

Points of Interest along the Inside Passage



1 Grenville Channel

11 hours from Port Hardy / 4 hours from Prince Rupert

Mountains of 1500 to 3500 ft surround Grenville Channel, the most spectacular channel along the Inside Passage. The narrowest portion is a mere 1400 ft wide, but depths up to 1620 ft allow vessels to travel close to the shore. The channel is 70 km long.

2 Butedale

10 hours from Port Hardy / 5 hours from Prince Rupert

Located on Princess Royal Island, Butedale was established in 1918 as a fishing, mining and logging area. A cannery and fish reduction plant operated here until the sixties. At its peak, the community had a summer population of 400 people. It is one of the few remaining cannery villages on the coast.

3 Swanson Bay

9.5 hours from Port Hardy / 5.5 hours from Prince Rupert

Although all that can be seen in Swanson Bay today is a brick chimney and pilings, the area was once home to one of the first sulphite pulp mills on BC's coast. Named after Captain Swanson who served on the SS Beaver, the mill eventually ceased operation in the mid-thirties and the last inhabitants are said to have left in the late 1940's.

4 Boat Bluff

7.5 hours from Port Hardy and Prince Rupert

Established in 1907, it is perhaps the most scenic of lighthouses along the Inside Passage. Located at the southern end of Sarah Island, the light marks the entry into Tolmie Channel for northbound vessels and is visible for approximately 20 miles.

5 Bella Bella

5 hours from Port Hardy / 10 hours from Prince Rupert

Bella Bella is a prosperous fishing and logging community with a hospital, schools and a cultural center and one of the largest First Nations communities on the coast. If you look closely, you might see the eagle head which rises from the roof of the cultural center. BC Ferries began passenger service to Bella Bella in the spring of 1977 and continues service on a year-round basis.

6 Namu

3.5 hours from Port Hardy / 11.5 hours from Prince Rupert

Namu is a First Nation's word meaning 'whirlwind'. Anchorage in the bay is not recommended during the autumn months because winds known as 'willy-waws' (whirlwinds) blow strongly over nearby mountains. It is the oldest settlement on the coast featuring a cannery that operated from 1893 to 1970. Excavations show artifacts dating back 10,000 years.