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* High-res photos available at www.drivethetop10.com/press

Top 10 Scenic Drives Honors David Thompson Bicentennials

Explorer's achievements celebrated with upcoming events, exhibits

GRANGEVILLE, Idaho (April 14, 2010) – The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies announces its recognition of David Thompson's life achievements during The North American David Thompson Bicentennials from 2007 to 2011. The Bicentennials celebration honors the explorer's accomplishments as a naturalist, surveyor, trader and mapmaker between 1807 and 1811. The David Thompson Historic Route is one of the Top 10 Scenic Drives' national historic connecting trails.

Thompson's lifetime achievements include exploring and mapping more than 3.9 million square miles of North America; establishing the Columbia basin fur trade; determining large quantities of geographical boundaries between Canada and the U.S.; and routing trans-mountain crossings.

The North American David Thompson Bicentennials Partnership promotes educational initiatives; preservation of natural and historical resources along routes established or used by David Thompson; and sustainable and authentic tourism experiences. A few of the Bicentennials' exhibits and events, include:

- Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center expanding their story and messages to showcase Thompson's cartographer skills. The Center also has a speaker's panel and experts that discuss Thompson's life. Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center is located in Great Falls, Mont. on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

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- Heritage Museum hosting a permanent exhibit, featuring Thompson's survey instruments, clothing and a trading post. Heritage Museum is located in Libby, Mont. on the David Thompson Historic Route.
- Touchstones Museum developing a new, permanent exhibit highlighting Thompson's geographical explorations. Touchstones Museum is located in Nelson, British Columbia on the International Selkirk Loop All-American Road.

The David Thompson Historic Route is one of four national historic trails that are part of the Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies. This unique group of scenic drives and trails was recently unveiled as North America's newest destination for domestic and international travelers who seek an authentic experience with scenic beauty, wildlife and recreation that delivers a connection with the environment, American Indian cultures and North American history.

The Top 10 Scenic Drives connect 19 National Parks, Monuments and Recreation Areas via nationally designated Scenic Byways and National Historic Trails. The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies includes five U.S. states (i.e., Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington and Oregon) and two Canadian provinces (i.e., British Columbia and Alberta).

The Top 10 Scenic Drives include:

- Beartooth Highway (All-American Road) (MT & WY)
- Circle the Continental Divide Driving Tour (WY)
- Hells Canyon Scenic Byway (All-American Road) (OR & ID)
- Hot Springs Circle Tour (B.C.)
- International Selkirk Loop (All-American Road) (ID, WA & B.C.)
- Montana Scenic Loop (MT)
- Northwest Passage Scenic Byway (All-American Road) (ID)

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- Salmon River-Sawtooth Scenic Byways (ID)
- Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Loop (MT, ALB & B.C.)
- Yellowstone-Grand Teton Loop (WY, MT & ID)

Connecting Historic Trails:

- David Thompson Historic Route (ALB, B.C., MT, ID & WA)
- Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (WA, OR, ID & MT)
- Nez Perce National Historic Trail (OR, ID, MT & WY)
- Oregon National Historic Trail (WY, ID & OR)

For more information on the David Thompson Bicentennial events, please visit www.davidthompson200.ca. To learn more about the Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies, please visit www.drivethetop10.com.

About The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies

The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies' initiative began in 2005 after the International Selkirk Loop and Northwest Passage Scenic Byway joined the Beartooth Highway and Hells Canyon Scenic Byway in achieving All-American Road (AAR) designation – the highest designation in the U.S. National Scenic Byway system. The destination is built upon its four AARs, four connecting Historic Trails and 19 National Parks, Monuments and Recreation Areas, and includes more than 100 key partners, including State, Provincial, Regional, Local and Tribal organizations, as well as State and Federal Agencies and private businesses, organizations and individuals. For more information about The Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies, please visit our Web site at www.drivethetop10.com.

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