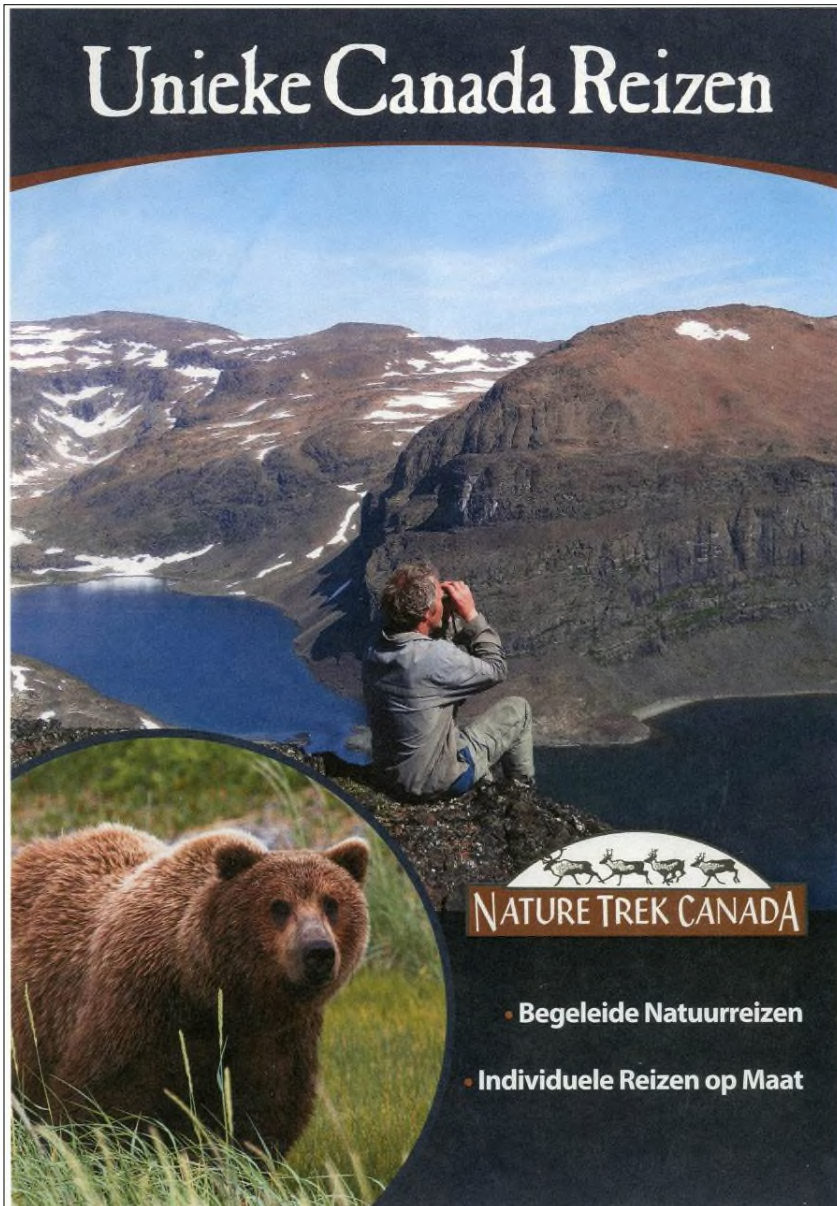


The Johansen's 2023 Canada Travel Guide



Travel Guide facts

The final version of this travel guide consists of 115 pages.

Included here are the sections covering Vancouver Island and Northern British Columbia

The travelguide is **laserprinted** (black and white), coloured cardstock covers, ringbound and clear plastic cover.

The travelguide is accompanied by:

Vouchers and a detailed overview of **reservations** made on your behalf by Nature Trek Canada. See next page for a voucher example.

The travel guide is accompanied by a (digital) PDF file in which all **web addresses** appear chronological order. This enables you to 'click' on any website without having to manually enter the web address.



Vouchers

Contact: Annemarie Linders
220 Hillcrest Drive, Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada, V8K 1Y4
Phone / Fax: 1-250-653-426, www.naturetrek.ca, information@naturetrek.ca

All reservations below are prepaid by Nature Trek Canada Ltd.
Nature Trek Canada has paid only for rooms and/or activities including all taxes.
Any incidentals are to be paid for by the guests.

Juneau Adventure

www.JuneauAdventureTours.com

Phone: 907-723-8908

Tuesday, Jul 23, 2023

Confirmation # 18jat6w97zb

"Pack Creek Independent bear viewing"

Total Tour Time: 3-7 hours (your choice)

Ground Transportation from downtown or hotel

20-25 minutes flying time each way

Head out as early as 8:30 am (for 9am arrival, when rangers come on duty) and stay as late as 6pm

Delicious Pack Lunch included

there are rangers at the site for orientation and guidance.

1 Adult, 1 Adult, PATRICK JOHANSEN (66), NICOLA JOHANSEN (64)

Pack Creek is the crown jewel - Fully supported bearviewing trip includes permits, ground transportation, flight, lunch and boots for beach landing (no guide)

pickup at 09.15u at Driftwood Hotel (will be at Pack Creek by 10:30

At the white House B&B -

<http://www.atthewhitehouse.com>

475 8th Avenue

Skagway, 99840

Phone: (907) 983-9000

Fax: (907) 983-9000

Friday, Jul 26, 2023 / Saturday, Jul 27, 2023

(Check-in / Check-out)

Room: "Double"

1 room x 1 night

Confirmation # 13088458Uand
13088469

2 Adults, PATRICK JOHANSEN (66), NICOLA JOHANSEN (64)

Your bedroom is 201 Please note this is an historic home, 1902, and there is no elevator.

Rooms 101 and 102 are on the ground floor. All others are upstairs.

For your comfort all our bedrooms feature private baths, cable TV, ceiling fans, complimentary wireless Internet, telephones and refrigerators. This is a nonsmoking facility. We have no provisions for pets.

Johansen 2023

1

Below you will find general information which applies when you rent a car or camper during your trip

Camper pick up

You can never pick up a camper on the same day as you arrive on a transatlantic flight. Cruise Canada RV Rental does not arrange transfers from your hotel to the rental location (unless an Early Bird option is booked). Check your travel documents before departing for Canada. If you are arriving during office hours, call the rental agency to arrange for pick up time and location and to let them know in which hotel you are staying to arrange a transfer to the rental station on the morning of your RV pick up.

Picking up the camper is in general between 0900-1300 (Cruise Canada and Canadream later). Motorhomes come fully equipped with sleeping, washing and cooking equipment. My experience is that bedding, towels etc. is adequate. Tea towels in Canada are not good so take a few from home. Acquainting yourself with your RV usually takes some time (2 hours). Make sure you have a credit card with you because it is used as a guarantee that you bring the camper back and as a deposit for damage or loss. Also check carefully the following:

- Insurance: included in rent (NTC rental packages are always with the highest possible insurance policies) or separate coverage like the No Risk insurance that brings your own risk back to \$Can 0.
- What is the deductible per claim **or** make sure you are insured for this (through for instance a No Risk Insurance policy).
- Abandonment costs, additional items such as bicycles, chairs, child seats etc.
- Can you travel to the USA (let's say you want that), should be included on your contract.
- Check whether the rental that you are receiving actually matches with what you booked and paid for (free kilometers per day, cost per extra km, bedding, dishes, etc.)
- Opening and closing times for returning the camper (especially if in a different location, ask directions).

Then it goes out for a tour to the RV for an introduction and tour. Please observe the following:

- refrigerator. Runs on propane - good to explain.
- allow yourself to be well informed about the toilet drains and system.
- walk around the camper and watch carefully for any damage both inside and outside. All the damage should be listed on the rental form or you can be charged upon its return. If you have a digital camera, take a few pictures of the motorhome before you start driving. Also on the inside.
- Check odometer with what the rental agreement.

Try starting and driving the camper on-site. They are all well maintained vehicles and should handle well. **Note** - in almost all automatic cars/campers you can **only** start the car in P (parking) position and only if you have your foot on the brake

Driving in Canada

No changes in driving behavior are needed in Canada. Maximum speeds on highways are 90 or 100 km. In urban areas 30 or 50. Stick to those speeds because as traffic violations are costly in Canada! In Canada there also is the hexagonal STOP sign indicating that you should give way to opposing traffic. At some busy intersections you see this sign sometimes with a "FOUR WAY" designation underneath. This means that the first person arriving at this junction stops and then proceeds, then follows the second, third car, etc. Should you arrive first you may also be the first to drive on. In Canada you can pass on the right although not recommended. So do not be alarmed if that happens.

International Driving Licence

An International Driving Licence is basically nothing more than an authorized translation of your drivers license. Your license is the only valid piece of paper and you should have that with you. An international driving license is highly recommended because it gives the renter of cars and campers insight in your driving skills. For a camper a normal licence is needed. A IDL is also 'handy' in case of accidents as the police can readily understand your license. So an International Driving Permit is not mandatory but handy.

General Tips

Keep all receipts for purchases of hotel accommodations and goods (no food or gasoline) because you could claim the GST / HST (say, the Canadian equivalent of VAT) back (see www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/visitors).

If you have a portable phone that a Canadian "provider" can handle, **mobile telephones** generally work in Canada. However, their range is limited to urban environments. **Bring extra** batteries for cameras etc, and a converter plug for rechargeable equipment (Canada has a 110 volts mains and plugs have flat poles), enough 'memory' for your camera, first aid kit, International driving license (recommended, not required), binoculars, nail scissors (joke). Copy of passport recommended

Overnight

Camping is actually the best (read 'the nicest') in provincial or national parks. Often these sites are slightly less luxurious (and provincial parks rarely have electricity and water at the campsites), but flush peace and quiet.

- **Reservation of spots in National Parks** www.pccamping.ca/parkscanada/
- **Reservations in (some) provincial parks of British Columbia** through www.discovercamping.ca or 1-800-689-9025 (April 1 to September 15, MON-FRI 0700-1900 and 0900-1700 Sat-Sun). You can reserve up to 3 months before arrival. You can only make a reservation with VISA or Mastercard.

Paying for stuff in Canada

You can pay with debit cards and withdraw cash money from any ATM machine. Ask your bank if your cards work outside Europe. Credit cards are most widely used for payments though. You can pay everything everywhere (coffee, gasoline, hotels, food in shops, meals in restaurants, souvenirs etc). Mastercard and Visa are the most common.

Food and Cooking

You can buy anything in Canada in supermarkets, etc. These stores are sometimes huge and often open 7 days a week, in some cases even 24 hours a day. If large grocery stores are closed, you can always go to "corner stores" and smaller shops with an amazing assortment of chips, but also some necessary foods etc. These small shops are often more expensive. In general, it is our experience that food, with the exception of *zuivelproducten*, is similar to or slightly more expensive than in Europe. This is entirely dependent on the location. An apple in Vancouver is cheaper than the same apple that bounces up to Bella Coola.

Eating out is generally cheaper than in Europe. Alcohol is expensive and only sold in special shops (Liquor Stores). Attention is not always given to preparing fat-free meals so keep in mind that some meals can weigh heavy on the stomach. Going out for "breakfast" is a favorite in Canada. Cheap and funny to see how people around eight o'clock in the morning already devour with fries, 3 eggs, sausage and bacon. The quality of bread is sometimes deplorable, Canadians do not eat as much bread as we do and often must be toasted. Coffee is served rather weak.

Clothing

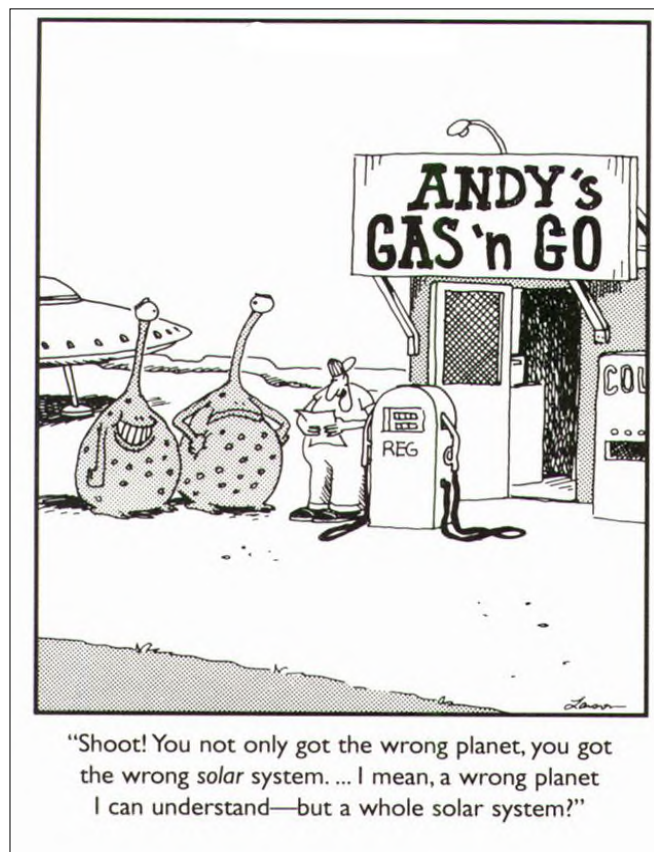
To vacation in nature one must have sturdy clothes that are reasonably windproof and dry up quickly. Many clothes are eligible, but jeans and thick cotton clothing not, as they dry slowly. Warm, light sweaters (fleece, wool) and a hat to keep the summerbreezes 'outside'. Make sure you have good walking shoes. If you go canoeing/kayaking or rafting wading shoes (like TEVA's) are ideal as they can get wet.

Taxation in Canada

There is a provincial tax (PST) and Federal tax (GST) levied on non-essential foods. Please note prices in stores are advertised WITHOUT adding taxes. Taxes are only added at checkout. The GST (5%) you paid for accommodation and stuff you buy and bring home with you (gifts, books, camping gear etc.) can be recovered using a GST rebate form found in tourism offices and airports. **Note** - that possibility is constantly under "review". There are a few rules, so take a pamphlet with you, keep all receipts. Alberta has no PST, in other provinces PST varies between 7 and 8% PST. In Atlantic Canada knows the HST (Harmonized Sales Tax), which unites both taxes into 13%. The same HST is also introduced in Ontario.

Tipping

Tips are provided only in restaurants (10-15%) and taxi drivers (sometimes). Tips are not "mandatory." If you are traveling with a professional Canadian guide then gratuities are appreciated but are not 'mandatory'.



Telephones

Using a portable phone works if the bandwidth matches Canada's frequencies. Make an informed decision back home with your provider. Range in Canada is limited to larger cities! Fortunately, there are 'normal' phones that you can use anywhere. You can often pay with cash or credit card or with a (much cheaper) calling card (see below). Local calls often require no areacode, long distance calls for a "1" and area code eg 604 or 250 (in BC).

Phone Cards

Are widely available and can be bought in any denomination (5-50 dollars). Cheap and effective. Test the card you purchased directly, so you can go back to the store where you bought it if it does not work for you.

Collect call

You can make "collect" calls to your home country or any telephone. This method of calling means that the person being called pays for the cost of the call. The easiest way is to punch the "0" key. You get an operator who makes the connection. You can also follow the instructions as they are presented without operator intervention.

"Toll free" numbers are free phone numbers that begin with 1 to 800.888 or 877 etc. From any phone you can call them free of charge. If you need to find a 1-800 number (for example, Air Transat, KLM, or Air Canada etc.) then you call diall (toll free) 1-800-555-1212.

Handy (Free) Phone

Tourism British Columbia 1-800-663-6000 / 1-888-223-3779 BC Ferries www.hellobc.com
Alberta Tourism 1-800-661-8888 / 1-800-789-8566 Yukon Tourism www.travelalberta.com

Canada Facts

- For Canada, a visa is only required when you reside more than 90 days in the country. www.ocanada.nl.
- Vaccinations are not necessary, no special precautions need to be taken.
- Canada has 6 time zones: Newfoundland, Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific Time.
- Generally, the temperatures on the west coast are pleasant with little summer rainfall, although Vancouver Island (the temperate rainforest) is generally wetter than mainland BC. In the eastern provinces there are extreme differences in temperature, from very cold winters to hot summers.
- Flights to Canada last between 7 and 10 hours (depending on the destination).
- Canada consists of 10 independent sovereign provinces and 3 territories. At the head of the confederation looms (still) the English queen.
- Canada has a total area of approximately 9975.000 square kilometers and is approximately 242 times larger than the Netherlands.
- The capital is Ottawa.
- The country has a parliamentary democracy. There are more than 31 million people of which approximately 85% less than 165 miles from the Canadian-American border.
- The official languages are English and French (predominantly in Quebec and in parts of New Brunswick).
- Common sizes: 1 mile = 1.62 km, about 1 foot = 30.5 cm, 1 inch = about 2.5 cm 1 yard = approximately 0.9 m, 1 imperial gallon = approximately 4, 5 l, 1 U.S. gallon = approx 3.75 ltr, 1 pound = 454 g, 1 ounce = approx 28.3 grams.

Day 1 and 2

Where do we stay? – Vancouver

Total driving distance - 0 + km

Route: public transportation

A short overview

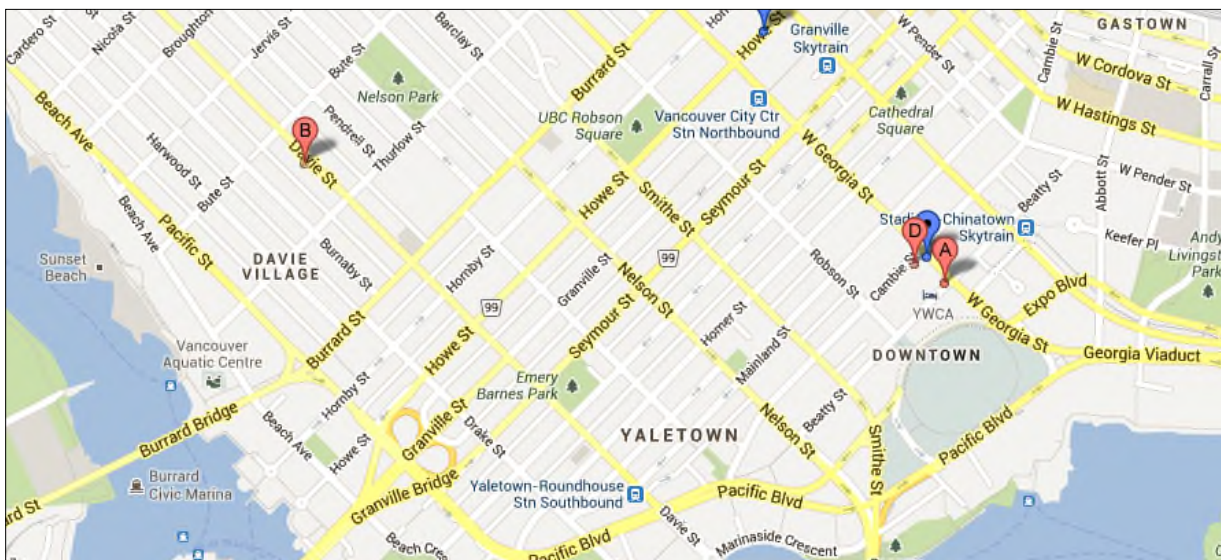
A short commute brings you to Vancouver. Great city and excellent public transit. Stanley park, Museums and the Vancouver Aquarium are but a few of the many possibilities.

Programme ~ arrival Vancouver

After arriving in Vancouver around 1355 you will first collect your luggage. That will take some time. Now it is off to the Sandman Hotel downtown Vancouver on Georgia Street.

Address Sandman Vancouver Downtown: 180 W Georgia St, Vancouver BC,

Tel 604 681 2211, 1+800+SANDMAN



A= Sandman Vancouver Downtown

B= Sandman Suites on Davies

There are several possibilities to get there:

Canada Line - runs every 4-8 minutes from the airport. Follow the 'masses' which takes you outside the arrivals terminal. Directions to the Canada Line terminal can be seen when you are on the crosswalk.

(otherwise follow instructions on the airport to the Canada Line Terminal. www.translink.ca). You can pay with cash or credit card at the ticket machine. It takes about 22 minutes before you get to Vancouver City Centre. From there you can take a taxi to your hotel or switch to the Chinatown Skytrain (see map). Canada Line costs about Can \$ 8.75 per person.

Taxi - cost about \$ 30-40 to downtown. Taxis are parked outside at International Arrivals on your left. Up to 4 people.

City bus - take the 424 from the airport to Airport Station and switch to the 98 (departs 12 times per hour).

If you'd like to explore a little (and you really should) then walk too English Beach on Denman street (5 minute drive, 25 minute walk) for a lovely beach, street theatre AND wonderful icecream.... a good place to see the sun go down.....

Hints & Tips

- Take a detailed city map with you from the front desk
- Vancouver is a big city, lots to do! Too much to mention here. Therefore, check in advance with <https://www.tourismvancouver.com/do/calendar-events/> if you are looking for something special for the days you're here.
- In the background information you'll find more about Vancouver.
- Perhaps, you can still let the RV rental agency know you have arrived and make arrangements for pick up from the airport on **day 3**.

Vancouver

Vancouver obviously has much to offer. You should really visit Stanley park. On foot or by bike (you can rent those on Denman Street beyond the intersection with Robson Street). Chinatown is 'special' and the anthropological museum too (you need bike or bus to go there).

How about

Day 1 Arrival. Transportation to Sandman Hotel. Check in and walk (taxi) to English Beach on Denman street (5 minute drive, 25 minute walk) for a lovely beach, street theatre AND wonderful icecream.... There is even a playground if you were to walk the seawalk....

Day 2 Stanley park (on foot or with a bike) and the Vancouver Aquarium. In downtown Vancouver Gastown and China town are special locations. Gastown is toeristy (do not walk to the very end of the street which gets you into a less desirable area of Vancouver. The Anthropological Museum is outside downtown with the Nitobe gardens close by. But you need a bus to get there. Granville island has many shops too. OR rent a bike and cycle around Stanley Park. Many places to stop and enjoy. Beaches, parks and lakes. If you want, there is swimming to be had in the ocean in various spots along the seaboard, a swimming pool and a water playground...*come on Silvy go for it!*

Additional information ~ Vancouver

Bayshore Bicycles & Rollerblade Rentals - Denman

745 Denman Street Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604.688.2453 Fax: 604.264.9820
www.bayshorebikerentals.ca
info@bayshorebikerentals.ca

I have included attractions and locations that can be reached on foot from Robson Street (marked with *). A few highlights are (in our view):

- **Stanley Park** (quiet walks, beautiful views, and especially people-watching) and the **Vancouver Aquarium** (great place for sea otters, beluga etc.) *
- **Gastown** (old vancouver, lots of shops, pleasant stroll) *
- **China Town**. Many very strange shops, with foreign merchandise, special atmosphere. * **Note:** Close to Chinatown you'll find East Hastings Street. Avoid this street: the domain of drug dealers and prostitutes.
- **Punjabi Market** on South Main Street, a short visit to India from Vancouver. 6 'blocks' with spices, textiles, food and Indian markets.
- **Granville Island** (shops, flea markets etc. Strolling-paradise par excellence). Public Market sells freshly caught and smoked salmon, crab, fruit, nuts, vegetables. False Creek Ferries are a good alternative to cars and parking on Granville Island. Sailing from 7.00 - 21.00 hours (in summer to 22.00) from the Aquatic Centre on the north side of the Burrard St. Bridge (Downtown side) and from Stamps Landing to the dock at Pier 32 Restaurant on Granville Island.
- **Vancouver Art Gallery** (750 Hornby Street 10.00-17.30) *
- **Museum of Anthropology** (10.00-17.00, 6393 NW Marine Drive, www.moa.ubc.ca)
- **Science World** is a fun attraction, and instructive too. <http://www.scienceworld.ca/> 1455 Quebec Street. Five minutes from the downtown- Via public transit Main Street / Science World SkyTrain Station. Cost 18.75 per person, 65 for family.

- **Nitobe Memorial Gardens** (opposite Museum of Anthropology) and the UBC Botanical Gardens (6804 SW Marine Drive).
- **Queen Elizabeth Park** on 33rd Avenue and Cambie Street
- If you are looking for great outdoor clothing and cheaper go to **MEC** at 130 West Broadway for an incredible selection.
- If you are looking for **CD's** go to Virgin records on Robson Street for an incredible selection.
- Looking very tasty **icecream** then wander down Denman Street for an incredible selection
- Looking for **Sushi**, stroll down Robson Street for
- **Theatre under the Stars** in Stanley Park (see background information)
- **Capilano Suspension Bridge** One of the biggest attractions in Vancouver. 70 meters high and will take you 2 hours. Expensive (Can \$ 11-22). Some adventurous possibilities (Treetop Adventures) and Indian woodworkers in the Longhouse. Go over the Lions Gate Bridge and then 'east' on Marine Drive. Further signposted. Bus numbers 246, SeaBus and 236 take you there. In 2011 the Cliffhanger joined us - a footbridge with glass floor 213 meters long (and 90 meters high above the river). But there's more
- **Lynn Canyon**. Here Lynn Creek flows through a deep canyon with a beautiful bridge running over it. Shorter but higher than the Capilano bridge, and especially quiet! It is also 'gratis' AND you can enjoy hiking. The Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre is very worthwhile. By bus, take your first 'Seabus' of Lonsdale Quay and then # 228 (goes to Lynn Valley Centre. Bus # 229 goes to the main entrance. By car, take Trans Canada Highway 1 to exit 19. Follow Lynn Valley Road past the Mountain Highway intersection and follow Lynn Valley Road.



- **Grouse Mountain cable car** (\$ 13-35, including access to Wildlife Refuge) on Capilano Street North from the Trans Canada (ie first to the Trans Canada through the Lions Gate Bridge). Keep to Nancy Green Way until you reach the gondola that carries you 1000 feet up (and back every day, from 0900-2200, every 15 minutes). Your lift ticket also gives access to a host of other features' on top of Grouse Mountain. See 2 real grizzly bears there..... You can also use a 3 km long steep hike into the top (and the elevator back).
<http://www.grousemountain.com/>

A few restaurant tips

Good and innovative (and thus more expensive) are **Feenie's** (2563 Broadway) and **Rain City Grill** (1193 Denman). Good and less pricey **Milestones** on Denman Street (our favorite) and seafood you go another 100 meters away, on the corner is an excellent seafood restaurant (the name ontschiet me even). In all cases you should book. New in Vancouver are small mobile restaurants at the corners of 'important' streets in Downtown Vancouver. A few of our own 'taste' have (and liked) are Fresh Local Wild (corner of Granville and Robson, DI ZA 11-1700, \$ Can 5 - 10) and **Eli's Serious Sausages** (corner of Pacific and Drake DI SE 11-1900, Can \$ 6-11).

Museum of Anthropology - world renowned museum of art and culture relating to Canada's First Nations. Totem poles and sculptures in the Great Hall and a reconstructed longhouse. Close to this museum, located on the UBC campus, you'll also find some nice beaches for a short walk or simply sit down and relax.

Modern art. There are many museums and galleries but the 4 you'll find below surface as well balanced and 'stocked' versatile establishments. Check their websites to get an idea of themes.

Museums and Galleries of Contemporary Art

- **Contemporary Art Gallery** (www.contemporaryartgallery.ca) 1555 Nelson
- **Vancouver Art Gallery** (www.vanartgallery.bc.ca) 750 Hornby Street open every day 1000-1700.
- **Access Gallery** (www.vaarc.ca) 222 E Georgia St open TUE-SAT 1200-1700
- **Arts Off Main** (www.artsoffmain.ca) 216 E 28th Ave, Open WED-SUN 11:30 17:30pm

Day 3-4

Where do we stay? – Saltspring Island

Total driving distance - 60 + km

Route: see below

A short overview

First order of business - collect your RV. Then a visit to a wonderful small Island. Easy access and a great place to stay. Sea-kayaking through rainforests and beaches. An introduction to the real westcoast

Programme ~ from Vancouver to Saltspring Island

Today, the adventure really starts! First you are going to collect your motorhome. Look through the general RV information above so you will be better prepared. You can pick up the exmper from 0900 and should count on 1-2 hours of preparation time before being able to drive away from the rental location. Fraserway will pick you up from the airport and you can get back there by means of transportation possibilities mentioned on **day 1**. Agree on a time and location for your return. Then onwards! By ferry from Vancouver to the Gulf Islands (Salt Spring Island). That is (especially on the ferries) a most wonderful trip.

Route to the ferry terminal in Tsawassen

From the airport (and downtown) you follow the 99 and from the airport follow directions to 'Ferries Victoria' and 'Gulf Islands' (be careful, those '99' signs are sometimes really small). Once past the airport follow directions to Tsawassen via the 17. (Tsawassen = where the ferry leaves).

Hints & tips

- **Groceries** - stop 'en route' to Tsawassen at a supermarket where you can buy some groceries, on Salt Spring island it is a long ways to a store of any significance. There is a small store upon arrival in Fulford Harbour (Sargent's Mercantile) but they stock a small variety only. Ladner (on the way to ferry terminal) is the place to go then - **but** do not miss your ferry!
- You'll get close to Ladner and near Ladner you'll find (at 4690 Kirkland Rd) **Westland's Island Herb Farm** (sign posted from the highway). A versatile farm where you are more than welcome as a visitor. It is not a place for spending more than an hour but it is noce enough for a short visit.
<https://www.westhamislandherb.ca/>
- IF you love **wild birds**, you could fit in a few hours at the Reifel Sanctuary. It's on the way to the ferry (see diagram below).
- From 1 July 2011 onward, **BC Ferries** only prints ferry departures and arrivals in small booklets - everything is shown at <https://www.bcferrries.com/schedules/>



Additional Information

~ George C. Reifel Bird Sanctuary

Gates Open: 9 am- 4 pm all year
35 kilometres south of Vancouver, B.C.,
at the northern end of Westham Island in
the Fraser River estuary

Major habitat types: 65% tidal marshes, 10% tidal mudflats, 10% marsh, 5% grasses and forbs, 5% trees and shrubs, and 5% cultivated. The Sanctuary is located at the northern end of Westham Island. The Westham Island foreshore is part of a 6 kilometre wide zone of tidal flats formed at the mouth of the Fraser River. The active delta-front is fed by sediments carried by the river channels. Westham Island itself is a deltaic island diked off from the tides and



Additional bird fun- go towards the Reifel Refuge but do not cross the bridge to the park but go straight till you can not go any further. Nice spot where we saw two owls hunting and also a rare bittern! Furthermore, a lot of small, larger and very large birds. Definitely worth it in combination with Reifel.

the Fraser River. The outer portions of the tidal flats are bare but at higher elevation marshy vegetation developed. Dominant species are Lyngby's sedge, three square bullrush, spike rush, great bullrush, arrowgrass, and cattail. Lands inside the dike remain a mix of open sloughs, wet meadows, and shrubs with some sand and mudflat components. A mixture of fast growing trees and shrubs has been established along dikes and internal drainage channels. Common vegetation includes blackberry, elderberry, red osier dogwood, red alder, cottonwood, and paper birch. Douglas-fir grow on internal dikes. The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is mostly intertidal habitat, with some upland habitat managed for public viewing by the British Columbia Waterfowl Society. The Migratory Bird Sanctuary is adjacent to, and partially overlaps with the Alaksen National Wildlife Area.

Public use is centred on that portion of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary which is leased to the British Columbia Waterfowl Society. The British Columbia Waterfowl Society operates a waterfowl display area commonly known as the Reifel Refuge, where upwards of 80,000 visitors come annually.

Importance to Wildlife

As part of the Fraser River delta, the sanctuary is an important migration stopover for migratory birds, especially waterfowl and shorebirds. Significant numbers of ducks, geese, shorebirds, gulls, raptors, loons, grebes, cormorants, alcids, herons, and passerines winter or migrate through here.

BC Ferry Reservations

It is possible to make reservations to Vancouver Island (and back). Call 1-888-223-3779. Reservations can be made no later than 2.5 hours before departure. As a rule, reservations are not necessary. Should an 'overload' occur then you simply take the next boat (a 1 hour wait).

Anyway, on to the ferry terminal !

You finally pass Tsawwassen and then you arrive at the ferry terminal where the main road simply stops. Here ferries depart to Vancouver Island. You need two ferries to get to Salt Spring Island (Fulford Harbour). Here's the schedule:

Ferries Tsawwassen-Swartzbay (Vancouver

Island): every hour on the hour between 0700 and 2100 (trip takes 1.5 hours).

Ferries Swartzbay-Fulford Harbour (Salt Spring Island): every odd hour from 0700 to 2100 (35 minutes).

Being on the ferry is pure enjoyment! After about 40 minutes you pass through a narrow opening between two islands, called Active Pass. On the north side you often see seals swimming. Then the ferry threads its way through the various islands to Swartz Bay. We're taking you paddling between some of these islands! You could possibly take the 1100 or 1200 from Tsawwassen and then the 1300 or 1500 to Salt Spring Island. You'll be in Fulford around 1335 or 1535.



Hints & Tips

- When you get to the ticket booth in Tsawassen ask for a through fare (pronounced 'froefèr') to Salt Spring Island's Fulford Harbour which saves about \$ 15. You will also not need to buy a ticket for the next crossing (Swartzbay to Saltspring). Once you leave the ferry in Swartz Bay, you go straight. You'll pass the ticket booths on your left and then, after about 1500 m take the first turn right, then immediately turn left over the bridge and you come 'back' on the road to the ferry terminal. Go to the 'saltspring' booth.
- Let us know when you're 'settled' on Salt Spring Island, so we can discuss time and location for your sea kayaking trip tomorrow.
- The background information shows you more about Salt Spring Island and Ruckle Park.

Programme ~ Salt Spring Island



Directions to Ruckle Park

After you leave the ferry you will pass a small grocery store as well as the **Salt Rock Cafe** restaurant which cooks up really brilliant food for a reasonable price. And then it goes *up*. Take the first right (Beaver Point Road towards Ruckle Park). Keep following and you will pass a small lake (Stowell Lake) where you can have a great with the locals. Follow the road. After a while you pass Reynolds Road where we'll await you tomorrow for sea kayaking. Further won the road there is a small lake on your right (Westin Lake). Keep going and you'll pass a large white building (Beaver Point Hall).

Follow the road. After a kilometer or two you enter Ruckle Provincial Park. You'll pass a large wooden barn with a metal roof and the road winds to the left. After about 250 meters on your right is a parking lot. You drive past it to a Y-junction. Turn right. Campers just follow the road until you will see your campsites under shade of giant trees. We would appreciate it if you give us a call (250-653-4265 from Salt Spring) so we know that you have arrived and can make arrangements for tomorrow.

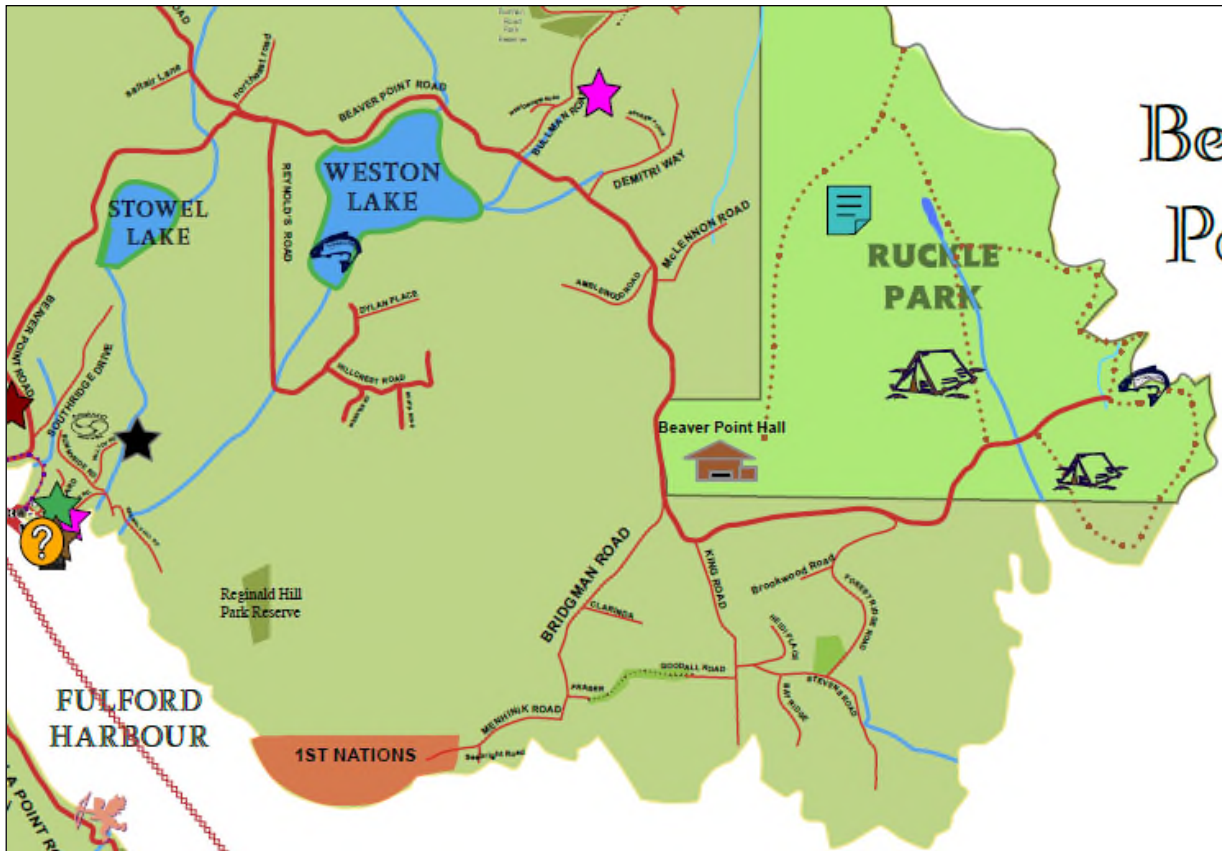
There is great hiking in Ruckle Park. I would suggest following the relatively rugged northern coastal route. Walk from your camping spot towards the lighthouse and then follow the path along the coast. There are route signs everywhere. Count on a good 3 hours to get past Merganser Pond and back. A smaller hike goes south along the coast and follows a trail that reaches the old 'farm' to then curl back towards the car park.

What are the possibilities

Day 3 – arrival Saltspring Island. Find a spot and maybe a little walk in Ruckle Park. Phone Annemarie (250-653-4265) to make arrangements for tomorrow. Maybe a trip into Ganges? Nice little village. Eat your dessert at the campfire along the coast.....

Day 4 – Seakayaking till about 1600.

Hint - Saltspring sports its own local **brewery** with tastings pretty much every day <https://www.gulfislandsbrewery.com/>. There are a few well known **wineries** as well. <https://saltspringtourism.com/blog/wineries/>



Route to Ganges

From Ruckle Park you drive back to the ferry terminal, turn right at the T-junction instead of left to the ferry terminal. Follow the road from the ferry terminal (Fulford Harbour) all the way into Ganges.

Note - you can drive to a fabulously beautiful viewpoint on Mount Maxwell. After about 8-10 kilometers on the road into Ganges blue signs are pointing the way. Fair incline, but the road is do-able.

Ganges

Then you arrive in Ganges. It is best to park outside the small small downtown core. You'll see at one point a crosswalk with two orange lights (the only 'traffic lights' on the island...). Turn left here and you can park at the school board office or the parking opposite. Then walk into the village. Nice spots are Centennial Park and the small center itself. You'll find a grocery store, marina, harbor and all kinds of fun stores.

After having visited Ganges there is still that possibility to go up Mount Maxwell for a great view or listen to live music at Tree House Cafe in Ganges. Check with the Visitor Information if anything is happening at Art Spring, our "theater" on the island. Fine restaurants are Piccolo and Hastings House (upscale and pricey, you should make reservations there). More casual dining takes you to the Oystercatcher and Rock Salt Cafe in Fulford.

Art on Saltspring Island

https://www.gulfislands.com/arts&crafts_ssi.asp lists all local artists, per category (ceramics, paintings, photography, textile, wood etc etc). Artcraft in the "Artspring" theatre building in downtown Ganges presents a cross section of the Island's artists.



Great galleries are:

- Aqua Arte Gallery
- Artcentric
- Jill Louise Campbell
- Pegasus Gallery of Canadian Art
- The Naikai Gallery (in Ganges)
- Waterfront Gallery (in Ganges)

Salt Spring Studio Tour

On our tour you can watch an artist paint, attend a wine tasting, try on some jewellery and still have time to pick up a one of a kind sculpture on your way home. With 34 studios to discover on the year-round self-guided tour, all that you require is a current studio tour map and a bit of spare time to enjoy the studios of your choice. Some of the studios offer a unique experience such as a workshop tour or a demonstration on creating a work of art. Our Studio Tour's diverse selection also includes baked goods, wine and cheese shops that will keep the foodies nibbling the day away.

Artists may be present to answer questions about their work and help you understand the creative process and the Salt Spring way of life.

Our colourful map outlines what each artist creates and the location of their studio. B&Bs. How do you know if you are at one of our studios? Look for our trademark black sheep sign pointing the way to a unique experience.

The **Salt Spring Studio Tour** (you can get a route map complete with names and addresses, directions at the tourist office in the center of Ganges) gives a complete overview of (almost all) artists.

<http://saltspringstudiotour.com/> give you more information and you can download a map.

Back to Ruckle Park via the same route you came.

What to do with a few extra hours of 'free' time?

A walk, picnic, relax and read time along the coast in the Indian Reserve (without any native people though....)

How to get to the "Indian reserve" for a wonderful afternoon/evening picnic and general good time (30 minutes walk one-way). Coming from Ruckle Park go back towards the ferry. After about 3 km you pass a white building on your right and just BEFORE a road branches off to the left (Bridgeman Rd). Follow the road. After about a mile the road makes a sharp turn to the right (say 90 degrees). Follow the road. Drive down the road. Park the car at the end and follow the trail that you see there. After about 20 minutes the first beach, after a further 10 a second even nicer one. Very, very nice.

Sea Kayaking - YES!

Arrange with Anne-marie (250-653-4265) where to park the camper and a meeting time and place the day before.

Our seakayak guides are experienced and super-friendly locals. They start around 0930 with an instruction session. First on the land and then the ocean. After going through some exercises and 'rescue' possibilities we seamlessly continue on the days' outing.

Gathering Place

As a rule, we usually meet at the T-junction of Reynolds Road and Beaver Point Road at 0930. You will find it as you drive from Fulford (ferry terminal) to Ruckle Park (or vice versa of course).

We have the following items with us for you:

- Waterproof bags to pack your personal belongings and for your photo equipment
- All snacks, meals and drinks (no alcohol)
- Equipment in the form of stove, plates, mugs, cutlery etc, radio, first aid
- Sea kayak, life jackets, paddles, etc.

It is good to prepare to advance by choosing the right clothing and to pack an extra set of clothing, raingear, shoes that are allowed to get wet (when you sep in and out of the kayak), sunglasses and sunscreen and a hat or cap.

A list to consult:

- A pair of comfortable shoes/sandals
- Wadingshoes (or any pair of shoes that can get wet) for entering and exiting the kayak during landing.
- Warm clothing such as fleece or wool (thin) sweaters, blouse with long sleeves. No jeans
- Hat and Cap (to shelter from the sun). Sunglasses, shorts
- Water and windproof clothing.

Note if there are any dietary requirements please let us know as soon as possible. Our meals are fresh and healthy and mostly vegetarian. If you have specific needs, please indicate those well in advance. We would like to receive a completed medical form. In the unlikely event something happens then the guides can take the appropriate action. Aks for it via information@naturetrek.ca if you have not yet received those yet. Take the completed form along on the day of departure.

What we will discuss and demonstrate:

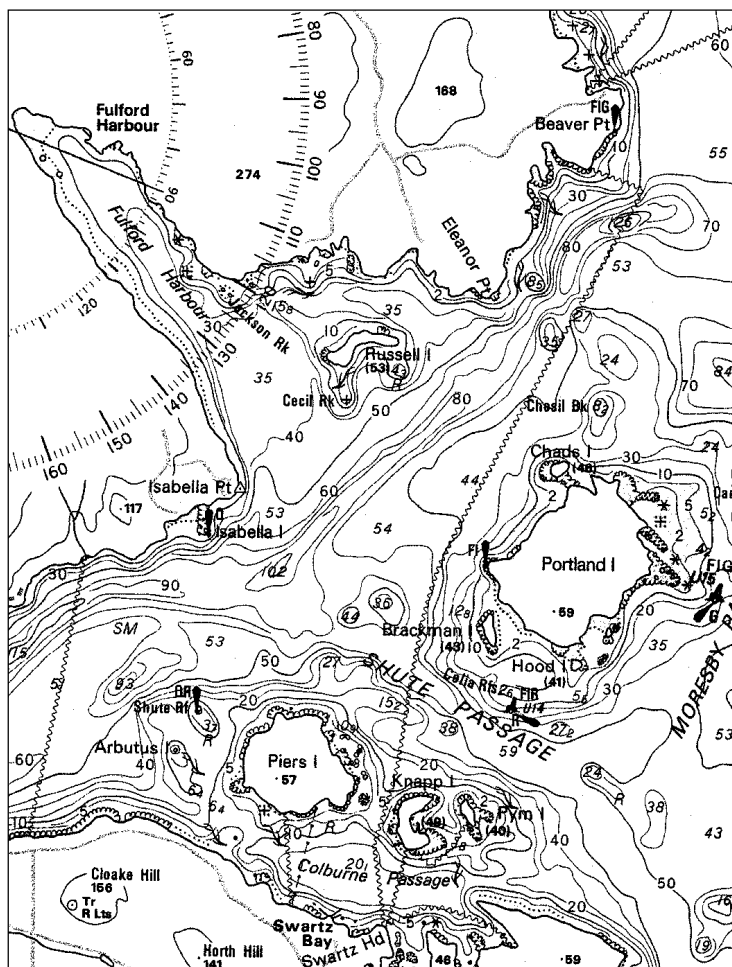
- The sea kayak
- Entry and exit
- Basic paddle techniques
- Basic steering techniques
- How to assist getting in and out of the kayak



A kayak is a spacious type of 'canoe' in which you sit in a comfortable chair with a backrest. Very stable and ideally suited for traveling the ocean. Of course, we assume that people have no previous seakayakng experience. On a day like this you do not intend to become a pro-kayaker, but you come to see nature in a way that you would not undertake yourself. So there is no risk attached and we adjust the outing to your interests and to the local conditions. We start with to acquaint ourselves with the kayak, how do you get in and out, what does it look like, how does it work? Then we will go over a route. As a rule we paddle

no longer than one hour and then we go out to look at something. We go to a more remote little island and have a good chance to see eagles, deer, otters. We will also paddle around a small number of islands in the

newly created Gulf Islands National Park. Wonderful things to see as you glide along the coast are purple starfish, pink starfish, crabs, fish, fluorescent seaweeds, seals, otters and even porpoises. We have lunch on a white sandy beach (included). So it is not just sitting, paddling and looking around, but also to experience



places you would never get to see otherwise. Your local guide is experienced and qualified and knows the region very well.

Sea kayaking is a fantastic way of getting around. However, seakayaking is not the (only) purpose of today's trip. We'll 'show and tell' you a lot about the ecology/nature and history (cultural and geological) of this region. So we often stop, get out and take the time to see the sights and smell the roses! We also take small walks to explore the coastline. Also, this is YOUR day. Ultimately the guide decides, for reasons of comfort and/or safety the route, but your input is certainly appreciated.



Days 11-12

Where do we stay? – Stewart

Total driving distance- 320 km

Route –Drive the Yellowhead highway east. At Kitwanga turn north on the Cassiar Highway.

A short overview

A lot of wilderness along this scenic drive - Glaciers, mountains, rivers and a god chance to see salmon and bears. A special area and a beautiful landscape!

Programme ~ Terrace to Stewart

There's 2 ways to go to Stewart - through the Nisga Highway and consequent backroads that connect with the Cassiar Highway at Cranberry Junction (about 65 km of gravel road) and a direct route via Kitwanga and the Cassiar Highway. **My idea?** Would be to stick to the main road which is faster and a lot easier for both you and yourcamper. It involves driving up the highway towards Terrace and Smithers until you reach Kitwanga. At Kitwanga fuel (even if your gastank is nearly full) and then it go north onto the 'infamous' (but really a good road) Cassiar Highway. Drive slowly so you can look around you, chances are you will see wildlife. The Cassiar gets you to **Meziadin Junction** (on 156 km) where you go westward to Stewart (65 along the 37a). Along the way to Stewart you'll pass Bear Glacier. Roads are completely paved and well maintained.



Okay – **Day 11.** From Terrace to Kitwanga and then the Cassiar highway. Just before **Meziadin Junction** PP (at 156 km Hannah South Creek, see below), you may see Sockeye Salmon (bright red) spawning from the bridge. Then on to Stewart - greatest road ever! Camping in Rainey Creek in Stewart.

Additional information~
Cassiar Highway from Meziadin to Kitwanga (km 0, lies along highway 16).

km 152.9/mile 95 Parking. / **km 153.4/mile 95.3** Hanna South Creek.

km 143.1/mile 88.9 Unmarked side road (just north of the Nass River bridge) west 1.3 km/.8 mile leads to private airstrip, you can leave your vehicle and walk approximately 200 yards to Meziadin Fish Ladder on the Nass River. Information signs give the

history of the fish ladder, there are often Fish and Wildlife people to answer your questions. July and August are the best time to watch the salmon in their struggle upriver.

km 142.6/mile 88.6 Nass River, one-lane bridge spans the 122 m/400-ft wide gorge. Rest area at south end of bridge, picnic tables, toilets.

km 139.4/mile 86.6 Visitor facilities.
km 127.6/mile 79.3 Parking. / **km 137.8/mile 85.6** Parking by Nass River.
km 103.8/mile 64.5 Parking. / **km 113.6/mile 70.6** Parking. / **km 124.9/mile 77.6** Parking. /
km 95/mile 59 Parking beside small lake.
km 76.1/mile 47.3 Cranberry River small parking area, toilets. (beetje een vies praatje meestal)
km 62.7/mile 39 Cranberry River. / **km 75.3/mile 46.8** Parking.
km 30.3/mile 18.8 Rest area, tables and toilets by Moon Lit Creek. Visitor info sign.
km 26/mile 16.2 North access to Kitwancool.
km 20.7/mile 12.9 South access to native village of Kitwancool. Excellent examples of fine old totems, many recently restored. There is a craft shop in the village. The village was originally named Gitanyow meaning place of many people, but was renamed Kitwancool meaning place of reduced number, after many people were killed by other tribes.
km 8/mile 5 Seven Sisters Mountain Range can be seen to the Southwest.
km 4.4/mile 2.7 North access to Kitwanga.
km 3.8/mile 2.4 Kitwanga. General store, gas station, restaurant, post office, public campground. Attractions: Totem poles. Early wooden Anglican mission church. Kitwanga is an Indian word meaning "place of the rabbit."
km 3.7/mile 2.3 Cassiar RV Park.
km 0 Kitwanga Junction

Programme ~ Stewart

Campin would be best in Stewart's **Rainey Creek Campground** because the only other campsite in Hyder (Alaska) is quite a bad one (either a dust or mud bath depending on the weather, you'll see it on the way to Fish Creek).



Bear Glacier

Additional information~ Meziadin Junction to Stewart route

km 65/mile 40.4 Meziadin Junction. Sinds 2008 is daar GEEN benzine station meer.
 km 61.1/mile 38 Parking. / km 58.5/mile 36.4 Parking. / km 52.2/mile 32.4 Parking.
 km 51.8/mile 32.2 Surprise Creek Bridge.
 km 49/mile 30.4 Parking. / km 48.2/mile 30 Parking.
 km 46.9/mile 29.1 Windy Point Creek.
 km 45.8/mile 28.5 Little Entrance Bridge.
 km 44.2/mile 27.5 Cornice Bridge.
 km 43.7/mile 27.1 Strohn Creek Bridge
 km 41.8/mile 26 Rest area.
 km 40/mile 24.9 Bear Glacier.
 km 39.4/mile 24.5 Bear Glacier, parking. There are several parking areas to view Bear Glacier from here to km 41.5/mile 25.8. Glacier melt from this large body of ice forms the Bear River which empties into the ocean near Stewart.
 km 36/mile 22.4 Cullen Creek, parking. / km 32.2/mile 20 Rufus Creek.
 km 31/mile 19.3 Argyl Creek, parking. / km 26.1/mile 16.2 Parking.
 km 25.6/mile 15.9 Bear River Bridge. / km 18/mile 11 Parking. / km 17.2/mile 10.7 Bitter Creek.
 km 13.3/mile 8.3 Wards Pass Cemetery.

km 6.3/mile 3.9 Bear River Bridge. Bear River Trailer Park, RV's welcome. Full 30 amp hook-up sites, showers. 250 636-9205.
 km 3.5/mile 2.2 Stewart / 0--Hyder, Alaska. Time Zone change - set your watches one hour earlier.

The Bears and Salmon of Fish Creek - the salmon will still be there when you are. And with them come the bears (and possibly wolves). From Stewart it is a 20-minute drive to Hyder and Fish Creek. Here, from mid-July onward salmon and bears are the main attraction. The best times to be at Fish Creek to observe wildlife is in the afternoon (from 1800 onward) until it gets dark or very early in the morning (when it just gets lighter). One point of contention remains (with us anyway): this is an immensely crowded place where lots of people come to see bears. Complete with garden chairs, video cameras and often absolutely no idea what they are doing. Nevertheless, it is a magnificent spectacle, especially the migrating salmon as these are the largest types in the world migrating upstream. Take your time and do not expect miracles right away. Bring a book along and read or simply look around you if there is nothing 'to do', or look for 'bears' that fall from huge campers with sunglasses big enough to also protect their heads against the sun.

Fish Creek Wildlife Observation Site

The location provides excellent opportunities to view Black and Brown Bears during the months of July and August, as they feed on salmon. The site is day use only, no camping is permitted. US Forest Rangers are present in the summer months from daylight to dusk.

How To Get There: Drive North of Hyder 4 miles along Salmon River Road. Parking, for the Observation site, is located in a parking area immediately after crossing the Fish Creek Bridge.

NB – sinds 2007 betaal je per persoon \$US 5 per dag



Hints & Tips

Check the passport information on **page 8**.

How to get there

Drive from Stewart to Hyder (Alaska) and bring Passport! (we have NEVER in 14 years been stopped by U.S. customs, simply because there are no US customs in Hyder, only Canadian, so you do need your passport). Drive through Hyder (usually quite muddy) for about 10 km and you will see the river. From



Stewart it is a 20-minute drive to Fish Creek in Hyder where salmon migration is in full swing. With any luck, a few fishing grizzly bears (or wolves) show up as well! The river is strictly controlled by U.S. Game wardens and you'll have to adhere to their rules. Also, be prepared for the fact that you will not be alone here. This is a popular place! The number of migrating salmon is so great that there is little competition for food among the different bears. They allow us to observe them as we do not infringe their fishing feast. An excellent opportunity to photograph and film grizzly and black bears. Hyder is one of the places in the world where internationally renowned photographers take 'their' shots and you too

should be able to come away with some nice photo!

Additional information~ Salmon Glacier

On a dry (and hopefully clear) day you should driving to Salmon Glacier. Start by picking up a brochure at the tourist info in Stewart (open until 1700, costs about \$1). It is a 30 km drive on a pretty good road surface (unpaved, August 2011). Do-able with campers. You'll see the viewpoints without needing a description! **Option** - if you drive past the final viewpoint for about 2-3 minutes you will cross a river (that crosses under the road). On your left you will see an overgrown and quite flat rocky field where the river runs through. After you have crossed the river there is a path to the left that runs off the main road. Good for a 4 wheel drive or SUV car to drive but NOT for a camper. You should park and walk (5 minutes) from here. Follow the small road across an old bridge. Then find your own way to the ice via old mining roads.

Not too hard, not technical. Takes about 10-12 minutes after you have crossed the bridge. Let's be absolutely clear - you do this entirely at your own risk, of course. It's a stunning sight but you have to be able to make it there and back!



SO - great days ahead of you once more.

Day 11. Arrival Stewart. Park your camper and get informed about the chance of seeing bears in Fish Creek (info center in Stewart). Give it a try in the early evening.

Walking through town is also nice.

Day 12. Go to Fish Creek in the (early) morning and then continue on to Salmon Glacier which is about 30 kilometers beyond from Fish Creek. The road is reasonably well maintained and you have a fantastic view. Many people do this. You should check with the well-equipped Tourist Information in Stewart for road conditions before you set out. This to see if the road is open. Walk where you want above the tree line, beautiful views. If you drive a little beyond the best viewpoint you can see the end moraines of the glacier. Take food with you so you can 'dine' long the way and then observe some more at Fish Creek on the way back 'home'.

If the weather is not good or driving all the way up is not an option then take a walk around Stewart via the **Rainey Creek trail** which leaves about 200 meters from the campsite on the left side of the road (indicated). Count on a good 2-3 hours if you walk the entire trail (you'll end up at a split in the road and a kind of wooden gate. Turn **right** here to quickly get back on the road. Great walk. The first part to the lake is beautiful enough to go at least till there which is about a 30 minutes return trip..

Hints & Tips

- Strolling through **Stewart slenteren** is actually pleasant, there is a great bakery in town too!
- in 2011 there was a very informative **bear-info centre** with books, displays and videos. In Main Street.

