



TRIP IDEAS

TOFINO & UCLUELET

Tofino and Ucluelet, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, are Canada's surf hot spots. Ride big (or little) Pacific swells and search for tidal pool creatures. Whale watching tours are another way to experience the ocean. On land, hike the Wild Pacific Trail or routes in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. After a day of adventure, unwind at an oceanfront resort.

For more great Trip Ideas visit HelloBC.com

Tofino & Ucluelet Surfing

Tofino was named the "Best Surf Town in North America" in Outside Magazine's 2010 Editors' Choice Awards. Catch waves at Cox Bay, Long Beach or Chesterman Beach. Never tried it? No problem. Nine surf schools teach everything from the basics to advanced techniques.

Hiking Trails

Who needs mountains for a dramatic hike? Some top picks for local routes include the Wild Pacific Trail, which skirts the coast near the village of Ucluelet, and the network of paths in the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The national park spans 130km/81mi of coastline and includes Long Beach, the ultimate beach walk of 16km/10mi of forest-backed, driftwood-strewn sand.

Whale Watching and Hot Springs

Up to 20,000 grey whales migrate along the coast here each February and March and the people of Tofino and Ucluelet welcome them with the Pacific Rim Whale Festival. March is a great time to join a whale watching tour, but there are plenty of greys, humpbacks and Orcas in the area throughout the summer.

The ultimate Tofino experience? Combine whale and wildlife watching with a boat trip to Hot Springs Cove in Maquinna Marine Provincial Park, where a series of hot-springs-fed pools flows into the sea.

Tofino & Ucluelet Restaurants

For a small town, Tofino boasts a wealth of fabulous restaurants – most skewing local and organic with seafood fresh from the docks. Start the day with a great breakfast at the Common Loaf Bake Shop, Tofino's original coffee and

muffin hang out, followed by a fish taco lunch at SoBo (open February to November), where the chef takes inspiration from local ingredients. Dinner? Head south to Ucluelet to experience Norwoods Restaurant. Chef Richard Norwood works closely with Pacific Northwest artisan farmers to create imaginative dishes in an eclectic style.

Tofino & Ucluelet Accommodation

If it's a splurge-worthy occasion, book an ocean view room at the Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino's original eco-lodge perched at Chesterman Beach. The Long Beach Lodge Resort offers surf view windows and dramatic Aboriginal art. For a summer surfing safari, stay at Surf Junction Campground, tucked into the woods near Ucluelet.

Tofino Transportation

In a hurry? Orca Airways flies to the area from Vancouver International Airport. For car travel, take BC Ferries from Horseshoe Bay, about 30 minutes north of downtown Vancouver, to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. From there it's a three- to four-hour drive through mountain scenery to the coast.