



bogeyman REVIEW

VANCOUVER ISLAND'S NORTH SIDE

RUGGED BEAUTY, INCREDIBLE GOLF AND BIG HUNGRY SALMON MAKE THIS A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

I had never been to the north side of Vancouver Island, and everything that I had heard got me psyched for rugged beauty, outdoor activities and great golf. I write this Review to tell you that the Courtenay/Campbell River area has all of that and way more!!

An easy flight into Comox airport and an easier 8 minute drive gets you to the first stop of our trip, Crown Isle Resort.



Crown Isle Resort is a gem, a perfect resort for golfers

Crown Isle Resort is absolutely perfectly manicured in every way. There is an explosion of bushes and trees and flowers and everything flows

resort. This is resort golf, with wide, generous fairways and very big greens. This isn't a cakewalk though, with the tips stretching out to 7025 yards – at sea level you need an extra club for just about everything, so choose wisely from the 6 sets of tees offered. The first hole sets up the round perfectly, a par five dogleg right with room for the driver but you have to play to the corner, where a bunker waits. Tough to reach in two, you layup to a wedge into a green that has subtle breaks and could easily accommodate two flags. You start to notice that there are far more varieties of trees on the course than you would expect, and on hole #3 we counted at least 6 varieties including a beautiful weeping willow.



the right and protecting the right front that can test your nerves if the pin is tucked on that side.

The back is supposed to be the easier of the two sides, but our card didn't show that. #10 is a straightforward and par five that starts the side off simple enough, but a tough par three at #12 and a new small lake just added on #14 give this side some teeth. The finish is tougher, with a bunker in the middle of the fairway and another in front of the green at #17, and a long uphill 18th hole give you all you can handle as you come up to the clubhouse.

Crown Isle Resort is truly beautiful, the conditions are immaculate and they provide such excellent service and amenities that it is a must play on the Island, not just the northern part.

The next day we took the drive up Highway 19A to Storey Creek. This is



Storey Creek has been ranked the #1 public course in BC, and it's easy to see why.

Storey Creek is a players' course. Not overly long at just under 6700 yards from the tips, this course will test every club in your bag, and you would do well to hit them all properly. Carved through the forest, the course demands accuracy, but blows you away with the natural beauty.

We tried to come up with a word for the forests here, with the old growth trees, the underbrush, the raw primitive nature of the surroundings, and the best word was primordial. If Bigfoot came out of the trees you would expect him to be riding a dinosaur.

and you right away feel your stresses fall away. The main clubhouse is warm and inviting, and the restaurant pays homage to the logging history of the area with a collection of vintage chainsaws on the wall, very cool.

The course is as manicured and conditioned as the grounds of the



The trees, the conditions, the views, it's all magnificent at Crown Isle

#4 is a pretty little par three with water in play and a collection area on the right for bailouts. This is followed by a strong par five with water all up

a fun little trip, and really showcases the area. Views of the ocean are spectacular, and you can also see that this part of the island is growing up quickly, with some older properties next to brand new developments. One thing that didn't change was the amount of seafood places, just what we expected and hoped for on the trip.

The course has all the looks, including a fantastic par five at #4, long and protected, as well as a funky short par four at #11, only 258 yards from the blues but requiring precision shots to hit the small guarded green. The par 3s on the back side are both gorgeous holes, and you want your camera for both of them, including the 16th where you have to clear a walled creek to hit the green.

Black Knight Inn

GOLF PACKAGE...

\$119

per person plus taxes
One night accommodation
& 18 Hole Green
Based on
Double Occupancy

98 Deluxe Guest Rooms • Executive Suites
Indoor Pool/Whirlpool • JB's Lounge
• Remington's Grill

Book online: www.blackknightinn.ca
1.800.661.8793



Black Knight Inn
Est. 1988

From Hotel to Course	
Atkins Springs	10min
Flower Garden	15min
Ironclad	20min
Powder	30min
Whit Creek	40min
Pine Hills	60min

librisreader

bogeyman REVIEW



'FINS & SKINS' IS WHAT MAKES THIS TRIP SPECIAL

Conditions were as good as you would expect for a course of this caliber, and everything plays exactly as it should, with the fairways perfect, the greens medium fast and true, and the rough the perfect thickness to be tough but playable. Anyone who is serious about their golf, and appreciates a course that is challenging, beautiful and peaceful has to play Storey Creek. This is pure golf, and we loved it.

Next we checked in to Painter's Lodge, right on the water, rustic and quiet and a beautiful setting. The Lodge is famous throughout the world and we met a number of Europeans who were staying there to enjoy the finest that the north side of the Island has to offer for natural settings.



Painter's Lodge is the place to be if you want a natural setting and great fishing.

The next morning was a round at the Campbell River Golf & Country Club. They really should have a

goal here was to build a first class golf course, and the plan for the next couple years is to add a matching resort to the grounds.

Playing as a par 70, there are only six par fours on the course. A total of seven par threes test your iron game, none of them overly long but all requiring quality shots. The signature hole here has to be #6, only 135 yards but uphill with an amazing water feature/falls up at the green. The green is two tiered and perfect, and like all the greens here it is big and rolls consistently and smoothly. Once at the green turn around and look back down and you'll see a wonderful rock wall that you don't discover till you're up there. As perfect a hole as we played the entire trip.



A complete redesign has made Campbell River G&CC a destination for all golfers.

The new layout has kept many of the original trees and of course the water feature. Just needed a good

are lots of stories you can talk about from your round, as there are so many unique and high quality aspects to this course. Campbell River G&CC has worked miracles on their course, and they show no signs of slowing down.

Our final activity was going fishing with Painter's Lodge, and this was certainly a trip highlight. Our guide, Dwayne Mustard, was fun, entertaining and a total pro.



A couple of beauties, each fish coming in at almost 15 pounds. What a day!

The views on the Discovery Passage were awesome, and despite being only 30 feet from shore the water can be 150 feet deep. These salmon fight, and when you land a big one you are tired but your adrenaline is still going hard. Once back on shore the staff takes care of everything, and we brought our fish home to show that some

WHERE WE PLAYED

CROWNE ISLE

399 Clubhouse Drive
Courtenay BC
1.888.338.8439
www.crownisle.com

STOREY CREEK GOLF COURSE

300 McGimpsey Road
Campbell River BC
1.250.923.3673
www.storeycreek.bc.ca

CAMPBELL RIVER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

700 Petersen Road
Campbell River
1.250.287.4970
www.crgolf.ca

WHERE WE

Club. They really should incorporate the word 'new' into their name, as the course has been completely redesigned and reimagined in the last 18 months. Considering the amount of work done, the new holes built and the new practice facility, the conditions and look and feel of the course are spectacular.

Every hole has been touched here, and some are brand spanking new. You can tell right away that the

water features, that worked around them. #15 is a challenging par 5, long with water all up the right. In front of the water are bunkers that, while not as bad as water, are there to add strokes for any wayward shots.

The finish here is unique, ending with par 5, 5, 3, 5, 3. The course has beauty and challenge and most important is a really fun round of golf. Enjoying the clubhouse after there

ought to be the home to buy that same night, and the other is being smoked by them. Easy and hassle free, a tasty ending to a fantastic excursion.

The North Shore of Vancouver Island is a trip every Canadian should make. The golf is world class and the fishing is even better than that. Add in rugged beautiful scenery and incredible resorts and you have a trip you will remember for a lifetime.

FISHED

PAINTER'S LODGE
 1625 McDonald Road
 Campbell River BC
 1.888.999.2799
www.painterslodge.com

WHERE WE STAYED

CROWNE ISLE
 399 Clubhouse Drive • Courtenay BC
 1.888.338.8439
www.crownisle.com

PAINTER'S LODGE
 1625 McDonald Road • Campbell River BC
 1.888.999.2799
www.painterslodge.com

FOR COMPLETE INFO AND HELP PLANNING YOUR VANCOUVER ISLAND GOLF TRIP VISIT
WWW.HELLOBC.COM
WWW.GOLFOVANCOUVERISLAND.CA • 1.877.393.6991