OOTSA-FRANCOIS LAKE CIRCLE TOUR FIND YOURSELF ON THE SOUTHSIDE, WHERE ADVENTURE AWAITS!

imes ime

Clocking in at approximately 308 km round trip, the Ootsa-Francois Lake Circle
Tour is a great way to see the best of the Lakes District - mountains,
waterfalls, farmland and good food, the Southside has it all!

Drive 24 km south of town of Hwy 35, where you will reach the North Side Ferry Landing - board the impressive Francois Lake Forester, which came into service in 2004. Prior to that, the Omineca Princess (the ferry docked on the North Side) served the area from 1976 - 2004.

Following a 20 minute free ferry ride, you will arrive at South Bank. To your right you will see what remains of the Jacob Henkel, which plied the waters from 1949 - 1976 and is named after one of the first pioneers of the Southside area.

Head straight on Keefe's Landing Road and 12 km from the ferry you will drive through Grassy Plains. The community hall is the site of the immensely popular Mud-Bogs in May and the Summer Festival in July.

Continue along Keefe's Landing Road for another 17 km. To the right is a short 4x4 road up to Verdun Lookout, which provides stunning panoramic views of Ootsa, Francois, and Uncha Lakes. The view is worth the effort!

On the Ootsa- Nadina Road you will find Wistaria, 22km from Verdun Lookout. If you look south on a clear day, you will be treated to stunning views of Mount Wells and Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. Wistaria marks the end of paved road.

Stay on the Ootsa-Nadina Road for an additional 26 km and you will find yourself at the west end of Francois Lake and Nadina River. To your left is Nadina Mountain, an

extinct volcano and is theorized to be a refuge during the last glaciation.

6 km from the head of Francois Lake is
Noralee. The small chapel on the lake shore is
Joan's Chapel, erected in honour of the mother
of two local residents in 1978.

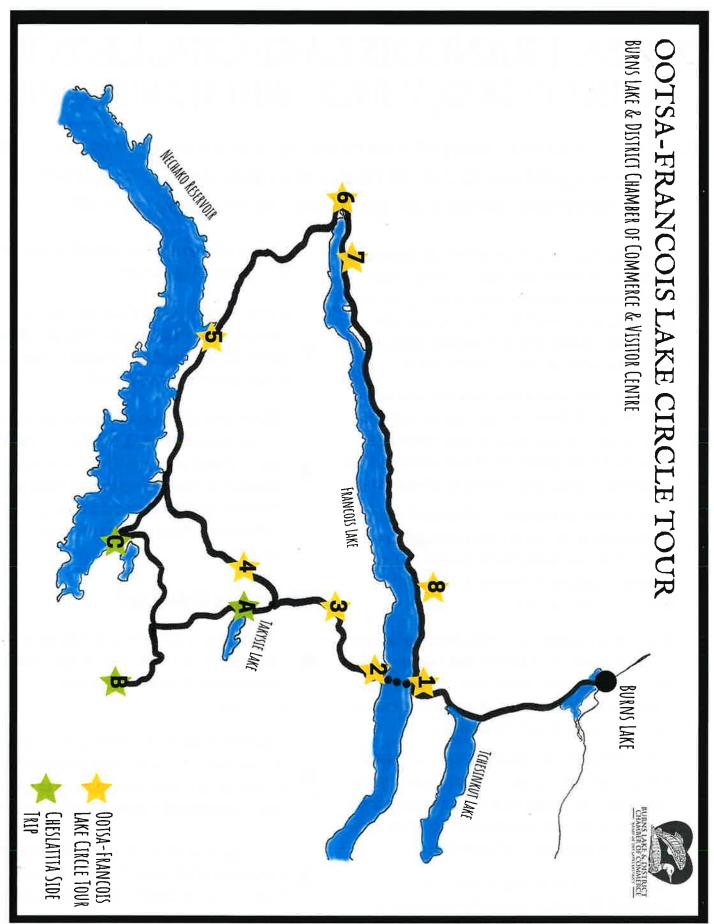
35 km east of Noralee is the turnoff to Henkel Forest Service Road. 1.5 km up this dirt road is the trailhead to Nourse Creek Falls, a popular destination for both locals and visitors alike. After hiking the trail, continue along Colleymount Road and you will reach Hwy 35 once again.

Cheslatta Side Trip

Takysie Lake is 22 km from South Bank on the Eakin Settlement Road and has gas, diesel, and propane available here to fuel your Southside adventure!

Travel south for 10.5 km and turn left on the Cheslatta Road. Continue for an additional 11.5 km and you will reach the trailhead of Cheslatta Falls - a spectacular gem on the Southside!

Head back and rejoin the Eakin Settlement Road, and continue left along the East Ootsa Road to reach to Skins Lake Spillway. The magnificent display of thundering water and breathtaking views of Ootsa Lake are a must see!



*Please exercise caution while travelling in remote locations and along forest service roads. Always be prepared with a detailed map, water, food, and fuel, as cell service is minimal. Remember, loaded logging trucks have the right of way.