

Explore Canada's Desert



Located on the southern edge of British Columbia's beautiful Okanagan Valley is an extraordinary habitat popularly referred to as Canada's pocket desert. This semi-arid, antelope-brush ecosystem is one of Canada's most rare, fragile and endangered ecosystems. It is also home to one of the highest concentrations of rare and at-risk species in Canada.

Over the past century, 70% of this habitat has been destroyed and today it is estimated that less than 9% remains undisturbed. In the early 1990s a group of concerned citizens eager to protect this invaluable natural treasure formed the Osoyoos Desert Society. In 1998, the Society opened the Osoyoos Desert Centre, a 67-acre nature interpretive facility where visitors learn about desert ecology, habitat restoration and conservation of endangered plants and animals in the South Okanagan.



By Jayme Friedt,
Managing Director, Osoyoos Desert Centre

One of the Centre's most special features is a 1.5 km boardwalk that meanders through the antelope-brush habitat offering an elevated view of the plant and animal life that exists there including Spadefoots, Behr's Hairstreak butterflies, Nuttall's Cottontail, Western Bluebirds and of course, antelope-

brush, several species of sage and the prickly pear cactus to name a few. The Centre also has an interpretive building with many educational displays and a native plant demonstration garden. Visitors can also browse through our Gift Shop, enjoy a snack in the outdoor picnic area, or relax at one of the kiosks and take in the spectacular views.

Osoyoos Desert Centre is located 3 km north of Osoyoos at 14580 146th Avenue. Hours vary throughout the spring, summer and fall. Please check the website at www.desert.org or call 250-495-2470 for more information.



WALK THIS WAY ON OUR NEW BOARDWALK

Take a tour along our new 1.5 km boardwalk and experience the extraordinary beauty of one of Canada's rarest ecosystems.

250.495.2470 | Visit our website www.desert.org