



## ADVENTURE IN TOFINO: A HISTORY

To adventure-loving visitors, Tofino is paradise – a well-heeled launching pad for surfing, kayaking, wildlife watching, and exploring the natural beauty of one of Canada’s natural wonders – Clayoquot Sound.

But long before the tourist boom and the five-star hotels came to town, the rugged region around Tofino was explored and exploited by intrepid souls of the flippered, two- and four-legged variety.

Their legacy is the adventure wonderland Tofino is today, and apparent in each of region’s many activities.

**Surfing:** Canada’s Surf City, Tofino owes its much of its development – and appeal – to renegade surfers who settled in the area in the 1960s and 1970s. Long before million-dollar homes took over Chesterman Beach, surf-loving hippies and draft-dodgers recognized the area’s potential for swell and started colonizing the peninsula, living hand-to-mouth in elaborate squats with their families. From this meager beginning, the Tofino surfing scene has grown into a million dollar industry, and put Tofino on the international surf map.

**Whale Watching:** The rich and nutrient filled waters around Tofino are home to a variety of marine wildlife including many different species of whales, harbour seals, sea lions, sea otters, porpoises and myriad birdlife including puffins, blue herons and bald eagles. Mother nature’s ever-changing cycles offer different surprises every year. In 2005, whale watchers routinely spotted transient killer whales, a record number of humpback whales, a sea otter named Hannibal, and a group of gray whales nicknamed “The Friendlies,” who enjoyed a good rub or pat beside the boat.

**Bear Watching:** Black bears have roamed the Pacific Northwest for thousands of years, and Vancouver Island black bears have earned a subspecies designation of its own, *U. a. vancouveri*. While most Vancouver Island black bears are black with a brownish muzzle and a white throat patch, other common colors of black bears are black, brown, blue/black, white and cinnamon. The average weight of a male (boar) is 375 lbs. to 600 lbs. Clayoquot Sound’s coastline offers incredible opportunities for viewing black bears. Resident bears descend to the beaches at low tide to forage for delicacies such as rock crab, starfish and kelp along the protected and calm waters surrounding scenic Meares Island

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**Hot Springs Cove:** Hot Springs Cove, a mineral steam bath surrounded by old-growth rain forest, is still enjoyable in its natural state. The hot springs are located at the remote northern end of Clayoquot Sound in Maquinna Provincial Park, named in honour of 'Maquinna', an 18th century First Nations chief and family. The boiling spring water bubbles up from deep in the earth and cascades down a small cliff into a series of natural layered rock pools, cooled by the incoming Pacific Ocean surf, each pool slightly cooler than the one above it. At high tide the surf surges up into the two lower pools creating a unique blend of hot and cool water. This soothing, natural wonder is open year-round and is accessible only by air or sea.

**Golfing:** The Long Beach Golf Course, located in the Clayoquot Biosphere Reserve, is one of the most scenically situated golf courses in British Columbia. Located just minutes from one of the most spectacular beaches in the world, Long Beach Golf Course is surrounded by the ancient rainforest of Clayoquot Sound to the north and the breathtaking beauty of Barkley Sound in the south. Featuring an 18-hole mini-golf course, and a 9-hole championship course – one of the most challenging on Vancouver Island – Long Beach Golf Course has long drawn locals and visitors from the quaint fishing villages of nearby Tofino and Ucluelet.

**Sea Kayaking:** Tofino is surrounded by surf washed beaches, craggy peninsulas and calm tidal inlets, A rich green expanse of rainforested islands and mountains lies just off shore, beckoning people to the water's edge and beyond. From June through October, you may find yourself paddling alongside a pod of cruising orcas. Other encounters include porpoises, sea lions, seals, sea otters, eagles and black bears. Weaving through the islands, pulled by tidal currents and propelled by paddle, even just a few hours of kayaking imparts guests with a connection with this precious environment.

**In-Room Massage:** Enjoying massage, bodywork and spa treatments in Tofino is a special experience. Tofino is rumoured to have potent healing powers, and its natural setting provides a beautiful environment for massage and bodywork. Tofino's community of massage therapists creates a sacred space within to release physical, emotional and mental toxins that are being stored in the body. The release of the toxins unleashes old patterns that are no longer serving one's highest potential and creates new opportunities on every level for health.

**Flight Seeing:** Get a bird's eye view of Vancouver Island's millennia-old glaciers, waterfalls and mountain peaks from 5,000 feet. Soar over snow-peaked caps, high above British Columbia's oldest provincial park. Strathcona Park's forests were already old in 1778 when Captain James Cook of the Royal Navy landed at Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. On your descent towards Tofino, survey frothing coastline, offset by greenery and perhaps catch a glimpse of a breaching whale.