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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Original Wisconsin Ducks Dive into Adventure on Land and Water

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (April 1, 2021) – Enjoying the beautiful views and rugged trails of Wisconsin Dells aboard an amphibious Duck is a great Wisconsin experience enjoyed by generations of vacationing families. Part scenic tour, part adventure ride, Original Wisconsin Ducks embarks on its 76th season carrying thousands of travelers on unique land-and-water excursions from spring through early fall.

“A Duck tour is typically at the top of the list of things to do in Wisconsin Dells,” said Dan Gavinski, general manager of Original Wisconsin Ducks. “Even with all of the new thrill rides and attractions of today, the Ducks still hold a soft place in visitors’ hearts.”

The classic tour highlights the stunning scenery of the region. Family members can all ride together to explore the exclusive wilderness Duck Trails. The routes have historical significance, derived from old lumber roads and ancient stagecoach runs. The 8½-mile tour is a one-hour adventure, allowing visitors to traverse over land and cruise the water, all from the seat of one vehicle.

The special amphibious features of the Ducks are what make them a standout attraction. With the ability to go from land to water, visitors experience the capabilities of the military landing craft as they take in the gorgeous landscape.

From the Duck Dock, the tour winds through wooded trails and lush canyons to the banks of the scenic Wisconsin River. Passengers are treated to their first splashdown for a trip down river to see the towering rock formations along the shoreline and hear the stories that tell the area’s history. This unique stretch of the river is a spectacular geological site, the beautiful cliffs carved out by glaciers and shaped by wind and rain over time.

A second water entry takes sightseers out onto beautiful Lake Delton, before the last leg up on shore through more breathtaking scenery, featuring hills and narrow gorges, allowing passengers to experience the versatility of the unique Ducks. The splashdowns are remarkable to newcomers and still the highlight of the tour for ride veterans, no matter how many times they take the tour.

“It may not draw as many high-pitched squeals as the waterslides, but the splashdown is definitely the biggest anticipation of a Duck tour,” added Gavinski.

The unique amphibious vehicles first rolled off the General Motors assembly line in 1942. Built for WWII, the military craft, code named DUKWs, were simply nicknamed “Ducks” by soldiers. Ducks were lauded by military leaders for their brawn and versatility to move troops and supplies along the rugged terrain of Europe and the South Pacific. More than 2,000 Ducks were used in the historic D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, at Normandy, France, which is touted as the greatest amphibious operation in history. In all, General Motors manufactured 21,200 Ducks for the war effort from 1942 to 1945.

For most of modern history, Ducks have been a part of the civilian tourism landscape in Wisconsin Dells. Because of the area’s varied topography, Ducks were introduced here in 1946 to show off the beautiful land while still preserving the environment.

All Original Wisconsin Ducks are authentic, however, most in the fleet of 92 never saw any wartime action. They were surplus, purchased stateside and were in excellent condition. Some have been procured from collectors or other tour operators. Original Wisconsin Ducks has a crew of highly skilled mechanics and metal experts who maintain the Ducks. Their focus is on preserving the integrity of the novel fleet and keeping safety at the forefront. Combined, the staff has more than 225 years of experience working on the Ducks.

“We take pride in preserving these historically significant vehicles so that generations of visitors can keep coming back for a nostalgic tour,” Gavinski said.

With 92 vehicles, Original Wisconsin Ducks is the largest WWII amphibious tour Duck operation in the United States and is the longest running tour. Original Wisconsin Ducks’ season traditionally runs mid-March through mid-November, weather permitting. Tours depart every few minutes during the peak summer season. For more information about Original Wisconsin Ducks, please call (608) 254-8751 or visit wisconsinducktours.com.

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Editor’s Note: High-res and historical photos available by contacting Andrea Novotny at (608) 575-7739 anovotny@charter.net.