



Background

What is the Columbia Gorge Express?

The Columbia Gorge Express is a bus service connecting Gateway Transit Center in Portland with Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. It operates Friday through Sunday and federal holidays from May 27 through Sept. 25, 2016.

Why is this service needed?

Today, there are few public transit choices in the Gorge and none that connect recreational and tourist attractions such as Multnomah Falls with population centers. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) conducted the Columbia River Gorge Transit Study between November 2015 and April 2016 to identify new transit opportunities. The findings from the study indicate there is high demand for a service connecting the Portland metro area and Multnomah Falls. The Columbia Gorge Express will provide an additional option for those wanting to visit Multnomah Falls and will help address congestion and limited parking capacity in the area. For more information on the Gorge Transit Study, visit www.GorgeTransitStudy.com.

Could the service expand to other Gorge destinations?

The Columbia Gorge Express will operate as a pilot service in summer 2016 and 2017. ODOT and project partners will evaluate the service on an ongoing basis and will consider options for expansion beyond 2017. Near-term service expansion could include increasing the frequency of the existing intercity transit service between Gateway Transit Center and Hood River traveling along I-84 with stops at key destinations. Public transportation service is currently provided two days a week by Columbia Area Transit.

Who is paying for this bus service? How much does it cost?

The Columbia Gorge Express pilot service is paid for through federal public transportation funds that ODOT has allocated to this project. The cost of operating the service in 2016 will be \$150,000.

Partners involved in the Columbia Gorge Express include:

- U.S. Forest Service Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area
- TriMet
- Columbia Area Transit
- Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
- Travel Oregon
- Travel Portland
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation

Will bus fares cover the operations cost of the service?

Like most other public transit services, the operating costs of the Columbia Gorge Express will be subsidized by public transportation funding. Fares will cover some of the cost of operating the service.

Riding the bus**When does the Columbia Gorge Express operate?**

The bus operates Friday, Saturday and Sunday (and federal holidays) from May 27 to Sept. 25, 2016. The first bus departs Gateway Transit Center at 8:45 a.m. and the last bus to Gateway Transit Center departs Multnomah Falls at 6 p.m.

How many buses will be operating each day?

Three buses will be operating each day.

What stops does the bus serve?

The Columbia Gorge Express serves Gateway Transit Center in Portland, Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls.

Can I park at Rooster Rock State Park and ride the Columbia Gorge Express to Multnomah Falls?

Yes. Riders boarding at Rooster Rock State Park can ride the Columbia Gorge Express to Multnomah Falls for free.

**Do I have to pay to park at Gateway Transit Center or Rooster Rock State Park?
Can I park overnight?**

No. You can park free of charge up to 24 hours at Gateway Transit Center. Columbia Gorge Express riders may park for free at Rooster Rock State Park. Overnight parking at Rooster Rock State Park is not permitted.

How much does it cost to ride? Is there a discount for seniors, students or children?

Round trip tickets from Gateway Transit Center to Rooster Rock and Multnomah Falls are \$5 per person. At this time, we are not able to offer any discounts for seniors, students or children. Small children seated on an adult's lap ride for free.

How do I buy tickets?

Columbia Gorge Express tickets should be purchased online in advance. Riders can print their tickets or show electronic confirmation to the driver. Tickets sales will begin no later than the morning of May 27 via <http://columbiagorgeexpress.com/schedule-tickets>.

Can I buy monthly passes or multi-day tickets?

At this time, only day tickets are available.

What if the bus is full?

The buses fit 20 passengers each or 16 passengers plus two passengers in wheelchairs. Tickets are not purchased for specific buses, and buses will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Standing is not permitted on the bus.

Can I bring an infant car seat or stroller on the bus?

Your baby is welcome to ride with you, and car seats may be secured with a lap belt. Please note a \$5 ticket is required for an infant car seat secured in its own seat. Only fully collapsible strollers are allowed as a carry-on as space allows.

Are the buses wheelchair accessible?

Yes, all Columbia Gorge Express buses are wheelchair accessible.

Can I bring my bike with me on the bus?

Each bus can accommodate three bikes on a bike rack. Limited additional space may be available inside the bus if not already taken by persons with disabilities or other passengers.

Can I bring my pet?

Only service animals are allowed on the bus.

Does the bus have seat belts?

Yes, every seat on the bus is equipped with a lap belt.

Is there a restroom on the bus?

No, the buses are not equipped with restroom facilities. Public restrooms are available at Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls.

Is the bus air conditioned?

Yes, all buses are air conditioned.

Can I eat or drink on the bus?

Other than water, open food and drink is not allowed on the Columbia Gorge Express.

Does the bus have WiFi or electrical outlets?

WiFi and electrical sockets are not available on the Columbia Gorge Express.

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