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Port, American Cruise Lines Officially Launch Idaho's Only Cruise Boat Dock

LEWISTON, ID – The Port of Lewiston and American Cruise Lines officially launched Idaho's only cruise boat dock with a ceremonial ribbon cutting Tuesday at the Confluence Riverfront facility. River stakeholders from all over the Northwest joined local officials, community members, and representatives from American Cruise Lines along the Clearwater River with the impressive *American Song*, one of the vessels in the ACL fleet that navigate the Columbia Snake River System, moored alongside.

"We love cruising the Columbia and Snake Rivers and it is a special honor to be here today to celebrate the opening of the first cruise dock in Idaho," said Charles B. Robertson, President & CEO of American Cruise Lines. "The project exemplifies collaborative partnerships with economic, community, and recreational benefits. It also signifies American's ongoing commitment to exploring more of this beautiful region via the finest U.S.-built riverboats."

The event is a culmination of a historic partnership between the country's largest river cruise line the Port of Lewiston to bring the cruising industry to Idaho.

"This facility is built for our cruise boat guests as well as for our local community members," said Port of Lewiston General Manager Scott Corbitt. "Our partnership with ACL made the creation of Cruise Idaho possible. The future of the Confluence Riverfront is bright and full of potential."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured ACL leadership, Port Commissioners, local officials, and members of the Nez Perce Tribe, who performed a cultural invocation led by Nez Perce Tourism CEO Stacia Morfin. City of Lewiston Mayor Dan Johnson expressed gratitude to everyone involved in bringing the Confluence Riverfront vision to life, emphasizing its importance to the region.

“This new Port facility, nestled at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, is more than just a place to dock, it is a gateway to the region’s vibrant culture and rich history,” said City of Lewiston Mayor Dan Johnson. “Here history comes to life.”

The dock, funded in part by an allocation from Idaho Governor Brad Little in 2023, marks an expanded commitment from American Cruise Lines, driven in part by customer demand for the Pacific Northwest route. ACL passengers now get to embark and disembark in Lewiston, the furthest inland seaport on the west coast. Passengers select excursions including jet boat tours of Hells Canyon, scenic helicopter rides, and wine tasting at local vineyards.

The next phase of the project is in the preliminary design phase and may feature an open-air amphitheater, along with the conversion of a former maintenance shop into a versatile building intended to serve both cruise passengers and the local community. Longer range plans for Phase 3 may include an RV park and fishing piers.

American Cruise Lines is the largest river cruise line in the U.S.A. with 27 small ships exploring the Columbia and Snake Rivers, the Mississippi River, and waterways around the country. The company’s award-winning fleet and domestic itineraries build on a 50-year history of delivering curated all-American explorations. Today, the company offers luxury river cruise experiences in 35 states and operates the only 100% U.S. flagged fleet of riverboats and small ships in the world, all sailing exclusively in the U.S.A.

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