



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VANCOUVER-TO-VANCOUVER SAME-DAY AMTRAK SERVICE
EXTENDED THROUGH SUMMER MONTHS**

***Travelers can now leave Vancouver, Canada, in the morning and
be in Vancouver, USA, in time for dinner***

VANCOUVER, Wash. – Originally scheduled to end on March 31 of this year, Amtrak has announced it will continue to offer direct same-day train service between Vancouver, British Columbia, and historic Vancouver, Wash., through the end of September 2010. The addition of a second Amtrak *Cascades* train in late summer of 2009 provided, for the first time, direct round-trip service between Vancouver, Wash., and its namesake Vancouver, B.C.

“The continuation of this popular route through the summer months will allow Vancouver B.C. residents to travel to Vancouver, Washington, in one day and without having to get off the train,” said Kim Bennett, president of the Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office. “Everyone from history buffs, to families, to foodies can now get to know both cities, which although share the same name, offer very different experiences.”

Vancouver, Wash., with a population of more than 163,000, is the fourth largest city in the state. It is the oldest permanent non-native settlement in the Pacific Northwest and is home to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Pearson Air Museum, which is located on the oldest continually operating airfield in the U.S. The city also is a family-friendly destination that can be educational as well as entertaining. At the center of downtown Vancouver is Esther Short Park, the setting for summer concerts, movies in the park, a manmade stream and water feature for cooling off, and a playground. For epicureans, the Vancouver Farmers Market is one of the most popular weekend markets in southwest Washington. The city also boasts numerous small one-of-a-kind restaurants that take advantage of the bounty of fresh local produce and local wines.

Vancouver, Wash., also offers a broad range of overnight accommodations. Among these are:

- Hilton Vancouver Washington, located in the heart of downtown across the street from the many activities offered at Esther Short Park;
- Red Lion at the Quay, the only hotel in the region located on the banks of the Columbia River;
- Briarwood Inn Bed & Breakfast, a 1908 Craftsman-style home and garden that has been totally renovated while maintaining its original historic charm and elegance; and
- Heathman Lodge, a tranquil mountain-like retreat brimming with Northwest ambiance and located just minutes away from downtown Vancouver.

On the other hand, Vancouver, B.C., also named for British Captain George Vancouver who explored the area in the 1790s, is the largest metropolitan area in Western Canada with a population of just over 578,000. In the summer months, locals and visitors enjoy live theater at Bard on the Beach, cycling or walking around the 1,000-acre Stanley Park, and dining at its internationally acclaimed restaurants that range from haute cuisine to neighborhood favorites.

Prior to the addition of the second *Cascade* train last year, passengers who boarded anywhere south of Seattle had to either stay overnight there or catch a bus to Vancouver, discouraging all but the most determined. Passengers departing from Vancouver, B.C., can now leave at 6:45 a.m. and arrive in Vancouver, Wash., at 2:45 p.m. Although rates can vary, a one-way fare between the two cities is approximately \$85. For more information and trip planning resources, visit www.VisitVancouverUSA.com.

About Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office

Vancouver USA Regional Tourism Office (formerly Southwest Washington Convention & Visitors Bureau) is an economic development organization responsible for competitively marketing Vancouver and the surrounding area as a destination for meetings, conventions, and group and leisure travelers. The organization's mission is to promote Vancouver and Clark County by increasing convention and visitor business. For more information call 360-750-1553, or log on to www.VisitVancouverUSA.com.

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