

Attraction

by Jennifer Rhyne

Attraction. By definition it is a feature or characteristic that attracts. Or you may define it as a person, place, thing, or event that is intended to attract. Sound enticing? Probably not. If you are anything like me, you find the definition excludes the main essence of the word...the thrilling, rushing excitement, the flutter you feel deep in your heart, the warmth spreading up to the tips of your ears when you discover and experience attraction. Attraction is so much more than defined by the words of a dictionary, for these are the emotions that turn an ordinary vacation into a memorable holiday of a lifetime. Attraction is purely a feeling you have to experience in order to capture the emotions that are excluded from the definition, and it can certainly be found in the Vancouver, Coast & Mountains region. The perfect foil for enrichment, excitement, and enjoyment is created in every attraction carved by man, and adds essential charm to any vacation.

Greater Vancouver is home to many attractions, each unique and innovative, geared to the curious visitor. Enjoy a 360° panorama of beauty at the Vancouver Lookout, located conveniently in the heart of downtown Vancouver. This recently renovated attraction now exhibits a fantastic new look, including a new colour scheme which was inspired by the natural beauty which surrounds the city. The Vancouver Aquarium, Grouse Mountain, Capilano Suspension Bridge, and Science World all nestle close by, inviting guests to enjoy friendly Belugas, brawny Grizzly bears, a treetop pathway amidst evergreen blankets, and feasts that test the senses. And don't miss the Vancouver Art Gallery this summer, which will be home to the highly anticipated 'Monet to Dali' exhibit, representing the most comprehensive showing of European painting and sculpture in Vancouver in more than half a century. A little further away from downtown Vancouver rests Steveston Village, a historic fishing village and home to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery, once a working cannery and an intriguing look into Chinese and Japanese history.

Are you a film lover? The seaside village of Gibsons is where you will find Molly's Reach Restaurant, a famous landmark built as a set for The Beachcombers, the longest running Canadian TV series - 19 years! As the region is now developing a reputation as Hollywood North, this film set is a landmark original, paving the way for the new sets and locations to follow.

The air is humid and heavy, with darkness surrounding you as you wind your way into our next attraction. The BC Museum of Mining in Britannia Beach is definitely a show stopper. The massive copper mine hugs the hillside, and its entryway is marked by a 235 tonne 'Super' Haul mining truck. Pan for gold, ride a train into the depths of the mine, and learn the inside tidbits about life working in a copper mine.

For an attraction that combines the awe-inspiring power of nature, combined with the creativity of mankind, visit Hell's Gate Airtram. The mighty Fraser River reaches its narrowest point at this spot near Boston Bar and Hope, rushing water through the gorge at over 200 million gallons/minute. Ride the tram to the other side of the gorge and witness this spectacular natural phenomenon, while learning about salmon spawning channels and methods taken to help the salmon combat the force of the water.

Just as Mother Nature has graced us with her beauty, man has graced us with his mind, creating a vast and ever-changing playground for you in Vancouver, Coast & Mountains, where attraction really does stand for excitement, exhilaration, and rejuvenation of the spirit.