

# Okanogan TRAILS

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## Scenic Byway



### 9 Loomis, Whitestone Mountain & Many Lakes Recreational Area

Loomis was a boomtown of the 1890s as a destination for mining prospectors and investors and the location of a successful cattle operation.

The Many Lakes Recreational Area nearby is a prime location for recreational activities and a picturesque setting tucked into the valleys below the high peaks of the Eastern Cascade Mountains.

### 8 Tonasket

The town of Tonasket was named in honor of Chief Tonasket of the Okanogan Indians, who historically used the present town site as an encampment. It now serves as a hub for agriculture, ranching and logging and is the gateway community to the Many Lakes Recreation Area to the west.



### 7 Conconully

Conconully's nselxcin name, from the Okanogan Indian language, is "sk'wnk'wanlq", which means "garden; place of abundance." Conconully is where an Okanogan Indian Chief, Conconulux, lived.

Conconully's mining past was mired by natural and economic disasters, but the town survives today as a peaceful rural community. A plethora of recreational opportunities await enthusiasts in every season, including water activities on the clear blue Conconully Lake and Reservoir, surrounded by mountains and amazing scenery.



### 5 Okanogan

The county seat of the early 1900s is still visible today with the firehouse (today's historical museum), the courthouse, old flour mill, and the Cariboo Hotel. Historic architectural styles from the early 1900s through the 1950s are visible throughout Okanogan.

Murals of Frank Matsura's photographs (1903-1913) capture the culture and spirit of early 1900s town and countryside life.

### 1 Pateros and the Methow-Columbia Confluence

Located at the confluence of the Columbia and Methow Rivers, Pateros was an important meeting place for the region's tribes during salmon runs. Today fishermen still flock to the river to enjoy the age-old sport on Lake Pateros. Visitors can take part in the Apple Pie Jamboree, enjoy water sports, fish, golf, hike, snowmobile, hunt or attend the Pateros Classic. Take a stroll along the river and go back in time on the historical walking tour and learn about Pateros' colorful past.



### Pateros

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### Oroville

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### Tonasket

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### Conconully

### Riverside

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### 2 Brewster on the Columbia River

The Okanogan Indians lived here long before Brewster became a bustling settlement and apple industry town, and many still live here today. They fished the Columbia River using fish traps and then dried the fish on fish drying racks. American Indians made seasonal excursions throughout the region to take advantage of fishing, hunting, and food gathering opportunities. Attend the Budweiser-Lowrance King Salmon derby on the first full weekend in August.

Brewster is known as the "apple capitol" of the byway and home to some of the largest apple processing facility along the byway.

### 11 The Okanogan Highlands and Molson

The Highlands are a mix of glacial gorges, rivers and grasslands stretching from the Canadian border to the Columbia River Plateau, and from Roosevelt Lake to the Cascade Mountains.

The pioneer spirit comes to life at the Molson Schoolhouse Museum with displays of daily life in the early 1900s, including a restored classroom and school library. Learn about the colorful history and personalities of the past in Old Molson, once a boom town.

Birdwatching is popular in the Sidley Lake area, where abundant bird populations provide viewing opportunities year-round.

Hiking enthusiasts can connect to the Pacific Northwest Trail via the Okanogan County/Similkameen Connector Trail.



### Molson



### 10 Oroville & Osoyoos Veterans Memorial State Park

Historic Oroville Train Depot Museum and once the home of a large tomato cannery, remnants of Oroville's frontier and agricultural roots are a treat for visitors. Oroville is the gateway to the Upper Highlands Recreation Area and the Highland Historic Loop Drive.

The original nselxcin name of the lake, "Osoyoos:su'iw's" means "dry in the middle." The traditional use of the lake area was a campsite and for horse races by Okanogan Indian.

The Oroville May Festival, founded in 1934, is held the 2nd Saturday in May.

### 6 Omak

Omak is filled with a variety of cultural opportunities: residents and visitors can attend the annual Stampede and Suicide Race, view an event at the state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center, or kick back in a lawn chair at the annual Art in the Park festival.

The annual Omak Stampede Suicide Race and Indian Encampment have been a community tradition for nearly 80 years. Viewing the annual rodeo and Suicide Race from the seats in the new Stampede Arena is an astounding spectacle that shouldn't be missed as part of a visit to the byway.



### 4 Cariboo Trail

The route, also referred to as the "Okanogan Trail," follows the Okanogan River and extends into the Cariboo Mining district of British Columbia. This historic route was used by Okanogan Indians for thousands of years, and later by fur brigades, cattlemen, cowboys, miners and surveyors. Travelers are likely to see deer, big horn sheep and occasional moose but not Caribou.

From 1868 to 1955, cattlemen and cowboys moved cattle up the Cariboo Trail to mining camps in British Columbia. The most dramatic happening along the Cariboo Trail occurred on July 28, 1858 when Indians, nervous over intrusions, attempted to ambush a party of miners at McLoughlin Canyon, about four miles south of Tonasket. The ambush was triggered prematurely. This helped the miners' advance party extricate itself from the canyon. A desultory battle continued for several hours.



Chilwist Jim Lakekin, Chief and Medicine Man, Methow People.

### 3 Okanogan River

The Okanogan River Valley provided a transportation corridor for the Okanogan Indians, fur traders, settlers and cattle drivers it also provided them a source of food in the form of fish and game. The River itself was not a reliable travel corridor. A couple of months every year, specially built steam boats carried passengers and goods into the Okanogan Valley.

Today, the Okanogan River Valley is the corridor for trade and transportation along Highway 97 that extends north into British Columbia and through southern Washington.

