



SUMMER FUN 2007

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Submitted photo

This unusual vehicle allows passengers to see Portland by land and water

By GAIL PARK

For a different view, take the Duck Tour

laughs.

"It's a fun and professional tour," says Charles. "It's a neat way to see the city."

Join a Duck Tour year-round, rain or shine. The unique vehicle, U.S. Coast Guard-licensed, operates Friday through Sunday. It departs at 1:30 p.m. (Starting in June, a 10:30 a.m. tour will be added to the schedule.)

See the sights for approximately two hours. Tours depart from the north side of the Oregon Convention Center.

For about 40 minutes, the tour bus winds through the downtown area.

Excitement soars as the amphibious vehicle nears the public boat ramp in Willamette Park. It splashes into the river,

displacing 14 tones of water.

Traveling with the current at a steady 14 mph, Giustinas' dialog turns to wildlife, towering bridges and a unique view of the city. The water route meanders past giant oil tankers, waterfront neighborhoods and dry docks to Swan Island. The tour comes full circle at the Convention Center.

Customize a tour, and the pick-up point can be of one's choosing. Assemble a group and hear narration specific to one's interest, or narrate the tour yourself.

Journey across the city during the Rose Festival, Waterfront Blues Festival or Fourth of July. Christmas lights adventures are slated again for the winter.

Nonprofit groups can customize a char-

individual cushioned seat (no restrooms on the vehicle).

Charles and Sarah Lewis of Portland's Cully neighborhood own the tour business. Once onboard, Sylvia Giustina of Beaverton narrates the voyage.

Gather friends, out-of-state visitors and family and learn about the buildings downtown, Portland's various districts and what shows are playing. Pick up some trivia, such as Portland is the nation's largest grain exporter, that there are 350 wineries in Oregon, or that Portland got its name from the toss of a coin. The coin is on display at the Portland Historical Society. Chuckle at an occasional duck joke or blow into a quacking duck whistle just for

All aboard the what?

You may have seen the vessel negotiating Portland's narrow streets. Or, you may have seen it cruising down the Willamette River. No matter where it's traveling, people stop and stare.

One of Portland's newest attractions, the Portland Duck Tour, gives riders a chance to enjoy Portland by land and by water.

From the very start, passengers who climb up the steep metal staircase to board the amphibious bus know this trip will be different. The excursion's bio-diesel powered cruiser offers as many as 46 guests an

ter for \$650; otherwise, it costs \$800.

Registration for Duck Tours is taken online or by phone. Walk-ups are welcome as space permits. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, \$17 for children and \$5 for infants.

Portland Duck Tours' hydroterra vehicle is the 36th one of its kind. Built exclusively for entertainment tours, the unsinkable, Coast Guard-inspected vessel, is modeled after World War II amphibious assault vehicles.

To learn more about Portland Duck Tours, call 877-GO-BY-DUCK or go to www.PortlandDucks.com.



HAPPY PASSENGERS — Narrator Sylvia Giustina of Beaverton (above) gives a thumbs-up during a break while cruising the Willamette River. Portland Duck Tours owner Charles Lewis (on the right in the white shirt) waves. On opposite page, the 46-passenger vessel is fashioned after World War II military assault vehicles. It runs on bio-diesel.

GAIL PARK/Community Newspapers