



# SOAK IN THE SUNSHINE COAST ALONG BC'S SALISH SEA ROUTE – LANGDALE TO EGMONT

Indigenous cultures, artistic communities, sea-inspired activities, spectacular coastlines and old growth forests make up British Columbia's [Salish Sea Coastal Route](#). This blog covers the [Sunshine Coast](#) part of the drive, from [Gibsons](#) area north to [Egmont](#). [See part 2 which covers Saltery Bay to Lund](#).



The Sunshine Coast area is only accessible by ferry, boat or plane providing an island feel experience. It has a mild coastal climate with many sunny days however, visitors should be prepared for wet days. (Boaters and hikers, check the [weather](#) before heading out.) Rain or shine, there are plenty of [things to do](#) in this incredible part of British Columbia. Fill your days exploring [beaches](#), biking, paddling or fishing. Book a [land or sea tour](#), take in a museum or festival, visit an art gallery or relax at a spa. Fuel up at breweries, cideries, distilleries, farmers' markets and specialty food shops.



Persephone Brewing Company in Gibsons | BC Ale Trail

## GETTING THERE

The 40-minute BC Ferry ride to Langdale on the Sechelt Peninsula departs from Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver; along the way take in Coast Mountain views and the spectacular Howe Sound. For travellers heading northwest to Powell River and beyond there's a ferry between Earl's Cove and Saltery Bay across the Jervis Inlet and on to the Malaspina Peninsula area of the Sunshine Coast. Total kilometres (not including ferry rides) from the Langdale ferry terminal to the village of Lund is approximately 140 km.



BC Ferries' Vessel Island Sky Approaches Earl's Cove | Destination BC/Andrew Strain

## LANGDALE

The Sunshine Coast has more artists per area than any other place in Canada, and Langdale is one of the anchor towns of the [Purple Banner Tour](#), a self-directed studio and gallery tour which runs northwest to Powell River. A purple banner on a property indicates an artist at work, and some of them open their studios to the public. Another crafty event is the [Sunshine Coast Art Crawl](#), which takes place from Langdale to the Earls Cove area every October, with over 175 venues taking part!

Hikers and walkers can stroll the beach at Hopkins Landing or Smith Cove Park, which has a great viewpoint toward Gambier Island. Test your quads along Soames Hill Trail between Langdale and Gibsons, you will be rewarded with spectacular views of nearby islands and the Salish Sea. Mountain bikers should check out [Sprockids Park](#) and its 14 km of well-kept trails.



Gibsons Public Art Gallery. Carving is Welh Áynexw tla Swa7ámchet or Spirit of Our Ancestors . Artist: Sinàmkin (Jody Broomfield) of the Squamish Nation | Sunshine Coast Tourism/Shayd Johnson

## GIBSONS

Perched on a hillside with harbour views, the town of [Gibsons](#) is a steppingstone to the Sunshine Coast. Coffee shops, boutiques and art galleries are popular with locals and tourists, and the Gibsons Public Market is open year-round. A must while here is [Tidepools Aquarium](#), a collect-and-release aquarium located inside the market.

History buffs will enjoy the [Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives](#) (recently named one of the best community museums in BC). For more art there's the [Gibsons Public Art Gallery](#) and [The Kube](#), with its working artists' studios, gallery and curated retail. The [Gibsons Landing Jazz Festival](#) is held each June and is a fun way to kickstart the summer.



Painting the Roberts Creek Mandala | Mary Ann Bell

## ROBERTS CREEK/DAVIS BAY AREA

There are more than a few fun events in and around [Roberts Creek](#) and Davis Bay with farmers' markets in both communities and Davis Bay's annual sandcastle competition in July. Creek Daze is an August event that celebrates all that is whimsical in the area, with live music, food and craft vendors and games. Be sure to visit the Roberts Creek General Store and the Roberts Creek Mandala artwork on the way to the pier.

East of Roberts Creek is [Kitchen Sink Rescue](#), with its farm animal sanctuary, and the [Sunshine Coast Golf & Country Club](#). Low tide at [Roberts Creek Provincial Park](#) means sand bar exploring, sea star spotting and seal watching.



Sechelt Harbour Sunshine Coast

## SECHELT

Sechelt is located on a narrow isthmus that separates Sechelt Inlet from the Salish Sea and is surrounded by forests. It's a magnificent area to kayak or to take a float plane tour for a bird's-eye view.

Art is in the air each spring in Sechelt with its Festival of the Performing Arts and in August during the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, a gathering of Canadian writers and readers. October sees Oktoberfest followed by the Sechelt Festival of Lights in early December. The Raven's Cry Theatre shows movies and hosts events and the shíshálh Nation tems swiya Museum has a large collection of artifacts including cedar baskets and ancient stone tools.

Take in the sights and smells of local flora at the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden and wander along the long, sandy beaches in Porpoise Bay Provincial Park.



Halfmoon Bay | @glamouraspirit\_:

## HALFMOON BAY

Northwest of Pender Harbour on the way to Halfmoon Bay is [Sargeant Bay Provincial Park](#) and Trout Lake Picnic Area. South of Halfmoon Bay is Coopers Green Park with its beaches and great diving. Hikes can be had at Halfmoon Bay and Coopers Green trailheads.

## PENDER HARBOUR

Surrounded by sea inlets, this community is water-centric and full of fun. The end of May means the annual Pender Harbour May Day, now in its 81st year! The Pender Harbour Blues Festival in June and August sees the Harbour Chamber Music Festival and the Pender Harbour Wooden Boat Show, a celebration of marine heritage, with historical boats, land-based displays and kids' activities. Winter features the very original Pender Harbour Christmas Boat Parade.



Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast | Destination BC/Albert Normandin

Madreia Park, just south of Pender Harbour, is a hub of marine activity. Check out the many paddle sport and fishing rentals in the area.

## EARLS COVE TO EGMONT

At the north end of the Sechelt Peninsula, Earls Cove is home to the ferry terminal location for sailings to Saltery Bay. The ferry links the lower and upper areas of the Sunshine Coast.

Experience a scenic 50-minute (16 km) ride up the Agamemnon Channel, around the northeast tip of sparsely populated Nelson Island and into Jervis Inlet. You will think you're in Norway with views of rugged mountain slopes and fjords. Don't be fooled, it's the Coast Mountain Range!



Whitewater Kayaking Skookumchuk Narrows near Egmont | Destination BC/Danielle Hayes

South of Earls Cove is Ruby Lake and the sandy beaches of Dan Bosch Park. Ruby Lake and nearby Sakinaw Lake have great trout fishing in season and are perfect for freshwater activities, including canoeing portages. The lagoon at Ruby Lake is a rewarding spot for waterfowl and wildlife viewing.

East of Highway 101 on the drive up from Pender Harbour is the large provincial park of Spipiyus, renowned as having the oldest closed-canopy temperate rain forest in Canada. Its hiking trails even offer ocean views.

Egmont is a waterfront village on Secret Bay, 7 km east of the BC Ferries terminal. It's the trailhead for Skookumchuck Narrows Provincial Park, and has modern marinas offering moorage and supplies for yachts and floatplanes. Boat charters are available here, as are a variety of guided tours, including kayaking. Make sure to visit the Egmont Heritage Centre to learn about the Shíshálh peoples and the history of logging and fishing in the community.

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*The Sunshine Coast region is home to the traditional and ancestral territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, shíshálh, Tla'amin, Klahoose and Homalco Nations. Visitors are encouraged to learn about how they can engage in [cultural exploration](#).*

Read [Part 2 of this drive Saltery Bay to Lund](#). Also, our suggested drive along the [Salish Sea Coastal Route](#) or learn about [winter activities on the Sunshine Coast](#).

For places to camp in British Columbia go to the [Camping Map](#).

Share your BC travel and camping photos using hashtags [#campinbc](#) [#explorebc](#).

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