



## **WELCOME TO TAHSIS**

Tahsis, already well known as a world class Sport Fishing destination, has the distinction of being where Captain Cook, Captain Vancouver, and Captain Quadra first met with Chief Maquinna in 1792 and commenced negotiations on the Nootka Convention.

Now, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, Tahsis is moving forward to take its place as an exciting Vancouver Island destination with unparalleled outdoor recreation, stunning coastal scenery, and a town site with unique heritage houses and stonework. During the past two years, the Village of Tahsis has seen increased tourism activity such as hiking, kayaking, and caving; it has welcomed visits by a cruise ship and several tall ships. In the past year Tahsis has witnessed the addition of high speed Internet access to homes and businesses, the blooming of cultural and artistic activity, and the arrival of new residents and entrepreneurial businesses attracted by our natural setting and relaxed village lifestyle.

The Village of Tahsis has committed to support entrepreneurs and new residential, commercial, and industrial development. The development of an industrial site and an aquaculture plan actively encourage businesses to establish in Tahsis. The zoning bylaws and Official Community Plan (OCP) are being revised and updated during the winter of 2004/2005, with the intention of preparing for future expansion of the Village population and businesses.

This Community Profile is designed to take you on an in-depth tour of our Village, its resources, amenities, and opportunities.

# ◆TABLE OF CONTENTS◆

---

---

## **TOURISM & RECREATION**

Attractions.....	1
Marine Services .....	2
Parks and Monuments.....	2
Community Calendar.....	3
History & Heritage .....	4
Historical Museum.....	4
The Arts in Tahsis .....	4
History of Tahsis.....	4
First Nations.....	5
Sport Fishing.....	5
Salt Water Fishing.....	5
August Fishing Derby.....	6
Freshwater Fishing.....	6
Fishing Regulations .....	6
Outdoor Recreation.....	7

## **MAPS & TRANSPORTATION**

Tree to Sea Drive .....	8
Water Transport.....	8
Air Transport.....	9
<b>MAP</b> —Tree to Sea Drive Roadmap.....	10
<b>MAP</b> —Village of Tahsis Street Map & Directory .....	11
<b>MAP</b> —Vancouver Island Road and Ferry Route Map.....	12

## **BUSINESS SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES**

Business Services.....	13
Event Facilities .....	13
Business Opportunities .....	14
Aquaculture.....	14
Agri Forestry.....	14
Industrial Site.....	14
Transportation Services .....	14
Adventure Tourism .....	15
Manufacturing & Industry .....	15

International Students & ESL .....	15
<b>MAP</b> —Industrial Site Lease Map .....	16
<b>MAP</b> —Commercial and Industrial Lands Map .....	17
Tahsis 2010 - Our Vision .....	18

**COMMUNITY SERVICES & ORGANIZATIONS**

Medical Facilities.....	19
Emergency Services.....	19
Churches .....	20
Community Services.....	21
Education .....	21
Community Groups and Service Organizations .....	22

**MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL INFORMATION**

Village of Tahsis, Municipal Information.....	24
Regional Information.....	25
First Nations.....	26
Government Agencies.....	27

**OUTDOOR RECREATION APPENDIX**

Tahsis—Short Walks and Hikes.....	A-1
Hiking Trails Near Tahsis .....	A-2
<b>MAP</b> —Hiking Trails Near Tahsis .....	A-4
Kayaking.....	A-5
Caving.....	A-6
Scuba Diving & Snorkeling.....	A-7
Surfing.....	A-7
Wind Surfing & Kite Boarding .....	A-7
Wildlife Viewing.....	A-8



## TOURISM & RECREATION

Located in historic Nootka Sound and surrounded by steep coastal mountains, Tahsis is well known for sportfishing, scuba diving, caving, sea kayaking, surfing, hiking, bird watching and wildlife viewing.

The Tahsis original townsite is picturesque; the first homes in the area were float homes built in the 1940s, brought ashore and set upon timber foundations on steep mountainside streets. Stonework walls and monuments are a distinctive feature created by a local stonemason.

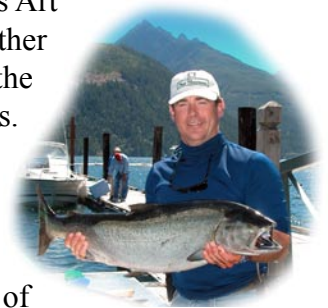


*Tahsis heritage building, formerly a sawmill*

The local Historical Society established a museum depicting life in a small mill town, starting from its origins to the present, and have created an historical walking tour

brochure for visitors to learn about our heritage.

Over the last few years, more artists & musicians have arrived in Tahsis, and cultural activity has increased, adding the Tahsis Art Trail and CoffeeHouse to other community events such as the Great Walk and Tahsis Days.



There are short local trails and beautiful scenic parks — such as West Bay — within walking distance of the village. For the more adventurous outdoors person there are numerous hiking trails and recreation opportunities.

Town amenities include a recreation complex with swimming pool, bowling alley, climbing wall, sauna, and weight room. Village services and businesses include shops, restaurants, hotels, motels, marinas, B & B's, campgrounds, a Public Boat Launch with parking/storage lot, and a full service gas station.

### ◆ ATTRACTIONS ◆

#### Coming to Tahsis: The “Tree to Sea Drive”

The drive to Tahsis features waterfalls, lakes, panorama vistas, and frequent wildlife sightings. Campbell River Info Centre has a brochure and map of the Tree to Sea Drive from Gold River to Tahsis. The Info Center at Gold River displays a large cedar “Road to Adventure Sign” with road map directions to scenic stops on the road. Along the way are two camping spots: Conuma Campground about halfway along; and the Leiner River Campground just before the arrival in Tahsis.

Just outside of Tahsis is the entrance to the Leiner Boardwalk — in the first stage of a 3-year development — which offers walking paths and wildlife viewing platforms through the Leiner River Estuary.

#### Tahsis Chamber of Commerce Info Centre

The Info Centre is staffed during the summer months to answer visitor inquiries. Information on business services and amenities is available and the Museum is open to the public.



## The Museum

The Museum is located in an old bunkhouse shared with the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce Info Centre, and features displays on Nootka Sound First Nations culture and natural history, plus the development of logging, the Mill, and the Tahsis community.

## Points of Interest

The Tahsis Christian Church Society A-frame building is at the foot of the Cardiac Climb stairs. Cardiac Climb features old float homes from the 1940s (the oldest in Tahsis) and the St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church heritage building.

The Town site — Tipperary to Resolution, Discovery Crescent and Princess Victoria View — features homes built in the early 1950s as residences for Mill managers and supervisors, which were later sold to mill workers.

## Tahsis Heliport

The heliport is located next to a waterfront section popular with locals walking their dogs. There is an expansive view of the inlet, lots of marine bird life and convenient parking.



*Tahsis Welcome Sign*

## ◆ MARINE SERVICES ◆

### Cruise Ship Dock

*The World Residensea* Ship contacted the Village of Tahsis in spring 2003, and a visit was arranged; the Village of Tahsis experienced its first cruise ship visit.

### Westview Marina

Westview Marina has short and long-term moorage, fuel dock, laundry, showers, and full amenities.

### Maquinna Resort

The Resort has a dock and fish cleaning stations for resort guests, and short tie-ups for boaters visiting the Maquinna Mall Post Office, Tackle Shop, Dive Shop, Bakery, Government Liquor Store, and various retail shops.

### Nootka Sound Marina

Nootka Sound Marina has short and long-term moorage, boat repair service, and tackle.

### Municipal Dock and Public Boat Launch

The Municipal Dock is located next to the Public Boat Launch with boat launch facilities, a potable water source, picnic tables, telephone booth, parking and storage, public washrooms, and a sani-dump.

## ◆ PARKS AND MONUMENTS ◆

### The Tahsis Welcome Sign

The sign located at the town entrance was designed and built by Berto Bertoia in his distinctive style of stone masonry. The Tahsis Welcome Sign features an illustration of the *Resolution*, the ship that brought Captain Cook to Nootka Island.

### Tipperary Park

This small park at the tip of Princess Victoria View displays the original anchor from the ship *Tipperary Park* which hauled lumber out of Tahsis until the 1950s.

### West Bay Park

West Bay is a short drive past the Maquinna Resort. There are washrooms, trails, and stairs to the pebble beach. This sun-warmed little bay is a popular swimming spot with short walking trails.



*West Bay*



### Lookout & Cairn

The lookout is accessed via logging roads past the Maquinna Resort, and has spectacular views, picnic tables, and a memorial cairn. See the Outdoor Recreation Appendix for a map and description of the route to the Lookout and trails close to Tahsis.

### Leiner River Campsite

The Leiner Campsite is 3 km (2 miles) from Tahsis and has self-service camping spots with picnic tables.

# ◆COMMUNITY CALENDAR◆

## January – Polar Bear Swim

On January first the Polar Bear Swim is held at the Public Boat Launch at 1:00 PM.



## April – Easter Pancake Breakfast

The Easter Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt is hosted by the members of the Tahsis Christian Church Society.

## Spring Craft Fair

Held at the local recreation centre, this is an opportunity for local artisans to display and sell their work, and community groups to fundraise.

## June – Great Walk

The Great Walk takes place the first Saturday in June, starting in Gold River. The Great Walk is held by the Tahsis Lions and raises \$100,000 + for charity.

## July – Canada Day

Celebrations are held on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The family oriented festivities include games for children, hot dogs, adult trivia contest, Canada birthday cake, and souvenirs.

## July – Tahsis Art Trail & CoffeeHouse *The Great Walk--the last mile*

During the July long weekend the Tahsis Art Society holds the Tahsis Art Trail & CoffeeHouse with musical events and tours of local artwork and artist studios.

## July – Tahsis Days

Tahsis Days occur later in July and is a family oriented weekend festival for local residents and visitors. Events include a parade, duck race, raft race, scavenger hunt, dance with live music, beer garden, and community barbeque.

## August – Fishing Derby

Westview Marina hosts the August Fishing Derby on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August. There are thousands of dollars in prizes, and all net proceeds go to the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society.

## October – Hallowe'en Fireworks Display

The Haunted House, Pumpkin Carving Contest and Costume judging for kids takes place at the Hallowe'en bonfire, followed by a fireworks display provided by the Village of Tahsis.

## November – Christmas Bazaar

The Craft Bazaar held in the CMESS Gym at the end of November is a popular community event for local artists, craft displays, fund raising bake tables for local organizations, Kids Carnival, and food concession by the Parents Advisory Committee for CMESS.

## December – The Christmas Tree Lighting

The Tree Lighting is held across from the Heliport during the first week in December, with Christmas caroling, hot dogs and hot chocolate

## Christmas Concert

CMESS holds the Christmas Concert in the School Gymnasium in mid-December.



*Tahsis musicians Roy DuLong and Debra Conibear*

# ◆ HISTORY & HERITAGE ◆

## Historical Museum

The Tahsis Museum was revitalized in 2000 with a move of all the major artifacts and records into the heritage building housing the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce Info Centre. The Museum is open during the summer Info Centre hours and during special events. Entry at other times may be arranged by contacting society members through the Village of Tahsis office. They can also arrange for groups to have guided tours of Tahsis or the museum. Entry to the Museum is free, but donations are welcome and help to maintain records and exhibits.



*Tahsis Museum Display*

The displays are of Nootka First Nations culture, the natural history of the area, and the development of logging, the Mill, and the Tahsis community. The majority of the archival photographs are of the mill and town site during the 1950s and 1960s.

The Tahsis Historical Society and the Tahsis Economic Development Society jointly developed a brochure of a local Heritage Walk featuring local historical buildings and homes. The brochure can be picked up at the Travel Info Centre and the Tahsis Recreation Centre.



*Art Nicolaye*

## The Arts in Tahsis

Tahsis's first artist of note was Art Nicolaye of a First Nations family residing in Tahsis. Art is best known for his carved and painted murals done in the late 1970s for the walls of Captain Cook's Pub, with others on display in the Tahsis Museum.

In the last few years, many artists have come to live in Tahsis, and celebrate the area's natural beauty in watercolors, oil paintings, carvings, writing, and song. In the last year



*Artist Chris Hendrix & Steve Hendrix*

several musicians have joined the Tahsis Art Society and added musical events to the annual Tahsis Art Trail & CoffeeHouse held the long weekend in July.

## History of Tahsis

The Village of Tahsis — 19 nautical miles from Friendly Cove — was the dream of Mr. Gordon Gibson in the early 1940s. Although many companies tried unsuccessfully to open mill operations on the wild west coast of Vancouver Island, he perceived several advantages to building at Tahsis. There was a level plateau

at the head of the inlet with easy deep-sea access for ocean going vessels (still accessible today). The site faced southeast, getting maximum sunlight to protect the freshly cut lumber from mould due to the rains. The logs needed to be handled once instead of being towed to Vancouver at considerable expense and with risk of loss due to high seas.

The valley was cleared except for an exceptionally fine stand of Timber along the Tahsis River that is in the heart of the village now. The trees were felled and floated down the river right into the booming ground. The logs were sold in order to pay for the building of the new mill. The first accommodations were floating



*An early Tahsis lumberyard*

bunkhouses, with a cookhouse for the crew. In the 1950s Tahsis expanded, and a bustling village took shape with two churches, a school and a traveling medical man. The road from Tahsis to Gold River was opened to the public in 1972, attracting new families.

Tahsis became incorporated in 1972, with the election of the first Mayor and Council. In Tahsis's heyday the population was roughly 2,500. With the closure and dismantling of the mill the population declined to approximately

600 permanent residents, with an additional 500 or more summer residents.

### **First Nations**

The Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht and Ehattesaht First Nations traditional territory included the Nootka Sound area of Vancouver Island. Archaeological evidence confirms the occupation of the region by the First Nations people to be in excess of 4,200 years.

This territory is bounded on the north by those of the Ka;’yu;k’t’h’/Che;k’tles7et’h’ First Nation (Kyuquot Sound), and on the south by those of the Hesquiaht First Nation (Clayoquot Sound). All are members of the Nuu-chah-nulth speaking tribes of the west coast of Vancouver Island, whose territory extended from Brooks Peninsula down to what is now Cape Flattery on the northwest tip of Washington State.

Between trading, alliances, and small wars, the First Nations people expanded and intermingled, creating a rich diverse array of settlements. The alliances between groups created a wider range of seasonal resources, resulting in an “annual round” of activities beginning in February when people moved closer to the coast for shellfish, bottom fish, Chinook salmon, herring and migratory birds.



*Carver Sanford Williams*

Then, in April, people would leave to reside at resource sites on the outer coast. By late August and early September, the rains would return, causing the inner coast rivers and streams to swell, and the salmon to return to spawn. The tribes would return to their home villages to catch the spawning salmon and preserve them for winter use. December was devoted to ceremonial events, the winter would pass in relative quiet, and the whole cycle start again with the February thaws.

1774 marks the first visit by a European vessel (Captain Juan Perez of Spain), followed by Captain Cook in 1778 who traded for sea otter pelts. As with other First Nations, the primary result of the opening of this trade was the introduction of at least eight deadly infectious diseases. Nearly 90% of the Nuu-chah-nulth speaking population of Vancouver Island was carried away by disease between 1780 and 1920.

Currently, the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations people originating from Nootka Sound number about 1000, and are scattered throughout North Vancouver Island with Band villages on Espinoza Inlet (Ocluje), and beside Zeballos (Ehatis) and Gold River (Tsaxana).

For more historical and heritage information, visit the guides section: [www.tahsis.ca/guides](http://www.tahsis.ca/guides).

## ◆SPORT FISHING◆

Tahsis and Tahsis Inlet lead to the internationally famous fishing grounds of Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet.

Tahsis has a full service marina and two smaller marinas, plus a Municipal Dock and boat launch with sani dump, washrooms, potable water, telephone booth, and boat trailer parking. An Annual Fishing Derby takes place during the third weekend of August.

### ◆SALT WATER FISHING◆

Tahsis is an ideal base from which to pursue the salt-water fish of the Pacific, Esperanza Inlet and Nootka Sound. Various times of the year feature

Chinook, Coho, sockeye, pink, and chum salmon. In addition there are many varieties of tasty bottom fish such as halibut, ling cod, sole, greenling, sea bass, red snapper, cabezon, and several other varieties of rockfish. Herring and shellfish (crabs, prawn and clams) are also bountiful in these waters.

There are important salmon feeding grounds fronting Bajo reef, major salmon-holding areas in Nootka Sound and Tlupana Inlet, and productive salmon areas in outer Esperanza Inlet.

Tahsis is located roughly halfway between two great fishing areas — Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet — and only a short hop to Kyuquot Sound. Within an



hour, one can be fishing for Salmon in any number of known fish producing hot spots.

### ◆AUGUST FISHING DERBY◆

Westview Marina hosts the August Fishing Derby on the Friday and Saturday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August. There are thousands of dollars in prizes, and net proceeds go to the Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society. Visit their website for details on the derby: [www.westviewmarina.com](http://www.westviewmarina.com)

### ◆FRESHWATER FISHING◆

There are good freshwater fishing opportunities all within an hour's drive of Tahsis. Please check



2004 Derby winner Zack Miller (right)

the freshwater sport fishing synopsis for current regulations. Some of the lakes have stocked Rainbow and Cutthroat trout, as well as wild fish.

Locally the Tahsis, Perry and Leiner Rivers have some sea run Cutthroat (November through April), summer run Steelhead and Chinook, Coho and Chum salmon in the fall months.

Between Gold River and Tahsis there are good angling opportunities for Steelhead and Trout at Conuma River, Sucwoa River, and Canton Creek, as well as good salmon returns of Chinook, Coho, and Chum Salmon early September through October. Malaspina Lake has Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout up to 2 pounds. It's a steep but short climb down to Ceepeecee Lake (1/4 of a kilometer climb down from an old logging road 3 kilometres south of town) but well worth it for Cutthroat Trout up to 2 pounds. The best time for lake fishing is during the spring and fall as the summer months can be hot, and warm waters drive fish to deeper waters.

Fly-in lakes, such as Crawfish Lake on Nootka Island and Power Lake northwest of Kyuquot, offer excellent Cutthroat Trout up to 4 lbs year round. Fly fishing is preferred for saltwater fishing for Cutthroat in all estuaries, but favoured areas are the

head of Espinoza Inlet, the Estuary of Park Creek in Queen Cove, and the mouth of Gayle Creek in Mary Basin, south shore. Park Creek and Park Lake have Cutthroat and occasional Steelhead.

For updated regulations on retention of Chinook or Coho salmon in the Conuma River please check with the Fisheries office in Campbell River. Fisheries notices are also posted along the river and on the Tahsis Post Office bulletin board.

Watch for bears, especially in the fall months when the salmon are spawning. Remember to make noise when walking through the bush, and always leave a bear or any wild animal an easy escape route.

### ◆FISHING REGULATIONS◆

For Tidal Sport Fishing Regulations for Areas 125 (Tahsis Inlet, Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet) and Area 25 (Offshore from Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet), check at the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's website:

[http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/sfg/areas/area125\\_e.htm](http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/sfg/areas/area125_e.htm)

[http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/sfg/areas/area25\\_e.htm](http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/sfg/areas/area25_e.htm)

Freshwater Regulations are also available:

[http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/freshwater/regions/region1\\_e.htm](http://www-comm.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/freshwater/regions/region1_e.htm)

Tide Charts (select Zeballos) are available:

<http://tides-marees.gc.ca>

Sport fishing regulations and fishing licenses are also available at local Marinas and Head Bay Station. Tide charts are available at Tahsis Building Supply.



# ◆ OUTDOOR RECREATION ◆

Tahsis is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island; a rugged landscape of lush rainforest and steep fjord-like mountains, swept by the fresh strong winds of the wild Pacific Ocean. A few guiding operations offering adventure tours and businesses providing support services have established in Tahsis during the last few years.

For more detail on outdoor recreation and for a trail map, view the Outdoor Recreation Appendix.

## Short Walks and Hikes

With the historic setting, monuments and natural beauty, just walking around Tahsis is an adventure; West Bay Park, the Leiner River Estuary Trail and Leiner River Campsite are close by.

## Hiking Trails near Tahsis

Hikers are discovering the dramatic vistas and pristine wilderness on the logging roads up to the Lookout and Coral Cave, and on the Maquinna Trail, Leiner Bouldering Trail, Woss Lake Grease Trail, and the internationally famous Nootka Trail.

## Kayaking

Kayakers are enjoying the sheltered inlet waters, rugged coastal scenery and abundant wildlife. The Tahsis & Leiner Estuaries, Yuquot, Esperanza Inlet, Mary Basin, Nootka Sound, Nuchaltlitz, and Brooks Peninsula offer superb kayaking.



## Windsurfing & Kite Boarding

The strong inflow and outflow winds and the nearby Pacific Ocean create great conditions for Windsurfers & Kite Boarders in Tahsis Inlet.

## Diving and Snorkeling

Tahsis Inlet, Nootka Sound, and Esperanza Inlet offer areas of strong tidal activity and diverse marine life, conditions which attract divers, affording the best chance in



BC to view the prehistoric species of deep water six gill sharks. The Tahsis River and Leiner River are great snorkeling sites in the fall and early winter when the Salmon return to spawn.

## Surfing

Surfers are attracted by the wild Pacific waves off Nootka Island and Brooks Peninsula — all in a climatic pocket that produces waters of the same temperature as those off the coast of Northern California.

## Caving and Climbing

Climbers and cavers find the karst landscape and exposed rock near Tahsis offer some of Vancouver Island's best caving, climbing and bouldering, including the Leiner Bouldering Trail. Two local caves are Upana Caves, located along the Tree to Sea Drive just before Bull Lake Summit coming from Gold River, and Coral Cave, located high on the mountainside overlooking the town of Tahsis.

## Wildlife Viewing

Tahsis and the surrounding coastal wilderness offer excellent wildlife, bird life and marine life viewing. Tahsis is a haven from March to late June for Hummingbirds, who summer here in great numbers. The Tahsis River and Estuary provide opportunities to view Bald Eagles and other bird life right in town, and to view Black Bears in the late summer and fall. Right beside Tahsis, the Leiner River Estuary Trail with wildlife viewing platforms is under development.

Out in the waters of Tahsis Inlet, Esperanza Inlet and Nootka Sound are harbor seals, sea lions, sea otters, porpoises, gray whales and the occasional pod of Orcas.

Marine bird life is especially numerous, and includes loons, Canada Geese, Trumpeter Swans, ducks, herons, and the Marbled Murrelet among many others. See the Wildlife

Viewing section of the Outdoor Recreation Appendix for a more detailed list of the wildlife native to this section of the coast.

