



A POCKET GUIDE FOR EXPLORERS

BRITISH COLUMBIA



tourisme-cb.com



How to use this guide?

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This guide is an updated version of the previous edition, published in 2019. We designed this guide to help you explore Francophone British Columbia easily and enjoyably:

Discover British Columbia

An overview of the province and its rich cultural heritage.

Must-sees & recommended itineraries

Our top recommendations to make the most of your trip.

National parks & events

Outdoor activity ideas and a calendar of key events.

Region by region

A detailed tour of the six major regions, featuring Francophone experiences and locations.

Looking for more? Find the full list of Francophone tourism businesses and our detailed travel itineraries at tourisme-cb.com!

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Important note to readers

The businesses and destinations featured in this guide were selected independently, with no financial compensation or incentives in exchange for their mention. Our goal is to showcase the richness of Francophone tourism in British Columbia with complete impartiality.

With over 300 Francophone tourism businesses in the province, it was impossible to include them all in this guide. However, you can find the full list, along with all our travel itineraries, on our website: tourisme-cb.com.

We have carefully verified the accuracy of the information in this guide at the time of publication. However, changes may occur (e.g., hours of operation, prices, contact details). We recommend checking directly with the establishments before your visit.

Enjoy discovering Francophone British Columbia!

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Welcome to British Columbia

From the Pacific Ocean to the peaks of the Rockies, British Columbia is a land of adventure, culture, and diversity. Whether you're drawn to its wild nature, local gastronomy, or fascinating history, this guide will accompany you every step of the way.

Bienvenue en Colombie-Britannique, along with its website and Instagram, is an initiative by the **Société de Développement Économique de la Colombie-Britannique**, designed to help you explore the province while enjoying French-language services and experiences. Accommodations, restaurants, activities, and Francophone events—immerse yourself in the vibrant Francophone community of B.C. and discover a province where nature and culture blend seamlessly.

Whether you're planning a short getaway or a grand adventure, let yourself be inspired by our itineraries, recommendations, and must-sees. And for even more discoveries, visit **tourisme-cb.com!**

Safe travels and happy exploring!



bienvenue.en.cb

NATIONAL PARKS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: Natural treasures to explore

Discover British Columbia's seven must-visit national parks, each offering a unique experience in the heart of nature:

1. Yoho national park

Located in the Canadian Rockies, this park is famous for the Takakkaw Falls, one of Canada's tallest waterfalls, and the picturesque Lake O'Hara.

2. Glacier national park

A true icy wonderland, featuring majestic glaciers, scenic hiking trails, and breathtaking views of the Selkirk Mountains.

3. Kootenay national park

A unique mix of mountains, canyons, and natural hot springs. Perfect for hiking enthusiasts and nature explorers.

4. Pacific Rim national park

Situated on the west coast, this park boasts wild beaches, lush rainforests, and outdoor activities like surfing and hiking.

5. Jasper national park

(partially in British Columbia)

Although primarily in Alberta, this park extends into British Columbia, offering stunning mountain views, abundant wildlife, and year-round activities.

6. Mount Revelstoke national park

A hidden gem near Revelstoke, featuring lush forests and breathtaking mountain and valley views.

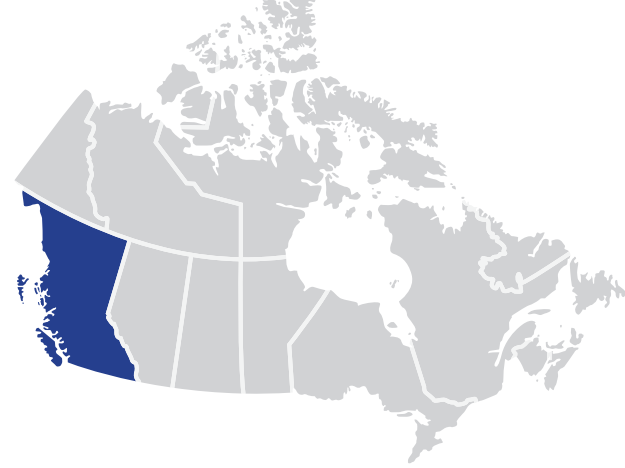
7. Garibaldi national park

A paradise for hikers, known for its crystal-clear alpine lakes, glaciers, and stunning landscapes.

These parks offer a wide range of activities, from hiking to winter sports, making them a must-see for anyone eager to explore the wild beauty of British Columbia.

DISCOVERING

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Located on Canada's west coast, B.C. is a province of spectacular landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture. Geographically and culturally diverse, it offers a wide range of experiences for travelers of all backgrounds.

HISTORY

British Columbia has a history that spans thousands of years. Long before European contact, Indigenous peoples such as the Haida, Nuu-chah-nulth, and Coast Salish thrived in this region. In 1778, British explorer James Cook arrived on the coast, marking the beginning of trade with Europeans. The 1858 gold rush drew thousands of settlers, leading to the establishment of the Colony of British Columbia. In 1871, the province joined the Canadian Confederation, paving the way for rapid development.

GEOGRAPHY

B.C. is home to a wide variety of landscapes, from the majestic Rockies and Cascade Mountains to the wild beaches of the Pacific Ocean. The province boasts numerous national parks, such as Yoho and Kootenay, perfect for nature lovers. Vibrant cities like Vancouver and Victoria, blessed with a mild oceanic climate, contrast with more rural areas like the Okanagan Valley, known for its vineyards and orchards.

ECONOMY

British Columbia's economy is diverse and thriving. Once dominated by natural resource extraction, it is now a leader in film, high technology, and creative industries. Vancouver is a major global film hub, while agriculture—particularly the Okanagan Valley's wine industry—has earned the province international recognition. Trade with Asia, especially China, also plays a key role in the regional economy.

CULTURE

British Columbia's culture is a rich tapestry of Indigenous, European, and Asian influences. While French is a minority language, it remains present, particularly in Vancouver and the Okanagan Valley, where dynamic Francophone communities thrive. Events such as the Vancouver Francophone Film Festival and institutions like the Alliance Française contribute to the province's vibrant cultural scene. Indigenous arts, showcased in museums and festivals, are also an essential part of B.C.'s cultural identity.



MUST-SEE DESTINATIONS

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



VANCOUVER AND THE SEAWALL (Vancouver, Coast & Mountains)

This iconic 28 km trail runs along the waterfront, offering stunning views of the city, mountains, and ocean. Perfect for a walk or bike ride, the **Seawall** takes you past urban beaches, Stanley Park, and Vancouver's vibrant downtown.



WHISTLER MOUNTAINS (Vancouver, Coast & Mountains)

A world-renowned ski destination, **Whistler** also offers thrilling summer adventures, including hiking, mountain biking, and the breathtaking **Peak 2 Peak Gondola**, which provides panoramic views that are truly unforgettable.



YOHO NATIONAL PARK (Kootenay Rockies)

Ranked among Canada's most spectacular national parks, Yoho is a magical destination featuring **Takakkaw Falls**, brilliantly blue lakes, and hiking trails that wind through wild, untouched landscapes.

OKANAGAN WINE ROUTE (Thompson Okanagan)

The Okanagan Valley is renowned for its **world-class wines**. Explore scenic lakeside vineyards, taste award-winning vintages, and take in the stunning mountain landscapes.



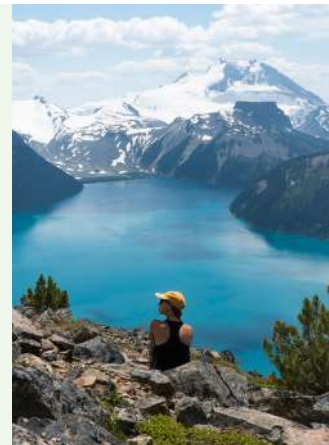
VANCOUVER ISLAND & VICTORIA (Vancouver Island)

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, enchants visitors with its **Butchart Gardens**, historic museums, and colorful architecture. The island also boasts pristine nature, making it a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts.



GARIBALDI NATIONAL PARK (Vancouver, Coast & Mountains)

A dream destination for hikers, **Garibaldi National Park** is home to **glacial lakes** and towering peaks that offer breathtaking views. The turquoise waters of **Garibaldi Lake** are an absolute must-see.



MUST-SEE DESTINATIONS IN B.C. (CONT'D)



HAIDA GWAII ISLAND
(Northern British Columbia)

The mystical **Haida Gwaii** islands, with their ancient forests and rich history, are a captivating destination for culture and nature lovers. The **Gwaii Haanas** National Park Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a true gem.



KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK
(Kootenay Rockies)

Kootenay National Park is famous for its diverse landscapes, ranging from towering mountains to lush valleys. Don't miss the **Radium Hot Springs**, natural thermal pools set in a breathtaking environment.



PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK
(Vancouver Island)

This coastal park is a paradise for ocean lovers, offering wild beaches, scenic hiking trails, and activities like surfing. The rainforests and abundant wildlife, including whales and bears, make it a must-visit.



OKANAGAN LAKE & KELOWNA
(Thompson Okanagan)

Located on the shores of **Okanagan Lake**, **Kelowna** is a top destination known for its sunny beaches, vineyards, and water sports. The lake itself is perfect for swimming and boat cruises.

Recommended Itineraries

EXPLORING
VANCOUVER ISLAND

4 DAYS Embark on a multi-day adventure across Vancouver Island. Start with a stop in **Tofino**, where you can explore the wild beaches of **Pacific Rim National Park**. Then, head to **Victoria**, where you'll discover colonial architecture and stroll through its historic gardens.

Finish your journey in the **Cowichan** Valley, a charming wine region where vineyards like **Blue Grouse Estate Winery** and **Cherry Point Estate Wines** offer delightful tastings.

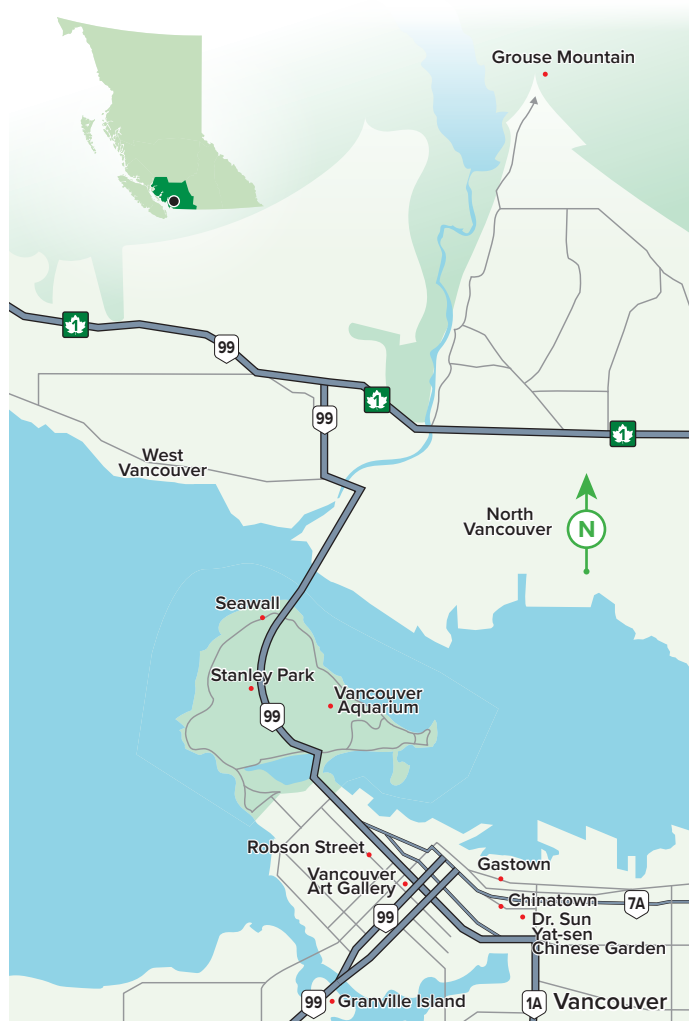


Recommended Itineraries (cont'd)

VANCOUVER ESSENTIALS

3
DAYS

Start your journey by exploring **Stanley Park**, walking along the **Seawall** and visiting the **Vancouver Aquarium**. Next, head to **Granville Island** to experience its bustling market and diverse restaurants. Stroll through **Gastown**, known for its charming boutiques and iconic steam clock, then explore **Chinatown** and the **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden**. For breathtaking views of the city and surrounding mountains, take a trip up **Grouse Mountain**. Finish your day with a visit to the **Vancouver Art Gallery** and some shopping along **Robson Street**.



Recommended Itineraries (cont'd)

THE OKANAGAN WINE ROUTE

4
DAYS

Explore one of Canada's most renowned wine regions. Start your journey in **Kelowna**, a vibrant city where you can taste award-winning wines at **Beaumont Family Estate**, **Mission Hill Winery**, and **Quails' Gate Winery**. Continue to Penticton and visit wineries such as **Silkscarf Winery**, **Alchemist Distiller**, and **Fairview Cellars**. Take some time to relax on the beautiful beaches around **Skaha Lake**. Next, head to **Osoyoos**, known for its warm climate and exceptional wines, including those from **Forbidden Fruit Winery** and **Le Vieux Pin**. End your trip in **Naramata**, a charming wine region perfect for those who appreciate tranquil vineyards and breathtaking landscapes.

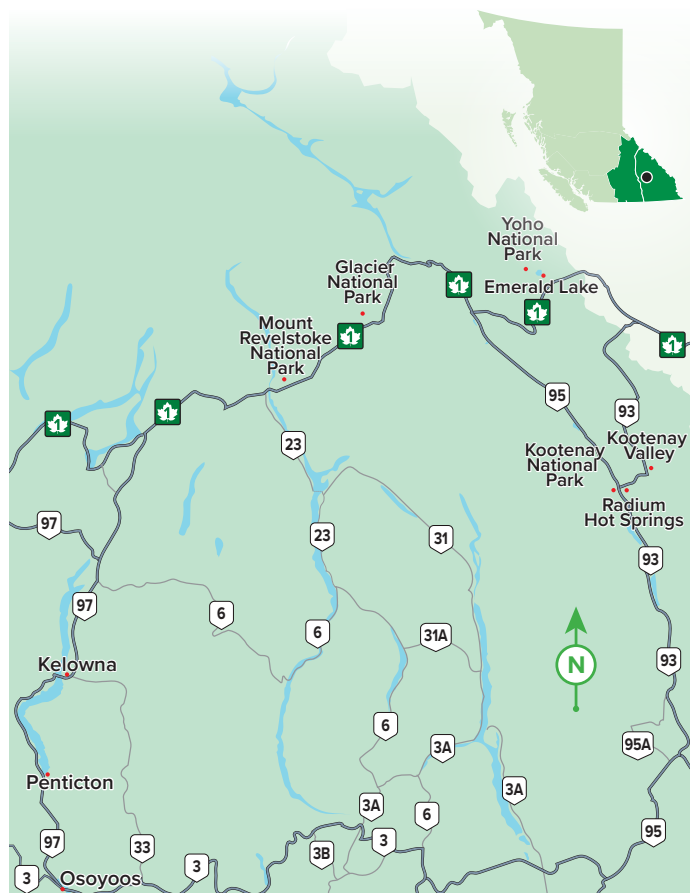


Recommended Itineraries (cont'd)

ROAD TRIP FROM THE OKANAGAN TO THE ROCKIES

7
DAYS

Start your adventure by exploring the **vineyards of Kelowna and Penticton**, a must-visit for wine lovers. Then, head to the **Kootenay Valley**, where breathtaking landscapes, scenic hiking trails, and the wild beauty of **Kootenay National Park** await. Relax in the soothing waters of **Radium Hot Springs** before making your way to **Yoho National Park**, a paradise for nature enthusiasts with its majestic mountains and the stunning Takakkaw Falls. End your journey by exploring the spectacular landscapes of **Glacier National Park and Mount Revelstoke National Park**, two of British Columbia's natural gems.

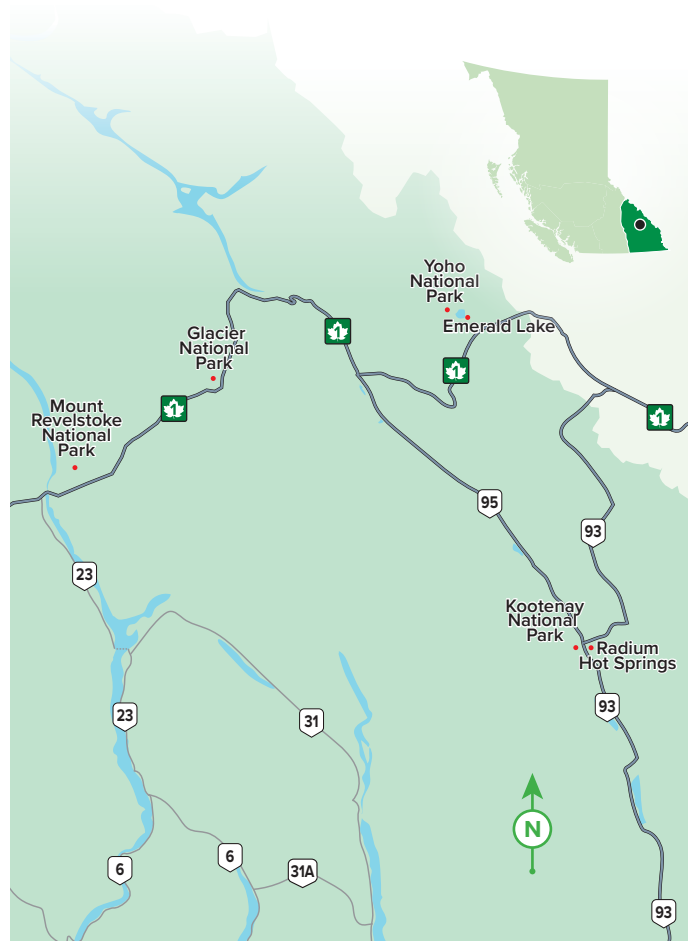


Recommended Itineraries (cont'd)

ADVENTURE IN THE ROCKIES

6
DAYS

For breathtaking landscapes, this itinerary takes you through the wonders of the Canadian Rockies in British Columbia. Start at **Yoho National Park**, home to the famous Takakkaw Falls and the stunning **Emerald Lake**. Then, head to **Kootenay National Park**, where you can relax in the soothing waters of **Radium Hot Springs**. Continue your adventure with a visit to **Mount Revelstoke National Park**, where scenic hikes await, or explore **Glacier National Park**, known for its spectacular icy landscapes. This route immerses you in the wild and majestic beauty of British Columbia's Rockies.



EVENT CALENDAR

Winter Festival FrancoFun Prince George (January-February)	The Winter FrancoFun Festival in Prince George celebrates Francophone culture through activities, performances, and family-friendly events, offering a unique winter experience.
Francophone Book Fair Kelowna (January-February)	The Francophone Book Fair in Kelowna highlights Francophone literature with authors, conferences, and workshops in a welcoming atmosphere.
Francophone Film Festival Victoria (February)	This festival showcases a selection of contemporary Francophone films, providing tourists with a unique immersion into Francophone culture.
Festival du Bois Coquitlam (March)	This festival celebrates Francophone culture with music, dance, traditional cuisine, and family activities.
Printemps de la Francophonie Burnaby (March)	Organised by Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, this event offers conferences, workshops, and activities celebrating Francophone culture.
Journée de la Francophonie Victoria (March)	This day highlights the contributions of Francophones to the province through various cultural and community activities.
Francophone Comedy Show Vancouver (March)	The Francophone Comedy Show in Vancouver is the annual gathering for French-language humour in Greater Vancouver.
Petit Festival du Film Francophone Kelowna (March-April)	The Petit Festival du Film Francophone in Kelowna celebrates Francophone cinema with screenings, discussions, and meetings with filmmakers.
Kelowna MapleFest Kelowna (April)	Kelowna MapleFest is a delicious celebration of maple season, offering an authentic taste of Quebec culture.
The B.C. Francophone Games (BCFG) (May)	These games bring together young Francophones for sports, arts, and cultural competitions.

Festival d'été Francophone de Vancouver (June)	This festival features concerts, performances, and activities highlighting Francophone music and culture.
Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day Prince George (June)	Prince George's Saint-Jean-Baptiste celebration in June honours Francophone culture with music, family-friendly activities, and traditional cuisine.
FrancoFête Nelson (June)	FrancoFête in Nelson celebrates Francophone culture with performances, concerts, films, and traditional dishes for the whole family.
Cornroast Festival Prince George (September)	A friendly event in September celebrating the Francophone culture of Northern B.C., featuring unlimited corn, music, games, and festive gatherings.
Nuit Blanche Kelowna (October)	Kelowna's Nuit Blanche lights up the city with nighttime installations, performances, and exhibitions for a creative experience under the stars.
Coup de Cœur Francophone Vancouver (November)	A unique project in the Francophone music scene in Canada, Coup de Cœur Francophone is a festival dedicated to Francophone culture and music.
Christmas Market Kelowna (November)	The Kelowna Christmas Market allows visitors to immerse themselves in the holiday spirit with local artisans, regional products, and Christmas decorations.
Christmas Market Vancouver (December)	The Christmas Market at the Vancouver Francophone Cultural Centre is a must-visit event to discover Francophone crafts and flavours in the heart of the city.
Christmas Festival Prince George (December)	The Prince George Christmas Festival brings the community together with performances, festive activities, and a warm atmosphere.

For the full list of events,
visit: [tourisme-cb.com](https://www.tourisme-cb.com)

VANCOUVER, COAST AND MOUNTAINS:



A mix of
adventure and
Francophone history

WHY GO THERE?

Vancouver and its surroundings offer an unforgettable experience, blending spectacular landscapes, cultural richness, and fascinating history. Whether you're a nature lover, history enthusiast, or curious about discovering the country's Francophone culture, this region will captivate you. From its majestic mountains to its sandy beaches, Vancouver is a must-visit destination.

WHEN TO GO?

The best time to visit Vancouver depends on your preferences:

- **Spring (March to May):** Mild weather, ideal for exploring the city and its parks.
- **Summer (June to August):** Sunny weather and plenty of festivals. The perfect season for outdoor activities.
- **Autumn (September to November):** Pleasant temperatures and fewer tourists, while enjoying the vibrant colours of the forests.
- **Winter (December to February):** Ski season in the surrounding mountains, with resorts like Whistler and Grouse Mountain offering ideal conditions for winter sports.

Francophone history and culture

The history of Vancouver is marked by a strong Francophone influence, particularly through the presence of French explorers as early as the 17th century. The region was also home to Francophone communities, especially in **Maillardville**, Coquitlam, where French Canadians played a key role in the development of the city. Today, Vancouver is home to a diverse and dynamic Francophone population, with events like the **Festival du Bois** celebrating Franco-Colombian culture.

The region's **mountainous landscapes** remind us of the heritage of the first French settlers and their lasting influence on the province's history. Vancouver also boasts a vibrant cultural scene, with museums and galleries, including the **Museum of Anthropology** at the University of British Columbia, where Indigenous art meets colonial history.

Not to be missed

Festival du Bois: A cultural event celebrating Francophone music, dance, and cuisine.

Granville Island: The cultural heart of Vancouver, with its vibrant public market, art galleries, and restaurants like **Chambar** or **Café C'est Si Bon**, where you can taste the delights of Francophone cuisine.

Vancouver and its mountains offer much more than just a tourist getaway: a journey through time and an immersion in the rich Franco-Canadian culture.

Best places and activities

Stanley Park: This iconic urban park, accessible by foot, bike, or the mini train, offers breathtaking views of the city and the sea. Don't miss the Seawall trail, which runs along the ocean and is perfect for a stroll.

Whistler: Located just two hours from Vancouver, this world-renowned ski resort is a true paradise for winter sports lovers.

Grouse Mountain: Just minutes from downtown Vancouver, this mountain offers year-round activities, from skiing in winter to hiking in summer.

Capilano Suspension Bridge: This suspension bridge, located in the heart of the rainforest, offers a spectacular panorama and an immersion in nature.

VANCOUVER ISLAND:



Nature, culture, and Francophone history

WHY VISIT?

Vancouver Island is a place where wild nature meets rich history, and where Francophone culture has found a home. With its lush rainforests, pristine beaches, and majestic mountains, the island is perfect for nature lovers and adventure seekers. Visitors can also experience a thriving Francophone community that contributes to local life through events, businesses, and culinary establishments offering Franco-Canadian flavours.

WHEN TO GO?

Vancouver Island is a fantastic year-round destination:

- **Spring (March to May):** Mild temperatures and blooming flowers make it perfect for hiking and outdoor strolls.
- **Summer (June to August):** Sunny weather is ideal for water activities, hiking, and outdoor exploration. It's also festival season!
- **Autumn (September to November):** The landscapes turn stunning shades of fall, temperatures remain pleasant, and there are fewer tourists.
- **Winter (December to February):** A quieter season, perfect for a peaceful retreat with spectacular views. Skiing is also an option at Mount Washington.

Francophone history and culture

Vancouver Island welcomed the first French explorers in the 17th century. Today, an active Francophone community preserves and enriches this heritage. In Nanaimo, the **Nanaimo Francophone Association** plays a key role by organising cultural and community events, while establishments like **L'Apéro Bistro Wine and Cheese** and **La Roux Patisserie** offer delicious Franco-Canadian culinary experiences.

Not to be missed

British Columbia Legislature in Victoria:

An iconic site of provincial politics where you can explore the region's history and architecture.

Bon Macaron Patisserie: Located in Victoria, this bakery invites you to enjoy handcrafted macarons—a taste of French culture in the heart of the island.

Spinnakers Brewpub & Guesthouses:

A must-visit local pub combining craft brewing with fine cuisine, offering breathtaking views of Victoria's harbour.

West Coast Expeditions: Treat yourself to a boat excursion to discover the island's natural wonders, from whale watching to spectacular coastal landscapes.

Vancouver Island is a true gem, where Franco-Canadian culture blends seamlessly with breathtaking nature, offering an unforgettable experience for all who visit.

Best places and activities

Victoria: The capital of British Columbia seamlessly blends historical charm with modern attractions. The **Royal BC Museum** and the **National Historic Sites of Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse** offer a deep dive into the province's past.

The Butchart Gardens: One of the world's most beautiful gardens, this stunning site is a paradise of colour and fragrance.

St. Ann's Academy: A gathering place for the island's Francophone community, The Academy hosts cultural events and language courses for those looking to immerse themselves in Francophone culture.

Tofino: For nature and adventure enthusiasts, Tofino is a must-visit destination, featuring wild beaches, lush rainforests, and a variety of outdoor activities.

THOMPSON OKANAGAN:



Wines, nature, and Franco-Canadian flavours

WHY VISIT?

The **Thompson Okanagan** region is a true paradise for nature and wine lovers. With its sparkling lakes, towering mountains, and vast vineyards, the scenery here is simply breathtaking. The Franco-Canadian culture also thrives in this area, with a dynamic community and several French-speaking businesses adding a unique charm to the destination.

WHEN TO VISIT?

Thompson Okanagan is an ideal year-round destination:

- **Spring (March to May):** Perfect for exploring vineyards and witnessing fruit trees in bloom.
- **Summer (June to August):** Peak season with plenty of outdoor activities, festivals, and wine tastings.
- **Autumn (September to November):** The best time for grape harvest and hiking, with stunning fall colours.
- **Winter (December to February):** A magical winter getaway with ski resorts and Christmas markets.

Francophone history and culture

The Thompson Okanagan region has a rich history, shaped by the arrival of the first European explorers in the 18th century, including the French, who played a key role in the fur trade. Today, the Franco-Canadian heritage lives on through events like **Kelowna's MapleFest** and establishments such as **Bouchons Bistro** and **Madame Fromage**, which celebrate Francophone culture and cuisine.

Not to be missed

Mission Hill Family Estate: A landmark winery offering breathtaking views and world-renowned wine tastings.

Kelowna's MapleFest: A foodie event honouring Franco-Canadian heritage with delicious maple-based local products.

Ooolala Crêperie: A must-visit spot for authentic French crêpes in a warm and friendly setting.

Historic O'Keefe Ranch: Step back in time and explore the region's history at this well-preserved ranch, perfect for culture and heritage lovers.

The **Thompson Okanagan** region is where nature, culture, and gastronomy come together to create a truly unique experience for travellers.

Best places and activities

Kelowna: Known for its vineyards and the MapleFest, Kelowna is a must-visit for food and wine lovers.

Mission Hill Family Estate: Visit one of the region's most stunning wineries, offering spectacular views and refined wine tastings.



Ooolala Crêperie: Enjoy a delicious crêpe in a warm and inviting atmosphere—an unmissable Franco-culinary experience!

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA:



Adventure, culture
& untamed nature

WHY VISIT?

Northern British Columbia is a captivating region where majestic landscapes meet rich history. From ancient forests and towering mountains to cultural and historical sites, this area promises an unforgettable adventure. The Franco-Canadian presence is reflected in unique events like the **FrancoFun Winter Festival** and local businesses that enhance the visitor experience.

WHEN TO GO?

Northern British Columbia offers something special year-round:

- **Spring (March to May):** A great time to explore blooming nature, with mild temperatures and fewer tourists.
- **Summer (June to August):** Perfect for hiking, expeditions, and spotting local wildlife.
- **Autumn (September to November):** Enjoy vibrant fall colours while visiting historical sites or local wineries.
- **Winter (December to February):** The FrancoFun Winter Festival and snow-covered landscapes turn the region into a true winter wonderland.

Francophone history and culture

Although the region is better known for its Indigenous heritage and colonial history, Northern British Columbia retains a strong francophone imprint, marked by events like the **FrancoFun Winter Festival**. This annual festival celebrates the Franco-Canadian heritage and attracts many visitors seeking this unique cultural touch in the heart of the wild nature.

Not to be missed

FrancoFun Winter Festival: An unmissable event to celebrate winter with francophone cultural and community activities.

Northern Lights Estate Winery: Visit this picturesque vineyard to discover local wines in a stunning setting.

Haida Style Expeditions: Explore the region's natural wonders by embarking on a unique guided expedition.

Pillsbury Guest House: A charming guesthouse, perfect for recharging after a day of adventure in nature.

Northern British Columbia is an ideal destination for those seeking adventure, culture, and wild nature, offering unforgettable experiences with every visit.

Best places and activities

Haida Gwaii Haanas: Discover this UNESCO World Heritage site, home to breathtaking landscapes and a rich Indigenous culture.

Fort St. James National Historic Site of Canada: Step back in time and explore British Columbia's colonial history at this well-preserved fort.



Spirit Bear Lodge: Embark on a journey to discover wildlife, including the polar bear, in a breathtaking natural setting.

CARIBOO CHILCOTIN COAST:



Wild nature and Franco-Canadian authenticity

WHY VISIT?

The **Cariboo Chilcotin Coast** is a region of British Columbia where nature reigns supreme. Between imposing mountains, crystal-clear lakes, and wild forests, this area is perfect for outdoor and adventure enthusiasts. The activities are plentiful: hiking, canoeing, wildlife watching, and fishing. Businesses like **Echo Valley Ranch & Spa** and **The Sugar Shack** bring a warm Franco-Canadian touch, offering unique experiences that combine nature and gastronomy.

WHEN TO VISIT?

This region can be visited year-round:

- **Spring to Autumn:** Moderate temperatures and lush landscapes make it perfect for hiking and outdoor activities.
- **Winter:** A true paradise for winter sports, with events, outdoor activities, and breathtaking snowy landscapes.



→ Best places and activities

Bowron Lake Provincial Park: Ranked among the best parks for canoeing, it offers a network of canals and lakes, perfect for a wilderness expedition.

Chilcotin Plateau: This plateau offers spectacular panoramas, ideal for hiking.

Francophone history and culture

The Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region is steeped in rich history, marked by the arrival of European explorers and exchanges with Indigenous peoples. The region's history is closely tied to the fur trade, with establishments like Fort Alexandria, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post. Today, while few Francophone businesses are present, the Franco-Canadian culture is expressed through establishments like **Echo Valley Ranch & Spa** and **The Sugar Shack**, which add a unique Franco-Canadian dimension to the region.

Not to be missed

The Big Bar Slide: A spectacular site offering breathtaking views of the Fraser River and the surrounding mountains.

The Fraser River: A must-visit for nature and water sports enthusiasts. You can go rafting or enjoy panoramic cruises.

The Sugar Shack: A unique place to discover maple syrup and taste artisanal products in a picturesque setting.

The **Cariboo Chilcotin Coast** is a destination where nature, adventure, and culture blend, offering an authentic and unforgettable experience for travelers seeking an escape.



Taseko Lakes: Wild lakes where fishing and hiking enthusiasts can enjoy stunning views and preserved nature.

Echo Valley Ranch & Spa: This establishment offers a tranquil setting with spa services and a peaceful environment.

KOOTENAY ROCKIES:



Adventure, nature, and Franco-Canadian culture

WHY VISIT?

The **Kootenay Rockies** are a true haven for nature lovers. With their towering mountains, alpine lakes, and lush forests, this region is perfect for outdoor enthusiasts. Whether it's hiking, skiing, fishing, or canoeing, the **Yoho, Kootenay, and Mount Revelstoke National Parks** offer an exceptional natural setting. Franco-Canadian culture is also present through businesses like **La Baguette in Revelstoke** and **Truffle Pigs Bistro**, which bring a unique local touch.

WHEN TO VISIT?

The region is ideal year-round:

- **Spring to Autumn:** Enjoy moderate temperatures for exploring the national parks and hiking trails. The beauty of the landscapes changes with the seasons, featuring spectacular autumn colours.
- **Winter:** This is the season for winter sports! Skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing are must-do activities in Revelstoke, Yoho, and Kootenay resorts. The Radium Hot Springs are also a perfect way to relax after an active day.

Francophone history and culture

The **Kootenay Rockies** have a fascinating history, marked by the arrival of the first European explorers in the 19th century. Although the region was sparsely populated by French speakers initially, the Franco-Canadian influence gradually settled in over the years, particularly through cultural and commercial exchanges. Today, initiatives like the **West Kootenays Francophone Association** support French language and culture with events and activities for the community. Local businesses like **Truffle Pigs** and **La Baguette** add a unique Franco-Canadian touch to the region.

Not to be missed

Radium Hot Springs: An ideal place to relax after a day of adventure, with stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

Mount Revelstoke National Park: A must-visit park for its breathtaking panoramas and hiking trails.

Truffle Pigs Bistro & Lodge: A great spot to discover local and French-inspired cuisine in a mountain setting.

Cantina Del Centro: In Nelson, a casual cantina where you can enjoy delicious Mexican dishes in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The **Kootenay Rockies** is a place where spectacular nature, outdoor adventure, and Franco-Canadian culture intertwine, creating a unique and memorable experience.

→ Best places and activities

Yoho National Park: Known for its breathtaking landscapes, with iconic sites like **Takakkaw Falls** and Lake O'Hara, accessible by hiking.

Kootenay National Park: A haven for nature lovers, with its towering mountains, forests, and numerous hiking opportunities.

Revelstoke: A perfect destination for winter sports, but also a culinary hub where **La Baguette in Revelstoke** offers high-quality French cuisine.

Truffle Pigs Bistro & Lodge: A cozy bistro where you can savour French-inspired dishes while enjoying breathtaking mountain views.



Découvrez encore plus de la C.-B. en français ! Discover More of BC in French!



Votre aventure ne s'arrête pas ici !

Explorez notre site web pour accéder à une mine d'informations et d'inspirations pour votre voyage en Colombie-Britannique :

- Un annuaire de **+300 entreprises francophones** (restaurants, hébergements, commerces, attractions, services).
- Des **itinéraires sur-mesure** adaptés à vos envies et vos thématiques de voyage.
- L'**actualité touristique** et des articles de blog pour ne rien manquer.
- Encore plus d'infos sur chaque région et ses **pépites cachées**.
- Des conseils pratiques et contacts utiles pour un voyage en toute sérénité.

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Visit our website for even more inspiration and resources to explore British Columbia in French:

- A directory of **300+ French-speaking businesses** (restaurants, accommodations, shops, attractions, services).
- **Tailor-made itineraries** for every type of traveler.
- **Tourism news & blog articles** to stay updated.
- More regional insights and **hidden gems**.
- Practical info & useful contacts to plan with ease.



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