

PACIFIC MARINE CIRCLE ROUTE



PACIFIC MARINE CIRCLE ROUTE – SAMPLE ITINERARY

The **Pacific Marine Circle Route** is a scenic 296 km (184 mi) loop that winds through temperate rainforest, along rugged coastline, past totem poles, vineyards and lush farmland into the heart of Victoria, British Columbia's capital city. 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."

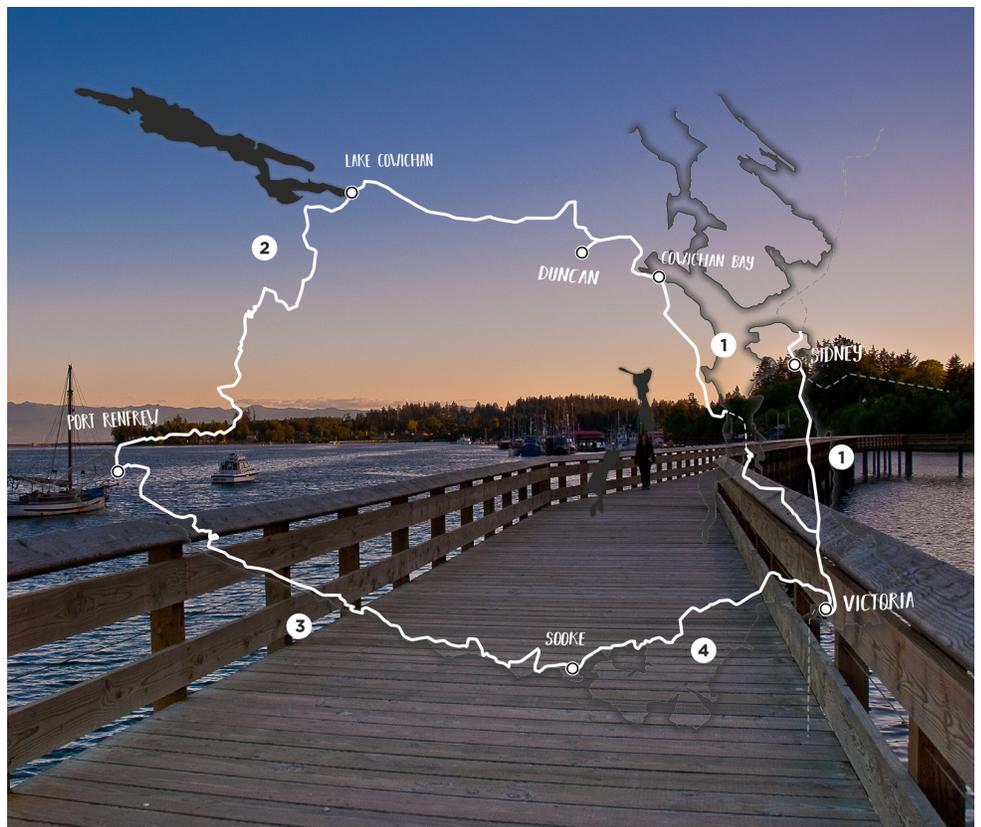
For more information, visit www.tourismvictoria.com/pacific-marine-circle-route

SECTION 1: SIDNEY TO VICTORIA TO COWICHAN BAY (82 KM, 1 HR 18 MIN)

Southern Vancouver Island from Sidney to Victoria to Cowichan Bay packs in more to do, see, read, eat and drink than you can possibly imagine. Bookstores, breweries, bakeries and breathtaking views at every turn.

THINGS TO DO: Sample spirits at **Victoria Distillers**, cruise the Salish Sea with **Sidney Whale Watching**, hike through old-growth forest in **Goldstream Provincial Park** or explore the historic **Kinsol Trestle**, a 44m tall, 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 at **Merridale Cidery & Distillery**. Wine enthusiasts can explore nearby vineyards, such as **Averill Creek Vineyard**, **Blue Grouse Estate Winery**, **Unsworth Vineyards** and **Rocky Creek Winery**.



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 51 MIN)

No trip to this part of the world would be complete without at least one chance to hike or rest among the impressive forests of our coast. The journey from Cowichan Bay to Port Renfrew provides more than a few chances to do just that – Maple Mountain, Port Renfrew, and the ancient forests of Avatar Grove to name a few.

THINGS TO DO: Discover the history of 40+ totems in Duncan with a self-guided **Totem Walking Tour**. In Port Renfrew, search for marine wildlife with **Orca Spirit**, explore **Botanical Beach**, teeming with intertidal marine life, or hike **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 coffee, sandwiches and other tasty to-go items.

WHERE TO STAY: Wild Renfrew offers a mixture of accommodation options, from budget-friendly lodging at the Wild Renfrew Lodge to luxurious seaside cottages.

SECTION 3: PORT RENFREW TO JORDAN TO SOOKE (71 KM; 1 HR 13 MIN)

The drive from Port Renfrew to Sooke is the rugged, unspoiled West Coast at its very best. Pristine lakes, beaches and swimming holes, surfing and local fare paired with picture-perfect vistas.

THINGS TO DO: Explore scenic beaches and parks, hike the **Juan de Fuca Trail**, rent kayaks or stand-up-paddleboards from **West Coast Outdoor Adventure Rentals** or explore 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**.

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)

If you are looking for an action-packed day of adventure for the whole family, this section of the route – from Sooke to Victoria - will satisfy. Heart-thumping zip-lining high above the trees, historic locales and lighthouses, and Victoria’s bustling Inner Harbour... never a dull moment.

THINGS TO DO: Zipline through the trees with **AdrenaLINE Adventure** or **WildPlay Victoria**, 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 Hollywood 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

*Please note: The road to Avatar Grove is unpaved. Use at your own risk.