

On the Lewis and Clark Trail – Kalispell, Montana, to Kennewick, Washington

MAMAA

14 July 2021

the Country around these forks is level Smooth plain. no timber. not a tree to be Seen as far as our Eyes could extend. a fiew willows Scattering along the Shores. about 200 Savages are Camped on the point between the 2 rivers. we Camped near them. they Sold us eight fat dogs and Some fresh sammon. in the evening the whole band came Singing in their way to our Camp around our fires and Smoaked with us, and appeared verry friendly. they have pleanty of beeds Copper & brass trinkets, about them which they Sign to us that they got them from Some tradors on a River to the North of this place—

Sergeant John Ordway Wednesday 16th Oct. 1805.

The last change of rivers for the Lewis and Clark Expedition on its way to the Pacific Ocean came here, in what today is Pasco, Washington a,t Sakajawea State Park. Idaho's Snake River flows in from the left and carried the expedition's canoes. It joins the Columbia River, and flows beneath the railroad drawbridge in the distance. The Columbia's source is a place many Americans have visited in Canada. It begins at Snow Dome – better known to tourists as the Columbia Icefield on the border between Canada's Jasper and Banff national parks. Depending on which of the icefield's six glaciers is the source, rivers formed there flow to the Arctic Ocean, Hudson Bay or, in the case of the Columbia, to the Pacific. Measured by the volume of water it delivers to its mouth, the 1,243- mile / 2,000-kilometer long Columbia is North America's fourth largest river after the Mississippi, Ohio and St. Lawrence. From here, there's about 350 river miles left to the Pacific. We'll cover it in two more days.

Julie is standing in one of seven "story circles" at Sacajawea State Park that tell aspects of the history of the expedition and the tribes that inhabited this area with carvings on the walls of the stone circles. The artist who created them is Maya Lin, best known for her Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Columbia has been transformed from the wild river it was in the early 19th century by the construction of 14 dams, 11 of them in the United States, for flood control and hydroelectric power. Now the river is a string of lakes and the water level at Pasco is 22 feet higher than it once was, submerging the site of the expedition's camp as well as those of the tribes who visited. Once the largest salmon-producing river on the West Coast, the size of the catch has been drastically reduced because many upstream salmon spawning grounds – to which the fish must return in order to reproduce – are no longer reachable. Pacific salmon spend about a year in freshwater streams after hatching before swimming to the ocean for two to three years of saltwater life before returning to the streams where they hatched to spawn and die.

EARS, AND TO RECOGNIZE T

This chart will track the 78 counties in nine states that we're traveling through from St. Louis to the Pacific coast. The counties are listed in the order we enter them. Counties that the Corps of Discovery traveled through or had some other connection with have red explanation cells.

TOMORROW – County-by-county in Oregon			
Start Day 9 at Kennewick, Washington			
Via I-90, U.S. 395, 12, 730 and I-84			
County	Population	County seat	Source of name / significance to Lewis and Clark
64. Umatilla	77,950	Pendleton	Native tribe. On the Columbia.
65. Gilliam	1,912	Condon	Cornelius Gilliam of Buncombe County, North Carolina, who fought against the Seminoles in Florida, the Black Hawks in the Midwest, the Mormons in Missouri (where he was also a sheriff and served in the legislature) and the Cayuse in Oregon. A U.S. Merchant Marine ship used in World War II was named for him. On the Columbia.
66. Sherman	1,780	Moro	Gen. William Sherman, Union general in the Civil War. On the Columbia.
67. Wasco	26,682	The Dalles	Native tribe. On the Columbia.
68. Hood River	23,382	Hood River	River that flows into the Columbia River from Mount Hood, a volcano that's Oregon's tallest mountain named for British Admiral Samuel Hood at the Battle of the Chesapeake in the Revolutionary War. On the Columbia.
69. Multnomah	812,855	Portland	Multnomah band of Chinookan people native tribe. On the Columbia.
End of Day 9 at Portland, Oregon 335 miles / 539 kilometers 2,896 miles / 4,660 kilometers			



Kids swim at a beach on the Columbia River near a dugout canoe like the ones used by Lewis and Clark. The tug and barge going upstream in the distance got past the Columbia's dams through a series of locks.