

4 Coast Cariboo



Hayfield at Tatla Lake



Western Red Cedar

“The Hill” to Heckman pass which rises 1,524 metres (5,000 ft) above the sea.

Fly-fishing for trout, camping, hiking, canoeing and horseback riding are all popular activities here. Look out for mountain goat, caribou, black bear, moose and countless bird species. Charter a float plane to fly over Turner Lake and view one of North America’s highest waterfalls – Hunlen Falls plunges 253 metres (850 ft) over a sheer rock face.

5 Tatla Lake is the gateway to Chilko Lake, along a gravel road for 80 km (45 mi). Angle for trophy-sized rainbow and bull trout in the turquoise waters of Chilko Lake, the largest natural, high-elevation freshwater lake in North America.

great spot for mountain biking and a jumping off spot for rafting trips on the Chilcotin, Chilko and Fraser rivers. Drive south on the old Cariboo Waggon Road, Hwy 97, to 100 Mile House and see the original Barnard Express BX stagecoach. Continue beyond to Clinton where you can jump in the saddle for a real cowboy experience at one of the town’s many guest ranches. Along with enjoying delicious home-style cooking and western hospitality, you can ride the range and round up cattle. Or explore the countryside by fishing, hiking, canoeing and river rafting. And remember, from May to September rodeo events on the Cariboo Coast are as common as cattle.

1 In Tsawwassen, south of Vancouver, board a BC Ferry to set off on the coastal leg of your journey. In Victoria, take time to admire the city’s gardens, parks, museums and beaches before driving north to see the world’s largest outdoor art gallery--the 36 painted murals framing the seaside community of Chemainus. Or venture off to the surrounding area and visit one of the many welcoming wineries and vineyards. In Nanaimo, take a heritage tour and stroll along the waterfront or head to Newcastle Marine Provincial Park where a shoreline of sandstone cliffs, complete with caves and caverns, awaits your exploration.

2 Take a side trip from the route and drive across the island on Hwy 4 to Port Alberni which offers a variety of discoveries. Stop to wind your way through the ancient Douglas fir trees of Cathedral Grove in MacMillan Provincial Park, visit Della Falls (440 m) – the highest

waterfall in North America, and take the Lady Rose boat trip through Alberni Inlet to the scenic Broken Group Islands. Or, stay at a wilderness lodge in the famous



villages of Ucluelet or Tofino. While there, experience Hot Springs Cove – remotely accessed only by boat or plane, and

leave your footprints on Long Beach, the longest stretch of surf swept sand on Vancouver Island’s west coast.

Return along Hwy 4 to head north on Hwy 19A and soak in the sandy beaches of Parksville – ideal for warm, saltwater swimming, and the stunning shoreline of Qualicum Beach. Continuing north, cast a line in Campbell River, the Salmon Capital of the World; the fishing and scenery are spectacular. Stop in Telegraph Cove, a village raised on stilts, and take a whale watching tour.

3 Board a BC Ferry in Port Hardy bound for the ocean inlet of Bella Cooola. Depending on your sailing, stop in remote coastal communities such as McLoughlin Bay, Shearwater, Klemtu and Ocean Falls for fishing, sea kayaking and visits to Aboriginal sites. As you ferry

north, keep your eyes on the ocean to see whales blowing up spray or sea lions sunning themselves on off-shore boulders.

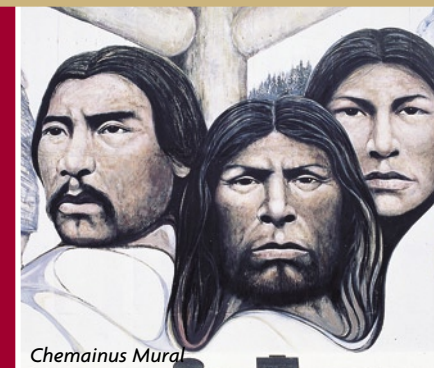


This 7 to 10 day trip crosses the landscape of human cultural endeavour and natural splendour. Your scenic adventure will include coastal villages, hiking amid volcanic mountains, fishing well-stocked lakes, and discovering the Gold Rush Trail. About 1,835 km (1,140 mi), excluding ferry distances.

4 Drive the celebrated “Freedom Highway” (Hwy 20), so named because determined locals built the road from Bella Cooola to Anahim Lake on the Chilcotin Plateau. (Note: this road is mostly paved, but there is also a well-maintained gravel section; very steep in places with switchbacks, but suitable for all vehicles). Head from Bella Cooola “through” the rugged Coast Mountains to Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. BC’s largest park spans 981,000 hectares (2,452,500 acres), which entrances visitors with volcanic Rainbow Mountains, flowering meadows, glacial-capped peaks and waterfalls. Your journey includes a drive up a steep, exhilarating switch-backed road known locally as

Stop near Alexis Creek, named after Chief Alexis of the Chilcotin tribe, at Bull Canyon and Battle Rock. Here, the Chilcotin defended their lands in fierce battles with the Shuswap and Bella Cooola nations. From Riske Creek, detour along Farwell Canyon Road (well maintained gravel road) to see the hoodoos at Farwell Canyon and Junction Sheep Range Provincial Park, home to more than 500 free-roaming Bighorn Sheep.

6 Heading east again on Hwy 20, you’ll find Williams Lake amid rolling ranchland. Williams Lake is home to the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame. A



Chemainus Mural

7 Heading south towards Pemberton, stop at Joffre Provincial Park where hanging glaciers crown three turquoise-coloured lakes. Complete the circle tour via the spectacular Sea to Sky Highway. From the mountain encircled village of Whistler, travel through narrow valleys with mountain glaciers visible in the distance alongside Howe Sound. The Sea to Sky Highway turns a final corner and the mountains give way to a spectacular view of Vancouver – arguably one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Please note: This route itinerary is only a suggestion. You can begin your journey from any point along the route.