



## Beachcomber Cottage

### Gary's Guide Places to Go and Places to Dine

#### ***Places to Go***

*Centrally located on Vancouver Islands East Coast Beachcomber Cottage is a convenient home base from which to explore and enjoy the many varied and interesting sites and activities of the Oceanside Region and its charming beachfront communities.*

*You will never run out of things to do in Oceanside especially if you enjoy being outdoors.*

*It is all here in Oceanside .Endless beaches, ocean kayaking, beachcombing, hiking, boating, fishing, golfing, sightseeing and, spelunking.*

*Parksville home of the annual sand castle competition and the surrounding communities are one of the most popular family vacation destinations of Vancouver Island.*

*Relax, explore and be inspired by all we have to offer. There is no place like this to recharge, rejuvenate and reconnect.*

*Beachcomber Cottage is conveniently located in Nanoose Bay within minutes of the many interesting sites and numerous activities. It is all here in Vancouver Island's Oceanside Region.*

**Among our favourites are:**

### **Beachcomber Community Park**

*The picturesque waterfront park contains unique flora and fauna as well as magnificent Garry Oaks and Arbutus trees. There are numerous trails throughout the park connecting two pebbly beaches. The rock shelf contains Fossil remains. The area is very popular with the locals and storm watchers. There is an unobstructed view of Mistaken Island, Madrona Point and the straits to the north. Mount Moriarty and Mt. Arrowsmith is a spectacular backdrop seen in the distance.*

Magnificent Sunsets

*Sea lions from California congregate in this area during the winter months. Storm watchers and photographers find this an excellent spot to visit during winter storms to photograph the waves curling and breaking against the rock.*

### **Brickyard Cove Waterfront Park**

*Brickyard Cove is a waterfront park located in the Fairwinds Community that is popular with the locals from the area. Brickyard Cove has remnants remaining from a former brick plant hence the name. Brickyard cove is an excellent spot for swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing and its spectacular views.*

### **The Notch**

*Hike the Notch a popular trail in Nanoose Bay on the north side of Nanoose Harbour. The trail thru the Garry Oak and Arbutus ecosystem takes you up a bit of a incline to the top of the notch. At the top you will see outstanding views of MT. Arrowsmith, Nanoose Harbour and looking south Nanaimo. The entire hike should take 30 – 60 minutes.*

### **Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park**

*An acclaimed vacation spot Rathtrevor Beach is one of Vancouver Island's most popular destinations. The park with its long sandy beaches and campground located amongst majestic old growth trees, and the beautiful ocean sunsets make this a very popular spot.*

*Rathtrevor Park and campground offers five kilometers of walking trails surrounded by many hectares of mature forest. There are two playgrounds and a day use area with picnic tables and picnic shelters.*

*The vast expanses of sandy beaches and shallow water make it safe for the whole family even at high tide. The area is prime for sunbathing, building sand castles, creating sand sculptures and discovering seaside treasures while strolling the area and combing the beaches in search of tide pools and sand dollars.*

*During the Brant Festival in March and April it is a great location for viewing tens of thousands of the migratory Brant Geese from Mexico that have touched down to feed and rest on their way to their summer breeding grounds in Western Alaska.*

### **Parksville Community Park**

*The home of the Parksville Beach Festival, the annual Sand Castle Competition and the famous Lion's Venture Playground and Water park (a must for the younger family members) is located in scenic Parksville Bay.*

*Parksville Community Park offers tennis courts, ball diamonds, a skateboard park, a large field for flying kites, a covered picnic area and beautiful beaches for basking in the sun, building sandcastles and swimming.*

### **Englishman River Falls Provincial Park**

*Located near Errington along the Englishman River there are two spectacular waterfalls connected by a walking trail that falls the gorge between the falls. The Englishman Falls Provincial Park covers over 97 hectares offering a variety of hiking trails. There is a campground and picnic area. At the base of the lower falls there is a swimming hole that is popular during the summer.*

### **Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park**

*Just off Highway Four where Cameron Lake empties into the Little Qualicum River Little Qualicum Falls is a favourite sightseeing destination on Vancouver Island. Lookouts along the walking trails provide the best views of the Qualicum River and the impressive upper and lower falls cascading down into the rocky gorge.*

*Swimming, fishing, day use areas and campgrounds are available in the park.*

### **Cameron Lake**

*Cameron Lake is a great spot for sun tanning, swimming, fishing, kayaking and windsurfing.*

### **Coombs Old Country Market**

*-a country market with goats grazing on the sod roof entertaining the locals and visitors from all over the world  
-old country stores offering many local hand crafted gifts  
-started as a fruit stand in 1973*

## **Milner Garden**

- 60 acres of old growth
- 10 acres of gardens surrounding a heritage house
- significant collection of many varieties of Rhododendron

## **Tiger Lily Farm**

- family friendly farm
- mingle with the farm animals
- pony rides
- horseback on a trail ride

## **Golf Courses**

*A golfers dream destination*

*- hit the links at one of our seven superb golf courses all open to the public year round*

- *Arrowsmith Golf and Country Club [golf arrowsmith.com](http://golf.arrowsmith.com)*
- *Brigadoon Golf Club [brigidoongolfcourse.com](http://brigidoongolfcourse.com)*
- *Eaglecrest Golf Club [eaglecrestgolfclub.ca](http://eaglecrestgolfclub.ca)*
- *Fairwinds Golf Club [fairwinds.ca](http://fairwinds.ca)*
- *Morningstar Golf Course [morningstargolf.com](http://morningstargolf.com)*
- *Pheasant Glen Golf Resort [phesantglen.com](http://phesantglen.com)*
- *Qualicum Beach Memorial Golf Club [golfqualicum.ca](http://golfqualicum.ca)*

*For more details on these and other attractions refer to Oceanside Tourism*

## Places to Dine

Dining	Address	Reservations	Our Comments
<b>The Beach House Cafe</b>	2775 West Island Highway, Qualicum Beach	(250) 752-9626	Excellent little eatery right on the water. European/Western flavor
<b>Fish Tales</b>	3336 W Island Hwy Qualicum Beach	(250) 752-6053	Excellent fish and chips and great ambience
<b>Giovanni's Ristorante</b>	180 2 Avenue West Qualicum Beach	(250) 752-6693	Fine Italian Cuisine in a Friendly and Informal Atmosphere a favourite among local clients and visitors alike
<b>Leftys</b>	101-280 East Island Hwy Parksville  710 Memorial Avenue Qualicum Beach	Parksville (250) 954-3886  Qualicum Beach (250) 752-7530	Best Pizza in the area. take away thin crust pizza you bake or they will do the baking fresh food and hearty portions
<b>Crow and Gate</b>	2313 Yellow Point Road Cedar	N/A (250) 722-3731	The Crow & Gate Pub replicates an authentic English Pub. Great food and terrific ambience.
<b>Milano's Ristorante</b>	6551 Aulds Road Nanaimo	(250) 390-5060	For pasta lovers
<b>New York Pizza</b>	299 Wallace Street Nanaimo	(250) 754-0111	Pizza and Pasta
<b>Sam's Sushi</b>	890 Wembley Road	(250) 954-2373	Great Sushi , great food, modest price, always fresh, best lunch bento box
<b>Whisky Creek Save on Gas</b>	3702 Alberni Hwy	(250) 752-9261	Great Ice Crème. It's on the way to Port Alberni

Dining	Address	Reservations	Our Comments
<b>Coombs Market</b>	2310, Alberni Highway	250-248-6272	Goats on the roof a must see Old country market
<b>Rod and Gun</b>	163 Alberni Highway Parksville	(250) 954-1881	Family dining Tuscan atmosphere
<b>Fanny Bay Inn</b>	7480 Island Hwy S RR 1 Fanny Bay	(250) 335-2323	Pub food Great Oysters
<b>Bangkok Thai Food</b>	259 Island Hwy E Parksville	(250) 248-4860	Great food, good sized portions friendly service, eat in or take out, no frills
<b>The Final Approach Qualicum Airport</b>	1000 Ravensbourne Lane, Qualicum Beach	(250) 752-8966	excellent menu choices nice presentation personal service

The above places and comments are just our opinion.

Tell us about your great experiences so that we may include your comments here for sharing with our guests