

AS SEEN IN CANADASCOPE

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Island Retreat Minutes from Vancouver, but a World Away.

Galiano Island, British Columbia

Galiano Island, “the Hidden Gem of the Gulf Islands”, is located just 10 minutes by floatplane from Vancouver or 50 minutes by ferry. Very rural and peaceful, with an abundance of Nature to enjoy, Galiano has been long overlooked by tourists traveling the established route between Whistler/Vancouver/Victoria. The wise (and lucky!) traveler has discovered the Best Kept Secret on the Coast.

Galiano boasts a Mediterranean climate within a forested West Coast ecosystem. Nature's bounty can be enjoyed in many ways: exploring the many trails, beaches and backroads by hiking, bicycling, beachcombing, even renting a moped. Golfers can play the Galiano Golf Club's very picturesque but challenging nine-hole course.

But as an island resort, the experience is not complete without getting onto the water: kayaking through islets on a sunset tour, taking a sailboat trip, joining a whale-watching tour, scuba-diving in some of the best areas on the coast, or renting your own boat and fishing the waters of Active Pass and Trincomali Channel.

The Galiano Inn & Spa is the only oceanfront resort on the island, with views of Mayne Island, Mt. Baker in Washington State, and of course all of the passing boats and the wildlife that abounds. Orca whales, J-pod in particular, live in the Active Pass area and are frequently seen from the Inn. Deer graze on the grounds. Eagles, Great Blue Herons: more than 150 species of birds inhabit Galiano Island; it is a major flyway for migrating species.

And after all of that strenuous or not-so-strenuous enjoyment of Nature, guests at the Galiano Inn and Spa can settle in by the fireplace in their room (all rooms are oceanfront), relax with a glass of fine island wine in the lounge, browse in the specialty wine gift shop, find quiet time by the waterfall in the Meditation Gardens or, best of all, experience the unique healing treatments of Madrona del Mar Spa. The Spa features luxury glass and marble steam rooms, oceanfront massage, unique Mediterranean Sea Flotation bath, and all manner of body treatments and facials. In the evening? Dine in Atrévida, one of the finest dining experiences on the West Coast, with fresh local seafood, organic small farm produce, local lamb, and of course: island wines.

Galiano Island, particularly the Galiano Inn and Spa, is possibly British Columbia's best kept secret: a natural island retreat minutes from Vancouver, but a world away from city life.

Source and more information: www.galianoinn.com