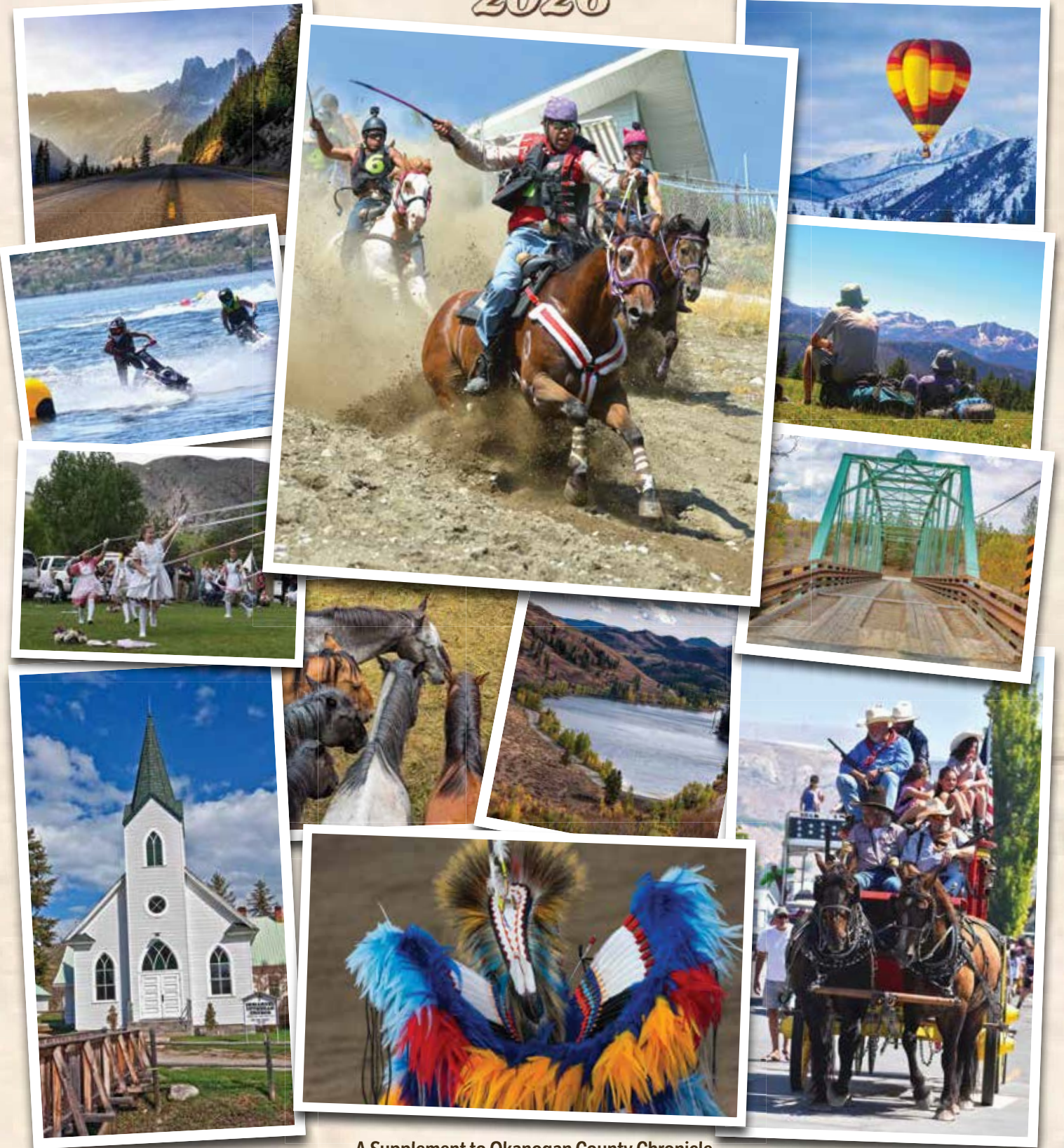


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Explore

The Beauty of Okanogan Country

Embark on a journey of discovery in Okanogan Country, a place where the rhythm of life feels a little slower and the beauty a little bigger. Tucked into the heart of north-central Washington, this region invites you to reconnect—with nature, community, and the simple joys of the open road.

Here, the landscape tells a story that stretches for miles. To the west, the rugged, snow-capped peaks of the North Cascades rise in quiet grandeur.

To the east, golden wheat fields roll across the northern Columbia Basin like waves in the wind. In between, orchard-lined valleys burst with color and life, while to the north, the terrain shifts from the dry, open beauty of British Columbia and the forested heights of Ferry County. It's a place defined not by one view, but by many—each as memorable as the last.

But Okanogan Country is more than scenery.

It's the people who make it feel like home, even if you're just passing through. Friendly faces greet you in small-town shops, conversations come easy, and there's a genuine sense that time isn't something to rush, but something to enjoy. Stroll through locally owned stores, linger a little longer, and take in the kind of hospitality that can't be manufactured.

This is a place where the land provides—and it shows. Taste the sweetness of tree-ripened fruit, sip wines shaped by sun and soil, and enjoy locally raised beef that reflects generations of care and craftsmanship. Every flavor carries a piece of the region with it.

Whether you're seeking adventure in the outdoors, a simple family vacation, or a break from the everyday pace, Okanogan Country offers space to explore.

We invite you to come see it for yourself. Wander the backroads, take in the views, meet the people, and discover why those who live here hold this place so close to their hearts. In Okanogan Country, every turn reveals something new—and every moment feels like it matters.



THE OKANOGAN COUNTY
CHRONICLE
PO BOX 553, OMAK, WA 98841

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Photo by Kayla Gardinier



Outdoors: Trails, Wheels and Wings

Outdoor adventure comes naturally in Okanogan County, where wide-open spaces and diverse terrain create a playground for hikers, riders and nature watchers alike. Whether you're seeking a quiet lakeside stroll or a heart-pounding climb to a mountain summit, the region offers something for every pace and every season.

Hiking opportunities stretch across the region, from paved, family-friendly paths to rugged backcountry routes. Long-distance trekkers can access the iconic Pacific Crest Trail along the county's western edge, while

the Pacific Northwest Trail crosses east to west through the northern landscape. Managed by the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies, area trails are well-marked and supported with maps, visitor centers and online resources.

For shorter outings, several scenic hikes highlight the region's natural beauty. Rainy Lake offers a paved, accessible path through alpine forest to a peaceful shoreline viewpoint. Blue Lake rewards hikers with striking turquoise water framed by granite peaks and in the highlands, the Big Tree Trail near Bonaparte introduces visitors to towering, centuries-old western larch.

Beyond hiking, the region opens up to motorized exploration as well. Hundreds of miles of ATV-friendly roads wind through forest and high desert, connecting towns like Oroville, Tonasket and Omak, where riders can stop for fuel, food and rest. Regulations vary by location, so checking local guidelines and forest maps ensures a



Photo by Spencer King

safe and enjoyable ride.

Cyclists, too, will find plenty to explore. Scenic country roads, forest routes and single-track trails wind through rolling hills, river valleys and mountain terrain. U.S. Bicycle Route 10 crosses through the area, offering a long-distance route with sweeping views. Popular rides range from relaxed valley loops to more challenging routes near the Methow Valley, where climbs are rewarded with expansive vistas and exhilarating descents.

For those who prefer a quieter pace, birding in the region is a year-round draw. The Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway—often called the state's premier birding route—hosts an impressive variety of species. Migrating sandhill cranes pass through in spring and fall, while bald eagles, hawks and owls can be spotted throughout the region. Wetlands, lakes and river corridors provide habitat for everything from waterfowl to songbirds, making each outing a new discovery.

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Camp Under Okanogan Skies

Imagine pitching a tent beside a burbling creek or settling your RV into a sunlit pull-through just steps from a new adventure. In Okanogan Country, camping isn't just a place to stay — it's part of the experience.

Across the region, options range from full-service RV parks and well-appointed state parks to remote national forest campgrounds and primitive backcountry sites for hikers and horseback riders. Travelers will also find boat-in camps and welcoming city parks, many within walking distance of shops, dining and small-town amenities.

Days begin with easy access to outdoor adventure. Hiking trails, rock climbing routes, lakes for boating and swimming and quiet stretches of river are often just beyond your campsite. As evening settles in, the landscape transforms. Campfires glow, the air cools and the skies open up into a brilliant canopy of stars — one of Okanogan Country's most memorable natural displays.

Public lands play a major role in the region's outdoor appeal. The expansive Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests offers a wide network of campgrounds, from quiet forest clearings to trailhead-adjacent sites. Visitors can also explore lakeside sites and shoreline camping within the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, or head west to the rugged beauty of North Cascades National Park.

Accessibility is a priority throughout the region. State parks such as Alta Lake, Bridgeport, Conconully and Pearrygin Lake offer accommodations for visitors with mobility concerns, while numerous national forest campgrounds include accessible facilities. Fishing docks, trailheads and



camp loops have been developed to ensure more people can enjoy the outdoors comfortably.

Closer to the valley floor, RV travelers will find a variety of convenient options. In Omak and Okanogan, parks such as 12 Tribes Casino RV Park, Carl Precht Memorial RV Park and the Okanogan County Fairgrounds provide easy access to services and events. Around Conconully, lakeside resorts and state park campsites draw visitors for fishing and paddling, while the Methow Valley communities of Winthrop and Twisp offer camping near trails, rivers and scenic byways. Farther north, Oroville and Brewster provide additional RV parks.

Whether you prefer the comforts of hookups and hot showers or the solitude of a quiet forest clearing, Okanogan Country delivers a camping experience as diverse as its landscapes — and as memorable as its star-filled skies.





Hunting and Fishing in Okanogan Country

There's a reason pickup trucks and travel trailers fill the backroads of Okanogan County each season, rods tucked in the back and gear packed tight. From spring fishing openers to crisp autumn hunts, this region offers year-round opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.

Fishing is often the first draw. As winter comes to a close, lower-elevation lakes —like Conconully, Spectacle, Alta, Wannacut, Pearrygin and Fish—become ice-free early, welcoming anglers eager to cast a line. These waters are stocked each spring, producing reliable catches of rainbow and triploid trout, along with kokanee and a variety of warmwater species.

Conconully stands out as a hub for anglers. Its two lakes — Conconully Lake and Conconully Reservoir — offer easy access, boat launches, a state park and nearby amenities. It's the kind of place where mornings begin with glassy water and the quiet presence of deer moving through camp. West of Tonasket, Spectacle Lake draws visitors with its kokanee and diverse species, while nearby Palmer Lake expands the possibilities with its larger size and variety of fish.

For those seeking solitude, a scenic loop through central Okanogan County reveals a chain of lakes tucked into rolling hills and forested valleys. Fish Lake, a local favorite on opening day, leads into the Sinlahekin Valley, where Blue, Forde and Conner lakes reward patient anglers willing to trade convenience for quiet. The valley itself teems with wildlife, making every cast part of a larger outdoor experience.

As summer heats up, anglers often head to higher elevations. Crossing Wauconda Pass brings cooler air and waters like Curlew Lake near Republic, known for its rainbow trout, as well as bass and tiger muskies. It's a refreshing change of pace when valley temperatures climb.



But fishing is only half the story.

When fall arrives, Okanogan Country transforms into a hunter's landscape. Thousands of acres of public land—alongside private lands with permission—offer opportunities to pursue deer, turkey, black bear and waterfowl. The hills surrounding Tonasket, the Sinlahekin Valley and the Conconully area all provide habitat for mule deer, while higher elevations and nearby valleys expand the possibilities.

Bird hunters will find especially rich ground here. With more than 200 lakes across North Central Washington, the region attracts migratory waterfowl and supports upland species including pheasant, quail, grouse, chukar and wild turkey. Early mornings bring the sound of wings over water, while fields and brushy draws challenge hunters on foot.

Anglers and hunters should always check regulations and seasons through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and be mindful of land access, respecting posted areas and private property. Portions of the region, including lands within the Colville Reservation, require special permits or are restricted.



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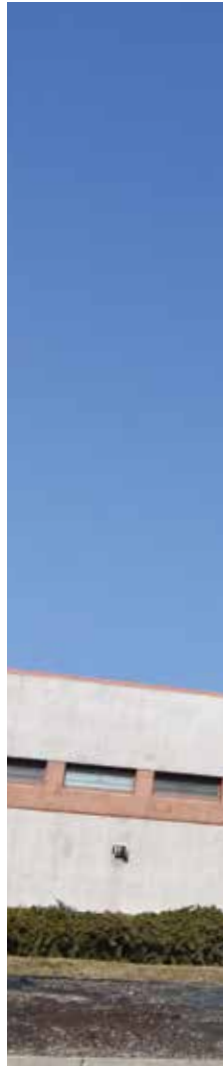
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Central Okanogan County: Heart of the Valley

At the crossroads of culture, commerce and wide-open recreation, central Okanogan County offers a mix of small-town charm and outdoor adventure. Anchored by Omak and Okanogan, this stretch of the valley serves as a hub for visitors.

Omak, the economic center of Okanogan Country, blends

modern amenities with a deep-rooted Western spirit. Best known for The Omak Stampede and World-Famous Suicide Race, the city keeps a lively calendar year-round.

East Side Park, one of the region's premier outdoor spaces, offers everything from ballfields and a swimming pool to a skate park and riverside walking trails. Civic League Park hosts concerts and community gatherings near the Omak Public Library, while the nearby Omak Performing Arts Center draws audiences for music, theater and dance productions. Beyond town, the warm waters of Omak Lake and the gentle flow of the Okanogan River invite boating, floating and fishing.

Just down the road, Okanogan offers a quieter but equally rich experience. As the county seat, it pairs historic brick architecture with access to a wide range of outdoor pursuits. Legion Park anchors the community with its farmers market, museum complex and shaded green space, while Alma Park provides a summer pool and family-friendly amenities.



Riverside, once a bustling riverboat hub, now offers a peaceful stop with ties to the past and easy access to wildlife areas and forestland. Malott, smaller still, carries echoes of early settlement and serves as a quiet base for outdoor exploration.

To the northwest, Conconully feels like a step back in time. Fishing, snowmobiling, ATV riding and hiking draw visitors year-round, while quirky events like the Conconully Outhouse Races add a dose of personality.

Threaded throughout the region is the Colville Indian Reservation, a vast and culturally rich landscape spanning more than a million acres. Home to the Colville Confederated Tribes, the reservation offers opportunities for cultural experiences, outdoor recreation and scenic drives, all while honoring the traditions and stewardship of its people.



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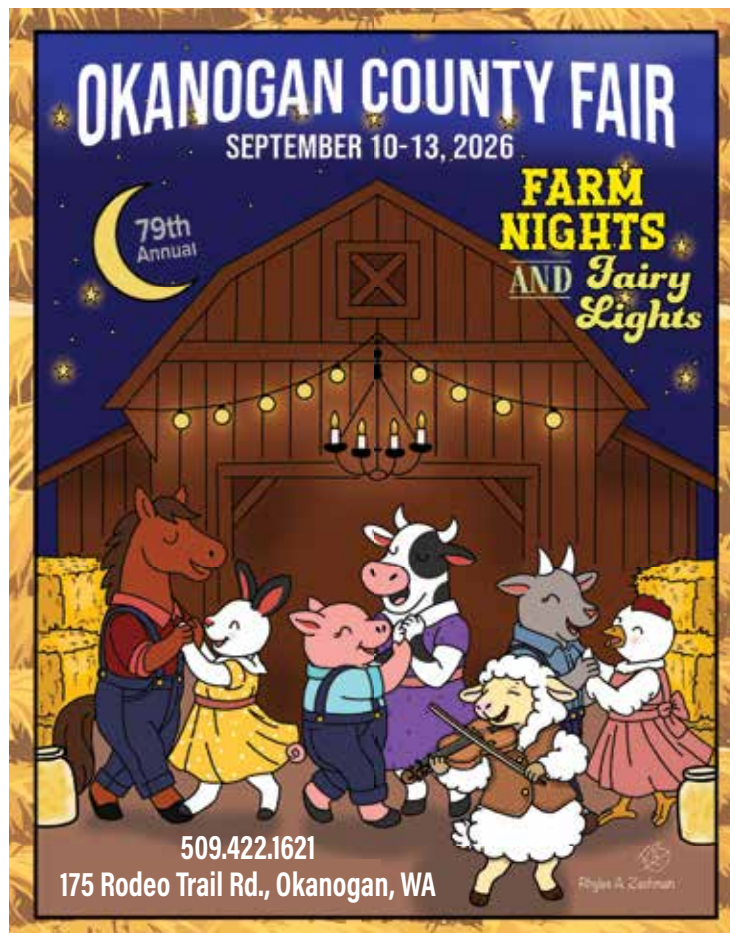
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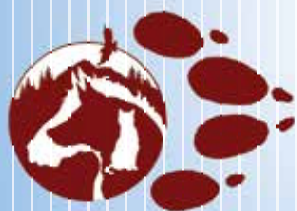
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South Okanogan County: Rivers, Recreation and Rural Charm

Where three rivers meet and wide-open landscapes stretch to the horizon, South Okanogan County offers a blend of water, history and small-town hospitality that feels both timeless and inviting. The communities of Brewster, Bridgeport, Pateros and Mansfield each bring their own flavor to this scenic corner of the state.

At the heart of it all is Brewster, perched along U.S.

Highway 97 near the meeting of the Columbia, Okanogan and Methow rivers. The town has long been a hub for anglers drawn to the rich waters of the rivers, as well as Lake Rufus Woods behind Chief Joseph Dam. At Columbia Cove Park, visitors can launch a boat, cast for salmon or steelhead, or simply enjoy a summer afternoon at the beach, playground or picnic grounds. The annual Brewster King Salmon Derby draws competitors from across the region in search of prize-winning catches.

Beyond the water, Brewster's downtown offers casual dining, local shops and a glimpse into a history tied to river travel and agriculture. The city became a cornerstone of Washington's apple industry, and nearby, Fort Okanogan Park and Interpretive Center preserves the story of one of the state's earliest trading posts, first established in 1811.

A short drive southeast along State Route 17 leads to Bridgeport, a riverside city just below Chief Joseph Dam. Here, Lake Rufus Woods widens into a playground for anglers, boaters and paddlers, while nearby parks and trails offer opportunities for hiking, camping and wildlife



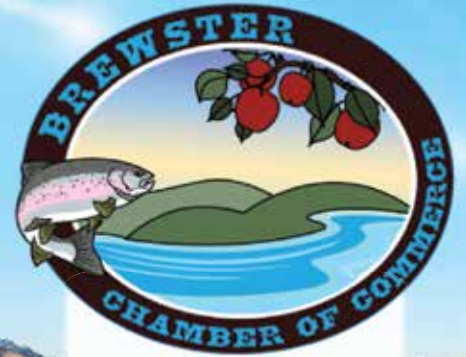
viewing. Eagles soar overhead, and along Foster Creek Avenue, carved wooden animals add a touch of roadside artistry.

Downstream, Pateros sits at the confluence of the Columbia and Methow rivers, offering a picturesque setting for both relaxation and recreation. The city has become a destination for boating, fishing and summer fun on Lake Pateros. The annual Apple Pie Jamboree brings a festive energy each July, complete with a parade, vendors and homemade treats, while the Pateros Hydro Classic adds a splash of high-speed excitement later in the season. Though the town was relocated in the 1960s during construction of Wells Dam, its welcoming downtown continues to serve visitors with restaurants, shops and easy river access.

Climbing away from the rivers into the high country, Mansfield offers a different pace. Known as “the town at the end of the rails,” this agricultural community is surrounded by rolling wheat fields and shrub-steppe habitat.



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North Okanogan County

North Okanogan County offers a blend of high desert landscapes, mountain vistas and small-town charm that defines the northern reaches of the valley. From lakeside recreation to historic towns frozen in time, north county invites visitors to slow down and explore.

At the northern edge of the county, Oroville sits near the Canadian border, where agriculture and outdoor recreation shape daily life. Surrounded by streams and lakes, the area draws visitors year-round for boating, fishing, hiking, skiing and wildlife viewing. Osoyoos Lake Veterans Memorial Park offers sandy beaches, camping and RV access, while nearby

wineries and orchards produce local wines, apples, pears and cherries.

History is preserved at the Oroville Depot Museum, which also serves as a visitor center. Community traditions remain strong, highlighted by the annual Oroville May Festival, complete with a classic maypole dance. Summer brings watercraft racing on Osoyoos Lake and Fourth of July fireworks, while golfers can enjoy a scenic nine-hole course just outside town.

Just south, Tonasket serves as a gateway to the surrounding wilderness. Positioned along U.S. Highway 97, it offers easy access to the Many Lakes area, as well as Bonaparte Lake and numerous campgrounds. Within town, Chief Tonasket Park features a splash park, sports complex and riverside amenities, while the U.S. Armed Forces Legacy Park stands as a tribute built by volunteers.

Tonasket's calendar is filled with events, from the Tonasket Founders' Day celebration and rodeo to a bustling farmers market and a late-summer garlic festival. Winter brings skiing and snowboarding at Sitzmark Ski Area, a community-operated hill in the nearby highlands.



Beyond the main cities, the Okanogan Highlands reveal a quieter side of the region. In Chesaw, a once-thriving mining town, the spirit of the Old West lives on through the annual Chesaw Fourth of July Rodeo. Farther east, Molson preserves its past as a gold rush boomtown. Visitors can walk through original buildings at the Molson Museum and explore the historic schoolhouse filled with artifacts.

Nighthawk, once a mining hub along the Similkameen River, now stands as a quiet ghost town near a small international border crossing. Loomis offers access to fishing lakes and a glimpse into its mining-era past, while Wauconda reflects the rise and fall of gold rush fortunes, with its historic community hall still hosting events today.

Whether you're casting a line in a quiet lake, tracing the path of an old railroad along the Similkameen Trail or taking in a rodeo under wide-open skies, North Okanogan County delivers a timeless experience rooted in landscape, heritage and community.



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Methow Valley: Where Art Meets the Wild

Tucked along the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains, the Methow Valley blends rugged wilderness with a thriving arts scene and a welcoming small-town spirit.

At the heart of it all is Twisp, a hub where mountain beauty meets artistic energy.

Art lovers will find inspiration at Confluence Gallery & Art Center and TwispWorks, where studios, exhibits and classes highlight the valley's creative pulse. Outdoor enthusiasts, meanwhile, can explore nearby trails like the Twisp River Trail or Blackpine Lake Trail.

For a deeper connection to the land, guided adventures through the Washington Outfitters and Guides Association offer everything from horseback rides to river rafting. In winter, the valley transforms into a snowy playground, with cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and downhill runs at Loup Loup Ski Bowl.

Just up the road, Winthrop offers a step back in time. Styled as an Old West town since the 1970s, its wooden boardwalks and historic façades invite visitors to slow down and explore. Stops like the Shafer Historical Museum show-



case the area's frontier past, while shops, galleries and the state's oldest legal saloon keep things lively.

Beyond its charming streets, Winthrop is a gateway to adventure. Surrounded by forests and wilderness, it's a launching point for hiking, biking, rafting and horseback riding in summer, and skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating in winter. Scenic drives along State Route 20 into the North Cascades or up to Hart's Pass reward travelers with unforgettable views.

Seasonal events bring even more energy to town, from the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival, Winthrop '49er Days and the wintertime magic of Christmas at the End of the Road.

Farther west along Highway 20, Mazama serves as a quiet outpost for outdoor enthusiasts. To the south, Carlton and Methow provide laid-back stops with river access, orchards and a taste of rural life.





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Okanogan is Rodeo Country

If your travel plans lean toward saddle leather, dust and the unmistakable rhythm of hooves, few places deliver like Okanogan Country. Here, rodeo isn't just an event — it's a season, a tradition and, in many communities, a way of life passed down through generations.

Across the region, visitors will find everything from professional rodeos featuring top-tier cowboys and cowgirls to high school, junior and amateur competitions. For those willing to step into the arena, some events even offer open entries, giving guests a chance to try their hand at the real thing.

Beyond the chutes, the equestrian culture runs deep. Scenic trail rides wind through sagebrush hills and forested ridges, while organized events showcase disciplines ranging from barrel racing and reining to English riding and cow cutting. Whether you're in the stands or in the saddle, there's no shortage of ways to experience the West.

Of course, no mention of rodeo in the region is complete without the legendary Omak Stampede. Held each August in Omak, it features the World-Famous Suicide Race — a heart-pounding competition unlike anything else in the rodeo world.

The calendar stays full well beyond Omak. Tonasket hosts its annual rodeo over Memorial Day weekend, alongside events in the Methow Valley that carry the celebration into Labor Day. In Grand Coulee, the Colorama festival adds rodeo flair to a weekend of community festivities, while local county fairs bring their own brand of arena action across the region.

Then there's Chesaw — a tiny community with an out-sized reputation. Its Fourth of July rodeo remains a favorite among locals and visitors alike, blending small-town charm with a deep sense of history. Records trace celebrations back to 1900, when horse races, rock drilling and foot races filled the day, capped by picnics along Myers Creek and the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

By the mid-1940s, a formal rodeo had taken shape, complete with grandstands and bucking stock drawn from local ranges. Over the decades, the event has grown while holding tight to its roots — a place where community matters as much as competition.

And that spirit carries across Okanogan Country. Rodeos here are more than performances; they're gatherings. Expect parades, Western dances, powwows, carnivals and a lineup of family-friendly traditions — from mutton busting and chicken chasing to greased pig contests and fun runs.





Ferry County: Rugged Beauty, Endless Adventure

Tucked between the shimmering waters of Lake Roosevelt and the Canadian border, Ferry County delivers a true backcountry experience shaped by rugged mountains, quiet forests and a deep sense of history. Set within the Kettle Range, this remote corner of northeastern Washington invites travelers to slow down, explore and reconnect with the outdoors.

For a scenic drive that rivals any in the state, the Sherman Pass Scenic Byway along Highway 20 winds between

Republic and Kettle Falls, offering sweeping vistas with remarkably little traffic. Cyclists, meanwhile, often opt for the quieter route through Curlew over Boulder Pass, where the climb is gentler but the views remain just as rewarding.

At the heart of the county lies Republic, a small city with roots in gold rush fever. Once known as Eureka Gulch, the town still carries the look and feel of the early 1900s. Surrounded by the Colville National Forest, Republic serves as a hub for outdoor adventure year-round—whether it's hiking, fishing, bird watching or snowshoeing through quiet winter trails.

One of the area's standout attractions is the Stonerose Interpretive Center and Eocene Fossil Site, where visitors can dig for fossils dating back millions of years and glimpse life during the Eocene Era. History continues at the Ferry County Historical Society, home to exhibits and the Kaufman Cabin, the town's oldest surviving structure. A self-guided walking tour reveals murals and historic markers that bring Republic's past to life.

Outdoor recreation defines Ferry County. The renowned Kettle Crest Trail stretches roughly 30 miles from Sherman Pass to Boulder-Deer Creek Summit, traversing alpine meadows and offering panoramic views of surrounding river



valleys. Closer to town, the Ferry County Rail Trail follows a former railway corridor for 25 miles between Republic and Danville, with camping spots and gentle grades ideal for biking and walking. The shorter Golden Tiger Trail provides a convenient option for both motorized and nonmotorized users.

Water lovers gravitate to Curlew Lake, where fishing, boating and lakeside camping define the summer season. Across the county, lakes and streams teem with rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout, along with bass and kokanee.

In Curlew, history and small-town charm meet along the Kettle River. The preserved Ansonge Hotel offers a glimpse into early 20th-century life, famously hosting Henry Ford in 1917. Nearby, a one-lane historic bridge and an antique car museum add to the town's nostalgic appeal.

Seasonal events bring the community together, from Prospectors' Days in June to the classic county fair held each Labor Day weekend at the Ferry County Fairgrounds, complete with a restored antique carousel.



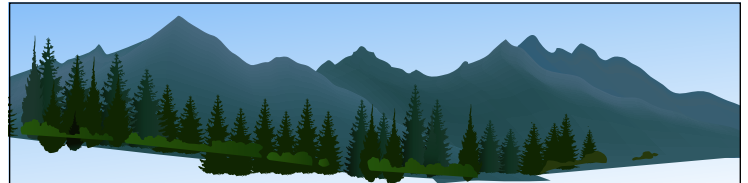


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The region's craft beverage scene is as varied as its landscape. Wineries and breweries dot the valley, many offering live entertainment, small bites and pours crafted from locally-grown grapes, hops and grains. Oroville anchors the northern wine trail with stops like Esther Bricques Winery and Copper Mountain Vineyards. Nearby Ferry County adds its own flavor at Republic Brewing Company, where hand-crafted beers are paired with a steady lineup of live music. In the Methow Valley, longtime local favorites such as Old Schoolhouse Brewery and Lost River Winery blend small-town charm with creative energy. To the south, Lone Point Cellars in Brewster offers a scenic setting atop a bluff overlooking the Columbia River — the kind of place where visitors linger long after the last sip.

Similarly, Okanogan Country's golf courses deliver unforgettable rounds framed by lakes, rivers and high desert terrain. Courses range from relaxed, community-centered layouts to destination resorts.

At Gamble Sands in Brewster, golfers find one of the Northwest's premier experiences, with sweeping views of the Columbia River and a course designed to embrace the natural contours of the land. Its newest addition, Scarecrow, opened last year and quickly earned national attention, including top honors from Golf Digest and Sports Illustrated.

Elsewhere, players can tee off beside Alta Lake near Pateros, take in coulee views at Banks Lake Golf and Country Club, or enjoy the laid-back atmosphere at courses in Omak, Oroville and beyond. In the Methow Valley and Lake Chelan areas, fairways wind through mountain backdrops and vineyard country, offering a round that's as scenic as it is satisfying.



When the sun goes down, the energy shifts. Okanogan Country's casino scene offers a lively mix of gaming, dining and entertainment. The 12 Tribes Resort and Casino, just south of Omak, features expansive gaming floors, dining options and a vibrant nightlife atmosphere. To the east, Coulee Dam Casino provides a more intimate setting, while Mill Bay Casino in Manson offers a covered amphitheater with an intimate layout, that delivers big-name entertainment.

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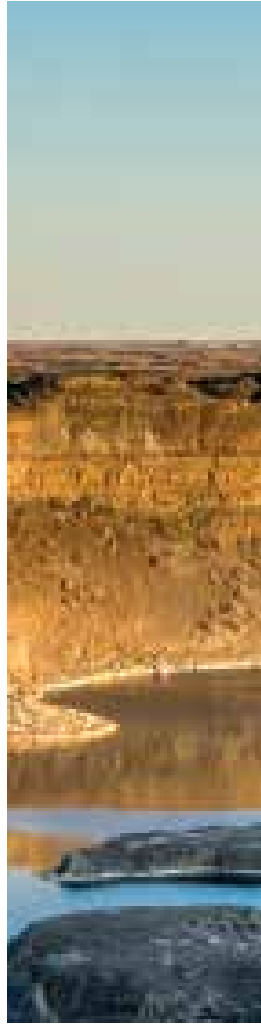
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Grand Coulee and the Coulee Corridor

Carved by ancient floods and defined by modern engineering, Washington's coulee country offers a landscape where dramatic geology meets human achievement. At its center stands Grand Coulee Dam, a towering presence on the Columbia River and one of the largest concrete structures in the world.

Completed in 1941 after eight years of construction, the dam rises 550 feet and stretches nearly a mile across the canyon. Built as a Depression-era project, it remains

the largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States while irrigating more than 500,000 acres of farmland across the region. Visitors can explore the site year-round at the dam's visitor center along State Route 155, with guided tours offered in summer. From May through September, evenings bring the popular Laser Light Show, where light and sound transform the dam face into a vivid storytelling canvas.

Just upstream, Lake Roosevelt stretches 152 miles to the Canadian border, offering abundant opportunities for boating, fishing and camping. With more than two dozen boat launches and countless shoreline access points, it's a favorite for anglers and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Nearby Spring Canyon Park provides a relaxed setting with beaches, picnic areas and family-friendly amenities.

South of the dam, Banks Lake winds for 30 miles between basalt cliffs, anchored by the towering presence of Steamboat Rock. At Steamboat Rock State Park, visitors can camp, hike and explore the surrounding desert landscape. A short drive leads to Northrup Canyon, where a scenic trail climbs to a secluded, stream-fed lake tucked high above the coulee floor.



For sweeping views of the Columbia River and the dam itself, Crown Point offers one of the region's most striking overlooks.

To the north, the town of Nespelem adds cultural and historical depth. Located on the Colville Indian Reservation, it sits along the Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway, a route known for its sweeping desert vistas and remarkable birdlife. A roadside marker honors Chief Joseph, whose people were forced from their Oregon homeland in 1877 and later resettled here. The site is part of the broader Nez Perce National Historical Park.

The byway itself is a destination, tracing a path through cliffs carved by Ice Age floods and wetlands rich with wildlife. It's recognized as part of Washington's premier birding trail, where sandhill cranes, bald eagles and dozens of other species can be seen throughout the year. Along the route, Dry Falls stands as a powerful reminder of the region's prehistoric past—a former waterfall once larger than Niagara.



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Step Back in Time

History isn't tucked away in Okanogan Country—it's scattered across the landscape, waiting to be discovered. From carefully preserved museums to roadside markers that tell stories of boomtowns, pioneers and tribal heritage, the region offers countless ways to connect with the past while enjoying the beauty of the present.

For those who like their history up close, Okanogan County's museums provide an immersive look at life in earlier days. In the northern reaches, the Ansoorge Hotel Museum in Curlew invites visitors into a fully furnished early 20th-century hotel, offering a glimpse of travel and hospitality in a bygone era. Just down the road, the Antique Car and Truck Museum showcases vintage vehicles that once rolled across these rural highways.

In Okanogan, the Bruce and Merilyn Wilson Research Center serves as a hub for local history buffs, housing documents and archives from both the Okanogan County Historical Society and the county's genealogical society. Nearby, the Okanogan County Historical Museum recreates a small-town main street, complete with exhibits highlighting the apple industry, early homesteads and pioneer life. The adjacent Fire Hall Museum adds another layer, preserving the story of the community's early emergency services.

And for rodeo fans, the Omak Stampede Museum – open during Stampede week in August – offers a glimpse of the Old West and the people who shaped the Omak Stampede and World-Famous Suicide Race.

Tribal history is thoughtfully preserved at the Colville Tribal Museum and Gift Shop in Coulee Dam, where visitors can learn about the traditions and culture of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Not far away, the Fort Okanogan Interpretive Center overlooks the Columbia River, marking the site of one of Washington's earliest fur-trading posts and offering sweeping views along with its history.

Smaller communities hold treasures of their own. The Conconully Museum shares stories of a town shaped by mining booms, fire and flood, while the Shafer Museum in Winthrop features rustic cabins and outdoor exhibits that bring pioneer life into focus. In Oroville, the Old Customs House and Old Oroville Depot stand as quiet reminders of the region's border and rail history.

For a truly unique experience, head to Republic's Stonerose Interpretive Center and Eocene Fossil Site, where visitors can dig for fossils in an ancient lakebed, uncovering plants, fish and insects preserved for millions of years. Nearby, the Kaufman Cabin offers a look at one of Republic's oldest surviving structures, built in 1896.

Up near the Canadian border, Molson delivers a step straight into the past. The Molson School Museum and the

nearby Old Molson ghost town are among the most well-preserved in the Northwest, with original buildings and farm implements that paint a vivid picture of frontier life.

Beyond museum walls, history unfolds along the highways and backroads through a network of interpretive signs maintained by the Okanogan County Historical Society. These markers transform a scenic drive into a journey through time. Travelers can trace early routes like the Caribou Trail and Chiliwist Trail, or pause at sites like China Ditch, built by Chinese miners in the 19th century, and McLoughlin Canyon, where conflict once erupted during the region's mining days.

Other stops highlight the people and places that shaped the county—from the orchards planted by Hiram "Okanogan" Smith to the remnants of boomtowns like Ruby and the enduring presence of St. Mary's Mission. Each sign adds a layer to the story, often set against sweeping views of rivers, valleys and rolling hills.

Whether you're wandering through a historic cabin, exploring a ghost town or simply pulling over to read a roadside marker, Okanogan Country invites you to slow down and take it all in. Here, history isn't just preserved—it's part of the journey.





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