ENTIRE TRAVEL GROUP

VIEW PACKAGE







CANADA

BEARS, WHALES & THE WILD WEST COAST SELF-DRIVE

(TOUR CODE: 11836)

STARTS AND ENDS	TRAVEL PERIODS	EXPERIENCE	TRAVEL STYLE
in Vancouver	May - October	Indigenous Wildlife Self-Drive	Independent Holiday Packages

From grizzly bears in remote rainforest inlets to whales off the wild Pacific coast, this self-drive adventure takes you deep into British Columbia's untamed beauty – with ferries, floatplanes, and unforgettable wildlife encounters along the way.

Highlights

- Spend two nights at Knight Inlet Lodge, a remote floating lodge with world-class grizzly bear viewing and wilderness excursions
- Perfect self-drive experience for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts alike
- Freedom of Choice days in both Tofino and Victoria
- Cruise across the Strait of Georgia and explore Vancouver Island's picturesque east coast

Entire Bonus

Peace of Mind, Every Step of the Way

This holiday package is carefully designed by our team to give you complete Peace of Mind, with access to trusted local partners and expert support at your destination.

Leading Industry-Accredited Canada Specialist

Canada Travel is a leading, industry-accredited Canada specialist, combining genuine destination expertise with the strength and stability of an established travel group – so you can book with total confidence.

This unforgettable 8-day self-drive itinerary takes you from the vibrant city of Vancouver to the remote wilderness of Knight Inlet, the coastal beauty of Tofino, and the charming capital city of Victoria.

Your journey begins with a scenic ferry crossing from Horseshoe Bay to Vancouver Island, travelling north to Campbell River – the “Salmon Capital of the World” – surrounded by stunning mountain and ocean vistas. From here, board a floatplane to Knight Inlet Lodge, set in the pristine wilderness of the Great Bear Rainforest. Over two incredible days, enjoy unparalleled wildlife encounters – from grizzly bear viewing at Glendale Cove to guided rainforest walks, scenic cruises through Knight Inlet, and sea kayaking in Glendale Cove.

Returning to Campbell River, continue your drive west to the rugged Pacific Rim and the laid-back surf town of Tofino. Here, you can choose from two exhilarating marine adventures: a coastal bear-watching cruise along tidal shores or a whale-watching excursion through the breathtaking Clayoquot Sound.

Travel south to Victoria, taking in the artisan murals of Chemainus, the totem poles of Duncan, and the rich Indigenous heritage of the Cowichan Valley. In Victoria, personalise your stay with a choice of activities: wander the famed Butchart Gardens, enjoy a Canadian culinary walking tour, embark on a whale-watching cruise, or indulge in High Tea at the iconic Fairmont Empress.

Your adventure ends with a scenic drive to Swartz Bay and a ferry ride through the picturesque Gulf Islands back to Vancouver, where your Pacific Coast wildlife journey comes to a close.



INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in Campbell River at Painter's Lodge
- 2 nights at Knight Inlet Lodge
- 2 nights in Ucluelet at Black Rock Resort
- 2 nights in Victoria at Inn at Laurel Point
- Return Floatplane from Campbell River to Knight Inlet
- Return BC Ferries to Vancouver Island
- 8 days intermediate size car rental
- Meals included as per itinerary

Freedom of Choice Days

Freedom of Choice



Our Freedom of Choice program offers flexibility, by allowing you to choose from different options on pre-selected days.

Our per person price includes one tour on each Freedom of Choice day, as follows:

- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 5
- One "Freedom of Choice" tour on day 7

Expand the itinerary below for more details.

Please note, if more than one room is selected during the booking process, our team will contact you afterwards to discuss options.

ITINERARY

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Day 1 Vancouver Campbell River

Depart Vancouver for Horseshoe Bay, where your journey begins with a scenic BC Ferries crossing to Vancouver Island. Watch the city skyline fade as forested islands, coastal mountains and open waters come into view. Upon arrival, travel north through Nanaimo, known as the Harbour City, and Parksville, the gateway to Vancouver Island's Beach Country and home to the annual International Sandcastle Competition. Continue along the island's east coast to Campbell River, historically known as the "Salmon Capital of the World." Set between Strathcona Provincial Park and the Coast Mountains, Campbell River offers a dramatic coastal setting where cruise ships pass through Discovery Passage on their journey toward Alaska. In the evening, the parade of lights is best viewed from Discovery Pier.

Overnight in Campbell River at **Painter's Lodge**



NANAIMO | CREDIT: HARBOUR AIR SEAPLANES

Day 2 Campbell River Knight Inlet Lodge

This morning, enjoy a scenic floatplane flight to Knight Inlet, a remote fjord and natural habitat of the grizzly bear. After a safety briefing and morning tea, join your guide in search of the many bears that frequent the area. During the spring and summer season viewing is done from small boats that allow you to get close without disturbing the bears. During the fall season, viewing takes place from secure platforms overlooking the Glendale River, where grizzlies gather to feast on salmon. From your elevated vantage point, observe these majestic animals fishing, socialising, and preparing for winter.

There is more time for bear viewing after lunch, plus a cruise that takes in the natural wonders of Knight Inlet – tremendous waterfalls plummeting out of sheer rock faces, ancient glaciers with trails carving through the mountains and wild and remote rivers teeming with life.

Overnight at **Knight Inlet Lodge**

Lunch, Dinner


CREDIT: KNIGHT INLET LODGE

Day 3

Knight Inlet Lodge

Each day at the Lodge you will experience one bear viewing tour, along with a choice of excursions for other wildlife viewing, depending on location and availability. Choices may include:

Scenic Cruise of Knight Inlet

Take a spectacular 2-hour scenic cruise through Knight Inlet, enjoying its natural wonders – waterfalls plummeting out of sheer rock faces, ancient glaciers carving through the mountains, and wild rivers teeming with life.

Interpretive Forest Walks

Take a walk in an ancient, old-growth rainforest in the pristine Kwalate valley, a 20-minute boat ride from the lodge. We will walk up the valley along the beautiful Kwalate River to see giant moss-covered trees and stunning waterfalls, and learn about the rainforest and the various plants and wildlife that abound here.

Sea Kayaking in Glendale Cove

Drifting quietly in your sea kayak, you will see grizzly bears foraging along the shoreline near our lodge. Never kayaked before? No problem. We operate in a sheltered cove in calm water, and our trained guides will coach you in the fundamentals of sea kayaking so that you feel confident to paddle these seaworthy craft.

Overnight stay at **Knight Inlet Lodge**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



CREDIT: KNIGHT INLET LODGE

Day 4 Knight Inlet Lodge Tofino/Ucluelet

Early this morning, return to the Bear Viewing platforms for a last photo opportunity before departing for Campbell River by floatplane. Arrival time is between 10.30am - 11.00am. Collect your car and head south west to Tofino on the rugged West Coast. En route, picture stops should be made at Cathedral Grove to enjoy the splendour of 800-year-old Douglas Fir and Cedar and the Mars Water-Bombers at Sproat Lake, the world's two largest water-bombers used for the sole purpose of putting out forest fires. After the Mars Water-Bombers, drive through the majestic Sutton Pass and the Sawtooth Range of the Cascade Mountains to arrive in Tofino around mid-afternoon.

Overnight in Ucluelet at **Black Rock Oceanfront Resort**

Breakfast



HOT SPRINGS COVE TOFINO | CREDIT: TYLER CAVE

Day 5 Tofino/Ucluelet

Today, you can personalise your day with a pre-selected tour from our **Freedom of Choice** options below.

Overnight in Ucluelet at **Black Rock Oceanfront Resort**

Freedom of Choice Options

- **Coastal Bear Watch Cruise:**

  Set out by Zodiac along the sheltered inlets and rocky shoreline of Clayoquot Sound in search of black bears foraging at low tide. From the comfort and safety of the vessel, watch for bears turning over stones in search of rock crab, framed by misty rainforest, tidal flats and the wild beauty of Vancouver Island's Pacific Coast.

OR

- **Whale Watching Cruise:**

  Cruise through the pristine waters of Clayoquot Sound, where forested islands, ocean swells and snow-capped mountain backdrops create a remarkable setting for marine wildlife viewing. Depending on the season, you may encounter grey whales, humpback whales, sea lions, seabirds and bald eagles soaring above the shoreline.



TOFINO | CREDIT: DESTINATION CANADA

Day 6 Tofino/Ucluelet Victoria

Leave the wave-washed beaches and rainforest trails of the West Coast behind as you travel back across Vancouver Island toward Victoria. The journey takes you from rugged Pacific scenery to rolling forests, coastal communities and the island's gentler southern landscapes. En route, stop in Chemainus, known for its large outdoor murals, and Duncan, the "City of Totems." If time permits, visit the Quw'utsun' Heritage Village for insight into the traditions, stories and artistry of the northwest coast people. Continue south to Victoria, British Columbia's elegant capital city, set beside the sparkling Inner Harbour.

Overnight in Victoria at **Inn at Laurel Point**



VICTORIA INNER HARBOUR | CREDIT: DESTINATION BC / REUBEN KRABBE

Day 7

Victoria

It's time to explore Victoria with a pre-selected tour from our **Freedom of Choice** options below.

Overnight in Victoria at **Inn at Laurel Point**

Freedom of Choice Options

- **Butchart Gardens Admission:**

  Explore the world-famous Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site of Canada and one of the most beautiful garden estates in the country. Wander through 22 hectares/55 acres of floral displays, landscaped pathways, sunken gardens and peaceful viewpoints spread across the 53-hectare/130-acre estate.

OR

- **Eat like a Canadian Food Tour:**

  Discover Victoria through its flavours on a guided culinary walking tour. Sample local ingredients, historic dishes and modern Canadian favourites while exploring the Inner Harbour and nearby neighbourhoods. Along the way, meet the chefs, makers and local food experts who help make Victoria one of Canada's most enjoyable small-city dining destinations.

OR

- **High Tea at the Fairmont Empress Hotel:**

  Enjoy the timeless tradition of Afternoon Tea at the Fairmont Empress, one of Victoria's most iconic landmarks. Settle into an elegant setting overlooking the Inner Harbour and savour fine tea, delicate finger sandwiches, pastries and freshly baked scones in a setting that reflects the city's historic charm.

OR

- **Whale Watch Cruise:**

  Head out onto the Salish Sea for a thrilling 3.5-hour whale watching cruise from Victoria. Travel aboard a covered or open vessel in search of orcas, humpback whales, sea lions, porpoises and seabirds. Hydrophones may be used to bring the underwater world to life, adding another dimension to this remarkable marine experience.



CREDIT: FAIRMONT EMPRESS

Day 8 Victoria Vancouver

Leaving Victoria, drive north to Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal for the scenic 90-minute BC Ferries crossing to Tsawwassen. As you sail through the Strait of Georgia, take in views of the Gulf Islands, forested shorelines and distant mountain peaks. From Tsawwassen, continue to downtown Vancouver, where your Flexidrive ends after a journey filled with coastal rainforest, Pacific beaches, island wildlife, garden beauty and classic Brit ish Columbia scenery.



AERIAL OF VANCOUVER | CREDIT: DESTINATION VANCOUVER / ALBERT NORMANDIN

ACCOMMODATION

Painter's Lodge

Campbell River

Painter's Lodge is a waterfront retreat in Campbell River, offering a relaxed West Coast atmosphere overlooking Discovery Passage. Surrounded

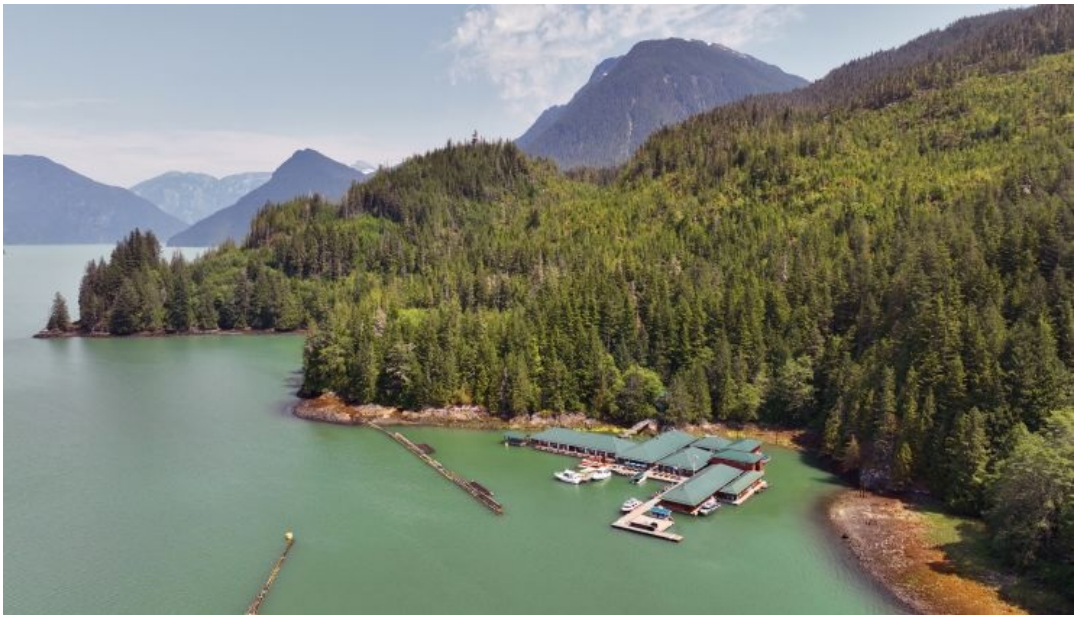
by the natural beauty of Vancouver Island, the lodge provides comfortable accommodation, ocean views, and easy access to the region's renowned wildlife, fishing, and outdoor experiences. Its scenic setting makes it an ideal base to unwind and experience the rugged beauty of British Columbia's coastline.



Knight Inlet Lodge

Knight Inlet

Situated 60 kilometres from the mouth of the inlet is Knight Inlet Lodge. Our floating resort is tucked into Glendale Cove, which offers one of the few protected anchorages in the inlet, and it is here that you will begin each day's adventure. The lodge is a modern one story facility consisting of 5 cement floats, we like to call ourselves a floating village, plus support buidlings. All guest rooms feature comfortable queen size beds plus private washrooms with showers. The resort is finished with western cedar board and batten siding to give it a real west coast British Columbia look and feel. There are 2 outside deck areas, one complete with gas fireplace, for relaxing on those warm summer evenings.



Black Rock Oceanfront Resort

Ucluelet

A 6-minute stroll from the Wild Pacific Trail, this chic oceanfront hotel built from granite and glass is also a 14-minute walk from downtown Ucluelet. Amenities include an ultrahip bar and restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows and a seasonal patio overlooking the Pacific Ocean. There's also a serene spa with 2 hot tubs, a lounge and a seasonal plunge pool.



Inn at Laurel Point

Victoria

Overlooking Laurel Point Park, this waterfront hotel is a 5-minute walk from the Black Ball Ferry Line and a 10-minute walk from the Royal BC Museum. Featuring private balconies with water views, the airy rooms include flat-screen TVs and free Wi-Fi, plus mini-fridges, and tea- and coffee-making equipment. There's a heated indoor pool, an exercise room, and a Japanese garden, plus a Pacific Rim-inspired restaurant with a patio and harbour views.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	LOCAL CURRENCY
French & English	Canadian Dollars

FROM price reflects the lowest available price within the advertised travel period (e.g. April to October). Pricing varies depending on travel dates, availability and demand, and may not be available on all departures. Higher pricing applies during peak and shoulder periods. Final pricing is confirmed at the time of enquiry or booking. Please refer to **Pricing & Price Conditions** for full details, including inclusions, exclusions and other conditions.

IN PARTNERSHIP



