

Green Gorge Tour

New Student Trip (NST)

About the Location:

Immerse yourself in the Columbia River Gorge! We'll follow the beautiful [Columbia River](#) east into wind surfing and wind turbine country, stopping to stay at a [charming historic facility](#) called Menucha, complete with bunk rooms and a communal kitchen. We'll spend our days visiting local sustainability-focused businesses, working on an organic farm, and engaging in some 'outdoor lite' activities (e.g. short hikes, e-biking) while taking advantage of the local transit system. This is a great trip for those looking to connect with nature as well as communities.

Geology and Natural Features:

The Columbia River Gorge is a spectacular river canyon, 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep, that meanders past cliffs, spires, and ridges set against nearby peaks of the PNW's Cascade Mountain Range and separating Oregon and Washington state. The Cascades' geology, carved out by volcanoes and massive floods, creates a rain shadow effect causing a dramatic precipitation difference that distinguishes the lush conifer forests in the West end of the Gorge from the grasslands of the Gorge's East end. The magnificent water, wind, and landscapes of the area make it a world-class destination for outdoor sports such as [hiking](#), [biking](#), [watersports](#) and [windsports](#). The Scenic Area shares boundaries with the Mt. Hood National Forest to the South and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to the North. (Forest Service, April 2023)

What to Expect - Our Itinerary:

We'll be staying in [Corbett, Oregon](#), and exploring the Gorge from this base location approximately 40 miles east of Portland. Our planned itinerary includes a mix of community engagement, educational, creative, and outdoor activities - intended to provide students with an introduction to the region's food, people, and natural places. Our schedule includes:

- Thursday: arrive at LC - sustainability tour and lunch on campus, depart for Menucha, dinner + 'get to know LC' activities
- Friday: Gorge waterfalls e-bike tour + hiking, nature-based self care activities, dinner + games/sunset walk
- Saturday: Hood River sustainable org tour, lunch in Hood River, stand up paddle board, kayak, and/or swimming, dinner + speaker
- Sunday: Farm and fruit loop tour, free choice: baking, swimming or crafts, dinner + outdoor movie
- Monday: service project, gorge maker space clinic (natural dye, cob), dinner in White salmon
- Tuesday: big breakfast and return to campus!

How to Prepare:

- **Prepare to share:** We'll be spending some time getting to know each other and the campus community, come prepared to share a bit about yourself and get to know others.
- **Prepare for the outdoors:** We'll be spending most of our time out of doors. Be sure to review the packing list and prepare for what will likely be very warm summer weather. Good walking shoes and comfortable layers will be important.
- **Get your creative juices flowing:** we'll be participating in some creative clinics (like natural dye!) and have crafts and other activities prepared for those interested. Bring your creative ideas and be ready to try something new!

What will we eat?

We will eat a mostly vegetarian diet while on this trip, but will have some limited meat options for those who prefer it. Please let us know about your food preferences and allergies! We'll be cooking for ourselves (everyone pitches in!) in addition to eating some meals out. Example menu items include: tacos with local salsa, veggie burgers, pizza, salads, pasta, etc. We plan on picking some fruit and berries and doing a little baking as well!

What are the policies?

Participants on New Student trips are expected to follow all Lewis & Clark College conduct policies. All trips are tobacco, drug, and alcohol free, including vaping, medical cannabis, and tobacco products. Nicotine patches and gum are permitted. Engaging in sexual relationships during trips is prohibited. Policy violations may result in disciplinary action and/or removal from trips at your expense.

What are the risks?

The most common injuries which could occur on this trip are blisters on feet (bring worn in shoes), and burns from not applying enough sunscreen. Yellow jackets (wasps) can be pests at this time of the year, and people with the potential for severe reactions to stings should plan to bring their own anaphylaxis kits.

Questions? Contact us!

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