

SOAR

In-flight
Magazine for
Pacific Coastal
Airlines

"It's in our nature"

Four fantastic things
to do in Quesnel

Oasis of calm

Magic and mystery on
Texada Island

Desert wine country

A wine-tasting road trip



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Photo by Susan Lundy.

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Photo courtesy BC Farmers Markets.

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WELCOME TO QUESNEL!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In the blink of an eye, August is already here. This month marks the peak of the aviation season in Canada, with our operations in full swing during ideal flying conditions across the province. If you've been thinking about squeezing in one last getaway before the season winds down, now is the perfect time to explore your own backyard.

This summer, we've been eager to share some exciting news: our newest destination, Quesnel, is officially joining the Pacific Coastal Airlines network! Our team has been working hard behind the scenes to bring this route to life, and we're proud to announce that starting in late October, we will launch inaugural service between Vancouver and Quesnel. Flights will operate six days a week, from Sunday to Friday, offering non-stop service on our Beechcraft 1900 aircraft. With Quesnel being our 19th destination, we are strengthening our commitment to regional connectivity while supporting tourism, business and leisure travel across the Cariboo Regional District.

Quesnel is a city rich in history, best known for its roots in the Cariboo Gold Rush of the 1800s. Today, it remains a vibrant community shaped by its strong forestry and milling heritage. If you haven't had the chance to explore this vibrant destination, we invite you to learn more about it on page 18 of this edition of *Soar*. And now that it's just a short flight from Vancouver, there's no better time to add Quesnel to your travel list. Tickets are available now by scanning the QR code on this page!

This summer has also been a meaningful one for our community outreach efforts. At our 31st annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, we proudly raised \$120,000 in support of two incredible BC-based charities: Hope Air and the Source Club Society. We will also be awarding scholarships to four BC students pursuing careers in the aviation and aerospace sectors. With this year's contributions, Pacific Coastal Airlines has now raised and distributed more than \$1 million to causes that make a lasting impact. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the golfers, sponsors and volunteers who helped make this year's tournament so successful.

I hope that you are able to enjoy the warmth and energy of the summer season. Though the seasons change, our appreciation for your support remains constant. Thank you for choosing Pacific Coastal Airlines to be part of your journeys. You are the reason we love what we do!

Sincerely,

Quentin Smith



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MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE: RAPHAEL "MIGUEL"



Location: *Calgary AB*

Time with PCA: *Over seven years.*

Job description:

I supervise all aspects of aircraft maintenance operations at the Calgary base, ensuring compliance with Transport Canada regulations, company policies and safety standards.

Where were you born and raised?

Born and raised in Manila, Philippines. Immigrated to Calgary during high school.

Who is your family?

My family includes my wife, along with my parents, siblings and a few close relatives.

What path did you take to get to this job?

I began my journey in aviation at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). After graduating, I spent a couple of years as an apprentice, working toward my Transport Canada licence. During that time, I gained experience with a heavy maintenance company as well as several regional airlines, before eventually joining Pacific Coastal Airlines (PCA).

What do you like best about this job?

The sense of satisfaction I get when completing a project.

What are your hobbies outside of the job?

Fishing, golfing, hiking, biking and snowboarding.

What is your favourite thing to do in your city?

I love being out in nature and exploring the provincial parks within the city.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I appreciate how the company's People Friendly. People First motto extends beyond our passengers to create a supportive and collaborative environment for the employees as well. This focus on both customers and employees makes PCA a rewarding place to work. 🇨🇦

Welcome, Quesnel!

PCA ADDS NEW NON-STOP SERVICE BETWEEN YVR AND YQZ

Pacific Coastal Airlines' network of destinations across British Columbia continues to grow with the addition of Quesnel, BC.

The new non-stop service between Vancouver International Airport's South Terminal (YVR) and Quesnel Airport (YQZ) is now available for booking, with flights set to begin in late October 2025.

The route, which will operate six days a week (Sunday through Friday), will feature the 19-seat Beechcraft 1900 aircraft, offering passengers a comfortable and efficient travel experience.

"We're excited to expand our network to Quesnel and provide convenient and reliable air service between this vibrant Cariboo community and the Lower Mainland," said Johnathan Richardson, vice-president, commercial, at PCA. "This route will make travel easier for residents, open up new opportunities for economic and tourism growth, and strengthen regional connectivity across British Columbia."

Home to thriving industries such as forestry, mining, agriculture and manufacturing, Quesnel plays an important role in BC's interior economy. This new air connection will help support business travel, offer competitive air cargo service and promote tourism to the Cariboo region.

The launch of this new route supports PCA's ongoing commitment to serving smaller and regional communities throughout the province. With the addition of Quesnel, the airline now serves




Photo by Robin Malherbe, courtesy City of Quesnel.

19 destinations across BC—more than any other airline.

Tickets for the new route are available for purchase at pacificcoastal.com, through the call centre at 1-800-663-2872 or via a travel agent.

PCA is a privately owned, BC-based regional airline operating from YVR's South Terminal. The airline is committed to connecting communities with reliable and convenient air travel, and—recognized as one of Canada's Top Small & Medium Employers of 2025—aims to foster a strong workplace culture while delivering exceptional service.

As the 13th-largest airline at YVR by total outbound seats and the third-largest by takeoffs and landings, PCA plays a key role in regional aviation. In addition to scheduled flights, the airline provides customized charter and cargo services throughout BC and Western Canada, supporting businesses, tourism and remote communities. 

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An

Oasis of Calm

Magic and mystery on Texada Island

By Susan Lundy

I'm sitting in a cedar hot tub, surrounded by forest, a string of softly glowing lights swaying gently above me. Embraced by steamy hot water and lulled by the quiet of the night, I'm thinking this might be a perfect moment. The remoteness of this place manifests in a deep calm, a sense that the cares of the world are a long way away.

We're at Rocky Valley Resort on Texada Island, and through the trees I can see the outline of our tiny-home cabin, where, over the past few days, we've enjoyed a comfortable and thoughtfully curated living space. Nearby, a wooden walkway winds through the forest to a sauna and platform seating area. There's also an outdoor gazebo where, earlier this evening, we sat with other guests around a communal table while owner Brian Stasiewicz served up sizzling fare from a pizza oven.

But the crown jewel of our stay here is our cabin's rooftop patio, where we've spent our evenings on plush cushions around a fire table, sitting upright for conversation or lying flat and watching the treetops sway above us. The air is sweet and the calm sits with us like a peaceful presence.

Texada itself seems to be a place of escape; a spot with endless opportunity for discovery. In our not-long-enough time here, we move about like explorers, stumbling upon natural gems and human-made surprises, but also revelling in the mystery of things we don't see—like Tex, the famous grizzly bear who, at this point, is still alive somewhere on the island and whose presence seems to hijack every conversation. We also don't see Heisholt Lake, a body of turquoise-coloured water formed in a limestone quarry. Once a popular swimming hole, social media stardom and an unfortunate accident ultimately



We move about like explorers, stumbling upon natural gems and human-made surprises, but also revelling in the mystery of things we don't see.

Shady Pine cabin. Photo courtesy Rocky Valley Resort.

led the owners to close it to the public. But the existence of the lake and the bear adds to the mystery of this place.

Located in the traditional territory of the Tla'amin, shíshálh, K'ómoks and Wei Wai Kum nations, Texada is over 300 square kilometres, making it the largest of BC's Gulf islands. The discovery in 1876 of iron ore, followed by copper, gold and limestone, put Texada on the map, and its population peaked at 2,500 in the early 1900s. By the 1920s, most of the mines had closed, and by the 1950s limestone was the island's economic mainstay. The quarry at Blubber Bay was one of North America's largest, and it supported a huge portion of infrastructure across BC. The limestone industry is ongoing, but at a much-reduced scale, and the population now sits between 800 and 1,000 people. Tourism, art and agriculture have helped diversify the economy.

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Access to Texada is via a ferry from Powell River on the BC mainland's Sunshine Coast. You can get to Powell River in under six hours, including ferries, from Victoria or Vancouver. Or you can fly to Powell River via Pacific Coastal Airlines. We drove from Victoria, taking a mid-afternoon ferry from Comox and overnighting in Powell River before boarding a morning boat to Texada.

(We stayed in the newly renovated Marine Inn, which, located right above the ferry terminal and facing Texada Island, has expansive ocean views, perfect for sunset-watching, and offers walking-distance access to stores on the main street of this small town. The hotel has a bit of a rough-and-tumble history, and it's nice to see it taken over by Evergreen Hospitality Group and elevated via renovation to match its iconic ocean-view location.)

It's a hot morning in June when we disembark from the Texada Island ferry and follow the main road for about 10 minutes through stretches of forest and a few sprawling homesteads to Van Anda (population 362), home of Rocky Valley Resort and other amenities, including a grocery store and the island's only two restaurants. With plans to explore Van Anda later this afternoon, we keep going, driving to Gillies Bay, where the permanent population of 450 people doubles in the summer.

Rounding the corner above Gillies Bay, we're met by a breathtaking, almost bucolic scene of big blue ocean, ringed by a horseshoe-shaped swathe of sand and dotted by quaint homes. Our eyes widen further after following the signs to Shelter Point Regional Park & Campground, and we stare in conversation-stopping awe at this unexpected oasis of wild beach beauty, where we can't wait to park, slip off our shoes and walk the two sandy beaches that form a V-shape around picnic, parking and camping areas.

We stumble upon a Sunday farmers' market, where we grab hot dogs, peer at the vendors' wares—everything from handmade jewellery to home-cooked preserves—and listen to a musician strumming the guitar and singing some lively classics.

Back in Van Anda, we meet Colleen, who is the granddaughter of Mary, the original proprietor of Mary Mary Café. She offers a feast of information about the island and local politics and gives us the latest update on Tex. The café's furniture is pure vintage, with brightly coloured Formica tables and chrome chairs pulled straight out of our childhoods. Everything in the café is prepared to order and we make plans to return for breakfast tomorrow morning.

We walk a forest path through the centre of Van Anda to the waterfront and then explore the area around the tiny community by car, discovering an unexpectedly busy boatyard, with dozens of boats in dryland storage and an active haul-out service. There's also an old brick kiln here—a ghostly nod to the island's historic limestone industry. We drive past the Texada Island Museum, which gets rave reviews online, but is only open two hours on Wednesdays, plus two hours on Saturdays in the summer. But everyone says it's worth a visit.

The next day we follow a gravel road to a remote beach and later set out on one of dozens of Texada's hiking trails, choosing an easy path along the coastline at Gillies Bay.

But topping the experience has been our two nights here at Rocky Valley Resort, this haven of forest calm. In creating this acreage of nine tiny homes, forest spa and lower-level glamping cabins and outdoor theatre, owners Brian and his wife, Shannon, have spared no love and no details. Each of the hand-built cabins is unique, beautiful and functional, sleeping anywhere from two to six guests and allowing pets in four of them. There's also a gallery in the lobby with local art, including Shannon's lovely pottery, paddleboard and e-bike rentals, and side-by-side island tours in ATVs.

And although the summertime experience offers up all sorts of activities, I can picture myself here in the rainy winter months, cosy-ing up in front of a fire, writing, resting and meandering along damp forest paths. But for now, I will take this time in the steaming outdoor hot tub, breathe in the still night air and enjoy this perfect moment. 🌊



The beach at Shelter Point. Photo by Susan Lundy



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Beyond the Beat is a feature exhibition at the Royal BC Museum. It showcases the artists and musicians who used their immense talents to fight for justice, freedom and equality. Experience how these musical giants changed the world for the better.



Beyond the Beat: Music of Resistance and Change was developed by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (Winnipeg, Canada).



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Desert wine country

A wine-tasting road trip

Story and photos by William R. Duff

Sunset over the
Naramata Bench Vineyards.

Featuring exceptional restaurants, outdoor adventures and renowned wineries, the South Okanagan wine region provides a comprehensive experience characterized by warm hospitality, breathtaking landscapes and unparalleled wine-tasting opportunities.

As a writer living in the Okanagan Valley—where I completed my WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) Award—I’m frequently asked, “Where should I go?” There is no short answer, since there are more than 180 wineries in the South Okanagan!

The beauty of the South Okanagan lies in its potential to be explored at your own pace. You could easily spend a few weeks visiting the wineries, as this area is filled with standout producers. If you choose to focus on one area, this region will not disappoint; the wineries, although small-batch producers, are rich in delicious flavours.

Here’s a three-day trip that we took:

Day One: Summerland Region

Starting in Penticton, take Highway 97, which runs along the west side of the stunning Okanagan Lake, to Dirty Laundry Winery. This winery has an intriguing history as it was once a

laundry facility that was converted into a wine establishment.

Be sure to try their 2022 Pinot Noir. It features aromas of black cherry and vanilla complemented by subtle hints of clove, cinnamon and cedar. Upon the first sip, you’ll immediately detect integrated flavours of red cherry and black currant followed by savoury barrel spice notes and delicate herbal and floral nuances.

Dirty Laundry also features a vineyard terrace bistro, perfect for pairing small bites with the wine-tasting experience.

Our next tasting room stop was Lightning Rock Winery, which is dedicated to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The grapes are organically farmed, and their winemaking adheres to low-interventionist principles, emphasizing each vineyard site, particularly their single-vineyard Pinot Noir expressions.

Lightning Rock offers a variety of reds and whites, including my favourite, their Syrah. The nose reveals an alluring bouquet of violet and blackberry underscored by subtle savoury nuances. The palate is full-bodied, featuring layers of ripe dark fruit and a velvety texture.



Day Two: **Naramata Bench**

The Naramata Bench is easily accessible by vehicle from Penticton or by cycling the Kettle Valley Rail Trail, where you can explore more than 40 wineries.

Our first stop was the most eclectic small boutique winery, Ruby Blues, where their fruity rosé is crafted from Gewürztraminer, Merlot and Pinot Gris. This deep pink wine exhibits floral notes characteristic of Gewürztraminer along with raspberry and cranberry flavours from Merlot. The Pinot Gris adds a refreshing crispness. The result is a fun, versatile wine for countless occasions.

Next, we headed to Coolshanagh, which is Gaelic for “a meeting place of friends.” It is renowned for its calcium carbonate-rich soil, similar to the famous vineyards of Meursault, France.

I wasn't sure what to expect from a six-year-old Chardonnay, but I was surprised. Creamy yet balanced, it features lovely tropical fruit flavours and aromas with a hint of honey and dried thyme on the nose and palate. It's best enjoyed now rather than cellared long-term.

Summer tours are filling up fast



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Day Three: Okanagan Falls

After spending the evening exploring the craft breweries and distilleries, we travelled south on Eastside Road, tracing the Skaha Lake shoreline to Okanagan Falls.

We pulled into Blasted Church Vineyards, known for its sassy labelling. I found the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon, which includes six per cent Petit Verdot, to be lush, rich and full-bodied, with smooth tannins and an abundance of delicious dark ripe fruit complemented by mocha flavours and aromas.

Ten minutes further south, we parked on the side of the road along Sun Valley Way to visit three excellent wineries. Tangled Vine has just opened its garage doors, which serves as the tasting room. It exclusively produces white wines and one rosé. Stag's Hollow is directly across the road and offers a variety of fruit-driven whites and reds.

Just a stone's throw away, Wild Goose produces my favourite white wine, Gewürztraminer. It showcases the intoxicating fragrances of rose petals, honey, fresh ginger, grapefruit and lychee. The ginger notes are no surprise, as "gewürz" means spice in German.

Whether you're a seasoned wine critic, an expert sipper or someone whose wine knowledge begins and ends with the terms "red, white or rosé," the wines of South Okanagan are both elegant and consistent. 



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Family and group events are popular at Okanagan wineries.

Things to do

- Ride the Kettle Valley Steam Railway, which operates on the only preserved section of the historic Kettle Valley Railway line. Experience the 3716, a 108-year-old steam locomotive and enjoy scenic views of Summerland's rural beauty accompanied by historical commentary during the 90-minute journey.
- Motorcycle touring: Penticton is the ideal hub for a variety of short, medium and full-day rides through scenic vineyards and historic railway routes.
- The channel float: Let the lazy river carry your stress away on a hot summer day. The seven-kilometre lake-to-lake channel float is a must-do summer activity enjoyable for the whole family.
- Outdoor recreation: From mountain biking to rock climbing and kayaking, Penticton is a hub for outdoor adventure, providing some of the most authentic experiences in the Okanagan Valley such as the exhilarating single-track trails of Three Blind Mice and Campbell Mountain.
- Beaches and lakes: Penticton is one of only two cities in the world between two lakes, Skaha and Okanagan Lakes. Both lakes are freshwater and great for swimming, boating, fishing, kayaking and many other water sports and activities. You can also soak up the sun on one of the many sandy sun-soaked beaches.



If you go

- For more information on the South Okanagan, wineries, wine festivals or travel details, contact: Okanagan Wine Festival Society at owfs.com or call 250-861-6654.
- Visit Tourism British Columbia at hellobc.com or call 1-800-HELLO BC.
- For the Kettle Valley Railway, visit kettlevalleyrail.org.
- Looking for ideas on what to do while you're in the area? Check out the Penticton Travel Guide for activities, dining options and accommodations: penticton.com/experience/wine.

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Photo courtesy City of Quesnel

Four fantastic things to do in Quesnel

By Susan Cameron

Quesnel, the new Pacific Coastal Airlines destination located in the heart of BC's Cariboo region, is known for its rich history, picturesque landscapes and vibrant community events.

"It's in our nature" is the tourism tagline for this small city of about 24,000 people, where visitors and locals can enjoy fishing, mountain biking, shopping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

Summer and fall are great times to visit, as the city offers a range of activities that cater to various interests. Here are four fantastic things to do in Quesnel during the next few months. For more information, visit the website at: tourismquesnel.com.

➔ Hike the Riverfront Trail

Quesnel's Riverfront Trail system is a paved pathway that offers residents and visitors access to the riverside and features a scenic and peaceful loop through the community. The trail consists of two segments: downtown and West Quesnel, linked by the Fraser River Footbridge.

The downtown section stretches five kilometres and can be

leisurely completed in about an hour. Starting at Lhtako Dene Park, located where the Quesnel and Fraser rivers meet, this area serves as "kilometre zero" and boasts several attractions. The trail meanders along the Quesnel River, through the North Quesnel neighbourhood, and follows the Fraser River back to Heritage Corner and Lhtako Dene Park.

The West Quesnel section stretches 4.3 kilometres. Starting at the footbridge, the trail runs alongside the Fraser River before crossing North Fraser Drive. It then leads you through Sugarloaf Dog Park and along a short residential street, before crossing again and winding next to Baker Creek. Along the way, informative signage shares the history, nature, and First Nations heritage of the area.

➔ Explore the Quesnel Museum & Archives

It's always a good time of year to delve into the area's at the Quesnel Museum & Archives. Located downtown on the

traditional territory of the Lhtako Dene, the museum offers an extensive collection of artifacts and exhibits that chronicle Quesnel's rich past, from its Indigenous roots to the early days of gold mining and pioneer life.

Says the website (quesnelmuseum.ca): "From rare Chinese artifacts used during the gold rush era to ephemera that will evoke childhood memories, our extensive collections are sure to appeal to all ages and interests. Listen to the stories of our Chinese and First Nations Elders or view our Sikh temple through interactive video installations. Meet the early residents of Quesnel... Learn the secrets of Mandy, the haunted doll, dress up in the children's activity centre or participate in a scavenger hunt."

The museum often hosts special events and themed exhibitions, and its knowledgeable staff can offer guided tours that bring the stories of Quesnel's past to life, making it a compelling visit for history enthusiasts and families alike.

In August, be sure to check out the museum's Discovery Days in the Park which take place every Wednesday at LeBourdais Park and feature a selection of games and crafts.

➔ Attend the Quesnel Farmers' Market

Now more than three decades strong, the Quesnel Farmers' Market runs every Saturday from early May through mid-October. Set in the heart of downtown and steps from the historic Fraser River, it features up to 50 vendors offering everything from homemade baked goods and artisanal cheeses to hand-crafted goods and fresh vegetables.

The market is a perfect place to experience local culture and taste fresh, seasonal produce.

When the weather cools, the Quesnel Winter Market keeps the momentum going. Held on select Sundays in late fall at the Quesnel Arts & Recreation Centre, it offers an indoor gathering spot filled with artisanal holiday treats and cosy conversation.

➔ Experience the Quesnel Art Gallery

The Quesnel Art Gallery is a vibrant cultural hub that showcases the talents of local and regional artists. The gallery often features new exhibitions and art shows that highlight a range of artistic styles and mediums. These exhibitions offer an opportunity to experience the creativity of the local arts community and perhaps even purchase a unique piece to take home.

According to the website (quesnelmuseum.ca): "What started out as a small, volunteer-driven grassroots group has evolved over five decades to become one of the finest showcases of locally grown Cariboo artistic talent in BC. Astoundingly, and to the surprise of many of its patrons, the Quesnel Art Gallery is still run completely on volunteer help."

The gallery frequently hosts workshops and artist talks, providing interactive and educational experiences for visitors. Whether you are an art aficionado or simply appreciate the beautiful works, the Quesnel Art Gallery is a must-visit during your stay. 🏠

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Visit farmers' markets and join the 2025 BC Farmers' Market Summer Challenge

Emily Lorenz at a Vancouver farmers' market.

This summer, travellers are invited to taste BC like never before by exploring one of the province's most authentic and flavourful experiences: local farmers' markets.

Supported in part by Destination BC, this year's campaign celebrates farmers' markets as vibrant community hubs where visitors can connect with the people and places behind their food—no label-checking required.

Every purchase at a farmers' market supports local growers and makers as well as the BC and Canadian economies, making farmers' markets a must-stop destination for food lovers and curious explorers alike.

"Farmers' markets are a trusted passport to BC and Canadian food and artisanal goods," said Heather O'Hara, executive director of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets. "Our markets are filled with local stories of makers and flavours. For those seeking a meaningful way

to travel BC and support our province, choose BC farmers' markets."

With economic uncertainty and new tariffs affecting imported food products, British Columbians are motivated to support Canadian farm families and prepared food entrepreneurs. Shopping at a BC farmers' market takes the guesswork out of buying local. Everything sold at BC Association of Farmers' Markets member markets is 100 per cent grown, made or baked in BC—guaranteed. From small towns to big cities, BC farmers' markets are easy to find using the BC Farmers' Market Trail (bcfarmersmarkettrail.com).

"People love visiting farmers' markets to get fresh produce and locally made products," said Lana Popham, minister of agriculture and food. "When you shop at a BC farmers' market, you are supporting local growers and food producers while also discovering unique regional flavours and experiencing why it feels

and tastes so great to 'Buy BC.'"

Each year, nearly one million tourists visit BC farmers' markets. According to a recent provincial economic impact study, these farmers' markets contribute over \$232 million to local economies and generate positive ripple effects for surrounding businesses. Shopping at local farmers' markets supports entire communities, with 87 per cent of local retailers reporting increased customer traffic thanks to nearby farmers' markets.

"Whether you're a day-tripper, touring cyclist, camper, coastal explorer or a local, farmers' markets offer lively and vibrant stops along your route," said Spencer Chandra Herbert, minister of tourism, arts, culture and sport. "They reflect the heart of each community and offer visitors an authentic experience—fresh, accessible, family-friendly and 100 per cent BC-grown."

This year, the public is invited to take the 2025 BC Farmers' Market Summer Challenge (bcfarmersmar-

kettrail.com/summerchallenge/) by signing up on the BC Farmers' Market Trail Tasting Passport app. This is a simple and engaging way to take action and make shopping local a lifelong choice while exploring new communities far and wide across the province.

Participants can sign up on the BC Farmers' Market Tasting Passport app to complete five local actions that benefit BC farmers, food entrepreneurs and small businesses:

Shop local: Buy food from BC farmers and food entrepreneurs;

Plan a visit: Make markets a weekly or monthly part of your routine;

Go green: Walk, bike or take transit to a market at least once this season;

Explore BC: Add farmers' markets to your summer travel itinerary using the BC Farmers' Market Trail;

Stay connected: Follow your favourite markets online or subscribe for updates. 📱



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History on the *water*

Campbell River museum's guided boat tour returns

By Black Press Staff, courtesy WestCoastTraveller.ca

Guide Sandra Milligan shares stories of Desolation Sound during a stop at Refuge Cove. Photo courtesy Campbell River Museum.

A unique opportunity to delve into the stories that have shaped the Campbell River coastline—from Indigenous history to early logging, commercial fishing and life on the water—is now available through the Campbell River Museum's History on the Water guided boat tours.

Passengers will journey through Discovery Passage and Desolation Sound, learning about the people and events that tell the story of the area's history.

The 2025 season has introduced an extended tour that ventures deeper into Discovery Passage and features a stop at Ripple Rock and visits to Kanish Bay, Granite Bay, Menzies Bay, Duncan Bay and even Rock Bay. A highlight of this trip is a new lunch stop at Campbell River's oceanside Brown's Bay Resort, allowing guests to enjoy local seafood while soaking in the coastal scenery.

One of the tour's focal points is

Ripple Rock, an underwater mountain in Seymour Narrows that once posed a significant hazard to maritime navigation. In 1958, Canadian engineers successfully detonated the rock in one of the largest non-nuclear peacetime explosions in history, increasing the water depth and making the passage safer for vessels.


Another tour favourite is the Thurlow Islands, found amid breathtaking scenery. Once home to Indigenous villages, logging camps and gold mines, these islands offer a glimpse into the past. Guests can enjoy a meal at Blind Channel Resort or opt for a more rustic picnic on the dock at Shoal Bay.

For those seeking tranquillity, the Desolation Sound tours focus on Malaspina Inlet and Homfray Channel, with a stop at Refuge Cove. These areas are known for their serene beauty and rich history, providing a peaceful retreat into nature.

A standout experience is the Romance on the Rapids evening tour, which takes

guests on a scenic adventure through hidden bays, serene coves and tiny islands, all set against the backdrop of the rugged coastal mountains. Along the way, tales of love, lust and heartbreak from the coast's rich history are shared. Love is a messy business, and this trip is recommended for passengers aged 18 and older. A catered meal is included to enjoy on board.

All tours are operated aboard a covered boat by Campbell River Whale Watching and Adventure Tours, featuring indoor and outdoor seating, and an onboard bathroom. Each trip combines a museum history guide to point out key locations among the islands, alongside a naturalist from Campbell River Whale Watching and Adventure Tours to highlight local wildlife.

To see the full schedule of tours and to register, visit crmuseum.ca. 





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