



9 WAYS TO TRAVEL SAFELY AND RESPONSIBLY IN BC

We all have a role to play in ensuring safe and responsible travel in British Columbia. Respectful trip planning helps to ensure that we can all continue to enjoy the many beautiful locations across our province, now and in the future.



For the latest information on exploring BC responsibly, please visit [HelloBC.com/know-before-you-go](https://www.hellobc.com/know-before-you-go).

1. PLAN AHEAD

Take more time to plan. Many businesses and services across BC have adjusted their schedules and policies to ensure your safety. Some may be operating at a reduced capacity, with limited hours, or require advanced bookings.

TIP: See accommodation, transportation, and experience provider listings at [ExploreBC.com/Book](https://www.explorebc.com/book) to start your research; visit [ExploreBC.com/TravelUpdates](https://www.explorebc.com/travelupdates) for key travel information and resources; visit [IndigenousBC.com](https://www.indigenousbc.com) for information on Indigenous travel experiences; or contact the local Visitor Centre for more information.



2. PREVENT AND REPORT WILDFIRES

Nature has been there for us throughout the pandemic, now we need to be there for nature. As conditions can change rapidly, it's important to verify information from official sources both before you leave and during your trip, so you can make informed travel decisions. Check **BC Wildfire Service** for fire bans and fire safety tips @BCGovFireInfo on Twitter.

Report a wildfire by dialing *5555 on a cell or calling 1-800-663-5555 toll-free.

TIP: Before and during your trip, visit [ExploreBC.com/TravelUpdates](https://www.explorebc.com/travelupdates) for more wildfire safety resources, reach out to the business you have booked with or contact the local Visitor Centre for real-time information about local conditions. BC is a very large province and there are plenty of options, if your plans need to change. The Visitor Centre is a great resource for activity and accommodation suggestions, should you wish to modify your plans according to the weather conditions.

3. BE RESPECTFUL

Respect the people, businesses, and communities you visit, and the wishes of communities that are not ready or currently able to welcome visitors. Responsible tourism means that the experience creates a positive impact for everyone involved—both residents, staff and visitors alike. You may see new protocols, policies or orders within communities to ensure your safety. Contact the local business(es) you plan on visiting to make sure you understand the latest guidelines and conditions.

TIP: Visit [ExploreBC.com/TravelUpdates](https://www.explorebc.com/travelupdates) for more “Know Before You Go” information, or contact the local Visitor Centre for more information.

4. SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

BC's tourism businesses are eager to welcome you back and many communities rely on your support. During your travels, dine at the local restaurants, book an activity or a tour, and find a unique accommodation. BC's tourism industry is made up of small and medium-sized businesses who will surely provide a memorable experience.

TIP: Speak with local Visitor Centre staff to learn more about how to support local businesses.

5. BE ADVENTURESMART

Many visitors are looking to explore the outdoors in new ways, such as hiking on a new trail, taking up mountain biking, or learning how to kayak. No matter what outdoor activity you are planning, do your research in advance and be prepared. Learn the three Ts—trip planning, training, and taking the essentials—and apply them to all your outdoor adventures.

TIP: [AdventureSmart.ca](https://www.adventure-smart.ca) will be your best friend when it comes to outdoor safety in BC.

6. PRACTICE LEAVE NO TRACE

When exploring BC's outdoors, always leave it in a better state than when you arrived. Respect local wildlife. Pack out what you pack in and dispose of waste properly. Adhere to campfire rules or bans. These are just some of the key principles of Leave No Trace, a set of seven guidelines for enjoying the outdoors responsibly while minimizing your impact on the landscape.

TIP: Visit [LeaveNoTrace.ca](https://www.leave-notrace.ca) to learn more about responsible outdoor recreation.



7. RESPECT WILDLIFE

BC has an abundance of wildlife that can be very exciting to see. If you encounter wildlife during your adventures, please remember to keep your distance and recognize that you are a visitor to their home. Observe them quietly, refrain from feeding them, and keep your dog on a leash to avoid stressful encounters.

Tip: Visit [LeaveNoTrace.ca](https://www.leave-notrace.ca) and [WildsafeBC.com](https://www.wildsafebc.com) for more tips on how you can respect wildlife in BC.



8. PRACTICE WATER SAFETY

From pristine lakes to rapid rivers and open ocean, British Columbia is a haven for watersport enthusiasts. While you're out on the water, remember to wear your lifejacket, know the water risks, and always carry the required safety equipment.

TIP: Visit [AdventureSmart.ca](https://www.adventure-smart.ca) and [CoastSmart.ca](https://www.coast-smart.ca) to learn how to stay safe near or in the water.



9. BE KIND, BE CALM... BE PATIENT

Remember, activities may take longer than usual, or places may be at capacity when you arrive. Practice patience. Have a well-researched back-up plan at the ready. Be calm, be patient, and be kind, and remember, we're still in this together.



We are so happy you chose to #exploreBC. Safe (and responsible) travels!

