

Visit Our Wildlife

in

Sechelt

Southern Sunshine Coast



Sechelt is reached by only a short ferry ride from West Vancouver, and is located in the southern half of the Sunshine Coast. There are many natural areas, parks, forests and ocean beaches to explore. These sites are the year-round or seasonal home of wildlife and fish populations.

In this brochure you will find information on just 8 areas where you may visit our wildlife. These areas are recognized by British Columbia Wildlife Watch, the provincial wildlife viewing program, as sites offering good viewing and educational opportunities.



The southern portion of the Sunshine Coast stretches from the Langdale ferry terminal near Gibsons, through Sechelt and District Sechelt, to the Earls Cove Chamber of Commerce ferry terminal. It

includes many smaller communities, including Roberts Creek, Halfmoon Bay, Madeira Park and Egmont.

Langdale Creek

This small creek runs along the southern side of the Langdale Terminal of BC Ferries, and is visible through the wire fence. For more information contact the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks [(604) 582-5200; 10470 -152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R3].

Access - There is parking available at the terminal if you are not taking the ferry. To visit the creek you can walk across the parking area for ferry vehicles.

Viewing Highlights - Small numbers of coho and chum salmon may be observed spawning in the creek. The best viewing time is from mid October to mid December.



Did you know?

The early morning and near dusk hours are often the best times to observe. A hot sunny afternoon is the worst time.

Chapman Creek Hatchery

Chapman Creek is one of several large creeks in the Sechelt area that provides important fish habitat. A number of species are reared at Chapman Creek Hatchery, including coho, chum, chinook and pink salmon, and cutthroat trout. The hatchery is open year-round. For more information contact the Sunshine Coast Salmonid Enhancement Society [(604) 885-4136; R.R. #1, Site 23, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) between Roberts Creek and Sechelt turn north onto Field Road. There are blue and white hatchery directional signs on the highway. From Field Road turn left onto Parkway Drive and continue straight to the hatchery.

Viewing Highlights - From August through December adult salmon use Chapman Creek to spawn. Pink salmon are present in August and September. Coho and chum salmon are visible later, beginning in mid October. A viewing platform provides good views of the creek. A trail leads upstream along Chapman Creek to a recently developed side stream with wintering habitat for juvenile fish.

Porpoise Bay Provincial Park

This provincial park is located north of Sechelt on Sechelt Inlet. Beach access and several trails provide access to forest, stream, estuary and salt water habitats. For more information contact BC Parks, Garibaldi/Sunshine District [(604) 898-3678; Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) follow the park directional signs north onto Wharf Street. At Porpoise Road turn right. This becomes Sechelt Inlet Road.

Viewing Highlights - The park offers good bird-watching year-round. Waterfowl, woodpeckers, flycatchers and songbirds are the most common. A British Columbia Wildlife Watch bird checklist is available for the park (156 species to April 1996). Flowing through the park is Angus Creek which provides excellent opportunities to view spawning chum salmon in October and early November.



Did you know?

The average female chum salmon lays 3000 to 3500 eggs.

Sechelt Marsh

This small marsh is owned by The Nature Trust of British Columbia and is managed by the District of Sechelt in cooperation with the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society. The head of Sechelt Inlet is located directly across the street from the marsh. Together the freshwater marsh and the salt water inlet provide important wildlife habitat. For more information contact the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society [(604) 885-5539; Box 543, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) follow the Porpoise Bay Provincial Park directional signs north onto Wharf Street. Continue straight on Wharf Street. This site is located on the left a few blocks past Porpoise Road.

Viewing Highlights - Woodpeckers and swallows frequent the marsh and its forest edges. Many ducks and geese are found year round. Shorebirds can be observed in both spring and fall migrations, especially when the tide is low.

Sargeant Bay Provincial Park

Sargeant Bay Provincial Park is only 57 hectares in size, but it contains a variety of habitats, including cattail marsh, an upland area of second growth forest and a salt water bay. For more information contact BC Parks, Garibaldi/Sunshine District [(604) 898-3678; Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101), just north of Sechelt, follow the park directional signs west onto Redroofs Road. The park entrance is about 1 kilometer from the highway.

Viewing Highlights - Beaver are resident in the freshwater marsh. Their activities are especially evident near the fish ladder where efforts to block the flow of water are continuous. The park offers good birding throughout the year, including waterfowl, raptors, woodpeckers and songbirds. A British Columbia Wildlife Watch bird checklist is available for the park (152 species to April 1996).



Did you know?

Beavers, like all rodents, have a pair of specialized front teeth (incisors) that grow throughout the animal's life. This means that beavers must cut vegetation daily to keep them to a manageable length. These front teeth allow a beaver to cut a 5" diameter willow in 3 minutes.

John Daly Regional Park

Located on Anderson Creek, this small regional park contains important fish habitat. For more information contact the Sunshine Coast Regional District, Parks Department [(604) 885-2261; Box 800, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101), just north of the community of Madeira Park, turn west onto Garden Bay Road. At Roosen Road turn left and continue a short distance to the park entrance.

Viewing Highlights - Chum and coho salmon spawn in the creek. They are visible from mid October to mid November.

Ruby Creek

Ruby Creek is a short length of water that drains from Ruby Lake into Sakinaw Lake. Several habitat enhancement activities have been completed, including the addition of new gravel into the creek bed, and the placement of covers over portions of the creek. For more information contact Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks [(604) 582-5200; 10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R3].

Access - From the Sunshine Coast Highway (Highway 101) at the south end of Ruby Creek, turn onto Halowell Road. Continue Straight to the bridge over Ruby Creek.

Viewing Highlights - Ruby Creek provides spawning habitat for a rare population of coastal cutthroat trout and for kokanee salmon. Kokanee spend their entire life in fresh water, and, like sockeye, turn red when spawning. The best viewing is in late fall.



Did you know?

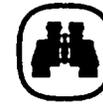
A Pileated Woodpecker is unique. It is the only woodpecker to chisel square or rectangular holes in tree trunks.

Skookumchuk Narrows Provincial Park

During the ebb and flow of tides between Sechelt Inlet and Jervis Inlet the water is greatly constricted at Skookumchuk Narrows. The boiling tidal rapids are quite a site. A viewpoint located high on a rocky bluff at Skookumchuk Narrows provides excellent views of this spectacle. For more information contact BC Parks, Garibaldi/Sunshine District [(604) 898-3678; Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0].

Access - Access to the park is by a trail that begins near the end of Egmont Road near Egmont. There is a 4 kilometer trail from the parking area to the narrows viewpoint.

Viewing Highlights - Chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers are common along the forest trail. At the narrows viewpoint, many diving waterbirds are visible, including mergansers, ducks and grebes. Harbour seals are also common.



British Columbia Wildlife Watch is the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks' program designed to promote viewing opportunities within British Columbia. The protection of wildlife and their habitat, and a safe, positive experience for the viewer are the primary objectives of this program. When travelling, look for the blue and white binocular logo signs identifying viewing sites. For more information on British Columbia Wildlife Watch contact the Ministry office in Surrey [(604) 582-5200; 10470 - 152nd Street, Surrey, B.C. V3R 0R3].



The goal of the **Sechelt and District Chamber of Commerce** is to promote, and to improve the trade and commerce, and the economic, civic and social welfare of Sechelt and the surrounding district. For more information on tourism and business activities in the Sechelt area contact the Chamber office [phone (604) 885-0662; fax (604) 885-0691; Box 360, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A0]; e-mail address <sechelt_chamber@sunshine.net>.

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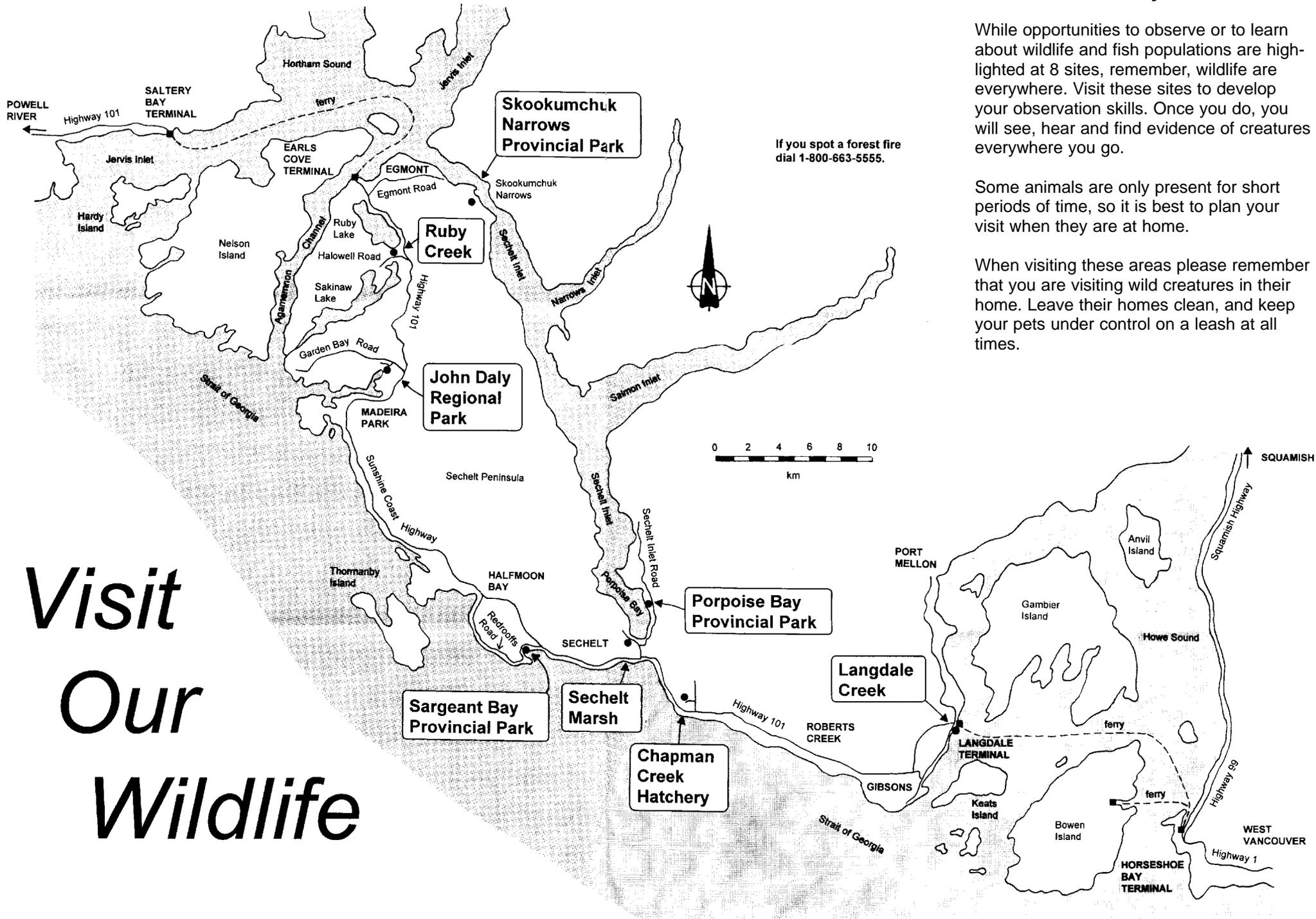
Studio and Cappucino Bar
5697 Cowrie Street,
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Wildlife Are Everywhere

While opportunities to observe or to learn about wildlife and fish populations are highlighted at 8 sites, remember, wildlife are everywhere. Visit these sites to develop your observation skills. Once you do, you will see, hear and find evidence of creatures everywhere you go.

Some animals are only present for short periods of time, so it is best to plan your visit when they are at home.

When visiting these areas please remember that you are visiting wild creatures in their home. Leave their homes clean, and keep your pets under control on a leash at all times.



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Our
Wildlife*