

## The Visitor Center at the Locks

Once home to the blacksmith and carpenter shop, our visitor center and gift shop are an excellent first stop on your exploration of our facility. The center features displays on the history and operation of the Ship Canal and locks, and the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Pacific Northwest and the nation. Visitor center staff are on duty to provide information and answer your questions. Pick up a locks brochure to orient yourself while walking through the facility. See why this place is "where the activity never stops!" While you're at it, pick up our *World Tour* brochure to learn about the plants along your walk.

Before you go home, stop in again at the visitor center and browse through our gift shop. You'll find some great books and cool souvenirs to take home as a memento of your visit.

The visitor center and gift shop operate under two seasonal schedules, summer and winter:

*Summer hours* - daily May 1 through September 30, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

*Winter hours* - October 1 through April 30, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Free guided tours are provided March 1 through November 30. If your school or organization wishes a free guided tour of the locks, fish ladder, or botanical

garden, contact the visitor center staff at (206) 789-2622.

The Hiram M. Chittenden locks are open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. year round. The fish ladder viewing room are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. year round.

Tour the Visitor Center!

If you would like to tour the Visitor Center online, follow these links:

- [Northwest Interpretive Association Gift Shop](#)
- [Water Management and Lake Elevations](#)
- [Improvements to Locks](#)
- [Why a Canal?](#)
- [Where Should We Build It?](#)
- [Hiram M. Chittenden](#)
- [How the Locks Work](#)
- [Carl S. English, Jr.](#)
- [Botanical Garden](#)
- [What Goes Through?](#)
- [The Corps in the Northwest](#)
- [The Corps Across the Globe](#)
- [The Lake Washington Ship Canal](#)

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