

## Things to do on Gabriola

### Most of all, Relax!

The main reason you are here is to relax. If the weather is warm, sit outside with a coffee, tea, beer or glass of wine, and enjoy the wildlife and scenery. If the weather is not so good, read a paper, one of our books or magazines.

### Golf

The **Gabriola Golf and Country Club** has a nine-hole course which is different from most! Beautiful scenery and lots of challenges. If you don't feel like 9 or 18 holes, go and hit a bucket of balls.

### Bicycle

For road bikes, Gabriola has a 30 km paved road circling the island. There are a few tough hills, but if you take it easy and stop and enjoy the scenery, you will be fine. There is very little traffic. A great 30 km day trip with a stop for lunch at Silva Bay is a great way to see the island and stay fit.

If you prefer to mountain bike, there are lots of trails on the island. Mountain bike rentals are available from Pages Marina.

### Kayak

Gabriola is famous for its kayaking opportunities.

**Jim's Kayaking** – runs rentals from Silva Bay. 250-247-8335 or 250-751-5887

**Silva Bay Kayak Adventures** runs guided trips from Silva Bay, but will usually bring kayaks to Pilot Bay and lead you from there. Very reasonable prices (2 hours, guided, for \$35). 250-247-8939

**Gabriola Sea Kayaking** – This group runs courses on Gabriola and organized groups off the island. 250-247-0189

### Art/Artisans and the Studio Tour

Gabriola is known as the Island of the Arts, and for good reason. There are dozens of artists, painters, potters, woodcarvers, jewelers, etc. scattered all over the island. Most will welcome you to their homes and places of business without an appointment. **Artworks** in the Village displays and sells many types of artworks. Ask us about any special item you are looking for.

Our favorites:

**Moonshine studios.** Quality jewelry at reasonable prices, just a short walk from our house down Berry Point Road.

**Morag Orr-Stevens.** Painter and fiber artist. Some of her work is displayed in the Library Room bathroom and in the vestibule to the Patio Seaside Room. 1095 Jeanette, 250-247-7462.

**Shiela Norgate.** Lots of birds and whimsical sayings. Her crows are hanging in the Library Room. 2531 Tye Drive. 250-247-0085.

For 15 years, on the Thanksgiving weekend, the artists and artisans of Gabriola have welcomed visitors into their studios with the annual **Studio Tour**. You'll be amazed at the artistic talent you'll see.

### **Books**

There are many wonderful authors on Gabriola. Murder mysteries, histories of British Columbia, Gardening, etc. are all written here. Page's Marina, at the south end of the island, has an eclectic selection of books. Ask us for recommendations. We may even be able to have an author sign your book!

### **Jogging**

We have many roads and trails in the immediate vicinity. Ask us for our 5k and 10 routes!

### **Farmers' Markets**

Every Saturday from the May long weekend to Thanksgiving, from 10 until noon, there is a market at the top of the hill leading to the Village. Fresh produce and lots of artisans' stuff.

There is a smaller market on Sundays at Silva Bay- open from 10 till 2.

### **The Gym**

Only two city blocks from our guesthouse, the Gym opened last year and provides an excellent workout. Drop-ins are welcome.

## Restaurants

**Robert's Place** is located across from Folklife Village. It is a good family restaurant with lots of choice. **Woodfire Pizza and Pasta** has some of the best pizza we've ever had. **The Old A-Frame Restaurant** is your best bet for a quiet, white table cloth dinner.

You can get a great coffee at **Mad Rona's**, located beside Woodfire.

**Raspberries** at Folklife Village is also a nice spot for lunch.

If you are the south end of the island, stop in at **Silva Bay Pub and Restaurant** for a cold beer or a scenic lunch.

You are welcome to have a picnic in our yard. We can supply you with a picnic basket of plates, glasses, napkins and cutlery. We ask that you not eat in your room or in the great room.

## Parks

**Twin Beaches** is a short walk from here.

**Drumbeg Park**, at the south end, is a beautiful walk.

Also visit **Sandwell Park**, near Whalebone.

**Malaspina Galleries** is a treasure on Gabriola, within walking or cycling distance. Ask us for directions and recommendations.

## Trails

GALT – Gabriola Lands and Trails Trust has a map showing some of the major trails on the island.

## Beach Walks and Petroglyphs

The beach is at your door! Lots to see. Walk as far as you like, but watch the tides! At low tide, some have walked all the way around the peninsula which you see from our patio!

In addition, visit the Malaspina Galleries, only a few km from our home, to witness a natural phenomenon of rock formation.

Finally walk the petroglyph walk off of South Road.

## Gabriola Theatre Festival

Usually takes place the third weekend in August, three days of excitement and performances for everyone.

### **Real Estate!**

Ever thought of owning a piece of this wonderful island?  
We can put you in touch with the top realtors on the island and maybe you can fulfill your dream. Or, just go window-shopping....

### **Alpacas!**

**Paradise Island Alpacas**, at 785 North Road, just south of the elementary school and the Village Market, is an Alpaca farm which is usually open. Fun for all ages, and you can also buy alpaca goods. 250-247-9102

### **Museum**

On South Road at Lochivar (just near the Village Market) is the **Gabriola Museum**. Open 10-4, Thursday to Monday in the summer, and 10-3, Saturday and Sunday in the spring and fall. Worth a visit. In our great room, you'll find copies of Shale-The Museum Journal. It contains lot of interesting stuff, not just about rocks!

### **Boat Building School**

At Silva Bay there is a boat building school which students from all over attend for three months every winter. It may not be open when you drop by, but look in the window and at the various boats which have been built or are in the process.