

BC SIGHTSEEING JOURNEYS

To best admire BC's mountains, canyons, fjords and ancient forests, opt for a unique land, ocean or air adventure that makes the journey as spectacular as the destination. Choose from all-season helicopter and floatplane tours, train trips that run through wild places untracked by highways, and ferries that chart marine passages north towards Alaska. Leave the driving, steering or piloting in the hands of local navigators and let sightseeing top the vacation agenda.

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Rocky Mountaineer's Sea to Sky Climb (Vancouver - Whistler)

Decades before highways were built, passenger trains linked Vancouver with the BC Interior along an ocean-and-mountain route. In rugged places such as the Cheakamus Canyon south of Whistler, the best vantage points are still from a train.

Climb aboard an observation car on Rocky Mountaineer's Sea to Sky Climb between Vancouver and Whistler. Begin the day trip by winding through urban West Vancouver, then travel along the shoreline of a white-capped fjord, and finally top off the train ride with a canyon-side ascent to the foot of Whistler Mountain.

BC Ferries' Discovery Coast Passage (Port Hardy – Bella Coola)

BC Ferries journeys to more than 50 ports-of-call along the West Coast, from a 20-minute hop between Vancouver and rural Bowen Island to an 18-hour Inside Passage sailing between Vancouver Island and BC's northwestern coast, within sight of Alaska.

The Discovery Coast Passage vessel sails from Port Hardy on the northern tip of Vancouver Island to Bella Coola in the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region. This summer-only journey boasts jaw-dropping scenery and the opportunity to spot wildlife like Orcas, dolphins and bald eagles. Experience a variety of ports-of-call along the way with stunning coastline, the freshest local seafood and friendly communities.

Vancouver – Victoria - Gulf Islands by Air

Floatplanes and helicopters can reach otherwise-inaccessible regions of BC. From the air, perspectives shift as mountains and valleys, oceans and islands spread out below. Bird's-eye views offer big-picture vantage points, whether travelling by charter seaplane

flight or on a scheduled run, aboard a heli-tour or on an intercity heli-jet excursion.

Scenic flightseeing routes include Harbour Air's 30-minute flights between Vancouver and Victoria's Inner Harbour across the Southern Gulf Islands, an aerial geography lesson.

Ride the PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola

For a speedy sightseeing adventure, travel on Whistler's PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola. This gondola takes just 11 minutes to travel between Blackcomb and Whistler mountains, which offers plenty of time to snap photos of the Coast Mountains above and Fitzsimmons Creek's whitewater channel below.

The record-breaking PEAK 2 PEAK gondola is the highest lift of its kind, dangling 436m/1,430ft above the valley floor. Thrill-seekers: make sure to jump into one of two silver cabins for a bird's-eye view through the glass bottom.

In summer, ride the gondola for sightseeing, hiking or mountaintop dining. In winter, enjoy easy access between ski runs on Whistler and Blackcomb mountains, or hop on to enjoy the snowy landscapes.

VIA Rail's Jasper-Prince Rupert Train

The two-day journey between the Canadian Rockies and the north Pacific coast aboard VIA Rail's Jasper-Prince Rupert train is a remarkable route. With 1,160km/696mi to cover, the scenery changes on the half-hour, from spruce forests to granite peaks.

Keep an eye on the wetlands for signs of moose and deer, bears and bald eagles, and listen as staff share information about the natural and cultural history of the surroundings. Explore local towns when the train pulls in for the night, or request a stop along the line.