

# Story Time - Osoyoos Golf



## From Desert Links to Vineyard Greens.



A desert in Canada? Rattlesnakes and cacti? You bet! The South Okanagan Valley around Osoyoos contains the northernmost part of the Great Basin Desert – the only true desert region in Canada. And here, rolling through sage and cacti-studded hillsides high above the lush orchards and vineyards, the shimmering lakes, and the glorious beaches, are some of the country's most exciting, player-friendly courses.

The area boasts the longest playing season in the British Columbia Interior, running from February to December. Where can you play a round of golf, take in a wine tour, and hit the ski slopes all on the same day, between February and April? In Osoyoos of course!



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## Word-class golf in Canada's only desert

Boasting two championship courses ( totalling 36 holes!) in the heart of this sun-drenched region, the Osoyoos Golf & Country Club is a definite "must play" here. However, a swing-fest in the area should also include the nearby NK'MIP Canyon Desert Golf Course and Fairview Mountain Golf Club – the latter making a perennial appearance on Canada's top-100 list. And, perfect for the entire family, the 9-hole Sonora Dunes Golf Course in Osoyoos has to be considered one of the most enjoyable courses of its kind in the country. Of course, like any desert region, you're best off hitting a straight ball, since critters of all shapes and sizes tend to lurk about in the desert.

## Green isn't just the colour of the grass

Increasing numbers of British Columbia golf courses are adopting green initiatives at the ground level. From a 100% non-chemical approach, to support of habitat for endangered and sensitive species of plants and animals, to water conservation efforts, to turf management practices like regularly aerating as well as top-dressing fairways and greens.

## The Courses:

### Osoyoos Golf & Country Club

[www.golfosoyoos.com](http://www.golfosoyoos.com)

A championship course boasting 36 holes, Osoyoos Golf & Country Club offers a venue for recreational play or a serious competition. Warm up at the on-site driving range and then choose the Park Meadows Course or the Desert Gold Course to test your skills on the fairways and greens. After your round, grab a seat on the patio at the Greenside Grill Restaurant for a cold beer and a plate of nachos. Be sure to stop into the Pro Shop to bring home a branded shirt or a new driver.

### Sonora Dunes Golf Course

[www.sonoradunes.com](http://www.sonoradunes.com)

This 9-hole desert links style executive course is challenging and scenic, rolling along the top of the bench with desert sand traps and protected stands of sage and antelope brush, all overlooking the pristine waters of Osoyoos Lake and the vineyards of NK'MIP. The clubhouse offers casual covered patios and meals as well as a Pro Shop. Sonora Dunes is part of the greater NK'MIP Resort destination and has a unique connection to the ecology of the desert habitat through its rattlesnake protection and research projects that work in conjunction with the nearby NK'MIP Desert Cultural Centre. If you lose a ball in the rough, it's best to call it a loss and leave it for the rattlesnakes!

### NK'MIP Canyon Desert Golf Course (near Oliver)

[www.nkmipcanyon.com](http://www.nkmipcanyon.com)

A striking contrast of natural splendour set against the stunning backdrop of the desert landscape, this course provides a great example of what happens when you add water and some experience to the dry desert bottom! Play through the spectacular vineyard, sage and stone vistas and watch the sun play tricks on the mountains. The generous restaurant and outdoor patio provide great places to watch the game or end a round on the links with a meal and drinks.

### Fairview Mountain Golf Club (near Oliver)

[www.fairviewmountain.com](http://www.fairviewmountain.com)

Fairview Mountain was named No. 18 in Canada by *Score Golf Magazine* and in 2004 it was named Golf Facility of the Year by the Professional Golfers' Association of British Columbia. Play a round or two and visit the fully stocked Pro Shop and the clubhouse before heading back to Osoyoos.