

Walk through 15,000 years of human history at Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center

The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum in Stevenson, only 45 minutes from Portland, traces the journey of early man through a range of art and artifacts. Time prints of the millennia are boldly etched on the walls of the Columbia Gorge, recording a 40-million-year-long story of change, endurance and majesty.



Recreation of tribesman at work, Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum, Stevenson, Wash.

Showcasing this life along gorge, the center depicts the original tribes and gives visitors a deep appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the lower Columbia River.

The “First Peoples” exhibit focuses on the history of the Native American Chinooks. It displays artifacts explaining their spiritual beliefs, customs and tools.

The largest gallery in the museum is “Harvesting Resources,” which highlights the logging and fishing industries in the gorge. Exhibits include a

waterfall and an 1881 McCord Fishwheel replica that shows various fishing techniques. Suspended from the ceiling is a Jenny bi-plane that delivered air mail to the gorge.

Outdoor exhibits include a 1959 diesel locomotive, cedar log carvings, logging equipment and an interpretive kiosk. The locomotive is only open during the spring and summer months.

“The museum is truly a very special place because we interpret the rich cultural and natural history of this region through the use of artifacts and beautiful displays,” said Robert Peterson, director. “Activities for groups include making petroglyph rubbings, watching a 12-minute award-winning geology film, as well as a demonstration of an 1890s Corliss steam engine.”

Check the center’s calendar for special events, such as the annual “Show N’ Shine” car show in September. The Grand Gallery also may be used for after-hours events. ☎



Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum, Stevenson, Wash.

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum
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 990 SW Rock Creek Dr. Stevenson, WA

Printing Sponsored By: City of Stevenson & Skamania County Lodge Taxes

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