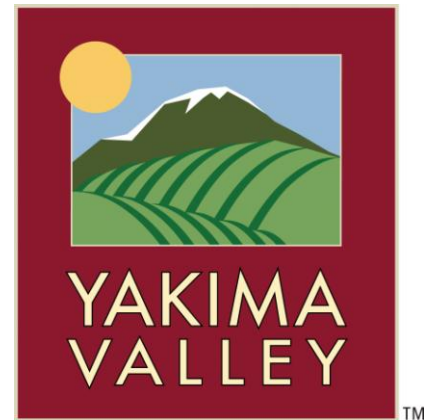

Yakima Valley Press Kit

Contact Us

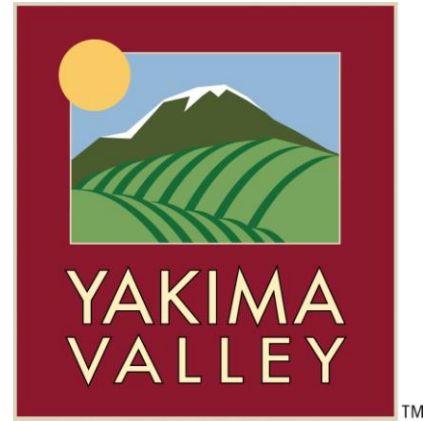
Welcome! We appreciate your interest in the Yakima Valley and its surrounding areas. This press kit is a resource for journalists.

If you need more information regarding the Yakima Valley please contact:

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Yakima Valley Facts



Name

The origin of the name remains unknown, though there are legends that describe the derivation of the city's name. The most popular legend explains that the daughter of a Native American chief from Moxie ran away breaking tribal rules and settled on the Yakima River. In this legend the name Yakima means "runaway".

Another derivation of the name is what the Native Americans used to refer to Yakima as, "Beginning of Life, Big Belly, and Bountiful."

Source: Yakima Valley Museum

Established

The first white men to view the Yakima Valley were members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805.

In 1865, the Yakima County was officially established with rich volcanic soil covering the valley and by 1880 nearly 3,000 people were reported in the county.

Geography

Yakima is located at latitude 46° 34' N, longitude 120° 32' W, on central Washington. It is approximately two hours and fifteen minutes, driving time, and 143 miles from the Seattle.

City of Yakima	20 sq. miles
Yakima County	4,296.23 sq. miles
Washington State	66,544 sq. miles

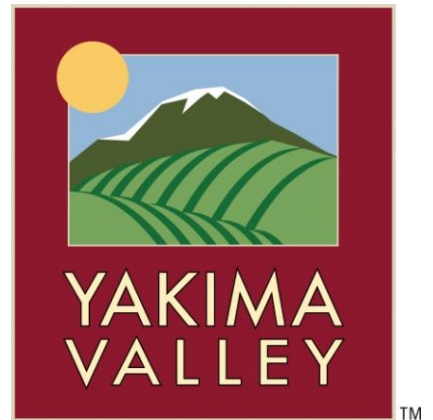
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Climate

Average Temperatures (Fahrenheit)

January	37°/21°
February	46°/26°
March	56°/30°
April	64°/35°
May	73°/42°
June	80°/49°
July	88°/53°
August	86°/52°
September	78°/44°
October	64°/35°
November	48°/28°
December	38°/23°

Source: MSNWeather.com



Wine Country

The Yakima Valley is home to four American Viticultural Areas (AVAs), more than 70 wineries and over one third of the state's vineyards. It has a rich diversity of microclimates, rugged hillsides, and wetlands. These factors contribute to the many wine grape varieties and wine styles achieved from Yakima Valley grapes. The most widely planted varieties are Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Syrah, and Riesling.

But the region's impact and influence on the wine industry haven't gone to its head. The Yakima Valley remains one of the friendliest, most affordable and laid-back destinations in the state. The Valley's approachability is outshined only by the diversity of its wine-inspired diversions. Choose a walking tour of tasting rooms in historic downtown Yakima, a leisurely scenic drive from vineyard to vineyard in and around Wapato and Zillah, a stroll through urbane tasting rooms in Prosser or rest easy overnight in a romantic wine-country inn.

Every day is a good day to visit Yakima Valley wine country, but the excursion is even more enchanting during one of the region's wine celebrations:

- At Spring Barrel Tasting, which takes place the last full weekend in April, you'll have the opportunity to sample wine straight from the barrel and stake a claim to the finished product before its even bottled.
- During Thanksgiving in Wine Country, the region's wineries invite enthusiasts to celebrate the season of plenty, which is especially fitting in this bountiful agricultural valley.
- At Red Wine & Chocolate over Presidents' Day weekend (and close to Valentine's Day), chocolate lovers and wine devotees come together to enjoy pairings of creamy confections and rich red wines.

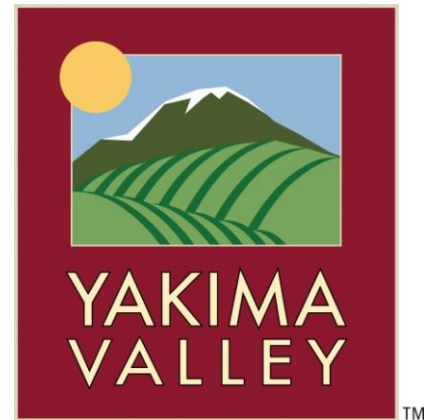
Farm Fresh Fun

Eating local is a snap when you're surrounded by farms and orchards. More than 40 commercial crops are grown in the Yakima Valley, which enjoys sunshine 300 days a year. Farm-fresh produce is within reach almost year-round, from asparagus in April to apples and potatoes in November. Some summer months are particularly fruitful, like July, which tempts with just-picked apricots, green beans, blueberries, corn, nectarines and squash.

Nowhere else in the state can you feast on food so close to where it was grown. Love cherries? Eat one in the Yakima Valley and if you toss the pit hard enough, you'll probably hit the farm it came from. You might say that in the Valley, the source of your next meal is just a stone-fruit's throw away. And a trip to a family-owned local farm beats a visit to the grocery store any day.

Visit one of these seasonal open-air bazaars and you'll have a unique opportunity to meet the friendly farmers who grow your food. They'll not only greet you warmly and supply you with samples of their mouth-watering produce they'll also happily share cooking tips and introduce you to new varieties of fruits and vegetables you may never have tasted.

Yakima Valley History



The City That Moved

History records note the first white men to view the Yakima Valley were members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805. During that period, this vast area lying at the foot of towering Mt. Rainier and its neighbors in the Cascade Range, served as hunting, fishing and agricultural land for the Yakama Indian Tribe.

By 1880, nearly 3,000 people were reported in the county. With agriculture becoming firmly established, the railroads naturally followed. In 1884, Northern Pacific extended its iron horse service to the valley. Some of the townspeople of the growing community of Yakima City refused to make certain concessions asked by the railroad. Northern Pacific then routed its track 4 miles north of the original Yakima City and named its terminal point, North Yakima. The railroad then offered to move any of the Yakima City buildings to its newly established community. This began an unusual piece of Yakima's history: the actual movement of approximately 60 buildings from "Old Yakima" to "North Yakima" to surround the railroad terminal. The courthouse, banks, general store, blacksmith shops, saloons and some homes were moved on log rollers over the 4-mile trail. It was reported that business never ceased as the buildings were strung out along the route.

One January 27, 1886 North Yakima was incorporated and was named the county seat. It was not until 1981 that the prefix "north" was dropped from the name. At that time, the original Yakima City, four miles to the south, and commonly referred to then as "Old Town" by some and "Union Gap" by others, officially adopted the latter as its name.

Union Gap

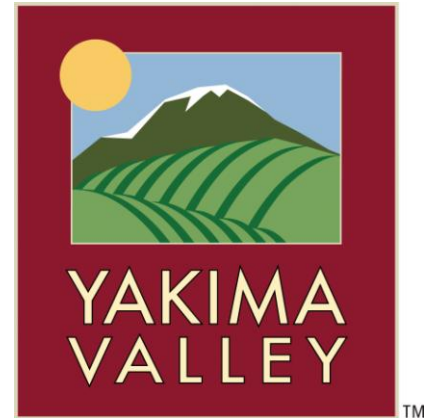
Neighboring Yakima to the south is Union Gap, named for the gap between the hills created by the Yakima River. The Native Americans called it "Pahoticute" – the place where two mountain heads come together. White settlers called it "Two Buttes." A federal government survey party named it "Union Gap" after the Civil War.

Yakama Nation – Heritage & Legacy

The land of the Yakama Nation stretches from the Yakima River into a wide fertile valley that is surrounded by foothills covered in wild flowers and sagebrush progressing to the pine trees and towering volcanic peak of Mount Adams. Designed to tell the story of the Plateau people and their lands, the Yakama Nation Museum is recognized as one of the finest Native American Museums in the United States.

The Yakama Nation Treaty was signed on June 9, 1855 in Walla Walla, Washington. The treaty included hunting and fishing rights for our tribal members on the Yakama Reservation and surrounding ancient ancestral land and 2005 marked the 150-year anniversary of the treaty signing. With 1.3 million acres and 10,000 enrolled members, the Yakama nation is recognized as one of the largest and most progressive tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

Historic Attractions



Yakima Valley Museum and Children's Underground Museum

This museum offers historical exhibits of the Yakima Valley's natural history, American Indian culture, pioneer life, early city life, and the roots and development of the Valley's fruit industry. It is also home to an exhibit of the Washington D.C. office of former Yakima resident and environmentalist, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. A unique attribute is an operating 1930's Art Deco Soda Fountain where you can order up an old fashioned malt and other ice cream treats.

Yakima Electric Railway Museum

The Yakima Electric Railway Museum is housed in the 1910-built YVT car-barn building which has an ancient belt-driven machine shop, a blacksmith's shop, a 15-ton crane and the entire collection of Yakima trolleys and electric locomotives.

Yakima Valley Trolleys

Vintage wooden railroad trolley cars give rides over the tracks of the 102-year-old Yakima Valley Transportation Company. The shorter run goes up Pine Street and the longer run goes to Selah.

Yakima Valley Rail & Steam Museum

This unique museum has a restored telegraph office and numerous displays about Pacific Northwest railroads and the Yakima Valley. Outside the depot are many pieces of Northern Pacific railroad rolling stock from cabooses to boxcars and a 1902 steam locomotive undergoing restoration.

American Hop Museum

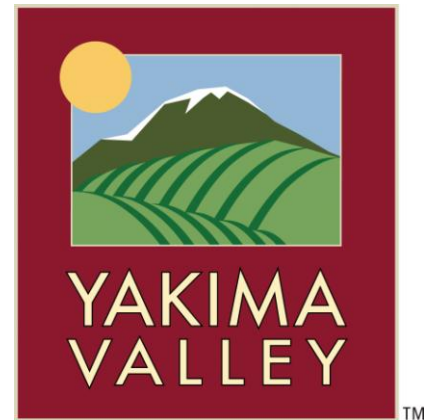
The only museum of its kind in the United States, this museum features the rich history of the hop industry since the 1500's. The Yakima Valley produces approximately 70% of the United States hops. The story is told through fascinating murals, displays, photos, implements, and a colonial brewery exhibit.

Central Washington Agriculture Museum

Central Washington Agricultural Museum is 15 acres filled with displays of large farm equipment. From Cletrac crawler tractors to Wind Machines, the informative exhibits help tell how machinery was instrumental in developing the Valley's fertile lands into one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation.

Fort Simcoe State Park Heritage Site

Established in 1856 as a result of hostilities between the Native Americans and the white men, Fort Simcoe has become one of the most-visited historical spots in the Yakima Valley. It was home to the infantry who watched over the area in the mid 1800's and was built as the advance post of the 9th Regiment, United State Infantry in 1855. Its purpose was two fold by protecting the Native Americans against the encroachment of the new settlers on their land and protecting the settlers against Native Americans rebelling against new restrictions.



Historic Attractions (cont.)

Where the West Still Lives, “City of Murals”

Toppenish, the "City of Murals", has over 65 murals with more in the planning stage. The murals show scenes from the Old West, railroading, rodeos, farming, aviation events, and various historical events. Every mural painted is a historically correct depiction of the area's history. Enjoy the annual Mural in a Day held the first Saturday of June. Watch several artists bring their paintbrushes to life and complete a mural in one day.

Yakama Nation Cultural Center

The Yakama Nation Cultural Center represents and preserves the history of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. It is comprised of the Yakama Nation Museum, Cultural Center Gift Shop, the Heritage Inn Restaurant, the Heritage Theater and the Yakama Nation Library.

State Fair Park

State Fair Park is home to the Central Washington State Fair and the beautiful Yakima Valley SunDome. Built on 135 acres, the State Fair Park dates back to 1894 and houses such buildings as the Modern Living Building, Pioneer Hall, State Fair Room and 100 year-old Ag Building. The Yakima Valley SunDome is a premier event venue for concerts, rodeo, sporting events, trade shows and conventions. It is also home to the Central Washington State Fair which takes place the last week in September of each year.

Culture

Performing Arts

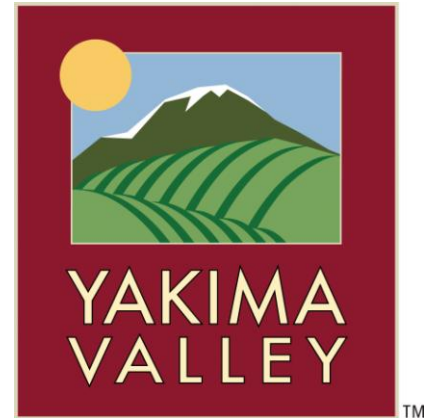
The Capitol Theatre serves as Yakima's primary performing arts facility and is located in downtown Yakima. This completely refurbished 82-year-old historic Vaudeville theatre is a true testament to the community's dedication to its past and the arts. The stage is home to the productions of numerous local organizations such as the Yakima Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall Series, Community Concerts, as well as national tours and spectacular Broadway touring productions.

The Warehouse Theatre Company serves as another recognizable art center located in west Yakima. It features an outstanding Art Gallery and offers an impressive series of community plays throughout the year.

Yakima's Symphony Orchestra provides an outstanding musical series. Each performance includes incredible guest artists accompanied by the orchestra

The Seasons Music Festival is a former church that was built using 17th century Italian architectural designs. Its stain glass windows and high arching majestic ceiling provide the perfect ambiance for music and unparalleled natural acoustics.

Outdoor Activities



Hiking and Fishing

If it is hiking you are interested in, this is the place to do it. The Pacific Crest Trail is accessible at the summit and there are numerous trailheads in this area for hikers of all abilities. Other activities include fishing, hunting, or simply exploring the high lakes, mountain meadows or any of the countless streams throughout this wilderness area. Rimrock Lake and Bumping Lake is also a great place to fish, swim, boating is available and the wildlife viewing is spectacular.

Skiing

White Pass Ski Company has excellent Alpine and Nordic facilities in the winter and a number of summer activities. Those interested in alpine skiing and snowboarding will enjoy the five ski lifts, including the Great White High Speed Quad and rope tow, 350 inches of annual snowfall, and a 1,500-foot vertical drop.

Yakima River Canyon

The pleasures and beauty of the Yakima Canyon Road, Washington 821, connecting Interstate 90 and Interstate 82 are breathtaking. This canyon has been designated as a state scenic route and offers excellent wildlife viewing, fishing, family style river rafting and camping.

Fly Fishing

Fly-fishing is one of the fastest growing activities on the Yakima River, otherwise known as the place to "Chase Rainbows." The Yakima River is a classic western trout stream in every sense. The riffles and pools provide great places for prize rainbows to hide and feed. Anglers must release all trout on this river, and are restricted to artificial flies or lures with a barbless hook.

White Water Rafting

If the tranquil and leisurely water trips are not for you, don't despair. The Yakima Valley is home to one of the state's top white water rafting trips during the fall. The Yakima Valley's Flip Flop, an annual event designed to fully utilize one of the Valley's most precious resources, turns the Tieton River into a rafter's dream each year during the month of September.

Golfing

Yakima has a golfing experience for all levels. Apple Tree has gained notoriety for the famous 17th hole, a par-3 apple-shaped island representing one of Yakima Valley's best products. Public golfing is also available at the River Ridge Course in Selah, Sun Tides Golf Course, or two community golf courses, Westwood Golf Course, Fisher Golf Course, and Mt. Adams Golf Course in the lower valley.

Bicycling

From spectacular views to challenging climbs, the Yakima Valley has much to offer bicycling enthusiasts. Elite cyclists will enjoy the grades west of Yakima from Eschbach Park to Naches Heights and Lake Wenas. A less strenuous but breathtaking trip is to explore the beauty of the Yakima River Canyon.

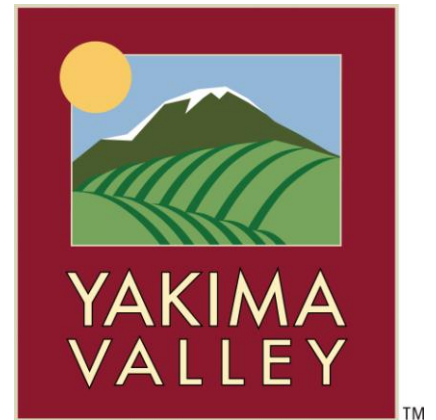
Outdoor Activities (cont.)

Yakima Greenway

Other activities include a walk, bicycle ride, roller blade or any other form of exercise that may interest you on the Yakima Greenway. A ten-mile paved path that follows the Yakima River includes a string of parks, shady nooks, lakes and playgrounds.

Yakima Area Arboretum

This unique “tree museum” is home to over 2,000 specimens of both native and exotic plants from around the world. It also has one of the region’s few Japanese Gardens.



Film and Video

The Yakima Valley is a collective of charming communities located within Central Washington. Boasting four seasons and over 300 days of annual sunshine, the Yakima Valley is an agricultural and multi-recreational area. The geography consists of various types of terrain including dense forests, stark desert landscapes, vineyards, hop and produce fields, orchards, rolling hills, scenic vistas which include Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams and multiple water formations. Numerous historic towns, vintage electric trolleys and scenic wonders are within the Yakima Valley’s countryside. The Yakima Valley provides many film and video opportunities.

For further information please contact:

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Other Film and Video Contacts:

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