



#BCTourismMatters

TOURISM WEEK | MAY 24 – MAY 30, 2020



DESTINATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sicamous | Darren Robinson

Virtual Travel: Online Tours, Cultural Experiences, and Nature Moments Across BC

There's more to entertainment than Netflix, and several BC businesses are sharing virtual experiences you can enjoy from the comforts of home. From walking in an old-growth rainforest, to whale watching and wine tastings, there are a wealth of virtual experiences for British Columbians to discover and inspire trip planning.

Virtual experiences bring the sights and sounds of an experience, attraction, or destination to visitors so they can enjoy what our province has to offer without traveling. Digital technology may play an important role during the COVID-19 pandemic and in the months ahead while travelers look for inspiration. Here's a list of some of our favourite virtual travel experiences!

Share your virtual travel experiences and tag them with #BCTourismMatters.

Vancouver, Coast & Mountains

- Head to the Polygon Gallery, where you can connect with artists and other cultural characters through a [fascinating new podcast series](#).
- This [stunning virtual recreation of Whistler's Train Wreck Trail](#) is so immersive it will leave you with sore legs.
- Alison at Whistler's Squamish-Lil'wat Cultural Centre is bringing the culture to you with [engrossing virtual demonstrations](#) of weaving, rope-making, dreamcatchers, medicine bags, and more.
- Start off today's virtual travels by closing your eyes and listening to this [relaxing soundscape and meditation set in Stanley Park](#).

Vancouver Island

- Sink into this mesmerizing [sea foam blizzard](#), courtesy of Tourism Ucluelet.
- The flowers are out at Vancouver Island's Milner Gardens. [Take a stroll through the orchard to the cottage and grand lawn in this beautiful video](#).
- Join the K'omoks First Nation as they [raise a totem pole on Hornby Island](#) in this incredible ceremony of music, dancing, and celebration of culture.
- Let Sea Wolf Adventures [take you through the Great Bear Rainforest](#) to see bears, salmon, whales, bears, dolphins, waterfalls, and more bears. Truly magnificent.

Cariboo Chilcotin Coast

- Take a virtual trip through time back to the beginnings of Chinese history in Canada in Barkerville. [This fascinating video](#) highlights early Chinese-Canadian culture in a little-known piece of our heritage.

- Join Spirit of the West Adventures in the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast as they [kayak along the coast of the Great Bear Rainforest](#). Eagles, whales, wolves, and not a building in sight--what will you see?
- For a different perspective, soar high above the clouds with a 360-degree view of the [South Chilcotin Mountains](#) and Bridge Glacier below during a [floatplane ride to Crystal Lake](#).
- Join us in the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast to [meet an old giant of the forest](#) in the woods around Bella Coola.

Thompson Okanagan

- Keremeos Grist Mill owner and general manager Chris Mathieson is making [daily virtual field trips](#) around the mill, including tours, sprouting seedlings, followed hatching chicks, and making candy.
- If you can't visit the vineyard, bring the wine tasting home to you! [Join Anthony and Caroline for their blind taste-tests](#) as they see how Quail's Gate wines compare to international bottles.
- Join Jenny Book as she leads a [virtual BC wine educational tasting](#) featuring the Moraine Estate Fitzpatrick Family Estate Wineries. Discover the value of BC VQA Wines and why they're not to be ignored.
- A stunning nature moment, [deep in the grasses between the hoodoos of Kamloops](#). Thanks to our friends at Tourism Kamloops for our virtual visit to the Thompson Okanagan.
- From snowy peaks to the pocket-desert of the Okanagan, BC's nature is as varied as it is beautiful. Join Destination Osoyoos at the Osoyoos Desert Centre for a [virtual tour of the fragile landscape](#).

Kootenay Rockies

- Head to Kimberley Alpine Resort in the Kootenay Rockies to see these [adorable bear cubs wrestling on the mountain](#)--just watch out for Mother Bear!
- Miss the snow? Jump into this unreal [guided virtual reality heli-skiing experience by CMH](#) and feel like you never left the mountain.
- Check out the Kootenay Rockies [360° climb of the Via Ferrata](#) route, led by Canadian Mountain Holidays, for a rush of adrenaline.
- Or take in a "street view" of the Takakkaw Falls in Yoho National Park via a Google [virtual hike](#); keep exploring in BC's Kootenay Rockies with a [trek](#) in Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park.

Northern BC

- For today's virtual travels, [head up to Port Edward for a 360-degree look at the North Pacific Cannery](#). You can almost smell the sea through these intriguing panoramas of history.
- Today's virtual travel starts at Naikoon Park in Haida Gwaii, where you can [take a virtual tour of the park](#) while learning about Haida legends, language, and longhouses.
- "Head" north for a remote [horseback and canoe journey](#) from the Mayfield Basecamp into the wilds of the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.
- A [boat ride](#) to Kinuseo Falls near Tumbler Ridge takes on a whole new perspective through a Google lens.

Province-wide

- Some of BC's most accessible parks and rec sites are now even more accessible, with [virtual tours](#) of places like Twin Falls, Ancient Forest, and the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.