

Canada 150?

How about 150 great places in B.C.

Rob Klovance & Kathryn MacDonald

From heli-hiking, to hot springs, to honey tastings, B.C. has it all

Sometimes, we forget what's in our own backyard. Or we don't even know it's there.

As part of the spirit of Canada's 150th birthday, why not take some time to discover fun-beautiful-wonderful things that may be just a few minutes down the road, or as part of an epic road trip across B.C.? To help you out, we've picked the brains of our community team and others at BC Hydro for mostly lesser-known gems you may not have heard about, or maybe just never paid much attention to.

And here's something extra to think about. Did you know that a family of three's carbon footprint for a return trip from Vancouver to Revelstoke in a typical car is roughly an eighth of the CO2 emissions associated with a return flight to San Francisco? Or roughly a 23rd of a round-trip to New York City?

And in B.C., your Canuck buck is worth a buck.

1-20: Cariboo-Chilcotin & northern B.C.

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Rob Klovance is a writer-editor with bchydro.com and Kathryn MacDonald is with BC Hydro's community team.

Numbers 1 to 20: Cariboo–Chilcotin & north



The wild west has never died in Barkerville, No. 6 on our list of great places in B.C.

1. B.C.'s largest sand dune, Farwell Canyon Park

If you think a giant sand dune might most likely be found in the desert landscape of the south Okanagan, you'd be wrong. You need to get to Williams Lake and head west along the Freedom Highway to reach [Farwell Canyon Park and B.C.'s largest sand dune](#).

2–4. Chasm Provincial Park

The drive north of Cache Creek is not one of the more picturesque in B.C., so the temptation is to get where you want to be – perhaps [trophy trout fishing at Sheridan Lake](#) or attending the [Williams Lake Stampede](#) – as soon as possible. Treat yourself to a surprising break, the “mini Grand Canyon” of [Chasm Provincial Park](#), just a few minutes off the highway.

5. Take a float plane to Nimpo Lake

So many planes take off from and land at [Nimpo Lake](#) that it's often referred to as the Float Plane Capital of B.C. What's all the fuss? The town of 120 doubles its population in the summer as visitors arrive to take advantage of world-class fishing, hiking, canoeing and flight-seeing. It's also a popular float plane refueling stop for pilots headed to the Yukon and Alaska.

6. Barkerville, near Quesnel

This National Historic Site affords a step back in time to the gold mining days of the 1860s, with over 100 heritage structures still standing on the spot they were built. Stroll the streets of [Barkerville](#), take a stagecoach ride, attend a show in the old theatre, or do some gold panning.

7. Grizzlies & more at Tweedsmuir Park Lodge, Bella Coola

You can plan for an African safari, or you can embark on a made-in-B.C. equivalent at [Tweedsmuir Park Lodge](#), where options include watching grizzlies feast on spawning salmon in the fall, or fly fishing and heli-skiing on the same day.



Liard River Hot Springs. No. 8 on our list of great places in B.C.

8. Liard River Hot Springs

The next time you're on your way to the Yukon... OK, so Liard River Hot Springs is so far north in B.C. that's it's not a short drive from anywhere. But in summer months, its [campground](#) fills up early each day because it's the [second largest hot spring in Canada](#), and it's mind-blowing.

9. Northern lights viewing, Muncho Lake Provincial Park

[Muncho Lake Provincial Park](#) is big, beautiful and teeming with wildlife. And then there's the northern lights viewing, which can make it among the best places in the province to view Aurora Borealis.

10. Salmon Glacier, north of Stewart

Way up in the northwest corner of B.C., 37 km from Stewart, B.C./Hyder, Alaska, is the [Salmon Glacier](#), the fifth biggest in the world. Put this on your list and maybe you'll get there someday.

11. Dinosaur hunting in Tumbler Ridge

And you thought the dinosaurs only hung out in Alberta. The [Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark](#) not only features great hiking and fabulous waterfalls, but an assortment of [dinosaur footprints](#) first discovered by two boys who fell off their tube while running the rapids on Flatbed Creek.

12. The Lido Theatre, Fort St. John

How can you not like a place that holds acoustic open mic night on a stage with a Stanley Cup playoff game running behind the musicians? Or a “take your requests” piano duo named Burn N Mahn? [Check out The Lido's events here.](#)



A view of W.A.C. Bennett Dam and Williston Reservoir from the BC Hydro visitor centre. No. 13 on our list of great places in B.C.

13. W.A.C. Bennett Dam Visitor Centre, Hudson's Hope

Upgraded just a few years ago, this visitor centre now boasts a wide range of exhibits around dam construction, wildlife in the area and a First Nations gallery. There's also a new cafe, and don't miss the guided underground bus tour. [Get details on the visitor centre here.](#)

14. Grain elevator art gallery in Dawson Creek

Housed in a renovated annex of a prairie elevator, this unique gallery won the Architecture Foundation of B.C.'s best building contest in 2015. The building's a knockout, but the [Dawson Creek Art Gallery](#) features an intriguing blend of local, regional and touring exhibitions.

15. Kiskatinaw wooden bridge, Old Alaska Highway

Just outside Dawson Creek is the oldest curved wooden bridge in Canada. It was closed for a few months in the spring of 2017 after a pickup truck slid off the road and damaged the guard rail, but the [Kiskatinaw bridge](#) is open again.

16. Ed Bird–Estella Lakes Provincial Park

OK. Start with an [image of these crazy–blue lakes](#). Now you know why some people just have to make the trek, and it's a long one, to this remote spot in northern B.C. A trip to [Ed–Bird Estella Lakes Provincial Park](#), which few in B.C. have even heard of, will provide you with images and bragging rights that should trump the travels of just about everyone you meet.

17–18. Kleanza Creek & Lakelse Lake provincial parks, Terrace

If either of these campgrounds were within a four–hour drive of Vancouver, you'd be lucky to reserve a spot on any summer weekend. As of today, you can book sites at [Kleanza Creek](#) or [Lakelse Lake](#) for even the Canada Day long weekend.

19. Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary, Prince Rupert area

Tour boats take you into remote country northeast of Prince Rupert for an unforgettable tour, where the protected bears thrive. You may see a single bear, or you may see many. But the multi–hour trip to [Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary](#) is so scenic, it won't really matter.



A grizzly bear family at Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary north of Prince Rupert. No. 19 on our list of great places in B.C.

20. Mount Edziza Provincial Park

A remote park that showcases a spectacular volcanic landscape including lava flows, basalt plateaus, cinder fields and cinder cones. [Mount Edziza Provincial Park](#) is an extreme experience, far from anywhere, at the extreme end of your bucket list.

Numbers 21 to 25: Haida Gwaii & central coast

21. Naikoon Provincial Park, near Masset

There are about 100 km of beaches in [Naikoon Provincial Park](#), which is the traditional territory of the Haida Nation. Immerse yourself in Haida cultural history, hike, fish, camp in the wilderness. And maybe even surf.

22. Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve

Spend a day, a week or more in this remote reserve in the Haida Gwaii Islands that's accessible only by boat or seaplane. It's a mix of Haida cultural history and the great outdoors, from totem poles to bears and whales. Not convinced it's worth the long trip? Check these [TripAdvisor reviews of Gwaii Haanas](#).

23. World's tallest totem pole, Alert Bay

Some may debate whether it's the world's tallest, but at 173 feet tall, the [wooden tribal totem at Alert Bay](#) is impressive, especially when viewed from near its base, such in this [fantastic shot from photographer David Niddrie](#). The Village of Alert Bay is a discovery in itself, and was recently featured in our BC Hydro newsletter for its assortment of [solar roofs on village buildings](#).



Balance Rock near Skidegate (No. 24 on our list) doesn't defy physics, but it sure looks that way.

24. Balance Rock, near Skidegate

You don't go to Haida Gwaii just to see [Balance Rock](#), but you have to see it once you're there (and try to time your visit with high tide for maximum effect). What keeps this huge rock from tipping? Here's a fun look at the [myth and science of Balance Rock](#).

25. Inside Passage by BC Ferry

BC Ferries has worked with hotels to put together 7-day [Inside Passage Coastal Adventure](#) and [Wilderness Circle Tour](#) packages that include ferry travel and accommodation along with grizzly and whale-watching tours.

Numbers 26 to 38: Kootenays & southern Rockies



Hiking in the Rockies can be spectacular, taking you to places such as Floe Lake (pictured here) or Marble Canyon (No. 29 on our list) in Kootenay National Park.

26. Iceline trail, Yoho (to Takakkaw falls), near Field

One hiking site calls the Iceline trail “possibly one of the most spectacular hikes in the Rockies”, and that's high praise given the competition. Moderate in grade, but featuring one of Canada's highest waterfalls among its many highlights, this [five-hour, 13-kilometre hike](#) is part of what makes [Yoho National Park](#) so special.

27. Baker Street, Nelson

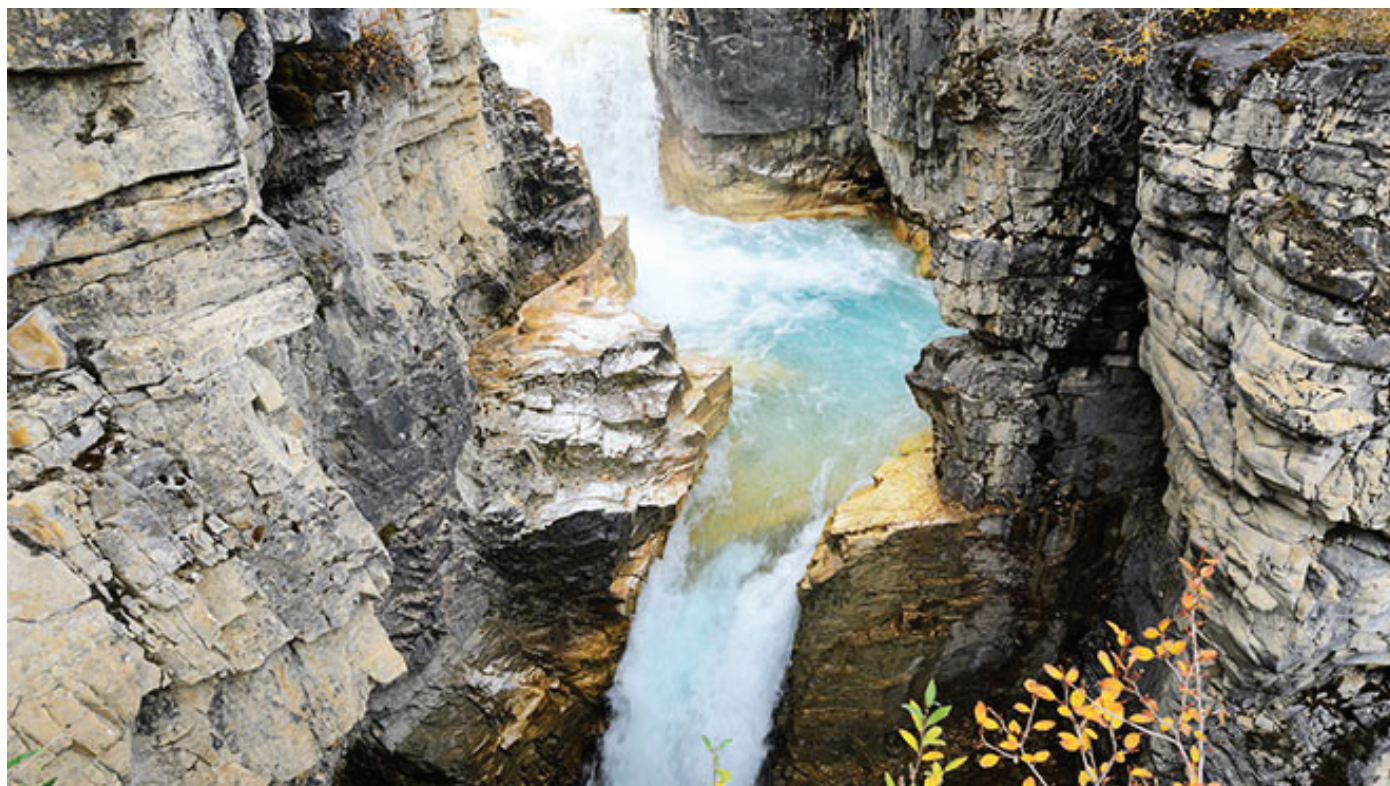
This pretty town is at its best on the main street, an “anti-mall” if there ever was one, full of character, shopping and quaint restaurants. Thank the local merchants for bringing [Baker Street's](#) historical feel back to life with a restoration in 1979.

28. Mountain biking, Rossland

What? You thought the Mountain Biking Capital of Canada was Whistler? Turns out it's [Rossland](#), where years of trail building in spectacular country add up to a bucket-list destination for mountain bikers. Not convinced. [Check out the video here.](#)

29. Hike to Marble Canyon, Kootenay National Park

Only about a 30-minute drive out of Banff, this is one of those easy-access, short hiking trails with a big payoff. Easiest to hike June through September, but a nice challenge with snowshoes in winter, [Marble Canyon](#) offers hiking fun for all ages and a rugged canyon with unusually blue water. For a bit more of a challenge, try the hike to wondrous [Floe Lake](#).



Marble Canyon, Kootenay National Park. No. 29 on our list of great places in B.C.

30–32. Kootenay Lake Ferry, Balfour

The longest free ferry ride in the world, about 35 minutes, takes you from Balfour to Kootenay Bay and the charming town of [Crawford Bay](#), which has a bit of something for everyone, including [local artisans](#), [restaurants](#) and [Kokanee Springs Golf Resort](#). While in Balfour, consider grabbing a guide in pursuit of the world's biggest rainbow trout, the Gerrard rainbow, or heading down the lake to camp at [Kokanee Creek Provincial Park](#).

33. Pend D'Oreille Recreation Area, near Trail

Take Highway 22A south of Trail and you'll find Seven Mile Dam Road and access to a nice drive along rolling hills and river valleys leading to Seven Mile Dam and free camping at BC Hydro's [Pend D'Oreille Recreation Area](#). It's a popular place to launch a boat, go for a swim or just have a picnic.

34. Kimberley's underground mining railway

Catch up on the history of Kimberley and the Sullivan Mine while riding a train through the Mark Creek Valley and into the mine. The [Kimberley Mining Railway Tour](#) goes three times each day at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., and includes a tour of the mine's powerhouse.

35. Bull trout fishing, East Kootenays

Even in the summer months, the waters of the Kootenay River, Bull River, Elk River and Wigwam River are generally cold, and that makes them great for bull trout fishing. Here are some [tips from one guy who loves to fish in the area](#).

36–37. Community Greenhouse & Eagle Ranch golf, Invermere

If you want to learn a thing or two about growing vegetables and herbs, visit [Invermere's Community Greenhouse](#), an award-winning passive solar facility built alongside David Thompson Secondary. Got your golf clubs with you? Book a round at [Eagle Ranch](#), which is rated among Canada's top 100 courses.

38. Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge, Golden

The longest free-standing timber-frame bridge in Canada is an engineering marvel, and it's beautiful. Take a stroll across the [Kicking Horse Pedestrian Bridge](#) as part of the walking trail that circle the town.

Numbers 39 to 50: Kamloops & Hwy 5



Helmacken Falls at Wells Gray Provincial Park, north of Kamloops. No. 43 on our list of great places in B.C.

39–40. Anstey & Seymour arms, Shuswap Lake

You know about the crazily popular Scotch Creek campground on Shuswap Lake, and about the houseboats you can rent for a lake-ation. But have you taken your boat up [Anstey Arm](#), which along with [Seymour Arm](#), is a world removed from the summertime crowds on the main lake?

41. Nicola Valley (Empire of Grass)

The slow route from Merritt to Kamloops is Highway 5A, and it's arguably one of the prettiest drives in B.C., featuring a series of lakes through a valley that's a [favourite drive for motorcyclists](#). This 'Empire of Grass', a historical term referring to the Nicola Valley's emergence as one of the great cattle ranching areas anywhere.

42. Insulator Ranch, near Merritt

Art is in the eye of the beholder, and from a BC Hydro perspective, this is art to love. Bob and Bev Scafe have collected about 7,000 glass and porcelain insulators, which are used for telephone, power and other communications lines, and assembled them in a field at Quilchena they call [Insulator Ranch](#). Amazing.

43. Murtle Lake canoe camping, Wells Gray Park

The largest motor-free lake in North America, this wonder north of Kamloops is all about canoeing, camping and sandy beaches. Take a multi-day trip or rent a [canoe](#) for a single day.

44–45. Tobiano & Sagebrush golf courses, Kamloops

By no means the only outstanding courses in the area, [Tobiano](#) and [Sagebrush](#) rank as destination links rated 13th and 10th, respectively, on ScoreGolf's Top 100-rated courses in Canada. When Sagebrush reopens to the public (possibly this summer) you'll even be able to fly fish (and have a dinner) alongside the 13th hole.



Right by the 13th hole at Sagebrush Golf Club near Merritt, there's a trout-stocked lake you can stop to fly fish in. And there's dinner, too.

46. B.C. Wildlife Park, Kamloops

The [B.C. Wildlife Park](#) is right by Highway 1 on the eastern outskirts of Kamloops, and it has become a favourite stop for families in the know. So if you're not averse to zoos of all kinds, stop by for a visit with made-in-B.C. wildlife, including big cats (cougar, lynx), bears (Kermode Bear, black bear, grizzly), bighorn sheep, reptiles, birds of prey, moose and bison.

47–48. Adams Lake sockeye run & Flume hiking trail

After what was described as a disastrous year for returning sockeye salmon in 2016, let's hope that our sockeye stocks can recover. And if the numbers are up from 2016's dismal run, treat yourself to a visit to the mouth of the [Adams River at Shuswap Lake](#) in early October, where you can watch the sea of red from viewing platforms at Roderick Haig–Brown Provincial Park. Also take a hike up the Adams along the [Flume trail](#), if it recovers from erosion from this spring's high waters.

49. Lac du Bois grasslands hike, Kamloops

A grasslands protected area featuring cliffs, canyons, ponds and lakes, [Lac Du Bois](#) is a bit of a local secret at which you can find yourself pretty much alone, just a short drive from Kamloops. And if you're a beginning to intermediate mountain biker, you may want to take advantage of the [trail network here](#).



A short drive from Kamloops takes you to the Lac Du Bois grasslands and hiking/biking trails that afford views out over Kamloops Lake. No. 49 on our list of great places in B.C.

50. Heli-hike the Bugaboos

If an arduous multi-day hike into the high alpine isn't your thing, consider the heli-hike experience pioneered right here in the B.C. Rockies. Several companies get you by helicopter to astonishing hiking terrain for day hikes that end with a trip back to a wine-and-dine experience at a lodge. Here's [National Geographic's take on the experience](#).

Numbers 51 to 77: Okanagan–Shuswap



Cycling over the trestles in the Myra Canyon section of the Kettle Valley Railway trail makes it one of the most family-friendly cycling adventures around. No. 51 on our list of great places in B.C.

51. Myra Canyon Park

The [Kettle Valley Railway](#) is no more, but the 18 wooden trestles and two tunnels that make up the [Myra Canyon](#) section near Kelowna are very much alive and well. Hike the old railbed, or better yet, bike the trail to cross as many trestles as possible. It's a family-friendly B.C. gem.

52. Caravan Farm Theatre, Armstrong

To celebrate this 29th year of this off-beat and off-the-beaten-track theatre experience, [Caravan Farm Theatre](#) is bringing back one of their most popular shows, [The Ballad of Weedy Peetstraw](#). The outdoor shows are famous for their use of several different locations on the farm, and you can make a day of it with a tailgate picnic and/or a sampling of the Okanagan food available at the concession. Can't make it in the summer or fall? There's always the one-act sleigh ride show in the snow.

53. Planet bee honey farm & meadery, Vernon

After all that wine tasting in the Okanagan, it's time to get the kids in on the act. Taste test, for free, [20 different varieties of honey](#). Then try some [honey wine](#).

54. Cinema Under The Stars, Vernon

Check the [Cinema Under The Stars](#) site in a few weeks for a list of this summer's movies. Grab a blanket and enjoy.

55. Whitewater paddling, Shuswap River

One of BC Hydro's smaller and lesser-known dams, Wilsey Dam and Generating Station is east of Vernon at Shuswap Falls, just down-river from our popular Shuswap Falls Recreation area, where there's a canoe pull-out, picnic tables and a viewing platform. Paddlers also enjoy the Shuswap River Picnic Area, which offers a portage around a chute in the river further upstream. Get details and location info on both sites, on our [Shuswap River](#) page.

56. Starlight Drive-in, Enderby

Awesome Okanagan weather. Popcorn. Double features. Nuff said. [The Starlight](#) is less than a half hour drive from either Salmon Arm or Vernon.

57. Paul's Tomb & Knox Mountain hike, Kelowna

You could do this hike in less than 90 minutes, but leave yourself at least another hour to drink in the views of Kelowna at the top, the quirky Paul family tomb built by an eccentric pioneer in the early 1900s, and to go for a dip at the beach you reach at the turn-back point of this loop. [See the Paul's Tomb hiking map here.](#)

58. Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park

One of the great things about B.C. is that our cities and towns are so close to fantastic recreational opportunities. [Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park](#) epitomizes this, a stunningly beautiful lakeside park at Vernon that serves up great swimming, canoeing, hiking and biking trails. And in the summer, it turns a breathtaking green, the result of dissolved limestone that crystallizes.

59. Salmon Arm Wharf, Salmon Arm

It's a local favourite and a must-visit for those touring the area. A big part of the payoff is the wildlife you see from the [Salmon Arm Wharf](#), in particular the birds that include ospreys and their nests. Did you know the wharf is the longest curved inland wharf on the continent? Time your visit for a [WOW \(Wednesday on the Wharf\)](#) live music performance.

60. Kangaroo Creek Farm, Lake Country

One TripAdvisor review described [Kangaroo Creek Farm](#) as "the best petting zoo anywhere." Kids are basically nuts about petting kangaroos, wallabies, emus, and capybaras. It's a good idea (and a whole lot of fun) to read in advance of your arrival the [visitor rules of conduct](#), which include: "Pet kangaroos on the back. Don't scruff them up the way you would a dog." Got it.

61–62. Epic mountain bike trails, Revelstoke

Few of us ever get a chance to bike on singletrack in the high alpine, but Revelstoke offers two fantastic areas for just that. The blue-rated [Frisby Ridge trail](#) is closest to town and less technical than the black diamond-rated [Keystone Standard Basin](#), accessed from logging road midway along Highway 63 north between Revelstoke and Mica dams.

63. The Enchanted Forest, near Revelstoke

With so much potential to be a tourist trap, this one defies logic, in large part because it's irresistible to pre-schoolers and it's a beautiful walk in the forest. Here's a typical TripAdvisor entry from a visitor to [The Enchanted Forest](#): "My son was in complete awe of the whole grounds, the fairytales, the adventures. In complete 6-year-old sincerity he stated, 'I never want to forget this memory!'"



You get a great idea of the scale of Revelstoke Dam after taking an elevator up to the dam crest as part of your Visitor Centre tour. No. 64 on our list of great places in B.C.

64. Revelstoke Dam Visitor Centre

Get an idea of the scale of hydroelectric power in B.C. at BC Hydro's [Revelstoke Dam](#), with interactive exhibits, a view of the powerhouse, and an elevator ride up to the top of the dam for a great view of the valley.

65. Floating down the Penticton channel

Floating down the [Penticton River Channel](#) is about as far removed from whitewater kayaking as a gondola ride is from hang gliding. But it's a decades-old tradition in Penticton: unique, relaxing and plain fun. Bring your own tube or air mattress, or rent one for the day. Just don't forget sunscreen and a floating cooler.

66–67. Anarchist Mountain & Mount Kobau, Osoyoos

You can [hike](#) or drive to the popular Anarchist Mountain viewpoint above Osoyoos Lake, or you can join stargazers at nearby [Mount Kobau's dark sky park](#). This year's [Mount Kobau Star Party is July 22–30](#).

68. Osoyoos Desert Model Railroad Museum

Poul Pedersen always wanted a model train set as a kid, but never got one. As an adult, he has made up for lost time, with the most impressive model train experience—occupying a floor of a non-descript building in an industrial area outside Osoyoos—you'll ever see. Look closely at the [Osoyoos museum's](#) scenes of tiny, hand-painted figures added to scenes in villages and on beaches. The guy has a great sense of humour to go along with all that patience.

69. Ice cream at Tickleberry's, Okanagan Falls

Can you handle three scoops of three different flavours? There's a flavour for everybody at [Tickleberry's](#), famous in large part for its chocolate-covered fruit, including blueberries, cherries, apricots and raspberries.

70. S.S. Sicamous Museum, Penticton

It's a boat. It's a museum. It's a popular wedding venue. It's a lovingly-preserved [stern wheeler](#), a luxury passenger boat launched in 1917 to regularly take passengers from Penticton to Okanagan Landing with 14 stops in between.

71–77. Wine tasting (and dining), Oliver & Osoyoos

Not to be outdone by the popular wine & food experiences of the [Kelowna area](#) and the [Naramata Bench](#), the Oliver and area options (and the juicy reds) just get better each year. Burrowing Owl's [Sonora Room](#) and Nk'Mip's [Spirit Ridge Resort](#) got things rolling years ago, and we now have [Tinhorn Creek's Miradoro](#) and [Hester Creek's Terrafina](#) to add to the fun and variety.

Numbers 78 to 86 Hope, Highways 1 & 3 east

78. Fruit stand row, Keremeos

One of the great things about taking Route 3 to or from the south Okanagan is that you pass through Keremeos and [fruit stand heaven](#). If you're on your way home, leave some space in your vehicle for a box or two of fruit and veggies, especially if you enjoy canning.

79. Bromley Rock Provincial Park, near Princeton

You've been on the road awhile, maybe even got stuck behind a semi through the hairpin curves between Manning Park and Princeton. It's hot and the kids are driving you nuts. Everyone out for a swim—and maybe a cliff jump—at [Bromley Rock](#).

80–81. Othello Tunnels, Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park

This one can be done as a day trip from the Lower Mainland, and it can very busy on weekends and holidays. Bike or hike the tunnels that were drilled for the now-defunct Kettle Valley Railroad. The Othello Tunnels at [Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park](#) were arguably railroad engineer Andrew McCulloch's greatest achievement. On the way home, refuel at the yummy [Blue Moose Coffee House](#).

82. Cathedral Provincial Park, near Keremeos

[Hike and camp in the back country](#) for the full wilderness experience, or splurge with a stay at [Cathedral Lakes Lodge](#). If you're up to a long, full-day hike, don't miss the Rim Trail that rewards you with a bird's-eye view of azure Lady Slipper Lake.

83. Free camping at Jones Lake, east of Chilliwack

It's a beautiful spot and close enough to Vancouver that if you want a campsite in one of our free BC Hydro campgrounds on [Jones Lake](#) on a long weekend, even Thursday afternoon may be too late. What's all the fuss about? [Check out the photos on TripAdvisor](#).

84–85. Fraser Canyon, Trans Canada Highway

Highway No. 1 between Hope and Cache Creek is a bit of a forgotten gem, thanks to the quicker route to Kamloops and east via the Coquihalla Highway. But the canyon is beautiful and has its charms, from [Skihist Provincial Park](#) to the [whitewater rafting on the Fraser and Thompson rivers](#).

86. Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park

One visitor to the old Alexandra Bridge over the Fraser River as a "bridge from nowhere to nowhere", and that just adds to the allure. Originally built as part of the [Cariboo Wagon Road](#) in 1861, then rebuilt in 1926, it's now a pedestrian-only bridge located about a half-kilometre walk from the [Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park's](#) parking lot.

Numbers 87 to 108: Vancouver Island

87. Chesterman Beach, Tofino

There's a lot of stuff to do in Tofino, but only one place ranks No. 1 on TripAdvisor's 52-item list of things to do in Tofino. Why? It's just [an unforgettable beach](#) on a coast famous for its sand and surf.

88. Hot Springs Cove, Tofino

Accessible only by boat or sea plane, plus a 30-minute hike, this adventure is understandably popular. The geothermal hot spring mixes with the ocean water to produce the perfect temperature for us. Best to visit [Hot Springs Cove](#) when the crowds aren't there, so a rainy day in April or October might be best.



Walking Tofino's beaches at low tide is the highlight for some. For others, it's surfing, storm watching or fishing. No. 87 on our list of great places in B.C.

89. Kayaking the Broken Islands, near Ucluelet

Depending on how adventurous you are, or the size of your wallet, you can do this trip as a [self-guided camping adventure](#) or a fully-catered guided affair. Regardless, the [Broken Islands](#) get rave reviews from paddlers from around the world.

90. Hiking Cape Scott, Port Hardy

Adapting to the elements just goes with the territory when you hike coastal B.C. But if you're the hardy type with some quality gear—including a waterproof tent—the glorious beaches of [Cape Scott Provincial Park](#) await you. The North Coast Trail is one of B.C.'s great, but challenging, multi-day hiking experiences. If you want an easier time of it, a 45-minute hike on the [San Josef Bay Trail](#) will get you to a wonderful beach where you can camp.

91. Oyster Burgers in Campbell River at Quay West

You haven't tasted an oyster burger until you've had a Bayou Oyster Burger at [Quay West Kitchen & Catering](#).

92. Cathedral Grove in MacMillan Provincial Park

You might be tempted to just drive through the park and be awed by the size of the Douglas Fir trees in [MacMillan Provincial Park](#) as you pass by. Instead, stop and stroll through the trails to get an ant's-eye view of trees that can be up to 800 years old.



Multi-day hikes await the more adventurous hiker at Cape Scott Provincial Park, but a short day hike can also take you to pristine beaches and tent sites. No. 90 on our list of great places in B.C.

93. Hiking the West Coast Trail, Vancouver Island

As bucket-list adventures go, the [West Coast Trail](#) is close by and attainable for seasoned backpackers who don't mind a little wet weather, the type of people who salivate over cook-in-package freeze-dried delicacies like Hurry Curry Seasoned Chicken & Rice. It's usually a six-day hike, so start getting in shape today and reserve your spot early.

94. North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre, Errington

When animals are rescued on northern Vancouver Island, a lot of them convalesce at the [North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre](#), from bald eagles to bears, owls, and falcons. In May 2017, a [red-necked grebe was rescued](#) from a Nanaimo lumber yard and, after a bit of rest and feeding at the centre, was back in the wild after a few days.

95. Horne Lake Caves, Parksville/Port Alberni

Learn the difference between stalactite and stalagmite, up close and in person. Explore underground caverns at [Horne Lake](#), large and small, sometimes with entrances barely big enough to crawl through. Way cool, and you can do it free and self-guided.

96. Cinnamon bun at Old Town Bakery in Ladysmith

There's soup, sandwiches and [sumptuous cakes](#). But it's the cinnamon buns that earn the rave reviews at [Old Town Bakery](#).

97. Take a boat to the Dinghy Dock pub in Nanaimo

The [only floating pub in Canada](#) offers a different view of Nanaimo and Vancouver Island. Just grab the [local ferry](#) to get there.

98. The Bastion, Nanaimo

What's a bastion? It's a sturdy fort, and this Nanaimo icon is the last remaining wooden Hudson's Bay Company bastion in North America. It has been moved several times, but [The Bastion's](#) timbers and three floors are the original, from 1853.

99. Whale Interpretive Centre, Telegraph Cove

The [Whale Interpretive Centre](#) would love for you to visit and make a donation to help with their various projects, including renovations to the facility that include installation of energy-saving LEDs. Visit the skeleton of [Arnie the grey whale](#), who found a new home in the afterlife after being caught under the public fishing pier in Campbell River.

100. Comox Lake Dam Picnic Area, Comox

Kayakers love the [Puntledge River](#), but the hiking and biking trail network here is also a big draw. Try River Trail West, an easy one to two hours of hiking along the river, or test your mountain biking skills on the Bear Bait Trail or several more challenging trails in the area.

101–102. Elk Falls Suspension Bridge, Campbell River

Hikers looking for the best views of Elk Falls would sometimes venture out onto a slippery perch... a dicey proposition at best. So the Rotary Club of Campbell River raised funds for a suspension bridge and viewing platform that now helps draw thousands to [Elk Falls Provincial Park](#) each year. While you're there, visit BC Hydro's [John Hart Generating Station Interpretive Centre](#).

103. Emily Carr House, Victoria

A National and Provincial Historic Site, the [Emily Carr House](#) is the family home of the post-Impressionist and Modernist painter, writer and thinker. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

104. Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site, Colwood

Even those with a thing for lighthouses are surprised at how interesting this National Historic Site is. A visit to [Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse](#) isn't just about taking great photos. You can tour secret bunkers, military command posts and original 19th century buildings while learning the personal stories of soldiers and their families at the fort, a west coast artillery fortress on active duty from 1895 to 1956.

105. Hike to petroglyphs, Sooke

Hike the [Coast Trail](#) in East Sooke Park for a three-to-four-hour loop that takes you along the ocean, and then inland, on what ranks as one of the Victoria area's finest hikes. En route, you get to explore First Nations petroglyphs at Alldridge Point, carved into the rock by the Coast Salish First Nations.



Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site, near Colwood, offers deep dive into history, and some real cool photo opportunities. No. 104 on our list of great places in B.C.

106. Bear Mountain Golf & Country Club, Victoria

Bear Mountain's [Mountain course](#) is ranked 43th on ScoreGolf's Top 100 Canadian courses list for 2017, and the [Valley course](#) isn't far behind at 58. A stunning location for these courses, and they don't disappoint.

107. Train trestle hike, Goldstream

You take in both [Niagara Falls](#) and the very cool railway trestle on this [Goldstream day-hike](#).

108. Wall murals, Chemainus

Billed as the world's leading community-driven art project, the [Chemainus murals project](#) defies easy classification. Tour the town and see murals ranging from The [Hong Hing Waterfront Store](#) to the stunning [Hermit](#).

Numbers 109 to 117: Gulf Islands & Sunshine Coast

109. Gibsons Tapworks

A Kickstarter campaign launched [Gibsons Tapworks](#), where craft beer, live music and ceviche shrimp tacos from the [Nomadic Kitchen food truck](#) combined to make this place a must visit. And if you're up to it, there's a weekly trivia night.

110. Talewind Books, Sechelt

Offering the perspective that only an independent bookseller can offer, [Talewind Books](#) has been a local gem for nearly three decades, offering delightful choices for kids and adults alike, including an intriguing collection of books about food and wine.

111. Francis Point Provincial Park, Madeira Park

Purple starfish and stunning oceanside views make the [Francis Point Trail](#) in this Sunshine Coast park a five-star hit on TripAdvisor.

112. Desolation Sound Provincial Park

If you spend much time sailing on the B.C. coast, eventually you make your way to one of the most intriguing spots in the province. A riot of marine life, from sea lions, to dolphins, to hummingbirds, awaits you, which makes [Desolation Sound](#) a great spot for kayaking, camping, and scuba diving.

113. Salt Spring Island Cheese Company farm

You can't go wrong with a place that serves up otherworldly cheese, chutneys, and olives on what one visitor described as "a quaint farm filled with surprises." The [Salt Spring Cheese Company's](#) cheeses, such as the Ruckles goat milk cheese, aren't just delicious, they're works of art.



The wave-like sandstone formations along the beach on Gabriola Island, known as the Malaspina Galleries, are No. 114 on our list.

114–116. Malaspina Galleries, Drumbeg Provincial Park, Gabriola Island

A short ferry ride from Nanaimo to Gabriola Island and a short drive or cycle on the island gets you to the trailhead for what's known as [Malaspina Galleries](#), an easy hour-long hike to surf- and frost-eroded sandstone formations that look like a frozen wave. Make this part of a day on Gabriola to include [Drumbeg Provincial Park](#) and inventive pizza at [Woodfire Restaurant & Catering](#).



A kayaker paddles over glassy waters in Desolation Sound, B.C. No. 112 on our list of great places in B.C.

117. Halibut burger at Stand, Pender Island

You're waiting for the ferry and you're hungry. You're in luck—if you have cash—at [The Stand](#), which is basically a shack cranking out [menu items](#) led by a near-famous halibut burger and all-day breakfasts.

Numbers 118 to 132: Squamish to Lillooet

118. Hiking the Chief in Squamish

You can't miss the [Stawamus Chief](#) as you drive through Squamish, but it's the view from the top of the Chief that's worth hiking to. This two-to-three hour hike is steep but not arduous, ideal for anyone reasonably fit, including families with younger children.

119. Brandywine Falls near Whistler

At just a 15-minute walk away from the highway, you have to visit at least once. You get a [70-metre waterfall](#) and—with a hike up to the viewpoint—a nice view of Daisy Lake and the surrounding mountains.

120. Train Wreck Trail, Whistler

A train full of logs gets jammed in a tight space between rocks, the boxcars are dragged off the trails and into the old-growth forest nearby, and graffiti artists follow up decades later with an urban touch. Just south of Function Junction at Whistler, [Train Wreck Trail](#) is one weird and wonderful hike, unlike anything else in B.C.



A short hike on a Whistler trail takes you to graffitied boxcars strewn throughout the forest. No. 120 on our list of great places in B.C.

121. Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, Whistler

Many visitors to Whistler pass by the [Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre](#) and marvel at the architecture without stopping. Big mistake. The centre offers a fascinating exploration of First Nations culture, mixed in with a great meal—cedar-plank salmon chowder, bannock taco—for good measure.

122. Audain Art Museum, Whistler

It's raining in Whistler, so golfing or that bike ride will have to wait. What do you do? Wander over to the [Audain Art Museum](#), which is quickly earning an international reputation for its collection of B.C.-centric art, and for its architecture. And starting June 10, 2017, there's a special exhibition of [Edward Burtynsky's](#) photos.

123–124. Pemberton Valley food & drink

If you've ever had a Pemberton valley potato, you probably remember it. With a backdrop of craggy peaks, the fertile valley is an epicurean's delight where you can visit [farms and distilleries](#), grab a burger at the [Mile One Eating House](#) or ride your bike on [Slow Food Sunday](#) in August.

125–126. Garibaldi Lakes & Joffre Lakes hikes

The hikes to [Garibaldi Lake](#), [Panorama Ridge](#) and [Black Tusk](#) are deservedly off-the-charts popular, but if you're looking for something much shorter and less crowded, [Joffre Lakes](#) past Pemberton is a fantastic choice. You can do it in four hours, unless you get lost in the scenery and just want to hang out for awhile.



Joffre Lakes hike, near Pemberton, is No. 126 on our list.

127. Duffey Lake Provincial Park

One of the gems along the amazing Duffey Lake Road is [Duffey Lake](#) itself. Take a quick break from your drive to take in the lake and surrounding mountains, or find a calm day to explore the waters by canoe or kayak.

128–129. Bridge River Country

Definitely off the beaten path. But if you can brave the [Hurley Road](#), you will be rewarded. Camp for free at BC Hydro's [Gun Creek campground](#), rent a cabin at Gun Lake or splurge at [Tyax Wilderness Resort & Spa](#) and explore epic mountain bike trails. Did you know that the [Bridge 1 powerhouse](#) was once the largest in our system?

130. Seton Lake Recreation area, Lillooet

The already popular [Seton Lake Recreation Area](#) just got an upgrade with a new swim boom around the swimming area. It's located just 6 km from Lillooet and just above the Seton Dam, which is the final dam on BC Hydro's Bridge River hydroelectric system. There are 45 campsites in the campground here, and like all our sites, you can camp here for free.



Gun Creek recreation site in BC Hydro's Bridge River system. No. 128–129 on our list of great places in B.C.

131. Fort Berens Estate Winery, Lillooet

So you never thought you'd see a winery in Lillooet? Not only does [Fort Berens Estate Winery](#) feature award winning [reds](#) and [whites](#), its [kitchen](#) and patio add up to a dynamic duo for dinner. Don't miss out on the pinot noir.

132. Kaoham shuttle, Lillooet

A [30-passenger train trip](#) from Lillooet to Seton Portage and back is a breathtaking journey that takes you along the shores of Seton Lake and around the sharpest curve in CN Rail's entire system. Pick a nice day to do this one.

Numbers 133 to 150: Greater Vancouver

133. Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Steveston

Once the leading producer of canned salmon in B.C., this National Historic Site serves up the colourful history of the West Coast fishing industry with a winning mix of exhibits on a [self-guided tour](#). Make sure to get your [free 2017 Parks Canada Pass](#) to get free admission this year.

134–135. Camping & hiking at Golden Ears Provincial Park

You don't have to go far from the city to get a taste of what camping's all about. But you're going to need to reserve a spot well in advance, especially for summer weekends, at one of the [four massive campgrounds](#) that are wildly popular for good reason. If you're there for awhile, take on the mighty challenge of the [Golden Ears trail](#), just doable in a very long day, but preferable as an overnight camping trip.



Motorcycles from around the world are showcased at the Deeley Exhibition in East Vancouver. No. 139 on our list of great places in B.C.

136–137. Quarry Rock hike & Deep Cove, North Vancouver

If you're not up to the much tougher [Mount Seymour hike](#), try the 90-minute [Quarry Rock](#) trail, but get there early if the weather's nice and you want to avoid crowds. Fantastic view from the top, and the promise of a snack at Deep Cove's [Cafe Orso](#) or [Bluhous Market & Cafe](#).

138. Food & drink, Rocky Point, Port Moody

[Rocky Point Park](#) in Port Moody was always a wonderful place to hang out, a primo picnic spot that just got better as [Pajo's Fish & Chips](#) and [Rocky Point Ice Cream](#) upped the ante. And then along came "Brewers Row", [four craft breweries](#) in a three-block stretch by the park.

139. Deeley Motorcycle Exhibition, Vancouver

The [Deeley Motorcycle Exhibition](#) draws raves from those who love motorcycles and those with even a passing interest in the two-wheeled wonders. How can you resist a revolving collection of 60 antique, vintage, and historically important motorcycles? And 2017 is a great time to visit, as there's an intriguing Cycles & Cinema special exhibition.

140–141. Cascade Falls, Deroche, plus Westminster Abbey, Mission

A hidden gem for Vancouverites, [Cascade Falls](#) isn't that far away but you'll never know that once you're there. It's an easy half-hour hike from the trailhead northeast of Mission. While in Mission, don't miss the entrancing [Westminster Abbey](#), home to a community of Benedictine monks, or [Old Abbey Ales](#), if you like Belgian-style ales.



Want a craft beer. Brewer's Row at Rocky Point Park in Port Moody offers four tasting rooms over three blocks. No. 138 on our list of great places in B.C.

142. Canadian Museum of Flight, Langley

You may not know a [de Havilland Tiger Moth](#) from a [Conair Firecat](#) or a [Canadian Quickie](#), but you're about to find out with a visit to the weird and wonderful [Canadian Museum of Flight](#). Kids can even climb into a cockpits of designated outdoor exhibits.

143. Swimming in Lynn Canyon, North Vancouver

You don't mind cold water, right? A longtime local hangout for adventurous teens is a way cool way to cool off during a Lynn Canyon hike. [Get directions to the 30-foot pool at lynncanyon.ca.](#)

144. After a short hike, a dip in icy Cabin Lake

From the Cypress Bowl ski area parking lot, it's a relatively short hike—complete with access to views of Howe Sound a bit beyond—to [Cabin Lake](#). Some swim au naturel in a beautiful swimming hole that seems a world removed from Vancouver.

145. Takeout at Mountain Woman, Britannia Beach

The [Britannia Mine Museum](#) deservedly gets high praise at Britannia Beach, but don't miss out on fish and chips, a juicy burger or poutine at the roadside shack that bears the sign [MOUNTAIN woMAN](#).

147. Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver

You don't need to fly south to experience humidity, tropical birds and exotic flowers. That's all part of the experience in the bubble atop Little Mountain in the middle of Vancouver known as the [Bloedel Conservatory](#).

148. Bard on the Beach, Vancouver

The summer celebration of Shakespeare runs June through September in the magnificent location at Vanier Park. [Bard on the Beach 2017](#) features Much Ado About Nothing, The Winter's Tale, The Merchant of Venice, Two Gentlemen of Verona, and Shylock.

149. Sky diving at Abbotsford

So you just watched Keanu Reeves jump out of plane in the original Point Break, and you're reminded you've always wanted to try sky diving (preferably with a chute). You can try [sky diving at Abbotsford](#).

150. Buntzen Lake trails

This is hardly a secret, because [Buntzen Lake](#) is a wildly popular spot to swim and picnic in the warmer months. The hiking trails are fantastic, but you'll need to start your day early to ensure you get a spot in the parking lot before it's full. [Happy trails](#).