

WILDLIFE

The Loop passes through sensitive migratory bird and animal sanctuaries as well as important salmon and herring marine ecosystems. Precautions must be taken to avoid their disturbance.

- Be aware of all animals on the water, below the surface and on the shoreline.
- Observe wildlife from a distance – do not approach or disturb their natural behaviour.
- Avoid approaches that cause a panic reaction among animals – talk softly or tap lightly on the side of your boat to gently warn of your presence.
- Avoid stream estuaries and small inlets during spawning times November to December and nesting times March till June.
- Avoid shallows and mud flats where sensitive feeding areas can be disturbed.
- Constantly assess wildlife. Move quietly away if you see signs of disturbance.
- Do not enter the wildlife refuge areas in the Esquimalt Lagoon (see map).



BEFORE YOU GO

The Victoria Waterways Loop covers a distance of 15.5 kms (8.4 nautical miles) with a 950 m (1000 yards) portage. Winds, currents, and your skill level strongly influence which sections to explore.

The Loop offers recreational opportunities for those seeking either the challenge of exposed water or a smooth paddling experience through sheltered inlets and protected bays. Before you embark on your choice of saltwater adventure be sure you're prepared.

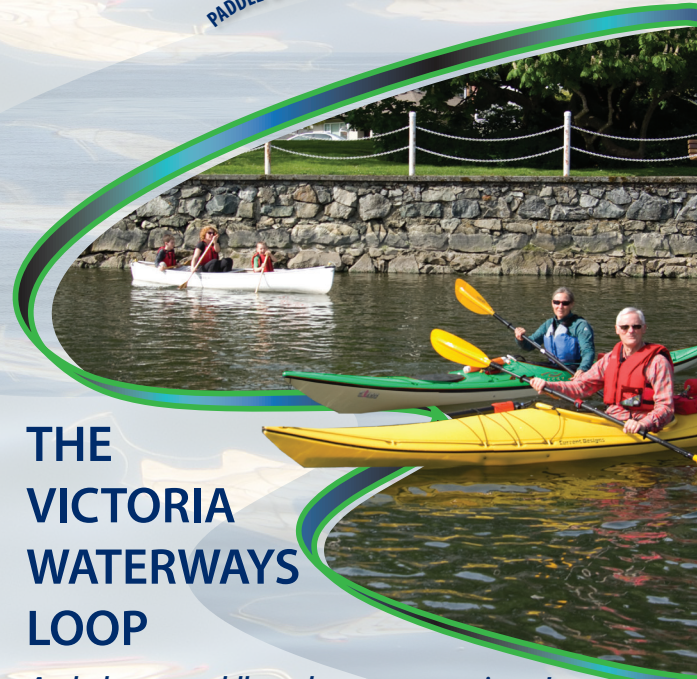
- Check ahead for weather, tides and currents.
- Dress appropriately and always consider the possibility of capsizing or getting wet.
- Let someone know where you are going and what time you plan to return.
- Review *Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide*: www.tc.gc.ca/boating_safety.
- Review *Port of Victoria Traffic Scheme TP 13410-E*: www.tc.gc.ca
- Check currents at Gorge Tillicum Narrows 
- Visit our website: vicwaterloop.ca

Note: Esquimalt Harbour and approaches are designated a controlled naval access zone. Paddlers must remain 100 meters away from all stationary naval vessels and 200 meters away from naval vessels underway. Contact CFB Esquimalt Harbour Master when entering or leaving at VHF ch 10 or call 250 363-2160. Review practices and procedures at: www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/about/structure-marpac-poesb-practices-procedures.page

Photography: Edmond Duggan • Heron image: Tourism Victoria
Design: Linda Carswell • Printed on recycled paper



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THE VICTORIA WATERWAYS LOOP

A whole new paddle and portage experience!

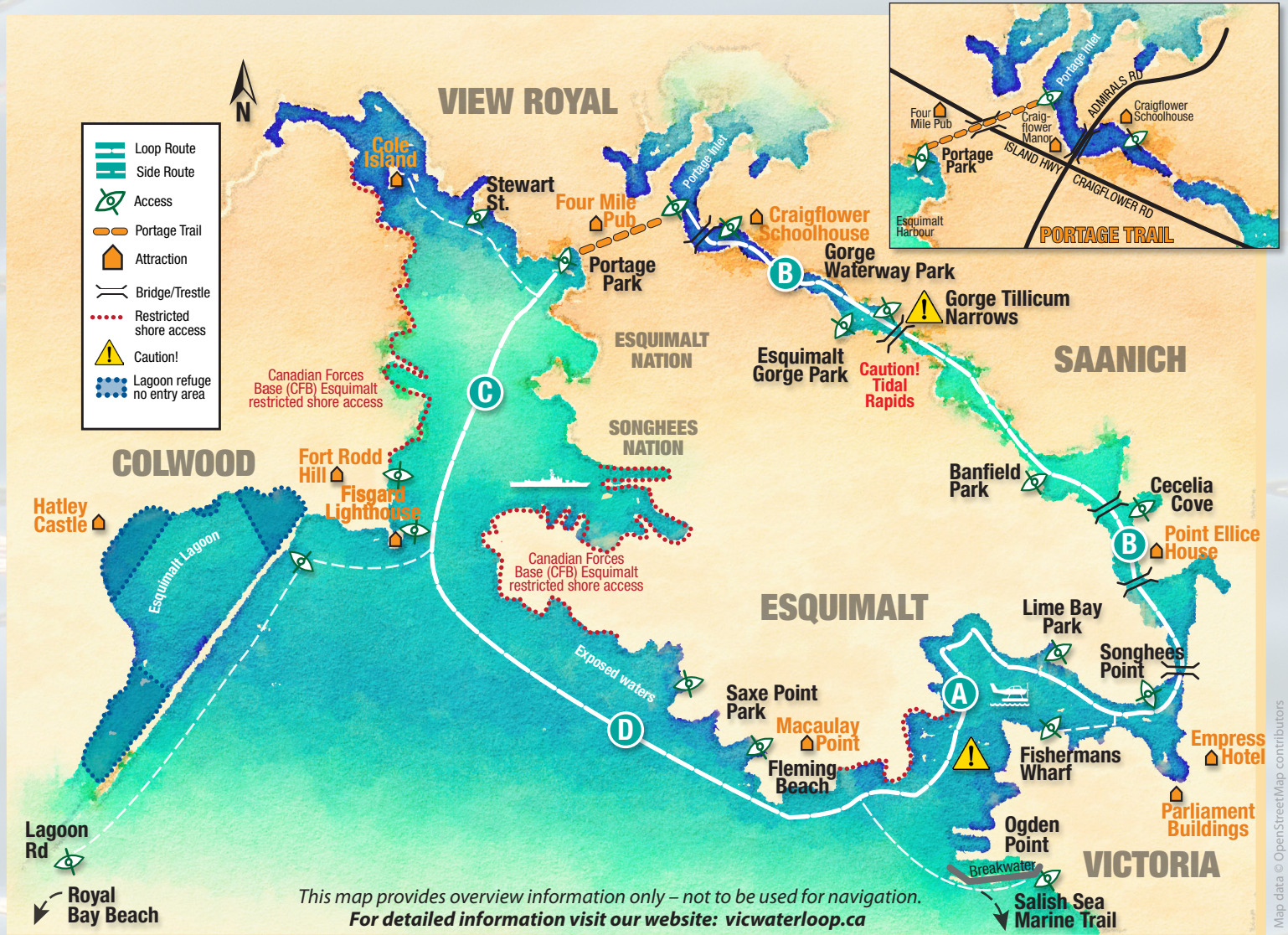
The Victoria Waterways Loop is a beautiful inland and open water passage that winds its way through some of the most spectacular and varied scenery on the south coast.

With numerous access points you can choose to paddle just a section of the loop or the entire loop in a few hours.

Stop to explore a local attraction, have lunch in an eatery along the way or just enjoy the variety of wildlife that you'll see.

Whether you're a seasoned paddler or novice there's a stretch of blue for you!

vicwaterloop.ca



A VICTORIA HARBOUR	B GORGE WATERWAY	C ESQUIMALT HARBOUR	D ESQUIMALT OCEANFRONT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Empress Hotel Parliament Buildings Places to eat Views of downtown Working harbour Accommodation Boat rentals Migratory bird sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point Ellice House Craigflower Schoolhouse Places to eat Sheltered waters Portage route Migratory bird sanctuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Mile Pub Cole Island Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site Fisgard Lighthouse Portage Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakwater Royal Roads University Salish Sea Marine Trail Macaulay Point Battery Esquimalt Lagoon bird sanctuary
CAUTIONS			
<p>RISK: 2-3 LOW-MODERATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High traffic area ⚠️ Active runway– float planes Large sea going vessels 	<p>RISK: 2 LOW*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mud flats *Gorge Tillicum Narrows tidal rapids can be Risk: 4 High ⚠️ Active racing lanes– keep right 	<p>RISK: 2-3 LOW-MODERATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFB Esquimalt Large sea going vessels Controlled access zone First Nations areas Sailing and other race traffic 	<p>RISK: 3-4 MODERATE-HIGH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed water Large sea going vessels Fishing boat activity Harbour traffic area
REQUIREMENTS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the Port of Victoria Traffic Scheme TP 13410-E available at www.tc.gc.ca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid stream estuaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact CFB Esquimalt Harbourmaster: VHF ch 10 or call 250 363-2160 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not enter the wildlife refuge areas in the Esquimalt Lagoon