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in defending titles

Keeping golf FUN  
the key to Games

DUNES bounce  
back with gusto



# ***Golf***

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

JUNE 2006

**REALLY GETTING AWAY**  
Vancouver Island offers the opportunity

*Olympic View Golf Club  
in Victoria B.C. - Hole #3*

# Vancouver Island offers true getaways

Four diverse regions mean plenty of options

## VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C.

Maybe it's time to truly break down the meaning of a "golf getaway."

For some, the word "getaway" means just that, getting away from their everyday normal routine and surroundings.

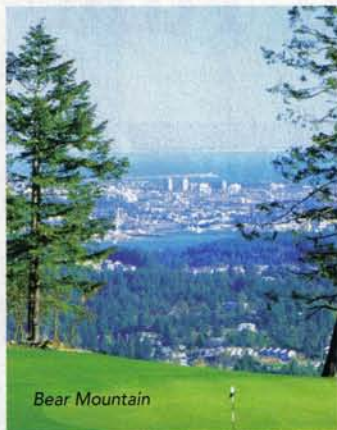
For others, the word "getaway" means getting away with something, like being able to relax and enjoy oneself to the hilt without the guilt of worrying about what's going on at home or at work.

When on Vancouver Island, the fact you're surrounded by water adds to the feeling of either definition of "getaway." And with dozens of courses to choose from, the word "golf" just naturally flows into "golf getaway."

When talking about golf on Vancouver Island, there are four distinct areas to choose from, and visiting [www.golfvancouverisland.ca](http://www.golfvancouverisland.ca) offers plenty of information on each region. However, they are close enough that you can experience all four even if your getaway is limited to two days.

There is the historic charm and the metropolitan feel of the city of Victoria on the south end of the island. But just more than three hours to the north, you're enclosed by wilderness and everything nature has to offer. In between, there are warm ocean beaches as well as wine country.

It's that variety and diversity that led Travel and Leisure magazine to name



Bear Mountain



Arbutus Ridge

Vancouver Island the No. 1 island destination in North America and No. 3 in the world. Conde Nast Traveler magazine, in rankings for 2000-2004, also listed Vancouver Island as the No. 1 best island destination in North America.

In exploring Vancouver Island and its golf, the logical starting point is Victoria because most sea or air routes will bring you to the provincial capital of British Columbia.

## VICTORIA

This exciting and picturesque international city provides countless restaurants and lodging opportunities as well as dozens of golf courses.

The Inner Harbor is a delightful place to spend a morning or afternoon away from the

golf course, taking in the sights and sounds of a downtown area made for pedestrians.

The old-world charm is enhanced at night as the Parliament Buildings are adorned in lights as if right out of a storybook.

Taking an afternoon tea in The Empress Hotel can place your mind back in history some 100 years, and if that's not enough, nearby museums can add to that feeling.

The golf options include the dazzling Bear Mountain, which features a design by Jack Nicklaus and his son Steve. A six-story, 160,000 square-foot clubhouse and Westin Hotel opened in May that will be the centerpiece of the huge development.

Two courses not far from downtown, but on your way to the north if you're starting a road trip, are Olympic View and Arbutus

## VISITING MADE EASY

Golf Vancouver Island ([www.golfvancouverisland.ca](http://www.golfvancouverisland.ca)) has dozens of different vacation packages to fit any itinerary. Here are a couple of the most unique.

### VANCOUVER ISLAND GOLF TRAIL

For just \$780 (U.S.) this summer, or \$600 (U.S.) per person after October, Golf Vancouver

Island will put together a six-night package with six rounds of golf. You get to choose where to stay, with two nights in three of the four different regions (Victoria, the Warm Land, Oceanside, the North Island). Golfers also have a choice between 10 courses for their six rounds.

### FINS AND SKINS

For those who want to mix fishing with golf, Golf Vancouver Island offers various packages. And the fishing/golf combination is available in each of the four regions of Vancouver Island. There's one deal available in Victoria, another in Cowichan Bay

in the Warm Land region, another in Nanoose Bay in the Oceanside area and then in Campbell River in the North Island.

More information on the various packages offered by Golf Vancouver Island is available by visiting [www.golfvancouverisland.ca](http://www.golfvancouverisland.ca), or calling 888-465-3239.

Ridge, both designed by Bill Robinson.

Olympic View is cut among some wooded canyons and open meadows, while Arbutus Ridge offers plenty of trees and water.

## WARM LAND

The name of Cowichan Valley, less than an hour north of Victoria, comes from a First Nations word that translates into "warm land."

It's the perfect culmination of where forests meet farmlands with rivers and streams galore, and plenty of parks to enjoy it all.

This is also the best wine country on the island, and the wineries offer tours and tasting. The area produces the freshest fruits and vegetables, and with all the best ingredients right at hand, some of the best dining.

The golf also uses the finest ingredients the Cowichan Valley has to offer. Duncan Meadows, near the town of Duncan, is set in a meadow, but offers fantastic views of the nearby mountains.

Cowichan Golf and Country Club was designed by A.V. Macan and is opened to the public. The course also has spectacular views of nearby mountains, as well as Cowichan Bay.

In the works to open next year is The Cliffs at Maple Bay, a Greg Norman design that's being eagerly anticipated.

## OCEANSIDE

This region of Vancouver Island, about two hours north of Victoria, is known for its never-ending stretch of sunny beaches and the ocean-hugging resorts that accompany them.

Added to the mix are plenty of parks, galleries and museums, as well as markets and gardens.

With all that, it's only natural that golf plays a major role.

And playing a major role

in golf in Canada has been Morningstar, the site for six years of the Canadian Tour's Qualifying School. Stretched out to 7,018 yards, the Les Furber-design can be a test for anybody and will be the site of the 2007 B.C. Amateur.

Fairwinds is another Furber course. Although it's shorter, it's still a challenge with some long holes and others that offer some tricky turns and doglegs.

Pheasant Glen recently went through a transformation from a 4,800-yard executive course to a full-fledged 6,581-yard, par-72 beauty.

Eaglecrest has a long history back to the 1920s when it was developed from a large estate. Several of the buildings from the estate are still in use today.

## NORTH ISLAND

Golf is just one of the many tremendous outdoor activities on this part of Vancouver Island, about three hours north of Victoria. The salmon fishing off Campbell River is known throughout the world, and when on land, you're surrounded by forests and mountain peaks.

In a resort setting outside of Courtenay is Crown Isle, developed by a pair of timber businessmen who found a more beneficial, and enjoyable, use of their land. The course weaves in and out of stands of trees as well as ponds and streams.

Storey Creek, in Campbell River, literally is cut out of a forest, and because of land-use regulations, it will remain that way with no housing allowed.

The Furber-designed course has some incredibly innovative stretches, and a unique setting where each hole is virtually in a world all its own.

Which, pretty much, is the feeling on all of Vancouver Island.

## WHEN GOLF ISN'T ALL-CONSUMING

*When touring Vancouver Island, sometimes certain urges will come upon you almost supernaturally (like an intense desire for fish and chips), while others will present themselves in the more traditional manner of catching your eye. Here's a list of some non-golf activities to break up your travels, and your birdies.*

**FISH AND CHIPS** – When a sense of old England meets the sea, then a craving for fish and chips emerges. Here's a few favorite spots: *Mary's at Fisherman's Wharf in Victoria, The Rock Cod Café in Cowichan Bay, Salty's Fish & Chips in Duncan and the Pheasant's Nest Restaurant at Pheasant Glen in Qualicum Beach.*

**GETAWAY RETREAT** – Try the Aerie Resort, aptly named because the exquisite Mediterranean style mansion resort is perched at the top of the Malahat mountains, 30 minutes from Victoria.

**WINERIES** – The Cowichan Valley is the hot spot, with 10 different wineries and one cidery available. One favorite for many is the blackberry port available at Cherry Point.

**NATIVE CULTURE** – Duncan is the City of Totems and The Quw'utsun' Cultural Centre offers an authentic First Nations experience with tours, art work and native foods, including a salmon barbeque.

**CRAB FEAST** – When crab season is at its peak, the Fairwinds Schooner Cove is the place to be on Friday nights. Fairwinds also offers tennis, fishing, sunset cruises, a marina and whale-watching for those not busy playing golf.

**SPA TREATMENT** – Some of the best is at The Grotto Spa at the Tigh-Na-Mara resort in the Oceanside region. Sport massages and mineral baths are the specialties.

**A COUNTRY MARKET** – For fresh produce, bake goods and top-notch ice cream, try the Coombs Old Country Market. Be sure to check out the goats grazing on the roof.

**CAR MUSEUM** – Crown Isle has one in its splendid clubhouse, not to mention its swanky Cigar & Cognac Room.

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