

Osoyoos Lake



Osoyoos Lake can be found in Okanagan Valley. The lake starts in British Columbia and continues through to Washington state. Two interesting facts include the lake is 19 km long and the perimeter is 47.9 km.

Lake Osoyoos is known to be Canada's warmest lake. The water temperatures in the summer reach between 26 - 33 degrees celsius. This makes it a popular location for boating and swimming.

Aboriginal people have lived here for thousands of years, as evidenced by rock art and an oral tradition explaining their history. The name 'Osoyoos' comes from the First Nations (Syilx'tsn) word 'suius (soo-yoos)' meaning 'place where two lakes meet'.



The Okanagan Valley was formed by a huge glacier during the last Ice Age approximately 17,000 years ago. As the ice sheet retreated, the glacier meltwaters formed Osoyoos Lake and all the others in the valley.

Osoyoos Lake is divided into three basins, known as the North Basin, Central Basin, and South Basin. Its deepest part is in the North Basin at 208 feet. It is about 70 feet deep near the U.S. Border.

There is virtually no shade on either side of the lake, along with the high water temperature make the lake difficult for fish to breed or feed in the shallows. The salmon must go towards the bottom of the lake to keep cool. Salmon like temperatures around 17C.

