

Welcome

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve protects a portion of the Strait of Georgia lowlands natural region and is part of the homeland of the Coast Salish First Nations, who have cared for the land and sea since time immemorial.

Breathe in the fresh ocean air. Feel the warm, west coast sun on your face. Feast your eyes on the beautiful islands surrounding you. Spot a whale. Fall asleep to the sound of the waves. Learn about nature with a park interpreter. Experience firsthand the distinct culture and lifestyle of each Gulf Island!



Hiking

From easy shoreline trails to invigorating shore-to-sky mountain climbs, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve has walks and hikes for all energy levels. Stroll barefoot along the sandy beaches for hours. Let your feet carry you to mossy waterfalls, salt marshes and jaw-dropping ocean views. Along the way, happen upon history: ancient sea gardens being actively tended, heritage orchards, former cottages, and Hawaiian homesteads.

Open this guide to see the full park map and detailed trail maps!

Discovery

Let us awaken your family's sense of wonder this summer. Discover the magic and history of the world around you with help from a park interpreter. Weekly offerings in July and August include family campfires, craft stations and cultural presentations. Look for the event calendar on our website for full details.

Prefer to go at your own pace? Search for geocaches using your GPS enabled device. For the perfect kids' adventure, pick up a copy of our Xplorers booklet and complete the challenges to earn a prize!



Coast Salish Traditions

Coast Salish First Nations have lived in this region for thousands of years and their knowledge, culture, and oral history have been passed from generation to generation. Since time immemorial, the land and sea have nourished and sustained First Nations communities and their ties to the natural world can be seen in all aspects of their culture.

Discover these connections first-hand by participating in a Coast Salish Traditions activity this summer! Find full details on our online event calendar.



Wildlife

Pinch me—this can't be real! An amazing variety of wildlife awaits you as you discover the Gulf Islands. Killer whales, porpoises, sea lions, seals and otters call the waters surrounding the park reserve home; eagles, falcons and turkey vultures fly overhead. Many species of seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl live here or stop over on their annual migrations.

For a chance to spot whales, sea lions and seals from land check out the new KENES SOL (kwun-us-saw-lh) Whale Trail at East Point, Saturna Island!



Plan Your Visit

GETTING HERE: Set sail aboard BC Ferries to reach Pender, Saturna, Mayne, and Vancouver islands. Hop aboard the seasonal walk-on ferry to reach Sidney Island. Explore the park reserve at your own pace by boat, kayak or water taxi.

SEASON OF OPERATION: May 15 – September 30

CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS: reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca or by phone 1-877-737-3783.

Some backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS: Check our online event calendar for details.

Boating + Kayaking

Float your boat at one of Canada's premier boating destinations. Dig in your paddle as eagles soar overhead. Drop anchor at Russell Island and hike to a historic Hawaiian Homestead. You'll be greeted by sheltered waters, sandy coves, and unbelievable views.

Discover spectacular coastlines around every corner. Spot seals, sea lions and porpoises. If you are lucky you may even come home with stories of sighting a pod of killer whales.



Outreach

Learn fun facts and enjoy conversations and short presentations about BC's coastal wildlife, marine life, culture, history, geography and Parks Canada's incredible places through our partners.

Find us this summer hosting programs at **The Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea** in Sidney. Visit our website for a list of summer programs.



Camping

Whether you are new to camping or a seasoned pro, you'll love it here. We offer outdoor overnight experiences for everyone. Book your favorite campsite, pack the car and take the family for a relaxing escape to a sun dappled forest. Looking for an adventure? Go backcountry! Cycle, paddle or hike to a rustic waterfront campsite. Add some stars and you've got the perfect evening!

Campground details are located on the back side of this guide.



Frontcountry Campgrounds

SMONECTEN, Prior Centennial and Sidney Spit

Easy access, spectacular scenery, and the ability to book your campsite in advance make a vacation to one of our frontcountry campgrounds a dream come true. Detailed descriptions of each location accompany the park map inside this brochure. When planning a trip please note that SMONECTEN and Prior Centennial campgrounds offer potable water, garbage disposal, and fire rings. Sidney Spit Campground has no water, no garbage facilities (pack-in pack-out), and does not allow campfires at any time of year.



Backcountry Campgrounds

D'Arcy, Isle-de-Lis (Rum), Princess Margaret (Portland), Pender, Prevost, Saturna and Cabbage islands

Hike, bike, or paddle your way to one of our rejuvenating backcountry getaways. These rustic locations require you to bring your own drinking water, and to pack-in pack-out (no garbage facilities available).

Reservations are recommended at:

- Shingle Bay Campground, North Pender Island
- Narvaez Bay Campground, Saturna Island

All other backcountry campgrounds are first-come first-served. Consult the kiosk upon arrival for registration info.



CAMPGROUNDS, DOCK AND MOORAGE		
PLACES	NUMBER OF SITES	ACCESS
Vancouver Island		
SMONECTEN	49	[Icons: Car, Boat]
Sidney Island (Accessible by foot passenger ferry)		
SidneySpitFerry.com Telephone: 250-656-7599		
Sidney Spit	29	[Icons: Car, Boat]
Mooring Buoys	15	[Icon: Boat]
Dock		[Icon: Boat]
Group campground. Reservations required. For more information or bookings, phone 1-877-944-1744.		[Icon: Boat]
Pender Islands		
Prior Centennial	17	[Icons: Car, Boat]
Beaumont	CLOSED TO CAMPING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	
Beaumont Mooring Buoys	16	[Icon: Boat]
Shingle Bay	10	[Icons: Car, Boat]
D'Arcy Island		
D'Arcy Island	7	[Icon: Boat]
Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)		
Isle-de-Lis	3	[Icon: Boat]
Princess Margaret (Portland Island)		
Shell Beach	6	[Icon: Boat]
Princess Bay	12	[Icon: Boat]
Arbutus Point	6	[Icon: Boat]
Prevost Island		
James Bay	10	[Icon: Boat]
Saturna Island		
Narvaez Bay	7	[Icons: Car, Boat]
Cabbage Island		
Cabbage Island	5	[Icon: Boat]
Mooring Buoys	10	[Icon: Boat]
To make a reservation visit: reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca or call 1-877-737-3783. List of fees: www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/bc/gulf/visit/tarifs-fees		
Drive-in Campsite	Boat Tie-up	Hike
Camping	Accessible	Boat
Mooring Buoys	Potable Water	Car
		Campfires
		Reservable

Important reminders for visitors to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve:

The southern Gulf Islands are home to many rare and sensitive ecosystems which can be impacted by human use. When visiting Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, please do your part to protect these special places.

- Fires are prohibited** with the exception of the designated fire rings at Prior Centennial and SMONECTEN campgrounds. Seasonal fire bans may be in place at these locations.
- Bring your own drinking water** Potable water is available only at Prior Centennial and SMONECTEN campgrounds.
- Pack in, pack out** Do not leave any garbage within the national park reserve, or at local businesses.
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times**
- Camp in designated areas only**
- Stay on designated trails when hiking**
- Do not remove, collect, or damage any natural or cultural objects**
- No drones** Recreational use of drones within the national park reserve is prohibited, and commercial drone use requires a permit from Parks Canada.
- Cycling is not permitted on national park reserve trails** with the exception of the trail connecting the parking area and the campground at Narvaez Bay (Saturna Island).



Visitor Guide



MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE: parkscanada.gc.ca/gulfislands

TELEPHONE: 250-654-4000

TOLL FREE: 1-866-944-1744

PARK EMERGENCY CONTACT: 1-877-852-3100

EMAIL: gulfinfo@pc.gc.ca

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @GulfIslandsNPR

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! facebook.com/GulfIslandsNPR

Aussi disponible en français.

Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, 2220 Harbour Road, Sidney, BC V8L 2P6



Hiking, Camping and Boating Guide

A Prevost Island

James Bay Campground is only accessible by water, and is popular with kayakers. There are no tent pads in this open field style camping area. 10 backcountry campsites.

B Russell Island

Haumea Trail Easy 1.2 km 30-minute loop. This island is steeped in rich history. Coast Salish clam gardens have been used here for at least 1000 years. A spur off the main loop trail leads to one of the last surviving Hawaiian homesteads in the region. The historic Mahoi house dates back over a century.

C Princess Margaret (Portland Island)

Arbutus Point Campground 6 backcountry sites, **Shell Beach Campground** 6 backcountry sites, and **Princess Bay Campground** 12 backcountry sites (ideal for groups), offer opportunities to camp on all sides of Portland Island.

A shoreline loop allows you to hike around the entire island and enjoy spectacular views. Shorter trails cut across the interior of the island.

Princess Margaret Perimeter Trail Moderate 6.5 km three hour loop.

Royal Cove Trail Moderate 1.4 km

Kanaka Bluffs Trail Moderate 0.8 km

Pellow Islets Trail Moderate 0.7 km

D SMOŃEĆTEN (smaw-nitch tun) Campground

SMOŃEĆTEN Campground Park your RV or pitch your tent in a campsite surrounded by tall cedars. Only 25 minutes from Victoria, SMOŃEĆTEN Campground makes a perfect basecamp for exploring the Gulf Islands and the Greater Victoria area. 49 sites, with a mix of RV, tent, and walk-in sites. Reservations recommended.

Cycling There is easy access to beautiful walk-in campsites and the Lochside Regional cycling trail which connects the campground to Victoria and the Swartz Bay ferry terminal.

E Sidney Spit

Spend a day on car-free Sidney Island. Hop on the passenger ferry at downtown Sidney and soon you'll be kicking off your shoes and exploring kilometres of warm sandy beaches. Looking for a boater's paradise? Tie up to our Sidney Spit dock or mooring buoys for an overnight stay and treat yourself to a spectacular sunset.

Sidney Spit Campground 29 tent sites. Reservations recommended. No water available. Pack in water.

Boating Facilities First-come first-served mooring buoys and dock space. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.

SKTAMEN (sk-thay-men) Trail Easy 2.1 km loop from the main dock to the campground and then returning along the eastern coast.

Lagoon Trail Easy 1.8 km spur off SKTAMEN Trail to lagoon (3.6 km total).

F Isle-de-Lis (Rum Island)

Isle-de-Lis Campground This small island features coastal bluffs, a Douglas fir and arbutus forest, and vegetation that reflects the warm Mediterranean-like climate of the southern Gulf Islands. 3 backcountry campsites.

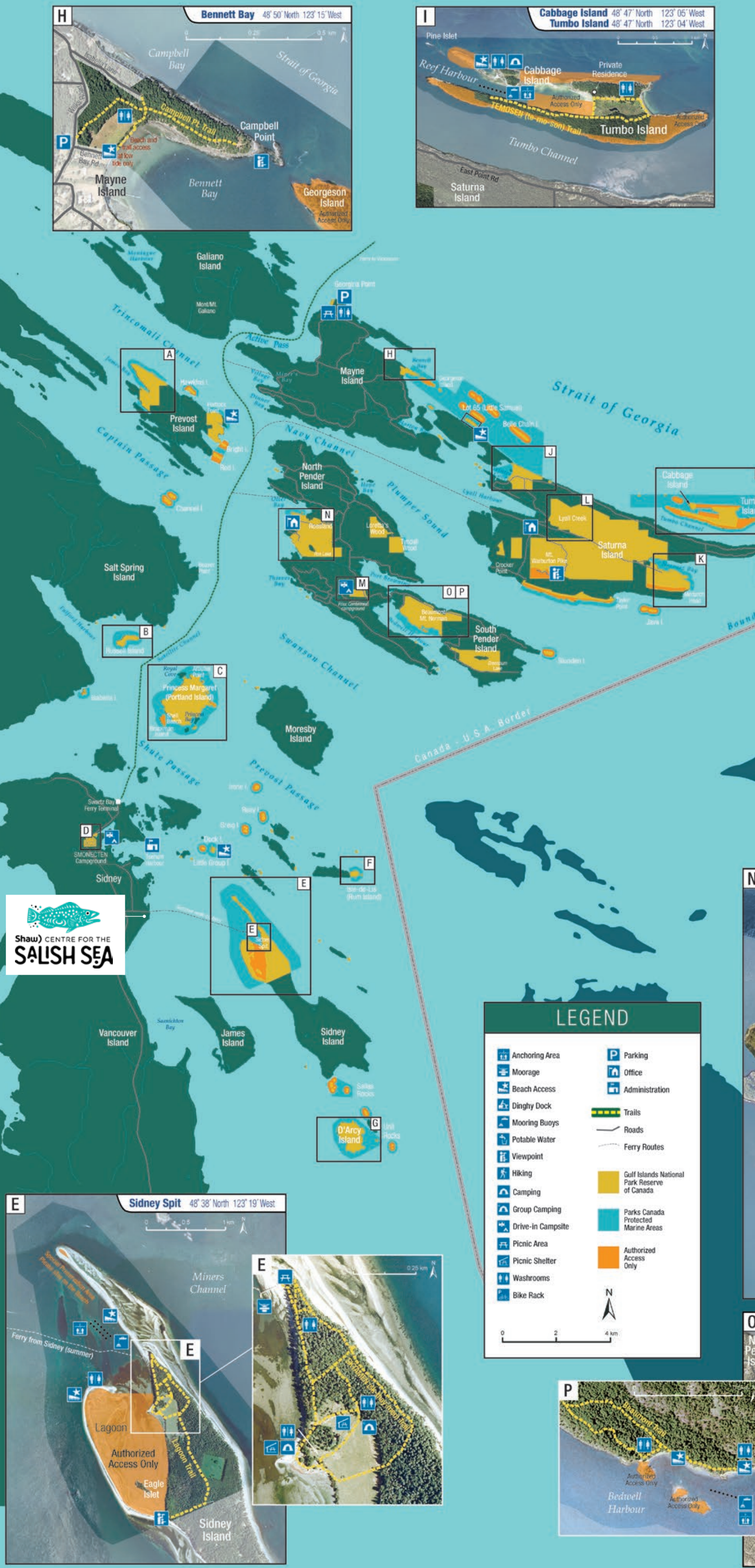
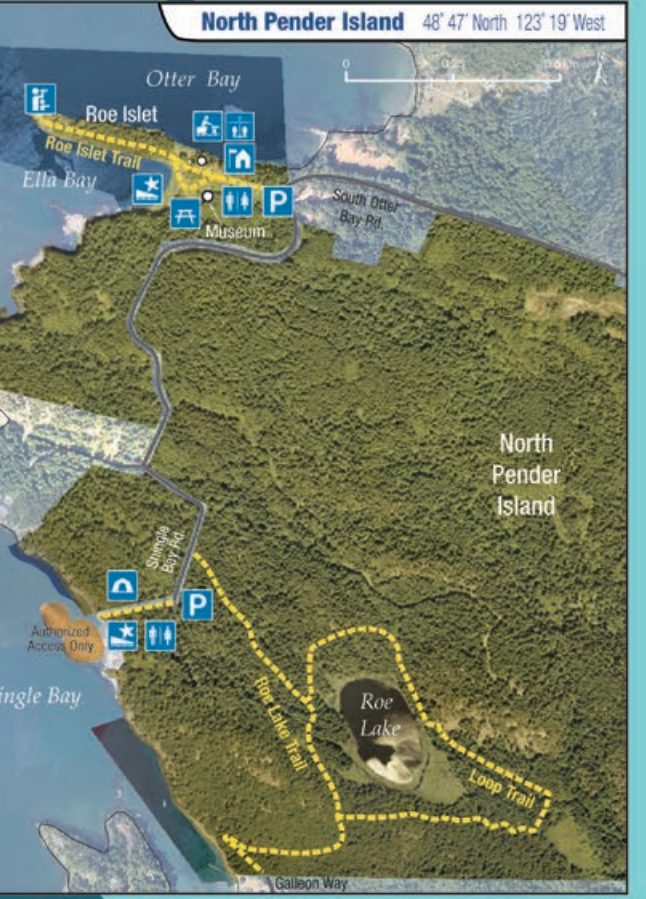
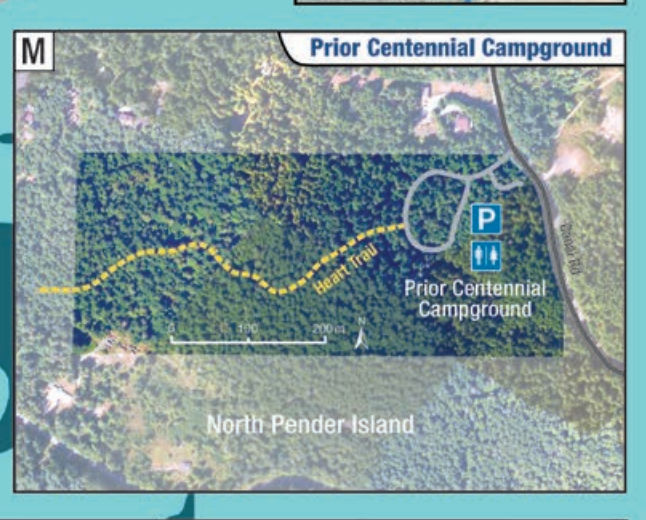
G D'Arcy Island

D'Arcy Island Campground With numerous coves, cobble beaches and a forest of arbutus and Douglas fir, D'Arcy Island's beauty belies its past history as a leper colony for Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s. 7 backcountry campsites.

H Mayne Island

Brush up on your birding skills at Georgina Point — an Important Bird Area overlooking Active Pass. Bring your binoculars to get a closer look at harlequin ducks and black oystercatchers.

Campbell Point Trail Easy 750 m each way. Campbell Point features remnant old-growth forest. A wide and relatively flat trail brings you to superb views from the point across to Georgeson Island.



I Cabbage Island

Cabbage Island Campground This small oasis lies on the outermost reaches of the Gulf Islands archipelago. It is a very popular destination for paddlers and boaters alike, featuring a beautiful sandy beach for easy access. Rich and dense eelgrass meadows thrive in this area, and river otters and raccoons can often be spotted playing in the intertidal. 5 backcountry campsites.

Boating Facilities First-come first-served mooring buoys. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.

I Tumbo Island

TEMOSĖN (te-mo-son) Trail Easy 5 km 90-minute loop. Tumbo Island has recovered well from the fur farming, timber harvesting and coal mining activities that are part of its rich and varied past. Today, the island is largely forested with mature Douglas fir and Garry oak trees. A large marsh area divides the long and short arms of the island and attracts numerous bird species, such as the red-winged blackbird.

Saturna Island

Don't miss the legendary whale-watching at East Point — from shore! While you're there, learn about the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales during one of our park events. You can also soak up island lore at the community museum in the fog alarm building.

J Xwiwxwuyus (kwik-wi-us) Trail at Winter Cove Easy 1.2 km loop. This trail starts at the Winter Cove day use area and heads through the forest to a viewpoint overlooking Boat Pass. Looping back along the Winter Cove shoreline, the trail passes through wetlands including a salt water marshland. Enjoy spectacular views across the Strait of Georgia.

K Narvaez Bay Campground 7 walk-in or paddle-in backcountry sites. Reservations recommended.

Narvaez Bay Trail Moderate 1.3 km from the parking lot to Narvaez Bay Campground.

Monarch Head Trail Moderate 2.5 km loop. The trailhead is on the right, past the parking gate on Narvaez Bay Road.

L Lyall Creek Trail Advanced 1 km trail along Lyall Creek. The trailheads are located at Narvaez Bay Road or at the east end of Valley Road.

Pender Islands

Will it be a kayak tour, a challenging hike to the summit of Mount Norman, a treasure hunt on the geocache trail, or a rousing game of disc golf? You decide! After you've burned off some energy, pitch your tent in one of our two campgrounds and discover the delight of sleeping in a Douglas Fir forest. Get away from it all at a hike-in backcountry campsite and enjoy the sunset by the water's edge at Shingle Bay.

M Prior Centennial Campground 17 frontcountry RV or car camping sites. Reservations recommended.

Heart Trail Easy 500 m trail connects Prior Centennial Campground to the local Golf Island Disc Course and other community trails.

N Shingle Bay Campground 10 walk-in or paddle-in backcountry sites. Reservations recommended.

Shingle Bay Campground Access 300 m steep descent from parking lot to campground.

Roe Islet Trail Easy 500 m from the Roesland parking area to the viewpoint. The islet is only accessible at low tide.

Roe Lake Trail Moderate 1.2 km trail from the Shingle Bay Road trailhead to Roe Lake.

Roe Lake Loop Trail Moderate 1.7 km loop starting at Roe Lake. Circumnavigate Roe Lake and enjoy the tranquility. You can exit the trail at Shingle Bay Road or Magic Lake Estates trailheads.

O Mount Norman Trail Advanced 2.4 km each way (4.8 km total) from either Ainslie Point Road or Canal Road trailheads. This invigorating trail climbs 244 m to the viewpoint on top of Mount Norman.

Beaumont Trail Advanced 2 km trail from Ainslie Point Road to Beaumont Campground. This trail includes steep switchbacks.

P Beaumont Campground CLOSED TO CAMPING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Boating Facilities First-come first-served mooring buoys. Fees apply daily after 3 p.m.