

Chapter 4 The South End

Time to leave the village and have some more fun as we explore the South End of Salt Spring Island. This area has heaps of interesting history. Generally, you will see more open areas with fertile and expansive farmlands plus a lot more free spirits! If you ever wondered where all the hippies disappeared to, you are about to find out. You will also view the outstanding reasons that make south enders so proud of where they live.

Throughout your travels, you may notice small farm stands with produce offered for sale. These stands are unmanned and use honour boxes for payment. If you are interested in purchasing sweet fruit or veggies, eggs, jams, jellies and preserves or even fresh cut flowers, please pay for them. The islanders work hard to provide these goods and it would be terrible if this practice had to stop due to theft.



Look forward to seeing these sites:

Mount Maxwell Provincial Park – hike, picnic, viewpoint
Blackburn House – heritage house
Blackburn Meadows Golf Course – golf
Blackburn Lake – swim
Local Vineyards – sample, smile a lot
Mount Bruce/Mount Sullivan – enjoy from afar
Burgoyne Bay and Government Dock – swim, beachcomb, beach walk
Burgoyne United Church – heritage church
Bob Akerman’s Museum – native and settler artifacts
Fulford Community Hall – heritage centre
St. Mary’s Church - heritage Anglican church
Fulford Harbour – bird site, beach walk
Drummond Park – petroglyph, kiddies playground, beach walk, tidal pools, wash-rooms
Fern Creek Trail – hike
Mill Farm CRD Park Reserve, Hope Hill, Musgrave Landing and the Musgrave Greenbelt - hikes, viewpoints

St. Paul's Catholic Church – heritage church
Fulford Village – shops, restaurants, ferry
Reginald Hill – hike, viewpoints
Stowel Lake – swim, fish
Weston Lake – swim
Beaver Point Hall – heritage community hall, washrooms, trailhead to Ruckle Park
Beaver Point School – heritage school
Tsawout Indian Reserve – hike, picnic, beach
Seabright Drive – beach, view
Ruckle Provincial Park – camp, hike, beach, picnic, viewpoints, heritage farm buildings, washrooms
Just off Stewart Road – viewpoint
Peter Arnell Park – two hiking trails
Cusheon Lake – swim, fish
Beddis Beach – beach, tidal pools, view
Price Road – beach access

For those who need to know:

Ganges to Beddis Beach	6 kms / 3.5 miles
Ganges to Mt. Maxwell	11 kms / 7 miles
Ganges to Fulford	14.5 kms / 9 miles
Ganges to Ruckle Park	23.5 kms / 14.5 miles

Prefer beach or mountain? We will do both but first, we'll head up, way up, to **Mount Maxwell Provincial Park**, ① one of the most beautiful view points on the island. Feeling energetic? Let's get at it!

If you want to drive to the top, make sure your car is in good shape and your stomach won't mind the bounces. The road can be a bit rough in spots, depending on the time of year. Now I don't mean to sound discouraging since it is well worth the effort. A little less than 1.5 kms south of Ganges take a right hand turn at **Cranberry Road**. ② After around 4 kms, sadly the road changes into the gravel and somewhat rutted **Mount Maxwell Road**. ③ Follow the signs up – up – up! You will reach a smaller parking area but don't be fooled. Hang on and continue to the end. I promise that the road will eventually spill into a larger parking lot. Whew, glad to see it.

There are bathrooms and picnic tables here, but really, the sights are amazing. Get your camera ready. If the weather is clear, you can get a superman view of the flowing green carpet that blankets Fulford Valley and the natural richness that is Burgoyne Bay. Hold tight to your kiddies because of the sheer drop off. Do not allow them or yourself to venture beyond the chain link fence. It is almost as if you were airborne, it is so high.

There are hiking trails throughout the Mount Maxwell Provincial Park area and most are clearly marked. Some of these trails are for those in excellent physical condition as they involve lots of climbing while others are short and sweet.