

# DETOUR

COOL PLACES, PEOPLE AND THINGS ACROSS CANADA

## Next Coast

*The California dream is alive in TOFINO but with less crowded waves, nary a fast food joint and no passport required. By JOY PECKNOLD*

At the end of British Columbia's Pacific Rim Highway on Vancouver Island, the resort town Tofino meets the ocean and brokers her charms. In March, while most of the country is caught in winter's headlock, it's mild here. The month marks the tail end of storm season, the cinematic surges subsiding to welcome another spectacle: the beginning of the whale migration, when grays and humpbacks return to feast. Its wildness is counterbalanced with refinements to sweep you off your feet.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEREMY KORESKI

# detourTOFINO



FROM TOP: A MERGE NEEDLEPOINT; ON ONE OF TOFINO'S MANY TRAILS; THE DAY'S CATCH AT WOLF IN THE FOG



## SHOP

**MERGE** In a little blue building off an alleyway, the studio-slash-shop (305B Campbell St., [mergeartisan-collective.com](http://mergeartisan-collective.com)) is a joint venture of jewellery maker Laurie Boudreault and leather worker Victoria Ashley. It sells handmade goods—the majority from Canada, including 28 Vancouver Island brands—that range from pottery to preserves. Also find workshops, like tarot card reading, lino block printing and weaving.

**CARAVAN BEACH SHOP** After falling in love with surfing after a few visits, Jen Thorpe left her corporate life in Vancouver to open a 230-square-foot lifestyle store (346 Campbell St., [caravanbeachshop.com](http://caravanbeachshop.com)) in 2012. Fittingly, she stocks all the right items for a beach day, including Pendleton blankets, Stanley growlers, Raen sunglasses, Seea swimwear and locally made Market Canvas leather bags.

## EAT

**WOLF IN THE FOG** Much of what's plated at this highly praised restaurant (150 4 St., [wolfinthefog.com](http://wolfinthefog.com)) didn't have to travel far—especially the seafood, what with the fisherman's wharf just down the street. Capturing a sense of place is the aim of chef Nicholas Nutting and his team, and the charred Humboldt squid and Cedar Sour cocktail, among other things, succeed in translating it to palate.

## STAY

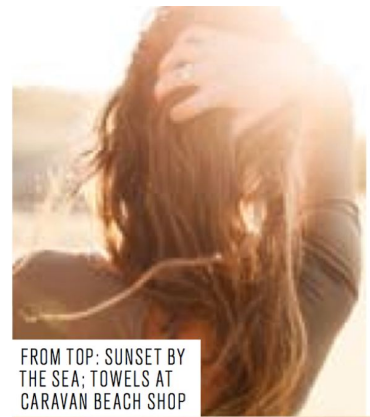
### PACIFIC SANDS, SUNSET HOUSE AT ROSIE BAY

Overlooking Rosie Bay and Pettinger Point, Sunset House (1421 Pacific Rim Hwy., [pacificsands.com](http://pacificsands.com)) is Pacific Sands' new oceanfront vacation property. Previously a private home, its airy 2,400-square-foot interior includes four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living room, a dining room and a kitchen. But the 1,200-square-foot outdoor deck, which features a six-person hot tub, a barbecue and a fire pit, is the real grand central.

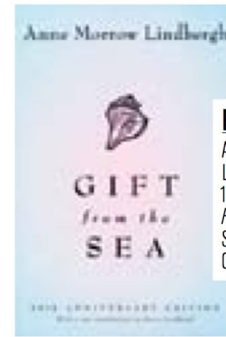
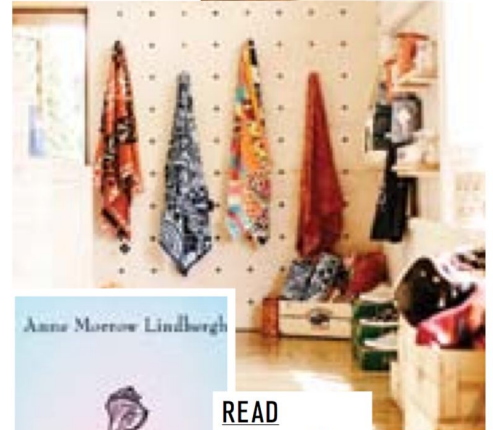
**OCEAN VILLAGE** On MacKenzie Beach, a prime spot for stand-up paddleboarding, these charming beehive-shaped cabins (555 Hellesen Dr., [oceanvillageresort.com](http://oceanvillageresort.com)) have hardly changed since 1976. The one- and two-bedroom versions, which feature full kitchens and fireplaces, occupy the front row for the nearest and clearest views. The room rates are practically retro, too, starting from \$89 a night.



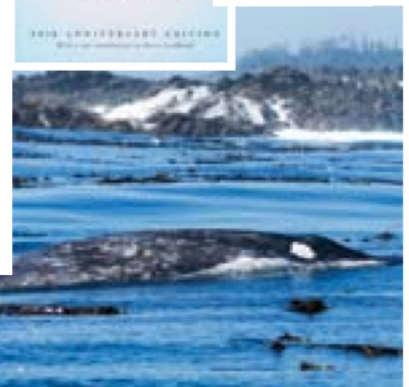
ABOVE: MARCH SEES THE LAUNCH OF WHALE-WATCHING SEASON. BELOW: ONE OF THE CABINS AT OCEAN VILLAGE



FROM TOP: SUNSET BY THE SEA; TOWELS AT CARAVAN BEACH SHOP



**READ**  
ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH'S 1955 MEMOIR *GIFT FROM THE SEA* SET ON FLORIDA'S CAPTIVA ISLAND



PHOTOGRAPHY: WOLF IN THE FOG BY CHRISTOPHER POUGET; WHALE BY ISTOCK

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WOLF IN THE FOG  
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