



SHARE VANCOUVER ISLAND

4 DAYS IN NANAIMO + TOFINO

DAY 1 Full-day in Nanaimo

Take a 90-minute ferry sailing on the MV Coho from Port Angeles, WA to downtown Victoria, BC. Enjoy a pleasant 90-minute drive up the eastern coast of Vancouver Island to downtown Nanaimo, where you'll spend the evening at the accommodation of your choice.

BREAKFAST

Grab a breakfast sandwich to go from **Gabriel's Gourmet Café** so you can enjoy it in the short ferry line up to Gabriola Island.

A day trip to Gabriola Island.

MORNING ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

- **Walk to Malaspina Galleries** and run your hands along the naturally carved sandstone formations while soaking up the warm sun.
- Gabriola is home to a high proportion of professional artists – ranking sixth per capita in Canada!

LUNCH

You won't be disappointed if you choose to eat lunch at the **Old Crow Cafe**. This funky place with delicious food was featured

on the Food Network's "You Gotta Eat Here". This is a local and visitor favourite.

AFTERNOON SUGGESTIONS

- **Tour the Isle of the Arts on a scooter or bike!** There is just no better way to see the beaches, views of Entrance Island Lighthouse or lean around corners covered by beautiful tree top canopies than on wheels from Page's Resort.
- **Rent a kayak or paddleboard with Silvay Bay Kayak Adventures** and look up at the towering rock cliffs from the water's perspective.

DINNER

Minnoz Restaurant and Lounge located inside the Coat Bastion Hotel. This bright, sea inspired atmosphere has views of the harbour, the historic HBC Bastion and is stop # 15 on the Nanaimo Bar Trail with their delicious Nanaimo Bar Cheesecake.

ACCOMMODATION

<http://www.tourismnanaimo.com/stay>

DAY 2 Nanaimo - Tofino

BREAKFAST

Find a cozy seat at the **Two Chefs Affair** and enjoy a delicious breakfast. They make it extra special with their homemade ketchup and preserves.

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

- Just 15 min outside of Nanaimo you'll find **Bonnell Creek Falls**, a series of small waterfalls with swimming holes that you can explore.
- Walk amongst old giants in **Cathedral Grove**. Stroll through the trail through old growth forest, which is home to 800 year old Douglas Fir trees.
- See goats on the roof, stop for an ice cream or stock up on goodies for your upcoming hikes in Tofino at **Coombs Old Country Market**.

ENTERING TOFINO

As you drive through **Pacific Rim National Park Reserve**, do yourself a favor: pull in to the Incinerator Rock parking lot for a view and maybe a quick leg stretch on **Long Beach**. The park pass you'll purchase at the vending point here will be valid until 4pm tomorrow.

DINNER

Tacofino Stop for the now-legendary Tacofino food truck for a fish taco or burrito. There are also meat and vegan options available.

Wildside Grill Enjoy some satisfying fish and chips or a West Coast Poutine on-site, or take it to go and have a picnic on Chesterman beach.

DAY 3 Full-day in Tofino

BREAKFAST

Wake up early for a Cox Bay Beach sunrise walk. Top it off with a nice breakfast at Long Beach Lodge's Great Room, with stunning views of the beach you just walked!

MORNING

Drive a few minutes to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve to explore thriving ecosystems on Rainforest Trails A and B, each an easy 1.25 mile walk. The Park Pass you acquired yesterday will cover your park use.

LUNCH

SoBo Walking through a lush rainforest can make one hungry. Head back to Tofino and go straight to local favorite SoBo (Sophisticated Bohemian) for Chef Lisa's unique cuisine. Don't miss the Polenta Fries or her Killer Fish Taco.

Common Loaf Bake Shop. It's been in Tofino for over 30 years, serving wholesome food that will remind you of bygone days. You might also want to try the sweet Tofino Bar, owner Maureen's alternative to the Nanaimo Bar.

AFTERNOON SUGGESTIONS

Take a surf lesson with Tofino Surf Adventures or the all-female staff at Surf Sister Surf School. Your lesson should be 3 hours long, including theory on the beach and practice in the ocean.

Go on a black bear or whale watching tour. Bear watches are scheduled at low tide, where bears can be seen seeking food along the shoreline. Chances are you'll see Gray Whales, and perhaps Humpbacks and other marine life on your whale watching tour. Dress warmly for your time on the water and choose from a number of engaging outfitters, like West Coast Aquatic Safaris or Ocean Outfitters.

Chill out in Tofino! Maybe rent a Beach Cruiser bike and cycle Chesterman Beach!

DINNER

Wolf in the Fog Time flies when you're in Tofino and dinner-time is approaching. Go big at Wolf in the Fog with Chef Nick's potato-crust oysters and seasonal menu, while surrounded by uplifting artwork and views of Clayoquot Sound.

Jamie's Rainforest Inn Take it easy at the restaurant and lounge area.

EVENING

Try to catch a sunset on Chesterman Beach or MacKenzie beach ... and breathe out.

DAY 4 Full-day in Tofino

BREAKFAST

Enjoy a quick(ish) and delicious breakfast from **Red Can Gourmet**.

MORNING

Stretch out extra well for your second and last Tofino morning. Time to pack, check out and make the most of it!

Head to Chesterman Beach for a "this isn't goodbye" walk, or stop by the Tofino Botanical Gardens for another side of Tofino. Walk down winding paths, dotted with weather-ready art installations, toward the calm inlet waters and the Tofino Mudflats, an important habitat for migratory shorebirds.

Head out of the Gardens, turn left toward the Tofino-Ucluelet junction, and we'll see you again soon!

In the high season, drive back to the **MV Coho ferry terminal** in Victoria to make the 7:30pm sailing back to Port Angeles. Make sure to check the ferry schedule while planning your trip!

#ShareVI • @sharevancouverisland • @mvcoho
#ExploreNanaimo • @tourismnanaimo • #YourTofino • @tourismtofino