

# Bella Coola Valley Tourism

www.bellacoola.ca

*Experience the Adventure!*



## HOW TO GET TO THE BELLA COOLA VALLEY

The Bella Coola Valley is tucked into the Coast Mountains about one-third of the way up the province of British Columbia; it is marine accessible by ferry or private vessel, air and road. Although not located on the open coast it stretches eastward from North Bentinck Arm, a vast saltwater inlet. By road, Bella Coola is approximately 1000 km (625 mi) from Vancouver, 1350 km (844 mi) from Calgary, Alberta and 1100 km (688 mi) from Seattle, Washington.

**Drive:** From Vancouver it's approximately 1000 km (620 mi) or from Seattle, Washington 1100 km (688 mi), drive north to the interior of British Columbia to Williams Lake along Highway 97 to the juncture at Highway 20 head west from Williams Lake for a 4-hour drive to Anahim Lake. Another 40 minutes is on packed, dirt road to the top of what is affectionately known as 'The Hill' -- a 30-minute descent at slow speed to the Valley floor. Once at the bottom it is another 55 minutes of relatively flat driving to the town of Bella Coola. Driving from Calgary, Alberta it is a 1350 km (838 mi) drive west.

**Fly:** Pacific Coastal Airlines flies daily from the South Terminal of the Vancouver International Airport to Bella Coola Airport year round and twice per day in the summer. [www.pacificcoastal.com](http://www.pacificcoastal.com) Charter flights are available with Bella Coola Air [www.bellacoolaair.com](http://www.bellacoolaair.com) and Sharp Wings Ltd. [www.sharpwings.com](http://www.sharpwings.com) and West Coast Helicopters [www.westcoasthelicopters.com](http://www.westcoasthelicopters.com). Private planes and helicopters can land at the Bella Coola Airport. [www.centralcoastbc.com/bellacoola/airport.asp](http://www.centralcoastbc.com/bellacoola/airport.asp)

**Ferry:** BC Ferries operates the Discovery Coast Passage Route three times per week from Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island to Bella Coola return, from early June to mid-September. The seasonal schedule is posted on the BC Ferries [website www.bcferrries.com](http://www.bcferrries.com) early in the year. Check the website for direct sailings or phone 1-888-223-3779.

**By Boat:** The Bella Coola Harbour Authority manages the public wharf that consists of the ferry terminal and a public marina, which provides moorage for private, commercial fishing and several boat charter operators. Email: [bcha@belco.bc.ca](mailto:bcha@belco.bc.ca) or phone 250-799-5633.

**Car Rentals:** Rental vehicles are available through some of the accommodation providers who will arrange pick up and drop off from the ferry or air terminals.

**Do the Circle Tour:** The Discovery Coast Circle Tour begins in Vancouver. Drive the Trans Canada Highway 1 north to Cache Creek and then Highway 97 to Williams Lake. Or, follow the scenic Sea-to-Sky highway to Whistler and continue on the mountainous Duffy Lake Road to Lillooet. Explore Gold Rush history as you arrive in the Cariboo. Pick up some cowboy culture in Williams Lake and continue on Highway 20 to the Bella Coola Valley. The portion from Anahim Lake to the bottom of 'The Hill' is known as the Freedom Road. Take in adventures around the Valley before boarding the Queen of Chilliwack to Port Hardy. Enjoy the ocean-side communities of Vancouver Island before returning to Vancouver. Or do it the other way around.