

GO GREEN! Rather than printing these notes, we suggest saving this PDF file on your smartphone. Not only is it more environmentally friendly, but it also means these notes are always at hand!

Island Explorer Accommodated

4 days/3 nights

Who doesn't know about Vancouver Island? World famous for its breathtaking scenery, Vancouver Island is a must on your list of places to explore in Western Canada! Find majestic mountains, picturesque lakes and raging waterfalls in the authentic wilderness of West Coast British Columbia. This 4 day tour of Vancouver Island includes 1 night in Victoria, British Columbia's provincial capital, and 2 nights in the little fishing village of Tofino. With your free day there, you can take time out for surfing, relaxing on the beach, and even whale spotting on the optional activities on offer. This is an ideal tour to experience the main highlights that Vancouver Island is known for!



Note: some of your fellow travellers will be continuing on to Whistler and the Rocky Mountains after you finish.

Highlights

- Soak in the views at Wally Creek, en route to Tofino
- See the prehistoric K'ak'awin petroglyph, one of the finest in British Columbia
- Enjoy picture-perfect views around the quaint fishing village of Tofino
- Watch the sunset over the Pacific from a beach near Tofino
- Dive into the scene at Victoria's Inner Harbour
- Sail through the Gulf Islands and across the Salish Sea

What's Included

- 3 nights mixed gender, hostel dormitory style accommodation
- Moose Bus transportation
- 2 scenic ferry rides to and from Vancouver Island
- Services of a professional & fun tour guide/driver
- Walking tour of Victoria
- 1 dinner
- National Park fees

Itinerary

Day 1: Vancouver to Tofino

Get your binoculars at the ready! We'll begin our adventure with a little marine life spotting as we take a scenic ferry ride from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. From there we will explore the lush rainforests, cascading waterfalls, and giant trees of Vancouver Island. Then we're off to Sproat Lake to observe one of the finest panels of prehistoric Indigenous petroglyphs. Our day ends by settling into the quaint little fishing village of Tofino, and feasting on fish & chips (don't worry, they have non-seafood options too!)

Meal Inclusions: Dinner

Moose Accommodation: HI Tofino - Whalers on the Point

Day 2: Tofino Free Day

Today is yours to do as you please! Cruise through the Pacific Ocean and go whale watching, soak in one of Tofino's hot springs, or jump right into kayaking or surfing. Explore on foot, by bike, or go hiking – Tofino has lots on offer for your free day! As the evening draws in and the stars start to appear, we'll be setting up a beach campfire (weather permitting) where we'll toast some marshmallows and share each other's stories of the day.

Moose Accommodation: HI Tofino - Whalers on the Point

Day 3: Tofino to Victoria

We'll start our day at Wickanninish Beach in Pacific Rim National Park, which was named after Chief Wickanninish who ruled Clayoquot Sound in the 1700s! Then we'll be heading to the village of Coombs for a chance to spot the famous goats on the roof of the Old Country Market. Then, it's the East Coast for us as we head down to Chemainus with its 39 giant outdoor murals for a little AI Fresco art appreciation. You'll also get a chance to snap the world's largest (ice) hockey stick! (only in Canada, eh?) This evening we'll be staying in the BC provincial capital, Victoria, where you can enjoy the buzzing Inner Harbour night scene.

Moose Accommodation: Ocean Island Inn or HI Victoria

Day 4: Victoria to Vancouver

Today's a day for history! We will begin our day with a walking tour starting in Victoria's Chinatown, then make our way along the Inner Harbour to see the Empress Hotel, Parliament Buildings and learn about the Black Pioneers that arrived from San Francisco in 1858. Then we'll head to Beacon Hill Park – known as the crowning jewel in Victoria's park system, to gaze at the Terry Fox Memorial, and the world's tallest free-standing totem pole. After that, the day is yours to explore Victoria as you wish, although we highly recommend checking out the vibrant Fisherman's Wharf. We'll then congregate to take another scenic ferry through the Gulf Islands, across the Salish Sea and back to Vancouver.

Moose Accommodation: There is no accommodation included tonight. You will need to make your own arrangements.

Joining Your Trip

Vancouver

We pick up from the following hostel locations in Vancouver on Day 1 of this tour. Please be ready and waiting in the hostel lobby 15 minutes prior to your scheduled pick up time.

Hostel Name	Pick Up Time	Hostel Address
HI Vancouver - Jericho Beach	7:30am	1515 Discovery St, Vancouver
HI Vancouver - Downtown	7:50am	1114 Burnaby St, Vancouver
Cambie Hostel on Seymour	8:00am	515 Seymour St, Vancouver
HI Vancouver - Central	8:10am	1025 Granville St, Vancouver
NOTE: if staying at HI Central, please check-in at the Moose desk across the street in the Samesun		
Samesun Vancouver	8:10am	1018 Granville St, Vancouver

NOTE: if you are staying anywhere else in Vancouver, you will need to make your own way to one of these locations. We recommend joining the tour at the Samesun where the Moose office is located.

Finishing Your Trip

Vancouver

On the final day of the tour, we drop off at all of the hostel locations in Vancouver listed in the Pick Up section above. If you are staying elsewhere, you will need to make your own way there from one of the above locations. Under normal circumstances, expect to be dropped off in Vancouver around 8pm.

NOTE: we strongly recommend that you DO NOT book onward travel on the final day of the tour, since traffic or other unexpected circumstances may cause delays.

Accommodation

We know that a good night's sleep is important, especially after a busy day of travelling with lots of fun activities. We choose hostels and backpacker properties that offer budget value, as well as great facilities, and a welcoming atmosphere.

You have purchased our accommodated tour, which means all your accommodation is included for the standard nights of the trip, at a Moose discounted rate. You'll be staying in mixed gender hostel dorm rooms. By staying in shared rooms you get a chance to meet more people, hang out with other Moose travellers, and have paid less than you would booking a private room or hotel.

NOTE: if you wish to stay in gender-specific dorm rooms, you can request this at the time of booking. Our hostel partners will try to accommodate your request, but we cannot guarantee it will be possible.

Accommodation Locations

Day & Location	Hostel Name	Address	Phone Number
Days 1 & 2: Tofino	HI Tofino - Whalers on the Point	81 West St, Tofino	+1 250 725 3443
Day 3: Victoria	Ocean Island ¹	516 Yates St, Victoria	+1 250 385 1789
	HI Victoria ²	791 Pandora Ave, Victoria	+1 250 385 4511
Day 4: Vancouver	none ³		

Notes:

1. On all departures in May, and from June onwards on Thursdays in Victoria, we reserve beds at Ocean Island Backpackers.
2. From June onwards on Sundays in Victoria, we reserve beds at HI Victoria.
3. You will need to make your own reservation for the final night of the tour.

Do I Ever Need To Book My Own Accommodation?

You **ONLY** need to make your own reservation for your pre & post tour nights in Vancouver.

Daily Departure Times

We depart from the included accommodation at the following times on each day of the tour:

Day & Location	Hostel Name	Departure Time
Day 1: Vancouver	See Joining Your Trip section above	
Day 2: Tofino	N/A - Free Day	
Day 3: Tofino	HI Tofino - Whalers on the Point	8:30am
Day 4: Victoria	HI Victoria Ocean Island	3:00pm 3:15pm

Optional Activities

Why not enhance your trip by participating in one of the below adventure activities during your tour? No need to book ahead. Your Moose guide will give you more information during the tour. But please budget for them if you are interested!

The optional activities listed below are not operated by Moose, except for the free hiking, swimming and wildlife spotting activities. Moose arranges the activity as an agent of the local supplier. If you choose to participate in an optional activity, your contract will be with the

activity provider and their conditions will apply. Some activities are seasonal, weather dependent, or require minimum numbers to participate.

NOTE: the prices and activities listed below are approximate and subject to change.

ACTIVITY	APPROX. COST (CAD)	LOCATION
Hiking, swimming, wildlife spotting	Free	Various locations
Whale watching tour (2.5 - 3 hrs)	\$103	Tofino
Coastal bear watching tour (2 - 2.5 hrs)	\$103	Tofino
Sea kayaking tour (from 2.5 - 4 hrs)	from \$65	Tofino
Natural hot springs & whale watching tour (6.5 hrs)	\$139	Tofino
Surfing (lessons & rental included, 3 hrs)	\$68	Tofino