

Vacation 2019



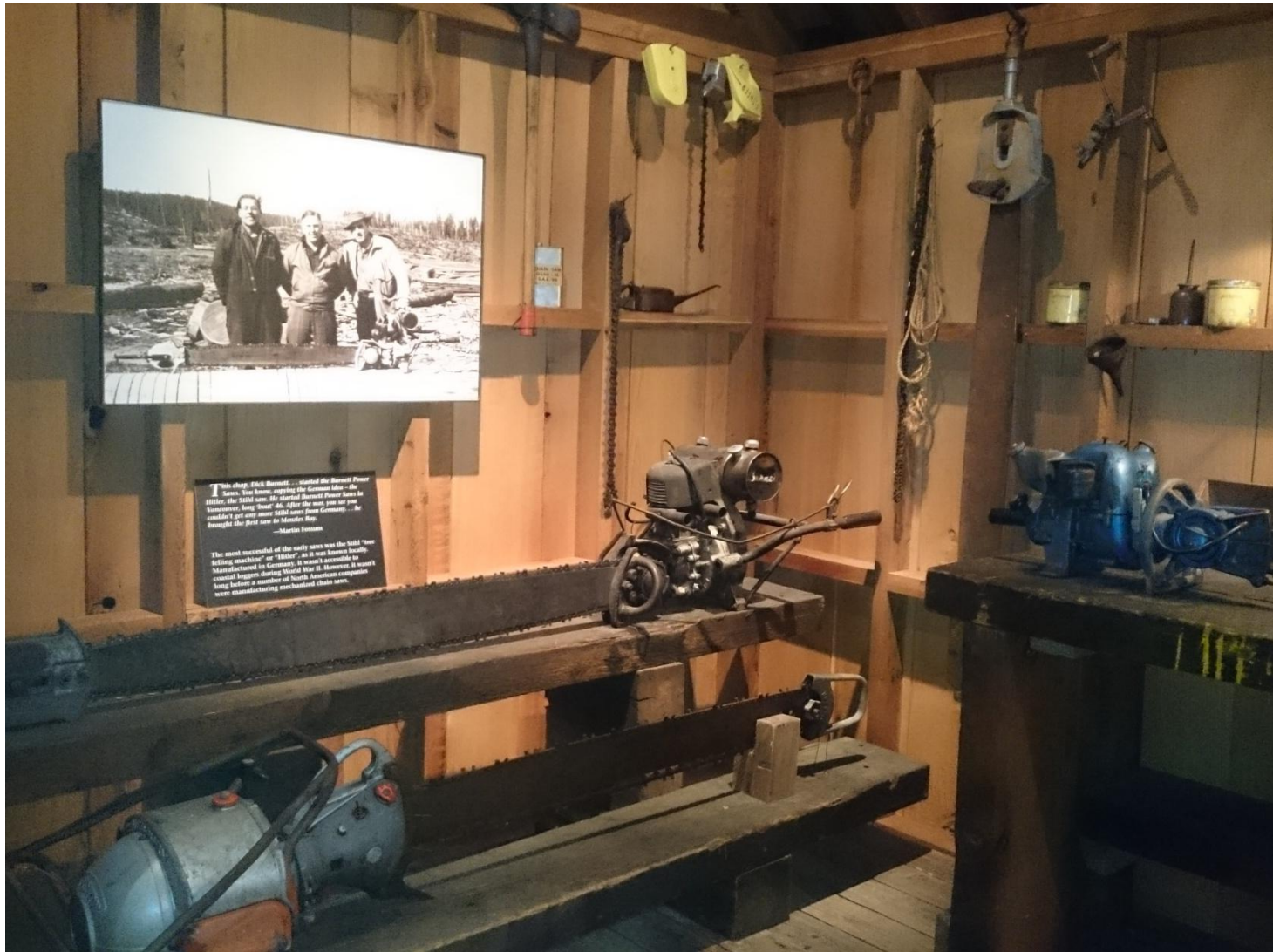
Beginning

First of all, my journey began in Campbell River town, where my son lives. It was his Birthday on 27th of May and the first day of my vacation. We made a celebration dinner and Birthday party with his young friends, classmates, and their parents. The next day I visited the Museum of Campbell River and walked around the town enjoying its heritage places and beautiful seafont.



Museum of Campbell River

There were a couple of tourists from Germany visiting that museum with me in the same time. We were suggested to watch a short (30min.) film about history of the town. We found it interesting and informative.



Campbell River's basic industries were salmon fishing and logging.



This town proudly boasts of a title “Salmon capital of the world”



Invented by Laurie Jarvis of Sointula, power driven gillnet drums made the exhausting job of net hauling easier - and ten times faster.

There was an oldtimer, Laurie Jarvis, was the first one to use the net reel and that was in Sointula here. And that was for gillnets...

Mr. Maki, interview on file at the Sointula Museum

It was nice to see that some man from my village of Sointula helped people of Campbell River to improve the main craft of the town.



This is the ocean view from the museum entrance.





Vancouver-Victoria Ferry.

Then I came back on the mainland and was shocked of fact that my buddy, whom we were planning a trip to Banff with, broke his arm and disable to go there. It was really sad, but I quickly rearranged my vacation schedule and decided to explore Vancouver Island instead. The plan was to visit our capital Victoria, my old friends in Sointula, and to immerse into the magic wilderness of the island.



So, I packed my backpack and hit the road. The destination was Victoria City by BC Ferries service. I want to notice that Victoria-Vancouver and Nanaimo-Vancouver connections use very comfortable vessels. When the weather is good – it's so exciting to sit on a sundeck and enjoy the nature outboard!







Victoria City

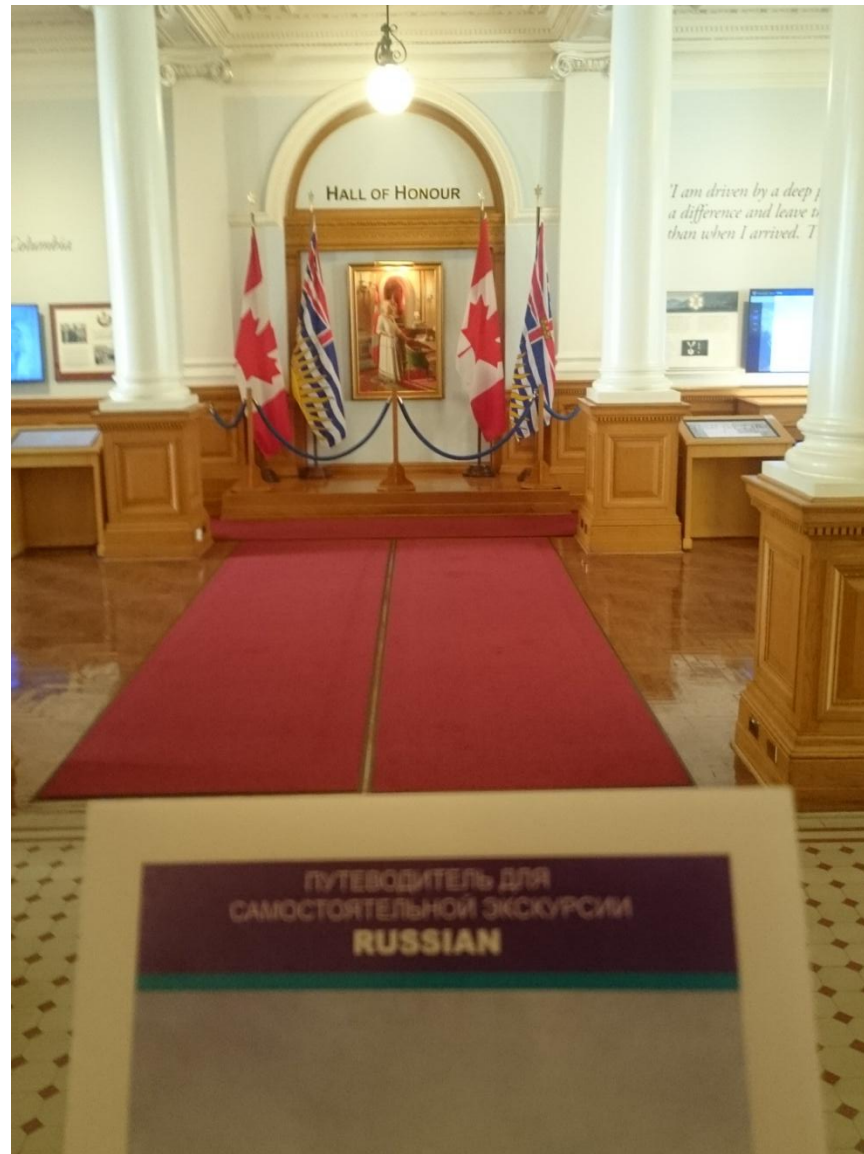
The capitol of BC proudly named Victoria. The queen Victoria had been ruling the kingdom in the 19th century and played a key role of making Confederation. The Pacific Railway was made under her reign. It connected BC with eastern provinces and led to joining prairies to Confederation.



Parliament

The most gorgeous facility in Victoria is this Legislative Assembly of BC. It is an actual building of the Parliament of BC, which works and allows tourists inside at the same time. More than that, guided tours are suggested at one's discretion without any entry fees.





Also, tourists are provided with brochures written in dozens of various languages!



Golden and marble features, domes, and perfect neatness make this house look as a royal house should.





Stained-glass windows add some antique look.







Surprisingly, I stumbled into the house of Emily Carr walking down the beach from downtown.



There are nice and cozy places to take a break, sit down and enjoy reading of shared books.



Well, the Government knows better which name suits better...



I was lucky with sunny weather and glad to enjoy walking along waterfront trail and see this the most southern view of Canada.



And again Victoria showed me that this is a capital – not many cities can boast of swing bridges.



Sointula village

After a couple of days in the capitol I took a ride on car along the shore up north to my lovely village Sointula, where a few of my friends and just nice positive countrymen live.



It's pretty usual to wake up and see some deers in a yard. They roam across the village like holy cows in India.



The ocean view across my friends house.







I stayed in this large comfortable house with authentic wood burning oven outside.





We heated the oven up with my friend, who is a professional baker, and he helped me to cook pizza in such an exciting way.



Tex Lyon Regional Trail

My next goal was to hit the road into the wild. I found quite remote and difficult trail near Port Hardy.



The trail runs through a coast of rocks and sand, full of barely passable bushes. Some parts of the trail require low tide to pass over.





The most of the path is up and down hills , kindly provided with ropes and natural steps and ledges.









The most interesting part of trail isn't maintained properly, but still passable.



“Watch Your Step!”



Through the hardest passages.



MILLIGAN LAKE



Per aspera...



...ad astra





My campsite

I chose appropriate place for making camp to stay overnight at 5th km of the trail. There is a pebble beach for safe campfire, nice view and flat and dry surface for setting a tent.

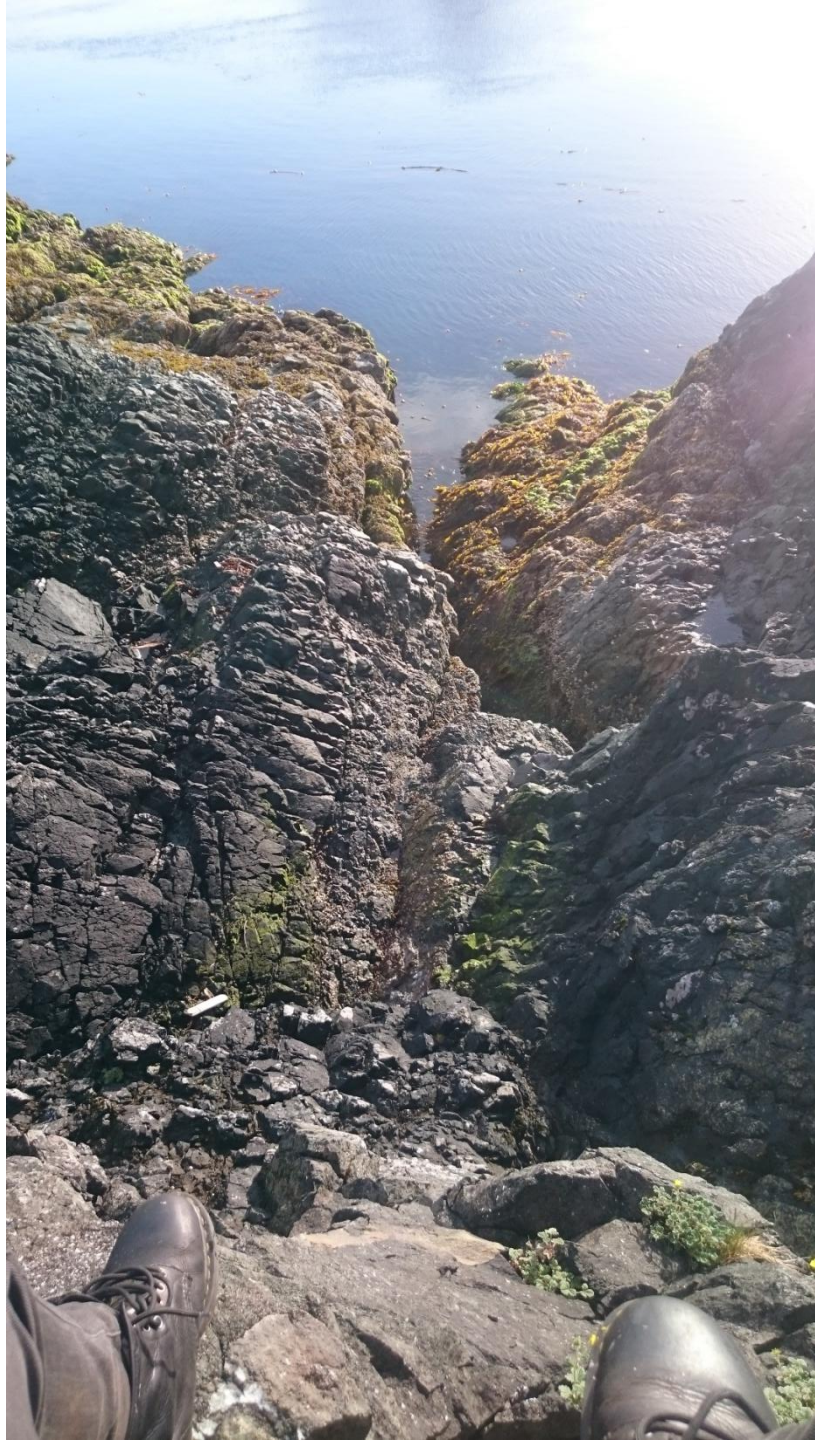






Breakfast, cooked on a campfire, is a simple tourist's joy.







Despite of warning shield at 2nd km, the final 6km point is well maintained.













Rare selfie.



Qualicum Beach

What a pleasure to quickly switch roughness and wilderness of northern Vancouver Island to mildness and mellowness of Qualicum Beach, the favorite place of successful retirees. This small town has the oldest average population in whole Canada.





Horne Lake Caves

It had been my passion for more than a year to visit these caves . Finally I got there and had seen it by myself.



The entrance is pretty narrow.



There was not too much time for making photos. And pretty dark – the only source of light were our headlights. Anyway, I crawled out full of impressions and new feelings.



By the way, there was the first time I met a bear on my way to the caves. It was crossing the road heading to a creek for lunch and didn't pay attention to me.

So, this Horne Lake Provincial Park was the last point of my journey. I got back home by routine route, which will never make me feel bored though. Tired but happy, as should be after good vacation!