

# SOAR

Inflight  
Magazine for  
Pacific Coastal  
Airlines

## Find your fun!

Penticton has something  
for everyone

### SUMMER SIZZLE

Adventure galore  
in Rossland

### GO NORTH!

Five must-see attractions  
in Northern BC



*Pacific Coastal*  
AIRLINES





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**Loughborough Inlet Acreages:** Unique opportunity to acquire one, two or three large coastal acreages in the south central coast region of BC, offering a true west coast wilderness plus an investment in timber. Adjoining, combined **398 acres**, with over **10,000ft** of oceanfront. Each acreage has a substantial creek flowing through it.  
**\$990,000 - \$1,280,000**



**Nootka Sound Oceanfront:** Two amazing **9.83 acre** properties, on the **SE tip of Nootka Island**. Pebble beach, magnificent ocean views. Abundant wildlife, including whales rubbing on the pebble beach out front, sealions, seals, eagles and various seabirds. Renowned and popular region for both fishing and kayaking.

**Lot 3: \$295,000 Lot 4: \$305,000**



**Quatsino Sound Oceanfront Acreage:** **106 acres** in two separate titles. **1300+ft** of low-bank easy access south-facing oceanfront, nicely protected, with a small creek running through the property. There is forest service road access and zoning permits subdivision. Well known **NW Vancouver Island** region that provides excellent fishing and recreation.  
**\$380,000**



**Dent Island Acreage:** **80.7 acres** on **Dent Island**, east end of **Cordero Channel**. Encompasses the entire southern and western shorelines plus well-protected **Mermaid Bay** on the **SE** end of the island. Property is fully forested in healthy second growth. Phenomenal active tidal water area in the **Discovery Islands**. Close to **BC** mainland and **Bute Inlet**.  
**\$1,200,000**



**Hot Springs Cove:** West coast **Vancouver Island**. **2 oceanfront acreages, 2.28 - 2.67 acres**, share in **90 acre** common property. **19 nautical miles NW of Tofino**. Fully forested lots, diverse shorelines. **Hot Springs Oceanside** is a well-established recreational community next door to the natural hot springs of **Maquinna Provincial Park**. Water access only.

**\$99,750 - \$109,000**



**Cortes Island Oceanfront Acreage:** **10.55 undeveloped acres** in **Gorge Harbour** with approx. **545ft** shoreline. Fully forested and topographically diverse acreage with access from **Gorge Harbour Rd**. The property steps down moderately to steep in many locations, with small benches and rock outcrops throughout. Shared driveway leads to the oceanfront.  
**\$515,000**



**Cortes Island Oceanfront:** Exceptional **7 acre** property with approx. **1200ft** of easy access shoreline that includes granite outcrops and two small bays. Sunny, south-west exposure, amazing views and excellent privacy yet is just minutes from the ferry service in **Whaletown Bay**. Electrical service on the property, drilled well and licensed spring water.  
**\$1,400,000**



**Quadra Island Oceanfront:** **Quadra Estates** is a beautiful island oasis on **77.27 acres** with secluded beachfront, pastoral meadows, forest, ravine and high bank oceanfront. In **7 titles**, with services. Modern **2461sqft** home, yurt and garden areas. Create an island sanctuary in this peaceful, private location just minutes from the amenities of **Quadra Island**.  
**\$4,288,000**



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# LOOKING AHEAD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**A**s we start to see progress and improvements with the COVID-19 Immunization Plan, the travel industry, unfortunately, continues to face many challenges and will continue to see many challenges for quite some time.

Throughout the year, Provincial Health Orders have enforced extended travel restrictions that have forced us to adjust our schedule accordingly. Following all provincial guidelines, we remain committed to our communities, and our air service continues to help the movement of essential service workers, passengers travelling for medical appointments, charter services and time-sensitive cargo transportation.

During these times, it has been great to see the support system of our communities and the aviation industry. We were recently excited to celebrate 15 years of provid-

ing air service to the Trail Regional Airport. Although we were unable to have in-person celebrations—as we have done in previous years—we continue to acknowledge these anniversaries virtually on our website and on social media.

For many, our scheduled air services link communities together and our teams across the province are working hard to provide safe, reliable and essential travel for those who need it most. We continue to provide service to 16 communities in British Columbia and we are optimistic that we will start to see positive changes come the summer months. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back on board again, and in the meantime—stay safe and stay healthy. 🇨🇦



**Quentin Smith**





# Celebrating 15 years of PCA service to Trail

**P**acific Coastal Airlines proudly celebrated 15 years of service to the Trail Regional Airport on Tuesday, April 6. “We’ve enjoyed serving the residents of the West Kootenay region over the past 15 years and look forward to many more to come,” says Pacific Coastal’s Vice President of Commercial Services Johnathan Richardson. “We’re proud to be part of the community.”

PCA currently operates non-stop flights between Vancouver South Terminal Airport and Trail Regional Airport six days a week. To celebrate its 15-year anniversary in Trail, the airline shared a selection of local places for visitors to check out the next time they land in this West Kootenay town.

## **COLUMBIA GARDENS VINEYARD AND WINERY**

Columbia Gardens Vineyard and Winery Estate is nestled in the heart of the Columbia Gardens Valley near the Trail Regional Airport. Check out the Burl tasting room that features all their wines and thoughtful gifts.

## **TRAIL BEER REFINERY**

With a name that reflects Trail’s historic connection to mining, refining and smelting, this brewery has a strong community focus and a great selection of craft beer. You can find Trail Beer Refinery downtown on Bay Avenue.

## **TRAIL COFFEE CO.**

A local cafe, serving breakfast, lunch and freshly roasted coffee. Hand-roasted, hand-blended and hand-packaged, products created by the Trail Coffee Co. team lead to a perfect cup of joe.


## **COLUMBIA RIVER SKYWALK**

This bridge is part of the Trans Canada Trail Society’s Great Trail and is bike, stroller, scooter and wheelchair friendly. Once across, continue along the banks of the Columbia River to the Victoria Street Bridge and complete this quick and easy river walk loop.

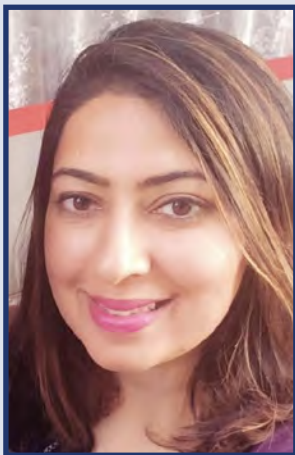
## **RED RESORT**

Trail is just minutes from world-class skiing at Red Resort in Rossland BC. Outdoor lovers will also find a vast network of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and mountain biking trails in the area.

## **COMMITTED TO ENSURING A SAFE JOURNEY**

Pacific Coastal Airlines has adopted additional safety measures to ensure the health and wellbeing of staff and customers. The measures include enhanced aircraft sanitation practices, physical distancing at airport facilities, reduced contact points, and the requirement for all customers to travel with a face mask and answer health check questions before boarding. Learn more about the additional safety measures online. 

## MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE: BAL



**Position:**  
*Customer Service Supervisor*

**Location:**  
*Vancouver Airport Operations*

**Time with PASCO:**  
*Joined the company in 2001*

Job description: Responsible for providing supervision, direction and support to all customer service agents at the Vancouver base. This includes passenger check-in, training and operations planning.

### Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Murrayville in Langley and raised in Vancouver. I now live with my husband in Pitt Meadows.

### What do you like best about this job?

My coworkers are awesome. They are truly like family.

### What is your favourite thing to do in your city/town?

I love spending time with my friends and family, checking out local wineries and breweries and exploring my own backyard.

### Anything else you'd like to share?

I'm looking forward to many more years with PASCO! 📸

## AROUND BC

# Malahat Skywalk set open this July

**MALAHAT:** Construction is well underway on the Malahat Skywalk.

Expected to be completed July, this world-class tourism experience will feature an elevated wooden pathway constructed through an Arbutus forest leading to a gentle, accessible spiral ramp climbing to a 40-metre-high sightseeing lookout, where visitors will enjoy magnificent views of the Finlayson Arm and distant coastal mountains.

The project will also see the construction of a welcome centre, retail stores and a coffee shop.

"People are really beginning to express interest in the project now that they see the columns being raised," says Ken Bailey, general manager of the approximately \$15-million project. "We hope the community will be proud of it when it's completed and will want to share it with the world."

Inspired by similar elevated forest walks in Europe, the elevated wooden pathway is intended to bring a world-class tourism experience to Southern Vancouver Island.

A.Spire by Nature, a company led by two of the founding partners in the successful Sea to Sky Gondola near Squamish, and the Malahat Nation have partnered in the Malahat Skywalk project, which will combine nature-based tourism with a cultural tourism experience.

About 25 workers from Kinsol, a local contracting company in Bamerton, are building the structure.

Upon announcing the project, George Harry Jr., a councillor with the Malahat Nation, said the First Nation is proud to partner on the Malahat Skywalk project.

"Not only is it a tourism experience that speaks to sustainability and the connection to our land, but it will also provide opportunities for many generations of the Malahat

Nation to come. We look forward to telling the stories of our people and welcoming the visitors to our community through the Malahat Skywalk experience."

# Organ Donor run opens for mountain bikers

*By Travis Paterson / westcoasttraveller.com*

**SIDNEY:** As a black diamond run, the newly redesigned section of Organ Donor trail at Hartland-Mount Work mountain biking park is not for everyone.

But the lineups of bikers at the top of Organ Donor show just how popular the trail is, and how badly needed it is at Mount Work, located on the Saanich Peninsula, just outside Victoria. (And yes, the mountain bike trails have extreme names, ranging from off-colour humour, such as Birth Control, Lumpy Pants and Who's Your Daddy, to the more subtle, such as Small Craft Warning and Bubble Wrap.)

"Now that it's open, everyone is enjoying it and sharing that stoke around the community," says Alon Soraya, vice president of the South Island Mountain Biking Society.

What's significant about Organ Donor—which has long existed but has had a significant reroute with a new design—is that this style of "flowy" trail with built-up jump-style features has not been allowed in Mount Work Regional Park until now.

In the past, there were legal issues that limited the building of features such as jumps and drops, not just in Greater Victoria but across BC. How-





Malahat Skywalk set to open this summer.

**"Now that it's open, everyone is enjoying it and sharing that stoke around the community."**

ever, in the past decade trail-building elsewhere has undergone a boom and has put places such as Cumberland on the map and Whistler as one of the province's fastest-growing mountain biking destinations.

Now, the stewards who oversee trail building at Mount Work are working to catch up. In the spring, the South Island Mountain Biking Society signed a licence agreement with the Capital Regional District, the result of several years of negotiations between CRD staff and a number of the society's board directors.

"It supports us to do work like this and continue improving the park," Soraya said.

There's a long history of trail building, including recent work;

however, it's mostly unsanctioned, and the CRD will often step in to close trails.

Once South Island Mountain Biking Society had permission this past summer, longtime volunteer and local mountain biker Jesse Jubinville couldn't wait to start building. The work began last September with more than 1,000 volunteer hours in total and officially opened on January 17.

"Hartland for years hasn't had a progressive-style trail and has been left behind in comparison to other [parks], which have flowy, fun trails with drops and jumps. When I set out to build something, I wanted something for the community that all levels of riders can have fun on," Jubinville says.

So while the trail is fast, it is a bit wider than the usual single track, and it covers the craggy roots and rocks that make Hartland "technical" and difficult, but fun. It also has opportunities for riders to slow down where other black diamond trails don't.

There are also "rollable" options next to the bigger jumps, gaps and drops, so moms and dads can go easy while the kids go big.

Learn more, including trail map and ratings, at [simbs.com/trails](https://simbs.com/trails)

## Rare white 'spirit moose' spotted in Cariboo

*By Greg Sabatino  
westcoasttraveller.com*

**WILLIAMS LAKE:** A Williams Lake resident was considering buying a lottery ticket after stumbling across a rare, white moose while out for a scenic drive.

"People have always told me I'm lucky, but this one kind of trumps them all," says Hattie Deyo, who managed to capture a video and photographs from the encounter on a back road in the Cariboo outside Williams Lake.

"It was with its mom, which was a brown moose. I didn't know what it was



Kangaroo Creek Farm in Kelowna.  
KANGAROO CREEK FARM/FACEBOOK

at first. I thought it was a cow with long legs.”

Growing up in a rural home, Deyo says, she’s heard of white moose, also called spirit moose, sightings before, but never imagined she’d witness one first hand.

“It was pretty impactful,” she says. “And one in a million.”

After Deyo parked her vehicle, the mother of the white moose calf carried on, but the calf stayed behind.

“It didn’t go anywhere,” she says. “It was really cool and stood there for about 10 minutes...then it just casually strolled away.”

Cariboo Chilcotin Zone Conservation Officer Service Sgt. Jeff Tyre said in his roughly 14-year career he’s never come across a white moose.

“It’s definitely unique,” he says. “You’ll only ever see one like that in your lifetime.”

## Kelowna kangaroo farm jumps back into action

By Twila Amator  
[westcoasttraveller.com](http://westcoasttraveller.com)

**KELOWNA:** Kelowna’s Kangaroo Creek Farm is back up and running. The popular family farm—which counts kangaroos and capybaras among its animal residents—was set to welcome guests back as of April 29.

Kangaroo Creek Farm features a wide array of animals in natural surroundings. These include red kangaroos, common wallaroos and Bennett wallabies, as well as dama wallabies, emu, peacocks, fancy chickens, goats, parrots, a baby albino wallaby, baby kangaroos and potbellied pigs. There’s even a capybara, the world’s largest rodent, which can weigh more than 150 pounds!


As an outdoor venue big enough to accommodate physical distancing, it offers a COVID-friendly way to enjoy being outside while still having social interactions safely, says owner Caroline MacPherson.

“You can get outside, enjoy the sunshine and see some animals” she says. “We just ask that people stay six feet apart from others and to stay in your bubble.”

This year, the community can expect see the addition of a dog therapy park.

“It’s not really a dog park in the way people might expect, where you take your dogs to the park. This is a space that’s already populated with dogs,” she says.

MacPherson said the therapy dog park’s goal is to provide an additional space for visitors with young children so they can also have the experience of interacting and playing with animals at Kangaroo Creek Farm.

Plan your visit at [kangaroocreek-farm.com](http://kangaroocreek-farm.com). 





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# Seeking Solace

## Kayaking in BC's coastal waters

By Linda Doctoroff

Photos by Tom Perry / [tomperryphotography.com](http://tomperryphotography.com)

**S**woosh...dip, swoosh...dip, swoosh...dip and smack! Less than 50 metres from our kayaks, the humpback's fluke whacks the water as it dives deep searching for krill.

Last summer, I left the isolating effects of these strange pandemic times to embrace another form of isolation: to seek solace in nature and to lose myself in a remote marine environment. I signed up with Orca Dreams to kayak in a marine wilderness area near the Broughton Archipelago, nestled between Vancouver Island and the BC mainland. I decided to travel solo on this trip. I often prefer it that way. I'm more open to meeting others and experiencing nature.

Base camp is a half-hour boat ride from Telegraph Cove. While waiting for the water taxi, I read about the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic that hit this tiny outpost.

An eerie feeling echoes through me: 100 years later, we are living with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we leave this historic village, we spot a pod of resident orcas about 200 metres from us. JD, the owner of the company, cuts the motor.

"There's A23 and A25," he says. "They've been active in this area lately, hungry for salmon."

He drops a hydrophone in the ocean; we listen to the orcas sing underwater. They are skilled communicators, making sounds for orientation, navigation and feeding.

As the boat approaches our base camp, I am struck by the haunting beauty of the wilderness. A thick forest of western red cedar, Sitka spruce and hemlock cover the island. The treetops sway gently in the wind as if they are welcoming us with a slow dance. I am humbled by the natural beauty and the history of the area.

The campsite is located on small

Compton Island, on Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em Band First Nation territory. They have given permission to the company to use their land. We step off the boat onto the midden beach. I imagine how, for thousands of years, Indigenous people have lived here, fishing, farming clams and hunting. The shells are the remains of their cultural heritage and their present-day life.

The first morning, after a hearty breakfast of buckwheat pancakes, fresh fruit and bacon, we set out in our kayaks to Blackfish Sound, a wide channel known for feeding humpback whales. Humpbacks migrate, annually, moving from their summer feeding grounds in the high latitudes to warmer winter breeding waters closer to the equator.

Perched high on a bare branch in the thickly treed shoreline, a bald eagle surveys the scene. It's watch-





The treetops sway gently in the wind as if they are welcoming us with a slow dance. I am humbled by the natural beauty and the history of the area.

ing a seal feast on a salmon, patiently waiting to swoop down and scavenge any leftovers. I continue paddling and soon a sea lion joins me, swimming a few metres away. I keep pace with it until it dips down into the ocean. I paddle to the middle of the sound and pause to watch two humpbacks. They are circling around me, dipping, blowing and slapping their flukes before diving down. Am I intruding on their space?

When I return to the campsite, dinner is almost ready. Amy, our cook, sure knows her way around a kitchen. She has prepared pickled bull kelp, which she harvested that morning in the inlet. We nibble on the bright mustard-coloured delicacy while she puts the finishing touches on dinner. She is preparing pierogies from scratch, a recipe passed down from her husband's grandmother, who came from the Ukraine. Grandma made sure Amy was married before turning over her recipe. I bite into the potato–cheddar cheese pierogi, topped with fried onions and a dollop of sour cream; I'm in heaven.

The next morning, we go out on Tensing, a 38-year-old former US Naval whaleboat, and watch a pod of Dall's porpoise skim along the shoreline, bobbing up and down in perfect single formation, like large bubbles dribbling.

They are the fastest cetacean on the planet, swimming up to 56 kilometres per hour," JD offers.

Another day, I see a purple sea star

(or starfish) spread out on a barnacled rock on the shoreline. It's good to see they are returning after several years' absence, owing to the sea star wasting disease.

"Forty species of sea stars have been affected by this disease," JD says, as we glide by. We stop at a small island, and, from our kayaks, we pick sea asparagus that later appears in our salad at dinner that night.

One late, starless evening, we stand on the midden beach and throw stones in the water. We watch the bioluminescence—light generated chemically by organisms—as we swish sticks back and forth in the ocean. It's as if fireflies are swimming underwater.

Another evening after dinner, we hike the kilometre-long trail to Sunset Beach, stopping along the way to pick ripe huckleberries. I arrive just in time to catch the sun blanketing across a billowy, cloudy sky as it dips into the ocean, forming a pattern of shooting rays of gold. An orange glow covers the sea. When we return to camp, JD has just caught a 24-pound Chinook salmon.

"They like to bite in the early evening," he says, as he's filleting the fish on the beach, and then preparing it in brine to be smoked the next day.

On our last day, the sun shining, we head north on Tensing. JD's pulling a double kayak at the stern of the boat. Tom, our kayaking guide and me are dropped off in the heart of Broughton Archipelago Marine Park to kayak

back to our campsite. As we approach Blackfish Sound, there's action ahead.

Tom excitedly says, "I've been here seven weeks and haven't seen anything like this!" He quickly grabs his camera and starts taking photos. "I won't have another chance like this," he exclaims.

Over the UHF radio, we hear the crackling voice of a captain in another boat shout, "This is craziness!"

We see several humpbacks blowing and gliding along the ocean, while a pod of surfing orcas and dolphins cavort between them in the shimmering water. This time the humpbacks are making different sounds from what we've heard before. Their sounds are coming from deep within them, almost moaning, making an eerie-sounding howl. As we leave the scene and return to camp, a flock of red-necked phalaropes skim just above the water's surface.

I went on this kayaking trip to lose myself in nature during these strange pandemic times; I wanted to be in the richness of a remote marine environment. But I came away with much more: I gained a new appreciation of the wildlife so abundant in this area.

Indeed, it was a great getaway during a pandemic.

### Kayaking companies

North Island Kayak: [kayakbc.ca](http://kayakbc.ca)

Orca Dreams: [orcadreams.com](http://orcadreams.com)

Spirit of the West: [kayakingtours.com](http://kayakingtours.com)



### GETTING THERE ➔

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**Driving:** Take Hwy 19 north on Vancouver Island to Telegraph Cove.

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Freshwater Fisheries  
Society of BC





Photos courtesy Visit Penticton.

# Find your fun

## Penticton has it all



**P**enticton, located in British Columbia's South Okanagan, is ripe for rediscovery this summer. Boasting a scenic locale, nestled between two lakes (Okanagan and Skaha), this beautiful town welcomes visitors (when the time is right) with an array of thrilling outdoor adventures, delicious culinary offerings and family-friendly activities.

Even better, Penticton was added to Pacific Coastal Airline's many BC destinations earlier this year, and now travellers can fly direct from Vancouver to this Okanagan hot spot.

### Where to stay

Penticton offers a variety of accommodation options, from the Penticton Lakeside Resort

(situated on the shores of Okanagan Lake) to charming motels, which line both Okanagan Lake, Skaha Lake and Main Street, and quaint B&Bs. Or, visit nearby Naramata and stay at the historic Naramata Inn which reopened under new ownership in 2020.

### Eat & Drink

Whether you're looking for a sumptuous wine-paired meal or more casual fare, Penticton brings a lot to the table.

Notable local spots include: Elma Restaurant, offering traditional Turkish cuisine in an upscale lakeside setting; the Hooded Merganser (located at the Penticton Lakeside Resort), which grows some of its own food in its garden and incorpo-







**Boasting a scenic locale, nestled between two lakes, this beautiful town welcomes visitors with an array of thrilling outdoor adventures, delicious culinary offerings and family-friendly activities.**

rates those greens and produce into the menu; The Restaurant at Poplar Grove Winery with its farm-fresh menu and incredible views overlooking the city; and, for amazing coffee and breakfast, The Bench Market and Wayne & Freda are both popular choices. In addition, branching out from its farmers'-market start, local favourite Joy Road Catering has opened a pop-up bake shop downtown.

Wine aficionados can explore more than 80 wineries within a 20-minute drive of Penticton. Many are accepting reservations for tastings this year, so make sure you plan ahead. Local companies offering tours include:

Grape Escapes Wine Tours, with six unique tour options all over the South Okanagan; Sagebrush Tours (wine and nature excursions); and Grape Friends Lounge and Tours.

Beer fans can enjoy seven local craft breweries (soon to be eight!), including Bad Tattoo, Barley Mill Brew Pub, Cannery Brewing, Highway 97, Neighbourhood Brewing, Slackwater Brewing and Tin Whistle Brewing. Check out the Penticton Ale Trail for full details.

Plus, don't miss out on great ciders—featuring cider made with delicious Okanagan fruit—such as La Petite Abeille and Creek & Gully.

Bonus: In Penticton, it's legal to have open alcohol at designated local beaches (from mid-May to mid-October), so grab a meal-to-go from your favourite restaurant, pick up a bottle of wine or craft beer and raise a glass with your bubble at Skaha or Okanagan Lake.

On Saturdays, the weekly downtown Farmers Market is a must-do. Here you'll find fresh local fruits and vegetables, baked goods and more. This year, in order to adhere to social distancing protocols,

entry to the market is restricted to 50 customers at a time, with pedestrian traffic flowing one-way.

### **Outdoor Adventuring**

Epic "fuel-free" adventures await, including hiking and biking on the Kettle Valley Rail Trail, or exploring an additional 350-plus kilometres of trail networks (for challenging yourself or simply soaking up stunning views), floating a river channel, or partaking in water sports on the two lakes with kayak and paddleboard rentals.

To help facilitate a day of floating the channel (during summer months), local business Coyote Cruises offers inner-tube rentals and shuttle transport back to the starting point, so you can enjoy a leisurely ride down the seven-kilometer-long channel that connects Okanagan Lake to Skaha Lake. Pro tip: Remember to bring sunscreen.

Recreation businesses offer a plethora of outdoor activity options, including Hoodoo Adventures, which recently launched a new outpost, Hoodoo By The Lake, for watercraft rentals. It has also started offering ebike rentals, in addition to paddle boarding, kayaking and moun-

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tain biking experiences. Freedom Bike Shop also offers ebike rentals, or check out Epic Cycling for a tailored experience involving custom-guided rides and hikes, along with ebiking rentals and tours.

For rock climbing enthusiasts, Skaha Rock Adventures offers local climbing tours to all levels of skill. The climbing season typically runs from mid-March to mid-October.

If you're looking for a more relaxed experience, rent a paddleboard or book a lesson with Sun N' Sup in Naramata.

## Family Fun

LocoLanding Adventure Park (open May to September) offers the ultimate in family fun and entertainment, with activities for all ages (as young as 18 months). Make a day of it on the go-karts, mini-golf, high-level ropes course, water-spraying bumper boats, monkey motion, spider mountain, rock climbing and more.

Enjoy a splashy afternoon at the Penticton Wibit (operated by Splash BC)—a floating water park geared to kids, located on the west end of Okanagan Beach, near downtown.

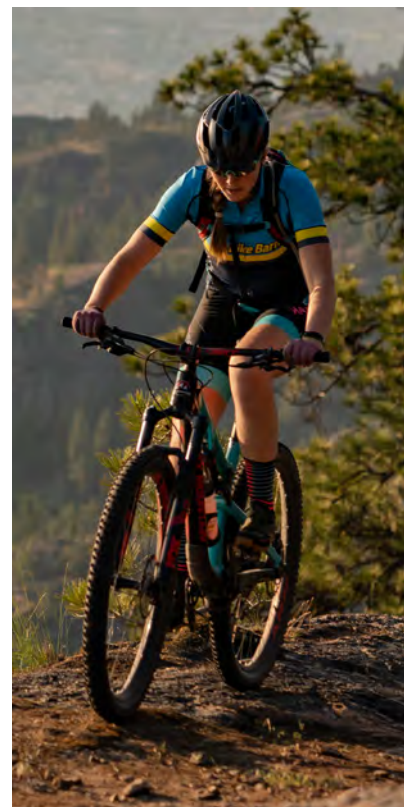
And people of all ages can beat the heat with the best ice cream in town: check out The Peach (on the beach, with 28 different milkshake flavours!), Lickity Splitz or Tickleberry's (with several locations, including two at Skaha Lake Park Beach, as well as a brand-new shop downtown).

For more trip planning inspiration, check out [visitpenticton.com](http://visitpenticton.com) and follow on social media: Instagram: @visitpenticton

Facebook: [facebook.com/visitpenticton](https://www.facebook.com/visitpenticton)

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# Summer sizzles in Rossland

## This mountain town offers great outdoor and culinary adventures

Story and photos by Lucas Aykroyd

It's a gorgeous, warm evening as I hike toward the 1,591-metre summit of Red Mountain in British Columbia's West Kootenays. I glance to my right. About 30 feet down a steep slope, I spot a young, 250-pound black bear in the foliage, looking up at me.

He is perfectly calm, and I'm wearing jingling bear bells I acquired back home on Vancouver's North Shore. Still, it's an unforgettable, heart-racing moment in the Monashee Mountains.

Like a smart city slicker, I decide not to go back the way I came. After admiring the wilderness sunset, I sing Van Halen and AC/DC songs while jogging down the wide, winding Sally's Ride trail to The Josie, my boutique hotel at the foot of Red Mountain. (Bears avoid 80s hard rock even more than bells.)

In retrospect, my comical flight from Mr. Bear is only slightly less smooth than the Pacific Coastal Airlines flight from Vancouver to Trail. That takes just an hour and 15 minutes.

After landing the previous day, I made the 20-minute drive to The Josie in a rented 2019 Toyota Corolla. I was curious about visiting Rossland in the summer. After all, this 1897-founded gold-mining town is well known for its rich history of winter sports athletes.

Nancy Greene, the 1968 Olympic gold medalist in giant slalom, hails from Rossland, and was



named Canada's Female Athlete of the 20th century. Kerrin-Lee Gartner, who won the 1992 Olympic gold medal in downhill, is another local product.

Hockey fans harken back to former Canadian national team goalie Seth Martin (IIHF Hall of Fame, 1997) and Stanley Cup champion Dallas Drake (Detroit Red Wings, 2008). Also, the Rossland Ladies Hockey Team went unbeaten from 1900 to 1917 (BC Hockey Hall of Fame, 2018).

The Josie was named Canada's Best Ski Boutique Hotel in the 2019 World Ski Awards, but a summertime visit offers great opportunities to explore the well-maintained area trails, which welcome hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers. Rossland boasts more than 50 trails and 160 kilometres of single track.

Coming into The Josie, which opened in 2018 with 106 rooms just

outside Rossland, I enjoy the aura of mental and physical freedom. The lobby design includes ski lift chairs, a chess set and towering windows. My fourth-floor room features a deep soaker tub and a glass-encased walk-in shower, in addition to fabulous views of Red Mountain.

I feast on lunch under a big red patio umbrella at The Velvet, the in-house restaurant. It's hard to go wrong with a crispy chicken sandwich with Gruyere cheese, coleslaw and avocado puree, plus a hearty Cobb salad.

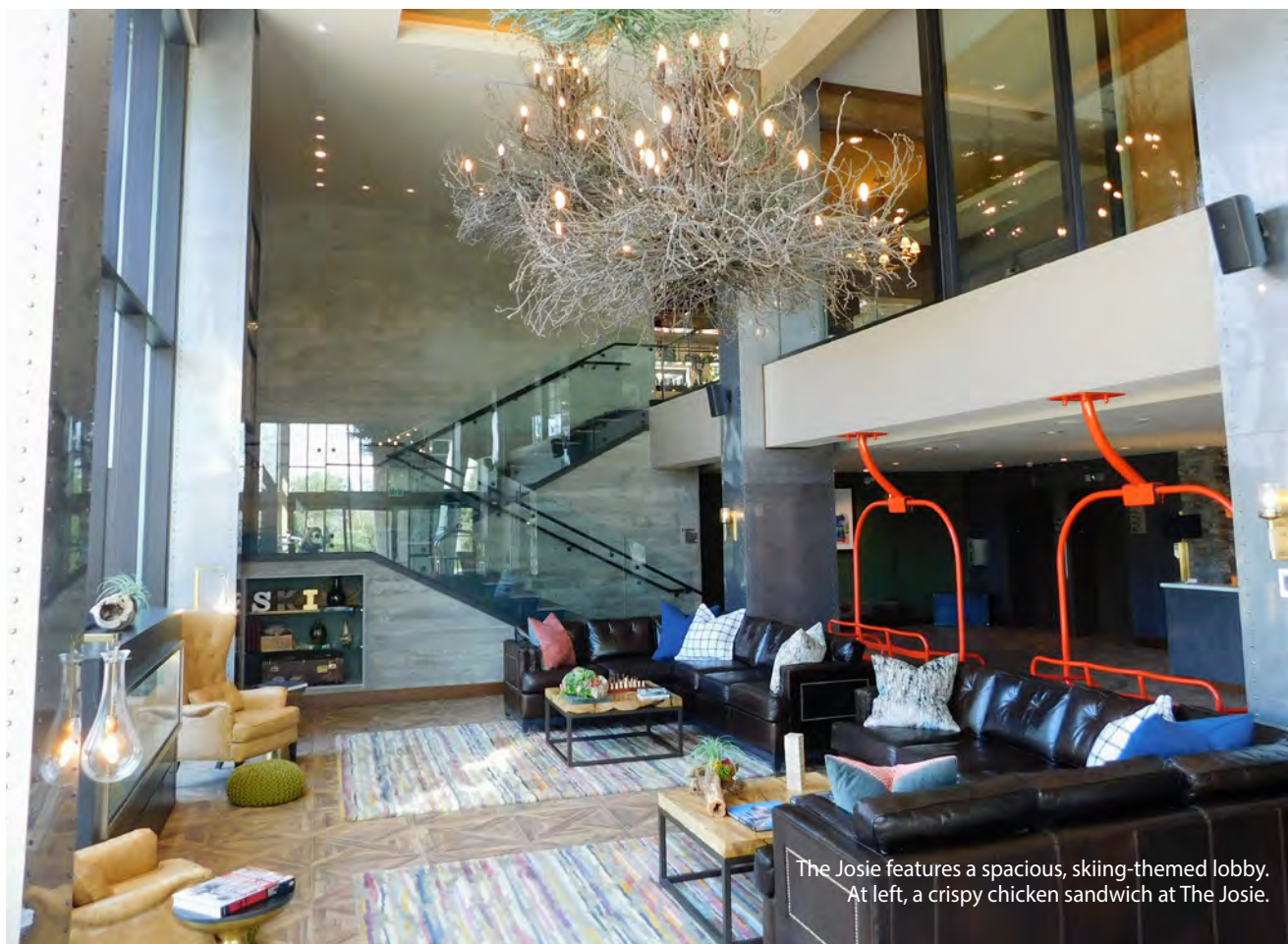
As I discover on my post-lunch foray into town, Rossland brims with laidback rustic charm, but the town of 3,700 also has enough creature comforts to satisfy spoiled city dwellers.

After grabbing a handcrafted Americano from the popular Seven Summits coffee shop, I stroll down Columbia Avenue, which is festooned with hanging flower baskets.

At the Mountain Nugget Chocolate Company, the decor catches my eye. Vintage wooden skis adorn the wall behind the counter. Local artist Lars Baggenstos has prints like "Young Black Bear" for sale (\$30 to \$120) in frames made of Slocan Lake driftwood. I shell out for some BC blueberry anise, maple walnut and strawberry balsamic chocolates.

Just off Columbia Avenue, the well-stocked Gold Rush Bookstore indulges my cultural appetites. Owner Michelle Fairbanks recommends titles





The Josie features a spacious, skiing-themed lobby. At left, a crispy chicken sandwich at The Josie.

## The Josie was named Canada's Best Ski Boutique Hotel in the 2019 World Ski Awards, but a summertime visit offers great opportunities to explore the well-maintained area trails, which welcome hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers.

about Kootenay history like Ron Walker's Old Glory. This primes me to check out the recently renovated Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre.

From a vintage Esso gas station to an enormous rope drive compressor used to power drills in the Rossland mines, the museum brims with intriguing exhibits. A special Nancy Greene display includes her skis, medals and various memorabilia from the '68 Grenoble Olympics.

To round out my local sports experience, I drive to Crescent Valley the next day for a two-hour kayak tour on the Slo-can River with Endless Adventure guide Jordan Overholt. During the five-kilometre odyssey, Overholt, who doubles as a logging-truck mechanic, shows me how to power through challenging sections of the river, which have names like Calm Before the Storm and Elevator Rapids.

There are plenty of serene moments on the water, surprisingly warm at 21 C. "It's a good, accessible experience for kayaking or rafting," Overholt says. "Sometimes, we spot ospreys or grizzlies drinking."

At Crescent Valley Beach Park, I'm thrilled to walk around the former site of Patrick Lumber. Frank and Lester Patrick used proceeds from this 1907-founded sawmill company to found the Pacific Coast Hockey Association, which featured pro teams in Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle and Portland through 1924. The PCHA transformed hockey forever with innovations like blue lines, penalty shots

and forward passing. In a sense, the remaining riverside log pilings and graffiti-covered sawmill ruins here constitute the ancient Mesopotamia of modern-day hockey.

I'm still musing about it as I head to the Rossland Beer Company. The brick-walled establishment, formerly a hardware store, offers refreshing, rap-themed beers with names like Slim Shady Summer Wheat, plus Straight Outta Rossland T-shirts. Co-founder Petri Raito is on a first-name basis with his many local customers. The vibe is so laid-back that I'm almost surprised when my Red Mountain bear doesn't wander in.

I don't spot the bear when I'm eating beef brisket and ahi tacos at the Flying Steamshovel either. Ah well, I'm sure he didn't have as much summer fun in Rossland as I did. (No offence to the bear community.)

**To plan your trip to Rossland, see [tourismrossland.com](http://tourismrossland.com) or [hellobc.com](http://hellobc.com).**



Barkerville (photo by Amy Attas).

## Five must-see attractions in Northern BC—when the time is right

By Amy Attas  
Courtesy Westcoast Traveller

**W**hen the time is right again to travel, northern BC has a host of places to visit. And Pacific Coastal Airlines has the means to get you there—check the airline's website for a list of northern-BC destinations. In the meantime, dream of experiencing these five attractions.

### 1. Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark

In the summer of 2000, two Tumbler Ridge kids were floating down Flatbed Creek (located just north of Prince George) when they fell off their inner tubes and stumbled on a trail of dinosaur footprints. None of the adults in town believed them, but the boys persisted until a visiting palae-

ontologist confirmed their find.

It was one of the most significant dinosaur discoveries in BC in 100 years.

Visit the Tumbler Ridge museum to learn all about dinosaurs and the fascinating geology of the region, then head out on the trails for a hike or ski to see some jaw-dropping landscapes. You may even find the next fascinating fossil!



You'll see trees as wide as trucks, whales, sea lions and rare birds, and connect with an ancient culture that continues to thrive.

## 2. Barkerville

If you like historic sites where costumed interpreters help you immerse yourself in a different time, you'll love Barkerville.

The gold rush town, located east of Wells, BC, is huge (including over 125 heritage buildings), with a wide range of hands-on activities, restaurants, entertainment and displays to engage visitors of all ages. Try your luck at gold panning, practice calligraphy at the Chinese school house, or watch infamous Judge Begbie lay down a harsh verdict in court.

Time your visit with the first weekend in August to catch the ArtsWells festival, or combine it with a canoe trip in Bowron Lake Provincial Park.

## 3. Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park

For an other-worldly moonscape, visit Anhlut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park), one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province. See vast, sparse fields of volcanic rock, and something called a tree cast— caused when tree trunks were vaporized in the lava flow, leaving bark-engraved holes in the basalt.

Make sure to stay on marked paths, since a single footprint can set back hundreds of years of delicate lichen growth.

Along with geology, on the Nisga'a Nation Auto Tour you'll



The lower pool of the Liard River Hot Springs in Northern British Columbia (photo by Amy Attas).

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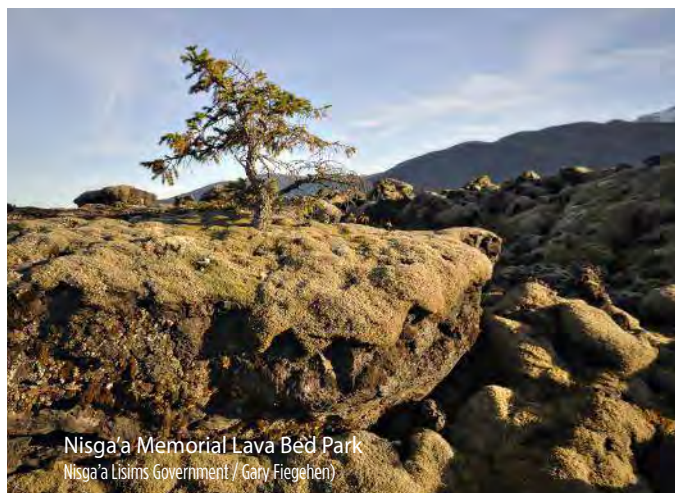
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Tumbler Ridge GeoPark is a four-season playground with rugged scenery and a rich dinosaur history.

learn about Nisga'a's culture and visit a Nisga'a village which was destroyed by the volcano.

#### 4. Liard River Hot Springs

Here's why Liard is the best hot spring in BC: it's natural, surrounded by forest, big and remote, so you'll never be competing for space.

The hot springs are a welcome respite for roadtrippers making their way to the Yukon, and there's even a campground if you'd like to take an extra long soak.

#### 5. SGang Gwaay UNESCO World Heritage Site

On the southern tip of the Haida Gwaii archipelago, aged cedar mortuary poles rise from the grass, standing watch over a sparkling ocean bay. The carving on these poles is world class, and so is the scenery—the Haida definitely know how to pick a village site.

Once travel restrictions to Haida Gwaii are lifted and you're able to visit, you'll be shown around by a Haida Watchman, someone who lives on the site all summer long to protect the traditional territory and share their culture.

SGang Gwaay is part of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, which has the nickname "Galapagos of the North," meaning there's amazing wildlife as well as historical sites. You'll see trees as wide as trucks, whales, sea lions and rare birds, and connect with an ancient culture that continues to thrive.

*The stories here and on Page 23 and 24 first appeared on [westcoasttraveller.com](http://westcoasttraveller.com). Plan your travel adventures here and on Facebook and Instagram @ [thewestcoasttraveller](https://www.instagram.com/thewestcoasttraveller).*





## New vessels and new tours in Campbell River

By Black Press Media  
Staff/West Coast Traveller

Indigenous tourism is about to get wild in Campbell River.

Homalco Wildlife & Cultural Tours, a 20-year-old Indigenous community-owned business, is opening a new Homalco Adventure Centre in Campbell River, launching two new, state-of-the-art adventure tour vessels, and introducing a new Whales, Wildlife and Culture tour this spring.

"After a long year of restricted business, we are really looking forward to an exciting spring of substantial expansions for our organization," said Homalco Tourism Development Officer JP Obbagy.

Despite pandemic-related supply chain delays, he confirms the buildout of the centre, manufacturing of the watercrafts and staffing of the tours are underway.

"As we move forward, we are integrating the highest possible standard of COVID-19 safety protocols into all aspects of these operations," Obbagy said.

The Homalco Adventure Centre will be located in the Discovery Harbour

Mall at 1344 Island Highway in Campbell River. Designed to immerse visitors in First Nations culture at the outset, the centre's contemporary Indigenous design will feature art from various local First Nation artists, guidebooks and more.

A defining component of the HWCT tours will be two new landing craft boats that offer Zodiac-style, fresh-air seats and comfort seating providing protection inside a cosy cabin.

"Safety is our number one priority, and we are employing the expertise of the best mariners in the business to ensure we've identified and addressed all vessel safety concerns," Obbagy said.

The new Whales, Wildlife and Culture tour expands the expertise of HWCT's team with the addition of marine naturalists, skippers and Indigenous guides. Marketing and social media coordinator Chyanne Trenholm describes the tour as something totally unique on Vancouver Island.

"We now have the ability to bring whales and other marine life into our

realm of exploration."

While COVID-19 international restrictions will likely still be in effect this spring, Shirley Badger, tour coordinator for Homalco Wildlife & Cultural Tours, is confident that the tours will continue to fill up.

"We have seen tremendous interest in Indigenous tourism from our domestic market and our own provincial residents who are passionate about wildlife, culture and the natural beauty to be found in the Territory of the Homalco," she said.

"All of this great news spells progress for the Homalco First Nation," says Chief Darren Blaney. "While COVID-19 is still a factor for the foreseeable future, our Homalco First Nation is ready to welcome visitors again, for now, and as long as we deem it safe to do so. With this expansion great things can happen: knowledge of our culture and appreciation for our environment can be shared with a larger audience and more of our people can be hired and their skills developed.



Given its history and its range of ecological values in the heart of southern Tweedsmuir Park, BC Parks Foundation's goal is to purchase and permanently protect this property, making it an integral part of this incredible large untouched wilderness area (Fawn Gunderson/Landquest photo).

# Parks purchase hoped for Crusoe of Lonesome Lake land

## Acreage is rich in history

By Caitlin Thompson,  
courtesy West Coast Traveller

**T**he BC Parks Foundation, the official charitable partner of BC Parks, is fundraising to purchase one of the most well-known properties in the Bella Coola region: the former home of Ralph Edwards, known to many as the "Crusoe of Lonesome Lake."

The 153-acre property is a rare privately owned parcel in the middle of a globally significant wilderness area: southern Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. At almost one million hectares, it's BC's largest park. And Bella Coola can be accessed via Pacific Coastal Airlines.

The original homestead on the

proposed parks-foundation acquisition, known as the Birches, was built by Ralph Edwards, a pioneering homesteader, amateur pilot and conservationist. Unfortunately, the Birches burned to the ground in a 2004 forest fire, but Ralph's son, John Edwards, constructed a small cabin which still stands there today.

Ralph was perhaps best known for his commitment to the area's trumpeter swans, which faced extinction in the 19th and early 20th centuries due to over-hunting, and were imperilled when he took up residence at Lone-

some Lake in 1913 at age 21.

The lake's remoteness offered the swans safety, but at the cost of starvation during severe winters. In 1925, the Canadian government enlisted Edwards' help to feed the swans during winter. Over the years, a number of family members took on the task—first Ralph, then John and others—using sacks of corn hauled in by packhorse.

During then Princess Elizabeth's 1951 tour of Canada, she was promised a Dominion gift of trumpeter swans, by arrangement of British



conservationist Peter Scott, who was head of the Severn Wildlife Trust in Britain (now known as the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust). Canadian officials discovered the only swans tame enough to capture were at Lonesome Lake as they had been fed by the Edwards family for decades.

In 1952, with the help of Ralph and his daughter, Trudy Turner (Trudy had by now taken over feeding them), five were captured and flown to England, the first time trumpeter swans had ever flown across the Atlantic (although, in the 19th century, swans had been brought by ship to European zoos).



The original homestead, the Birches, unfortunately burned to the ground in a 2004 fire (photo unknown).

**Ralph was perhaps best known for his commitment to the area's trumpeter swans, which faced extinction in the 19th and early 20th centuries due to over-hunting, when he took up residence at Lonesome Lake in 1913 at age 21.**

In 1972, Ralph was awarded the Order of Canada for his work, and by the 1980s, trumpeter swan populations had increased throughout their range, and the Canadian government stopped its feeding program.

Ralph and family members have written or been featured in several books and television programs, most notably Leland Stowe's bestselling *Crusoe of Lonesome Lake* and his sister-in-law's book *Ruffles on My Longjohns*.

Ralph became semi-famous for his living-off-the-land accomplishments and was featured in a documentary, as well as on the 1957 Christmas Day



Ethel Edwards sitting, second from the left, with Ralph behind her. Before his trademark beard. Or perhaps shaved for the wedding (Susan Turner photo).

edition of *This Is Your Life*. Guests for the show included his younger brother, whom he had not seen in 35 years; former army comrades, who he had not seen in 38 years; and his 93-year-old mother.

Ralph passed away in 1977 and John in 2007. The property remains in the family and the push is on for the BC Parks Foundation to raise the funds to purchase this unique piece of land. 🏡

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