

TOURISM NANAIMO

Recommendation Guide

A scenic sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and water. In the foreground, three people are standing in the water with their arms raised in celebration. In the middle ground, a small boat is visible on the water. The background features a dark, silhouetted shoreline with trees and mountains.

NANAIMO

About Tourism Nanaimo

Tourism Nanaimo is the official Destination Management Organization (DMO) for the City of Nanaimo, leading the charge in shaping and promoting the region's vibrant tourism landscape.

Through strategic investments, partnerships, and data-driven research, Tourism Nanaimo works to cultivate a thriving, sustainable tourism sector, one that celebrates the region's strengths while supporting the local economy and quality of life.

Our goal? To create unforgettable visitor experiences while staying true to what makes Nanaimo special. We believe Nanaimo has the potential to shine as a key destination on Vancouver Island, not by becoming something we're not, but by embracing everything we already are.

We are committed to creating an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming destination to all, one where locals feel proud to share their community, and visitors from around the world feel right at home.

It takes commitment, collaboration, and a bit of grit—but we're here for it.

We acknowledge with gratitude that our work takes place on the territories of the Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw-as, and Stzuminus people. Tourism Nanaimo is committed to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, with a focus on those directly tied to the tourism sector. We support Call to Action 92 by actively seeking meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities, ensuring that tourism contributes to economic reconciliation and respects Indigenous rights and protocols. We support Call to Action 79 by ensuring that Indigenous histories and living cultures are shared in close collaboration with First Nation governments, honouring their guidance on how their stories and teachings are shared.

Transportation Options

Nanaimo and the surrounding region offer plenty of ways to get around, from public transit and taxis to car rentals, ride shares, and even bike rentals.

- **Car Rental**

- National Car Rental

- Nanaimo Airport | 250.245.2636
 - Northfield Road | 250.758.3509

- Enterprise

- Bowen Road | 250.751.1200

- Budget

- Terminal Avenue | 250.760.7368

- **Taxi Services**

- Yellow Cab

- 250.751.1111

- AC Taxi

- 250.753.1231

- **Ride Share and Coop Rental Services**

- Uride

- Visit their website or download the Uride app

- Uber

- Visit their website or download the Uber app

- Evo

- Rent by the hour. Available for pick up at Hullo Ferry Terminal
 - Please note: Vehicles MUST be reserved in advance. This location does not offer grab-and-go availability, so be sure to book ahead of your pickup time.
 - Evo electric bikes available to rent by the hour at locations across Nanaimo

- Modo

- Rent by the day

- **Local Bike Rentals**

- Hub City Cycles

- Pedego Electric Bikes

- Rock City Cycles

- Jeff's Kayak and Bike Rentals



Stop Number	Location	Closest Accommodation
109775 Routes 1, 20, 20a, 25, 30, 72	Front Street – across from Port Theatre	Coast Bastion and Courtyard by Marriott hotels
109776 Routes 1, 20, 20a, 25, 30, 72	Front Street at Church Street	Dorchester Hotel
110092 Routes 5, 6	Albert Street at Selby Street	Quality Inn
110476 Route 7 – to downtown exchange	Haliburton Street at Woodhouse Street	Days Inn by Wyndham Nanaimo
110218 Routes 1, 72	Terminal Avenue at Rosehill Street	Ramada by Wyndham Nanaimo

Route	Popular Locations & Stop Numbers
Route 20	Stop 109886 - Departure Bay Stop 109949 - Pipers Lagoon Stop 109905 - Neck Point Stop 109777 - Maffeo Sutton Woodgrove Exchange - Woodgrove Mall
Route 40	Stop 109814 - Rutherford Boardwalk
Route 31	Stop 110234 - Lantzville
Route 5	Stop 109769 - Nanaimo Aquatic Centre & Nanaimo Ice Centre Stop 109766 - Buttertubs Marsh Stop 109756 - Westwood Lake
Route 6	Stop 110483 - Colliery Dam
Route 30	Stop 109777 - Maffeo Sutton Stop 109975 - Bowen Park
Route 40	Stop 109771 - Old City Quarter
Route 8 <i>Starts at VIU Bus Exchange – Get there via Routes 4, 5 & 40</i>	Stop 110181 - Nanaimo River Stop 110186 - Cedar Village Stop 110194 - Cedar Farmers Market (seasonal) Stop 110195 - Hemer Provincial Park



Arts & Culture

Nanaimo's arts and culture scene is a vibrant blend of the past and present—where creativity, history, and community spirit collide. Dive into hands-on workshops at local galleries like Tuft Joy Studio or the Nanaimo Ceramic Arts Studio, catch rotating exhibits and art classes at the Nanaimo Art Gallery, or hunt for unique finds at one of the city's many vintage and thrift shops. For a glimpse into Nanaimo's deep-rooted history, explore the Museum or the ancient rock carvings at Petroglyph Park. And when the sun goes down, catch a show at The Port Theatre, Queens, or one of the city's many cozy performance venues.

- **Antiques and Thrifting**
 - Funk Revival
 - Rumours Vintage Collective
 - Red Shelf Decor
 - Upstairs Bazaar
 - Yours & Mine Consignment
 - Old City Panache
 - Good Going Vintage
- **Art and Museums**
 - Art Gallery
 - Nanaimo Museum
 - Military Museum
 - Gabriola Island Studio Tour
- **Books and Bookstores**
 - Best Choice Quality Used Books
 - Windowseat Books
 - Literacy Central Vancouver Island
- **Music and live bands**
 - Queens
 - Port Theatre
 - The Vault Cafe
 - The Globe
- **Cultural Experiences**
 - Petroglyph Provincial Park
 - Saysutshun Guided Tours
- **Crafting Experiences**
 - The Stitcher's Muse Needleart
 - Yarn-Tastic
 - Tuft Joy Studio
 - Nanaimo Ceramic Arts

**For more information,
scan the QR Code:**



Outdoor Enthusiasts

For those who love to get outside and move, Nanaimo's got the goods. From forested hikes at Westwood Lake and Bowen Park to mountain biking trails at Doumont and Extension Ridge, there's no shortage of space to stretch your legs (or tires). Families and accessibility-conscious adventurers can enjoy the wide paths and open greens of Beban Park, while pet parents will find plenty of dog-friendly trails to explore together. Into watching the action instead? Keep an eye out for local sporting events happening throughout the year—whether it's on the field, court, or track, there's always something to cheer for in Nanaimo.

- **Hiking & Nature**

- Westwood Lake
- Bowen Park
- Neck Point Park
- Linley Valley Cottle Lake Park
- Ammonite Falls
- Petroglyph Park

- **Mountain Biking**

- Doumont Trails
- Extension Ridge
- Westwood Trails
- Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club
 - A great resource for trail maps and group rides!

- **Sports to Watch**

- Nanaimo NightOwls Baseball
- Nanaimo Clippers (Hockey)
- Nanaimo Buccaneers (Hockey)
- Nanaimo Timbermen (Lacrosse)

- **Places to Participate**

- Bowen Park
 - Tennis courts, disc golf, and outdoor fitness equipment
- Nanaimo Ice Centre (NIC)
 - Public skating, hockey leagues, and skating lessons
- Beban Park
 - Indoor swimming pool, fitness centre, equestrian centre, and fields
- Oliver Woods Community Centre
 - Indoor courts and classes for all ages
- Nanaimo Aquatic Centre

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scan the QR Code:**



2SLGBTQIA+ Travel

Whether you're part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community or an ally looking to connect, Nanaimo is a place to celebrate exactly who you are. Pride Week lights up the city every June with colour, music, and love—but the celebration doesn't stop there. Local businesses, cozy cafés, and inclusive spaces keep the good vibes going year-round. From eclectic drag shows to community events, our 2SLGBTQ+ scene is vibrant and visible. And a fun fact, Tourism Nanaimo is proudly a Rainbow Registered business.

- **2SLGBTQIA+ Owned Businesses**
 - Burnt Honey Dessert Company
 - Funk Revival
 - Two Sparrows Cupcakes & Coffee Bar
 - Kitties & Cream
- **Events & Celebrations**
 - Nanaimo Pride Week (June)
 - Includes a downtown parade, festival at Maffeo Sutton Park, and community events all week long.
- **2SLGBTQIA+ Friendly Accommodations, Dining & Attractions**
 - White Sails Brewing
 - The Vault Café
 - Nanaimo Art Gallery
 - Funk Revival
 - Windowseat Books
 - Black Rabbit Kitchen & The White Rabbit Café
 - Harbourfront Library Branch
 - Culture Craze (Woodgrove Centre)

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Drinks & Dining



Nanaimo's food scene is a delightful mix of local flavours, innovative dining experiences, and cozy spots perfect for any occasion. Discover top restaurants or head to the waterfront for a romantic dinner with a view. Whatever you're craving, Nanaimo has something to satisfy and create unforgettable culinary moments.

- **Craft Beverages**

- Craft Fare *
- White Sails *
- Wolf Brewing *
- Longwood Brew Pub & Brewery*
- Arbutus Distillery
- Millstone Estates (Winery)
- Big Bang Cider

- **Vegan/Gluten Free Options**

- Eve Olive
- Kim Key Vegetarian Restaurant
- Black Rabbit
- Gabriel's Cafe
- The Vault Cafe
- Melange
- Bocca Cafe

- **Locally Sourced Ingredients (Farm to Table)**

- Gabriel's Cafe *
- The Nest *
- Mon Petit Choux *
- Black Rabbit *

- **On the Water**

- Penny's Palapa *
- Lighthouse Bistro *
- Trollers Fish & Chips *
- Dinghy Dock Pub *

- **Downtown Options**

- Melange *
- Modern Cafe *
- Sukkho Thai
- Bar Luna *

- **Old City**

- La Stella Trattoria *
- Asteras *
- Taiyo Bistro *
- Masala Culture *

- **North Nanaimo**

- Nori Sushi *
- Horang *
- Simonholt *
- Blackbear Pub

- **South Nanaimo**

- The Bold Knight *
- Mahle House *
- Crow & Gate Pub *

- **Dessert Options**

- Cold Front Gelato *
- Burnt Honey *
- Waterfront Confections *
- Ironworks Cafe & Creperie *
- Milk Jam Donuts
- Red's Bakery *

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**Gluten Free/Vegan/Vegetarian Options*

Family Friendly

Nanaimo offers a variety of family-friendly events and activities for all ages. Maffeo Sutton Park is a must-visit, with its accessible features and beautiful waterfront views, perfect for a family outing. Kids can also burn off energy at the jumping gym or enjoy drop-in art classes at the Nanaimo Art Gallery. The public library is another great spot, offering programs and activities for young readers. Throughout the year, Nanaimo hosts a variety of kid-centric events, from outdoor festivals to interactive performances, making it a fantastic destination for families looking to create lasting memories.

- **Outdoor Activities**

- Wildplay Elements Park
- Maffeo Sutton Park
- Pipers Lagoon Park
- Colliery Dam Park
- Cable Bay Trail
- Bowen Park
- Harbourfront Walkway
- Buttertubs Marsh

- **Indoor Activities**

- Nanaimo Museum
- Jumping Jiminy's
- Airhouse Trampoline Park
- Island Time Axe Throwing

- **Art Galleries and Studios**

- 4Cats Art Studio
- Nanaimo Art Gallery
Workshops

- **Libraries and Cultural Centers:**

- Vancouver Island Regional
Library (VIRL)

- **Cinemas**

- Avalon Cinema
- Galaxy Cinema



Pet Friendly

Nanaimo is a wonderful destination for travelers who want to bring their furry companions along for the adventure. With beautiful parks, pet-friendly accommodations, and outdoor activities, there's no shortage of places to enjoy with your pet by your side.

- **Off Leash Dog Parks**

- Colliery Dam Park
- Cable Bay Trail
- Beban Park
- Wardropper Park
- May Richards Bennett Pioneer Park
- Invermere Beach Park

- **Dog Friendly Hikes/Trails**

- Westwood Lake
- Bowen Park
- Neck Point Park
- Linley Valley Cottle Lake Park
- Ammonite Falls
- Petroglyph Park

- **Pet Friendly Patios**

- Modern Cafe
- Melange Restaurant
- Mon Petit Choux
- Vault Cafe
- Gabriel's Cafe
- Carlos O'Bryan's
- Wolf Brewing Company



Friendly Options

- Vancouver Island

- **Vancouver Island Regional Library (Downtown Branch)**
 - Offers a sensory-support space on the second floor, perfect for a peaceful break.
- **Nanaimo Art Gallery**
 - Provides sensory kits, including noise-reducing headphones, writing pads, and fidget toys for a more interactive experience.
- **Local Restaurants**
 - Many offer quieter seating areas for a relaxed dining experience—just ask your server about noise-reduced spaces.

- **Water Bottle Refill Stations**

- **Water Bottle Refill Stations**
 - Available at Maffeo Sutton Park, Neck Point Park, and other city locations.
- **Seating Areas**
 - Benches along the waterfront and shaded spots in parks.
- **Phone Charging Stations**
 - Located in public spaces like the Visitor Centre, library, community centers, and sports facilities.

Week 6

- Gender-Incl

- o **Gender-Inclusive Facilities**
 - Use Tourism Nanaimo's washroom map to find inclusive facilities across the city. This resource is constantly growing, so feel free to provide feedback for further updates.

- **Hemer Park**

- **Hemer Park**
 - **Partially Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Neck Point Park**
 - **Partially Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Westwood Lake**
 - **Partially Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Pipers Lagoon**
 - **Partially Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Colliery Dam**
 - **Partially Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Bowen Park**
 - **Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Buttertubs Marsh**
 - **Wheelchair Accessible**
- **Morrell Sanctuary**
 - **Wheelchair Accessible**

Saysutshun Island

Step off the boat and into something magical. Just a short ferry ride or paddle from downtown Nanaimo, Saysutshun (Newcastle Island Marine Provincial Park) is a place where cultural richness, history, and unspoiled natural beauty come together in one soul-soothing experience.

This island is of deep spiritual and historical significance to the Snuneymuxw First Nation, and once you're there, it's easy to see why. The energy is calm, the views are stunning, and the connection to the land is powerful.

- **Things to do**

- Saysutshun Interpretive Walking Tour
- Over 22km of trails through lush coastal forest
- Sandy beaches perfect for lounging, picnicking, or skipping stones
- Tidal pools teeming with colourful sea life
- Historic sandstone quarries to explore
- Scenic cycling routes (bring your bike or rent one onsite)
- Shady spots to relax, reflect, or nap under the trees
- A raccoon family (including a rare albino!) keeping things adorable

- **Amenities**

- A seasonal foot-passenger ferry from Maffeo Sutton Park
- Trollers on Land
 - *Waterfront bistro with snacks and light meals*
- Jeff's Kayak and Bike Rentals
 - *Kayak and bike rentals to explore by land or sea*
- Walk-in campsites and overnight moorage forstays under the stars
 - *Potable water is available along with flush and pit toilets, hot showers, and food lockers*

**For more information,
scan the QR Code:**





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