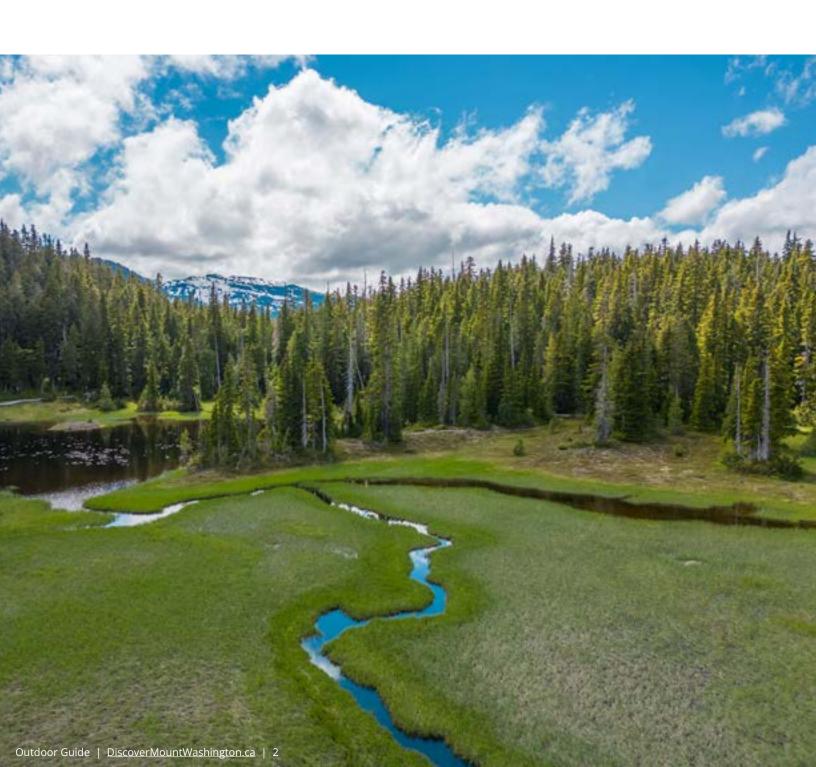


The Mount Washington Resort Association honours Indigenous Peoples' connection to the land and respects the importance of their diverse teachings, traditions, and practices within these territories.

This Outdoor Guide does not adequately represent the full history of this area and the connection of the K'ómoks First Nation and Indigenous Peoples to this land.

To learn more visit https://komoks.ca





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Whether you're after stunning views, peaceful spots to reflect, or thrilling wildlife encounters, I'm here to make your adventure unforgettable. oor Guide | <u>DiscoverMountWashington.ca</u> | 3

Hi, I'm Morgan! Your go-to guide

for all things Mount Washington.

Top 5Reasons to Visit

Mount Washington's combination of stunning landscapes, unique wildlife, and diverse recreational opportunities makes it the top high alpine destination on Vancouver Island, appealing to a wide range of outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.



High Alpine Exclusivity.

Its high elevation and unique location on Vancouver Island offer a distinctive alpine experience not found elsewhere on the island and between April to November, there are few visitors, making it feel like your own world.



Abundant Wildlife.

The presence of the Vancouver Island Marmot, black bears, deer and other unique species adds an extra layer of intrigue and appeal.





Year-Round Destination.

Its versatility as a winter sports hub and summer adventure base attracts outdoor enthusiasts throughout the year.

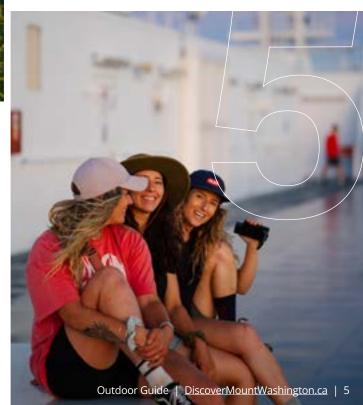


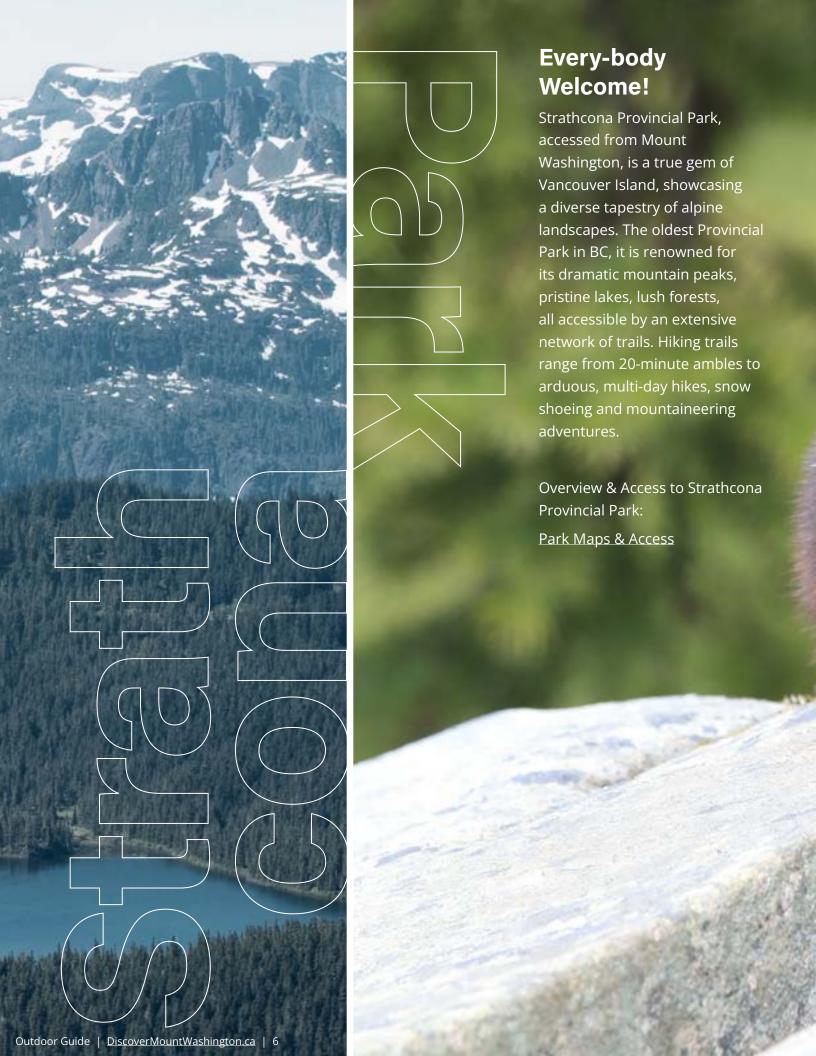
Accessibility.

Despite its remote feel, Mount Washington is accessible and well-equipped, making it easy for visitors to enjoy its natural beauty and outdoor activities.

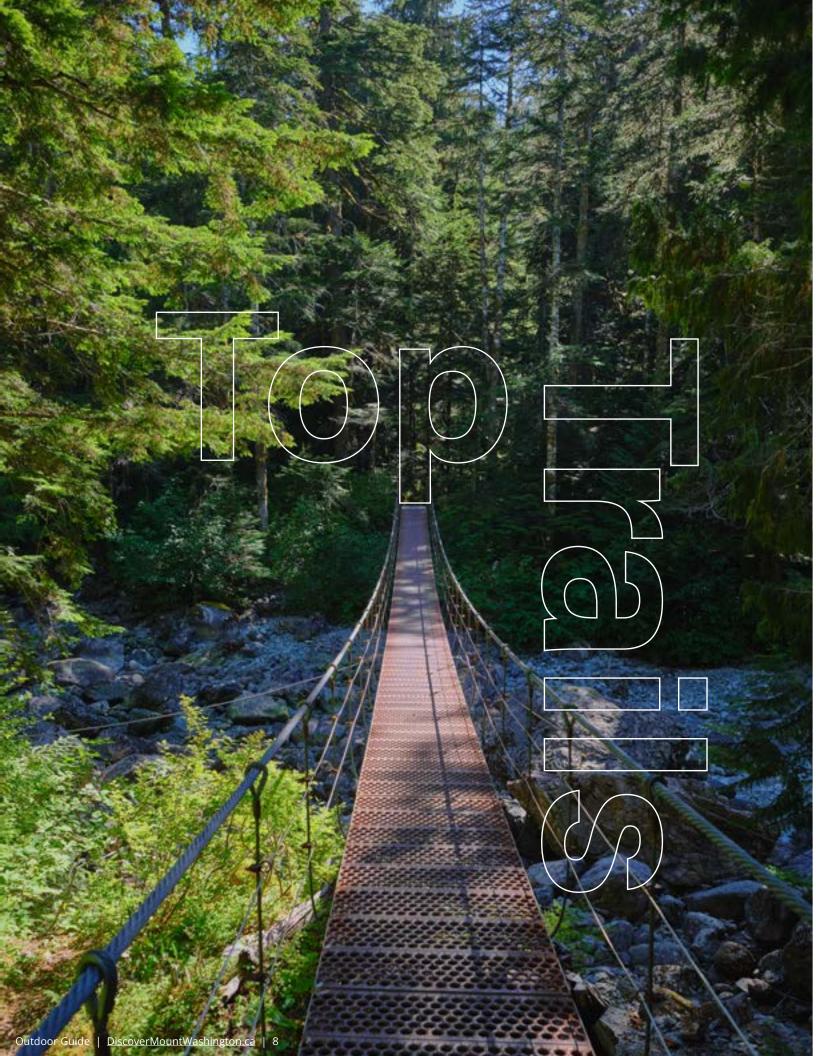
Amazing, Affordable Accommodation.

While summer drives up accommodation prices throughout BC, on Mount Washington, that's the mountain's 'slow' season, meaning big value for a fraction of the price of comparable accommodations 'down below'. Pack up a cooler full of your favourite food & drink and hunker in.















Icon Legend



Time



Overnight trip: Camping



Route



Dogs welcome on leash



Distance



Washrooms



Elevation Gain



Season: Spring



Difficulty Level



Season: Summer



Wheelchair accessible



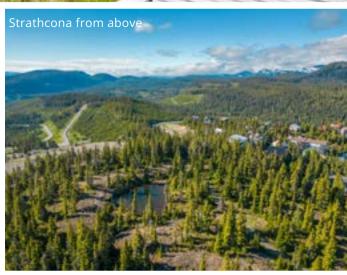
Season: Winter





Centennial Trail

A friendly and easy introduction to Strathcona Park. It has both boardwalk and hardpacked gravel sections with no steps. Power chairs and standard wheelchairs are all capable of touring around the Centennial Loop.









Distance: 2 km





Elevation Gain: **58 m**

Easy













Paradise Meadows Loop Trail

Considered a moderately challenging route, Paradise Meadows is a popular area for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing with an extension along Crooked Creek trail to the Centennial Loop Trail.













Elevation Gain: 58 m













Helen Mackenzie to Battleship Lake **Loop Trail**

This beautiful and somewhat rugged trail passes through forest, over swamps, around ponds, and past two beautiful lakes. It can get a bit muddy in the fall and spring, although there are boardwalks over the worst of it. During the winter, it is possible to snowshoe this route.





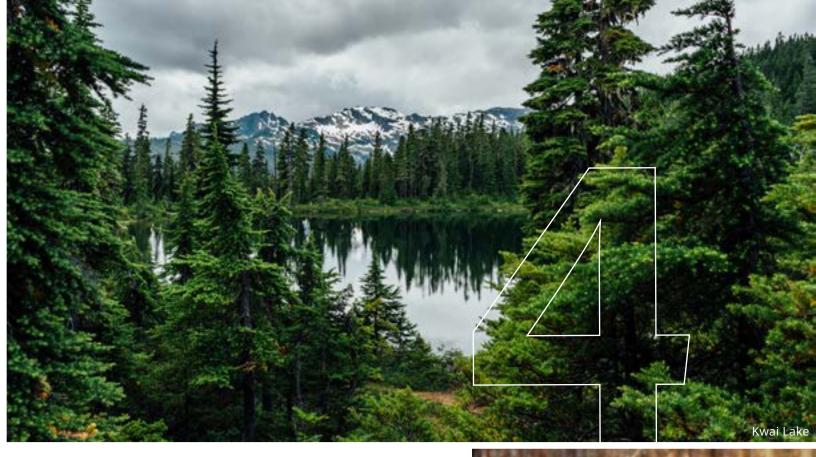












Helen Mackenzie to Kwai Lake to Croteau Lake Loop Trail

Challenging, backcountry trail network that are ideal for backpacking, camping, and hiking with many opportunities to explore the Forbidden Plateau. The trail starts from Raven Lodge parking lot, where it turns left on the Paradise Meadows trailhead, past Battleship Lake to a beautiful lookout with yellow chairs - a great picnic spot. It then continues past Lady Lake, and Kwai Lake.

























Mount Becher Trail

Generally considered a challenging hiking, snowshoeing, and running trail, Mount Becher is easy to navigate and well maintained. The first 1.5 km are the most challenging, steep (ropes are available in steeper sections), and open but the trail levels out for the final push to the summit and spectacular views of Strathcona Park. The trailhead is not accessible from the Mount Washington area.

















Mount Albert Edward

One of the only trails directly to the summit of a major peak on Vancouver Island. From the trailhead to Circlet Lake, the trail is well maintained and very easy to use. It's important to prepare well for venturing deep into the backcountry and up into the exposed alpine.

NOTE: This trail sees a high number of easily avoidable injuries and search and rescue incidents each year. Weather conditions at the higher elevations can be unpredictable so it is important to know what to expect before arriving. Hikers recommend Mount Washington's Nordic cameras to gauge the snow levels before deciding to hike here.











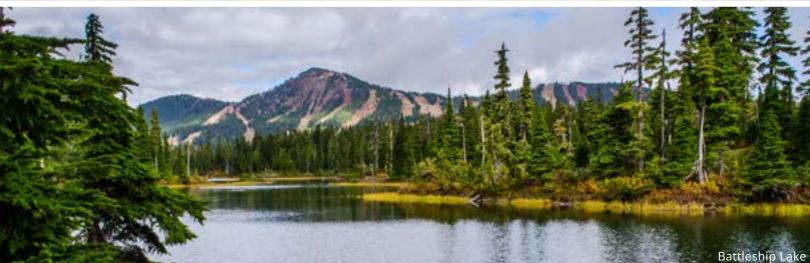












Battleship Lake

This is a very popular area for hiking, paddle sports, and snowshoeing. This trail goes past Battleship Lake to the day use area at Lake Helen Mackenzie and there is also a loop past both lakes and back through the meadows. The path along Battleship Lake has sections of boardwalk and several spots to rest. The lake is great for swimming in the summer.





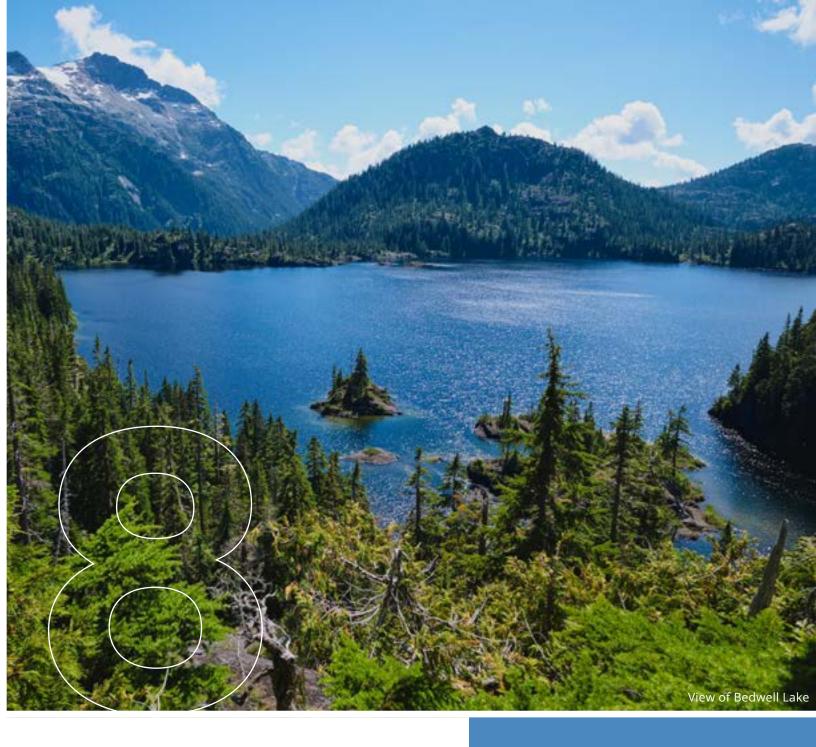












Bedwell Lake Trail

This challenging trail is ideal for backpacking, camping, and hiking, leading to a subalpine plateau with multiple lakes. The final 2 km of the road to the parking area are steep and rough, requiring high-clearance vehicles. The well-maintained trail to Bedwell Lake features steep sections eased by switchbacks, stairs, and ladders. Backcountry campgrounds are available at Baby Bedwell and Bedwell Lake, with options to continue to Little Jim Lake or Cream Lake.



















Mount Washington is a haven for diverse flora and fauna, reflecting its varied elevations and microclimates. The diverse habitats, from alpine meadows to subalpine forests, support a wide range of plant and animal species:

Vancouver Island Marmot:

Listed as Endangered and found only on Vancouver Island, these marmots are easy to recognize by their rich chocolate brown fur with contrasting white patches on their nose, chin, forehead, and chest. They live on the south and west-facing slopes of alpine meadows usually above 1000m and hibernate from mid-September until late April or early May.



Black-Tailed Deer:

The deer of Vancouver Island are a subspecies of mule deer found along the coast from northern California up into British Columbia. They frequently visit Mount Washington Village and resort.



Roosevelt Elk:

The vast majority of BC's Roosevelt elk now live exclusively on Vancouver Island. As winter approaches, they move to lower browsing sites to graze on small woody plants. They head upwards into subalpine areas in the late spring to graze on grasses and new shoots.





Birds:

The Gray Jay, or Whiskey Jack, can be spotted year-round flitting through the trees to perch on railings and roofs in search of a snack. These cheerful little birds are fearless, venturesome, and very amusing. Other birds include the Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and Blue Grouse.



Vancouver Island Black Bear:

The Vancouver Island Black Bear population is generally slightly larger than those found on the mainland. They are omnivores and will eat just about anything including berries, insects, nuts, grasses, and meat like deer and elk! Black Bears gorge on spawning salmon in late summer and autumn as they prepare for winter hibernation.



Cougar:

Cougars, also known as mountain lions or pumas, are elusive animals which are rare to spot as they tend to avoid human activity and prefer dense forested regions. As solitary cats, cougars are not typically spotted together, unless it is a mother with her young.





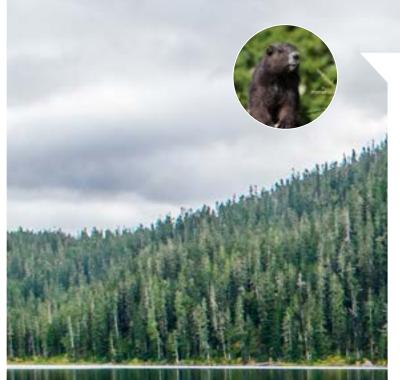


Alpine Meadows:

You'll find hardy plants like alpine lupine, mountain heather, and dwarf arctic willows, all that have adapted to harsh conditions with short growing seasons. Vibrant wildflower displays in the summer, including species like Indian Paintbrush, Alpine Aster, and Glacier Lilies, offer a colorful contrast against the rugged alpine backdrop.

Subalpine Forests:

Lower elevations are dominated by subalpine forests featuring conifers such as Yellow Cedar, Amabilis Fir, Subalpine Fir, Mountain Hemlock, Western White Pine, and Shore Pine. The forests provide a lush, green canopy and are home to mosses, lichens, ferns, and shrubs like Mountain Ash, Twinberry, Black Huckleberry and Red Elderberry.





Wetlands and Streams:

These areas are crucial for maintaining local biodiversity and provide habitat for various wildlife species. In wetter areas and along streams, you might find Skunk Cabbage, Cow Parsnip, Jeffrey's Shooting Star, White Bog Orchid, King Gentian and various sedges and grasses.

Hello, curious humans! I've got a few friendly tips to keep our mountain home as cozy and delightful as possible.

Respect Wildlife:

Remember to give us furry folk our space!

Observe from a distance so we can go
about our important business without
feeling disturbed, especially when we're
busy foraging or taking care of our families.

Stay on Trails:

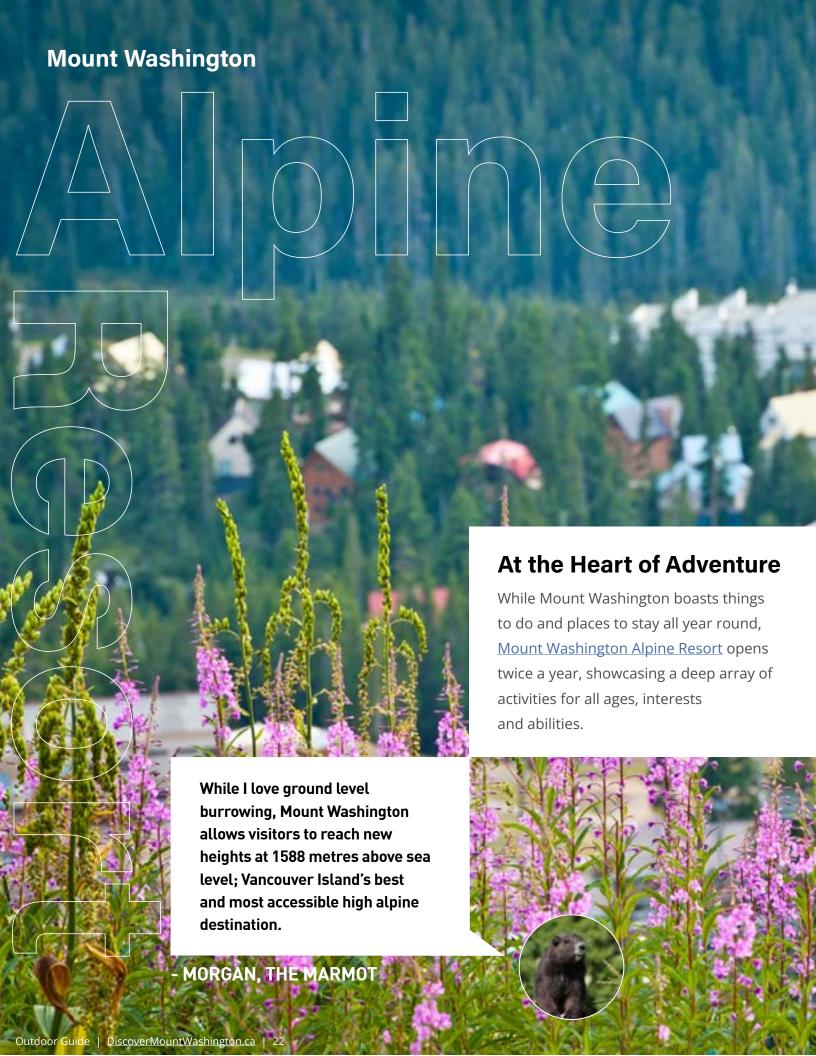
Those winding paths are our favorite ways to get around. By sticking to them, you help protect our delicate alpine and subalpine homes. So, please avoid wandering off and trampling the plants we all love!

Pack Out Trash:

We like our home to be as clean as possible, just like you do. So, take all your litter with you when you leave. That way, we can all enjoy a pristine environment and keep our home looking and feeling great

Thanks for helping us keep our mountain paradise in tip-top shape! We appreciate it, and we'll see you around!

- MORGAN, THE MARMOT



Summer - June to September

Experience the best of summer at Mount Washington Alpine Resort, it's the perfect escape from the typical coastal climate. The resort offers over 81km of lift-accessed trails in the Bike Park, the thrilling Eagle's Flight Zipline Tour, and abundant hiking trails showcasing breathtaking vistas. It's a playground for every adventurer.



Winter - December to early April

The summit elevation reaches a mile above the Pacific Ocean with 1,700 acres of ski terrain, 1,657 feet of vertical rise, and an historical snowfall averaging 11 metres (457 inches) each year, one of the highest averages of any ski area in North America.

With 5 chairlifts and 'Easy Acres' beginner learning carpet zone, Mount Washington Alpine Resort offers adventure for all ability levels as well as lessons and programs for skill progression. Get amongst solo snowy laps of varied terrain on-piste, or a good ol' boot pack into the powder-filled back bowls with your best pals. The Outback terrain via Boomerang Chairlift offers an incredible snowpack and an outand-back experience unlike any other.









Heart of the Mountain

There are over 600 apartment-style condos, A-frame cabins and chalets all nestled among the spectacular alpine scenery.

Many of the accommodations offer high-quality amenities including cozy fireplaces, modern kitchens, hot tubs, BBQ's, saunas, stunning decks and comfortable living spaces. Staying here allows you to experience the luxury of a well-appointed home at a fraction of the prices in other Island communities.

All accommodations have easy access to trails, where you can wander through Paradise Meadows, zoom through forests on bikes, or explore the vast wilderness of Strathcona Provincial Park.

Surrounded by Nature

The alpine environment of Mount Washington is distinct from other areas on Vancouver Island. In summer, you can explore floral alpine meadows, lush forests, and glacial lakes, providing a unique backdrop for your stay. The changing landscape and diverse ecosystems make it a special place to experience nature up close.

Breathtaking Views

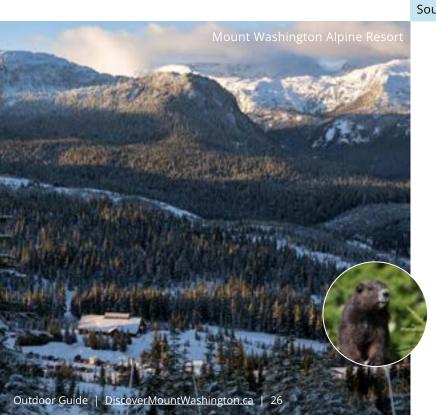
The mountain offers some of the best panoramic views on Vancouver Island. From the comfort of your patio, deck or hot tub, you can enjoy breathtaking sunrises and sunsets over the rugged landscape, including vistas of the Beaufort Mountain range.

Tranquil Escape

Mount Washington is a serene and peaceful environment, far from the hustle and bustle of city life. The fresh mountain air, stunning views, and lack of crowds make it a perfect retreat for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Central Island Homebase

The communities of Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Campbell River, Quadra Island are all roughly 30 minute drive away. Parksville/Qualicum and Coombs are under an hour away, Nanaimo is 1.5 hours.







There are lots of private burrows—uh, I mean, condos, chalets, and cabins—that you can rent from other humans. They come in all sizes, from small and simple to big and fancy, with all the cozy comforts you could want, like warm fireplaces, decks and patios. Perfect for snuggling up with your loved ones.

- MORGAN, THE MARMOT



New, pet friendly home sleeps six, 2 bedrooms, 2+ bathrooms \$109/night! That's only \$18 per person for a group



Summer Teaser Rate:

Condo with fireplace, cozy living room with balcony, full kitchen and four beds, \$275/night, that's only \$55 per night per person for a family of five!

Mile High Accommodations:

of six!

The most comprehensive list of chalet, condo and townhouse rentals available on Mount Washington and surrounding areas.

Slopeside Accommodations:

Bear and Deer lodges have it all: prime location, underground parking, full kitchen options, and hot tubs. Room, please!

Cona Vacation Getaways:

Cona Vacation Getaways is a small, familyrun boutique accommodation provider and vacation rental management company.

Mount Washington Village:

Your perfect mountain getaway awaits, hosted by one of Mount Washington Alpine Resort's Featured Property Partners.

Air BNB

Expedia

VRBO







Join in the Fun!

The surrounding mountain community is home to an array of groups and associations dedicated to celebrating and protecting all things 'outdoors'.

Joining clubs is the best way to meet others, learn and socialize. I make a habit of spending a few hours each day interacting with other marmots. Usually greeting by nose touching and play fighting. I recommend it.

- MORGAN, THE MARMOT

Strathcona Wilderness Institute

Strathcona Wilderness Institute (SWI) is a non-profit society incorporated in 1995 to inspire awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the natural world through research, education and participation in the wilderness areas of Strathcona Provincial Park.



Marmot Recovery Foundation

The Vancouver Island Marmot is a remarkable animal. It is endemic to Canada - one of only a small handful of mammals to occur in this country and nowhere else. The mission of the Marmot Recovery Foundation and partners is to increase the wild population.



Strathcona Nordic Ski Club (SNSC)

This not-for-profit club that offers programs for cross-country skiers of all ages from those new to Nordic skiing to those who aspire to train all year. SNSC hosts annual camps, fun events, and races, including the Lantern Ski and the Vancouver Island Loppet, an Island fixture since 1983.



Mount Washington Ski Club (MWSC)

Since 1982, the MWSC has created a nurturing, family-centric atmosphere where members forge enduring friendships and develop a profound enthusiasm for alpine skiing and alpine ski racing.





Mount Washington Freestyle Ski Club (MWFC)

Whether you're looking for your kids to spend a fun but challenging winter break or full season program with us, we will perfect their park skills and powder turns. Our freestyle ski courses, training camps and mogul program are run against the backdrop of Mount Washington.



Vancouver Island Biathlon Club (VIBC)

While hosting many races, competitions and events using their modern biathlon range, the VIBC's mandate is to foster personal growth and an inclusive biathlon community through a shared passion for our sport. Our vision is to be a model biathlon community with sustainable growth.



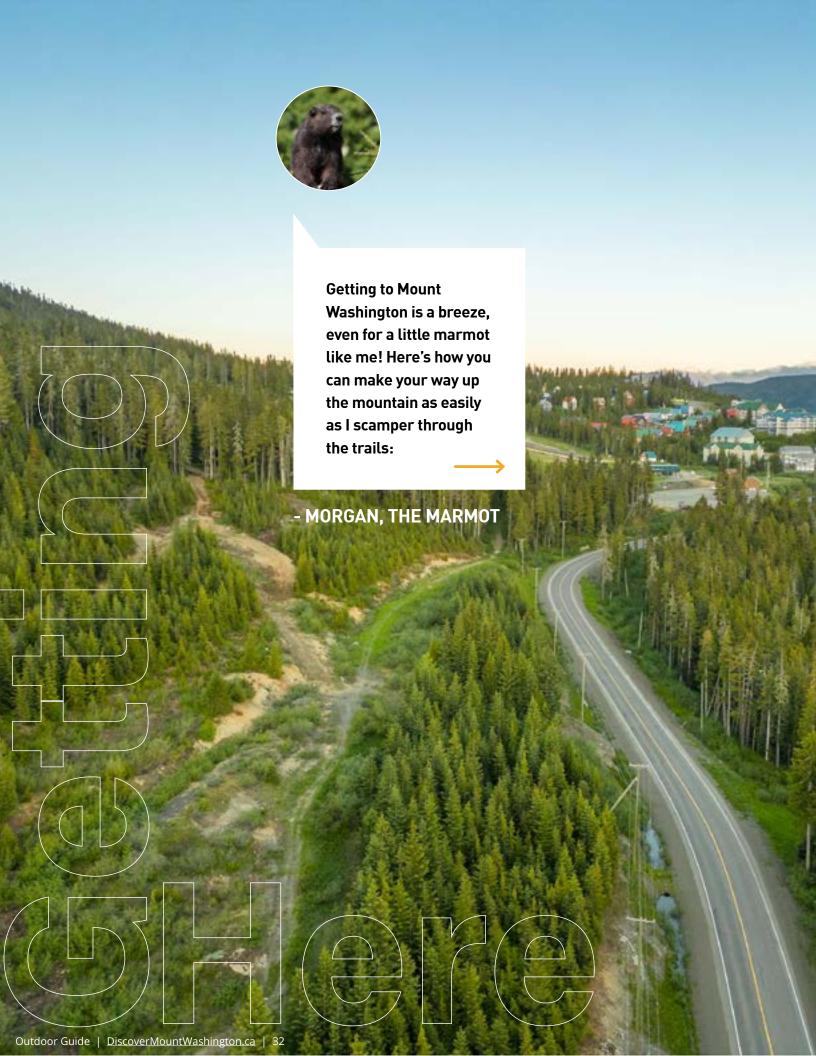
Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports

The Vancouver Island Society for Adaptive Snowsports is a non-profit charitable society focused on providing nationally certified snowsports instruction to the physically or developmentally challenged.



Mid-Island Sno-Blazers Association

Snowmobiling has been a popular activity on Mount Washington since the early 70s. The land around the Mount Washington Alpine Resort is private forest land but the Mid-Island Sno-Blazers Association enters into an annual access agreement that allows snowmobiling.



Life's Better Above the Treeline

Comox Valley Airport (YQQ)

Westlet, Air Canada, and Pacific Coastal Airlines bringing humans to and from Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver. If you're worried about getting from the airport to the mountain, don't be! The taxis and private shuttles are like a friendly marmot guiding you right to your destination.

BC Ferries

If you prefer crossing the big water, BC Ferries will carry both drivers and walk-on passengers from the Lower Mainland of BC. If you're coming from South Vancouver or near the airport, take the Tsawwassen to Duke Point route. If you're up in North Vancouver, the Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay route is the way to go. And if you're on the Sunshine Coast, there's a ferry from Powell River that brings you straight to the Comox Valley!

If you're coming from the USA, the COHO Ferry from Port Angeles to Victoria is a popular and scenic way to travel. The 3-hour drive from Victoria to Mount Washington is full of amazing views and places to stop along the way, just like the best marmot trails.

By Car

Driving is as easy as following your nose (or a good map)! We're only 25km west of the Comox Valley, 50km south of Campbell River, and 100km north of Nanaimo. You can rent a car right at the Comox Valley Airport or in the City of Courtenay, making it quick and easy to head up to the mountain. The Mount Washington Village is just a short drive away via the Strathcona Parkway, exit 130 on Highway 19.

If Strathcona Park is your destination, just take a left off of Strathcona Parkway onto Nordic Road. Follow the brown and white signs to Strathcona Park and Raven Lodge. It's about a 45-minute drive from Courtenay and 60 minutes from Campbell River, just enough time for a marmot like me to nibble on a snack!

Winter Shuttle Bus Service

For staff and guests, the Mount Washington Alpine Resort has a Ski & Ride Shuttle Bus available December-April to everyone travelling to and from the Comox Valley to Mount Washington on a daily basis during the winter ski season.

Pickup and drop-off locations are located throughout the Comox Valley, and no advance reservations are required. Fare for the Mount Washington bus to and from the Comox Valley is \$20 for a round trip.

Resources

Accommodation

Mount Washington Village Accommodation

Mile High Accommodations

Slopeside Accommodations

Cona Vacation Getaways

Air BNB

Expedia

VRBO

Trails

BC Parks

Strathcona Park Map

Strathcona Park

All Trails

Mount Washington

Adventure Smart

Transportation

Comox Valley Airport

BC Ferries

COHO Ferry

Weather

Live webcams

Conditions

Events

Mount Washington Alpine Resort

Events

Strathcona Park Events

Clubs and Associations

Strathcona Wilderness Institute

Marmot Recovery Foundation

Strathcona Nordic Ski Club

(SNSC)

Mount Washington Ski Club

(MWSC)

Mount Washington Freestyle Ski

Club (MWFC)

Vancouver Island Biathlon Club

(VIBC)

Vancouver Island Society for

Adaptive Snowsports

Mid-Island Sno-Blazers

Association

Mount Washington Resort

Association

Contact + Social Media

Facebook

Instagram

#myMW | #exploreBC #mountwashington #exploreVancouver Island #snowboarding

#skiing | #winter | #hiking



