

EXPLORE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S
**National and
Provincial
Historic Sites**



Bringing History to Life

EXPLORE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITES

From the bustling streets of Vancouver to the rugged interior, British Columbia captivates visitors with its cosmopolitan charm, natural beauty and inspiring human history. As you explore the province, use this guide to help discover a history as powerful as the ocean waves that lash the province's west coast—ancient Aboriginal cultures, explorers and entrepreneurs who came to exploit its natural resources, the wealthy colonists who carved grand estates out of a vast wilderness. It is also a history of ordinary people from across the country and from around the world who came to British Columbia to find to gold, to settle the land, to work its industries, to make a life and build a province.

All of the National and Provincial Historic Sites of British Columbia described in this guide have been designated and preserved as places of outstanding significance to the history of Canada or British Columbia. Some are owned by Parks Canada, some by the Province of British Columbia and many more by local organizations. Some are major heritage attractions with a full range of visitor services demanding a day or more to fully experience. Others are more compact, revealing their secrets in less time.

Each one has its own story to tell and each one invites you to enter into a world where the past is brought to life. Take a stroll through Victoria's world famous gardens, listen to the tales of fur traders, watch First Nations' people carve totem poles, don your hard hat for a train ride deep into a copper mine and much, much more. Whether you live in British Columbia or are on vacation, you will discover that National and Provincial Historic Sites educate, inspire, and open your mind to the British Columbia's rich and colourful history.

Start your journey here...

National Historic Sites of Canada Pass (for Parks Canada sites only)

The National Historic Sites of Canada Pass gives unlimited admission to the 78 National Historic Sites across the country that are operated by Parks Canada. It does not apply to National Historic Sites owned and operated by other levels of government or other organizations.

Sites owned by Parks Canada are identified by the "Beaver" logo.



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Vancouver Island and Victoria

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Within sight of mainland British Columbia, Vancouver Island extends for 450 kilometres from north to south. Ocean and forests have shaped the island's history and these elements can be seen at work in the ancient First Nations village site on the rugged west coast, in a fishing boat that plied local waters many decades ago, and in an operating historic sawmill that harvested the lush, temperate

rain forest. Victoria, the provincial capital, is located on the island's southern tip. Nestled around a picturesque harbour, Victoria's rich history is entwined with the present with opportunities to explore sites linked to Victoria's early colonial period, its role as an important naval base and to visit some of Canada's grandest homes and most magnificent gardens.



CRAIGDARROCH CASTLE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Craigdarroch Castle was built in the 1890's by wealthy coal baron and politician, Robert Dunsmuir. Now open to the public as a museum, you can view exquisite stained glass, lavish Victorian furnishings, intricate woodwork, and experience the life and times of the very rich (and those who served them) at the end of the 19th century. On a self-guided tour, you explore the Castle up 87 stairs and four floors to the Tower for sweeping city views and a panorama that extends to the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. Restoration of the mansion is an on-going process and you may see craftspeople at work during your visit.

Craigdarroch Castle is open year-round. The Castle is an 8 -minute drive from downtown Victoria, some onsite parking is available. Public transit is also an option or you can walk from downtown Victoria to the Castle in 35 - 45 minutes.

Services: Self-guided tours, gift shop, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-592-5323
OR VISIT WWW.THECASTLE.CA.**



EMILY CARR HOUSE

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

One of Canada's best-known artists and authors, Emily Carr, was born in this typically upper-class Italianate home in 1871. She studied art in London and Paris before returning to British Columbia and spending most of her adult life drawing, painting, and writing about First Nations people and the surrounding wilderness. Carr's home has been graciously restored to depict the era in which she spent her childhood. Period artifacts include pottery and belongings crafted by Carr herself while outside the original gardens have been faithfully re-created. One room has been developed as the "People's Gallery," featuring works of Canadian artists, while another is dedicated to a gift shop featuring prints, cards and books by and about Emily Carr.

Emily Carr House is near Victoria's Inner Harbour at 207 Government Street. It is open daily mid-May through September

Services: interpretive tours, gift shop, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-383-5843
OR VISIT WWW.EMILYCARR.COM.**



ST. ANN'S ACADEMY

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

St. Ann's Academy is an enduring legacy of the role of women and Francophones in the history of British Columbia. Built in three sections between 1871 and 1910, it served as a school and convent for the Sisters of St. Ann, a Roman Catholic teaching and nursing order from Quebec. Follow the grand staircase to the historic interiors where temporary exhibits and a self-guided tour tell the story of school and convent life at St. Ann's. The highlight of the tour is the beautifully restored chapel that was built in 1858 as Victoria's first Catholic Cathedral and incorporated into the 1886 addition. The extensive grounds are open dawn to dusk and include heritage fruit trees, an arboretum with rare tree species and large grassy vistas ideal for a picnic

St. Ann's Academy is at 835 Humboldt St., three blocks back from Victoria's Inner Harbour. It is open daily mid-May to mid-September. Open Thursday through Sunday afternoons only the rest of the year

Services: self-guided tours, gift shop, washrooms, pay parking

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-953-8829
OR VISIT WWW.STANNSACADEMY.COM.**



POINT ELLICE HOUSE

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

Overlooking the Gorge Waterway, Point Ellice House is a beautiful Italianate home with fine Victorian gardens. The O'Reilly family bought the house in 1867 and lived there for three generations until 1975, when it was sold to the Government of British Columbia in acknowledgement of its unique qualities. The furnishings are the personal effects of the O'Reilly family and preserve a picture of life in Victoria in the period of 1890-1920. Follow a tour of the house with afternoon tea on the lawn overlooking the water, a game of croquet, or stroll the gardens which include many heritage varieties of flowers and vegetables.

Point Ellice House is open for visits mid-April through September and for special events over the Christmas period. A special way to travel to the site is by ferry, which leaves the Inner Harbour three times an hour. Point Ellice House is at 2616 Pleasant St., Victoria.

Services: interpretive tours, afternoon tea, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-380-6506
OR VISIT WWW.POINTELLICEHOUSE.CA.**



CRAIGFLOWER FARMHOUSE AND SCHOOL

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

Craigflower Farmhouse (1856), third oldest house in British Columbia, and Craigflower School (1855), oldest schoolhouse in Western Canada, represent the beginnings of pioneer settlement in the province. With beautiful restored interiors looking like the day the family moved in, Craigflower is preserved and presented by The Land Conservancy of British Columbia. Guided tours and living history programs feature hands-on activities for all ages. Experience Victorian school classes, lawn games, woodworking, and field-to-table presentations linking heritage wheats and vegetables with the Summer Kitchen.

Craigflower Farmhouse and School are located in the 2700 block of Admirals Road beside the Gorge Waterway. To get there from downtown Victoria, take Gorge Rd. off of Douglas Street. Open seven days a week from May through September. Tours and school programs are available by appointment during the rest of the year.

Services: interpretive tours, hands-on activities, food services, gift shop

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-386-1606 OR VISIT WWW.CRAIGFLOWER.CA.



ESQUIMALT NAVAL SITES

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Esquimalt served as a strategically important base for Britain's Royal Navy from 1865 until 1905, and since 1910 as a home to the Canadian Navy. This historic district comprises four areas: the Dockyard, the Royal Naval Hospital, the Royal Navy Cemetery, and Cole Island. CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum is housed within the former Naval Hospital buildings. The museum focuses on four distinct military groups that have made an impact on Canada's history and left a lasting heritage: the Canadian Navy, the Canadian Women's Army Corps, the Women's Royal Naval Service, and West Coast Defences.

CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum is on Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, west of downtown Victoria in the suburb of Naden. It is open weekdays only during Fall, Winter and Spring, and week-long during summer. As the museum is within a government facility, photo identification is required for entry.

Services: interpretive tours, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-363-4312 OR VISIT WWW.NAVALANDMILITARYMUSEUM.ORG.



FORT RODD HILL AND FIGGARD LIGHTHOUSE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



Built to defend the naval base at Esquimalt, Fort Rodd Hill is one of the world's best-preserved 1890s coast artillery forts. On an island, reached by a causeway from the fort, Figgard Lighthouse, built in 1860, is the oldest lighthouse on Canada's rugged west coast. The two sites are operated by Parks Canada, and between them allow visitors to explore underground magazine complexes, look down the barrels of century-old coast artillery guns, and enjoy spectacular views across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Olympic Mountains in Washington State. The light keeper's home has been converted to a museum complete with an audiovisual programme and displays of original lighthouse lenses.

Fort Rodd Hill is located off Ocean Blvd. 14 kilometres west of downtown Victoria. Both sites are open year-round.

Services: self-guided tours, picnic tables, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-478-5849 OR VISIT WWW.PC.GC.CA/FORTRODDHILL



HATLEY PARK

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Hatley Park is considered one of Canada's finest examples of an Edwardian estate and as such was designated a National Historic Site in 1995. Situated near the Pacific Ocean on the western outskirts of Victoria, the 230-hectare property reflects the richness and diversity of British Columbia. At the heart of the estate is majestic Hatley Castle, a 40-room mansion built in 1908 by James Dunsmuir, wealthy industrialist and former Premier and Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. The Dunsmuir family eventually sold the estate to the Government of Canada, who from 1940 to 1995 used the facility as a military training college. In 1995 the estate was leased to the Government of British Columbia to become the campus for Royal Roads University.

Hatley Park is at 2005 Sooke Rd., 20 minutes west of downtown Victoria. It is open daily year-round.

Services: interpretive tours, mystery dinner theatre events, Geocache adventures, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL TOLL-FREE 866-241-0674 OR VISIT WWW.HATLEYPARK.CA.



THE BUTCHART GARDENS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

The Butchart Gardens was established in an abandoned quarry in the early 1900s and has grown into a one of the world's premier gardens. The lushness and variety of the gardens continue to wow visitors. The Sunken Garden, which was developed from an old quarry, uses a Victorian-era bedding-out system for plant materials and its formal garden layout typical of early 20th century Edwardian estates. Other gardens include the Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, Italian Garden and Mediterranean Garden. Events throughout the year are seasonally themed, including fireworks in summer and skating and Christmas lighting in winter. On its 100th anniversary in 2004, The Butchart Gardens was designated a National Historic Site for its significant influence on Canadian gardening.

The Butchart Gardens is north of Victoria at 800 Benvenuto Ave., Brentwood Bay. It is open daily from 9 a.m. throughout the year, with extended hours until 10 p.m. in summer.

Services: walking tours, cafes and restaurants, gift shop, garden shop, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 866-652-4422
OR VISIT WWW.BUTCHARTGARDENS.COM**



McLEAN MILL

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Witness history in action at McLean Mill, Canada's only operational steam-powered sawmill. Demonstrations showing how lumber was cut in the first half of last century are the main attraction, but the mill is also home to a small community of buildings carved out of the forest, including a bunkhouse, cookhouse, and blacksmith shop. The Tin Pants Theatre Troupe brings the buildings to life, and also performs in the outdoor Nikkei Theatre. Although accessible by road, it's more enjoyable to arrive at the mill by steam train from Port Alberni.

McLean Mill is at 5633 Smith Rd., Port Alberni. The site is open June to September, with the interpretive program and steam train ride offered late June through early September only.

Services: visitor centre, gift shop, café, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-723-1376
OR VISIT WWW.ALBERNIHERITAGE.COM**



MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE MOTOR VESSEL BCP 45

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Campbell River's Maritime Heritage Centre is anchored by BCP 45, a restored wooden fishing boat known as a "seiner" for her seine fishing nets. Built in Vancouver in 1927, she was used for 68 years to fish salmon by seine, troll, gillnet, and beam trawl for bottom fishing and tow-off for winter herring. She rose to fame in 1958 when a photograph of her during the sockeye season near Ripple Point appeared on the cover of the Toronto Star's Sunday Magazine. The Canadian mint then used the image on the Canadian five-dollar bill from 1972 to 1986. Now restored and open for public inspection, visitors can walk her decks, explore her cabins and wheelhouse, and learn about her colourful history on a guided walking tour.

The Maritime Heritage Centre is at 621 Island Highway, Campbell River. It is open year-round.

Services: guided tours, gift shop, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-286-3161
OR VISIT WWW.BCP45.ORG**



YUQUOT

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

A First Nations village on the remote northwestern coast of Vancouver Island, Yuquot has been the centre of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht world for thousands of years. In 1778 Captain James Cook was the first European to visit what is now British Columbia, and in 1789 the Spanish established a small fort, the only Spanish settlement in what became Canada. Come and begin to understand why Yuquot (Friendly Cove) has such special meaning to the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. Join one of our knowledgeable guides for a guided tour which includes the location of the old Spanish fort, the historic graveyard, the church which has been converted into a museum and hear the stories and legends of our ancestors.

The easiest way to reach Yuquot is aboard the MV Uchuck III which departs Gold River, west of Campbell River, on Wednesdays and Saturdays through summer. Yuquot has six small cabins for extended stays or hike the famous Nootka trail. Call (250) 283-2015 for cabin reservations or visit www.yuquot.ca.

Services: interpretive tours, accommodations, washrooms

**FOR THE SAILING SCHEDULE ON THE MV UCHUCK III CALL
250-283-2325 OR VISIT WWW.MVUCHUCK.COM**

Vancouver and the Fraser Valley



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Discover nine totally different history adventures in and around Vancouver. Ranging from a 9,000-year-old First Nations village to a restored salmon cannery, these National Historic Sites are all in Vancouver or within day-tripping distance of the city. Visiting each attraction can be combined with shopping,

dining, and other attractions — the Gulf of Georgia Cannery is beside a boardwalk lined with casual seafood restaurants, Fort Langley is within walking distance of an inviting boulevard of cafes and boutiques, and Kilby Historic Site offers swimming and water sports at an adjacent beach.



VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM ST. ROCH

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Contained within the Vancouver Maritime Museum, *St. Roch* is a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) schooner celebrated as the second vessel to successfully negotiate the ice-choked Northwest Passage. It was also the first vessel to traverse the Northwest Passage in both directions and to circumnavigate North America. Launched in 1928, *St. Roch* was designed as a floating RCMP detachment, but also served as a supply vessel for remote Arctic RCMP outposts. Museum highlights include exhibits showcasing the rich maritime traditions of the Pacific Coast, the hands-on Children's Maritime Discovery Centre and historic and classic vessels in Heritage Harbour.

The Vancouver Maritime Museum is at 1905 Ogden Avenue in Vanier Park. It's open daily in summer and closed Mondays in winter.

Services: gift shop, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-257-8300
OR VISIT WWW.VANCOUVERMARITIMEMUSEUM.COM.**



GULF OF GEORGIA CANNERY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

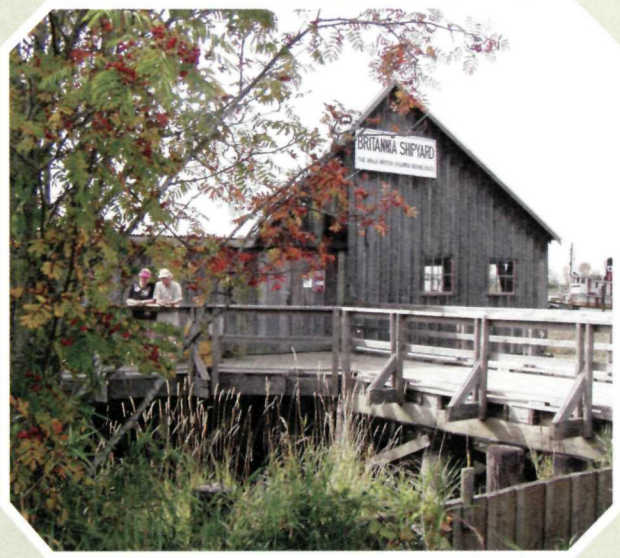
Situated atop wooden pilings over the mighty Fraser River, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery is one of the few remaining 19th century salmon canneries along the Pacific Coast. In its heyday, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery was the largest building of its kind and the leading producer of canned salmon in British Columbia. Now a dynamic fishing museum, step inside the massive wooden waterfront building and become immersed in the sights, sounds, and stories of the Pacific coast fishing industry. Audio-visually, interactive exhibits, and working machinery enhance the experience.

The Gulf of Georgia Cannery is south of downtown Vancouver at 12138 Fourth Ave., Richmond. It's open daily May to early October.

Services: gift shop, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-664-9009
OR VISIT WWW.PC.GC.CA/LHN-NHS/BC/GEORGIA.**





BRITANNIA HERITAGE SHIPYARD
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

The Britannia Heritage Shipyard is an authentic representation of a once thriving community of canneries, boatyards, residences and stores. The City of Richmond staff and volunteers work together to preserve and restore the shipyard and surrounding buildings as an active wooden boat centre and waterfront park. Tour the oldest shipyard buildings in British Columbia, and observe ongoing boat restoration projects as you experience a bygone time when fishing and boatbuilding were flourishing industries on the Fraser River.

Britannia Heritage Shipyard is south of downtown Vancouver at 5180 Westwater Dr., Steveston. The site is open May to September Tuesday to Sunday, weekends only the rest of the year.

Services: free parking, tours, special events and programs, picnic area, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-718-8050 OR VISIT WWW.RICHMOND.CA/BRITANNIA.



BC MUSEUM OF MINING
BRITANNIA MINES CONCENTRATOR
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

In the shadow of the 1923 Mill building you gaze at the sparkling aquamarine water of Howe Sound. Then the clanging bell from the train signals that it's time put on your hardhat and "climb aboard" for a thrilling ride into an authentic copper mine tunnel. This is a once in a lifetime experience for the senses and your heart races as you see, touch and experience the life of a miner from historic times. And don't forget, "thar's gold in them thar hills", so grab your pan and stake your fortune!

The British Columbia Museum of Mining is at Britannia Beach, on Highway 99, 50 km north of Vancouver. It's open daily April to mid October, weekdays only the rest of the year.

Services: visitor centre, interpretive tours, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 800-896-4044 OR VISIT WWW.BCMUSEUMOFMINING.ORG.



FORT LANGLEY
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



Long before Vancouver existed, before the railway, there was Fort Langley. Established in 1827 on the Fraser River, it was once the hub of trade in British Columbia and part of a network of trading posts scattered throughout western Canada. Costumed interpreters bring to life the history of the early traders providing a realistic glimpse of life at a trading post over 150 years ago. Watch a blacksmith bend steel, enter the Storehouse- one of BC's oldest buildings, help a cooper shape a barrel, and step in the Big House, where British Columbia was proclaimed a British colony in 1858.

This National Historic Site is in the village of Fort Langley. To get there, take Exit 232 from the Trans-Canada Highway. Open daily year-round (except Christmas and New Years)

Services: visitor centre, interpretive tours, demonstrations, gift shop, picnic area, seasonal cafe, washrooms, wheelchair accessible, free parking

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-513-4777 OR VISIT WWW.PC.GC.CA/FORTLANGLEY.



POWER HOUSE AT STAVE FALLS
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Through the early 1900s, in response to an ever-increasing demand for electricity, hydroelectric plants were constructed across Canada. One of these was at Stave Falls, which was unique in that the electricity was transmitted all the way to Vancouver rather than used to power nearby towns. After a new plant began operation in 2000, the original power house was converted to a visitor centre. The original generators and turbines can be viewed in the Generator Hall; interactive exhibits in another room unravel the mysteries of electricity and the High Tension Room offers displays telling the story of Stave Falls and its role in the development of hydroelectric technologies.

The Power House at Stave Falls is west of Vancouver at 31338 Dewdney Trunk Rd., Mission. Please check our website for self-guided tour hours.

Services: visitor centre, self-guided tours, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-462-1222 OR VISIT WWW.BCHYDRO.COM/STAVEFALLS.



XÁ:YTEM

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Xá:ytem is a 9,000-year-old Aboriginal village site that features a sacred transformer stone and “British Columbia’s oldest house” at 6,000 years old. Xá:ytem is a living culture older than the pyramids and Stonehenge. It is a place of culture and sharing that welcomes visitors to learn, interact, and experience Sto:lo (“People of the River”) history, culture, archaeology and spirituality. Visitors can view the traditional cedar plank longhouse, an artisan centre, and two circular underground timber-lined dwellings known as pit houses, while also having the chance to attend workshops such as basket-making, drumming, and Salish weaving.

Xá:ytem is east of Vancouver at 35087 Lougheed Hwy., Mission. It is open Monday to Saturday in summer and Tuesday to Saturday the rest of the year.

Services: interpretive tours, workshops, gift shop, washrooms, picnic area

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-820-9725
OR VISIT WWW.XAYTEM.CA**



KILBY HISTORIC SITE

PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

Near the junction of the Harrison and Fraser Rivers, the General Store Museum stands as a reminder of the once thriving community of Harrison Mills, which revolved around a bustling general store operated by the Kilby family for many decades. Relive the rural 1920s chatting to costumed interpreters as you stroll through the store, peer into the re-created living quarters out back, and climb a narrow staircase to the simple upstairs hotel rooms. Enhancing the experience is a two-hectare working farm filled with friendly animals, an orchard, a playground, and an adjacent beach with swimming and boating. The restaurant menu is filled with hearty old-style cooking, but be sure to save room for a slice of delicious fruit pie.

Kilby Historic Site is east of Mission at 215 Kilby Rd., Harrison Mills. It’s open daily in summer, Thursday through Monday only in spring and early fall.

Services: camping, boat launch, restaurant, country-style gift shop, washrooms, picnic area

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-796-9576
OR VISIT WWW.KILBY.CA**



HISTORIC YALE

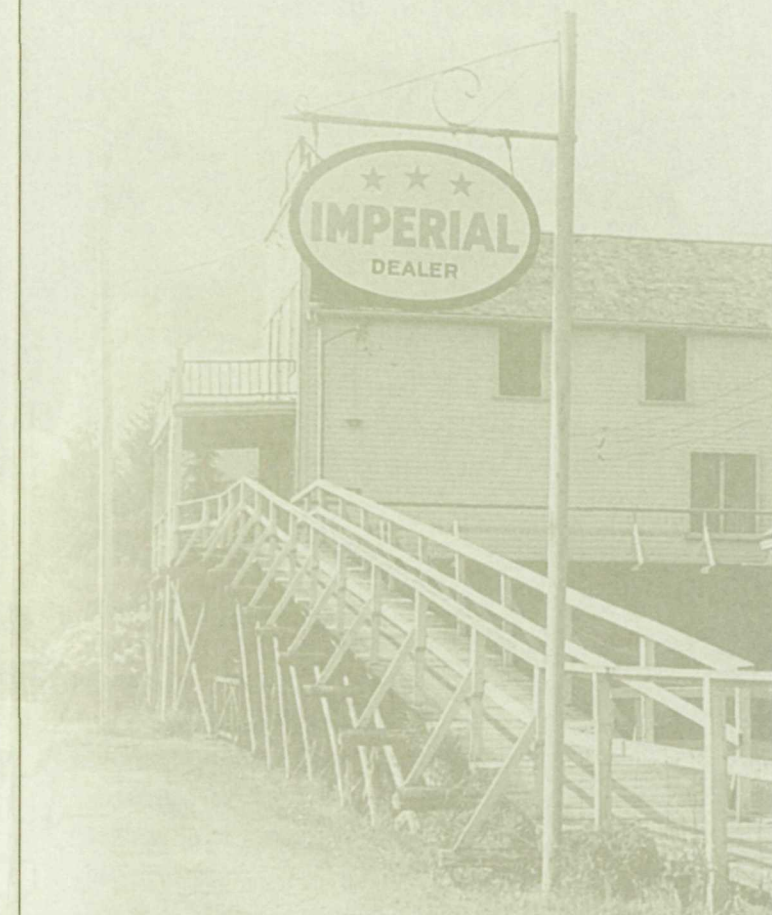
PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

The 1858 gold rush spurred development of Yale, now a quiet town along the banks of the fast-flowing Fraser River. The town is dotted with historic gold-rush era buildings and plaques detailing the area’s history. A good starting point for exploring the town is the Yale Historic Site. The museum, contained in an 1870s home, relates the role Yale played in the development of British Columbia. Also on site is the 1863 St. John the Divine Anglican Church, British Columbia’s second oldest church. Costumed interpreters will guide you through the site. The site also offers self-guided or guided tours of the town, or you can round out the experience by panning for gold down by the river.

Historic Yale is along Hwy. 1, a short drive north of Hope. The site is open from mid-April to mid-October, although the town itself can be visited year-round.

Services: interpretive tours, gift shop, washrooms, picnic area

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 604-863-2324
OR VISIT WWW.HISTORICYALE.CA**



Southern Interior



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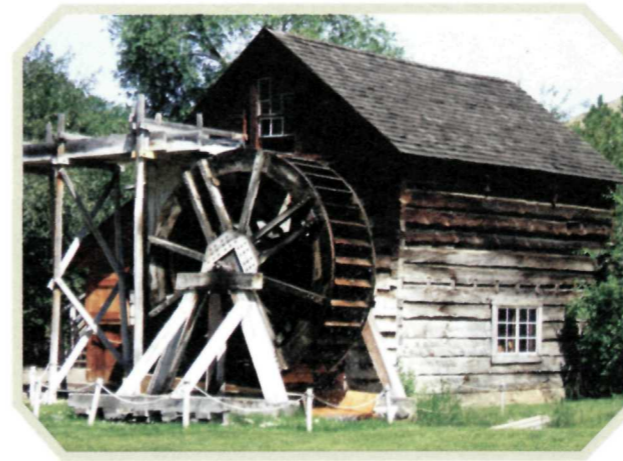
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Fort Steele, Fort Steele



KEREMEOS GRIST MILL

PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

Experience the sights and sounds of an authentic water-powered flourmill dating to 1877. The last remaining such mill in British Columbia, it has been restored to working order, while the adjacent historic general store is filled with interesting exhibits showing how local families pioneered the Similkameen Valley and the determined effort required to restore the mill. History aside, the mill is in a delightfully bucolic setting, enhanced further by well-manicured gardens and an orchard planted with the same species recorded as being present over a century ago. Adding to the charm even more are friendly interpreters dressed in period costume. In the tearoom, you can order baked treats created with flour ground at the mill from wheat harvested from an adjacent field.

Keremeos Grist Mill is at 2691 Upper Bench Rd., Keremeos. It's open daily April to October.

Services: walking tours, gift shop, cafe, camping, washrooms, picnic area

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-499-2888.



ROGERS PASS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



Major Albert Bowman Rogers first sighted the mountain pass that bears his name in 1881. Located at the heart of the Selkirks in Glacier National Park, Rogers Pass eliminated the last barrier to completion of the trans-continental Canadian Pacific Railway four years later. Today, the abandoned railway line winds over the pass and encircles three campgrounds, with six kilometres of the original rail bed converted to walking trails. The Rogers Pass Discovery Centre at the summit presents the natural and human history of the area.

Rogers Pass National Historic Site is located along the Trans-Canada Hwy between Revelstoke and Golden. The Rogers Pass Discovery Centre is open year-round, except for mid-October to mid-November. Walking trails are usually snow-free from late June to late September and interpretive programs are offered in July and August. Ski-touring opportunities abound within the site from December to April.

Services: visitor centre, self-guided trails, interpretive program, gift shop, camping, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-837-7500 OR VISIT WWW.PC.GC.CA/BC/ROGERS.

The southern interior of British Columbia is a wild and rugged landscape of mountains and lakes where the first Europeans arrived looking for gold in the mid-1800s. While most of the boomtowns from this era have slipped into oblivion, others live on: some as thriving towns and others as heritage attractions such as Fort Steele Heritage Town. Traveling through the region, you'll also

have the chance to discover the preserved homes and industry of early settlers, step aboard a grand old sternwheeler, and walk along an abandoned rail bed that was a vital link in Canada's transportation network. Not all history is to be celebrated; visit an internment camp and learn the about forced relocation 22,000 Japanese Canadians during World War II.



NIKKEI INTERNMENT MEMORIAL CENTRE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Of the many internment camps once scattered across the province, the Orchard camp in New Denver is the only one that has been preserved. The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre tells the story of over 20,000 Japanese-Canadians who were stripped of their civil rights, labelled “enemy aliens,” and uprooted from their homes during World War II. While other internment camps were closed at the end of the war, the Orchard camp remained open, holding internees until 1957. The site today holds five original buildings, containing period artifacts and interpretive displays. The serene Heiwa Teien garden, laid out by a Japanese master gardener, honours the Japanese-Canadian citizens resettled during the war period.

Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre is at 306 Josephine St., New Denver. It's open late May through early September.

Services: self-guided tours, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE 250-358-7288 OR VISIT WWW.NEWDENVER.CA/NIKKEI



SS MOYIE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

The *SS Moyie*, the world's oldest intact passenger sternwheeler, was also the last operating vessel of her kind in western North America. For nearly 60 years, until retirement in 1957, this grand vessel provided a transportation lifeline to the isolated communities around Kootenay Lake. Now permanently berthed on the shoreline of Kootenay Lake in the picturesque village of Kaslo, the *SS Moyie* has been beautifully restored and is open for a visit. It offers elegant Victorian décor, historic artifacts, realistic displays, and sound effects that include the ship's original whistle. Step on board and look closely, history will unfold before your eyes.

The *SS Moyie* is at 324 Front St., Kaslo. It's open daily May to October.

Services: visitor centre, self-guided tours, interpreters, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-353-2525 OR VISIT WWW.KLHS.BC.CA



FORT STEELE

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

The site of several gold rushes in the later half of the 1800s, Fort Steele is a time capsule of the settlement and changing fortunes of a pioneer community in nineteenth century British Columbia. It comprises over 60 restored, reconstructed, fully-furnished buildings, including log barracks, hotels, a courthouse, jail, museum, dentist's office, ferry office, printing office, and a general store crammed to the rafters with intriguing historical artifacts. The town is brought to life by interpreters working as blacksmiths, carpenters, politicians, weavers, gardeners, photographers, and many others. Ride a steam train, heckle a politician, view a silent movie in the old-time theatre, and even pan for gold. Street vignettes and a live theatre show, performed by the Wildhorse Theatre Troupe, are offered throughout the summer season.

Fort Steele Heritage Town is north of Cranbrook at 9851 Hwy. 93/95. The grounds are open year-round although the interpretive program runs early May to early October.

Services: visitor centre, self-guided tours, guided tours, restaurants and cafes, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-417-6000 OR VISIT WWW.FORTSTEELE.CA



Cariboo Chilcotin Coast



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Barkerville Historic Town,
Barkerville

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Cottonwood House, Quesnel

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Historic Hat Creek Ranch,
Cache Creek

Leave city life behind as you trek north to the Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast region, which extends from a remote stretch of the Pacific Ocean to a high plateau that has been prime ranching country for over a century. The region's human history is dominated by one of Canada's biggest gold rushes, when over 100,000 miners and fortune seekers travelled along the Cariboo Wagon Road

from Hastings Mill (the site of present day Vancouver) in search of their fortune. This era comes alive at Barkerville, a restored gold rush town, and at Hat Creek and Cottonwood Ranches, which thrived as stopping points along the long route north. Each of the three sites offers plenty to see and do and wonderfully scenic settings in which to simply relax and soak up the past.

Photo courtesy of Studio Grandell



BARKERVILLE HISTORIC TOWN PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

After Billy Barker struck gold in 1862, thousands of goldseekers descended on what quickly became known as Barkerville. At its peak, the rough and tumble town was home to 10,000 people, but fortunes eventually faded and by the 1920s it had been all but abandoned. Today, over 130 buildings have been restored or re-created, with costumed interpreters helping to bring the Cariboo Gold Rush back to life. Enjoy Theatre Royal and its new shows each summer, try your hand at panning and be rewarded by the glitter of real gold, and when you get hungry saunter in to one of many gold-rush themed restaurants. For a truly unique experience, book a room at one of Barkerville's historic bed and breakfasts.

Barkerville is 88 kilometres east of Quesnel. The grounds are open year-round, although most attractions only open from mid-May to the end of September.

Services: visitor centre, guided tours, bed and breakfast accommodations and camping, restaurants, gift shops, picnic area, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 888-994-3332
OR VISIT WWW.BARKERVILLE.CA.**



COTTONWOOD HOUSE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

Built in 1864 to serve travelers on the Cariboo Wagon Road, Cottonwood House is one of the oldest buildings still standing in British Columbia's interior. Walk the original Cariboo Wagon Road and wander through the roadhouse that once served weary guests such as infamous Judge Begbie and poet Pauline Johnson. Activities include farm animals, traditional games such as horseshoes, walking trails along the Cottonwood River, and wagon rides. Lunch is served in the restored General Store, with the most sought after tables set along the veranda. The gift shop is notable for its locally made wood products.

Cottonwood House is east of Quesnel, along the road to Barkerville. It's open mid-May to early September.

Services: cabin accommodations and camping, restaurant, gift shop, picnic area, washrooms

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-992-2071
OR VISIT WWW.COTTONWOODHOUSE.CA.**



HISTORIC HAT CREEK RANCH

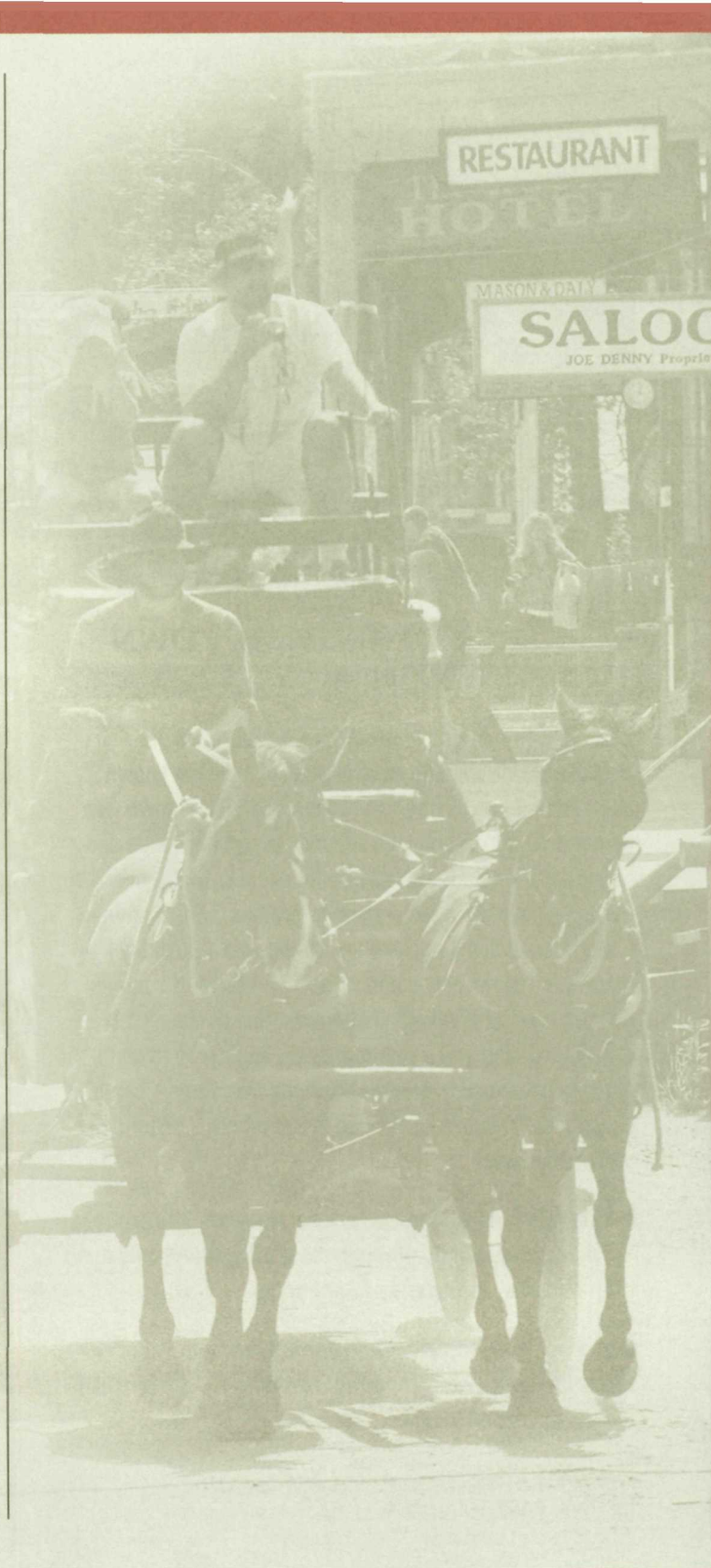
PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

Step back in time to the 1860s at Historic Hat Creek Ranch, set on one of the few remaining publicly accessible stretches of the Cariboo Wagon Road. Established as a stopping point for miners, pack-train operators, stagecoaches, and wagon trains heading to the Cariboo goldfields, many original buildings remain, including the roadhouse. Visitors can jump aboard a stagecoach, wander through the orchard, and even stay overnight in a teepee. A path along the banks of Hat Creek leads to a re-created Shuswap village that includes an authentic Kekuli (winter pit house). Here you will learn about the enduring presence of the Shuswap people and their contribution to the ranching industry.

Historic Hat Creek Ranch is at the junction of Highways 97 and 99, north from Cache Creek. It's open May to September.

Services: guided tours, demonstrations, stagecoach rides, accommodations, RV sites and camping, food services, gift shop, picnic area, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 800-782-0922 OR VISIT WWW.HATCREEKRANCH.COM.



Northern British Columbia



The Yellowhead Highway (Highway 16) crosses the rugged landscape of Northern British Columbia linking Jasper, Alberta to the Queen Charlotte Islands. The route is famous for its unspoiled natural beauty and for those willing to stop and explore, it is also steeped with history. The colour of the fur trade is brought to life at Fort St. James while

the best preserved of many coastal salmon canneries welcomes visitors near Prince Rupert. The thread of First Nations history weaves its way through all these sites, from the ancient coastal villages sites of the Haida and Tsimshian to the vital role that First Nations have played in the history of the fur trade and fishing industry.

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SGang Gwaay, K'uuna Llnagaay, T'aanuu Llnagaay, Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site	
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Haida Heritage Centre, Skidegate	
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**SGANG GWAAY (NAN SDINS),
K'UUNA LLNAGAAY (SKEDANS),
T'AANUU LLNAGAAY**

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



Located in Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, these three remote sites are the best examples of a traditional Northwest Coast First Nations village. Adventurous visitors will find ancient standing totem poles and the remains of longhouses enshrouded in lush rainforest that is slowly encroaching on these timeless sites. Protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, SGang Gwaay (Anthony Island) is best known. Set behind a sheltered cove, it features over two-dozen massive, weathered mortuary poles, carved with the crests of the families who lived there over 100 years ago.

The village sites are accessible by boat or floatplane from Queen Charlotte City and Sandspit, which are both on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Visitors will be met by a Haida Gwaii Watchman, who lives at the site during the summer and acts as guardian to these places of great spiritual value.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LIST OF LICENSED TOUR OPERATORS, CALL 250-559-8818 OR VISIT WWW.PC.GC.CA/GWAIHAANAS.



**Haida Heritage Centre
KAAY LLNAGAAY**

The Haida Heritage Centre, at the old Haida village site of Kaay Llnagaay (which translates to "Sea Lion Town"), showcases the unique living culture, art, and 12,000-year human history of the Haida. Fronted by six imposing totem poles, the oceanfront complex resembles a series of longhouses. It includes the Haida Gwaii Museum with extensive exhibits and audio-visuais, a gift shop, the canoe house, carving shed, and performing house. For the full effect, dine on Haida-style food at the café. For those who are unable to visit the remote villages sites, an orientation to their history and importance to the Haida are given at the Centre.

The Haida Heritage Centre is in the village of Skidegate, on the Queen Charlotte Islands. It is open daily in summer, Tuesday to Saturday the rest of the year.

Services: exhibits, self-guided and group interpretive tours, food services, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-559-7885 OR VISIT WWW.HAIDAHERITAGECENTRE.COM.



**NORTH PACIFIC CANNERY
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA**

Known today as the North Pacific Historic Fishing Village, this historic site protects the oldest surviving salmon cannery village along British Columbia's coast. Established in 1889, this cannery was typical of those in remote locations in that it provided accommodation through the summer canning season. Little has changed since the plant closed in the late 1960s. Almost 30 buildings linked by wooden boardwalks are open for inspection. You'll see a working canning line, primitive living quarters, a company store, and a model railway, while live theatre adds colour to the fish-filled experience.

North Pacific Cannery is open mid-May through September. It is near Port Edward, 20 km southeast of Prince Rupert.

Services: interpretive tours, visitor centre, cafe, accommodations, gift shop, washrooms

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-628-3538 OR VISIT WWW.DISTRICT.PORTEWARD.BC.CA.



**PIKE ISLAND (LAXSPA'AW)
METLAKATLA PASS**

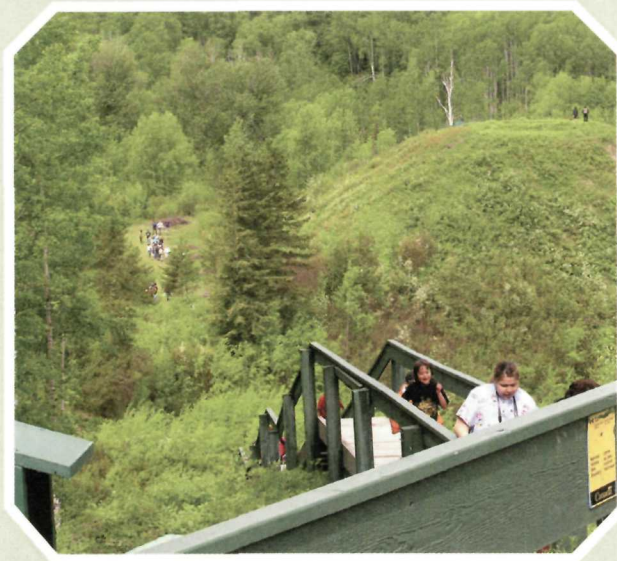
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

A tiny, pristine island cloaked in lush coastal rainforest, Pike Island (Laxspa'aw) provided a home to the Tsimshian people for 10,000 continuous years. Walking trails lead to five significant archaeological sites and the re-creation of a cedar longhouse. Approximately 200 Petroglyphs (rock carvings) dot the coastline. The most interesting way to learn about the site is by joining a tour. After a short boat ride, a Tsimshian guide will lead your group around the island, sharing knowledge of traditional plants and food gathering practices, while discussing the traditional Tsimshian culture.

Island tours are operated through the summer months by Seashore Charters from Prince Rupert.

Services: interpretive tours

FOR DETAILS CALL 250-624-5645 OR VISIT WWW.SEASHORECHARTERS.COM.



GITWANGAK BATTLE HILL

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



Gitwangak Battle Hill was a fortified village occupied during the late 1700s and early 1800s by the Gitwangak First Nation. Strategically located on a hill above the Kitwanga River, the lofty stronghold was encircled by spiked logs designed to roll onto approaching enemies. The village's most feared warrior was Chief 'Nekt, who ruled over a network of lucrative trading trails. Although the village itself was destroyed by fire over a century ago, a short trail dotted with interpretive panels leads to the lofty site. Totem poles in the nearby village of Gitwangak relate the significance of the site.

Gitwangak Battle Hill is along Kitwanga Road North, off the Cassiar Highway (Highway 37) 90 km east of Terrace.

Services: interpretive boards



FORT ST. JAMES

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



Costumed interpreters and Canada's largest collection of original fur-trade buildings combine to allow visitors to immerse themselves in the past at Fort St. James. Established in 1806 as a fur trading post, Fort St. James functioned for a time as the capital of a vast region known as New Caledonia. The Visitor Reception Centre is filled with displays explaining the relationship between fur traders and the indigenous Carrier people while a documentary chronicles the site's ambitious restoration. But the highlight is outside, wandering through the lakefront log buildings and interacting with the interpreters.

Fort St. James is open daily from mid-May to the end of September. It is north of Hwy. 16, 164 km from Prince George.

Services: interpretive tours, visitor centre, café, gift shop, washrooms, picnic area

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 250-996-7191
OR VISIT WWW.PC.GC.CA/FORTSTJAMES.**

COMMEMORATING CANADA'S HISTORY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Parks Canada is responsible for the federal government's program of historical commemoration, which recognizes nationally significant places, persons and events. In British Columbia 87 sites, 33 persons and 30 events have been designated by the Minister of the Environment on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monument Board. This guide has

introduced you to the 32 National Historic Sites that are heritage attractions but there many more to see. Many continue in their original function – as an important public building, a grand hotel or the oldest Sikh Temple in North America. Each one is unique with its own compelling story to tell.

To find out more about the National Historic Sites of Canada visit Parks Canada's website at www.pc.gc.ca.

VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND

223 Robert Street, Victoria,
Bay Street Drill Hall, Victoria
Begbie Hall, Victoria
Chinatown, Victoria
Chinese Cemetery at Harling Point, Oak Bay
Church of Our Lord, Victoria
Congregation Emanu-el Temple, Victoria
Empress Hotel, Victoria
Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Roundhouse, Victoria
Estate of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Victoria
Former Victoria Law Courts, Victoria
Fort Victoria, Victoria
Kiix'in Village and Fortress, Bamfield
Malahat Building / Old Victoria Custom House, Victoria
Rogers Building, Victoria
Royal Theatre, Victoria
Pemberton Memorial Operating Room, Victoria
St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Victoria
Victoria City Hall, Victoria
Weir's (Taylor's) Beach Earthworks Site, Metchosin
Whaler's Shrine Site, Yuquot.

VANCOUVER AND THE LOWER MAINLAND

Abbotsford Sikh Temple, Abbotsford
Binning Residence, West Vancouver
Brilliant Suspension Bridge, Castlegar
Chilliwack City Hall, Chilliwack
Christ Church, Hope
Church of the Holy Cross, Skookumchuck Reserve
Former Vancouver Law Courts, Vancouver
Fort Alexandria, Alexandria
Fort Hope, Hope
Lions Gate Bridge, Vancouver
Marpole Midden, Vancouver
Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver
Point Atkinson Lighthouse, West Vancouver
Powell River Townsite Historic District, Powell River
Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Church, North Vancouver
Stanley Park, Vancouver
Vogue Theatre, Vancouver

Empress Hotel NHSC



Abbotsford Sikh Temple NHSC



SOUTHERN INTERIOR

Boat Encampment, Warsaw Mountain, Red Rock Bay
Fort Kamloops, Kamloops
Kaslo Municipal Hall, Kaslo
Kicking Horse Pass, Yoho National Park
Kootenae House, Invermere
Myra Canyon Section of the Kettle Valley Railway, Myra
Rossland Court House, Rossland
Twin Falls Tea House, Yoho National Park

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Chilkoot Trail, Chilkoot
Fort St. John, Taylor
Fort McLeod, McLeod Lake
Kitselas Canyon, Kitselas
Kitwanga Totem Poles, Kitwanga
Kitwankul, Kitwankul
Kiusta Village, Kiusta (Queen Charlotte Islands)
Triple Island Lighthouse, Triple Island
Yan Village, Yan (Queen Charlotte Islands)



Canada's
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux
du Canada



This booklet has been produced by the Alliance of British Columbia National Historic Sites and Parks Canada.