

Nanoose Bay Dive Sites

The Nanoose Bay dive sites are all about a half hour drive north of Nanaimo BC, off of Hwy 19, which is also known as the Old Island Highway.

A right turn onto Northwest Bay Road at the Petro Canada Gas Bar, gets you to all of the access roads for the dive sites listed below (see map).

Nanoose Bay has some of the best scuba diving locations on Vancouver Island by the way, and the best part is they are all shore access dives.

Madrona Point is probably the best of the bunch as it has multiple dives in one location, good shore access, and plenty of challenge for all skill levels. It is easy to see why this Nanoose Bay dive site is so highly rated!

Just down from Madrona point is another dive site called Wall Beach, it has excellent shore access and is easy to dive in most conditions.

Though not as interesting as some sites, it is a decent dive and has the good possibility of a sea lion encounter, as there are many living near by.

Another near by site is called The Jib, and is another location that can be accessed on pretty much any tide and in almost any weather condition.

It also has excellent beach access and depths for all levels of diver.

This next site is for the advanced level diver, and is called Cottam Point. The depth is not an issue but there is often current here if you dive other than a slack tide.

The dive is best done on a low slack by the way, and preferably with minimal water exchange!

Another great dive site in Nanoose Bay is called either Tyee or Seducers cove, and is an excellent site that is well known amongst the local diving community.

It is the one location where you can dive no matter what mother nature throws at you.

This sheltered site is used by all, whether for fun scheduled club dives (both day and night), training courses, or just some friends getting together.

Dolphin Beach dive site is another site just a short distance down the road from Tyee Cove.

This is a great dive and a favorite of many, but the shore access is a little challenging.

If you do plan on doing this dive the one absolute you need is a minimum of a 10ft tide (on the rise). But don't let me dissuade you, because as I said, Dolphin Beach is a great dive site!

Lastly there is a little used site called Nankivell Point that is also just up the road from Tyee Cove.

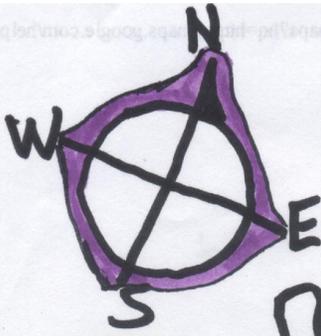
It has good access and is certainly worth diving provided there is little wind that day.

At all of the sites mentioned there is much to see! wolf eels, puget sound king crabs, brittle stars, feather stars, boot sponges, nudibranchs, anemones, swimming scallops, octopus, and lots of fish.

Nanoose Bay dive sites pretty much guarantee a Sea Lion experience as well, though mainly in winter.

Cheers and dive safe!

www.vancouver-island-dive-sites.com



- ① Madrona Point
- ② Wall Beach
- ③ The Jib
- ④ Cottam Point
- ⑤ Dolphin Beach
- ⑥ Tye Cove
- ⑦ Nankivell Point

Parksville ←

Mistaken Island



Nanoose Bay

Nanaimo →

Vancouver Island