



# Yakima, WA



**Y**akima is located in central Washington about 60 miles southeast of Mount Rainier. The city was originally built along the Northern Pacific Railway line and incorporated in 1883. A dispute between the Railway Company and landowners a year later resulted in the Railway Company establishing the new town of North Yakima 4 miles away and relocating more than 100 buildings to the new site, which was officially renamed Yakima in 1918. The Yakima Valley yields 75% of the nation's hops production and is a major hops producer worldwide.

Museums in Yakima include the Yakima Electric Railway Museum, which exhibits original powerhouse and rail equipment and offers vintage electric trolley rides between Selah and Yakima. The Yakima Valley Museum and Children's Underground Museum is located in Franklin Park and has historical exhibits about the Yakima Valley's natural history, Plateau cultural objects, pioneer life, early city life, and the roots and development of the Valley's fruit industry. Larson Gallery, located in Yakima Valley Community College, presents and promotes the Valley's art. McAllister Museum of Aviation houses vintage aircraft with historical significance to the Yakima Valley and memorabilia, including displays of nose art popular on World War II fighter planes.

Several museums are located in nearby Toppenish. The American Hop Museum preserves and displays the historical equipment, photos, and artifacts that have long been important in the raising and harvesting of hop, which is vital to the brewing industry. The Northern Pacific Railway Museum recreates the ambience of the 1930 Northern Pacific Railroad with its restored depot and many artifacts. The Yakama Nation Museum cares for, collects, and protects the items that promote and preserve the Yakama Nation Culture. The museum features life-size dwellings of the Plateau People, dioramas and exhibits that tell the story of the Yakama people, narratives, and music. Toppenish also has more than 70 large outdoor murals depicting the area's history and culture between 1850 and 1950.

Other Yakima Valley attractions include the Central Washington Agricultural Museum located within Fullbright Park in Union Gap, Fort Simcoe, Ahtanum Mission, Olde Yakima Letterpress Museum in Union Gap, Ray E. Powell Museum in Grandview, and Benton County Historical Museum in Prosser.

Yakima's Capitol Theatre hosts touring Broadway musicals, children's programming, performances by the Yakima Symphony Orchestra, the Yakima Symphony Orchestra Choir, and the Town Hall lecture series. The Yakima Valley Community Band performs free concerts for many events in the Yakima Valley. The Seasons Performance Hall is the venue for jazz, classical, and world music presented by distinguished international performers. Yakima Sports Center also hosts concerts. The Warehouse Theater Company stages an annual season of musicals, comedies, and dramatic performances.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Yakima has a few condominium developments but is not primarily a residential area.

The Barge-Chestnut Historic Neighborhood is known for its collection of Craftsman-style bungalows, which feature built-ins and front porches. Colonials and Victorian-era homes are also available. Housing in this neighborhood was built in every decade from 1880 through the mid-1980s.

The Scenic Drive neighborhood contains homes built in the 1950s through 1990. The older homes in the neighborhood are primarily ranch-style, while newer homes tend to be large, two-story contemporary styles.

Development of the West Valley neighborhood increased in the early 2000s, particularly around the Apple Tree Golf Course where custom homes are available in various sizes and styles, including bungalow, Craftsman, Modern, and condominiums.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Yakima has 25 parks with amenities that include playgrounds and water playgrounds; indoor and outdoor swimming pools; golf and disc golf courses;

volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts; dog park; skate parks; ball fields; duck ponds; and horseshoe pits. Millennium Arts Plaza in Yakima's downtown features an 80- by 80-foot sculpture designed by renowned artist Wen-ti Tsen, water themes running throughout the plaza, objects and tools cast in bronze, handprints that represent the cultural diversity of the Valley, and written works that reflect the history and dreams for the Valley's future.

Franklin Park has a playground with shade structures, the city's only public outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, and is home to the Outdoor Summer Sunset Concert Series on Fridays in July and August.

Randall Park has a 9-hole disc golf course, basketball court, playground, and pond. During the summer, the Yakima Valley Community Band plays concerts on Wednesday nights.

Chesterley Park is known for its 10,000 square-foot skatepark, 6 soccer fields, and play equipment. The park is home to the annual Yak Attack, Mid-Summer Classic, and Sunburn soccer tournaments.

Elks Park is home to the Yakima National Little League youth baseball fields, 26 horseshoe pits, a playground, and tetherball.

Emil Kissel Park is a multi-use park that offers 12 tennis courts, basketball court, playground, and green space.

Yakima Area Arboretum contains native and exotic plants from around the world and has one of the region's few Japanese Gardens.

Mount Rainier National Park offers opportunities for experiencing glaciers, volcanic peaks, river valleys, and old growth forest through scenic drives, hiking, and mountain climbing. The park has 5 developed areas, with 3 visitor centers, a museum, and several wilderness and climbing centers and ranger stations.

## EDUCATION

Yakima School District educates approximately 15,800 students in 14 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 5 high schools. The district offers full-day kindergarten, vocational programs, an alternative school, and a virtual school.

Higher education is available at Yakima Valley Community College, which is a public, two-year institution that offers programs in adult basic education, English as a Second Language, lower division arts and sciences, professional and technical education, and community services. Perry Technical Institute is a private, nonprofit school that provides career-oriented education and training in 12 specialized fields.

Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences is a private, nonprofit medical school for osteopathic medicine.

## HEALTH CARE

The Yakima Valley is served by the following hospitals:

- Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital: 226 licensed beds
- Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center: 214 licensed beds
- Toppenish Community Hospital: 63 licensed beds
- Sunnyside Community Hospital: 38 licensed beds

## CITY STATS

2014

City Population	93,357
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	247,687
Per Capita Personal Income, Yakima, WA, MSA	\$37,630