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Fri, May 30, 2008

Time to hit the bike park

It's all about endurance and big air at Panorama Mountain Village

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This summer, beat the crowds and discover authentic downhill mountain biking at Panorama Mountain Village, in British Columbia's Kootenay region.

Renowned for single track trails with natural features for all abilities, Panorama's Bike Park also offers wide cruisers and expert terrain with man-made stunts.

Opening June 27, with the infamous the Mad Trapper Downhill Mountain Bike Race on June 29, Panorama's Kona Groove Approved Bike Park has a number of trails to challenge riders of all levels. With high-speed chairlift access, choose from easier trails for those new to the sport, varied intermediate trails to boost confidence on steeps, stunts, and technical terrain, or expert downhill trails with man-made features.



Two unknown riders challenge themselves with some man-made jumps. (Peter Moynes/Panorama Mountain Village)

At 380 vertical metres, the longest run is Let it Ride which is 3.2 kilometres in length. And when it comes to expert terrain, make sure you jump on Crazytrain. This signature run is an expert fall line trail with numerous man-made features.

In total, Panorama offers 30 kms of runs with a total vertical 380 m (1,246 ft.) Helmets are mandatory, with full-face helmets recommended. Protective gear



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(elbows, shins, and gloves) is not required, but strongly recommended. All protective gear is available for sale or rent at Lusti's.

Situated at the base of the mountain, Lusti's offers top-line Kona rental bikes, the latest clothing and protective gear, along with snacks and refreshments to fuel up after a big day on the mountain.

Enter to win

In late July, Panorama will host the Bike Parks of BC "Ultimate Road Trip." New this year, Bike Parks BC is offering two grand prize trips: the East Road Trip & the West Road Trip. Two lucky riders will be selected for each trip.

The chosen winners and their guest will experience the road trip of a lifetime, touring three of British Columbia's world-class mountain biking resorts. The eastern tour features Panorama Mountain Village, Kicking Horse Mountain Resort, and Silver Star Resort.

Contest winners will spend two nights in Panorama's mountainside accommodation, only steps from the chairlift. After a hard day on the mountain, riders will appreciate the popular Panorama Springs Hot Pools, exclusively accessed by Panorama lodging guests.

The 2008 "Ultimate Road Trip" contest is open until June 15. For more information or to enter, visit www.bikeparksbc.com.

Panorama Mountain Village, located in the Purcell Mountains, has one of the largest vertical descents in North America. Quad chairlifts give access to the summit and over 100 trails, including former Heli-Ski terrain in Taynton Bowl.

Panorama is also home to Greywolf, ranked British Columbia's best golf course by Golf Digest. Now open, there are plenty of and stay specials available to celebrate the start of the season. Nothing beats Greywolf, so book now and save. Visit greywolfgolf.com for more information or call 1.800.663.2929.

Opening weekend

It's not just Panorama's bike park that will open June 27 – it's the entire resort. The staff are busy preparing the village for summer activities, including sightseeing chairlift rides, mountain biking, hiking, mini-golf, and Kid's Adventure Camp.

Other activity options include white-water rafting, hiking, sightseeing chairlift rides, mini-golf, the fun zone and climbing wall, ATV tours, fly-fishing, heli-hiking, or a relaxing spa treatment. Panorama has a range of mountainside lodging options, only steps from the chairlift. Spoil yourself with a spacious condo or choose a budget-oriented hotel room for a great rest at a great rate.

The Pine Inn Bed and Breakfast Package is built for mountain bikers. Basic, budget-oriented accommodation right at the base of the bike park.

All accommodation options include access to the Panorama Springs Hot Pools. The village has an assortment of dining options, from burgers and ribs at the T-Bar, to contemporary cuisine at the Wildfire Rustic Grill or the simplicity of a deli sandwich at



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