



BC WATERWAY'S SOME OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD

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VANCOUVER, BC- British Columbia is home to some of the very best waterways in the world. Whether you are seeking sparkling lakes, majestic ocean vistas or exceptional rivers offering the best on-water sporting and adventure activities in the world, British Columbia offers a wide range of options for getting out on the water.

Boating BC, the leading voice in BC's recreational boating industry, is offering its choice for five "must visit" waterways in 2016. These waterway wonders are the envy of the world and we're proud to have them here in beautiful British Columbia:

1) **Barkley Sound (fishing/cruising/site seeing)**

A maze of islands, bays and inlets comprises Barkley Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island between Ucluelet and Bamfield, Barkley Sound and the Broken Group Islands are one of the three main recreational components in Pacific Rim National Park. The Sound was named after sailing Captain, Charles William Barkley of the Imperial Eagle. Barkley Sound provides a true west coast experience featuring outdoor activities such as diving, kayaking, fishing and hiking. Barkley Sound is home to some of the most diverse marine life found anywhere in the world. Killer whales, porpoises, salmon, shrimp, rockfish and others call the area home. It is also known to be a great spot for viewing dry-land wildlife such as minks, martens and raccoons.

2) **Gulf Islands (cruising/watersports)**

The Gulf Islands are the most visited region on the BC coast. Close knit, over 200 islands with fascinating shorelines, warm waters and a sub-Mediterranean climate, protect cozy passages and new discoveries around every bend. National Geographic Traveler named the Gulf Islands one of the world's best coastal destinations. Not surprisingly, the waterways surrounding the Gulf Islands of British Columbia are one of BC's most popular destinations. The Gulf Islands are known for their natural beauty, tranquility and unique character. Visitors can explore the rocky shores of the islands via sailboat, powerboat, kayak, or canoe.

3) **Fraser River (fishing/water sports)**

The Fraser River is the single largest river system in British Columbia; traversing three quarters of BC it is the major water drainage of the province. The Fraser River is the home of one of the world's largest White Sturgeon populations. Anglers travel from near and afar to do battle with these magnificent ancient fish. Not only does the Fraser River boast incredible sturgeon fishing, it is also world renowned for its massive salmon runs, averaging 20-50 million per year.

The Fraser offers angling opportunities for all five Pacific salmon species that start running in May and end up in November.



4) Lake Okanagan (watersports)

Stunning Okanagan Lake spans 135km and can be enjoyed from a stand up paddleboard, houseboat, ski boats, personal water craft, sailboats, pedal-boats, charter, kayaks and canoes. Lake Okanagan also boasts summertime water temperatures that average between 19-23C/69-71F.

The lake is welcoming and refreshing during the summer but it also has its mysteries - creatures, hidden coves, tombs and hidden coves. Search for Ogopogo, hike the Paul's Tomb trail near Knox Mountain and snorkel in the crystal clear water of the quiet, secluded bays.

5) Howe Sound (cruising/fishing):

Regardless of your on water interest, Howe Sound is an ideal place for it! Rent kayaks, cruise, fish, take wildlife adventures, rent a boat for an afternoon – there's something for everyone and you can access it from the Sunshine Coast or West Vancouver.

British Columbia is known for its stunning fjords, deep inlets, towering coastal mountain ranges, stunning lakes and rivers, and more than 40,000 islands. The region will capture any boater's imagination, with the pristine anchorages of the Broughton Archipelago, the family-friendly activities of the Gulf Islands, the ancient totems in Haida Gwaii, the untouched nature of the Great Bear Rainforest and the many warm, easily accessible lakes and rivers across the province.

About Boating BC Association

Boating BC, the voice of recreational boating in BC, is comprised of over 300 member companies that represent all aspects of the boating industry. As owners of the Vancouver International Boat Show, the Association promotes boating and strives to ensure the industry remains strong, working closely with all levels of government, cultivating marine career opportunities and promoting safe and responsible boating.

www.boatingbc.ca