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ALTITUDE

in-flight magazine

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BC snow spots near CMA destinations



Indigenous flavours

Three must-do stops in Kelowna

24 hours in Richmond

This city has a bit of everything

No powder blues here

Chill spots to snowmobile in BC's North Thompson Valley

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35
Central Mountain Air
YEARS



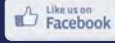
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Calvert Island Acreage: 160 acres inland from Safety Cove. Calvert Island is about 62 miles north of Port Hardy. Old homestead property. Diverse topography, upper portion providing views across Fitz Hugh Sound towards the BC mainland, lower portion is extensive wetland. A portion was recently helicopter logged along the upper western area. **\$191,000**



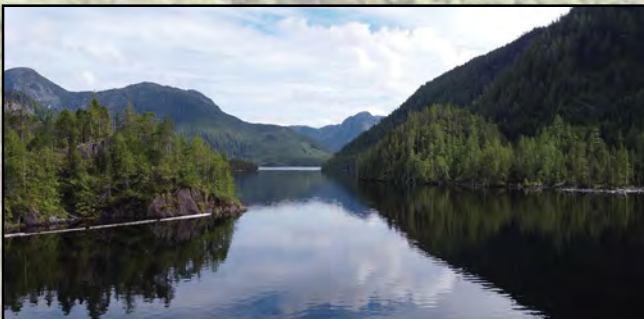
Calvert Island Oceanfront: 59 acres with approx 2300ft of oceanfront in Safety Cove. Relatively steep topography with a number of benches and plateaus. Views to the east and north-east looking across Fitz Hugh Sound to the mainland. Recently logged, with a forested portion still on the southern shoreline. Calvert Island is about 62 miles north of Port Hardy. **\$294,000**



Tahsis, Vancouver Island: 1500sqft 3 bedroom home in the Village of Tahsis. Living space on main, bedrooms and bathroom on upper floor and unfinished lower level with laundry, storage and rec room. Nicely kept home. Fully fenced yard, small shed. Move in ready. Great option for small community living, or as a fishing base for the west coast. **\$239,000**



Centre Island: 110 acre private island in Esperanza Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island with numerous little bays, peninsulas, and bluffs. Two protected bays provide good access. One-room cabin plus workshop, fresh water ponds, complement of material and equipment. A picturesque, protected location with quick access to the open west coast! **\$1,790,000**



Surf Inlet, Princess Royal Island: 251.88 acres in four contiguous titles with oceanfront at the head of Surf Inlet and lakefront on Cougar Lake. Substantial acreage with oceanfront, lakefront and a historic dam, with water licenses and a foreshore lease. Princess Royal Island is about halfway between Prince Rupert and Bella Bella on the central BC coast. **\$3,500,000**



Orca Inn, Alert Bay: Inn and restaurant/pub with lots of potential! Commercial kitchen, 3 rental units plus manager's suite, retail space, restaurant and separate licensed pub. Alert Bay is on Cormorant Island, with regular ferry service from Port McNeill. The region is renowned for whale watching, fishing and First Nations cultural activities. **\$589,000**

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INSIDE

CENTRAL MOUNTAIN AIR IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER

Big White Ski Resort.
Photo courtesy Big White Ski Resort

If you would like to join our team, we are always looking for new talent.



Douglas McCrea

President, Central Mountain Air

As 2023 is underway, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of our passengers and loyal customers who flew with us in 2022.

Some of our highlights in 2022 included celebrating 35 years of connecting communities in western Canada, contributing over \$50,000 in donations to our local communities and offering a buy-now, pay-later option—and that is just to name a few.

Now as we look forward to 2023, CMA will continue to improve its current and new offerings, and we are working to evaluate our scheduled route network and to see where we can make additions and improvements to better serve our customers.

After 35 years of operating, we have seen it all and continue to adapt to changing times. I want to thank everyone who has been a part of the journey and continues to support us.

I acknowledge that the past couple of years

have been hard on the aviation industry, and CMA could not have been successful without the constant effort from the entire CMA team. If you would like to join our team, we are always looking for new talent: we offer an exciting career in aviation with amazing benefits, a good work-life balance, and memories that will last a lifetime. To see the careers available please visit:

flycma.com/careers

To conclude, I invite you to follow us online through social media on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram, and to sign up for our e-newsletter, where you will find announcements, stories and updates.

Thank you for your continued trust in Central Mountain Air and we look forward to welcoming you aboard in the near future.

~ Douglas McCrea


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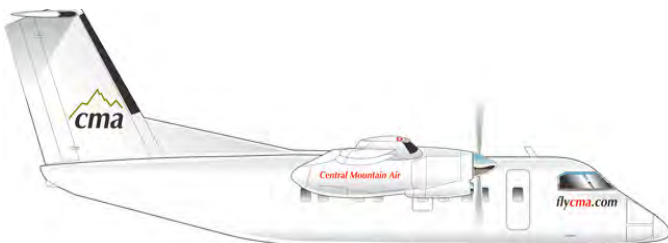
DORNIER 328



Manufacturer: Fairchild Dornier | Cabin: 30 Seats
Flight Crew: 2 Pilots | Flight Attendants: 1
Speed: 375 MPH | Altitude: 31,000 ft

Designed to offer passengers the comforts of stand-up headroom, inflight service, executive seating and a bathroom located in the rear of the aircraft.

DASH 8-100



Manufacturer: De Havilland | Cabin: 37 Seats
Flight Crew: 2 Pilots | Flight Attendants: 1
Speed: 310 MPH | Altitude: 25,000 ft

A regional airliner able to operate from unprepared airstrips while offering passengers the highest level of onboard amenities, including stand-up headroom, onboard washroom, galley and a flight attendant.

DASH 8-300



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Speed: 328 MPH | Altitude: 25,000 ft

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CMA's current route network services 10 communities across British Columbia and Alberta, and scheduled flights are now open for bookings until the end of June, with summer bookings to follow shortly.

If you would like to be the first to know about route updates and changes, be sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter at: flycma.com/signup.

For those looking to book a flight with CMA, we offer many options to make the experience easier, including our buy-now, pay-later options through our partner Uplift. This partnership allows you to make payments for your trip over time.

We also provide savings through our flight options for frequent travellers, corporate travel and group travel.

Or, if our scheduled network doesn't suit your needs, explore our wide range of options available through our charter and cargo services.

See CMA's full schedule at flycma.com/schedule

ROUTE MAP

Connect to communities within our scheduled network

Travel to the communities shown in our route map:

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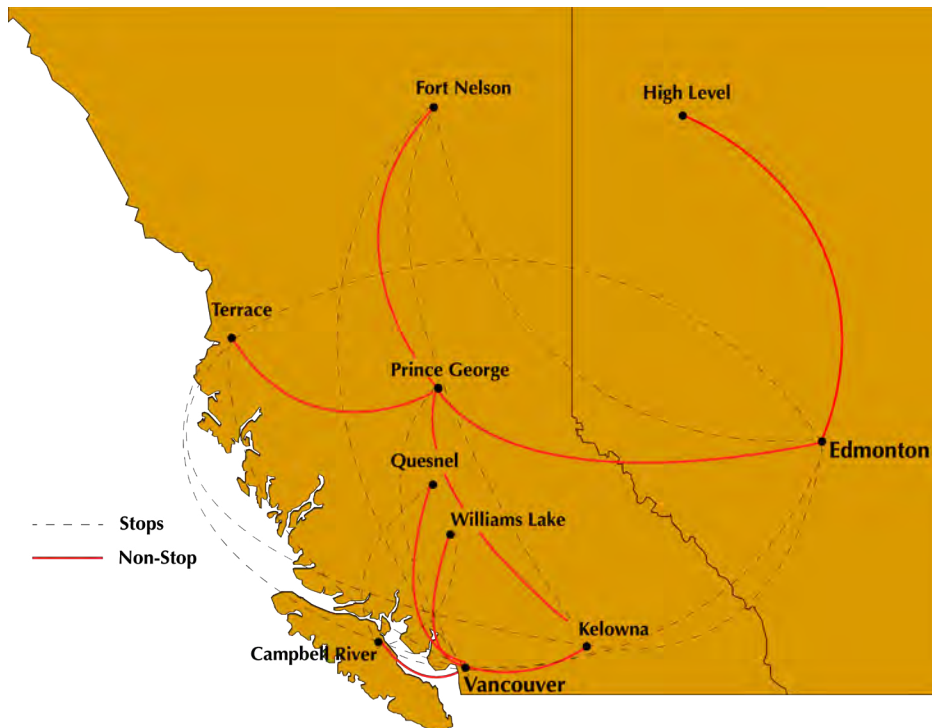
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Black wolf seen at Black Mountain Regional Park, Kelowna.



Two wolves in a pack spotted at Black Mountain, Kelowna.

A “super cool experience”

WOLF PACK SPOTTED HANGING OUT IN KELOWNA

By *Jacqueline Gelineau, westcoasttraveller.com*

Photos by *Mike Walchuck*

A Kelowna photographer captured images of a pack of wolves while on a weekend hike in the area’s Black Mountain Regional Park.

Mike Walchuck was hiking in the park, when he spotted a wolf pack in the upper sections. Initially, he said, he thought the large canines were coyotes, but after a better look realized that he was in the presence of four large wolves.

“All the wolves were wary of me and were moving away from me, so I knew it wasn’t a dangerous situation,” he said.

After watching the pack from a distance, and taking some photos, he kept hiking and saw another two wolves further down the trail.

He posted a “heads up” on a “Hiking in the Okanagan Area” Facebook page to warn other outdoor enthusiasts of the canines.

“They weren’t aggressive at all, and it was a super cool experience, but just be aware if you are hiking up there and maybe keep the dogs leashed,” Walchuck said.

Wolves are elusive, typically shy pack animals who tend to avoid humans, making their sighting exciting.

In recent decades wolf populations have grown because of habitat damage that actually favours the predatory canines.

The Wildlife Restoration Ecology Lab (WiRE Lab), led by assistant professor Adam Ford at UBCO, is helping humans coexist with wolves and better understand the mysterious and intelligent social predators, which are crucial to the balance of ecosystems. To learn more about the latest wolf research read more at *Coexisting with Wolves* at atford.weebly.com.

Fast ferry service

NEW LINK BETWEEN NANAIMO AND VANCOUVER SET FOR SUMMER

By *Greg Sakaki, westcoasttraveller.com*

Travellers will be able to catch a fast ferry between Nanaimo, on central Vancouver Island, and downtown Vancouver by next summer, the company behind the launch says.

“This is the stuff ‘ferry tales’ are made of,” joked Rupesh Amin, CEO of Conqora Capital Partners, at a launch event for the Vancouver Island Ferry Company at the Port of Nanaimo.

The foot-passenger-only ferry service is slated to start in summer 2023 with terminals at the Port of Nanaimo’s cruise ship terminal and the Vancouver Harbour Flight Centre in downtown Vancouver.

Two high-speed catamaran vessels are being built by the Netherlands’ Damen Group. Each will hold more than 350 passengers in three classes of seating, referred to as business, premium and comfort class. Fares haven’t been announced, but the company says the price points will be “family friendly.”

Sailing schedules are also yet to be determined. Alastair Caddick, the company’s CEO, said sailings will be early enough for commuters and late enough to come home after sporting events or concerts, for example.

Seats will be fully reservable, but there will be availability for walk-on passengers as well.

The Port of Nanaimo, Snuneymuxw First Nation and Conqora announced a long-term lease agreement a little over a year ago. The Nanaimo-based Vancouver Island Ferry Company has since been set up and its website, vijc.com, is now live.



City of good taste

MICHELIN RECOGNIZES VANCOUVER RESTAURANTS

MICHELIN Guide unveiled its first-ever group of restaurant winners in Vancouver. Eight restaurants earned one-MICHELIN-Star distinctions and 12 restaurants received the Bib Gourmand designation, which recognizes great food at a great value.

The full selection, including recommended eateries, totals 60 restaurants, with 19 cuisine types reflected. The guide showcases outstanding restaurants and professionals, with anonymous inspectors awarding one, two or three MICHELIN Stars to purveyors offering unparalleled cuisine.

“Our teams of inspectors genuinely savoured their dining experiences in Vancouver,” said Gwendal Poullennec, international director of the MICHELIN Guides. “They were very impressed with the city’s gastronomic dynamism. The selection—from Stars to Bib Gourmands to the recommended spots—are all appealing in their own authentic DNA, and very diverse offers. They all can be very proud of their entry in the MICHELIN Guide family, as we’re pleased to highlight them to our community of foodies and travelers.”

Find the list of Vancouver MICHELIN Stars here: guide.michelin.com

Parks Canada updates reservation system

BOOK CAMPING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE NEW SITE IN MARCH

Parks Canada has upgraded its reservation system and visitors will be able to start booking reservations for camping and other activities at its sites across the country in March.

The reservation dates, which are posted online, are different at each national park, historic site and marine conservation area.

The bookings are several months later than in recent years because the reservation system was getting outdated and needed some upgrades, according to a Parks Canada statement. The system will look different from the previous one, but it will offer the same features and functions.

Anyone who wants to save information about previous bookings should do so before February 26.

All users will be required to create a new user account on the upgraded system after March 3 and before they start booking any reservations later that month.





Just down the road—and the icing on the cake of our visit—sits the new Versante Hotel. With its close proximity to the Vancouver International Airport and Central Mountains Air's home at the South Terminal, this hotel is destined to become an air travellers' pre- and post-flight paradise.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VERSANTE HOTEL



24 HOURS IN RICHMOND

This Lower Mainland city offers everything from immersion in nature and culture to a high-end hotel experience

BY • SUSAN LUNDY

Who knew that in 24 hours in Richmond, BC you could take a glorious walk in nature, explore a historical town, sip locally made wine, experience an immersive art exhibit, savour the feast of all feasts and rest your head on a comfy pillow at a swanky hotel?

We did all this and learned something new as well: on the next visit, plan to spend more time.

Our day started with a walk. We drove to the very west end of the Steveston Highway, parked and set out on part of West Dyke Recreational Trail, admiring the golden-honey hues of the Sturgeon Banks estuary and panoramic ocean views beyond. Located on the banks of the Fraser River and Strait of Georgia, this is an important part of the so-called Pacific Flyway, with 1.4 million birds migrating through the area annually. It's well-known as a home to flocks of snow geese.



Moon and Back Gallery.

Our walk took us to Garry Point Park, where we wandered the shoreline and then meandered through the neighbouring historic village of Steveston, appreciating its quaint buildings and seaside locale.

Back on the highway, heading east, we stopped at Country Vines Winery and sampled a selection of their unique, handcrafted, small-lot wines in a lush patio setting, warmed by a tabletop fireplace.

Next up was the not-to-be-missed Moon and Back Gallery. (Although, it is easily missed if you follow Google directions to get there. Ignore Google, and access it directly off Bridgeport Road.) Without giving too much away, this is billed as Vancouver's first mirror light gallery. A series of rooms offer an array of immersive experiences, ranging from pure fun to absolutely dazzling.

Just down the road—and the icing on the cake of our visit—sits the Versante Hotel. With its close proximity to the Vancouver International Airport and Central Mountain Air's home at the South Terminal, this hotel is destined to become an air traveller's pre- and post-flight paradise, with one caveat: they'll want to stay more than one night. With vibrant colours, natural light and iconic furnishings, this luxury boutique hotel offers 100 guest rooms and suites in five distinct designs and colour schemes, as well as venues for meeting and dining, plus nearby amenities like nearby Cask Whisky Vault.

Dining in, patrons can choose between the Mediterranean flavours at the ground-level Bruno or ascend to Alaïa, with its sweeping 12th-floor views. Versante Bar is a sophisticated lounge, offering small plates and classic cocktails.

The hotel features cutting-edge technology—like the energy-efficient, view-smart, auto-tinting windows and state-of-the-art mirror workout technology in select suites. And check out the wow-factor lobby which evokes the vibrancy of a Chinese market (the famous Richmond Night Market is located just around the corner in season) and includes one-of-a-kind pieces by Vancouver artists Andy Dixon and Marie Khouri.

There's also a 24-hour fitness facility with Peloton bikes and Life Fitness cardio equipment, plus a rooftop terrace with a saltwater pool and hot tub. There's valet parking, complimentary airport transfer by luxury car and complimen-

tary bike rentals. The hotel is also pet friendly, and our dog was treated like a king, both by the staff and by the treats awaiting him in our spectacular king corner suite.

Immediately drawn to the spa-like bathroom and tub with a view in our suite, I took a pre-dinner soak, enjoying the heated floors and Dyson Supersonic hair dryer, and eyeing the large rainforest shower. Versante features bath amenities by Red Flower, a women-owned New York City brand whose acclaimed bath and beauty products are biodegradable, vegan and cruelty-free.

Dinner at Bruno truly capped the day. Ocean-wise-certified and sustainability-focused, Bruno serves elevated dishes directly influenced by the local farmers and artisans that supply their ingredients. We met with chef Will Lew, who took us on a tasting journey of beautiful plated boards in the four-course Bruno Board Experience—all paired with exquisite wines. Bruno’s has quickly become a destination for locals as well as hotel patrons.

Our 24-hour Richmond stay ended much too soon, reaffirming our latest life lesson—next time, more time.



Artfully presented oysters at Bruno.

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INDIGENOUS *flavours*

Three must-do stops in Kelowna

BY • LAUREN KRAMER

For years, travellers to the Okanagan have experienced the region from the perspective of white settlers, visiting their pioneer museums and absorbing their cultural traditions and interpretations of the past.

The stories, traditions and heritage of the Indigenous peoples who lived on the land long before white settlers arrived have been largely ignored.

In Kelowna, however, there are great opportunities to explore from a First Nations perspective. The city's Westbank First Nation is one of the most progressive and economically successful bands in the country and is home to several establishments that highlight and showcase Indigenous food, wine and heritage.

INDIGENOUS WINE

Indigenous World Winery is just six years old but has already achieved international acclaim for its wine. Located on a steep bluff overlooking the west side of Okanagan Lake, it features First Nations symbols and traditions in all its decorative touches, from the teepee structures outside the building to the labels on its bottles.

Robert Louie, who co-founded the winery with his wife Bernice in

2016, served as chief of the Westbank First Nation for 24 years, before turning his attention to the food and beverage industry.

Despite the winery's explosive growth and the many awards it has received for its complex and sophisticated flavours, it is determined to stay small, family-focused and true to its Indigenous roots.

indigenousworldwinery.com

HISTORICAL GLIMPSES

The Sncewips Heritage Museum is an exhibit space in the Okanagan Lake Shopping Centre filled with artifacts like a traditional dugout canoe (still used for ceremonial occasions), woven baskets, baby carriers and fishing weirs.

But its richest experience can be found in the stories of its museum guides, who lead each visitor on a private tour with a detailed explanation of whichever aspect of the Syilx people's history interests them.

As most Canadians now acknowledge, the First Nations' experience with white settlers since first contact is nothing for Canadians to be proud of, as Indigenous Canadians were oppressed, violated and



Bannock treat from Kekuli Cafe.



wrenched from their language and traditions.

On our tour, our guide described how her nation's territory and freedom of movement were restricted after contact with white settlers, who disrupted the matriarchal-based systems of hierarchy the Syilx had used for centuries.

The Syilx population, 250,000 strong pre-contact, was decimated by a smallpox epidemic, forced sterilization of women, and the residential school laws, which separated children from their families at gunpoint.

The Sncewips Heritage Museum is one location where visitors can hear First Nations' stories first-hand and begin to understand this still raw, hair-raising history in a more personalized way.

sncwips.com

FIRST NATIONS TREATS

If you love bannock and frybread, don't leave Kelowna without a visit to the Kekuli Café. This small, modest restaurant serves fabulous Indigenous-inspired fare, including bannock sandwiches, frybread teepee tacos, Saskatoon berry teas, smoothies and lattes, and venison burgers.

Owner Sharon Bond-Hogg, a member of the Nooaitch Band in Merritt, honours her Indigenous culture in all aspects of her eatery, from the soothing background music to the food she prepares from scratch each day, as well as in the wine she serves, the décor on the café and the merchandise for sale. Everything is First Nations-themed and authentic, and in all her ingredients she strives for local, wild, BC-grown or Canadian.

Don't be fooled by Kekuli's out-of-the-way location. This is a great stop for an extraordinary meal that highlights Indigenous tradition, cuisine and talent.

kekulicafe.com

TRAVEL WITH CMA

CMA flies directly to Kelowna 5 times a week from Prince George, and 2 times per week from Vancouver.

Book now at flycma.com



NO powder blues HERE

Chill spots to snowmobile
in BC's North Thompson Valley

BY • BLACK PRESS MEDIA STAFF / WESTCOASTTRAVELLER.COM



Snowmobiling in the North Thompson Valley offers opportunities for all skill levels.

Photo courtesy Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

If you can't wait to feel your heart pounding and the cold, crisp air on your face as you rip through the powder in timbered passages and snow-covered meadows, the North Thompson Valley region is where you need to go.

"The North Thompson Valley draws snow-lovers from all over for a reason—the unbelievable snow and mountains," says Jenna Labossiere of the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association.

The region boasts endless snowmobiling must-dos, whether you're an experienced rider looking for more extreme backcountry terrain or a novice seeking groomed runs. With amazing dry powder and a long season, running from December to April (and even later in the northern areas), the region features diverse and exciting terrain for all levels of snowmobiling fun.

VALEMOUNT

Serious outdoor adventure types can travel about three hours south from the Central Mountain Air destination of Prince George to check out

the steep mountains in Valemount, not far from Mt. Robson—the tallest peak in the Canadian Rockies.

"Snowmobiling was what initially kept the lights on in Valemount before the area's tourism developed more sustainably throughout the seasons," Labossiere says. "Now it's busier than ever, with snowmobiling drawing a strong Alberta crowd and gathering more from more southern snowmobile destinations."

At the doorstep of the Rocky, Monashee and Cariboo mountain ranges, Valemount enjoys virtually limitless riding possibilities, including the Crystal Ridge Sled Ski Area.

Located just minutes south of Valemount, this area combines snowmobiling and skiing, with six semi-cleared runs (670 vertical metres each) and a designated snowmobile uptrack.

The Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association keeps tracks cleared in the area, provides information about terrain and offers trail passes to explore several well-known areas like Allan Creek, Clemina



SAFETY FIRST

“Always be sure before hitting any of the trails, lakes or rivers in the area that you have the proper training and safety equipment so you can have a great day and get out safely!”



IF YOU GO

- Mike Wiegele Heli-Skiing Resort outside Blue River offers heli-skiing packages in some of the most picturesque mountain terrain in the world, along with luxury accommodations at their 5-star Heli Village.

Book a package at wiegele.com.

- Cariboo Grill in Valemount offers comfort fare dinners and an ample wine list in this woodsy, cabin-like restaurant, open 4:30 pm to 9 pm, seven days a week.
- Monashee Chalet, located south of Blue River, is a basic dormitory-style hut near the tree-line at 1,800 metres. Openings are limited and guests booking the chalet are required to provide a resume of their backcountry lodge experience.

Book by email at Monasheechalet@gmail.com.



The unbelievable dry powder and mountains of the North Thompson Valley draw snowmobilers from all over.

Photo courtesy Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

Creek, Chappell Creek and the popular Westridge Family Loop.

Accessible from the west side of Valemount, this family-friendly, 22-kilometre snowmobiling loop with a parking area, warming hut and amazing views of the valley and the town is a great place for beginners to sharpen their snowmobiling skills before heading to the more challenging slopes in the area.

BLUE RIVER

Just an hour back down Highway 5, you'll find Blue River, where you can explore numerous trails, such as Coulees, Foam Creek, Holy Grail, Groundhog East, Groundhog West, Finger Bowls and many more, with trail passes available online from Sled Blue River. From December to March, the Blue River Powder Packers Snowmobile Club maintains and grooms more than 60 kilometres of these snowmobile trails.

For all-around outdoor enthusiasts who also love hiking, snowshoeing or ice fishing, the North Thompson Valley area is surrounded by

provincial parks, filled with endless wintertime opportunities. Wells Gray Provincial Park, located northwest of Blue River, boasts volcanoes, waterfalls, mineral springs and glaciers to discover and explore.

“The snowmobile community is a passionate group of people who love the outdoors,” Labossiere says. “The whole area is also very snowmobile friendly—even the smaller places along the highway have big parking lots to accommodate trailers.”

TRAVEL WITH CMA

CMA flies to Prince George 5 times per week from Edmonton, Kelowna and Terrace, and 3 times per week from Fort Nelson.

Book now at flycma.com



CMA CARGO



At CMA, with a fleet of over 30 aircraft in several configurations, we provide a wide variety of services for passenger and cargo transportation.

We provide belly freight and selected cargo services to the majority of our route network destinations. In addition, we have dedicated cargo aircraft—Beech 1900D converted aircraft—to meet the cargo transportation needs of freight forwarders, shippers and other organizations. With bases in British Columbia and Alberta and multiple aircraft, we are responsive to your needs, and you can trust our team to get your cargo where it needs to go safely and on time—entirely customized to your needs.

Our experienced CMA cargo team can facilitate the movement of goods such as dangerous goods, medical supplies, e-commerce packages, mail, parts and equipment, pharmaceuticals, perishables, groceries, seafood and more.

The Beech 1900D cargo aircraft has six loading zones with cabin floor panels that accommodate up to 75-square-foot loads with a cabin roller/conveyor installed and cargo nets. The Beech 1900D is a workhorse with a standard 4'4" door and cabin height of 5'11", and is able to move up to 4,439 pounds of cargo with relative ease and speed.

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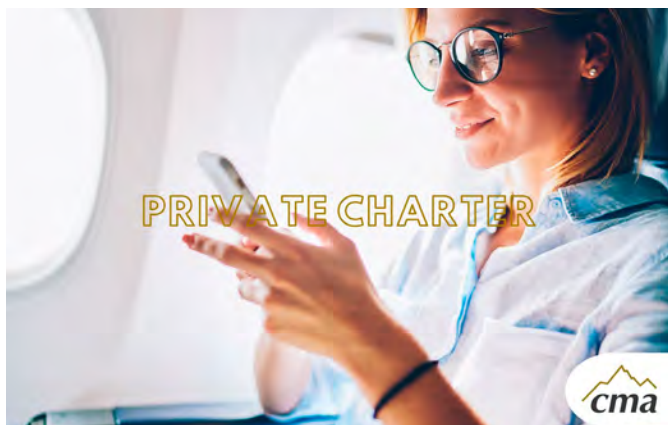


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It's **SNOW TIME!**

Check out these five mountain resorts
near CMA destinations

BY • SUSIE QUINN

Big White Ski Resort. Photo courtesy Big White Ski Resort.

Two years of uncertainty are well in the past for British Columbia's ski resorts, all of which welcomed the cessation of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions with plans to come back bigger and better for the 2022-23 ski season.

Several resorts have either completed or announced plans for new lifts or gondolas, and they're all eager to share a full slate of events with visitors this season.

Weather prognosticators predicted a second La Niña season for BC,

and early indications are they were correct. Wind, lower-than-usual winter temperatures, and abundant rainfall—which translates to snowfall at higher elevations—spelled early openings for many resorts. Some are looking at closing dates in late March and early April, meaning bluebird days and perfect spring skiing conditions await.

Here are five mountain resorts, located close to Central Mountain Air destinations and certain to meet the winter dreams of snow-lovers everywhere.

1 Troll Ski Resort

Troll Ski Resort, often referred to simply as Troll, is a ski area in the Quesnel Highland, located 44 kilometres east of the CMA destination of Quesnel and near the historic goldfield towns of Wells-Barkerville.

Troll Resort was built by Lars and Astrid Fossberg in 1972 and is still run by their family.

It has an impressive vertical at 527 metres (1,729 feet) and a variety of terrain, from beginner slopes and long fall-line groomers to steep gladed tree runs and a large progressive terrain park with a recent terrain expansion. The longest run is six kilometres.

The Troll season usually runs until April, and it's open five days a week this year (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays). School programs run Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

2 Grouse Mountain

Grouse Mountain, a one-hour drive from the South Terminal at Vancouver International Airport, announced the opening of a brand-new lift in December: the Short Cut handle tow in Side Cut Park. The latest enhancement to the resort's popular terrain parks, the aptly named new lift offers access to up to 20 features, eliminating the need for skiers and riders to use the Screaming Eagle Chair.

"The idea for this new lift actually came directly from our terrain park users," said Michael Cameron, the resort's president. "We've always tried to be at the forefront with our facilities and support the progression of the skiers and riders who come to Grouse Mountain."

It's the first handle tow at a Lower Mainland resort to be created specifically for terrain park users, Cameron added.

Also new this year is a digital pass option for Grouse Mountain pass holders. Y2Play, Winter Unlimited, annual passes, 3-Day+ and Night Passes can be loaded directly to any Android or iOS phone. Visitors can keep up to date with activities and news via the Grouse Mountain app.

grousemountain.com

3 Big White Ski Resort

Big White Ski Resort—a one-hour drive from the CMA destination at Kelowna International Airport—is known for a lot of things, and has received numerous accolades over the years. However, did you know the Okanagan resort has one of the largest night skiing areas in western Canada?

When the lights go up on the Bullet Express and Plaza Chair, 2,569 hectares of terrain are opened up. The two lifts have a combined night capacity of more than 3,000 people per hour.

Altitudes returns from March 31 to April 1, 2023. It's an epic weekend of live folk, pop and alt-rock music, skiing, snowboarding and more outdoor activities.

Like other resorts, Big White has been busy investing millions of dollars in machinery, resort infrastructure, lift maintenance, staff accommodation upgrades and more.

bigwhite.com

4 Mount Washington Alpine Resort

With a snowfall on the opening weekend, the 2022-23 season ramped up quickly for Mount Washington Alpine Resort, which is located on Vancouver Island, just a 45-minute drive from CMA's Campbell River destination. Nordic activities around Raven Lodge opened right away, while the terrain extending into Strathcona Provincial Park opened once it snowed a little more.

The resort was forced to implement strict water conservation measures following drought conditions in the hot, dry summer, but late fall rain has helped replenish springs around the resort. Visitors at the resort and neighbouring alpine village are still asked to conserve water by bringing their own bottled water or purchasing from available resort services. Water bottle refill stations have been turned off as a conservation method.

mountwashington.ca



5

Whistler Village. Photo by David McColm, courtesy Whistler Blackcomb

Whistler Blackcomb

Whistler Blackcomb, just over two hours away from the South Terminal at YVR, ended 2022 with the official opening of its Big Red Express lift and 10-person Creekside Gondola.

The Creekside Gondola opened December 23 with an event that included cultural ambassadors from the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. The Big Red Express features new six-person chairs. Guests are encouraged to visit the resort's website, blog and social channels for more information on the new lifts.

The many highlights for the 2022-23 season at Whistler Blackcomb include a full return of the resort's signature events, including the World Ski & Snowboard Festival, weekly Fire & Ice shows in Whistler Village, the 37th annual Peak to Valley Race, the Whistler Cup and the Creekside Classic. Freeride competitions, rail jams and other activities round out the winter calendar.

Guests planning to visit this winter are encouraged to buy their lift tickets in advance. Lift tickets will be limited every day "to preserve the guest experience." Indoor operations have returned to normal with no proof of COVID-19 vaccination required.

whistlerblackcomb.com

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| FARE (100% Non-Refundable) | x | x | ✓ |
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| 1st Checked bag, per direction | \$31.50 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 2nd Checked bag, per direction | \$52.50 | \$52.50 | \$0.00 |

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| Each additional bag - \$105 CAD Per direction, plus taxes | Overweight bag: \$105 (per direction, plus taxes) for bags between 158-292 cm (63-115 in.). If a bag is both overweight and oversized, the \$105 fee is charged only once. |

Offers and prices are subject to change without notice. Prices include 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST). If there is a discrepancy between this table and the tariff, the tariff will take precedence.

Quesnel INSIDER

BY • CHLOE SJUBERG

Where does the name of Quesnel come from?

In 1808 Simon Fraser explored what is now known as the Fraser River and named a major tributary for Jules Maurice Quesnel, his clerk. The community that grew at the confluence of the Quesnel and Fraser rivers eventually became known as Quesnel.

What is Quesnel best known for?

Quesnel grew quickly as a major stopover and supply centre during the Gold Rush and continued to play a role as a supply centre for northern BC. Forestry became a key industry in the town, and at one point there were over 150 mills within 30 kilometres. Quesnel is also home to world-class outdoor activities including fishing, mountain biking, hiking and more.

Best family activities?

Head to Pinnacles Provincial Park, which offers views of 12-million-year-old hoodoos; spend the day at Ten Mile Lake; or pick up a gold pan from the Visitor Centre and test your luck panning for gold!

Best spot for a fantastic dinner? A hearty breakfast?

Craig's Table offers dishes that will satisfy your taste buds for breakfast or lunch. For dinner, experience the culinary traditions of Vietnam at Hannah's Vietnamese Pho Restaurant, conveniently located on Reid Street in downtown Quesnel.

Best locally owned getaway?

Book your stay at the charming Billy Barker Casino Hotel in downtown Quesnel. It features a restaurant, a lounge and a modern casino. Each of the rooms has been decorated in a unique historical style.

How can visitors find out more about Quesnel?

The best way is to come experience it for yourself! Head to the Visitor Centre for tips to make your stay the best it can be. Or head to tourismquesnel.com to see everything the city has to offer. #ExploreQuesnel

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Photo courtesy Six Sigma

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Photo by Bonnie Grenon



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Photo courtesy Six Sigma



Photo courtesy of Prince George Astronomical Society

Prince George

Observatory Open House
Every Friday

Prince George Astronomical Observatory

On Fridays at 7:30 pm, the non-profit Prince George Astronomical Society hosts an open house at its observatory in Beverly, roughly half an hour from Prince George. The observatory houses a 0.61-metre Cassegrain telescope—one of the largest amateur telescopes in Canada—and other equipment to help visitors get the best possible view of the night sky.



Photo courtesy of One in the Chamber

Williams Lake

Williams Lake Stampede
Annual Dinner, Dance and Auction
February 25

**Thompson Rivers University —
Williams Lake Campus**

The renowned Williams Lake Stampede may not kick off until Canada Day weekend,

but the excitement starts building early with this annual fundraising event in support. The fun-filled evening features dinner and cocktails, silent and loonie auctions as well as a live auction, and dancing to live music from The Tumbler Dice and One in the Chamber.



Photo courtesy of Campbell River Art Gallery

Campbell River

Mu'la || Gratitude
Through April 29

Campbell River Art Gallery

Mu'la (meaning "gratitude" in Kwak'wala) is an exhibition of the work of Indigenous artists Charles "Chuck" Jules, John A. "Guy" Sharkey

and Shawn Decaire, who are all part of the Campbell River Art Gallery's Art Hive community studio. "This exhibition is a reminder that every day we can be thankful for someone or something that has come across our path, and this makes room for the power and possibility of change," says curator Nadine Barribeau.



Photo courtesy of Royal Alberta Museum

Edmonton

DRIVE: Reimagining the Ride
March 9 to April 30

Royal Alberta Museum

This exhibit features creative adaptations of vehicles of years past, from the solar-powered Nanook and an amficar—which slides from land to sea and back again—to the stylish Bricklin SV-1 sports car that inspired the famous DeLorean. At the hands-on Tinker Garage, visitors of all ages can express their creativity through monthly themed activities.

Un-Ordinary Your Day

łəmatax^w, Campbell River, is nestled within the territory of the Liğ^włdał^w peoples; the WeWaiKai, WeiWaiKum, and Kwikiah Nations; here there are no borders between city and nature. łəmatax^w, Campbell River is located in the heart of the Discovery Passage, a small city nestled in nature, surrounded by the wild, with all the comforts of home.

Find your perfect itinerary and get inspired to plan your stay, from where to grab your morning coffee to the best places to explore the great outdoors and experience our community culture.

7AM



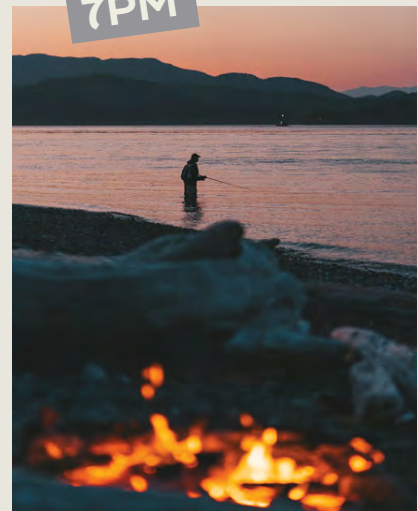
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outdoors

7PM



Share your stories
of the wild

3PM



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Work

Pursue your business dreams or embrace remote working. Williams Lake has a great mix of career options such as major industry, government, and health and education services. We have a thriving small business sector and are uniquely positioned for access to global markets. Our good wireless connectivity makes Williams Lake an excellent place for remote working, as well. Skilled workers and professional services are in demand in the Cariboo.



Live

Williams Lake offers affordable housing in a variety of rural and urban settings, all within minutes of our vibrant and bustling downtown. There you will find shopping, dining and services. Access to a full range of health services, post secondary education and an engaged school district will help make the transition to our welcoming community easy. Our world-class recreation complex has something for everyone, as well as a rich arts and culture community with festivals and activities throughout the year.



Recreate

With the largest mountain bike trail network in BC, the 300-plus kilometres of trails outside your door will keep you busy in our four-season playground. Whether it is golfing, fishing, hiking, indoor or outdoor sports, cross-country or downhill skiing, there is no better place than Williams Lake to recreate. Within city limits, our nature reserve is a bird-watching paradise with annual migrations that attract visitors from around the world.



Eco Tours BC photo



John Wellburn photo



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