

# bogeyman REVIEW PARKSVILLE - VANCOUVER ISLAND



## A GOLF TRIP THAT EVERYONE WILL LOVE, WHETHER YOU GO AS GOLFING BUDDIES, COUPLES OR GIRLS TRIP, VANCOUVER ISLAND HAS YOU COVERED!

Parksville on Vancouver Island offers one of the most peaceful, relaxing and enjoyable golf holidays imaginable. The truly unique part, tho, was that you could go as a guy trip (I went with my brother) and have golf dominate the itinerary, or you could go as a couple and enjoy the area and nature and make the trip a golf getaway, or I could see this as a great destination for a girls trip with as much time in the spa as on the course.

America), **The Grotto Spa**, the resort has 192 rooms ranging from ocean views with balconies to separate cottages, along with newly renovated and upgraded rooms that are more upscale and 'contemporary rustic'.



Time to relax! The Grotto Spa is perfect for whatever ails you



The Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort is a wood lovers dream with ocean views

A short flight direct into Comox leads to a fast drive south to Parksville. If nothing else the 120km speed limit (in Canada!) is worth the drive. We then arrived at **Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort**, and it was everything you could hope to have in a resort.

Famous for their nationally ranked spa (#1 Spa in Canada by Spas of

The mineral pool at The Grotto Spa is a treat, and if you play enough golf you will truly appreciate the downtime. They even offer a tapas dining experience inside the spa complex, and take pampering their guests to new levels of quality.

We started the golf portion of the trip at **Fairwinds Golf Club**, a Les Furber design through the trees that tests your game right away. On the card the course looks shorter than it plays, and the whites at 5700 yards provide plenty of challenge for this par 71. This course is all about the

teeshot and finding the landing areas.



Fairwinds comes complete with trees, rocks and shotmaking challenges

The first hole gives you a great taste of what is to come, a short par 4 where being conservative pays off much more than trying to eke out every yard you can from the tee. There is water on this hole and on many others, but since your focus should be on hitting the fairways it doesn't come into play much.

The par 3s are varied and all have their own challenge, ranging in length from 118 at #6 to a 198 yard beast at #14. This long par 3 has a rock wall up the right and a creek on the left so a par here is major victory.



Elevation changes add to the many views at Fairwinds

Fairwinds snakes its way through the trees and rocks and has plenty of doglegs and elevation changes that keep you focused throughout the round. We were glad to play this course twice and made good use of the yardage book – a little knowledge goes a long way here. A pretty course that is tougher than it looks, every hole was unique and made you think.

Day 2 was at **Morningstar Golf Club**, as championship-type golf course as you want to play. Another Les Furber design, the course offers a mix of links and treed holes, and is set up so that every golfer can enjoy, the length ranges from 5277 yards up to 7,000 and a slope of 141.



Morningstar is a championship layout with fantastic greens

Where Fairwinds was all about the teeshot, Morningstar is all about

hitting greens. You start with a wide fairway on #1 and another on #2, and start to think that the driver is working and you are scoring well so the rest of the round should be no trouble. Then the tight, winding par 5 3rd hole hits you and the card just got a little ugly.



Some of the most dramatic holes on the Island are at Morningstar

Everything is right in front of you on this course, and there aren't any tricks or gimmicks. This is just a straight-up challenging course that uses every club in your bag.

Every green is well protected by bunkers, and with some tough elevation changes and doglegs you want to be hitting your irons accurately. The greens themselves all putted beautifully, and we made a lot of longer putts that kept our scores down nicely. Each nine ends with a bit of a monster, the 9th a long par 5 double dogleg with water up the left, and the 18th is a 444 yard par

4 from the blues, a full driver and fairway wood to an elevated green. The waste bunker short left is the best place to miss, but still not an easy up and down.

At the end of your round at Morningstar you know you have played a great course in perfect shape, and while you remember the tough holes you also smile at the putts you made.

Our final day was at **Pheasant Glen Golf Resort**, which will be hosting this year's BC Amateur Championship. Don't let that scare you tho, as this course is fair and fun and completely playable. The course had a much different style from the other two, more open and forgiving off the tee and it seemed to be less punitive of poor shots.

The course has teeth tho, with the fescue and rough thick and the



Room to swing at Pheasant Glen but the fescue is no place to hit into

greens true and fast. The conditions at Pheasant Glen were amazing and the greens were soft enough to hold approaches but still plenty quick. On the front nine there is room to swing and the view from the elevated par 3 8th hole teebox is a great chance to catch your breath on this course.

The back 9 is more wooded, and the first three holes are framed by big trees. There is more room than you think tho, and that thick rough which might have hurt you on the front is helping now by holding errant shots from reaching the bush. Your best chances to score are on the three par 3s on the back, all of them with big receptive greens. The three par 5s can erase some of those good scores, but just like the rest of the holes, if you hit decent shots you are going to do well here.



Pheasant Glen is a course designed to give you all the elements of a great round

You finish the round with a fantastic par 5 - lots of room to swing off the tee and then a lay up around the dogleg right and your approach narrows to the elevated green. This hole summed up the round perfectly, using a variety of shots and enjoying every one of them, and was a great way to finish our trip.

Golfing in Parksville on Vancouver Island is a world class trip no matter who you go with. As a guys trip the golf is awesome. For couples there are beautiful accommodations and plenty to do off the course. For a girls getaway there are spas and boutiques galore. It doesn't matter what you want to do on your trip, what does matter is that you get yourself there this summer and enjoy it all!

To make things even easier, you can find out about British Columbia tourism through [www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com), and if you want all the info on booking your golf getaway just visit [www.golfvancouverisland.ca](http://www.golfvancouverisland.ca) or call 1.888.465.3239

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