



JON COLLIER PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE SUN

# Wildlife, wild weather, wild West Coast

BY CARALYN CAMPBELL  
VANCOUVER SUN

The craggy, windswept landscape combined with the temperamental nature of the weather on the West coast of Vancouver Island, make this tiny coastal hamlet a magnet for adventurous nature lovers. You never know what to expect, no matter what the season. It can be sunny and warm in December or foggy and frigid in July (as it was when we were there — we had just left brilliant sunshine behind in the Southern Gulf Islands that morning). As we discovered over the next two days however, visitors (and locals) are willing to forgive Ucluelet anything for the sheer natural beauty of it all. And as the hardy locals will tell you, there is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing.

**Where to stay:**  
**Black Rock Resort**

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[www.blackrockresort.com](http://www.blackrockresort.com)

**Where to eat:**  
**Fetch Restaurant**

90-seat oceanfront, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner year-round.  
[www.blackrockresort.com/dining](http://www.blackrockresort.com/dining) to view menus.

**Blue Room**

All day breakfast; lunch and dinner licensed, harbour view. Open year-round.  
[www.blueroombistro.com](http://www.blueroombistro.com)

**A must do:**

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[www.archipelagocruises.com](http://www.archipelagocruises.com).

**Captain's Blog: by Jon Collier**

Destination Ucluelet on the West Coast of Vancouver Island ... We were invited to stay a couple of days at the Black Rock Resort.

Also included was a five-hour wild-life viewing cruise through the Broken Islands.

Due to time constraints we decided to make it a road trip and leave the boating to the local Ucluelet skippers.

We boarded the Swartz Bay Ferry from Mayne Island, bused to YYJ airport (Victoria International) and traded the 17-foot Hourston for a 12-foot Chevrolet Impala at Budget rent-a-car to drive to the West Coast of the Island. Five hours later we were checking into the Black Rock Resort in the little town of Ucluelet.

After breakfast the next morning we made our way to the Main Street dock, to board the Raincoast Maiden, a 53-foot Canoe Cove cruiser. It was a little foggy but we were assured by our hosts Alan and Toddy Landry that it would lift soon. The couple have 30 years experience fishing and guiding on the West Coast.

We left the moorage and were given some Ucluelet harbour history on our way out to sea and the broken Islands, the fog lifted right on time to see sea birds, sea lions, seals, Humpback and Grey whales, our hosts were very knowledgeable of the area, navigating smoothly through the beautiful rugged rocky shoals of the Broken Islands. We arrived back at the dock six hours later wined, dined and scenically satisfied.

More on where to eat, stay and play at [www.ucluelet.travel](http://www.ucluelet.travel)



The view from the balcony of the Black Rock resort.



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