



Columbia Gorge Express: FAQs



Riding the bus

When does the Columbia Gorge Express operate?

The bus will operate Friday, Saturday and Sunday (and federal holidays), May 26 through Sept. 24, 2017. The first bus each morning departs Gateway Transit Center at 8:45 a.m. and the last bus to Gateway Transit Center departs Multnomah Falls at 6:40 p.m.

What stops does the bus serve?

The Columbia Gorge Express serves [Gateway Transit Center](#) in Portland, [Rooster Rock State Park](#) and [Multnomah Falls](#).

How long does the ride take?

Under normal traffic conditions, the trip from Gateway Transit Center to Rooster Rock State Park takes about 25-30 minutes. The trip from Rooster Rock to Multnomah Falls takes about 5-10 minutes.

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

You can park free of charge up to 24 hours at Gateway Transit Center. Columbia Gorge Express riders must pay the \$5 per vehicle day-use fee to park at Rooster Rock State Park. Overnight parking at Rooster Rock State Park is not permitted.

How frequently does the Gorge Express depart Rooster Rock for Multnomah Falls?

The Gorge Express departs Rooster Rock for Multnomah Falls every 15-45 minutes. A large tour bus is available between these stops. Smaller 35-40 passenger buses travel to and from Gateway Transit Center in Portland.

If there is room on the Multnomah Falls-bound buses from Portland, you are welcome to catch a ride at Rooster Rock. Please note, full buses originating from Gateway Transit Center may not stop at Rooster Rock, if all users are heading to Multnomah Falls.

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. Riders boarding at Rooster Rock State Park can ride the Columbia Gorge Express to Multnomah Falls for free, but drivers must pay the \$5 per vehicle day-use fee to park at Rooster Rock. All users pay the same low fare, except small children seated on an adult's lap ride, who ride for free.

How do I buy tickets? Can I buy them on the bus?

We encourage riders to purchase tickets online in advance to avoid boarding delays. Riders can print their tickets or show electronic confirmation to the driver. Tickets are also available for purchase on the bus by cash or credit card. Please note: riders paying in cash will need exact change.

Can I buy monthly passes or multi-day tickets?

Only day tickets are available.

Can I reserve a seat on the bus?

Purchasing a ticket online does not reserve a seat on any bus. Buses will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

With no reserved seats, how can I avoid missing the last bus from Multnomah Falls to Rooster Rock or Gateway Transit Center?

We encourage riders to plan ahead and not wait until the last bus departs. The peak travel period to Multnomah Falls is mid-day. Visitation often tapers off in late afternoon.

What if the bus is full?

The buses departing from Gateway Transit Center can accommodate 36 passengers plus two passengers in wheelchairs. The buses departing from Rooster Rock State Park can accommodate 44 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.

A large tour bus is available between Rooster Rock and Multnomah Falls. Full buses originating from Gateway Transit Center may not stop at Rooster Rock.

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

Your baby is welcome to ride with you, but note that car seats cannot be secured as buses do not have seat belts. A \$5 ticket is required for an infant car seat occupying 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 up to three bikes in the luggage compartment under the vehicle.

Can I bring my pet?

Only service animals are allowed on the bus.

Do the buses have seat belts?

No, the buses are not equipped with seat belts.

Is there a restroom on the bus?

Yes, all buses are equipped with restroom facilities. Public restrooms are also 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.

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. Service will begin by mid-June and run through Sept. 24, 2017. The bus operates Friday through Sunday and federal holidays.

What is a “pilot service?” Could the service expand to other Gorge destinations?

The Columbia Gorge Express operates as a pilot service. ODOT and project partners are evaluating 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 between Hood River and Portland is currently provided two days a week by [Columbia Area Transit](#).

Who is paying for this bus service?

The Columbia Gorge Express pilot service is paid for through a combination of federal and state public transportation funds that ODOT has allocated to this project.

Partners involved in the Columbia Gorge Express include:

- Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
- TriMet
- Columbia Area Transit
- Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
- Travel Oregon
- Travel Portland
- Friends of the Columbia Gorge
- Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department