

River Fishing in the Bella Coola Valley

Valley River Fishing

Come experience the real BC's fishing adventure and see what your next outing reels in for you. Both the Atnarko and Bella Coola river systems are easily accessible from Hwy 20 and offer everyone from the experienced fisherman to the new angler an opportunity to catch something be it Cutthroat, Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden or one of the four species of wild Pacific Salmon. There are many side streams in the valley waiting for the fishing enthusiast to cast their line.



Photo courtesy BCVT/Michael Wigle

Salmon Fishing

The most sought after is the salmon. Beginning in the early spring with the arrival of -- what else -- the Springs. Also known as Tyee, Chinook or King, these fish are the first to arrive, making their way up the Bella Coola River to the Atnarko River in Tweedsmuir Park. A sport fisherman's dream, the Spring can

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grow to weigh over 100lbs/45kg with the world record standing at 126lb/57kg.

By mid July the Pinks (Humpies) are arriving. In August the Coho (Silvers) and the Chum (Dog) salmon are in full spawn. The feisty Sockeye are the last to arrive, beginning in late August.

Some of the best fishing holes in the valley are well-guarded secrets but access is fairly easy and spotting them is not too difficult. Just watch for a group of cars parked along the side of the road. There's usually a trail meandering off from there.

Don't want to fish alone? No problem. There are guided drifts available. Stop in at the Bella Coola Information Center for more about these trips or check out tours at www.bellacoola.ca.



Photo courtesy BCVT



Photo courtesy BCVT/Michael Wigle

Practical Points:

- No motorized crafts are allowed on the Bella Coola River

- Visitors are advised that steelhead is present in the rivers of the Bella Coola Valley and are protected. Any fish accidentally caught must be released unharmed.
- Cutthroat trout fishing is usually best between March and May.
- Freshwater and saltwater fishing require licenses that can be purchased locally.
- Ask your accommodator for directions to popular fishing holes, or stop in at the Visitor Information Center in Bella Coola for a map and directions.



BELLA COOLA VALLEY INN

The Bella Coola Valley Inn is a 3 1/2 Star rated hotel located in the coastal community of Bella Coola, close to the ferry dock on the town site, near services, shopping, and historical and cultural attractions, surrounded by pristine mountains.

- 20 rooms with queen size beds & complimentary Internet Access
- Licensed Restaurant - Japanese, Korean and Western menu
- Pub • Art Gallery • Banquet/Meeting Room • Rental Car
- Fishing and Wildlife Viewing Tours Available



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