



PACIFIC MARINE CIRCLE ROUTE – SAMPLE ITINERARY

The Pacific Marine Circle Route is a scenic 270 km (170 mi) loop that winds through temperate rainforest, along rugged coastline, past totem poles, vineyards and lush farmland into the heart of British Columbia’s capital city, Victoria. Drivable in one day – but best enjoyed over 3-5 days – the loop is fully paved, customizable and geared towards those seeking the best of both urban and rural experiences on southern Vancouver Island. Don’t just take our word for it; **Travel + Leisure** called the Pacific Marine Circle Route “the best way to see Canada’s stunning coast”. For more information, visit www.tourismvictoria.com/pacific-marine-circle-route

Section 1: Victoria to Cowichan Bay (55 km; 1 hr 4 min)

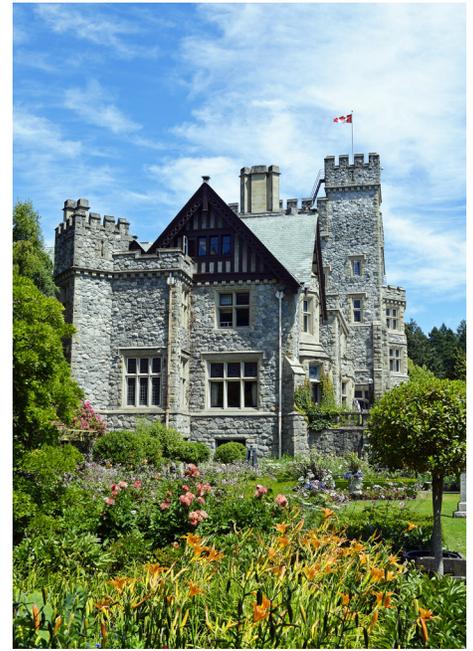
Begin the journey from Victoria, heading north along Highway 1. Cruise through lush rainforest before passing over the scenic **Malahat Summit** as you head towards the seaside town of Cowichan Bay.

Things to do: Hike through old-growth rainforest in **Goldstream Provincial Park**, swim in **Spectacle Lake** or explore the historic **Kinsol Trestle**, a 44m, free-standing timber rail structure.

Where to eat: Enjoy home-style, Canadian comfort food with sweeping views of the Saanich Inlet at **Malahat Chalet**, or try seasonally inspired food and drink from **Merridale Cidery & Distillery**. Known as the “Napa of the North”, wine enthusiasts can enjoy tastings at a number of nearby vineyards, such as **Averill Creek Vineyards**, **Blue Grouse Estate Winery** and **Unsworth Vineyards**.



Please note: Some sections of the Pacific Marine Circle Route are remote with limited services, and in some locations the road may be narrow or have sharp bends. Driving times can vary depending on conditions and type of vehicle. Please exercise due care when driving. For information on current road conditions, please visit www.drivebc.ca.



Where to stay: Moon Water Lodge or the Villa Eyrie Resort for elevated views, orchard-side in a Yurt at Merridale Cidery & Distillery, or from one of 16 cozy bed and breakfasts belonging to the Cowichan Valley Bed and Breakfast Association.

Section 2: Cowichan Bay to Port Renfrew (103 km; 1 hr 48 min)

The second leg of the trip passes through Duncan, the City of Totems, before heading inland towards the seaside town of Port Renfrew. Note: this section has limited cell service. Be sure to fuel up the car before you go.

Things to do: Discover the history of all 40 totems scattered around Duncan with a Totem Walking Tour. In Port Renfrew, search for orcas and humpbacks on a whale watching tour with Orca Spirit, explore Botanical Beach, teeming with intertidal marine life, or enjoy a leisurely hike to Avatar Grove, home to Canada's "Gnarliest" Tree.

Where to eat: Locals and visitors gather at The Renfrew Pub for elevated pub fare and patio beers. On the way in and out of town, stop at the Coastal Kitchen Café for fresh seafood, organic salads, smoothies or a coffee for the road.

Where to stay: Wild Renfrew offers a mixture of accommodation options, from budget-friendly lodging at the West Coast Trail Lodge to luxurious seaside cottages and wharf side studios.

Section 3: Port Renfrew to Jordan to Sooke (71 km; 1 hr 13 min)

Enjoy rugged, unspoiled coastline on the drive from Port Renfrew to Sooke. There is no shortage of ocean vistas to be had on this leg of the route.

Things to do: Explore pristine beaches and parks, hike the Juan de Fuca Trail, get on the water with kayak and stand-up-paddleboard rentals from Westcoast Adventure College or cool off with a swim at Sooke Potholes Provincial Park.

Places to eat: Enjoy west coast cuisine in a casual setting at The Copper Room or West Coast Grill, or experience fine dining with an ocean view at the Sooke Harbour House Dining Room. For a quick coffee and pastry, be sure to stop at Stick in the Mud Coffee House, a local favourite.

Where to stay: Spot marine wildlife from your room at the artistically appointed Sooke Harbour House, or enjoy equally stunning ocean views from the Prestige Oceanfront Resort, equipped with an on-site spa and fitness centre.

Section 4: Sooke to Victoria (40 km; 50 min)

The final section of the route offers equal doses of adventure and history before returning back to downtown Victoria.

Things to do: Zipline high above the trees with AdrenaLINE Adventure, learn more about B.C.'s history at Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse, a National Historic Site, or tour the grounds of famed Hatley Castle, best known for its appearances in films like Deadpool and X-Men.

Places to eat: surrounded by farming regions and abundant coastal waters, Victoria's restaurants and cafés are blessed with a bounty of local ingredients. Try the time-honoured tradition of afternoon tea, sample a craft pint at a local brewpub, or explore the city through your taste buds with a food tour. Learn more: www.tourismvictoria.com/eat-drink

Where to stay: Find a perfect room with an even better view from Victoria's numerous accommodation options. From historic hotels to charming bed and breakfasts, choose from lavish and luxurious or convenient and cost-conscious. Learn more: www.tourismvictoria.com/stay