



VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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The Gateway Clipper Fleet: Showcasing the Great American City of Pittsburgh

Terry Wirginis, President and Owner
The Gateway Clipper Fleet

Terry Wirginis is the President and owner of the Gateway Clipper Fleet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a third-generation owner and the grandson of founder John E. Connelly. A respected Past President of the Passenger Vessel Association, Wirginis serves on various boards in the Pittsburgh area. He is very involved in his community and is the President of the Fox Chapel School District School Board. Wirginis looks forward to relinquishing the helm of the fleet to the fourth generation of owners – his children – in the future.

Pittsburgh is a great American city. When George Washington first set foot on the land at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, he realized the importance of this land and knew it was a place to build a settlement. It had it all – flowing water, lush vegetation, protective hills and abundant wildlife – to see a development thrive. It also provided the opportunity as the starting “point” to move even further west along the river that formed as the Allegheny and Monongahela came together – the mighty Ohio.

These three rivers are the life blood of the region and have directly impacted the development and success of the city. As the first true “Gateway to the West,” Pittsburgh has always been at the forefront of progress. The first steamboat was built and launched from Pittsburgh. The “Bessemer Process” was developed here, making Pittsburgh the epicenter of the steel industry. Pittsburgh is the site of the first radio broadcast and station, the place where a cure for polio was discovered and, let us not forget, the home of the one and only Mr. Rogers. While Pittsburgh has a rich history, it is

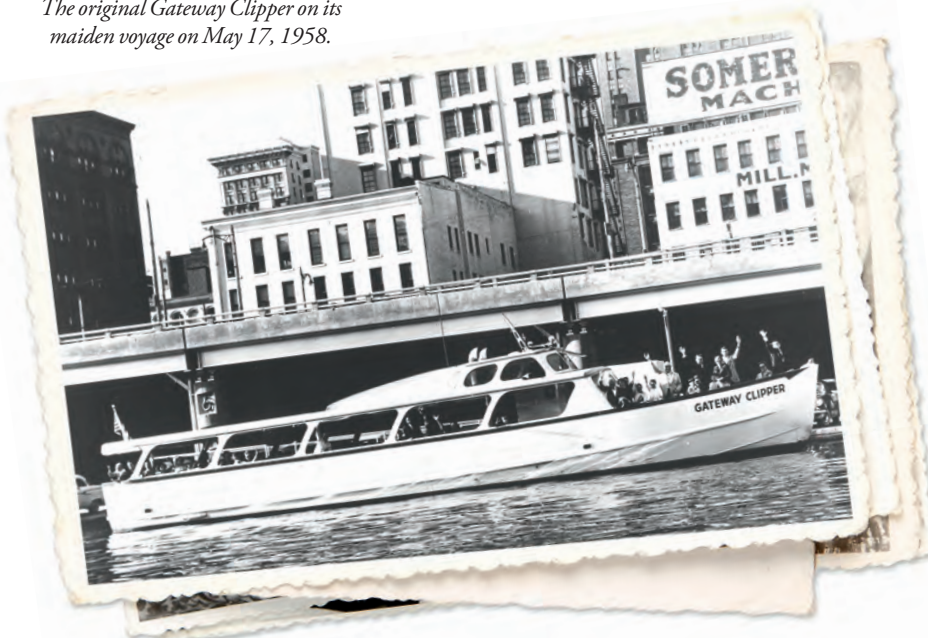


the resurgence of our city in the 21st century that makes it such a wonderful place to live and visit.

Pittsburgh today is much different from the dark and dank steel city of the past. The polluted waters are gone and beautiful blue-green waters flow past the city every day. The industrial sites along the rivers are now replaced with beautiful parks and walking paths filled with people enjoying all kinds of activities. The old buildings downtown and along the river have been renewed or replaced with towering skyscrapers and state-of-the-art sports stadiums. The once vacant downtown streets are now teeming with people – day and night – enjoying world-class restaurants, theaters and clubs. The neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, once the home of immigrants, are now being revitalized by young people looking to keep alive the traditions and share them with generations to come. Our city is changing everyday and has been for hundreds of years. For over six decades, the Gateway Clipper Fleet has been witness to these magnificent changes.

The Gateway Clipper Fleet is a Pittsburgh river tradition. Founded in 1958 by John E. Connelly, the Gateway Clipper was a hit with Pittsburghers and visitors from the start. Sailing from the Monongahela Wharf on May 17, 1958, the original “Gateway Clipper” became the city’s first official sightseeing boat. Due to the tremendous

The original Gateway Clipper on its maiden voyage on May 17, 1958.





popularity of the cruises, two more boats were added in 1959, thus making us the “Gateway Clipper Fleet.” More than 20 boats have since sailed the three rivers as vessels of the fleet.

Today, the Gateway Clipper Fleet is one of Pittsburgh’s most popular attractions. Sailing from its home port on the South Shore of the Monongahela in Station Square, the fleet features cruises certain to thrill everyone – young and old, tourists and other visitors, Pittsburghers and even the occasional Cleveland Browns fan! Our riverboat cruises feature incomparable views of the city, expert narration about the past, present and future of the city, delicious food and exciting entertainment. Visitors and Pittsburghers alike join us on daily one-hour sightseeing tours, fabulous dinner cruises and fun-filled kids entertainment cruises.

Did you know that you can host your wedding on the Gateway Clipper? We are one of the most in-demand wedding venues in Pittsburgh. Where else can you have the skyline of the city as the backdrop of your ceremony? The Gateway Clipper also hosts many major convention events and corporate functions every year. Our expert team can plan an event for any size group



that features world-class catering, signature cocktails, showstopping entertainment and magnificent, one-of-a-kind views found only from the decks of our riverboats. Pittsburgh has never looked so good!

The Gateway Clipper family invites you to join us in Pittsburgh. Come experience this amazing city, her wonderful people, historic neighborhoods and undeniable charm. And when you do visit, let us warn you – you may never want to leave! ♪

Top: The Three Rivers Sightseeing Cruise aboard the Gateway Clipper is one of the best ways to experience the city of Pittsburgh.

Bottom: The Gateway Clipper passes one of Pittsburgh’s most historic sites, Point State Park, located at the “Golden Triangle” of the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio Rivers.