

## Bowser, British Columbia (August-September, 2019)



Video: [Our friend Juliette:](https://youtu.be/gV1D90tGOYI)  
<https://youtu.be/gV1D90tGOYI>



After leaving our mountain “home” in Enderby, we headed to our final stop - Bowser, BC. We were delighted to find it to be a picturesque and quiet but friendly seaside community.



## Bowser, British Columbia (August-September, 2019)



Best of all, Bowser is located right on the east coast, directly across from two smaller islands, Denman and Hornby. We were thrilled to have such a great access point for using our kayaks! The small island with the white buildings is Chrome Island, the site of a light station and an archaeological findings including petroglyphs. We were impressed that on one of our first trips we made it all the way to Tribune Bay Beach on Hornby Island, a very popular spot for visitors travelling by boat.

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Video: Kayak trip to Hornby Island with some friendly seals along the way:

[https://youtu.be/-3cppcebA\\_M](https://youtu.be/-3cppcebA_M)

It did not take us long to find out that harbour seals are abundant here – we encountered them on virtually every outing we made. We also saw dolphins on one of our trips!



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Video:  
Close  
encounter  
with deer  
on Quadra  
Island:  
<https://youtu.be/jwLC581iUnA>



Deer are also very common on the Islands. These three beauties were often seen in our neighbourhood, sometimes enjoying an apple off of our hosts' tree.



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This area is well known for oyster farming – just down the road from us was a UBC research facility that helps support the industry (shown on this year's Amazing Race Canada). With changes in the ocean, there have been a lot of challenges lately for oyster, clam, and scallop farming, as well as for fishing.



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Of course we sampled some seafood – possibly the scallops were our favourite.



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We were amazed to see how plentiful the wild blackberries were. Anywhere we went, we didn't have to look far to find a fruity snack...



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...or a sweet snack (the Custard slice was twice what is shown in the picture) . By the end of our trip, mushroom foraging season was well underway.



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With Bowser as a base, we were able to take many interesting day trips by bike, car, or kayak. Nearby Parksville is known for its beach and for its annual sand sculpture contest.



# Mount Washington, Vancouver Island, British Columbia



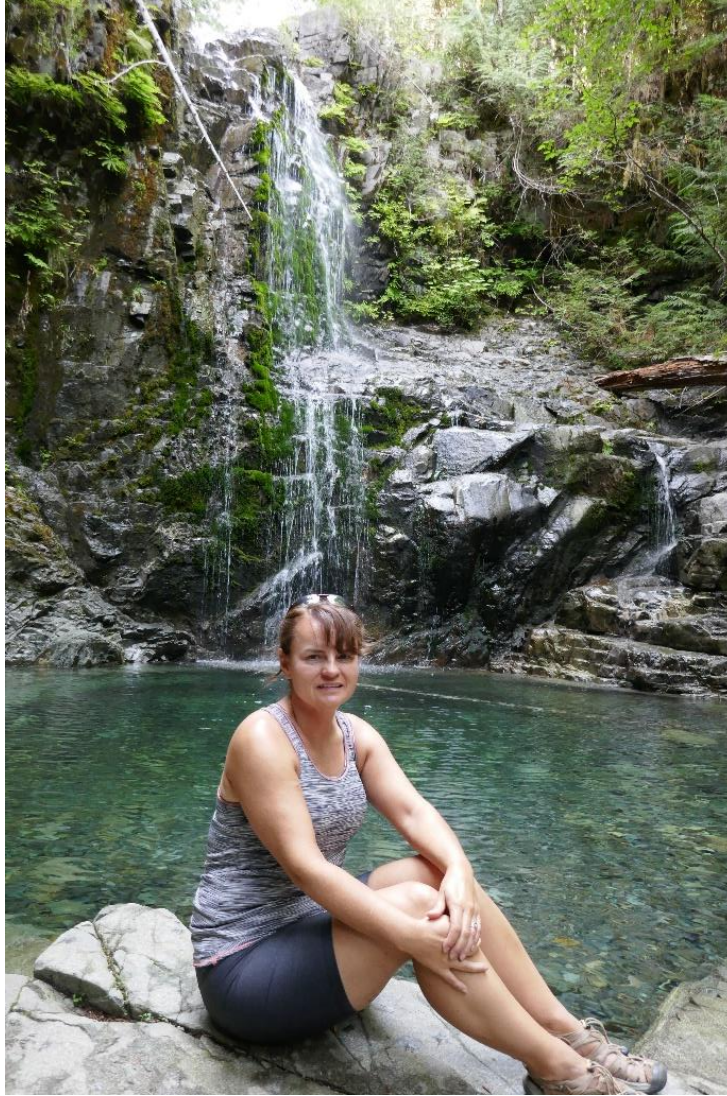
Video: [Our](https://youtu.be/gYMH0sMpm1c)  
mountain biking  
experience:  
<https://youtu.be/gYMH0sMpm1c>



At Mount Washington we were able to try real mountain biking (our first time down the mountain we were thinking maybe it wasn't such a good idea but we survived) – a very popular activity all over BC. And what a view!



# Port Alberni, British Columbia



Video: Serene and beautiful:  
<https://youtu.be/mmH3iDN2PIY>

Beautiful Weiner Falls (wi-ner, not wee-ner!). Getting to the bottom of the falls was kind of crazy and we wouldn't have done it if we hadn't met a nice family with some 8 year olds that braved the trek (actually, they gave us encouragement that even us older people could do it).



# Ucluelet and Long Beach (Pacific Rim National Park)



Video: Pacific Rim  
beach:  
[https://youtu.be/  
MK1eC2d3YIM](https://youtu.be/MK1eC2d3YIM)

One of the last warm days of summer. We hung out here for quite a while.



# Campbell River, British Columbia



Video: Short but cool video of Orcas:  
<https://youtu.be/LpFnivFGOAY>



Video: Bear foraging for food:  
<https://youtu.be/PtJWAT9Zh7Q>

We made a few trips to Campbell River. A surprise highlight was seeing a pair of orca whales make their way down the strait between the town and Quadra Island. Luckily we didn't see any real cougars, though they are regularly sighted on the island. We did have the pleasure of watching this black bear scavenge for salmon on the Quinsam River!



# Denman Island, British Columbia



Video: Denman  
Island bike ride:  
<https://youtu.be/5-bOg4igcaY>

We enjoyed Denman Island by kayak and by bike. Morning Beach is a lovely peaceful spot. But you have to get there in the morning or the sun will be gone!



# Hornby Island, British Columbia





# Helliwell Provincial Park, Hornby Island, British Columbia





# Horne Lake, Vancouver Island, British Columbia





# Vancouver Island, British Columbia



One of the great pleasures of Vancouver Island is to explore the lush, wild rainforest. Some of these photos were taken near our place in Bowser.



# Desolation Sound, British Columbia



Video: Corilair Sea  
Plane:  
<https://youtu.be/LD62bmkcucQ>



As a special treat, we took a ride on a float plane that does the “mail run” into some of the more remote communities.



# Desolation Sound, British Columbia



One of the plane's stops was at Refuge Cove, on West Redonda Island.



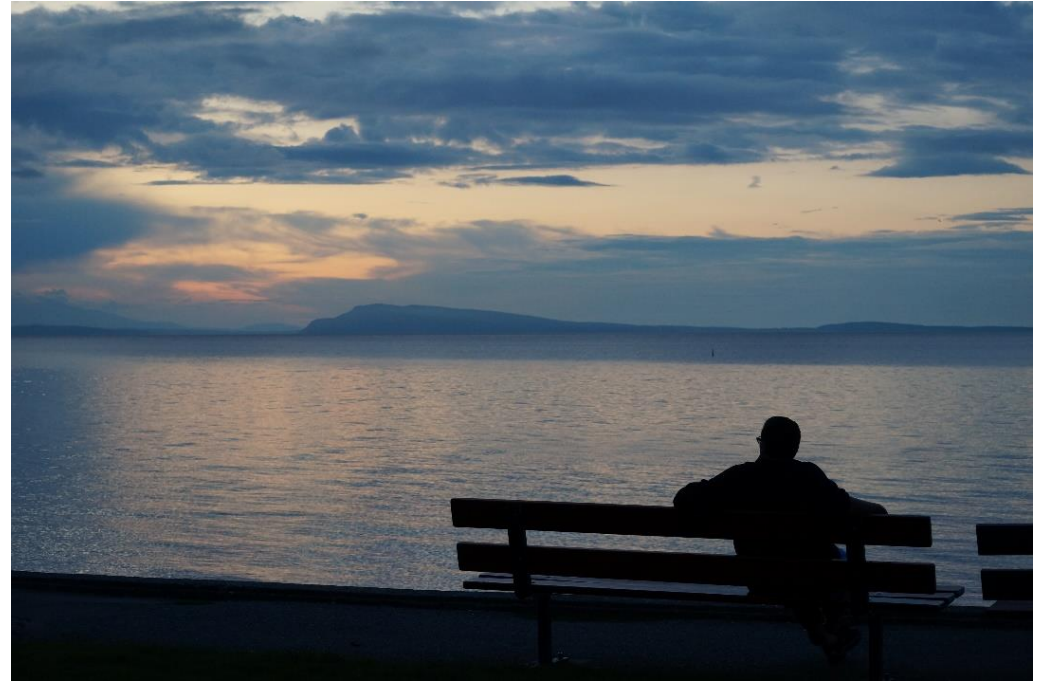
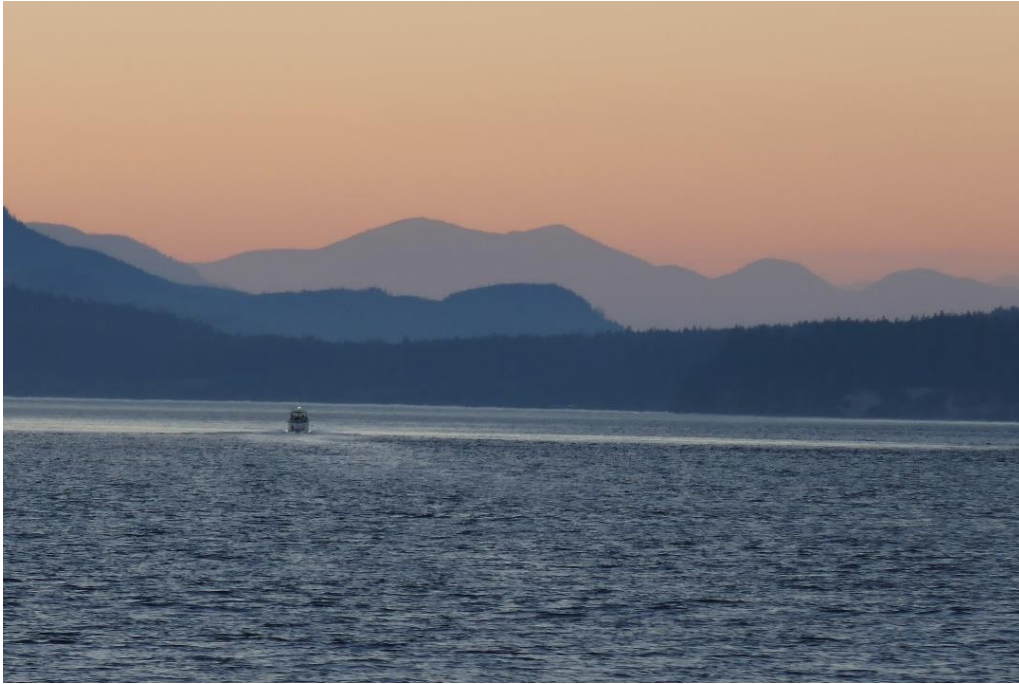
# Denman Island, British Columbia



We thought we had seen a lot but on our last kayaking adventure across the strait to Denman Island we came across a treasure trove of colourful sea stars and anemones, as well as several interesting birds including these Black Oystercatchers.



# Vancouver Island, British Columbia



We had a wonderful time on Vancouver Island!