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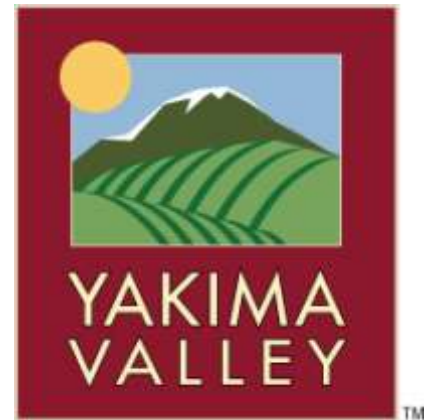
Contact Us

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

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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 a Chief's daughter 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

The Yakima Valley obtains its irrigation water from the Yakima River, which acquires its water from the Cascades converting the valley into a garden area.

Approximately 75% of the nation's total hop production is produced in the Yakima Valley.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Yakima Valley Facts



Population

	2006	2000	1990
City of Yakima	82,802	71,845	54,827
Yakima County	233,105	222,581	188,823
Washington State	6,395,798	5,894,121	4,866,692

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Climate

Average Temperatures (Fahrenheit)

Jan.	37°/21°	May	73°/42°	Sep.	78°/44°
Feb.	46°/26°	June	80°/49°	Oct.	64°/35°
March	56°/30°	July	88°/53°	Nov.	48°/28°
April.	64°/35°	Aug.	86°/52°	Dec.	38°/23°

Source: MSNWeather.com

Accommodations

Hotel rooms available within...

Walking distance from the Convention Center	656
City of Yakima	1,429
Yakima Valley	2,165

History & Culture



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, a century and a half ago, 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, and one of the strangest and most colorful periods in Yakima's history was the actual movement of some 50 to 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. Some reported that business never ceased as the buildings were strung out along the route.

One January 27th, 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. Old timers in the area still refer to Union Gap as "Old Time."

The Yakima Valley's culture and heritage ranges from the military crispness of restored Fort Simcoe, and the proud history reflected by the Yakama Nation, to the "historic" Teapot Dome and an abundance of specialized museums featuring aspects of this region's past. The following museums and interpretive centers offer a flavorful and entertaining glimpse of our Valley, today and yesterday.

History & Culture



Yakima Valley Museum and Children's Underground Museum

Housed in the Yakima Valley Museum, 2105 Tieton Dr., Yakima, WA 98902, (509) 248-0747. This 65,000 ft 2 floor facility offers historical exhibits on the Yakima Valley—its natural history, American Indian culture, pioneer life, early city life, and the roots and development of the Valley's fruit industry. The museum has a superb collection of horse-drawn vehicles, from stagecoach to hearse; a historical exhibit and reconstruction of the Washington D.C. office of former Yakima resident and environmentalist, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas; and a changing schedule of special exhibitions. A gift and bookshop, research library, and an operating 1930's Art Deco Soda Fountain are within the museum walls. The Museum's Soda Fountain has been voted one of the West Coast's "top ten" Old Fashioned Soda Fountains by *Sunset Magazine* readers.

Yakima Electric Railway Museum

The Yakima Electric Railway Museum is located at the Corner of South Third Avenue and Pine Street in Yakima and is open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Admission is free. The 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 Area Arboretum

This unique "tree museum" is home to over 2000 specimens of both native and exotic plants from around the world. Enjoy one of the regions few Japanese Gardens. The Jewett Interpretive Center offers a great location for small meetings, as well as a gift shop and library. *Corner of Nob Hill Blvd & Interstate 82, Yakima, WA 98907, (509) 248-7337.*

Yakima Valley Rail & Steam Museum

Located in the Historic 1911 Northern Pacific Railroad Depot in Toppenish. This unique museum has a restored telegraph office, gift shop 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. Enjoy a picnic in Railroad Park, adjacent to the museum. *10 Asotin Avenue, Toppenish, WA 98948, (509) 865-1911.*

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 over 75 % of the United States hops. This story is told through fascinating murals, displays, photos, implements, and a colonial brewery exhibit. Enjoy a wonderful gift shop on site *22 S. B Street, Toppenish, WA 98948, (509) 865-4677. (HOPS).*

History & Culture



Central Washington Agriculture Museum

A perfect prelude to visiting the history of the Yakima Valley is a visit to the Central Washington Agricultural Museum located just off the Highway 97 overpass in Union Gap. The museum's 15 acres are 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. Most of the equipment, which has been donated by local farm families, includes classics like the 10-20 McCormick Deering tractor, a portable hop picking machine, and a vast collection of horse drawn machinery and even a completely furnished log cabin from 1917. Of special interest is the Magness room which houses a collection of over 3,000 antique hand tools, which came from early residents of the Valley. Stop in or call. *4508 Main Street (in Fulbright Park), Union Gap, WA 98903, (509) 457-8735.*

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. Built as the advance post of the 9th Regiment, United State Infantry in 1855, it was built on an important tribal gathering place on the Yakama Indian Reservation. 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. It was blessed with abundant water, nearby timber, and an unusually moderate climate. When the Fort was no longer used by the military, it became the first home of the Yakama Indian Agency, serving as a school for the Native American children. Visitors can walk through the officers' quarters and see what it was like to live there in the 1850's in this untamed land. Fort Simcoe State Park is located 30 miles west of Toppenish on Fort Simcoe Road. Traveling east on I-82, exit onto Highway 97 just south of Union Gap. Follow Highway 97 to Fort Rd. Travel approximately 13 miles west on Fort Road to Signal Peak Rd., turn left and follow the signs. Fort Simcoe State Park is open from 6:30 a.m. to dusk, April 1 - October 1, and 8:00 a.m. to dusk in the winter. The buildings and interpretive center are open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Fort is open weekends and holidays during the off-season. For more information, call (509) 874-2372.

History & Culture



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. Visitors are invited to come and share the experience of our heritage and legacy at the Yakama Nation Museum and Cultural Heritage Center. 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.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

The fourteen Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation have occupied the land that extends in all directions from the lowlands around the Columbia River to the Cascade Mountains.

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. Our resilience and ingenuity have allowed us to develop thriving modern enterprises, while upholding and teaching our young people about the traditions and cultures that have been sacred for countless generations.

History & Culture



Performing arts in the Yakima Valley come alive each year with a mix of dance, Broadway musicals, concerts, symphonies, community productions, and visual art exhibits.

Located in downtown Yakima, the historic Capitol Theatre serves as Yakima's primary performing arts facility. Seating 1,500 people, this completely refurbished 82-year-old 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. The Theatre seats 232 people, 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

If its Folk music you are interested in, the Yakima Valley Museum and Yakima Folk Life Association presents a series of monthly Folklife concerts that run from October through April and feature regional, national, and international artists. Each summer an annual Folklife Festival features acclaimed musicians from the entire region that play in the museum, Franklin Park, and around town.

The Seasons Music Festival is a new addition to the local performing arts scene in downtown Yakima. The former church 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. A full schedule of quality jazz and classical performances are a perfect compliment to your visit to the valley.

Enjoy some of the cultural events and activities that are available in Yakima. Whether you are a visitor or resident, the Yakima Arts has something for everyone.

Major Attractions



The Yakima Valley is a perfect hub for day trips throughout the Central Washington Region, and numerous historic towns and scenic wonders are within an hour's drive. And neighboring towns will take you back in time. Past and present are side by side in farming communities from apple orchards to grape vineyards. Hit the road and watch the geography change. You will be amazed at the variety and diversity of this region.

Yakima Valley Visitors Information Center

The Yakima Valley Visitors Information Center located at exit #33A with quick on off access to I-82. This high tech Center is equipped with Internet access for visitors to check e-mail, road conditions or get the latest news from home. The hospitable surroundings encourage lingering whether in the gift shop or viewing maps and brochures of Yakima Valley attractions. Visitors can research which experiences and amenities that support the 10,000 acres of vineyards you want to visit through a self-guided tour. 101 North Fair Avenue, Yakima

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. The Selah line is temporarily out of service, but the Pine Street line operates every Saturday, Sunday and Holiday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Fares are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children and \$15 for families. Yakima Valley Trolleys are located at the corner of South Third Avenue and Pine Street in Yakima.

Chimposium

As you travel to the Yakima Valley on I-90, stop in Ellensburg to visit the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute, located on the Central Washington University campus at the corner of "D" Street and Dean Nicholson Boulevard. Attend a one-hour Chimposium for a wonderful educational experience. The Chimposium traces Project Washoe from its inception to the present, discusses free-living chimpanzees, research projects, and you are guided in an observation with Washoe and her family. Prepaid reservations are recommended. The Institute (CHCI) is designed to facilitate research on primate communication, human as well as chimpanzee, and serves as a training center for students, an educational center for the general public, and a sanctuary for Washoe and her family.



Major Attractions

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.

Lower Yakima Valley

A tour down the Yakima Valley will bring you to several small farming communities that feature a variety of attractions. Traveling down I-82 or Highway 97 brings you to the Western Theme town of Toppenish. Here you will discover the richness and history of the Yakama Indian Nation and learn about the Fourteen Confederated Tribes and Bands that call the Yakima Valley and surrounding area their home.

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. As well as the annual Central Washington State Fair, which attracts over 300,000 people, State Fair Park also hosts Rodeo, Horse Shows and a variety of other agricultural and livestock activities year round. The Yakima Valley SunDome is a premier event venue for concerts, rodeo, sporting events, trade shows and conventions and is home to the Yakama Sun Kings basketball team.

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. Murals can be viewed from Conestoga Wagons pulled by mules. Or you can take a walking or auto tour of these beautiful murals. These tours offer a narrated history of each mural with an opportunity to stop and photograph the mural(s) of your choice. Enjoy the annual Mural in a Day program held the first Saturday of June.

Watch several artists bring their paintbrushes to life and complete a large mural in one day.

Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center

Yakima's cultural diversity is represented well by the Yakama Indian Tribe. The Yakama Indian Nation Cultural Center represents and preserves the Indian culture and how Native Americans adapted to our current society. The Cultural Center has become a focal point of activity for the Yakama Tribe, and a major cultural event for thousands of visitors.

Major Attractions



Legends Casino

Yakama Nation Legends Casino is a full service casino featuring table games, poker, keno, pull tabs, bingo, electronic machines, gift shop, customer service center, deli and an all-you-can-eat buffet. The casino is open from 9 am - 4 am during the week, and 9 am - 5 am on the weekend. 580 Fort Rd., Toppenish WA 98948. 1-800-726-6311.

Flying Cows

Continue east down the Yakima Valley and you'll find the town of Sunnyside, a small community, whose mainstay is agriculture, with an emphasis in the dairy industry. The many dairies in this small community make it easy to see why Darigold built a milk and cheese factory here. In fact, a must-see is Darigold Dairy Fair. Darigold boasts over 150 million pounds of cheese per year and Flying Cows. Under the "Big Top", (built as a big circus tent), you will find "squeaky cheese", self-guided tours, gifts, deli, and lots of famous Darigold ice cream. Another great stop in Sunnyside is Snipes Mountain Microbrewery and Restaurant.

Specialty Food and Wine

Prosser is the next community you enter as you travel down the Yakima Valley and is known as the "birthplace of Washington's modern-day wine industry." This charming town is positioned at the confluence of Washington's major wine grape-producing areas the Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin. The region grows 98% of the state's wine grapes. Prosser has gained a solid reputation as one of the state's premium getaway spots. Thousands of visitors come each year to experience area wineries as well as the special and unique events that take place in the community. Look for the Annual Wine & Food Fair, the Great Prosser Balloon Rally, Annual Street Painting & Blues Festival, and other colorful community celebrations and festivals.

Biking, Hiking, or Just Fantastic Views – Our Mountain Ranges Have It All

The Yakima Valley is blessed with excellent weather and a wonderful location for mountain activities. A 40-minute drive from Yakima will bring you to the foot of two spectacular mountain passes. White and Chinook Passes also offer a beautiful scenic drive from western Washington, or a wonderful day trip from anywhere in the Yakima Valley.

Major Attractions



Hiking and Fishing

If it is hiking you are interested in, this is the place to do it. 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. Boating is available at nearby Bumping Lake, and of course, the wildlife viewing is spectacular.

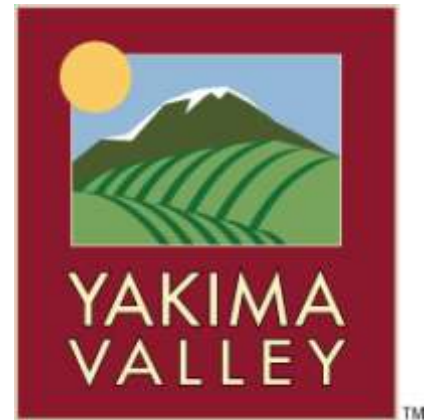
Skiing

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.

During the summer months, enjoy hiking, fishing, and mountain bike riding. The Pacific Crest Trail is accessible at the summit. Rimrock Lake is also a great place to fish and swim. Both Chinook and White Pass meet at the "Y" bringing you into the Upper Yakima Valley at Naches on U.S. 12. Traveling east, you will be entering the Yakima Valley, Gateway to Washington Wine Country.

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. Follow the meandering river, as it sometimes slices between basalt cliffs formed by centuries-old upheavals. It's thought that the Yakima River predates those stony ramparts, once flowing across a relatively flat landscape. As rock ridges rose, river erosion equaled the uplift, cutting a steep, narrow gorge. As you drift, drive or bicycle past you can see the basalt layers in valley walls which once formed part of one of the largest lava fields in the world, said to have covered over 200,000 square miles in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.



Major Attractions

Wildlife Viewing

The canyon attracts bald eagles, especially in winter with their population increasing. Twenty-one raptor species have been recorded. Bird watchers appreciate the numerous mini-climates and vegetation types that foster a variety of species found here.

A long list of wildlife are seen in the area including river otters, coyotes, cougars, elk, bear, deer and approximately two hundred bighorn sheep.

Water Recreation

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the beauty and serenity of the magnificent canyon as well. During the summer months the Yakima River becomes a gentle 11-mile float downstream. Motorized watercrafts are prohibited, on most of the river, offering a relaxing float. Motorized vehicles are allowed between the Roza Recreational Site and Roza Dam, which controls irrigation for 72,000, irrigated acres downstream.

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. The Yakima River is what anglers in Washington State call a "blue-ribbon" trout stream - the best in the state. The prime periods for fishing the Yakima River are spring, when flows are highly variable but a wide variety of insect hatches provide excellent angling, and fall, September to November. There are many outfitters who provide guided outings on the river. If you are a first-time angler to this fantastic river, you may want to contact a professional guide service to take you out.



Major Attractions

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. White water enthusiasts come from all around the Northwest each fall to experience this rafter's paradise. The river is a fast-paced intermediate run that is consistently good due to the dam release. A torrent of water is released from Rimrock Lake down to the Tieton River and into the Naches River to serve irrigation needs each fall. The release more than doubles the river's normal flow to 2,500 cubic feet per second, which draws more rafters each year to tackle this white water adventure.

Although the primary purpose of the release is to distribute water for agriculture, it creates one of the state's only white water rafting locations during the month of September. Osprey Rafting provides white water raft trips down the Tieton River complete with lunch or dinner for those who want to experience this once a year event. Booking with an outfitter is recommended due to the pace of the river. Call early for reservations, as it's the last run of the season, and space fills quickly.

White water rafting isn't the only extreme adventure waiting for you thrill seekers. The mountains west of Yakima offer excellent and ever-popular rock climbing.

Golfing

Yakima's finest golfing experience, Apple Tree Golf Course, located in an orchard in West Yakima offers an opportunity to enjoy a gorgeous experience in the country. 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.



Major Attractions

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. The tough terrain is featured annually in the Tour de Wellness. If you're looking for a less strenuous but breathtaking trip you can enjoy with your family, explore the beauty of the Yakima River Canyon. Each year, traffic is restricted while riders of all ages and ability levels participate in the Your Canyon for a Day Bike Tour. The two rides take place on consecutive days during the third weekend in May. For those who wish to blend their passion for cycling with the bounty of the valley, take a ride through orchards and vineyards. The lower Yakima Valley features many wineries that can be toured by bicycle as well as vehicle. Each year the Wine Country Trek winds from Yakima to Prosser for the annual Balloon Festival. Whether you choose organized rides or a self-directed tour, the sights and smells of the Yakima Valley provide a memorable experience for many visitors.

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. The Greenway is 3,600 acres of lush vegetation in a protected natural greenbelt. The unique trail system includes three parks, two fishing lakes, and two rivers. It has four river access landings and protected and natural areas in which to relax.

Annual Events Calendar



FEBRUARY

Spring Classic Tournament

Yakima Tennis Club

Annual tournament for tennis players 35 years of age and older.

For more information, call 509-248-2938.

Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering

Features a gear and art show, workshops, dances and performances by various Western performers. For more information visit www.acowboygathering.org or call 509-925-2002 / 888-925-2204.

Red Wine and Chocolate

Chocolate lovers, this weekend is for you! Participating wineries pair sumptuous chocolate desserts with their very own remarkable red wines. Sample some of the finest red wines and chocolate confections from over 52 Yakima Valley wineries. For more information, call 800-221-0751.

WIAA 1B State Basketball Tournament

The 1B State Basketball Tournament will be at the Yakima Valley SunDome, 1301 South Fair Avenue. For more information, call 509-248-7160.

Annual ESD #105 Exhibit

High school students share their creativity; selected pieces will go on to state level competition. Exhibit can be viewed at Allied Arts Center, 5000 West Lincoln, from 9am-5pm weekdays. For more information, call 509-966-0930 or visit www.alliedartsyakima.org.

WIAA 1A State Basketball Tournament

The 1A State Basketball Tournament will be at the Yakima Valley SunDome, 1301 South Fair Avenue. For more information, call 509-248-7160.

MARCH

Winter Carnival

White Pass

Celebrate the 20th Annual White Pass Winter Carnival with fun for the entire family. Enjoy the spectacular Snow Castle, Torchlight parade, fireworks, snow sculptures, carnival games, live music, face painting and the Ski for Kids Race. For more information visit www.skiwhitepass.com.

Sweet Retreat

Prosser

The Columbia Valley Winery Association hosts this annual event the second Saturday of March. Participating wineries feature pairings of sweet wine with food and sweet food with wine. For more information, contact 509-786-3177.

Annual Events Calendar



MARCH

Chasing Out the Snakes in Rattlesnake Hills

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Rattlesnake Hills wineries with green wines and zany leprechauns. Wear or bring a snake (no live snakes, please) for special discounts at many of the wineries. For a list of participating wineries, visit www.rattlesnakehills.com or call 888-375-7498 or 509-965-4521.

WIAA Dance and Drill Competition

The WIAA Dance and Drill Competition will be at the Yakima Valley SunDome, 1301 South Fair Avenue. For more information, call 509-248-7160.

Yakima River Canyon Marathon

Run from Ellensburg to rural Selah through the Yakima River Canyon. Start time 8:00 a.m. For registration and further information, visit www.yakimarivercanyonmarathon.com, or call 509-966-1088 or 425-226-1518.

APRIL

Annual Arbor Festival

Visit the Yakima Area Arboretum at the corner of Nob Hill and Interstate 82/Hwy. 24 and check out the 25 plus educational stations featuring the benefits of trees, insect and tree pest displays. Every station will feature hands-on activities or displays. Over 200 trees will be given away and there will be live music and food vendors. Free. For more information, call 509-248-7337.

Annual Kite Festival

Local kite enthusiasts are encouraged to bring their kites to Columbia Crest Winery, Highway 221 and Columbia Crest Drive, to fly with experts from around the Columbia Basin. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. No admittance fee. For more information, call 888-309-9463.

Prosser Wine and Hot Jazz Bash

Classic jazz festival from 10am-11pm throughout the day in multiple locations in downtown Prosser featuring 8 bands and solo artists playing New Orleans Dixieland, Ragtime, and Swing music. For more information, call 509-786-7977, Ext. 197.

6th Annual Spring Fling Festival

Visit Yakima Valley's 5th Annual Spring Fling Festival during Pre-barrel and Spring Barrel wine tasting and enjoy the many family friendly activities throughout the Valley. For more information, call 800-221-0751.

Annual Events Calendar



APRIL

Spring Barrel Tasting

Many of the 47 plus Yakima Valley wineries will enhance the wine tasting experience by adding delicious cheeses, sauces, salsas and desserts to the mix along with music and entertainment. To participate in this event, simply purchase a Reserve Ticket that includes your event wineglass. For more information, call 509-575-3010.

Annual Larson Gallery Arts Awards

Special recognition event honoring a man and a woman for their contributions to the arts in the community, 6-9pm at the Larson Gallery at Yakima Valley Community College, South 16th Avenue and Nob Hill Blvd. For more information, call 509-574-4875.

MAY

Cinco De Mayo Festival

This annual event has become "The Largest Cinco de Mayo Festival in Washington State." Enjoy the 80+ street vendors, live entertainment, carnival rides, and the Miss Cinco de Mayo pageant. If you enjoy Mexican food, this is the place to be. For further information, visit www.sunnysidechamber.com, or call 800-457-8089 or 509-837-5939.

Cinco De Mayo

Celebrating the Battle of Puebla, Mexico, Annual Fiesta Grande Cinco de Mayo in downtown Yakima. Hispanic culture and heritage which features entertainment by Mariachis and other bands, an equestrian show, and much more at downtown Yakima Millennium Plaza on South Third Street, For further information, call the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at 509-453-2050.

Wine Country Spring Fair

Mother's Day weekend, honor your mother, wife, grandmother, aunt or sister by taking her to the annual Prosser Wine Country Spring Fair at the Port of Benton Wine and Food Park, 2840 Lee Road. From 10am-5pm there will be arts and crafts. Free admission and parking. For more information, contact the Prosser Chamber of Commerce, 509-786-3177.

Your Canyon for a Day

A 35-mile round trip through the scenic Yakima River Canyon from 9am-3pm. The road follows the Yakima River up gentle grades with few hills. The highway will be closed to thru traffic. A perfect ride for the whole family! Proceeds benefit the Yakima County Crime Stoppers. For registration or more information, contact Mark Peterson at 509 453-2561.



Annual Events Calendar

MAY

Rock the Gap

The Annual Rock the Gap at Sarg Hubbard Park on the Yakima Greenway is an evening of classic rock music appealing to all adults. The event starts at 5:30pm with dinner starting at 6:30pm. For more information, call the Greenway office 509-453-8280.

Gap-to-Gap

The **Jr. Gap-to-Gap** is a fun multi-discipline race for junior's ages 8-14, which includes team formats from 2-5 kids covering the different legs of the event. There are 2 bike legs, an obstacle course, and a running leg.

The **Adult Gap-to-Gap** is the featured event of the day, which includes a multi-leg and multi-discipline course of a field run, mountain bike, kayak/canoe or inline skating, road bike and running legs. Registration is at 7am at Sarg Hubbard Park at the Yakima Greenway. For more information, call 509-453-8280.

Annual Relay for Life

Come and participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the second largest relay event in the United States, being held at Zaepfel Stadium, 702 S. 40th Ave. For more information call Mary at 509-966-3474.

JUNE

Mural-In-A-Day

Toppenish Mural Society's Annual Mural-In-A-Day! See an entire historical mural come to life when 12-14 artists complete a mural in just eight hours from 9am-4pm For further information, visit www.toppenish.net, or call 800-863-6375 or 509-865-3262.

Sports Award Luncheon

This annual event salutes the top high school athletes in every sport contested throughout the school year and is held at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 N. 8th St. The top boys and girls teams from the Yakima and Kittitas Valleys, as well as the top individual athletes and coaches are honored. For more information, contact the Yakima Valley Sports Commission at 509-573-3090 or visit www.yakimasports.org.



Annual Events Calendar

JUNE

Annual Juried Art Exhibit

Prospectus available in April. Opening reception and award ceremony takes place in June at Allied Arts Center, 5000 West Lincoln, from 9am-5pm weekdays. Admission is free. For more information, call 509-966-0930 or visit www.alliedartsyakima.org.

Festival of Flowers

Experience the art of gardening at the Festival of Flowers showcasing excellence in landscape and floral design, brought to you by Catholic Family and Child Service. 5315 Tieton Drive, next to Holy Family Church. For more information, call DeAnn at 965-7100.

Union Gap Old Town Days

Old Town Days returns to Union Gap starting with a dance Friday night at Fullbright Park (located at the south end of Union Gap). Saturday will be filled with activities for the entire family. For more information, call 509-248-0432

Annual Prosser Scottish Festival

Central Washington's premier Scottish Festival and Highland Games at Port of Benton Wine and Food Park, 2840 Lee Road. Great day of family fun. For more information, 509-786-2908.

Sunshine & Wine Festival/Dinner

This fundraiser held at State Fair Park, is the venue to announce the coveted Washington State Wine Competition winners and to support the Central Washington State Fair's historical buildings. Attendees will taste over 50 award-winning wines while sampling specialty foods from local and regional restaurants. Festival starts at 3pm, 1301 S. Fair Ave. For more information call 509-248-7160.

Annual Kestrel Festival

Visit the Annual Kestrel Festival at Kestrel Vintners, 2890 Lee Road. Taste the new releases, enjoy lunch, and watch the interactive Raptor display, courtesy of the Raptor House in Toppenish. There is a charge for lunch but the entertainment is free. For more information, visit www.kestrlwines.com or call 888-343-2675.



Annual Events Calendar

JULY

One World, One Valley, One Nation

Bring the family to State Fair Park, 1301 S. Fair Ave., for an all day celebration of old fashion fun! Gates open at noon. Free family festival and activities celebrating Independence Day and the grand finale of fireworks at 10pm. For more information, visit www.yakima4thofjuly.org.

Old Fashioned Fourth of July

Great family day with a Kiddie Parade. Activities continue in Prosser City Park with fireworks at dusk at Art Fiker Stadium. For more information, call the Prosser Chamber of Commerce, 509-786-3177.

4th of July Wild West Parade

One of the largest 4th of July parades around starts at 10am in downtown Toppenish. For more information, call 800-863-6375 or 509-865-3262.

Toppenish PowWow and Rodeo

Fourth of July parade, PowWow and rodeo and more. For more information, call 509-865-3262.

Cherry Festival

Lots of family activities at this free event including cherry tree cutting by George and Martha Washington, various cherry contests, walking tour, hayrides, prizes, arts and crafts and barbeque in the orchard at Washington's Fruit Place at Barrett Orchards, 1209 Pecks Canyon Rd. For further information, visit www.treeripened.com, or call 509-966-1275.

Annual Yakima Folklife Festival

Arts and crafts, unique foods, a Medieval Village, children's activities, and over 50 acts of music and dance in the museum, Franklin Park, and all over downtown Yakima - FREE! For more information, call 509-457-6841 or visit www.yakimavalleymuseum.org.

Annual Art Walk & Wine Gala

Artists from all over the Northwest display their art while live jazz music fills the air. Specialty food vendors offer tasty treats while 12 local wineries pour the valley's finest vintages. Many local businesses stay open late as the street is turned into a garden-like setting. This is an adult's only event, no one under 21 admitted. For more information, call 509-786-3177.

Annual Gapsody Music Festival

Avoid the rat race and fast pace at the Gapsody Music Festival at Fullbright Park. This family event will focus on a variety of musical entertainment, food, and good company. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs. For more information, call 509-248-0432.

Annual Events Calendar



AUGUST

Annual Vintiques NW National

Antique car show at State Fair Park and Yakima Valley SunDome, 1301 South Fair Avenue. This event draws in over 600 pre-1972 street rod cars, trucks and roadsters. Vendors, swap meet, and many other activities. For more information, call 509-248-7160 or visit www.vintiques.com.

Moxee Hop Festival

Music, craft and food vendors, karaoke, breakfast in the park, 5Kfun run/walk, parade, deluxe beer garden and more at Moxee City Park on Friday and Saturday. Free admission. For further information, visit www.evcea.org, or call 509-452-5632.

Pacific Northwest Annual Chile Pepper Festival

Bring your family to the Chile Pepper Festival for a day of fun and games, contests, entertainment, and Guerro's famous grilled peppers and fajitas. For more information, call Lino at 509-837-8879 or visit www.sunnysidechamber.com.

Prosser Wine & Food Fair

Wine enthusiasts will gather for the annual sampling of fine Washington wine and local food specialties. Jazz and blues bands entertain you as you enjoy the best from 34 Washington wineries and 20 local food vendors. For more information, call the Wine & Food Fair Office at the Prosser Chamber of Commerce at 800-408-1517 or 509-786-4545.

Toppenish Western Art Show

Over 35 western artists display their work for sale at Railroad Park, 10 Asotin Avenue. On Saturday there will be Kids n' Art at 9am; a silent auction from 1-3pm; quick draw at 4pm and a scholarship auction at 5pm. For more information, call 509-865-2089.

Annual Rail and Steam Show

Special railroading exhibits and vendors selling railroad memorabilia at Yakima Valley Rail and Steam Museum, 10 Asotin Ave. On Saturday only, the event hosts large operating model trains display presented by the Tri-Cities Modelers Club. See steam locomotive and pre-1955 freight car restorations in progress. Rides through the rail yard and grounds in a mid-1970 caboose. For more information, call Judy at 509-865-2409.

Annual Events Calendar



AUGUST

A Case of the Blues and All That Jazz

This festival features blues & jazz music as well as award-winning local wines and microbrews, a delicious array of foods and desserts. Tickets are available through the Yakima Greenway Foundation. For further information, visit www.yakimagreenway.org, or call 509-453-8280.

Central Washington Antique Farm Equipment Expo

The Central Washington Ag Museum at Fullbright Park will feature orchard equipment, a parade of antique equipment at 1pm each day, wheat threshing, portable sawmill, blacksmith shop demonstration, an operating fruit packing line, bread baking demo, and much more. For more information, call 509-453-2395.

Hot Shots 3-On-3 Basketball Tournament

Hoopers hit the streets of downtown Yakima to play in this outdoor event. Teams compete in youth, high school, and adult divisions. For more information, call the Yakima Valley Sports Commission at 509-573-3090 or visit www.yakimahotshots.org.

Whistlestop! Cajun, Country, & Bluegrass Festival

Enjoy free Cajun, country, and bluegrass music all day long at Railway Park, 10 Asotin Avenue from noon to 10pm. Tour the adjacent Northern Pacific Railway Museum. For more information, call 509-865-3262.

SEPTEMBER

Flip Flop River Rafting

The Tieton River turns into a whitewater rafter and kayaker's dream. The river is a fast-paced, intermediate run that is consistently good due to the annual agricultural water release that more than doubles the river's normal flow. Call the Bureau of Reclamation for exact dates, 509-575-5848, Ext. 205, or 800-221-0751.

Prosser States Day Celebration and Parade

The parade kicks off this event at 10am in downtown Prosser followed by a day of fun at the City Park, 700 6th Street that includes games, a carnival, stage show and more. For more information, call the Prosser Chamber of Commerce at 509-786-3177 or visit www.prosserchamber.org.

SunDome Volleyball Festival

This two-day invitational event brings teams from all over the state to play at the Yakima Valley SunDome, 1301 S. Fair Ave. See games played simultaneously on seven different courts. For more information, call the Yakima Valley Sports Commission at 509-573-3090 or visit www.yakimasports.org.

Annual Events Calendar



SEPTEMBER

Harvest

Contemporary clay work from members of the Washington Potters Association on exhibit at Allied Arts Center, 5000 West Lincoln, from 9am-5pm weekdays. Admission is free. For more information, call 509-966-0930 or visit www.alliedartsyakima.org.

Central Washington State Fair

Ten day agricultural fair that includes headliner acts, PRCA rodeo, Mexican rodeo, northern sprint tour car races, demo derby, agricultural displays and competition, home arts, educational displays, commercial exhibits, food concessions, community and regional entertainers, and the Butler carnival. For more information, call 248-7160 or visit www.fairfun.com.

The Great Prosser Balloon Rally

Watch the rainbow-colored balloons take flight with launches scheduled all three days (weather permitting) from the Prosser Airport. Spectators are urged to arrive around 6:15am to watch the pilots prepare the giant balloons at sunrise. A Night Glow where the balloons will be anchored and displaying their colors will kick off at dusk Saturday evening at Fiker Stadium. Free admission. For more information, call 800-408-1517.

Catch the Crush

Watch the grapes being crushed and tour local participating wineries. For a list of participating wineries, contact Columbia Valley Wine Association, visit www.columbiavalleywine.com or call 866-360-6611.

Kiwanis Wine Country Trek

This is a two-day, 120 mile round trip bike trek from Yakima to Prosser where riders visit wineries and produce stands to taste and purchase, and participate in Prosser's Hot Air Balloon Festival. The event includes numerous break stops, lunch both days, breakfast Sunday morning, and a wonderful gourmet dinner Saturday evening and overnight camping in Prosser. For more information, visit www.desertvalley.com or call 509-966-4475.

OCTOBER

Annual Fresh Hop Ale Festival

Taste fresh hop ales from a dozen Northwest brewers, which are juried by nationally, recognized judges. Dancing, food, and music from 6-11 p.m. at Millennium Plaza on Third Street in Downtown Yakima. Cost - \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For further information, visit www.alliedarts.artsyakima.org, or call 509-966-0930.

Annual Events Calendar



NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving In Wine Country

More than 45 wineries open their doors following Thanksgiving to celebrate the season. Sample some of the valley's finest wines and carefully selected culinary pairings. For further information, visit www.visityakima.com, or call 800-221-0751.

Toy Train Christmas

Caboose rides to see Santa in the "North Pole", ornament and craft making with Miss Toppenish at the Rail and Steam Museum, 10 Asotin Ave. For more information, call 509-865-3262.

DECEMBER

Lighted Farm Implement Parade

Featured on A&E Ultimate Holiday Town USA in 2003, this has been the NW's premier lighted parade since 1989. This event is held downtown at 6pm and boasts more than 50 farm implements, vehicles, and floats covered with decorative lights. For more information, call 509-837-5939 or visit www.sunnysidechamber.com.

Annual Luminaria

This free family event features a mile long candlelit walk through the Arboretum's wintry landscape and an 80-foot lighted Norwegian spruce Christmas tree. After the walk, warm up with hot cider, and children's activities in the Jewett Interpretive Center, corner of East Nob Hill Blvd. and I-82/Hwy. 24. For more information, call 509-248-7337.

Annual Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration

Take the family to Ahtanum Youth Park, 1000 Ahtanum Road from noon to 8pm for a day of holiday fun. There will be festive music, food and craft vendors, hot cider, hot dogs, chili, candy, and great holiday gifts. Santa and several of his reindeer will be there for photos with the kids. For more information, call 509-248-0432.

Yakima Santa Trolley

Children get to meet Santa on the trolley and receive a candy cane. Fares are reduced for this event. See the Yakima Valley Trolley website www.yakimavalleytrolleys.org for dates and times.

Yakima Valley Visitor Resources



Yakima Visitors Information Center (YVIC)

The Yakima Visitors Information Center, which is located just off East I-82, is the number one stop for all visitors. At the YVIC you can purchase winery tickets, obtain valuable touring advice or pick up your event glasses. The center can also answer any questions that you might have to make your visit to Yakima a pleasant one.

Public Phone

(800) 221-0751 or (509) 573-3388
Fax: (509) 573-3389

E-Mail:

yvvcb@visityakima.com

Location:

Just off East I-82 on Exit 33A
101 North Fair Avenue
Yakima, WA 98901

Hours:

April – October

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

November - February

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday Closed

March

Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Presidents Day Weekend	Open (<i>Red Wine and Choc</i>)
Easter	Closed
Memorial Day Weekend	Open
Independence Day	Open
Labor Day Weekend	Open
Veterans Day	Closed
Thanksgiving Day	Closed
Thanksgiving Weekend	Open (<i>Closed Sunday</i>)
Christmas Day	Closed

The Visitor Center will be closed December 24th through January 1st.

Yakima Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau

10 North 8th Street
Yakima, WA 98901
Phone: (800) 221-0751
Fax: (509) 575-6252
www.visityakima.com

Media Contact

Katie Heaverlo – Director of Tourism
Phone: (509) 575-3010
heaverlok@visityakima.com

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:

Katie Heaverlo
Director of Tourism
(509) 573-3381
katie@visityakima.com

Other Film and Video Contacts:

Washington State Film Office
(206) 256-6151
wafilm@cted.wa.gov
www.filmwashington.com

WashingtonFilmWorks!
www.WashingtonFilmWorks.org