

What's new in the Thompson Okanagan - March 2010

• **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:



Best Western Hotel

Centrally located, this is Kamloops' newest hotel with a spectacular view of the city and valley. Rooms have concrete walls, granite counter tops on all furniture and 9 ft ceilings. Located just 2 blocks from Thompson Rivers University, Tournament Capitol Center, Canada Games Pool, shopping centres and downtown. The 81 room hotel is 100% smoke free with an indoor pool and free hot continental breakfast. This is an ideal property for sports teams, golfers and FIT.

Kamloops

Email: timsoffice@shawcable.com

Website: www.bestwestern.com

Phone: 250-374-7878



Watermark Resort

Watermark is a four-star, four story waterfront resort comprised of 123 condominium suites ranging from studios to 2 bedroom suites and 30 beachfront townhouse residences. 85% of Watermark suites provide views overlooking Canada's warmest lake, and the remaining suites enjoying sunset mountain views. The property has 1,000 feet of kid friendly beach with no power boats allowed ashore. There are boutique shops located street side in addition to a full service restaurant, pool side Tapas bar and 200 seat conference centre.

Osoyoos

Email: jdubois@watermarkbeachresort.com Website: www.watermarkbeachresort.com Phone: 250-495-5500



Rock Ridge Canyon ***Ideal for group functions/music festivals** Princeton

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.

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 Houseboats

Sicamous is the Houseboat 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

Phone: 250-765-6890



Holiday Inn & Suites

Kamloops

The Holiday Inn & Suites offers 74 rooms, an indoor pool, hot tub, fitness room and high speed internet. The hotel is conveniently located on the North Shore of Kamloops, only four kilometres from the city centre, and less than 5 minutes from the Kamloops Airport. The hotel offers an on-site White Spot Restaurant & Lounge.

Email: s.earle@hiskamloops.com

Website: www.ichotelsgroup.com

Phone: 250-376-8288



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: wholesalers@rockymountaineer.com

Website: www.rockymountaineer.com

Phone: 1-800-665-7245



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



Comfort Inn & Suites

Kelowna

The Comfort Suites Hotel is located in the heart of Kelowna, just minutes from downtown and the airport. A number of local attractions, including the Kelowna Museum, the Rotary Centre for the Arts, Prospera Place Stadium and the largest mall in the interior are all close to this hotel. This 83 room property features complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, free high speed wireless, fitness room and an indoor pool with waterslide.

Email: karyn_smith@choicehotels.ca

Website: www.comfortsuites.com

Phone: 250-861-1110

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

Japanese Guided Tours/Language Assistance/Step On Guides in Penticton

A new company is offering language assistance (step on guides) in the Okanagan to RTO's in addition to their core products of home stay, language training, cultural experiences, airport pick up/drop off and vacation packages to visiting Japanese. This husband and wife team have many years experience in Japan.

www.candianspiritservices.com

Geocaching -Modern Day Treasure Hunting in a unique area of BC!

If you have clients interested in Geocaching, then this is the place to be. This is a unique historical exploration program that uses GPS coordinates or traditional clues and is the first of its kind in B.C. Over 72 caches are hidden around Gold Country in the western Thompson Okanagan. It's free and timeless!

www.goldcountry.bc.ca

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association Information: www.totabc.org