Comox Valley, Vancouver Island, Canada: A new family adventure travel destination

by Tracy Ellen Beard | Dec 15, 2018



Old House Hotel & Spa — A special place for the entire family

COMOX VALLEY: Traveling with children or parents can be stressful. It is essential to stay in relaxing and spacious accommodations. Escape to Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, BC, the perfect destination for the entire family to enjoy.

Book a room or two at Old House Hotel & Spa , where suites range from 420 to 911 square feet. The family will enjoy easy access to exceptional restaurants, exciting outdoor activities, educational tours, and the hotel's fabulous spa. Old House Hotel & Spa is the perfect home away from home.



Locals Restaurant

Titillating Travel

Make the journey to Comox Valley as enjoyable as the stay. Black Ball Ferry Line, in conjunction with MV Coho, services several ports on the island, originates in Port Angeles, Washington, and allows visitors to bring their car to the island.

Commercial flights fly into Vancouver, BC, from all over the world, providing access for US citizens, Canadians, and international travelers. From Vancouver, guests can take a ferry, another commercial flight, or, for the most exciting trip, fly to the island on a seaplane with Harbour Air Seaplanes.

This exciting jaunt provides passengers with a bird's-eye view of several islands and takes less than an hour to arrive in Comox.



Harbour Air Seaplanes

Ample Accommodations

Old House Hotel & Spa is a marvelous place for an overnighter but even better for a lengthier stay. Located in the heart of the Comox Valley in the town of Courtenay, the hotel resides near boutique shopping, restaurants, championship golf courses, and numerous recreational activities. Rooms range from deluxe studios and one- and two-bedroom suites to the penthouse loft.

All rooms include partial or full gourmet kitchens with new appliances and cabinetry, cozy fireplaces, and double or California king beds. Each suite boasts standard luxury amenities: bathrobe, hairdryer, ironing board, air conditioning, and Internet. The whole family will enjoy the heated outdoor pool, hot tub, and stunning historic gardens.

Top-Drawer Treatments

Treat yourself and your loved ones to an appointment or two at Ohspa. The spa offers facials, waxing, hydrotherapy, manicures, pedicures, massages, and body treatments. My daughter Brittney and I each booked a different body treatment. Brittney thoroughly enjoyed her 75-minute organic clay wrap that detoxified and renewed her skin.
I indulged in the Moor Mud Wrap.

Megan Geisler, my esthetician, did a stellar job. She massaged warm mud all over my skin, gently wrapped me in plastic, and covered me with warm towels. She rubbed my face, scalp, and feet, left me to rest for a brief time, and then discreetly helped me remove the layers covering me before I showered. After finishing, my skin felt soft and hydrated.



Ohspa — the perfect place for rejuvenating treatments

Remarkable Restaurants

Locals Restaurant:

Owned by Executive Chef Ronald St. Pierre and his wife Tricia, it is just steps from the Old House Hotel & Spa. Chef Ronald and his staff prepare delicious local dishes sourced from the area, and they have created a tasty and healthy kids' menu so everyone can enjoy the dining experience.

The restaurant is open at 11:00 a.m. seven days a week. Brittney and I dine at Locals each time we are on the island. Our favorite dish is the "crab stack," but Chef Ronald does an excellent job with steak, duck, pasta, and other dishes. Save room for dessert, but share the dessert sampler. It tastes as fantastic as it looks.



Dessert sampler at Locals Restaurant

BlackFin

Owned by Edd and Lisa Moyes, it is another incredible place to eat. Savor a cocktail or dine outside on the deck overlooking the Comox Harbor. If it is cold, eat inside by the fire.

There are plenty of delicious meat, pasta, vegetarian, or seafood dishes created by Executive Chef Nigel McMeans to choose from.



Delicious cocktails at the BlackFin

Winning Wineries

Comox Valley offers activities for everyone in the family. Adults ages 19 and over can enjoy local wine tasting. Coastal Black Estate Winery makes tasty wines from grapes and other fruits like blueberries. They also produce delicious apple ciders.

Wander the vineyard or relax on the gorgeous patio at 40 Knots Estate Winery, where they create a variety of delectable wines made from both white and red grapes.



Fabulous wines at 40 Knots Winery

Active Adventures

The fresh air in Comox Valley beckons visitors to venture outside. Head over to one of the many parks, trails, or beaches in the area. Just outside the hotel is a pathway that leads to the waterfront where lucky adventurers often spy local seals playing in the water. Visit the local farmers' market, or spend the day viewing spectacular art in the area.

Stop by the Visitor Center and pick up a Central Island Arts Guide that contains the local studio tour map.



Humpback cruising the island waters

Discover Comox Valley Wildlife

Those seeking a more exciting adventure should sign up for a half- or full-day excursion with Pacific Pro Dive's Big Animal Encounters where bears, whales, seals, sea lions, and birds are frequently sighted. Comox Valley Kayaks & Canoes allows visitors to expend some energy. Book a kayak, canoe, or paddleboard to view the island from a new perspective.



Black bear scavenging for mussels

Educational Endeavors

It never hurts to learn something new while on vacation. The Comox Valley is home to several exciting seafood companies. Book a tour of the Fanny Bay Oysters Plant to learn about oyster farming and the variety of uses for their shells. Manatee Holdings Hatchery is a fascinating place to view some unfamiliar seafood species: geoducks, sea cucumbers, scallops, and oysters.

Tour the facility with owner Eric Gant, one of the world's foremost authorities on geoduck clam aquaculture. He explains the art and science of seafood farming and the world's responsibility to maintain seafood health and sustainability.



Sea cucumber at Manatee Holdings Hatchery



Geoducks at Manatee Holdings Hatchery

At the end of each day, return to the Old House Hotel & Spa. Lounge in the spacious suite, or go for a soak in the hot tub outside. Order in or prepare a meal in the suite's modern kitchen.

Finally, finish the day by relaxing with a glass of local wine next to the fireplace before turning in for the night.