E The historic overland trail near present-day Dayton has been a travel-way for thousands of years. This was the "short-cut" that the Corps of Discovery took to the Snake River in May 1806.

## Map 2: "The Great Columbia River" at Last

Ssnake-Columbia River Confluence  
 Autumn 1805: October 12-19 • Spring 1806: April 27-May 2

The Corps arrived at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers, a traditional gathering place for many tribes, on October 16, 1805.

- 8 "A Good Road"**  
 →E On the return journey, rather than proceeding up the Columbia to the Snake River, the Corps of Discovery took the advice of Native Americans, who informed them that they could take a short-cut overland from the mouth of the Walla Walla River to Alpowai Village on the Snake River (now the location of Chief Timothy Park).
- 9 A Symbol of Peace**  
 W← In this region, Sacagawea's presence, as well as that of her son, Jean Baptiste (nicknamed "Pomp" by Clark) was important to the success of the Expedition, second only to the reunion with her people at Lemhi Pass. A woman and child traveling with the men was interpreted as a symbol of the peaceful intentions of the Corps of Discovery.
- 10 "A Mystery Solved"**  
 W← Upon reaching the Columbia River in October 1805, the Corps closed a chapter in geographic speculation that had existed since Father Jacques Marquette's sighting of the Missouri River in 1673. Until Lewis and Clark reached the Columbia, the exact nature of the relationship between the Missouri, which drains the continent's heartland, and the "Great River of the West" flowing to the Pacific (the Columbia), remained a mystery. The Columbia River was the first geographic feature the Corps encountered in the Pacific Northwest already named by other Euro-American explorers.
- 11 "Formed a Camp at the Point"**  
 W← At the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers, the party camped near a large Sahaptian village on October 16th. Sgt. Whitehouse wrote: "in a very pleasant situated place, We Encamped near those Indians on the same point of land." Wood was extremely scarce here, as Clark noted on October 17th: "no timber of any Sort except Small willow bushes in Sight..." Today, this area is Sacajawea State Park, named in recognition of Sacagawea and her diplomatic role in this region. (The park retains the historic spelling of Sacagawea's name.)
- 12 "Remarkably Clear and Crowded with Salmon"**  
 W← Clark was puzzled by the great numbers of dead salmon that were on the shore and floating in the water. He wrote: "the Cause of the emence numbers of dead Salmon I can't account for..." Clark was unfamiliar with the spawning cycle of these fish, and many in the party chose not to eat the fish fearing they were unfit for consumption.
- 13 A Short Sideslip Upriver**  
 W← Clark and a small party traveled upriver on the Columbia on October 17, 1805, encountering several small tribal fishing camps, where salmon were caught, split open, and laid upon scaffolds to dry. Native Americans showed Clark where the "tap tee" (Yakima River) flowed into the Columbia from the west.



## Map 3: Back on the Map

Proceeding Down the Columbia  
 Autumn 1805: October 16-21 • Spring 1806: April 24-29

The westbound and eastbound legs of the journey through this region included several fascinating events. Here, some of the snowy peaks of the Cascade Range became visible. As they proceeded down the Columbia River, the Corps of Discovery began to see many signs that they were nearing their final destination, the Pacific Ocean. For example, some of the native people carried goods and wore clothing that came from trading ships on the coast (including pieces of brass and copper, beads, and red and blue cloth). Following are some highlights of the journey through this region.

- 14 A Mountain Covered with Snow**  
 W← Near Wallula Gap, William Clark first sighted a "conical mountain" (Mt. Hood) to the southwest. This peak, along with other Cascade mountain volcanoes, had been mapped and named by the Vancouver Expedition that entered the mouth of the Columbia River in 1792. The appearance of the "conical mountain" offered clear proof that Lewis and Clark were approaching their intended destination, the Pacific Ocean. For the first time since the party left Fort Mandan (in present day North Dakota in April 1805), they were "back on the map."
- 15 "Most Hospitable, Honest, and Sincere People"**  
 W← Lewis and Clark first met "Chief Yellipis" as the Expedition traveled west through this region in the fall of 1805. In the spring of 1806, they spent a few days with the chief's people, the Walla Wallas, before proceeding overland toward the Snake - Clearwater confluence. The encounters were, by all accounts, friendly, helpful, and festive. The chief's gift of a white horse to William Clark

was one example of the friendly relationship that had been established. Members of the Expedition were enamored with the graciousness of the Walla Walla people, and on May 1, 1806, Clark wrote in his journal: "I think we can justly affirm to the honor of those people that they are the most hospitable, bonist, and Sencere people that we have met with on our Voyage."

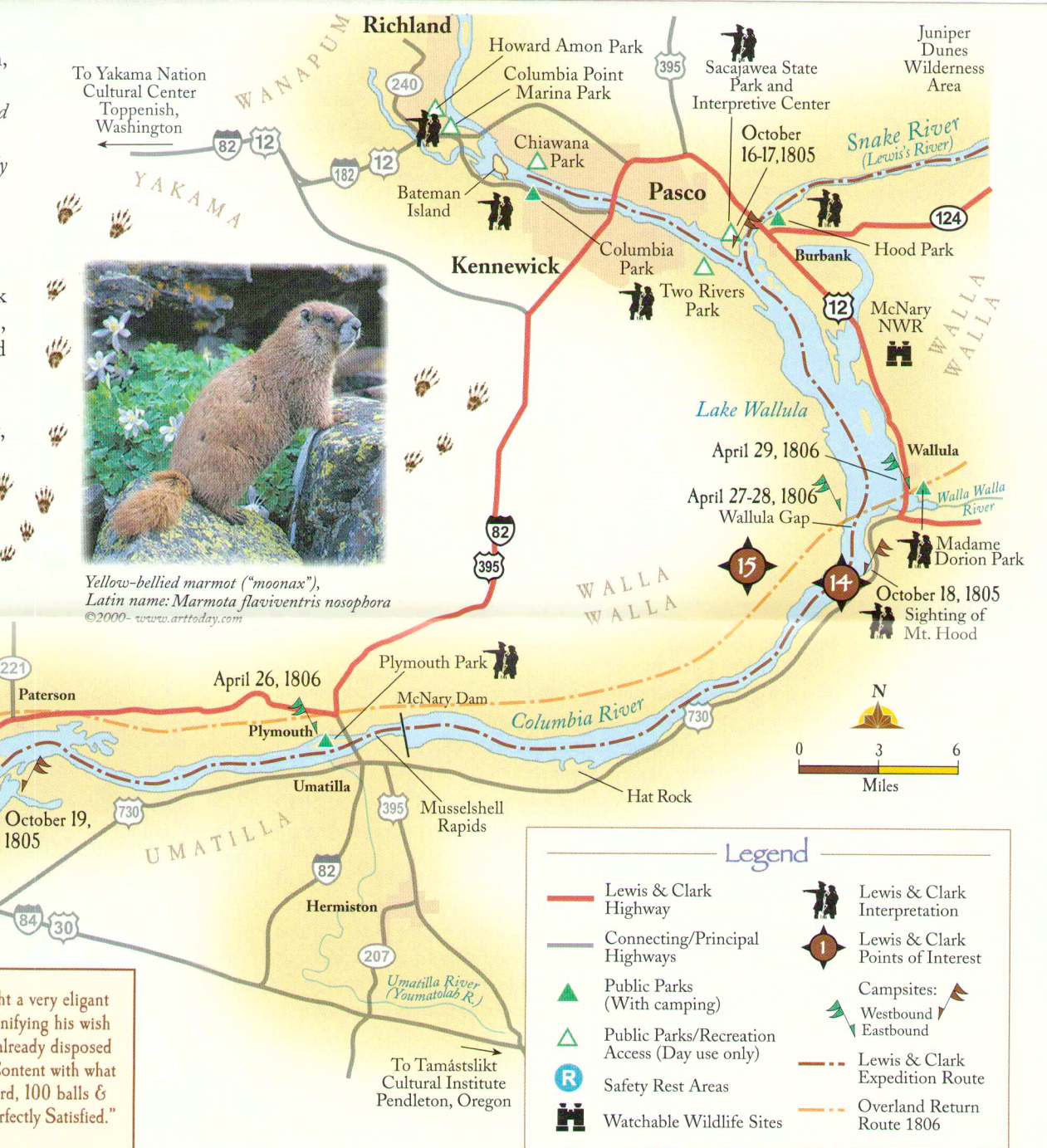
**16 Caring for the Men**  
 →E On the return trek the party crossed dry, rocky terrain Lewis described as "black and hard." Clark, who was in the rear of the overland column, expressed concern for Private Hugh Hall. Clark had directed Hall to ride a horse because he "had fallen behind out of my sight." This story is emblematic of the care the captains typically showed toward the members of the Expedition.

**17 Hold Your Horses**  
 →E The Corps of Discovery had a difficult time keeping their horses in camp overnight when they traveled through this region during the spring of 1806. Several mornings in a row, the party woke to find that some of the horses had strayed. On the morning of April 23rd, two of Touissant Charbonneau's horses were absent. Lewis wrote: "we immediately dispatched Reubin Fields and Labuth to assist Charbonno in recovering his horses. one of them was found at no great distance and the other was given over as lost." The loss of horses was a serious concern because they now were the Corps' principal means of transporting their equipment. During this leg of the journey, they had traded most of their canoes for horses.

Delays caused by the straying horses must have been frustrating to the captains. On the evening of April 24th, they took extra precautions to get the situation under control. Clark wrote: "we directed that the 3 horses purchased yesterday should be hobbled and confined to picknets; and that the others should be hobbled & Spandled, and Strictly attended to by the guard..."

**18 Snakes, Lizards, and Other Varmints**  
 W← The dry sandy habitat of the hills and plains in this region is home to a diversity of wildlife. Lewis and Clark recorded several species previously unknown to science, including the northern Pacific rattlesnake, pigmy horned lizard, and western fence lizard. On April 24th, Lewis stated that they observed a "Mooseax which the natives had petted..." This was actually a yellow-bellied marmot, a species that can still be found in the area today.

**19 "This morning early the Great Chief Yel Iet brought a very elegant white horse to our Camp and presented him to the Signifying his wish to get a little [kettle] but being informed that we had already disposed of every little we could possibly Spare he said he was Content with what ever I thought proper to give him. I gave him my Warent, 100 balls G powder and Some Small articles of which he appeared perfectly Satisfied."**  
 - William Clark, April 28, 1806



**2005 Edition**

Commemorating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Washington

**2005**

**The Washington Experience of the Lewis & Clark Expedition**

**End of our Voyage...**

**Sgt. Patrick Gass**  
 November 16, 1805

**We're Coming Your Way!**

This guide has been funded by grants from the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program and the National Science Foundation. It has been prepared in cooperation with the following state agencies:

- Washington State Historical Society
- Washington State Office of Trade and Economic Development
- Tourism Development
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Created and designed by Orla, Inc.

## Wild Waters

Passage Through the Columbia River Gorge  
Autumn 1805: October 21–November 2 • Spring 1806: April 10–23

**19** "Agitated, Gut Swelling, Boiling, & Whorling in Every Direction"  
This is how Clark described the Short Narrows (a water passage that existed near present-day Columbia Hills State Park), on October 24, 1805. Having determined that it would be impossible to portage the canoes over the high rocks at the head of the narrows, the captains made the decision to pass through. Clark wrote: "I thought by good Steering we could pass down safe, accordingly I determined to pass through this place notwithstanding the horrid appearance of this agitated gut Swelling, boiling & whorling in every direction (which from the top of the rock did not appear as bad as when I was in it); however, we passed safe to the astonishment of all the Indians..."

**20** A "Great Trademark" and a Well-Dressed Family  
When camped in Columbia Hills State Park vicinity, the Corps encountered Native American villages. In the area between Celilo Falls and the Long Narrows, tribes from all over the West gathered to trade food, clothing, and other goods. The Native Americans, referred to by Lewis and Clark as the "Eneeshurs" (spelled various ways), kept their horses out on the plains, away from their village, when the Expedition passed through in April 1806. The "Eneeshurs" were the western-most Sahaptian-speaking people on the north shore. This vicinity was the dividing line between the Chinook peoples on the lower Columbia and the Sahaptian-speakers above. Clark noted that these people dressed very well (see journal excerpt above left).

**21** An Underwater Forest  
In the vicinity of present-day Home Valley, the Corps of Discovery encountered a coniferous forest of dead trees standing in the water. On April 14, 1806, Clark wrote: "the trunks of many large pine trees Standing erect as they grew, at present in 30 feet of water.... the Cause I have attempted to account for as I decided." These tree trunks remained after one of the great landslides in the Columbia River Gorge dammed the river, covering many areas along the shore with water.

**22** The Beaten Rock  
Clark recorded the name "Beaten Rock," several times in his journals, including an inscription on one of his meticulously drawn maps, perhaps in reference to the rough appearance of the rock's surface. During the downstream return trip in the spring of 1806, Clark may have referred to the feature as "Beacon Rock" due to its prominent presence in the Gorge. Beacon Rock is one of the few geographic features with a name originating from the Expedition (many of the features named by Native Americans and members of the Corps of Discovery were later renamed by others). What name did Clark intend?

**23** Delicious Wapato  
Wapato, a native plant (*Sagittaria latifolia*) found in marshy areas, was prized as a tasty food. Tribes traded valuable possessions to get the root, which they ate roasted or dried. Clark noted that the wapato was "a round root the size of Hens eggs." The Corps traded for the root or received it as a gift on several occasions. The wapato plant was so abundant here that Lewis and Clark named a large island that was home to several Native American villages "Wapato Island." Today, we know this island as Sauvie Island, located northwest of the Portland and Vancouver region. Franz Lake, a wetland east of Camas/Washougal, supports a large wapato habitat.

**24** "here we encamped a little before sunset in a beautiful prairie above a large pond having traveled 23M. I took a walk of a few miles through the prairie and an open grove of oak timber..."  
— Meriwether Lewis, March 30, 1806

**25** "we got all our baggage over the Portage of 940 yards, after which we got the 4 large Canoes over by Slipping them over the rocks on poles placed across from one rock to another, and at Some places along partial Streams of the river, in passing those canoes over the rocks (&c. three of them received injuries which obliged us to delay to have them repaired."  
— William Clark, November 1, 1805

## The Mystery of Lewis's Journal

During the westbound trek of the Expedition on the Snake and Columbia rivers, Meriwether Lewis either temporarily stopped writing in his journal, or it has been lost. After the Corps reached the safety of the Nez Perce villages in September 1805, there is no record of Lewis writing again until the party was in winter camp at Fort Clatsop in January 1806. Thus, the great voice of the Expedition is missing during one of the most critical segments of the journey, the final push to the sea in October and November of 1805. To discern what we have missed in terms of the literary power of Lewis's perception of the landscape, consider the following passages from his journal while on the Missouri River.

Upon Reaching the White Cliffs: "As we passed on it seemed as if those scenes of visionary enchantment would never have an end." And - upon reaching the Great Falls: "To gaze upon this sublimely grand spectacle... forms the grandest sight I ever beheld... from the reflection of the sun on the spray or mist which arises from these falls there is a beautiful rainbow produced, which adds not a little to the beauty of this majestically grand scenery... I wished that I might be enabled to give to the enlightened world some just idea of this truly magnificent and sublimely grand object which has from the commencement of time been concealed from the view of the civilized man."

Absent Lewis's narrative, we have no descriptive perspective of the equally great falls of the Columbia at Celilo. Instead, on October 24, 1805, William Clark simply wrote: "a fine morning... Capt. Lewis went to view the falls..."

Clark was not typically a flowery writer. However, the absence of Lewis's narrative seems to have brought out the best in William Clark's journal writing at times. For example, in Clark's recounting of the passage through the narrows, he wrote: "I determined to pass through this place notwithstanding the horrid appearance of this agitated gut Swelling, boiling & whorling in every direction..."

## Map 5 Calmer and Broader Waters

The Willamette-Columbia River Confluence  
Autumn 1805: November 1–5 • Spring 1806: March 29–April 10

**23** The "Great Rapid or Shute"  
This was Clark's name for what later would be called the "Cascades of the Columbia," a formidable set of rapids caused by a catastrophic landslide that dammed the river and drowned villages far upriver. This was the last set of rapids that the Corps of Discovery encountered before reaching the calmer waters of the Lower Columbia. The rapids made for excellent fishing, and Lewis and Clark noted eight villages in this area. They camped on the north side of the river on November 1, 1805.

**24** A Mark of Distinction  
The Corps of Discovery and other explorers were fascinated by the head-shaping custom of the tribes in this region. Clark first observed tribes using this custom at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers. The custom was most prevalent among

tribes of the Lower Columbia and Northwest Coast. Infants were placed in a special cradleboard with an angled board compressing the forehead, or in some cases a tight headband was used. The eventual effect on the soft skull of a child was a decidedly pointed shape noted by Clark. This head shape was considered a mark of distinction, beauty, and superior status.

**25** Cascades  
When Clark noted the "Cascades" on the Columbia River, he clearly was referring to the majestic waterfalls that appeared along the walls of the Columbia River Gorge, including Multnomah Falls and others. One can't help but wonder if later explorers and settlers inadvertently adopted Clark's name for these waterfalls as the name for the river rapids later called the Cascades of the Columbia.

**26** Laying in Supplies for the Trip Back to Nez Perce Country  
On the return trip, the Corps of Discovery spent several days camped near the mouth of Gibbons Creek east of Washougal. Here, they dispatched hunters for elk and deer and stockpiled provisions. They made clothing and dried meat in quantities they hoped would sustain them until they reached the Nez Perce homelands. It was from this base camp that Clark and a small party explored the Willamette River (referred to by Clark as the Multnomah River), traveling upstream approximately 10 miles.

**27** A Mountain Named for the Expedition's Visionary  
On March 30, 1806, Lewis and Clark sighted a high mountain to the southeast covered with snow. This was one of the Cascade volcanoes of the region not previously sighted and named by Captain Vancouver's expedition. The captains named the mountain Mt. Jefferson, after President Thomas Jefferson, who initiated the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

**28** Heavily Populated Region  
This area was the most heavily populated by tribes of any encountered on the Expedition. On their trip up the Missouri after they left Fort Mandan in 1805, the members of the Corps of Discovery met Native Americans on only one day, their last in what is now the state of Montana. However, on the Snake and Columbia rivers, the Corps of Discovery passed a succession

of native communities. The open country of the Willamette lowlands and the plains and "Prairies" in the vicinity of present-day Vancouver were esteemed by the explorers as the most likely location for Euro-American settlement, more so than any place they had seen since leaving the Missouri River Valley. Today, this is the most heavily populated area along the Lewis and Clark Trail west of the Continental Divide.

"this valley would be copetent [competent] 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."  
— Meriwether Lewis, March 30, 1806

## Map 6 Mist, Fog, and Tremendous Anticipation

Passage Through the Lower Columbia  
Autumn 1805: November 4–7 • Spring 1806: March 24–30

**29** The Cathlapotle (Quah lah potle) Village  
On November 5, 1805, and again in March of 1806, the Corps of Discovery met Native Americans from a large village of 14 houses. These people were the Cathlapotes, an Upper Chinookan-language group living on the lower Columbia River and Lewis River in the vicinity of the present-day Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

**30** Noisy Birds  
In the area that is now a large wildlife refuge on the Columbia, members of the Corps commented on the huge flocks of birds and the noise they made. Clark wrote: "I slept but very little last night for the noise kept [up] during the whole of the night by the Swans, Geese, white & Grey Brant Ducks &c. on a Small Sand Island... they were immensely numerous, and their noise horrid."  
— William Clark, November 5, 1805

**31** Ormate Wooden Carvings  
Members of the Corps of Discovery were impressed by the ornately carved canoes used by the tribes in this region. On November 5, 1805, Clark wrote: "one of those Canoes is large, and ornamented with Images on the bow & Stern. That in the Bow the likeness of a Bear, and in Stern the picture of a man..." Later, on November 11, 1805, Clark wrote that he was impressed with how well some people from a Cathlamet village mastered their canoes along the choppy water. "the Indians left us and Crossed the river which is about 5 miles wide through the biggest Seas I ever Saw a Small wettle ride... Certain it is they are the best canoe navigators I ever Saw."

**32** Columbian White-Tailed Deer  
Lewis and Clark were the first to record for science a description of what is today known as the Columbian white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*). The Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge provides sanctuary and habitat for these deer, currently identified as an endangered species: "these were all the common fallow deer with the long tail. I measured the tail of one of the bucks which was upwards of 17 Inches long..."  
— Meriwether Lewis, March 28, 1806

**33** Double-Coned Hat  
Clark wrote on December 29, 1805 at Ft. Clatsop: "In the evening a young Chief 4 men and 2 women of the War-ai-a-cum [Wahkiakum] tribe came in a large canoe with Wapto roots, Dressed Elk Skins &c. to Sell, the Chief made me a present of about a half a bushel of those roots... we gave him a medal of a Small Size and a piece of red ribbon to tie around the top of his Hat which was made with a double Cone..." These visitors were probably led by Chief Skamokawa of the Wahkiakum people, who lived on the north side of the river, just downstream from present-day Skamokawa.

**34** Cloudy day on the lower Columbia

## Map 7 "Ocean in View! Oh! the Joy!"

Arrival at the Mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean  
Autumn 1805: November 7–26 • Spring 1806: March 23–24

**35** "Ocean in View!"  
On November 7, 1805, the Expedition reached Pillar Rock and formed a camp. Here, members of the party were elated at the broad expanse of water before them. Although there is some debate as to whether the party could actually see to the ocean from this location, in their hearts they knew that they were not far from reaching their long sought-after goal.

**36** "Oh! How Horrible is the Day!"  
As the Corps of Discovery neared the mouth of the Columbia, they felt immense joy at the possibility of reaching their final destination, the Pacific Ocean. However, the last stretch to the ocean proved to be extremely difficult. For several days, the Corps was pinnacled against the shoreline, trying to shelter themselves from strong wind, waves, and rain. They were soaked to the bone, their clothes rotting off their backs, and many were seasick from the rolling of their canoes on the river swells. On November 15th, before setting out around Point Ellice, Clark referred to their camp in the vicinity of today's Megler Rest Area as: "this dismal nitche where we have been confined for 6 days passed, without the possibility of proceeding on, returning to a better Situation, or get out to hunt. Scarcely of Provisions, and torments in rain pouring on us all the time..."

**37** Station Camp — The End of the Voyage  
Finally, the team made it around Point Ellice (or "Blustering Point" or "Point Distress" as they called it), and established a terminus camp on a "butifull Sand beach" east of the present day town of Chinook, Washington. Today a "Lewis and Clark Campsite" way-side stop is located in this area. After traveling over 4,100 miles up the Missouri River, over the Rocky Mountains, and down the Snake and Columbia rivers, members of the Corps of Discovery finally reached the end of their voyage.

**38** "Ocean in View!"  
"I landed and formed a camp on the highest Spot I could find between the height of the tides, and the Skians in a Small bottom this I could plainly See would be the extent of my journey by water..."  
— William Clark, November 15, 1805

"We are now in plain view of the Pacific Ocean... We are now of the opinion that we cannot go further with our Canoes, & think that we are at an end of our Voyage to the Pacific Ocean..."  
— Joseph Whitehouse, November 16, 1805

"We are now at the end of our voyage, which has been completely accomplished according to the intent of the expedition..."  
— Patrick Gass, November 16, 1805

"Great joy in camp we are in View of the Ocean, this great Pacific Ocean which we been So long anxious to See, and the roaring and noise made by the waves breaking on the rocky Shores (as I suppose) may be heard distinctly."  
— William Clark, November 17, 1805

## Map 8 Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Park

Follow in the Footsteps of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

**39** Dismal Nitche  
Pinned here against the rocky shore, the Expedition took shelter from the waves, strong winds, and torrential rains of a Pacific Northwest storm. It was the first time during the long journey that William Clark described the situation as "dangerous." They remained trapped here with little food and worn-out clothing from November 8–15, 1805.

**40** Station Camp  
Finally, the storm subsided on the afternoon of November 15, and the river calmed enough to allow passage around "Point Distress," where "a butifull Sand beach" revealed itself. With their first full view of the Pacific Ocean, members of the party wrote in their journals that they had achieved their mission. Patrick Gass wrote, "We are now at the end of our voyage." This campsite was so important, William Clark specifically surveyed and mapped its location. The name "Station Camp" is derived from a surveying term.

**41** Fort Columbia State Park  
On November 18, 1805, Clark and eleven men hiked over rocky bluffs (today's Fort Columbia State Park) on their trek to the Pacific Ocean. coastal defense fortification from 1896 through WW II, Fort Columbia is now a heritage site, providing an interpretive center and information about coastal defense.

**42** Cape Disappointment State Park  
On November 18, 1805, William Clark and his party crossed a low area of Cape Disappointment and finally reached the Pacific Ocean. The party explored the steep bluffs and forested hollows of the cape while en route to the Long Beach Peninsula. A prime feature of the park is the newly renovated Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, featuring exhibits, ranger-led programs, and stunning views of the confluence of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean.

**43** Discovery Trail  
On November 19, 1805, Clark and his party hiked a four-mile long "extensive Sand beach" along the Pacific shore, between Bears Hollow in Cape Disappointment State Park and present-day Long Beach. Clark and his party returned to Station Camp following a route through present-day Ilwaco.

**44** Fort Clatsop  
Fort Clatsop commemorates the 1805–1806 winter encampment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Highlights include a replica of the fort and visitor access to the historic canoe landing and spring used by the Corps of Discovery.

**45** Fort to Sea Trail  
This trail traverses the homelands of the Clatsop Indians and follows the approximate 1806 route traveled by Expedition members between the original Fort Clatsop and the Pacific Ocean.

**46** Fort Stevens State Park  
This Oregon state park contains replica Clatsop Indian village sites. This was a strategic location for contact between American Indians and European-American traders.

**47** The Salt Works  
When the Lewis and Clark Expedition arrived at the ocean, its supply of salt was depleted. Salt was important for preserving food and enhancing its taste, so three men established a salt-making camp on the beach in Seaside. They camped in this vicinity for several weeks, boiling approximately 1,400 gallons of seawater to make salt.

**48** Ecola State Park  
In 1806, Captain William Clark and twelve members of the Expedition climbed over the rocky headlands of Tillamook Head and fought through thick brush to see a whole Ecola State Park. The park can be accessed from Cannon Beach.

**49** Waves crashing near Waikiki Beach at Cape Disappointment

## Map 9 Welcome...

to one of America's newest national parks and the tribal homelands of the Chinookan people. Visit these sites to learn more about the Corps of Discovery's arrival at the Pacific Ocean, preparations for the trip home, interactions with tribes of the region, and other fascinating stories.

**50** Bicentennial Events  
Corps of Discovery II in Washington  
2005 Oct 1-9 Clarkston  
14-17 Tri-Cities  
Nov 7-15 Long Beach  
28-Dec 11 Vancouver  
2006 April 7-10 Stevenson  
14-17 Toppenish  
May 12-15 Dayton

**51** National Signature Event  
November 11–15, 2005  
Destination: The Pacific  
Long Beach, WA to Cannon Beach, OR  
www.destinationthepacific.com

**52** Who to Contact  
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Washington Tourism Office  
www.experiencewashington.com  
National Park Service  
www.lewisandclarknationalpark.com