

INTRODUCING
Channel Rock, a 140-
acre coastal retreat
and conservancy
located on Cortes Island
in BC, Canada.
This document will
tell you all you need to
know about travelling
to Cortes and
our beautiful retreat
by the sea.



CONTENTS

- PAGE 1**
Where is
Cortes Island?
- PAGE 2**
Travel by car & ferries
- PAGE 3**
Travel by seaplane
& airlines
- PAGE 4**
Quick reference
Ferry schedules
- PAGE 5**
Channel Rock living
What to bring
- PAGE 6**
Channel Rock cookery
Services on
Cortes Island



Where is Cortes Island?

Cortes is one of the Northern Gulf Islands in the Strait of Georgia, located about 100 miles (160km) north of Vancouver, BC.

The Retreat at Channel Rock is on the west side of Cortes, a few kilometers by water from the ferry landing at Whaletown. From our beaches you look to the mountains of Vancouver Island; from the bluffs you can see the snowy peaks of the mainland Coast Range.

Travelling to Cortes

There are several ways to get to Cortes – by car and ferries; by airplane from Vancouver to Campbell River and water taxi to Channel Rock; or by seaplane to Mansons Landing on Cortes.

Travelling by seaplane gets you from Seattle to Cortes in two hours. Commercial flights from Vancouver to Campbell River Airport are just under an hour, and the water taxi ride to Channel Rock adds another hour to the trip. By car and ferries the trip takes a full day from Vancouver or Seattle.

The most economical way to travel is by car pool. The seaplane flight from Seattle or Vancouver is the quickest route to Cortes and offers a beautiful introduction to the inside coast.

Channel Rock

Channel Rock is accessed by boat and footpath only. A parking lot is located at our trailhead off Whaletown Road, and a 20-minute stroll through a coastal woodland brings you to the Retreat. Our shuttle boat – the whimsically-named Channel Rocket – is available to transport you (or just your luggage if you want to walk the trail) on the final leg of your journey.



Travel by car and ferries

Option 1

FROM Port Angeles WA, west of Seattle

TO Victoria BC on Vancouver Island

VIA Black Ball Transport's Coho Ferry

TRAVEL NOTES

Port Angeles is two hours west from Seattle, via the Bainbridge Island, Bremerton or Edmonds ferries and Olympic Peninsula highways, or by all highways from Olympia and Tacoma WA.

The Coho ferry makes three round trips a day with a travel time of 90 minutes.

From Victoria, drive north on the Inland Island Highway (Hwy 19) to Campbell River. Driving time 3.5 hrs.

See *Ferries to Cortes*, below.

FOR MORE INFO

Black Ball Transport www.cohoferry.com

BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Option 2

FROM Vancouver BC

TO Nanaimo on Vancouver Island

VIA BC Ferries

TRAVEL NOTES

You can board BC Ferries from either Horseshoe Bay (north of Vancouver) or from Tsawwassen (south of Vancouver) for the trip to Nanaimo.

From Nanaimo, drive north on the Inland Island Highway (Hwy 19) to Campbell River. Driving time 1.5 hrs. See *Ferries to Cortes*, below.

FOR MORE INFO

BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Mainland–Vancouver Island routes

Ferries to Cortes

FROM Campbell River on Vancouver Island

TO Cortes Island

VIA BC Ferries

TRAVEL NOTES

From the Campbell River Ferry Terminal, take BC Ferries to Quadra Island, drive across Quadra, then board the ferry to Cortes. When you buy your ticket in Campbell River be sure to tell the ferry people that your final destination is Cortes. The 6:15pm ferry from Campbell River connects with the last Cortes ferry of the day. Travel time from Campbell River: 1.5 hrs. If you are travelling at the height of tourist season, remember that ferries will be crowded. Plan to arrive at least 30–60 minutes before departure.

FOR MORE INFO

BC Ferries www.bcferries.com

Northern Gulf Islands route



Finding Channel Rock

From the Cortes ferry landing in Whaletown, it's a five-minute drive to our trailhead and parking lot. When you get off the ferry, follow the main road to the first stop sign. Turn right. At the second stop sign, turn left and follow the road up a small hill. Watch for the signpost marked 431. This is our neighbor's driveway and the approach to our trailhead. Turn right at this signpost and follow the private drive about half a kilometer. At the Channel Rock sign, turn left and squeeze your car into the parking area. From there it's a 20-minute stroll on a well-marked (if a little rugged) pathway. Signs will direct you to the Cob Building, our central gathering place.

Boat runs to Channel Rock

If you have too much luggage to carry in on the walking trail, please let us know in advance and we'll direct you to the appropriate wharf to meet the boat and drop off your luggage. You can then drive to the parking area and walk in on the trail. There is an additional cost of \$50.00 per boat run for this service, and we only offer it on your arrival and departure day.

Quick reference

For detailed ferry schedules, refer to the Quick Reference guide on page 4.



Seaplanes to Cortes

Kenmore Air

FROM Seattle

TO Mansons Landing or Gorge Harbour on Cortes

TRAVEL NOTES

The fastest and most spectacular way to get to Cortes is predictably the most expensive – Kenmore Air's round trip fare is around \$550 usd. Seaplanes leave from Kenmore Air Terminal north of Seattle and fly to Cortes, with a customs and fuel stop in Nanaimo.

FOR MORE INFO

www.kenmoreair.com

Call toll free 1.866.435.9524

Corilair

FROM Downtown Vancouver **and** from the Tye Spit in Campbell River

TO Cortes Bay or Mansons Landing, Cortes

FOR MORE INFO

www.corilair.com

Call toll free 1.888.287.8366

Shuttle to Channel Rock

We will be happy to meet your seaplane (or water taxi or ferry) and take you to Channel Rock.

Other Options

Greyhound

Bus to Campbell River www.greyhound.ca

Islandlink

Express Bus to Campbell River
www.islandlinkbus.com

Rideshare

www.cortesisland.com

Commercial airlines to Campbell River

FROM Vancouver International Airport

TO Campbell River Regional Airport

VIA Pacific Coastal Airlines **or**

Central Mountain Air

FOR MORE INFO

www.pacific-coastal.com

Call toll-free 1.800.663.2872

www.flycma.com

Call toll-free 1.888.865.8585

TRAVEL NOTES

The Airporter Shuttle meets every incoming flight at the Campbell River Regional Airport. From the Airport there are two ways to get to Channel Rock:

Ferries to Cortes

Take the Airporter Shuttle to the Campbell River Ferry terminal. You can ride the Quadra and Cortes ferries as a foot passenger (which means hitching a ride across Quadra (ask people in lane 8 at the ferry terminal), or taking the Quadra taxi to connect with the Cortes ferry. Remember, for the last connecting ferry to Cortes you must be on the 6:15pm ferry leaving Campbell River. If you choose to taxi across Quadra, call 250.205.0505 to arrange a pick-up. If you let us know in advance which ferry you are arriving on, we will pick you up and drive you to the trail head.

TRAVEL TIME From Campbell River Airport to Channel Rock: 3 to 4 hrs depending on ferry connections.

Water taxi to Cortes

Take the Airporter Shuttle to the Discovery Launch Water Taxi in downtown Campbell River. A beautiful 30-minute ride will bring you to Mansons Landing where we will meet you with our shuttle. Call Discovery Launch about sharing water taxis to reduce the cost. As schedules permit, Discovery Launch often takes our guests directly to Channel Rock. They provide information on secure parking in Campbell River.

TRAVEL TIME From Campbell River Airport to Channel Rock: 1 to 2 hrs.

AT A GLANCE

Airporter Shuttle

250.286.3000

Quadra Taxi & Tours

250.205.0505

Discovery Launch

Water Taxi

250.287.7577

dlaunch@telus.net

www.discoverylaunch.com

BC Ferries

Campbell River

Ferry Terminal

250.286.1412

www.bcferries.com

Clipper Ferry

Seattle - Victoria

www.clippervacations.com

Coho Ferry

Port Angeles - Victoria

www.cohoferry.com

Greyhound Bus

www.greyhound.ca

Islandlink Express Bus

www.islandlinkbus.com

Channel Rock Info:

250.935.6441



QUICK REFERENCE

Ferry Schedules

The Coho Ferry

FROM Port Angeles WA west of Seattle
TO Victoria BC on Vancouver Island

Leave Port Angeles	Leave Victoria BC
8:20 am	10:30 am
12:45 pm	3:00 pm
5:15 pm	7:30 pm

Costs are subject to change; check the website
 Vehicle and driver \$55.00
 Each additional passenger \$15.50
website www.cohoferry.com

BC Ferries

FROM Vancouver / Tsawwassen BC
TO Nanaimo BC on Vancouver Island
NOTE If you are travelling from south of the border, go to the BC Ferries Tsawwassen Terminal south of Vancouver. You will disembark at the Duke Point Terminal south of Nanaimo.
CROSSING TIME 2 hrs

Leave Tsawwassen	Leave Tsawwassen
5:15 am <i>exc Sunday</i>	5:15 am <i>exc Sunday</i>
7:45 am <i>exc Sunday</i>	7:45 am <i>exc Sunday</i>
10:15 am	10:15 am
12:45 pm	12:45 pm
3:15 pm	3:15 pm
5:45 pm	5:45 pm
8:15 pm	8:15 pm
10:45 pm	10:45 pm

COSTS are subject to change; check the website
 Vehicle 46.75 Cdn Passenger \$14.00 Cdn
website www.bcferries.com

BC Ferries

FROM Vancouver BC / Horseshoe Bay
TO Nanaimo BC on Vancouver Island
NOTE If you are travelling from the Vancouver area, go to Horseshoe Bay. You will disembark at the Departure Bay Terminal in Nanaimo.
CROSSING TIME 1 hr 35 min

Leave Vancouver Horseshoe Bay	Leave Nanaimo Departure Bay
6:30 am	6:30 am
8:30 am	8:30 am
10:30 am	10:30 am
12:30 pm	12:30 pm
3 pm	3 pm
5 pm	5 pm
7 pm	7 pm
9 pm	9 pm

COSTS are subject to change; check the website
 Vehicle 46.75 Cdn Passenger \$14.00 Cdn
website www.bcferries.com

BC Ferries

Campbell River–Quadra–Cortes

NOTE To connect with the last ferry to Cortes, we advise catching the 5:25pm ferry from Campbell River. The very last ferry connecting to Cortes leaves Campbell River at 6:15pm.
TRAVEL TIME 15 min Campbell River–Quadra; 10 min drive across Quadra to connect with Cortes ferry; 45 min Quadra–Cortes.

Leave Campbell River for Quadra Island	Leave Quadra Island for Cortes Island
6:40 am	9:05 am
7:30 am <i>exc Sunday</i>	11:05 am*
8:30 am	1:05 pm
9:30 am	3:05 pm
10:30 am*	5:05 pm
11:30 am	6:45 pm
12:30 pm	
1:30 pm	
2:30 pm	
3:30 pm	
4:30 pm	
5:25 pm	
6:15 pm <i>Last ferry connecting to Cortes</i>	

COSTS
Campbell River to Cortes return
 Vehicle \$44.25 Cdn
 Passenger \$18.95 Cdn

BC Ferries

Cortes–Quadra–Campbell River

NOTE Ferry overloads are common in peak season. We advise being in the line-up 90 minutes prior to departure from Cortes. Please note Dangerous Cargo* dates and times.
TRAVEL TIME 45 min Cortes–Quadra; 10 min drive across Quadra to connect with Campbell River ferry; 15 min Quadra–Campbell River

Leave Cortes Island for Quadra Island	Leave Quadra Island for Campbell River
7:50 am	9:00 am
9:50 am	10:00 am
11:50 am	11:00 am
1:50 pm*	12:00 pm
3:50 pm	1:00 pm
5:50 pm	2:00 pm
	3:05 pm
	4:00 pm*
	5:00 pm
	5:50 pm
	7:00 pm

* *Tuesdays only*
Dangerous cargo
No other vehicles or passengers

Ferries leave Quadra for Campbell River hourly up to 10 pm weekdays, 11:30 pm Fri & Sat.

The Clipper

FROM Downtown Seattle
TO Victoria BC on Vancouver Island

Leave Seattle	Leave Victoria BC
7:30 am*	11:30 am
8:30 am (summer only)	5:30 pm (summer only)
3:15 pm	7:00 pm

Costs are subject to change; check the website
 \$90.00
website www.clippervacations.com

* *Connects with the 12:30 Islandlink Bus. This is the only sailing that connects with the last ferry to Cortes.*



Costs and Schedules are subject to change; please check the websites to confirm ferry schedules and rates.



Channel Rock living

Our specialty is hosting intimate retreats and learning community gatherings in an eco-village setting. Our retreat runs primarily on solar energy. Communal buildings have been lovingly handcrafted in the centuries-old traditions of cob, stackwall and timberframe. And guest accommodation is in generously appointed cabins, yurts, tents and tipis.

Your comfort is important to us at Channel Rock. Our spacious tents are set up as singles, or doubles for couples. The cabins, yurts and tipis comfortably sleep two to four people. We also provide seasonal access to a conventional house near our trailhead, one that is fully connected to the grid and which can sleep seven. Quality bedding, duvets and towels are provided for all accommodations.

What to bring to Channel Rock

The dress code at Channel Rock is 'camping casual.' Summer temperatures range from 40–80°F, with seasonally warm and sunny days from July through September. As Cortes lies in the rain shadow of Vancouver Island, we receive less rain than many of our coastal neighbours. Keep in mind, though, this is still the west coast where climatic unpredictability is predictable!

Many of our visitors have floatplane weight limitations, so we suggest packing fleece and polypro, which weigh very little, and also wash and dry quickly. Bring a jacket or two, lightweight rain gear, and a sun hat. Sturdy footwear is definitely the choice for your stay at Channel Rock. The varied terrain calls for light hiking boots or durable running shoes. Throw in some Texas or Chacos for beachcombing.

And don't forget... Don't leave home without your passport! And if you carry prescription medications, make sure to bring an adequate supply for the duration of your stay.

It's essential to have a headlamp and batteries on hand, or other bright or LED lights. It'll be dark in the evening as you move about the property and dark in your tent (or tipi or yurt) until you turn on a light. There is solar or propane lighting in all the cabins and communal buildings at Channel Rock.

Open flames of any type, including candles and cigarettes, are not permitted in any of the buildings or your tents, especially in the fall when the fire hazard is extreme.



We ask that you leave soaps and shampoos at home, as we provide biodegradable, earth-friendly products for you to use. Solar and propane showers are available at Channel Rock, and there are laundry facilities at the local marina, just a short boat ride away.

Please avoid excess packaging and disposable goods. All of our garbage must be transported offsite by boat, so we prefer to eliminate waste at the source and minimize our contribution to the Cortes landfill.

Channel Rock cookery

The cobhouse is our communal gathering place with a large kitchen where you can spend time reading, cooking, eating and talking. We ask you to clean up after you cooked your meal and put your clean dishes away.



Services on Cortes Island

Cortes has a resident population of nearly a thousand people year-round, and nearly double that number in the summer. The island has two general stores, three excellent restaurants, several marinas, parks and campgrounds, a host of B&Bs and one motel. Recreational facilities on the island include sail and fishing charters as well as guided kayak tours and mothership adventures.

The Cortes Island Medical Clinic is open three days a week, and our doctor is on call during off-hours. Emergency facilities are available at Campbell River Regional Hospital. Cortes also has a thriving community of alternative healthcare and bodywork practitioners.

The island has two postal outlets that are open four afternoons a week. A word of caution: Receiving FedEx or Express Mail parcels is not impossible, but difficult due to our location.

To find out more about Cortes, go to **The Tide-line** at www.cortesisland.com.



**CONTACTING
CHANNEL ROCK**
We suggest you
leave this info with
family or friends:

Emergency contact
250.935.6441
NOTE Cell phones
may not work at
Channel Rock.

Mailing address
Channel Rock
Box 269
Whaletown BC
Canada V0P 1Z0

