

TRAVEL

TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR B.C. GETAWAY

Currently, we are in Phase 2 of B.C.'s Restart Plan, where British Columbians have been asked to avoid travelling from one part of the province to another. However, the best travel plans are not made on a whim. In the next few weeks, we'll feature B.C. destinations to help you decide where to go when the province is open for travel once again.

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The water temperature at the geothermally heated springs at Hot Springs Cove, located in Maquinna Marine Provincial Park on Vancouver Island, is 50 C.

THREE DAYS IN TOFINO

A great escape is only an hour away, writes *Suzanne Morphet*

On Vancouver Island's West Coast, the village of Tofino is a popular year-round destination. But driving there from the Lower Mainland usually takes at least six hours, including a ferry ride and a stretch of sometimes-harrowing mountain road. If you fly by float plane instead, you can be in Tofino in just one hour, giving you more time for the many adventures available.

Vancouver Island boasts one of the densest populations of black bears on the planet.

7 P.M. WALK TO SHELTER

Staying at the Tofino Resort + Marina means you're within easy walking distance of stores and restaurants including Shelter, where an eclectic menu includes buttermilk fried chicken and mussels in Thai coconut.

FRIDAY 11 A.M. SO LONG VANCOUVER

Check in for your 11:30 a.m. flight with Harbour Air at the Vancouver Harbour Flight Centre in Coal Harbour. Enjoy a complimentary espresso at the Cockpit Café before boarding a nine-passenger Cessna Grand Caravan EX. Besides the non-stop views over Stanley Park, the Strait of Georgia and the forested mountains of Vancouver Island, the best part about flying on floats is there's no security screening, so boarding is a breeze. Just walk on and take off.

12:30 P.M. TOUCH DOWN IN TOFINO

Your plane skims the surface of Tofino Inlet, then docks at Tofino Resort + Marina, situated on the edge of town and your home base for three nights. Enjoy lunch at the Hatch Waterfront Pub, one of the property's two restaurants. With a menu ranging from raw oysters to wood-fired pizza, and 14 craft beers on tap, you're spoiled for choice.

2 P.M. PADDLEBOARD CLAYOQUOT SOUND

After the bustle of the big city, Clayoquot Sound feels especially peaceful. Studded with emerald green islands, the waters here are calm compared to the outer coast. Book a small motorboat from the resort's Marine Adventure Centre to take you to a sheltered spot to launch your boards. On the way, watch for bears foraging on the rocky shoreline.

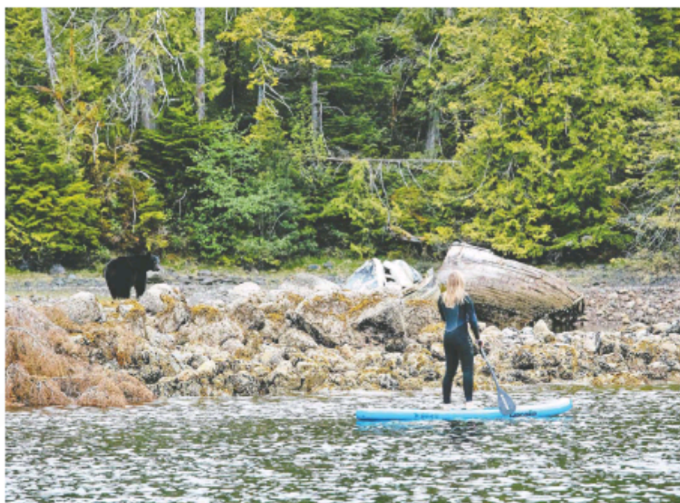
SATURDAY 9:45 A.M. HOT SPRINGS COVE (PENDING REOPENING)

Grab your bathing suit and join the resort's daily 30-nautical-miles boat ride to Maquinna Marine Provincial Park, where a boardwalk leads you through lush forest to the geothermally heated springs. On a cool or rainy day, the 50 C water feels very welcome. After cascading over a rocky outcropping, it collects in small pools, one so close to the ocean that waves wash over it. On the boat ride here you may spot grey whales or orcas and sea otters. Captain Jeff is an engaging storyteller and will keep you entertained coming and going. Warning: Hot Springs Cove is so popular you'll likely be sharing it with a couple dozen or more others. (Note: Due to community concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 to the Hesquiaht First Nation village in Hot Springs Cove, Maquinna Marine Provincial Park remains closed until further notice.)

7 P.M. DINE AT 1909 KITCHEN

Chef Paul Moran (a recent Top Chef Canada winner) focuses on ingredients sourced and foraged from Tofino's ocean, shoreline and forests — and you'll get good views of all three at this waterfront restaurant. The kitchen can also cook your own catch. If you're wondering about the restaurant's name, 1909 is the year the post office opened in Tofino.

[SEE TOFINO ON FB](#)



You never know what you'll see when paddleboarding in Clayoquot Sound near Tofino. *JEREMY KORSEKI*

NEED A QUIET, RELAXING GETAWAY? Visit TAKAHASHIGARDENS.com to reserve now for summer.

SPORTS 1
WILLER
A new way of changing life here.

A DIFFERENT DISEASE?
Some doctors feel virus is losing potency.

SUMMER STAYCATION
B.C. wine country offers the perfect getaway.

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DIX ORDERS RACISM PROBE
RIR staff target of allegations.

MATTER OF PRINCIPLE
Abbotsford police officer Rob Wroon collapsed and died in 2018 at age 50. The cause of death was cardiac arrhythmia. It is with this in mind that the conditions were brought on by PTSD from being a police officer and his wife's stress. She's fighting the idea of a coroner's inquest, mainly to set a precedent for other police widows.

TRAVEL
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.

NP 2
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.

PRO TEAM
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.

40% OFF
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.

DON'T WAIT!
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.

COIT
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.

7C
To Pineda: Experts to meet, not food and wine.



Freediving with Tofino Resort + Marina is a great way to explore the wildlife off the coast of Vancouver Island. JEREMY KORESKI

A LAND OF SAND, SURF, GREAT FOOD, FINE WINE

IF YOU GO

TOFINO FROM PZ

SUNDAY

9 A.M. BIKE THE BEACH

Rent fat-tire or city bikes from the resort and cycle for about 20 minutes to Chesterman Beach on the multi-use trail that parallels the highway into town. Almost three kilometres long and shaped like a "w" (especially at low tide when Frank Island emerges), locals like Chesterman for walking and flying kites, but the hard-packed sand is also good for cycling.

12 P.M. THE POINTE RESTAURANT AT THE WICKANINNISH INN

Park your bikes near the Carving Shed at the north end of Chesterman Beach and see what local carvers are working on (and selling) before heading into The Wick. It was the inn's McDiarmid family who helped make Tofino a storm-watching destination in winter, but even on a calm day, the 240-degree view of the ocean and beach from The Pointe is spectacular. Also of note is the inn's new wine cellar. With its extensive selection of wines and a six-metre slab of yellow cedar for a table, the cellar can be reserved for private parties. (Note: The Wickaninnish hopes to reopen to B.C. residents on June 22 and the rest of Canada on July 6.)



Hard to top the visual delight of albacore tuna with white radish tacos served at 1909 Kitchen. LEILA KWOK

2 P.M. TASTE MORE LOCAL FLAVOUR

On your cycle back to town, turn onto Industrial Way, where you'll find Tofino Brewing and Tofino Distillery. Both offer tastings of their locally flavoured creations such as Kelp Stout at the brewery and Old Growth Cedar Gin at the distillery. Continue on Industrial Way and you'll reach the Tonquin Trail Connector leading back to town. If you're craving more beach time, park

your bike and walk to Tonquin Beach. The rock formations here provide sheltered sunbathing. This small beach is also known for its beautiful sunsets.

MONDAY 9 A.M. CHECK OUT AND GO SURFING

Your experienced and fun-loving instructors from Pacific Surf Co. will teach you how to catch a wave and maybe a new passion. Even though the water hovers

somewhere between 7 C and 15 C year-round, wetsuits keep you warm.

1 P.M. WALK TO THE RESORT'S DOCK

And board your return flight with Harbour Air. Be back in Vancouver at 2 p.m. with a smile on your face.

The writer was a guest of Tofino Resort + Marina before COVID-19 shut down the province.

Tofino Resort + Marina has 62 guest suites, many with balconies and water views. Prices range from \$129 to \$369 per night depending on the season. The resort's Marine Adventure Centre has three boats of different sizes for its tours and private bookings. A paddleboard tour for four people, including dropping and retrieving crab traps, costs approximately \$600. The chef at 1909 Kitchen will prepare your catch for \$39 per person.

City and fat-tire bikes can be rented for \$35/day. There's also a large and well-equipped gym at the resort. tofinoresort+marina.com

Harbour Air resumes daily flights from Vancouver to Tofino on June 25, continuing through Oct. 2. Passengers are required to complete a health declaration and wear a mask on the flight. One-way fares start at \$140.

www.harbourair.com
Reservations: 604.274.1277

Pacific Surf Co. A three-hour group lesson costs \$89 per person. Open every day but Christmas. Reserve online (www.pacificsurfschool.com), at their office at 441 Campbell Street, or call toll-free 1-888-777-9961.



The view from the Harbour Air plane shows off the magnificence of B.C. SUZANNE MORPHET



Fat-tire biking on the beach is growing in popularity. SUZANNE MORPHET



An instructor from Pacific Surf Co. teaches novice surfers how to catch a wave.

hawksworth
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TOFINO RESORT + MARINA
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