

Galiano Island
 With its shoreline peeling from high bluffs to sandy beaches, many consider Galiano the most scenic of the Gulf Islands. Nearly as long as Saltspring Island, Galiano is less than 2 kilometres (1 mile) at its widest. Not far from Juan de Fuca Strait, Malaspina Harbour Provincial Marine Park features a scenic hike and a lagoon that can be explored by an easy 100-metre. Birdwatchers delight in more than 100 species of shorebirds Bay, on the south end, the Laura Clilker Museum is dedicated to local artists and history, including the Spanish captain who gave the island its name.

Mignone Island
 Some 150 years ago Marine Island was the stopping point for timber rafts from BC's goldfields. Its historical past attracts many visitors. Minto Bay, with its country-style buildings, is the commercial hub. Rock, sea, and the evergreen Lodge, one of the province's oldest hotels. There's the Plumper Park Museum, and it's possible you might catch sight of a whale from Lighthouse Park at Georgian Point. A hike to the end of Campbell Bay offers panoramic views of Mt. Baker in Washington State. On the east side of the island, discover one of the Gulf Islands' finest beaches at Beach Bay.

Setuna Island
 One of the more remote of the Gulf Islands, Setuna is an unpopulated island. Wildlife and scenic views are a mix of birds and a peaceful atmosphere. Cycling and paddling are popular activities of natural beauty. Setuna is a popular with a permanent residents, Setuna was a member of the Gulf Islands, as well as a member of the National Park Reserve. East of the island, a restaurant beach ideally suited to view.

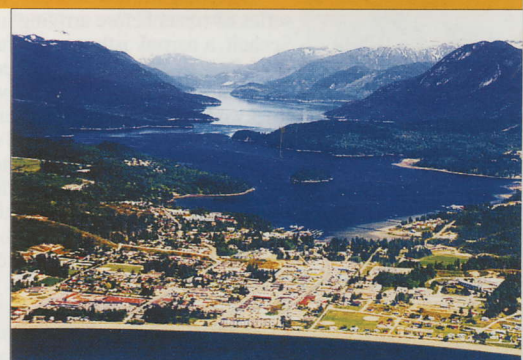
Winter Cove features
 popular among family and friends. Canada's history, July 1st island welcomes the annual Sunset Lunch Party.

Gabriola Island
 Gabriola is an easy place to visit. A day trip or overnight stay, island welcomes the annual Sunset Lunch Party. Although small, it has a variety of places to visit, shops, as well as several parks with picnic facilities and beautiful views. The community just north of Mission, a compact region of historical interest. The historical site is a glimpse of a unique Provincial Park, the Gabriola Galleries is a scenic view of natural beauty from the sea.

Sunshine Coast

Heather Conn

Amidst misty fiords, a gorgeous harbour and a coastline savoured by cottagers, you'll find the former home of Canada's longest-running TV drama series, *The Beachcombers*. The Town of Gibsons, its high-*façade* restaurant Molly's Reach, and surrounding Pacific waters formed the backdrop for this popular show, which ran from 1972 to 1990.



Sechelt from the air

Gibsons serves as the gateway to the Sunshine Coast, a spectacular recreational area on the mainland north of Greater Vancouver. It's accessible by way of a picturesque 40-minute ferry ride from Horseshoe Bay to nearby Langdale, followed by a 2-kilometre (1.2 mile) drive from the dock. Return fare is free with your one-way ticket over. Check out the town's Molly's Lane for an assortment of clothes, knick-knacks, and craft supplies. Lounge in the gazebo at the end of the pier or wander along the shoreline to admire eye-popping gardens.

The Sunshine Coast — it does indeed enjoy more yearly sun than Vancouver — makes a highly recommended day-trip along Highway 101, which winds past numerous seaside communities, including Roberts Creek and Sechelt. It hosts many expansive beaches like Bonniebrook and Davis Bay along with excellent hiking day-trails such as those in Cliff Gilker Park. Fishing, diving, canoeing, sailing and kayaking attract visitors to both the Lower and Upper Sunshine coasts. You can also find a talented array of culture, from festivals of music, fibre arts, and performing arts to history. Gibsons' Elphinstone Pioneer Museum honours the region's old-time lifestyles while the Tems Awiya Museum at the east entrance to Sechelt showcases the Shishalh (Sechelt) First Nation's culture, art and artifacts.

Downtown Gibsons



When you follow the highway to reach the rocky shores of Jarvis Inlet, you can take yet another ferry to Powell River. Proceeding to Lund, the northern terminus of the highway, culminates in the delightful Nancy's Bakery, a harbourfront gathering spot. Add another day for the extension.

Sechelt and Surrounding Area

A few kilometres past Gibsons is Cliff Gilker Park, with an excellent network of trails adjacent to the challenging 18-hole Sunshine Coast Golf & Country Club. In Roberts Creek, turn left on Roberts Creek Road and drive to the



much-loved "heart of the Creek," a huddle of stores and services, a health food shop, and general store at the Lower Road junction. Both the iconic Gumboot Garden Café and the Gumboot Restaurant next door offer frequent live entertainment and indoor/outdoor eating. For a lively evening, join a dance at Roberts Creek Hall located near the corner of Roberts Creek Road and Highway 101.

Travelling northwest from "the Creek," you'll cross a series of rivers before arriving in the mid-coast town of Sechelt, a narrow isthmus separating the Strait of Georgia from Sechelt Inlet. Downtown edges along a sandy beach, with Snickett Park forming the western perimeter. Rockwood Lodge, a restored heritage house on Cowrie Street, hosts the annual Festival of the Written Arts in mid-August. The Sunshine Coast Arts Centre at the nearby corner of Trail and Medusa exhibits local and off-coast visual arts. Authors, both from the Coast and across Canada, read from their works here. Note the centre's unusual log construction designed by pioneer builder Clarke Stebner. The front doors feature etched glass panels by local First Nations carver Bradley Hunt.

Farther up the road, Halfmoon Bay's rustic General Store, built in 1938, hails from an earlier time when steamers made daily stops at the pier to drop off mail and pick up passengers. Situated on a picturesque bay, it is reached from Redrooffs Road, which detours off the highway and winds past Sargent Bay and Coopers Green (great picnicking) before meeting the highway a stone's throw from the bay itself. Homesite Road, farther along, features an old growth forest and great hikes.

The coastline gets progressively rockier towards Secret Cove and finally Pender Harbour, where communities lie clustered in tiny coves linked by secondary roads and the meandering coastline. The Pender Harbour Jazz Festival, held in September, draws top-notch performers. Madeira Park, Garden Bay and Irvines Landing lie centered around the waters of Pender Harbour itself. The Ruby Lake Resort en route to Earls Cove is ideal for boating, fishing and bird-watching. Check out its wildlife and bird sanctuary.

If weather permits, take the Egmont turnoff just before Earls Cove and hike to Skookumchuk Rapids, where tidal forces churn placid waters into gigantic eddies and whirlpools. Check the tide table for the best viewing times. Gutsy kayakers can sometimes be seen playing in the frothing current.

Island Alternatives

Foot passengers arriving at the Langdale ferry dock are welcome to board the tiny *Stormaway III* to visit Keats or Gambier islands across Howe Sound. Both offer day-trippers excellent trails, beaches and kayaking routes. Keats Island enjoys a commanding view of the Strait of Georgia. Gambier is home to a wonderful general store with home-baked goodies and a rugged mountain backdrop.

If boating, try to arrive at dusk when the harbours and coves are at their most exquisite. Keats Island has excellent moorage at Plumpers Cove on the northwest side.

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