

ROADTRIP #3 : CULTURAL CRAWL

Cultural Explorers may tend to seek stops along the route with a focus on viewing iconic sculptures, art galleries & working artists. If this speaks to your roadtrip style, keep a keen eye out along Highway 4 for the Nuu-chah-nulth influence as you explore the traditional territories of the Hupacasath, Tse-shaht, Toquaht, Yuu-cluthaht and Tla-o-quiaht First Nations that span what is now Port Alberni, Ucluelet, [Pacific Rim National Park Reserve](#), and Tofino. You can learn about this rich history and culture at the Kw̓is̓itis Interpretive Centre in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The Real West Coast route also boasts other historical and cultural opportunities, so consider a trip on the restored 1929 Baldwin ex-logging locomotive at the 1912 CPR station in Port Alberni, and take the 35 minute ride through the city and its forested ravines to the historically accurate [Maclean Sawmill](#). You may also find some lesser-known landmarks like the Weeping Cedar Woman and the Eik Tree in Tofino that carry a significant environmental and cultural significance, or simply wander and spot the impressive rhododendron gardens in Ucluelet, on the way to the [Wild Pacific Trail](#), one of BC's most iconic attractions.

When tagging #therealwestcoast on your cultural crawl, don't miss these photo-worthy stops:

- [Cathedral Grove \(MacMillan Provincial Park\)](#)
- Nuu-Chah-Nulth Whaling Sculpture at Victoria Quay
- [Alberni Pacific Railway Steam Train en route to MacLean Mill](#)
- Sproat Lake Provincial Park Petroglyphs
- Welcome sign to Tla-o-quiaht Territory at Sutton Pass Summit
- [West Coast Wild Zipline in Haa-Uukmin Tribal Park](#)
- Pacific Rim Visitor Center aka The Junction
- [Amphitrite Lighthouse on the Wild Pacific Trail](#)
- [Big Beach Shipwreck](#)
- [Kwisitis Visitor Centre in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve](#)
- Totem Pole on the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Trail behind Kwisitis Centre
- Radar Hill Viewing Platform
- Pacific Terminus of the Trans Canada Highway sign
- Carving Shed at North Chesterman Beach
- Weeping Cedar Woman on Tofino's Village Green
- Anchor Park at Main and 3rd St in Tofino



NOTES FOR A SMOOTH ROADTRIP

You may spot some furry friends or regal eagles roadside... while it may be tempting to stop for a photo, this is highly dangerous as you are in the middle of a Highway. If you must stop to take a photo of the scenery, please ensure you are pulled off the road entirely, in a spot that is safe to do so!

No road rage allowed on the Real West Coast... did you know, legally, you must pull over at a designated pullouts if you have more than 4 cars behind you? Please also keep in mind, this road can sometimes be a leisurely drive for new or even experienced drivers, especially for the first time; please give slower drivers room and patience, and wait to pass until it is appropriate.

Pack it in, pack it out! Keep BC beautiful, please! Good roadtrips always include snacks, water and treats. Plan to pack a trash bag with you to keep all litter

(including cigarette butts!) and recyclables together and dispose of them properly when you arrive at a designated receptacle.

Take only photos, leave only footprints... You may come across some pretty cool treasures on your way. Everything plays a critical role in the area's biodiversity: shells, sanddollars, beach glass and other treasures should be left where they belong. (But feel free to pick up trash and dispose of it properly if you come across it!)

Straws are for suckers! Many regional businesses are moving away from single-use plastics like straws, plastic bags, and drink lids, because of the potential to make their way into the coastal ocean ecosystem. Please consider bringing your own reusable water bottle, coffee mug and tote bag with you to cut down on your plastic consumption while on your roadtrip. You'll fit right in!