

B.C. GETAWAYS

From cycling in the Kootenays to surfing in Tofino, we're going green **SECTION B**



The Province

SPORTS FINAL

WEATHER
Afternoon rain B24

Minimum outside
Lower Mainland \$1.25
\$1.00 PLUS GST

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007

WWW.THEPROVINCE.COM

The Province

INSIDE: Meadowlark festival takes flight in Similkameen/Okanagan B1

B.C. GETAWAYS



Teens get a taste of Italy

Pre-Easter holiday was a perfect introduction to Europe by the iPod set

SUNDAY IN TRAVEL

GETAWAY

JOSEPH KULA (EDITOR) • 604-605-2050 • jkula@png.canwest.com | TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007

SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION

B22 TRAVEL THE PROVINCE

B.C. GETAWAYS

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007

Cortes a jewel in the Discovery Islands chain

THE COAST: It's an oasis with quiet beaches, inviting trails and mountain backdrops



A hot-tub soak while contemplating the ocean is one of the many perks at Hollyhock on Cortes Island. — CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

BY LIZ ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE PROVINCE

If you'd love to trade car pools for tidal pools and traffic for trails, B.C.'s Discovery Islands beckon.

This beautiful cluster of islands tucked in the sheltered waters between the mainland and Vancouver Island is home to natural wonders beyond imagination.

The jewel among this region's many verdant gems is Cortes Island, a vibrant oasis with quiet beaches, inviting trails and spectacular mountain backdrops.

Water-sport enthusiasts will find endless adventure in the waters surrounding Cortes. You can kayak along the intricate coastlines, partake in a tour paddling with a pod of orcas or enjoy fishing excursions.

Landlubbers may wander the unspoiled stretches of beach to

gather a plentiful array of shellfish. Some of the world's finest oysters are harvested on Cortes.

This region's highlights include Mitlenatch Island, which, although small on the map, is more than worth the day-trip from Cortes.

This Galapagos of Georgia Strait is the largest seabird colony in the strait, a migratory home to nearly 4,000 pairs of birds. Nesting species include bald eagles, pelagic cormorants, pigeon guillemots and black oystercatchers.

Situated between Campbell River and the mainland, Cortes is accessed by water taxi, ferry or floatplane. There are three settlement clusters: Whaletown at the ferry dock, Manson's Landing with its sandy beaches, and Squirrel Cove, facing majestic Desolation Sound.

Arts and culture are a big part of

the local lifestyle on this island paradise. Visitors are welcomed into several studios, galleries and shops featuring unique artwork and crafts created by residents.

Island accommodations range from rustic to luxury. Visitors can choose to camp or to rent a beautiful sea-side home. The most renowned place to stay, however, is Hollyhock Centre (www.hollyhock.ca). Here, Canada's No. 1 educational retreat centre attracts a diverse range of guests seeking a relaxing natural setting, fine food, bodywork and a wide array of engaging activities.

Cedar-lined and forest-view walking trails lead you toward one of the varied accommodations. Choose from beach-front cabins near ocean-view hot tubs, spacious family-type accommodations, orchard cabins or forest-protected tent sites.

AIRLINES • CRUISES • HOTELS • INNS • LODGES • RANCHES • RENTALS

Travel Getaways Guide

