

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

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PASSPORT TO
Aboriginal

CULTURAL TOURISM IN BC



ABORIGINAL
TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF BC
our story. your experience.

www.OriginalBC.com

British Columbia's Aboriginal* Tourism Regions



Tourism Regions

- VANCOUVER, COAST & MOUNTAINS
- VANCOUVER ISLAND
- NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
- CARIBOO CHILCOTIN COAST
- THOMPSON OKANAGAN
- KOOTENAY ROCKIES

**Aboriginal is a collective name for the indigenous peoples of Canada and is used to refer to the original or 'First' peoples of this land and their descendants.*

Kla-how-ya Welcome



A Living Culture

We invite you on a journey to discover ancient cultures and traditions that are still as vibrant and alive today as they were long before the first visitors to North America.

British Columbia is home to more than 200 First Nations, including Inuit and Métis, each with its own distinctly unique language and set of traditions. Shaped by the rugged and diverse geography of the province, our ways of life share a deep respect and bond with the land's rivers, mountains, forests and wildlife.

Visit these traditional lands and immerse yourself in our warm hospitality and an adventure that's a whole new world. Sit fireside and listen to creation tales handed down by Elders or let us sing and dance for you in the ways of our ancestors.

Explore our ancient rainforests, paddle the waterways, sample our food and experience a taste of Canada's oldest culture.

Step into Our World!

For more information, visit
www.Aboriginalbc.com

Aboriginal Cultural Adventures

Experience British Columbia's spectacular scenery and stunning surroundings from a completely new perspective. Discover our rich and diverse First Nations cultures while exploring a pristine natural wonderland that's steeped in Aboriginal history, myth and legend.

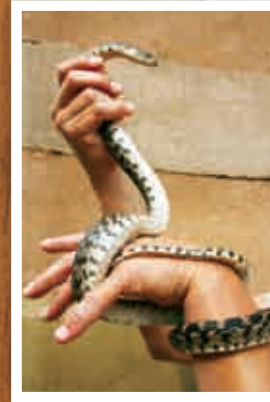
Embark on the adventure of a lifetime as you journey out on the ocean to view killer whales at play, or into timeless rainforests to catch a glimpse of mighty grizzly bears or the sacred Kermode Spirit Bear—found nowhere else in the world. Celebrate our unique heritage, art works and fascinating history in many Native cultural centres and museums, or explore how our traditions and hospitality live on in the present day at Aboriginal-owned resorts, inns and golf courses.

Let us take you on an unforgettable journey to see the world through our eyes and experience its wonders with our hearts.



Our Communities, Our Tourism

We are proud of our rich heritage and consider it a sacred duty to preserve and protect that important cultural legacy while sharing it with others. We offer guests the unique opportunity to visit real First Nations communities and share in traditions handed down since time immemorial.



Our Guides

As we are the guardians and inheritors of our culture, it is of course our voices that best recount our own stories. Our guides and venue staff provide visitors with intimate knowledge and incomparable insight into local First Nations customs and history, because they come from within the communities themselves.

Let us tell you the tales from our past and how they are making for a bright future.



Discover the true living history
of our people and culture.



Celebrations and Ceremonies

We invite you to attend one of our many events that take place throughout the year in the province.

Celebrate with us at a powwow, where you can watch drumming and dancing, or sit and listen to the wisdom in an Elder's stories. Watch traditional dances performed in an authentic longhouse, or take in an Aboriginal theatre production or musical performance.



Join us for traditional feasts, spiritual ceremonies and events that honour the past and those with a modern twist. Let us welcome you into our communities and show you true First Nations hospitality and a glimpse at the world through our eyes.



Our Stories. Your Experiences.

With British Columbia's stunning natural beauty as a backdrop, we offer visitors an incredible range of First Nations cultural and adventure activities. From those with a keen interest in Aboriginal arts and treasures, to bold outdoor explorers and those who appreciate natural beauty and unsurpassed hospitality—we have a unique and memorable experience for every guest.



Discover Aboriginal Arts & Culture

Explore our roots, history, legends and living culture through song, dance and art at cultural centres, museums, art galleries and gift shops throughout the province. Share an artist's perspective as he carves a totem pole or experience an insider's look into the latest artworks by contemporary Aboriginal artists. Discover the archeological treasures of our people, historical artifacts and learn about our past, present and future.

ART GALLERIES & GIFT SHOPS

Visit our many art galleries and gift shops that showcase the timeless carving and painting styles of our peoples. Browse beautiful treasures ranging from carvings to baskets, and totem poles to exquisite masks and beyond.

CULTURAL CENTRES & MUSEUMS

Explore our culture on a visit to an Aboriginal museum or cultural centre where you can learn about our land, history and living culture and view artifacts that pre-date the pyramids.





Experience Wilderness Adventures

Discover British Columbia's nature and wildlife through the eyes of an Aboriginal guide. Paddle our waters by traditional dugout canoe or kayak, or explore the land on hiking or biking tours along mountain trails and through amazing rainforests. Connect with nature on breathtaking whale watching or grizzly bear viewing tours. Let us take you on the adventure of a lifetime and a deeper understanding of our history and traditions.

TRADITIONAL CANOEING/KAYAKING

The rivers and ocean were once our highways and main transportation routes. Step back in time and join experienced guides on a fascinating and memorable paddling journey to the heart of our traditions.



JETBOATING

Relax and sit in comfort aboard a powerful jetboat as you're taken on an informative and exhilarating tour to experience stunning scenery, breathtaking wildlife and rich local culture.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

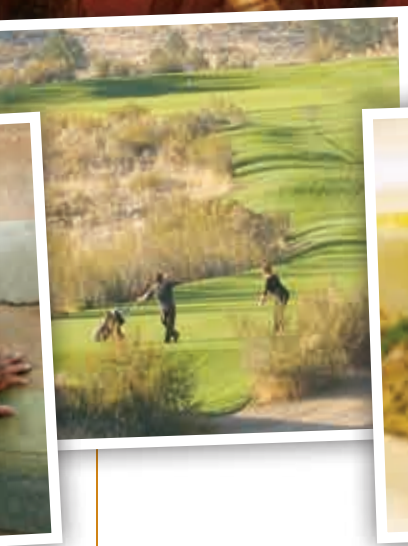
The diverse wildlife of B.C. plays a large role in our legends, myths and traditions. Let a First Nations guide reveal the wonders of our lands and legends. From whales to grizzly bears, eagles and beyond—we offer an intimate and up-close look at our natural world.

HIKING/MEDICINAL WALKS

Take a walk with us and learn how we used the forest's various plants for both medicinal and spiritual applications. Journey with us into our sacred places as well as our history and culture.

BIKING/MOUNTAIN BIKING

Explore incredible mountain bike trails through lush rainforests or pedal through guided nature and wildlife tours. Learn about the local flora and fauna, or just bike around at your leisure on a rental.



Explore Our Hospitality

We offer guests a unique and memorable vacation of cultural discovery. Not only do our resorts and hotels feature breathtaking settings and incredible service, but also the opportunity to learn and understand the unique culture and traditions of the local Aboriginal people. Here you can sample our traditional foods as well as modern fare and award-winning wines; get pampered at a spa or cleanse your spirit at a sweat lodge. You'll also find incredible golf experiences, casinos and so much more at our Aboriginal-owned resorts, hotels and lodges.

RESORTS/HOTELS/INNS

Experience comfort and unsurpassed hospitality at a wide range of Aboriginal-owned accommodation options that range from full resort complexes to hotels, inns, lodges, RV parks and traditional campgrounds.



RESTAURANT & WINERIES

For your inner gourmet, we offer a range of fine dining establishments all over the province, as well as award-winning and world-class wineries, which are open to visitors.

CASINOS

What's your game? Enjoy a night out at a fabulous casino and discover First Nation hospitality at its finest.

GOLF COURSES

Tee up for a challenging round of golf on championship courses surrounded by stunning scenery. B.C. is a golf paradise and our Native-owned and operated courses are some of the finest in the province.

SWEAT LODGES/SPAS

We can offer spiritual cleansing at a traditional sweat lodge, or soothing and pampering treatments at a world-class and professionally staffed wellness spa.

Tour our Traditional Lands

Discover the beauty of British Columbia while exploring the timeless history of the province's First Nations and the colourful cultures of the Inuit and Métis communities. Let us share our culture and a memorable adventure together. Use these suggested tour routes to help you plan your next visit.



MOUNTAINS AND LAKES

Vancouver | Whistler | Lilloet | Shuswap Lakes |
Osoyoos | Similkameen Valley | Harrison Hot
Springs | Vancouver

This scenic route travels north from the Pacific Ocean through the Coast Mountains. Along the way you can explore the Cultural Journey between Vancouver and Whistler—a fascinating set of markers and maps recounting the area's ancient place names, myths and legends. The route then heads east into the Shuswap lake country, and south through the arid lake and wine country. You won't want to miss stopping at a Native-owned winery to sample the latest vintage. The journey then turns west through the mountains, returning again to Vancouver. The activities and attractions you'll find on this trip include canoe and kayak tours, championship golf courses, dinner cruises, museums, art galleries, cultural centres and much more.



NORTHERN COAST & CARIBOO CHILCOTIN COAST

Williams Lake | Bella Coola | Port Hardy |
Prince Rupert | Queen Charlotte Islands | Terrace
Prince George | Valemont | Williams Lake

Discover the rich First Nation heritage in the vast wilderness of Northern British Columbia and the rolling grasslands, mountains and coastal environs of the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region. Explore a river by canoe, kayak or jet boat and learn how Natives used the rivers as highways. Track the legendary Spirit Bear in the coastal rainforests, or visit archaeological sites dating back thousands of years. Then venture to the Queen Charlotte Islands, known as Haida Gwaii by the Haida First Nations, an archipelago renowned for its ancient rainforests, wildlife, and rich Native culture. Explore museums and fascinating Native cultural centres, or sample our hospitality at Aboriginal-owned resorts, hotels and lodges.



VANCOUVER ISLAND & THE SUNSHINE COAST

Vancouver | Sunshine Coast | Campbell River | Alert Bay | Tofino | Victoria | Vancouver

From the bright lights of Vancouver travel by ferry to the beautiful Sunshine Coast, then north to Powell River. It's like a world from another time as rainforests and mountains haunt the shoreline of coastal British Columbia. Another sailing takes you to the Inside Passage and Vancouver Island. Discover breathtaking coastal scenery and First Nations arts, culture and adventure. Visit interpretive centres and sample traditional foods, watch a Native carver create a totem pole or mask, and purchase original Aboriginal art from the many art galleries along the route. Taste the distinctive flavours of regional indigenous cuisine, explore a pristine beach or paddle a kayak or canoe along the ocean shores.



KOOTENAY ROCKIES MOUNTAIN COUNTRY

Cranbrook | Golden | Revelstoke | Nakusp | Nelson | Kimberley | Cranbrook

Set majestically in the shadow of the mountain ranges of British Columbia's Rocky Mountains, this route travels past historic mining towns, through vast stands of towering evergreen forests and alongside pristine mountain lakes. On the way you can choose to stay in wilderness cabins or at a luxury hotel, enjoy wildlife viewing, hiking and bird watching, golfing or try your luck at a First Nations-owned casino. Of course, no trip on this particular route would be complete without a stop at the natural hot springs.



Make this your first step.

WWW.ABORIGINALBC.COM



Our website has very useful vacation planning features and suggested itineraries. Explore here first and let the first phase of a great experience begin.