

driver

Wherever you can go.



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SPRING/SUMMER 2024



Semiahmoo Peninsula Sojourn

BY CHRISTINA NEWBERRY

Located side by side on Semiahmoo Peninsula in Boundary Bay, the laid-back and beachy suburbs of White Rock and South Surrey are ideal destinations for a relaxed summer day trip.

Bonus: they call it sunny White Rock for a reason. The Peninsula's distance from the rain shadow of the North Shore Mountains makes it one of the sunniest locations in the Lower Mainland, with 20 per cent fewer precipitation days annually than the City of Vancouver. Here are four perfect places to stop and make the most of those extra rays.



Ian Harland



Shop local

When you open the door of The Handpicked Home on White Rock's main street, it's clear how much love owner Piya Sandhu puts into her business and choosing the products she offers. Every corner of this delightful lifestyle boutique is beautiful, with handwritten labels, warm wood fixtures and pops of beachy blue.

"Offering locally and artisan-made goods means our customers get to discover how much talent there is right in our own backyards and learn about the maker's story and how each treasure is uniquely made," said Sandhu. She's been recognized with an impressive number of awards, both for her success as an entrepreneur and for supporting the local community. Since opening in 2015, The Handpicked Home has also been a perennial winner of people's choice awards from local paper the *Peace Arch News*.

Get your retail fix browsing the expansive collection of goods, such as natural coconut-soy candles by Sealuxe, wooden necklaces crafted by Moonshine Dreams, plus tasty treats, ethically manufactured T-shirts and body-care products, all created by makers hailing from the Sea to Sky to the Fraser Valley. Take extra time to linger over the art and decor (it may inspire the vibes of a Coastal Grandmother home makeover).

THE HANDPICKED HOME

1406 Johnston Road, White Rock
[instagram.com/thehandpickedhomeshop](https://www.instagram.com/thehandpickedhomeshop)
thehandpickedhome.com

Discover layers of history

The Semiahmoo Peninsula is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the ḱícəy̓ (Katzie), ḱʷɑ:ḱəḷəḱ (Kwantlen), and se'mya'me (Semiahmoo) Nations. At Elgin Heritage Park, Indigenous and colonial heritage sit side by side, offering opportunities to learn and reflect on the many stories of this place.

Opened in late 2023, the Totest Aleng Indigenous Learning House provides space for carvers and other Indigenous artists to work. The centre hosts an artist-in-residence program, including activities open to the public within the soaring wood beams of the open-air pavilion. Upcoming sessions include medicinal soap-making and a medicinal plant walk with Deanna Miller of the Katzie First Nation. A new carving by Leslie Wells of the Semiahmoo First Nation will be added above the entrance in the coming months.

Just across the parking lot lies a vastly different heritage site: a Victorian-era farm, where John and Annie Stewart lived and worked with their two children between 1890 and 1920. The City of Surrey purchased the old farmstead in 1984 and has restored it to period perfection. "The site is special and filled with layers of history," said Jerrilin Spence, curator of the Historic Stewart Farm. "Each season brings new opportunities for memorable heritage experiences."

TOTEST ALENG INDIGENOUS LEARNING HOUSE

Historic Stewart Farm
 13723 Crescent Road, Surrey
[instagram.com/stewartfarmbc](https://www.instagram.com/stewartfarmbc)
surrey.ca/parks-recreation/parks/elgin-heritage-park



Raise a pint

Known for cheekily named beers like the Beach in Heat Radler, 3 Dogs Brewing has a large patio (dogs welcome, natch) that on summer Sundays overlooks the award-winning White Rock Farmers' Market. Inside, the bright high-ceilinged space features beer-keg light fixtures, massive live-edge cedar pillars and Day-Glo paintings of dogs living their best human lives.

With piano-accompanied singalongs, music trivia and karaoke events throughout the week, this lively family-run brewery is a favourite place for locals to raise a pint and snack on Rottie-size nachos and a stellar selection of hot dogs (chili cheese, corndogs, vegan). But the back story of the brewery's importance to the community starts with its chaotic origins in an area that's in constant flux as it develops from a small town into a high-rise city.

When 3 Dogs lost its original location to redevelopment plans in 2018, just a few months after opening, neighbours rallied to carry boxes and roll beer tanks to a new location across the street. Some even volunteered to help with renovations. Five years later, 3 Dogs moved around the corner to its current location in what has become a bustling new brewery district, expanding the business with The Beer Shack taphouse and whisky bar in its former location on Johnston Road.

3 DOGS BREWING

#107-15181 Thrift Avenue, White Rock
[instagram.com/3dogsbrewing](https://www.instagram.com/3dogsbrewing)
3dogsbrewing.ca



Aspen Captures Photography



Look to the skies

Known as one of the top birding spots in all of Canada, Blackie Spit Park has more than 230 reported species. "The mix of coastal and forested habitats around Blackie Spit makes it an excellent bird-watching location," said Kris Cu, BC outreach specialist for Birds Canada. "The park attracts a diversity of birds such as common loons, yellow warblers and American wigeons. During migration season, rarities such as marbled godwits and snow buntings have been observed not too far from the parking lot!"

Even if you're not a birding aficionado, this little piece of land at the mouth of the Nicomekl River is well worth a visit for the serene sunrises and sunsets as well as clear views to the North Shore Mountains. The shallow waters at the north end of Crescent Beach are also a great launching point for kayaking or

stand-up paddleboarding in the quiet bay. Or take the winding five-kilometre nature trail along the sand spit and through the dunes.

If you've brought your pup, you'll have to skip the marked environmentally sensitive area that protects habitat for delicate plants and animals—including the impressively named Audouin's night-stalking tiger beetle—but your furry friends can enjoy Surrey's only off-leash dog swimming beach.



BLACKIE SPIT PARK

3136 McBride Avenue, Surrey
surrey.ca/parks-recreation/parks/blackie-spit-park
[instagram.com/bcbirdtrail](https://www.instagram.com/bcbirdtrail)