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Photos: David Pinel

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The unincorporated Village of Kyuquot is located on Walters Island, adjacent to the welcoming Kyuquot/Checleset First Nations community at Houpsitas on Vancouver Island. Other local residents are scattered on nearby islets. Together, the year-round local population of just over 200 people gently swells in the summer months to host a pleasant interplay of locals, sportfishers, sea kayakers, boaters, other tourists, and visiting friends and family. Humpback whales, gray whales, and orca help to round out the summer assembly of creatures.

This community is the spring-board and gateway for accessing unmatched west coast recreation and education opportunities. For enjoyment and safety, Kyuquot area waters are best explored with a locally knowledgeable guide unless already an experienced and well-equipped west coast boater,

familiar with navigation, weather forecast interpretation, varying sea conditions, and safety procedures.

Off the beaten path and only accessible by water or air, this historic coastal settlement features the basic amenities of two government wharves, a general store with post office, and a health centre with a nurse practitioner.

For a one-of-a-kind and understated west coast bustle, the place to be and be seen is the government wharf on Walters Island on Thursday evenings when the "MV Uchuck III" arrives from Gold River with overnight sight-seers and supplies for the community and lodges.

Several full-service sport fishing lodges boast sensational guided salmon and halibut fishing experiences complemented with comfortable and luxurious lodging with fully catered meals. These lodges boast exceptionally high client return rates – it must be good.

Sea kayaking and coastal hiking and camping are at their best in the Kyuquot from mid June to mid September. One company, West Coast Expeditions, has operated in the area since 1972 and provides fully catered and guided sea kayaking experiences from their Wilderness Retreat based on Spring Island. For experienced and independent west coast paddlers, there are camping options. Self-guided paddlers can also choose comfortable self-catered accommodations at Sea Otter Lodge closer to the community hub and amenities of Kyuquot.

## More Info?

[www.kyuquot.ca](http://www.kyuquot.ca)

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