

# Beacon Hill Park



## Free Concerts in Beacon Hill Park Kick off June 21

Stage in the Park comes alive each summer in Beacon Hill Park with a variety of free, outdoor musical performances. Join us for the popular Concerts in the Park series which kicks off Friday, June 21 with a performance by the Naden Band. Free concerts are offered on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and on holiday Mondays from 1:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. at the Stage in the Park, commonly known as the Cameron Bandshell. Whether you like folk, jazz or blues, or classical and swing, there's something for everyone. The Concerts in the Park series runs from June 21 to September 13, 2013. Located off Arbutus and Bridge Ways in Beacon Hill Park, Cameron Bandshell is vibrant with activity from June to September each year. The stage hosts dance, theatre, band and choral performances, as well as a variety of community events. Bench seating and the surrounding grass areas are the perfect spot to relax and enjoy free performances. All concerts are "rain or shine" and are subject to change. For concert details, pick up a print copy of the CITYVibe, Victoria's guide to festivals and outdoor events available at Victoria City Hall and at venues around town, or download the free iPhone app from the iTunes App Store or view the guide [here](#).



# Victoria Butterfly Gardens



 Box 190, 1461 Benvenuto Avenue, [Brentwood Bay, BC](#), V8M 1R3  [Map](#)  
 250.652.3822 | 877.722.0272  [Visit Website](#)  [info@ButterflyGardens.com](mailto:info@ButterflyGardens.com)

## Welcome to the Jungle!

Victoria Butterfly Gardens offers a rare opportunity to experience a true tropical jungle in the best part of Canada. Victoria Butterfly Gardens is home to exotic butterflies, tropical ducks, stunning flamingos, rare tropical birds, Chameleons, Geckos, Poison dart Frogs, Tree Frogs, Sulcata and Red Footed Tortoises and giant Koi swimming in the stream and pond.

Located just 5 minutes from the famed Butchart Gardens, Victoria Butterfly Gardens is warm and aromatic. The Gardens' features stunning blooms and thousands of tropical plants, including foods of the world and carnivorous plant displays.

This carefully planned combination of trees, bushes, vines and creepers is a balanced jungle-like eco-system that flourishes without the use of herbicides and pesticides.

Guided tours are offered daily at no extra charge. These tours will optimize your jungle experiences as you discover the hidden gems within the Gardens.

With a chance to shop our uniquely themed gift shop, winner of the 2010 Eco Star award and complimentary shuttle service to Butchart Gardens, this is an environmentally friendly adventure that you will remember forever. Open daily except for December 25th, December 26th and January 1st.

# Craigdarroch Castle



 1050 Joan Crescent, [Victoria, B.C.](#), V8S 3L5  [Map](#)  
 (250) 592-5323  [Visit Website](#)  [info@thecastle.ca](mailto:info@thecastle.ca)

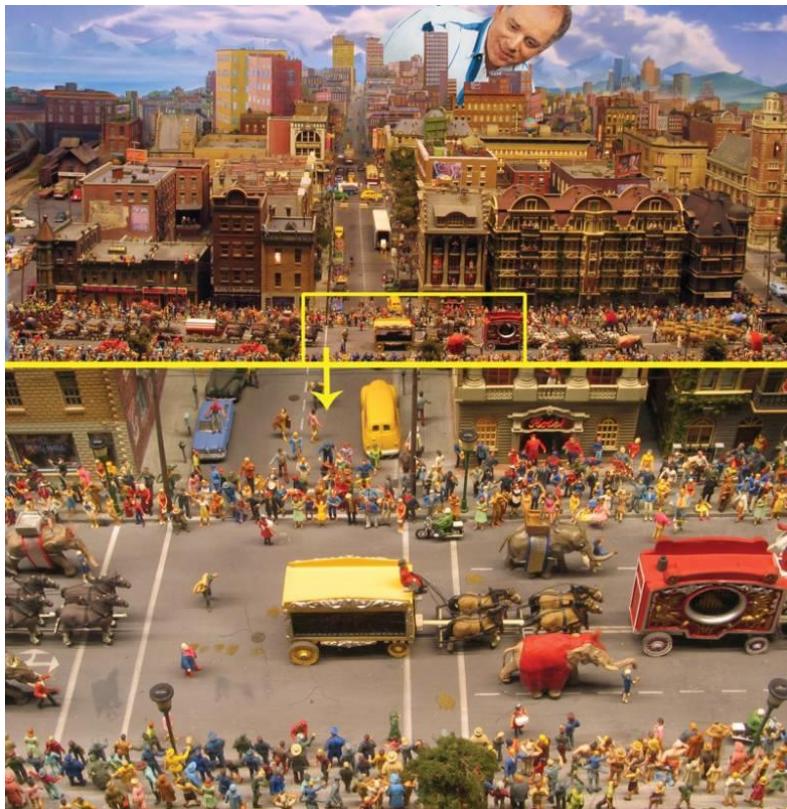
Experience the lifestyles of the very wealthy in the 1890's. Climb 87 stairs to the tower for fabulous views of Victoria surrounded by exquisite stained glass, intricate woodwork and fabulous Victorian era furnishings.

Coal baron Robert Dunsmuir was the wealthiest and most influential man of his time in British Columbia. He died in 1889 leaving his entire estate to his wife Joan who lived in the Castle until her death in 1908. Their immense fortune is reflected in the four floors of exquisite stained glass windows, intricate woodwork and fabulous Victorian era furnishings. Enjoy the ambiance as you climb the 87 stairs to the tower for fabulous views of Victoria, the Straight of Juan de Fuca, and the Olympic Mountains.

Open daily 10:00am - 4:00pm

Extended hours from June 15th to Labour day: 9:00am - 7:00pm

# Miniature World



 649 Humboldt St., [Victoria, BC](#)  [Map](#)

 250-385-9731  [Visit Website](#)  [3859731@miniatureworld.com](mailto:3859731@miniatureworld.com)

Welcome to the little people's Wonderful World of Smallness, walk down its road—step into the Story Books of fact, fiction and fantasy. Return to those fond memories of yesteryear, those childhood dreams and history's greatest moments!

See the World's Smallest Operational Sawmill, 11 years in the making. Experience the Great Canadian Railway, Canada's National Wonder of the 1880s and one of the World's Largest Model Railways. Or return to wander through the Enchanted Valley of Castles and experience the many great Castles of Europe then travel on to witness the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace.

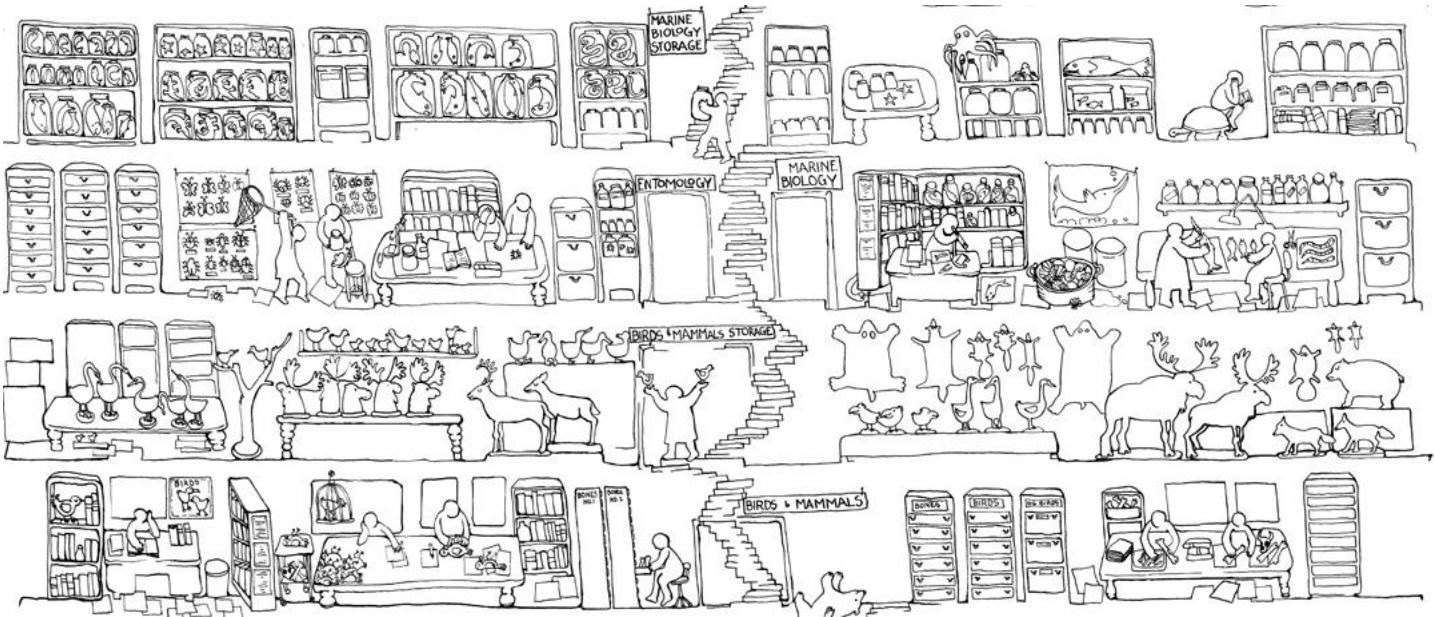
Further adventures, tiny treasures and little pleasures await all who continue into Frontier Land, Fantasy Land, the Fields of Glory, the World of Dickens and Olde London Towne of 1670. Special effects in lighting, sound and animation are added to create this miniature extravaganza that continues to thrill and delight the young and young at heart!

# Royal BC Museum

675 Belleville Street, Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9W2, Canada (Downtown) 250-356-7226  
<http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/>



Step inside and experience British Columbia. Since 1886 the Royal BC Museum has preserved and shared the human and natural histories of this province. Discover the famous First Peoples, Natural History and Modern History Galleries – a feast of sights, smells and sounds of British Columbia. The Royal BC Museum is also home to a cultural precinct including the BC Archives, Helmcken House, St. Ann's Schoolhouse, the Netherlands Centennial Carillon, Thunderbird Park and Mungo Martin House/Wawadit'la.



Open 10am – 5pm Sunday to Wednesday until 10pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

(until September 28, excluding Thursday September 12 when all museum galleries close at 5 pm)

## **Victoria BC Hiking, Parks, Camping and Other Outdoor Activities**

If your just looking to stretch your legs or a leisurely stroll, we would invite you to take a walk down the Songhees Walkway or along Dallas Rd. Beacon Hill Park.

**The Songhees Walkway** starts at the Johnson St. Bridge and winds its way along the harbor to Head St. in Esquimalt. The walk there and back will take you well over an hour. You will be privy to close up views of the float planes arriving and departing, all manner of sea faring vessel and a unique awe inspiring city scape like no other on earth.



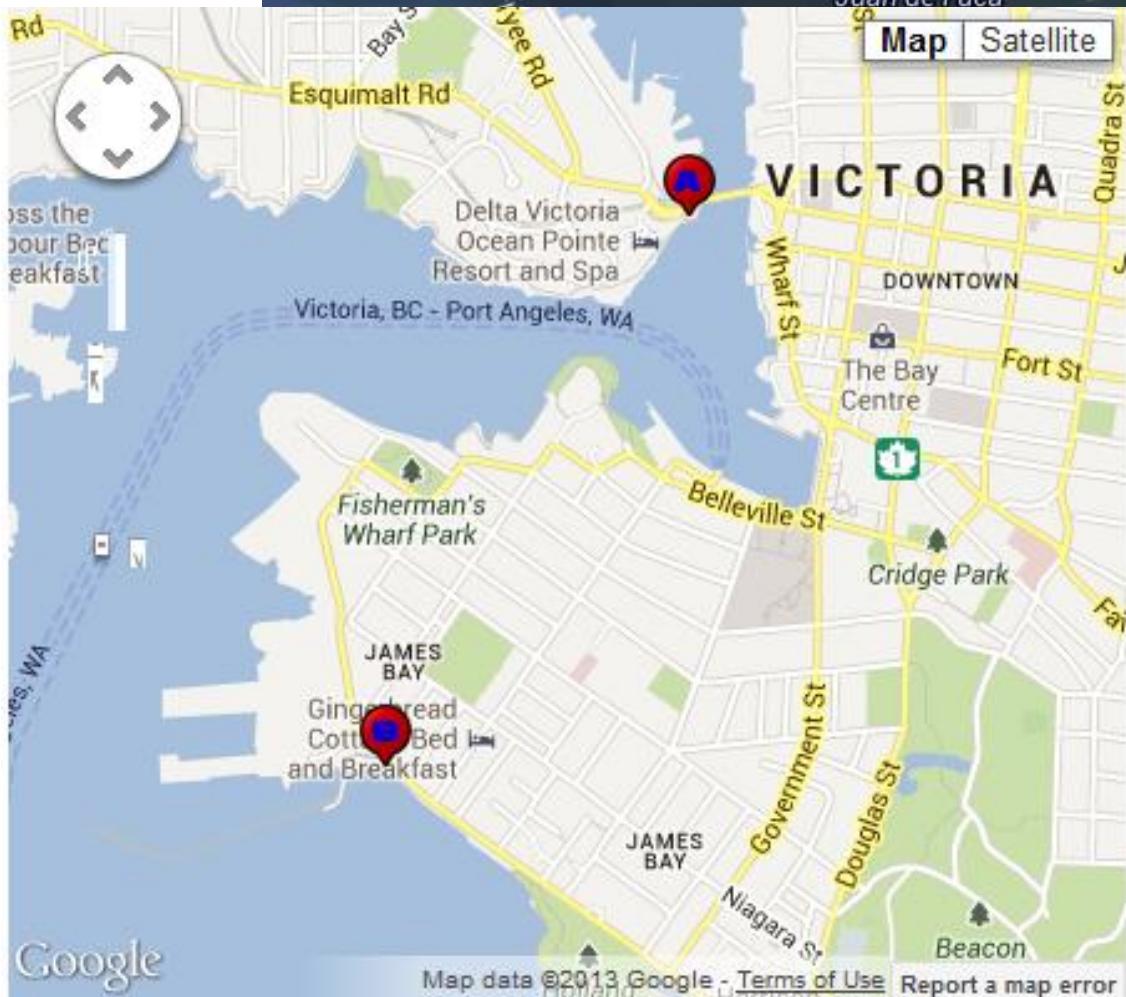
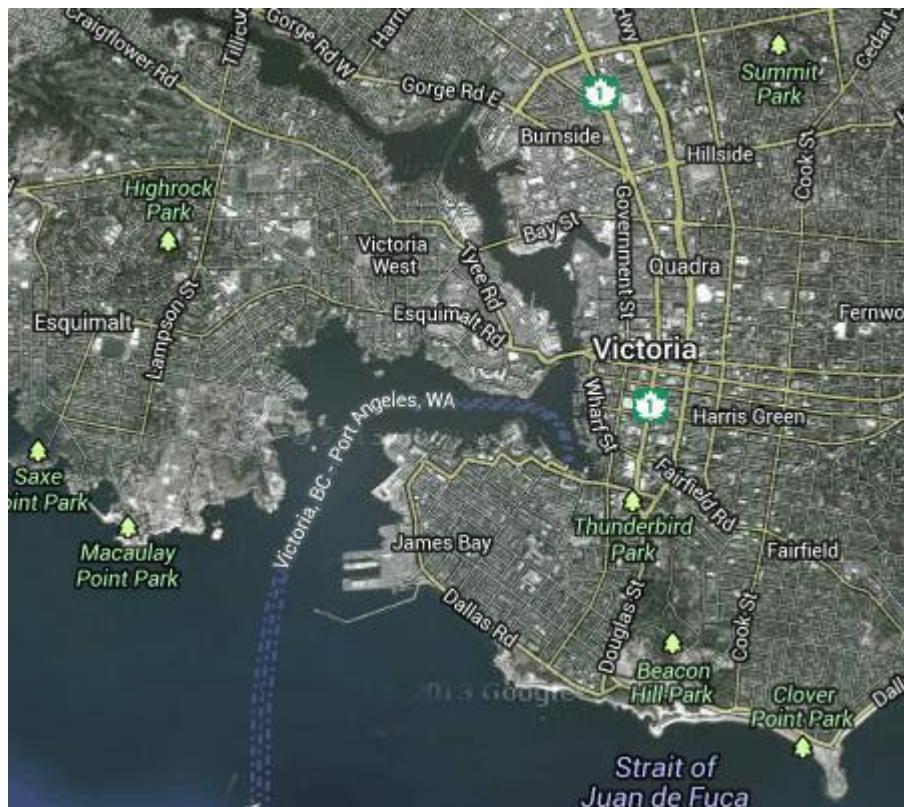
**Dallas Road.** You can spend a good couple of hours walking along Victoria BC's Dallas Rd. Walk from the breakwater (a concrete marine divider that stretches out almost a kilometer into the harbor that you can walk on too), to Ross Bay cemetery along a paved path. Stunning views of Jaun De Fuca Strait and the Olympic Mountains to rocky coves and beaches awaiting your exploration are the highlights of this walkway.



## Map of Victoria BC Songhees and Dallas Rd. Walkway

 Songhees Walkway

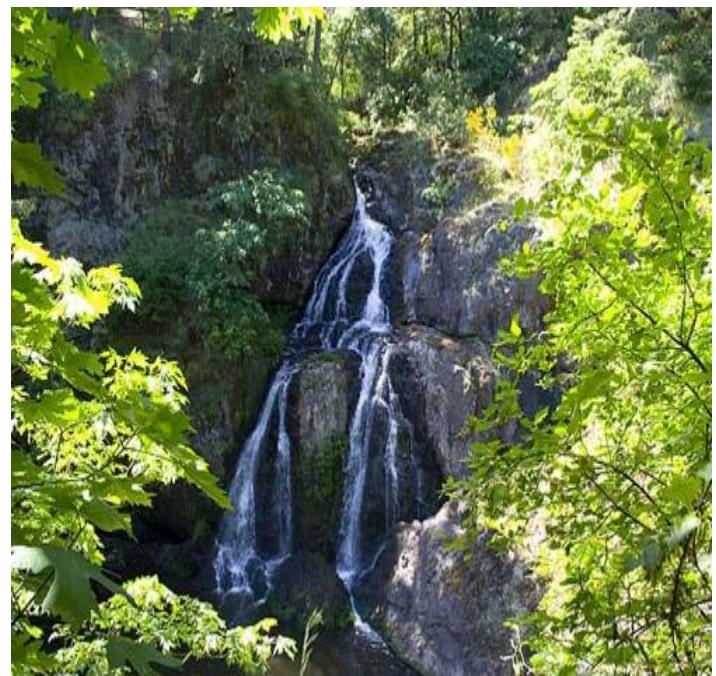
 Dallas Road



Are you looking for something a little more vigorous to get the heart pumping? Here are a few places that will take up a good part of the day and are easy to get to.

**Beaver and Elk lake.** Walk the 10 kilometer loop around these conjoined lakes and see all types of water fowl and lush green forest

**Witty's Lagoon.** A trail through the forest that leads past Sitting Lady Falls and winds along a lagoon and out to a sandy spit. The walk to the beach is easy and about 30 minutes, but the walk back is mostly uphill and you will work up a bit of a sweat.

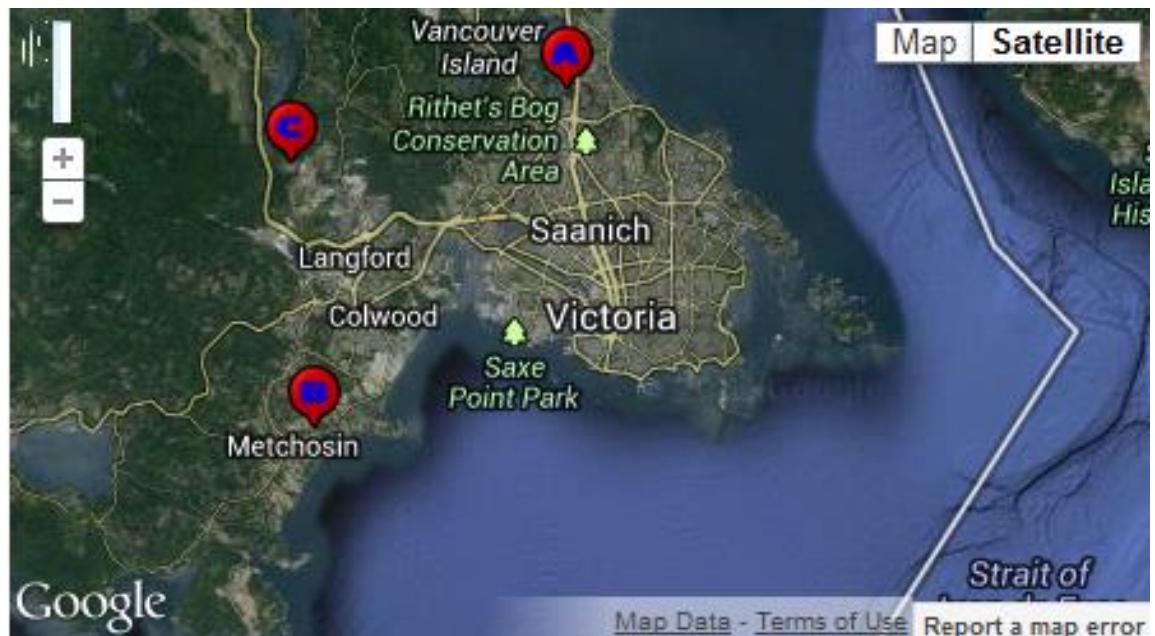


**Mt. Finlayson.** Warning, this hike is not for the faint of heart, you need to be in good physical shape to hike this. For the avid hiker or naturalist this is one of Victoria's premier mountains to hike. Only 20 minutes from downtown Victoria BC, it is the jewel of Goldstream Park. The hike goes from sea level to about 475 meters up steep marked trails, some scrambling is involved, and can take 1 hour to summit. Stunning views of southern Vancouver Island, wildlife, ancient rain forest and wild flowers. Read our in depth article about [Mt. Finlayson](#).

**Mystic Beach.** Your gateway to the Juan De Fuca trail (see next section), but also a great memorable day hike. 45 minute drive from downtown Victoria and a 45 minute walk to the beach. Walk through ancient rain forest, over a suspension bridge and down a staircase made out of a single whole log. Once you are at the beach you will see waterfalls pouring into the ocean, majestic views of Juan De Fuca Strait and natural caves to explore. Take a picnic lunch and enjoy this magical spot.



- A** Beaver and Elk lake
- B** Witty's Lagoon
- C** Mt. Finlayson



- D** Mystic Beach





We are excited to bring to your attention two major world renowned trails available on Vancouver Island. The West Coast Trail and the Juan De Fuca Trial respectively. You can hike part of the trail or all of it. For these trails you need to be in good physical shape and mentally prepared for a grueling trek.

**The West Coast Trail.** Canada's premier hiking trail will take you 6-8 days along the west coast of British Columbia's Vancouver Island. You will trek along the rugged coast line and through ancient rain forests. You conquer 70 ladders, 130 bridges, 4 cable cars and 1 ferry to complete this trek.

Admission to this park is allocated and you should reserve. Standby could be a 2-3 day wait. It costs \$140.00 per person plus a \$25.00 registration fee. Here are some links to help you with your arrangements.

[www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/co/activ/activ6av\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/co/activ/activ6av_e.asp)  
[www.i-needtoknow.com/wct/](http://www.i-needtoknow.com/wct/)

[www.vancouverislandoutdoors.com/westcoasttrail/](http://www.vancouverislandoutdoors.com/westcoasttrail/)

**The Juan De Fuca Marine Trail.** Definitely a step down from its big brother the West Coast Trail but none the less adventurous. The trail will take you along 47 km of rugged coastline along beaches, estuaries, tidal pools and ancient rain forests. The cost is \$6.00 per person per night. Check these sites for further information.

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/juanfuca.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/juanfuca.html)  
[www.juandefucamarinetrail.com/index.html](http://www.juandefucamarinetrail.com/index.html)

# Mystic Beach

The 2km trail from China beach trailhead of the Juan De Fuca Marine Trail to Mystic beach provides a good taste of what it would be like to hike the longer more rugged West coast trail. This was a return day trip for me having first discovered the trail several years ago before the Marine Trail was completed.

You get a variety of trail--heavy rooted single track; old skid road; and a long drop down to the beach along a felled and notched tree. Once at the beach be sure to go east, or left, and walk along the beach to a hanging waterfall. On my last visit the sea was quite wild and the breakers were very impressive. One can camp at the beach but there is a charge for both camping and parking. The Peter Wolfe Creek suspension bridge is a highlight of this section. You can continue west along the Marine trail all the way to Botany Bay at Port Renfrew some 47 kms away. This is one of four access points to the Marine Trail from the West Coast Road.



## Directions:

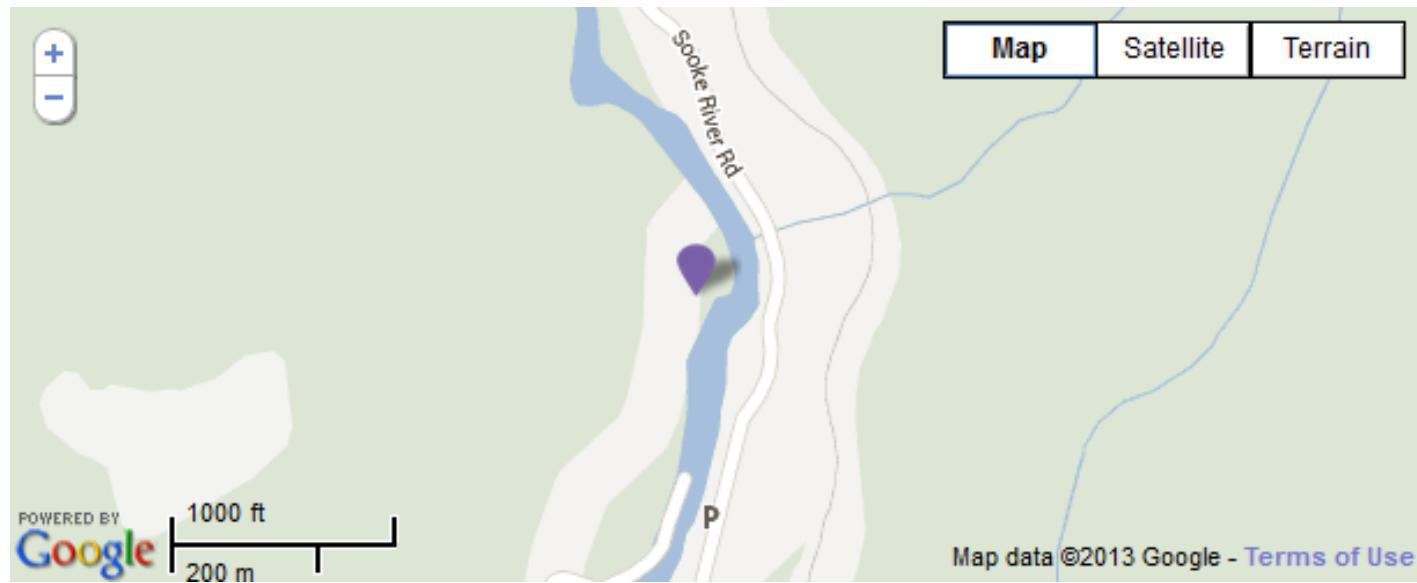
Head west from Victoria along Highway 14 past Sooke and Jordan River until you see the Juan De Fuca Marine Trail - China Creek trailhead. This is shortly after the campsite turnoff. Pay your parking fee and head out for a nice walk down to the beach. There is a separate walk down to China beach from the same access point that is detailed elsewhere in Trailpeak. 46 miles from Gatsby

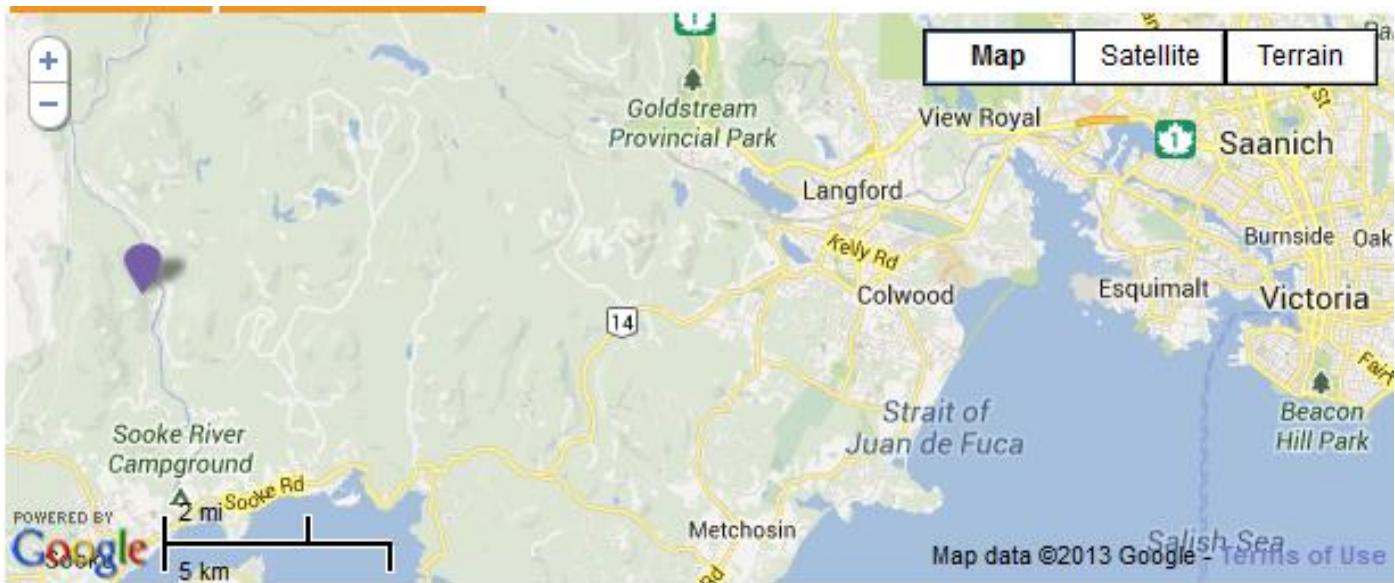


# Sooke Potholes Regional Park

Sooke River Road, Sooke, BC X

Located on the banks of the remarkable Sooke River featuring potholes unlike anything you've seen before. These rare geological formations, a series of deep, smooth rock pools, are a local hotspot featuring some of the best freshwater swimming around. The pools and potholes are crystal clear and refreshingly clean. Great for picnics, hikes and pool-hopping, the farther you go up the river, the better it gets. If you feel adventurous and extend your hike, you may be able to spot the Yuen Ruins which originate from an abandoned lodge. The ruins are outside of the park jurisdiction but are a pleasure to view from a distance.





# Sooke Potholes Regional Park

Sooke Potholes Regional Park is located on the banks of the spectacular Sooke River. Enjoy the views, explore the trails or take a refreshing dip on a hot summer day!

## Features

- Spectacular views of the Sooke River
- Freshwater swimming
- Access to the Galloping Goose Regional Trail
- Hiking on short forest trails
- [Camping at adjacent Sooke Potholes Campground](#)

Trail Rating: [Easy to Moderate](#)

Size: 55.28

Location: Sooke

Established: 2005

Summer hours: 8am to 9pm

- [Sooke Potholes Regional Park brochure \(PDF\)](#)

## Things to Do

You can picnic or swim at the river, explore the short forest trails or enjoy the stunning vistas from one of several viewpoints. You may see black-tailed deer, red squirrels or bald eagles riding the breezes overhead. The "potholes" are unique geological formations - deep pools in the river rock - that offer some of the best freshwater swimming in the region.

The Sooke River is the second largest on southern Vancouver Island and home to a productive salmon run every fall.

## Riding the Goose

Sooke Potholes Regional Park is a great starting point for a trip by bicycle or on foot on the [Galloping Goose Regional Trail](#). Travel south toward [Roche Cove Regional Park](#), or through wilderness scenery all the way to the end of the trail.

## Camping

The Land Conservancy of BC runs a tent and RV campground adjacent to Sooke Potholes Regional Park from May to September.

- [Land Conservancy of BC](#)

## Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt

The park is near the south-west corner of the [Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt Regional Park Reserve](#), a corridor of protected green space linking Saanich Inlet in the east to Juan de Fuca Strait in the west. The Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt separates the developed urban area of the Capital Region from tracts of forest land to the west.

## How to Get to Sooke Potholes

Follow the Trans-Canada Highway from Victoria, and take the Millstream Road exit (Exit 14) to Sooke. Follow Veterans Memorial Parkway, then turn right on Sooke Road. Turn right on Sooke River Road and follow the signs. Allow approximately 45 minutes driving time from Victoria.

- [Map to Sooke Potholes Regional Park \(PDF\)](#)
- [Directions to parking lot](#)

## Public Transportation

Take BC Transit #61 from Victoria to Sooke River Road (ask the driver to let you off as close as possible), then a several kilometre hike along Sooke River Road. Contact BC Transit for schedule information.

# Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park



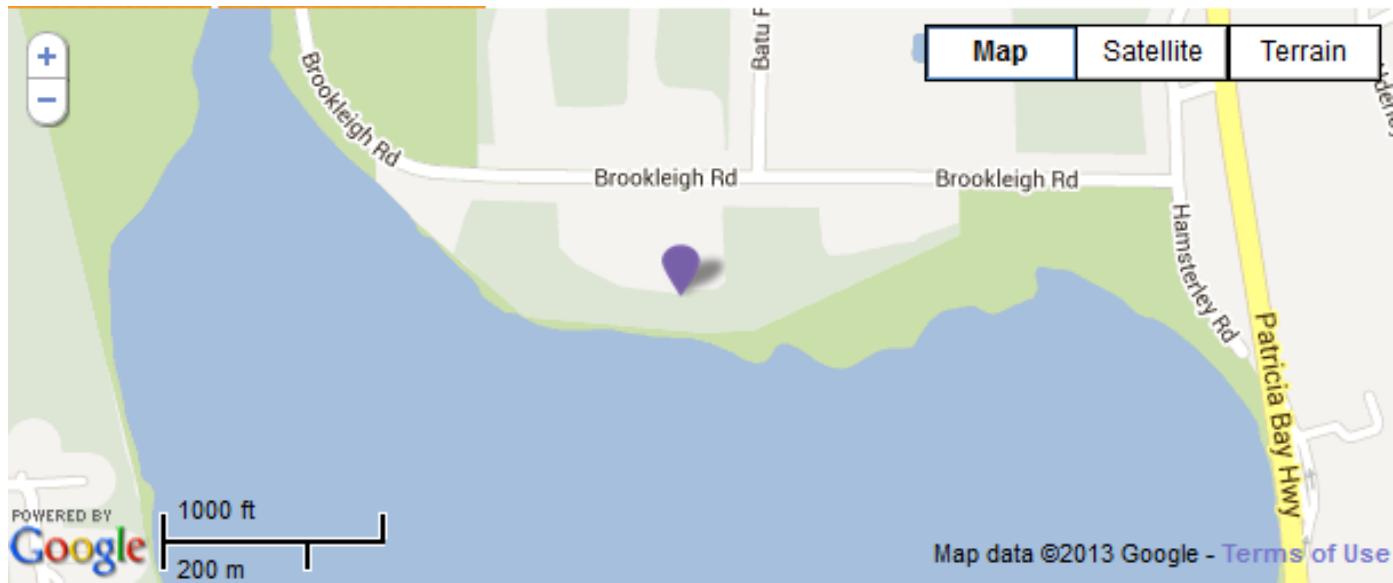
Patricia Bay Highway

Victoria, BC X

[Visit Website](#)

## Details

Elk Lake and Beaver Lake are conjoined lakes that boast four fantastic family friendly beaches. The lakes include picnic grounds, 15 kilometers of walking trails, birdwatching, windsurfing, fishing, canoeing and rowing. There is a concession and restaurant open in the summer near the north end of Elk Lake where it is a very popular summer swimming spot for locals. Beaver lake is popular for family swimming during the summer. Elk Lake is the training area for Canada's Olympic Rowing team as well as host to several competitions each year for the local schools. Elk Lake has a boat rental and is stocked with fish each year





## Saanich's Gyro Park, Cadboro Bay

Sinclair Road  
Saanich, BC x

Cadboro Bay, legendary home of the "Cadborosaurus" sea serpent, is a partially protected bay with the kind of long, sandy beaches that make for sublime summer swimming, strolling and boating. The park has a replica of the legendary Cadborosaurus creature, said to be a relative of the Loch Ness Monster and living in the waters of Cadboro Bay. Caddy, as it is known, usually allows itself to be seen once or twice a year. Cadboro Bay's beaches are well-equipped for family outings with picnic facilities, public washrooms and a children's playground. Plenty of shade trees provide shelter on sizzling days.

