

## SUMMER GETAWAYS

# NO PASSPORT REQUIRED



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT: Vancouver beach scene; on the course at Predator Ridge; barrels of wine age at Mission Hill winery (Photo: Destination BC/J.F. Bergeron); ready to roll with Superfly Ziplines (Photo: Joanne Blain); a sturgeon catch-and-release (Photo: Destination BC/Albert Normandin).

Ride in the sky, hook a huge fish, soak at a spa, or taste-test some excellent wines. All this, and more, in our own B.C. backyards

BY JOANNE BLAIN AND JANE MUNDY



The pleasure of taking a vacation is often marred by the pain of getting there. So this summer, why not eliminate the hassle of multiple flights or a long road trip by spending your holiday time closer to home?

You might be surprised by the variety of vacation getaways right here in British Columbia. For everything from adrenalin-pumping activities to serious down time at a spa, you don't have to venture far from your own front door.

We've put together a guide to some of the best summer getaways in B.C. All you have to do is pick your favourite activity – or more than one – and jump in your car, on a ferry or on a short flight to your destination. Pack the sunscreen but leave your passport at home.

### ADVENTURE

There's a new way to get high in B.C. and it's perfectly legal. In Squamish, the Sea to Sky Gondola ([seatoskygondola.com](http://seatoskygondola.com)), which opened May 16, takes you on an eight-minute ride 885 metres above sea level to give you stunning views of mountains, ocean and waterfalls.

Just up the road north of Whistler, Superfly Ziplines and Treetop Adventures ([superflyziplines.com](http://superflyziplines.com)) boasts six tandem ziplines including the longest one in Canada, a 1.2-kilometre ride that gives you more than a minute of hang time and a top speed of up to 100 kilometres an hour.

On the water, Sunshine Coast Tours ([sunshinecoasttours.ca](http://sunshinecoasttours.ca)) can set up a custom tour of the Sechelt Rapids in the Skookumchuck Narrows that's guaranteed to get your pulse racing.

### FISHING

If you're up for a challenge, test your angling skills on a sturgeon. Head out from Harrison Hot Springs with a guide from the B.C. Sportfishing Group ([bcsportfishinggroup.com](http://bcsportfishinggroup.com)) to try to hook a big one, and we mean big – a four-metre-long, 500-kilogram sturgeon was caught in the Fraser in 2012.

Sturgeon is a threatened species so it's all catch and release, but snag one and you can take home the glory.

## You might be surprised by the variety of vacation getaways right here in B.C.

Anglers from all around the world come to Port Renfrew to chase trophy-size salmon, and you're unlikely to hear yarns about the "one that got away" – most sport fishers bag their limit with time to snag a behemoth halibut. Book an oceanside cabin at Port Renfrew Resorts ([portrenfrewresorts.com](http://portrenfrewresorts.com)) and barbecue your catch on the spacious deck.

### SPAS

You've probably never been to a spa like the one at Sparkling Hill Resort ([sparklinghill.com](http://sparklinghill.com)) in Vernon. For starters, it's huge (40,000 square feet) and features 48 treatment rooms, seven steam rooms and saunas, plus indoor and outdoor pools. But its most unique feature is a cryotherapy cold sauna set at bone numbing minus 110 degrees. It's been used

to treat Olympic athletes for joint and muscle pain, and it will definitely wake you up.

Victoria's Silk Road ([silkroadteastore.com](http://silkroadteastore.com)) is best known for its fabulous selection of organic teas, but downstairs is a relaxing spa that uses house-made skin and body-care products based on tea and marine elements like sea salt and mud.

### GOLF

For golf lovers, B.C. is the envy of the rest of Canada. Not only can you tee off from early spring to late fall in most of the province, you're spoiled for choice in terms of top-rated courses.

High on the list are the two courses at Vernon's Predator Ridge Resort ([predatorridge.com](http://predatorridge.com)), especially the four-year-old Ridge course with its elevated tees offering spectacular views of Lake Okanagan.

Near Campbell River, Storey Creek Golf Club ([storeycreek.bc.ca](http://storeycreek.bc.ca)) gets high marks for its forested setting and challenging layout. And Greywolf ([greywolfgolf.com](http://greywolfgolf.com)) in Panorama,

near Invermere, combines mountains, cliffs and creeks for an unforgettable 18 holes.

### WINE

Who needs to fly to the south of France when B.C. has its own great wine country? Download a list of all 132 wineries in the Thompson-Okanagan region from the Destination British Columbia website ([hellobc.com](http://hellobc.com)) and start exploring. Don't miss Kelowna's Mission Hill Family Estate winery ([missionhillwinery.com](http://missionhillwinery.com)), which hosts a great summer concert series, the award-winning Burrowing Owl Estate Winery ([bovwine.ca](http://bovwine.ca)) in Oliver and Nk'Mip Cellars ([nkmipcellars.com](http://nkmipcellars.com)) in Osoyoos, North America's first aboriginal-run winery.

The Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island is also home to several excellent wineries. Sip pinot noir and gaze over the valley on the patio at Averill Creek Vineyard ([averillcreek.ca](http://averillcreek.ca)), stock up on bubbly at Vigneti Zanatta ([zanatta.ca](http://zanatta.ca)) and pinot gris at Blue Grouse Estate Winery ([bluegrouse.ca](http://bluegrouse.ca)) – they all use 100-per-cent estate-grown grapes.

# SUMMER EVENTS IN METRO VANCOUVER

Don't want to leave home at all this summer? There's lots to do right here in Metro Vancouver.

## >> JUNE

**Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival**, June 11 to Sept. 20, Vanier Park, Vancouver [bardonthebeach.org](http://bardonthebeach.org)

**TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival**, June 20 to July 1, various venues, Vancouver [coastaljazz.ca](http://coastaljazz.ca)

**Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival**, June 20 to 22, False Creek, Vancouver [dragonboatbc.ca](http://dragonboatbc.ca)

**Doors Open Richmond** festival, June 7 and 8, various locations, Richmond [richmond.ca](http://richmond.ca)

**Vancouver International Storytelling Festival**, June 13 to 16, various venues, Vancouver [vancouverstorytelling.org](http://vancouverstorytelling.org)

**Festival d'Été Francophone**, June 19 to 26, various venues, Vancouver [lecentre culturel.com](http://lecentre culturel.com)

**Doors Open Surrey** festival, June 21, various locations, Surrey [surrey.ca](http://surrey.ca)

## >> JULY

**Canada Day celebrations**, July 1, Canada Place, Vancouver [canadaday.canadaplace.ca](http://canadaday.canadaplace.ca)

**Steveston Salmon Festival**, July 1, various locations, Steveston [stevestonsalmonfest.ca](http://stevestonsalmonfest.ca)

**Carnaval del Sol**, July 6 and 7, Granville Street, Vancouver [carnavaldelsol.com](http://carnavaldelsol.com)

**South Delta Jazz Festival**, July 8 to 12, various venues, Delta [southdeltajazzfestival.com](http://southdeltajazzfestival.com)

**Theatre Under the Stars**, July 11 to Aug. 23, Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park, Vancouver [tuts.ca](http://tuts.ca)

**Vancouver Folk Music Festival**, July 18 to 20, Jericho Beach, Vancouver [thefestival.bc.ca](http://thefestival.bc.ca)

**Aldergrove Fair Days**, July 18 to 20, Aldergrove fairgrounds, Aldergrove [aldergrovefairdays.com](http://aldergrovefairdays.com)

**Surrey Fusion Festival**, July 19 and 20, Holland Park, Surrey [surrey.ca/fusionfestival](http://surrey.ca/fusionfestival)

**Queer Arts Festival**, July 24 to Aug. 9, various venues, Vancouver [queerartsfestival.com](http://queerartsfestival.com)

**Vancouver Early Music Festival**, July 25 to Aug. 15, various venues, Vancouver [earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca)

**Caribbean Days Festival**, July 26 and 27, Waterfront Park, North Vancouver [caribbean days.ca](http://caribbean days.ca)

**Honda Celebration of Light**, July 26 to Aug. 2, English Bay, Vancouver [hondacelebrationoflight.com](http://hondacelebrationoflight.com)



Honda Celebration of Light a July highlight  
(photo: Tourism Vancouver/Danielle Hayes)

## >> AUGUST

**Powell Street Festival**, Aug. 1 to 3, various venues, Vancouver [powellstreetfestival.com](http://powellstreetfestival.com)

**Vancouver Pride Parade and Festival**, Aug. 3, various venues, Vancouver [vancouverpride.ca](http://vancouverpride.ca)

**Tsawwassen Sun Festival**, Aug. 2 to 4, Winkill Park, Tsawwassen [sunfestival.ca](http://sunfestival.ca)

**Abbotsford International Airshow**, Aug. 8 to 10, Abbotsford International Airport [abbotsfordairshow.com](http://abbotsfordairshow.com)

**Chilliwack Fall Fair and Rodeo**, Aug. 8 to 10, Chilliwack Exhibition grounds, Chilliwack [chilliwackfair.com](http://chilliwackfair.com)

**Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival**, Aug. 9, Deer Lake Park, Burnaby [burnabybluesfestival.com](http://burnabybluesfestival.com)

**TD Vancouver Chinatown Festival**, Aug. 10 and 11, various venues, Vancouver [vancouver-chinatown.com](http://vancouver-chinatown.com)

Jazz Festival takes place in Vancouver in June and South Delta in July (photo: Tourism Vancouver/Danielle Hayes)

