

DRIVE THROUGH THE HEART OF OKANOGAN COUNTRY

Okanogan Country includes the northeastern Hwy 20 leg of the famed Cascade Loop. You'll travel through the beautiful Methow Valley into tiny Mazama with its 4-star destination resort and on to the old west town of Winthrop — an appealing replication of an old west settlement. Winthrop sponsors year round events including a long checklist of recreational outlets in this true 'blast from the past' destination. Nine miles southwest of Winthrop you'll find world class mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing high atop Sun Mountain, a very popular recreation and resort destination. There's an active arts community in nearby Twisp, reflected in their popular local theater and Methow Arts Festival held each year.

As SR20 connects with US Hwy 97 at the Columbia River, head north to the city of Okanogan. Located on the Okanogan River, this county seat provides historical perspective with the Okanogan County Historical Museum and Fire Hall Museum. Nearby, the town of Omak welcomes travelers with a distinct personality and multiple attractions, including the world famous Omak Stampede and Suicide race, usually held the second weekend of August. The impressive teepee village at this event gives visitors an authentic glimpse of the area's rich native heritage.

In 1900, the town of Riverside became a prominent trading center. Today this friendly community still houses a saloon along with an historic school bell reminding visitors of the significance of this site beside the Okanogan River. Following the river north, Tonasket echoes the region's pioneer roots. Rustic log cabins and the serene presence of the river enhance the natural beauty that continues to attract that same venturesome spirit; the town hosts their Tonasket Founder's Day Rodeo in early June to celebrate the past and present vibrancy of their town.

Once, there was gold in "them thar" hills. Oroville, at the northern tip of U.S. Highway 97, experienced a strike near the mouth of the Similkameen River in 1861. Today's riches are the town's crisp apple crop.