

What's new in the Thompson Okanagan - October 2009

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

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"Life is Good" in the Thompson Okanagan

This is a region that amazes visitors with its diversity. From the dry and arid desert in the south, to the lush spectacular mountains in the north, our region provides an abundance of activities for everyone. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy a wide variety of activities such as mountain biking, hiking, climbing, fishing, canoeing and wildlife viewing. Sport lovers will be busy with championship golf courses, destination ski resorts and boating activities. Families can enjoy farms, beaches and a multitude of fun choices for everyone's particular tastes. And speaking of tastes... vineyards, wineries, fresh fruit, scenic dining... the Thompson Okanagan is a sensory experience not to be missed. Located halfway between Vancouver and the Canadian Rockies, we are located 45 minutes flying and 4 hours driving time from Vancouver and 45 minutes flying and 8 hours driving time from Calgary.

New Attractions and Accommodations:



Walnut Beach Resort

This beautiful property on Osoyoos Lake contains 110 suites ranging in size from studio to one or two bedroom suites to a 1,300 sq. ft. penthouse. All units feature fully equipped designer kitchens, wireless remote and flat screen TV's. Situated on an 800 ft. private beach, the property also boasts meeting and convention space for up to 150 people along with a business centre and full service spa. Food and beverage will include a 40 seat wine and tapas bar.

Osoyoos

Email: dbrogan@walnutbeachosooyoos.com Website: www.walnutbeachosooyoos.com Phone: 250-485-7996



Hijas-Bonitas Winery Helicopter Tours

Fly out of Kelowna along the shores of Okanagan Lake to Hijas Bonitas Vineyard 20 minutes away. Not only will your clients see some fabulous bird's eye views, you'll sample some of their wines selections and be treated to a catered lunch overlooking the lake. A full day package includes a two-hour personalized classic tour to some additional award-winning wineries hosted by Nixdorf Classic Cars. Customized helicopter tours are available from the winery or airport.

Summerland

Email: info@hijas-bonitas.com Website: www.hijas-bonitas.com www.northernairsupport.com Phone: 250-494-5208



Rock Ridge Canyon

Rock Ridge Canyon is a year-round camp, retreat and conference facility, located near Princeton. From September through June, Rock Ridge Canyon is available for groups wishing to host retreats, meetings, conferences and camps. Set in a beautiful valley, this well-serviced facility provides endless fun with challenging adventure courses and adrenaline pumping activities. The property is perfect for school, church, business or non-profit organization groups, excellent for traveling student youth groups and can accommodate from 50 to 330 people.

Princeton

Email: khula@younglife.ca Website: www.rockridgecanyon.com Phone: 604-881-6023



Best Western Wine Country Hotel

Located in the heart of the Okanagan, this Westbank Kelowna hotel is situated just minutes from downtown Kelowna, BC and features 99 hotel rooms and suites. Guestrooms are equipped with a pillow top mattress, microwave, refrigerator, iron with a full sized ironing board, hairdryer, free high-speed Internet access and a 32-inch flat panel LCD Television. There is also an indoor swimming pool with a 40' slide, meeting facilities and the property offers complimentary continental breakfast.

West Kelowna

Email: cera@bestwesternwinecountry.com Website: www.bestwesternwinecountry.com Phone: 250-707-1637



Twin Anchors House Boats

Sicamous is the House Boat Capital of Canada. Family, friends and corporate groups (2-40 passengers) can be accommodated on a variety of beautiful boats. It's easy to get lost in the majesty of Shuswap and Mara Lakes. The wildlife abounds in the area's easily accessible 30 marine parks. And while the scenery may be rugged, your house boat accommodation certainly isn't. Complete with designer kitchens, hot tubs, satellite tv and radio, boats can also be fully catered.

Sicamous/Shuswap Lake

Email: penny@twinanchors.com Website: www.twinanchors.com Phone: 250-836-2450



Black Mountain Golf Resort

Kelowna

The Thompson Okanagan's newest golf course is within a master planned community located in east Kelowna. Much of the course is set in a natural valley as seen in this shot of one of the holes that features an island green. There's also a large clubhouse with restaurant and pro shop but the interesting facet of Black Mountain is that they don't want "white glove service" You won't have your clubs picked up in the parking lot, no GPS units, fewer frills because they want to keep prices down. Their most expensive green fee is \$65.

Email: ethorsteinson@blackmountain.ca

Web: www.blackmountain.ca

Ph: 250-765-6890



WestJet Airlines

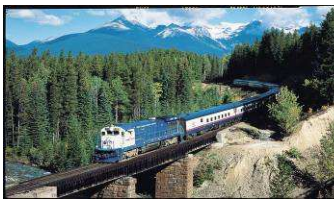
Kamloops

WestJet Airlines commences daily, year round service between Kamloops and Vancouver in Nov 09. Flights times are Kamloops-Vancouver: Dep-10:45 am Arr- 11:40 am Vancouver-Kamloops: Dep-12:30 pm Arr-1:20 pm. West jet has also revised their Calgary-Kamloops schedule moving the departure time earlier to 10:05 am allowing Toronto passengers easy same day connection.

Email: inboundcanadasales@westjet.com

Website: www.westjet.com

Phone: 514-426-5913



Rocky Mountaineer Okanagan Vacations

Kamloops

For the first time, Rocky Mountaineer vacation will be offering escorted gold leaf service wine & golf excursions to the Okanagan from Kamloops. The 2-3 day trips will offer a variety of luxurious properties including lakeside resorts. Many of the wineries and golf course that the Okanagan has become famous for, will be packaged in the tours featuring high end properties from Vernon to Osoyoos. The Rocky Mountaineer Okanagan tours will commence in 2010.

Email: jfrederick@totabc.com Website: Contact TOTA for more information

Phone: 250-860-5999



Great Horned Owl Eco Tours

Osoyoos

Situated in the Okanagan Valley in and around Canada's only desert, Great Horned Owl Tours offer outdoor enthusiasts of all ages a variety of unique educational excursions and exciting learning opportunities. Whether interested in endangered ecosystems, the history of gold mining or observing rare bird species, the tours are fun and rewarding ecological experiences. Great Horned Owl Eco-Tours specializes in small groups led by friendly & informative guides.

Email: info@okanaganecotours.com Website: www.okanaganecotours.com Phone: 250-495-0695 Fax: 250-495-6895



Carmel Beach

Shuswap Lake

Carmel Beach Private Lodges is a collection of 23 lodges on magnificent Shuswap Lake. A mix of 3- 4 bedroom units ranging in size up to 2,492 sq ft, the resort offers 280 feet of beach, marina and mooring buoys with GPS locators. The 3,500 sq ft Clubhouse features a fitness centre, fireside lounge, billiards and games room, theatre room and an outdoor swimming pool and hot tub. Close to golf and boating, the units feature expansive decks, stone fireplaces, spacious layouts and multiple bedrooms perfect for large gatherings. (Minimum 3 night)

Email: charmainer@bellstar.ca

Website: www.carmelbeach.ca

Phone: 250- 403-313-6375



Outback Resort

Vernon

Located in a hill side forest setting next to Okanagan Lake, this 60 acre property offers two to three bedroom units in styles ranging from town homes to villas and cabins that are all connected by walking trails and boardwalks. Amenities include a fitness center, tennis courts and marina that include canoes and kayaks for guest use. The units also feature designer kitchens, plasma tv's, internet, fireplaces that all overlook a beachfront pool and hot tubs.(Minimum 3 night)

Email: mdempster@thecovekelowna.com Website: www.theoutbackresort.com Phone: 250-545-5005

Mount Robson Berg Lake Trail Hike
This trail is legendary amongst hikers, willing to carry their backpacks to Mountain Nirvana! The Berg Lake Trail is a culmination of everything the Rockies stand for. The trail starts at the base of the Rockies' highest peak, Mount Robson. 5 days/4 nights of surreal beauty and all gear supplied

www.kanatabc.com

Paddle, fish and waterfalls deep in the heart of Wells Gray Park

Imagine taking a jet boat over 100 kilometres to the far reaches of the park to canoe, fish and see the Park's famous "Rainbow Falls" for a day. Or, you can keep the canoe or use your own and take a few days to paddle back on Azure and Clearwater Lakes. It doesn't get much more beautiful and remote than this. Gear is included in full tours.

www.clearwaterlaketours.com

Sleep in a Teepee and ride a Stagecoach!

Historic Hat Creek Ranch near Kamloops offers a rare opportunity to see and experience how the west was won. Re-live the days of the settlers and learn the fascinating story of First Nations' people.

www.hatcreekranch.com

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