

Your Ultimate Tofino To-Do List: Surf, Eat, Play (and Eat Some More)

THE RETURN OF THE MCBARGE // EAST-SIDE RAILWAY WOES

SLEEK SUNGLASSES FOR SPRING // TASTE TEST: BEST BREAKFAST SANDWICHES // 4/20 LIVES ON // & MORE

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Play



Natural Wonder It's peak rainforest along Tofino's Hot Springs Cove boardwalk with its fern beds, cedar underpasses and moss for miles—and the payoff at the end of the path is just as sweet.



TRAVEL

INTO THE WOODS

Whether you're scoping out the almost-magical coastal wilderness or feasting on the world-class dishes that are served up with small-town charm, **Tofino** has got a little something for every itinerary.

BY Julia Dilworth and Stacey McLachlan

Come Hungry

CAFFEINATE AND CARBO-LOAD

Tofino Coffee Roasting Co.
112-505 Gibson St.
There's no room to sit down in this compact café, but the small square footage appropriately reflects the small-batch ethos of the roasting process. Besides, there's no shortage of picturesque spots nearby to enjoy your strong Americano and perfectly flaky twice-baked almond croissant. tofinocoffee.com

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Shelter
601 Campbell St.
Open since 2004, Shelter has got their casual-fine experience down to a science at this point. The vibe is that of a laid-back island version of Cactus Club (no surprise that Richard Jaffray is a silent investor), but the local focus of the menu gives it a delicious sense of place: Think BLTs with house-smoked salmon, Marina Island littleneck clams and free-run salt-and-pepper wings. shelterrestaurant.com

NICE TO MEAT YOU

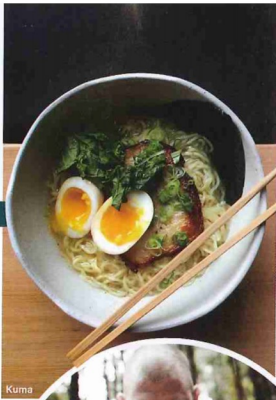
Picnic Charcuterie
117 Industrial Way
It's a carnivore's dream in Picnic's tiny storefront, where the display cases are packed to the brim with salamis, sausages and cured meats that are butchered and aged on-site. Stock up on thick slabs of hand-cut bacon for tomorrow's breakfast, or slice up chunks of chanterelle salami to eat then and there. picniccharcuterie.com

STELLAR SANDWICH

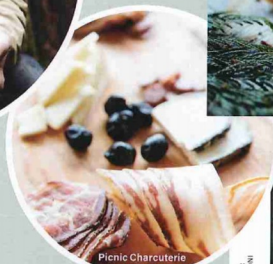
RedCan Gourmet
700 Industrial Way
"Artisan" and "hoagie" aren't usually used in the same sentence, but there's no other way to describe the excellent sandwiches RedCan whips up using fresh-baked baguettes and smoked brisket. Get yours to go and bring it across the street to Tofino Brewing Co.—it'll pair perfectly with your tasting flight. redcangourmet.com

THE HAPPIEST HOUR

Kuma
101-120 4th St.
Pop in for happy hour at this mod take on a Japanese izakaya—though it's a struggle not to spoil your appetite for dinner here. Pair your Sapporo tallboy with the grilled chicken karage rice balls, house ramen with braised pork belly and Bear tuna (local albacore with tamarind-truffle vinaigrette spread onto crunchy crostini). kumatorfino.com



Wolf in the Fog's chef Nicholas Nutting out foraging for last-minute additions to the restaurant's evening menu.



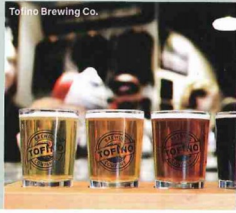
Picnic Charcuterie

DREAM DINNER

Wolf in the Fog
150 4th St.
In 2014, Wolf was named *EnRoute's* best new restaurant in Canada, and four years later chef Nicholas Nutting is still at the top of his game. Each dish—from crispy potato-crust oysters to a shitake-infused seaweed salad to the fall-off-the-fork hot smoked char—is a forager's dream, spotlighting regional treasures and the seasonal harvest with stunning presentation and an impeccable depth of flavour. The excellent cocktails (we loved the cedar sour) are just a bonus. wolfinthefog.com

NIGHTY-NIGHTCAP

The Hatch
634 Campbell St.
The pub may be under new management—part of a revitalization of the Tofino Resort and Marina property this past summer—but it boasts Tofino's oldest liquor licence, so it's the only place in town open until 2 a.m. On tap at the horseshoe-shaped bar, find options from West Coast craft brews (and sourdough-crust pizzas from the kitchen's wood-fired oven, should you somehow feel hungry again). tofinoresortandmarina.com



Tofino Brewing Co.



The Hatch

Explorers' Club
Time to get outside.

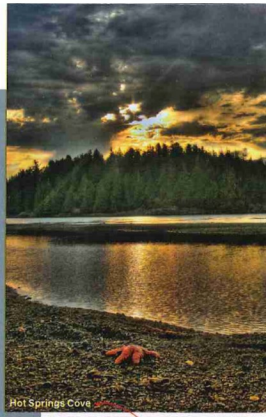
Soak Up the Natural Hot Springs

This isn't a below-ground hot tub in the woods. When you finally reach Hot Springs Cove (more on that later), a winding wooden trail through the rainforest delivers you at a deep rock crevice that snakes down to the oceanfront. It's filled with small pools of steaming natural hot-spring water (which typically sit at around 109°F), with the hottest temps at the most inland point, spraying madly from the rocks up top. Sit in the narrow waist-deep pools and enjoy the hydrotherapy session against a score of waves crashing down below. If you bring in food, the local husky-mix dogs will find you and sniff you up and down for scraps (don't give in!).

Quitting there? At 27 nautical miles northwest of Tofino in Maquinna Provincial Park, it's boat or plane. We recommend you do both: Jamie's Whaling Station and Adventure Centre tours you around Clayoquot Sound for two hours to spot grey whales on your way there, and then you get to pile into a float plane to zip back—20 minutes and you're back in Tofino, ready for the next adventure (\$199 for adults; \$179 for kids three to 12). james.com

Easy (Even for You) Beginner Surfing Lesson

Surfing scares the pants off many a non-Olympic swimmer, and that's why Tofino is the best place to try it. Long, flat beaches mean the rising water gradient is slow, and therefore the swimming chops required are totally average. Yes, you can drown in an inch of water, but at waist-deep with your feet firmly planted in the soft sand, the ocean seems far less threatening. First-timers should book a lesson, and Surf Sisters is one of the originals on the coast. Super-positive (and patient) instructors teach you all the basics on the beach before assisting you in the water with everything from getting on your board to holding your board while you flush your nostrils of sea water. Catch one wave, even in a half-crouch, and you'll be hooked. surfsister.com



Hot Springs Cove



Surf Sisters



GETTING AROUND

TWO WHEELS

Rent a bike from **Tons of Fun Cycles** and pop from Long Beach Lodge and into town via the easy-riding highway-adjacent cycling path. From \$30 for four hours, tofocycles.com



MOTOR MAGIC

Hop on a scooter from **Tuff City Scooter and Bike Rentals** and speed along the winding Vancouver Island roads for maximum beach access. \$89 per day, tofinoapp.com



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WOLF IN THE FOG

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