

Visiting Hours

The visitor center and gift shop operate year-round under two seasonal schedules, winter and summer. Winter hours (October 1 through April 30) are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Summer hours are daily, May 1 through September 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Free guided tours are provided from March 1 through November 30. Call the visitor center at (206) 783-7059 for tour times and additional information.

Our grounds are open daily, year-round, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

What is there to do at the Locks?

When you enter this National Historic Place, you immediately feel like you have left the big city behind. The combination of the beautiful botanical garden, the architecture of the buildings, seeing the boats, locks, fish, and the visitor center all can capture the hearts of young and old. Visitors from around the world and of all ages find something here that brings a smile to their faces. Come out and see for yourself, you'll come back often to see the changing of the seasons, and you will know why we say this is a place "Where the Activity Never Stops!"

As you walk around, the best first stop is the visitor

center where you'll find brochures, exhibits, and a 12-minute orientation video of our facility. Then step outside to the Carl S. English, Jr. Botanical Garden. People who tour the garden are in awe of the number of plant species grown here. The garden is beautiful year round.

Next, head over to the locks for some real action. Rarely is there a time when one of the locks isn't moving vessels. Cross over the locks and spillway dam to the fish ladder and viewing windows. Returning adult salmon can usually be seen between the months of June and November. Lucky visitors may catch a glimpse of a steelhead returning to spawn from January through April, and it's a treat to watch the young salmon (smolts) during the months of May and June as they head to the ocean to mature.

On your return walk, before you go home, stop in the visitor center again and browse through our gift shop. Operated by the Northwest Interpretive Association, the gift shop books, videos, souvenirs, and fun items to purchase as a memento of your visit.

Whatever the season, whatever the reason, you'll find the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks a place to remember, a place to see again and again, and a place "where the activity never stops!"

Have the Sea Lions Returned to the Locks?

Sea lions and harbor seals frequent the Locks from August through May. Most sea lions migrate south to California during the summer months for the mating

season. Keep your eyes open as you cross over the dam to the fish ladder; you may see one despite efforts to discourage their presence, to reduce their predation on wild steelhead.

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