WELCOME TO

GOLD PINER

ROOTED IN NATURE

The town of Gold River is unlike any other community on Vancouver Island. Nestled between two crystal-clear rivers and steep coastal mountains, Gold River lies 13 kilometres from the sheltered deep seaport of Muchalat Inlet.

The entire area has a rich history of First Nations culture, forestry and fishing. From the Pacific Ocean to serene lakes, from marbled Karst caves to the cold, clear waters of the Heber and Gold Rivers, the raw forces of nature can be experienced in any direction.

THE VILLAGE OF GOLD RIVER

Small on the map but bold in spirit, Gold River is a magnetic destination for tourists, and an even more rewarding town to call home. Residents enjoy a hockey arena, aquatic centre, nine-hole golf course, soccer field, ball field, and fantastic spray park.

Our quiet, tree-lined streets are safe to walk at night. The water is clear and cold from the tap and will be the best you've ever tasted. People smile and wave and ask you how you are doing, even when they don't know you. The warm, friendly atmosphere pulls strangers in and makes them feel at home.

Strathcona Provincial Park and the rest of the raw wilderness that surrounds the town make Gold River the ideal place to spend a few days exploring. Everything from mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, ATVing, kayaking and river swimming attract adventurers to the area. Hikes like the Elk River Trail and Crest Mountain begin only 15 minutes from town. This recreation area also includes Crest Creek Crags, a popular climbers' paradise.

Take a helicopter tour over the glacier with 49North Helicopters or head down to the waterfront to jump on an exciting and scenic flight with Air Nootka or spend the day aboard the MV Uchuck III on a freight run up and down the coast.

Locals attend school from daycare through grade 12 in town, with the opportunity to participate in the wilderness leadership focused Nootka Sound Outdoor Program (NSOP). At the other end of the age range, the Village fosters an energetic community of "Revellers," a local seniors' group which enjoys the active outdoor lifestyle only Gold River can offer. The Revellers clubhouse is located downtown in the local legion building and welcomes visitors.

Our Health Centre includes two full time doctors, emergency facilities, lab and x-ray services, counselling and public health. It is supported by local paramedics and ambulance crews.

Our community also offers three churches to choose from and Vancouver Island Regional Library branch.

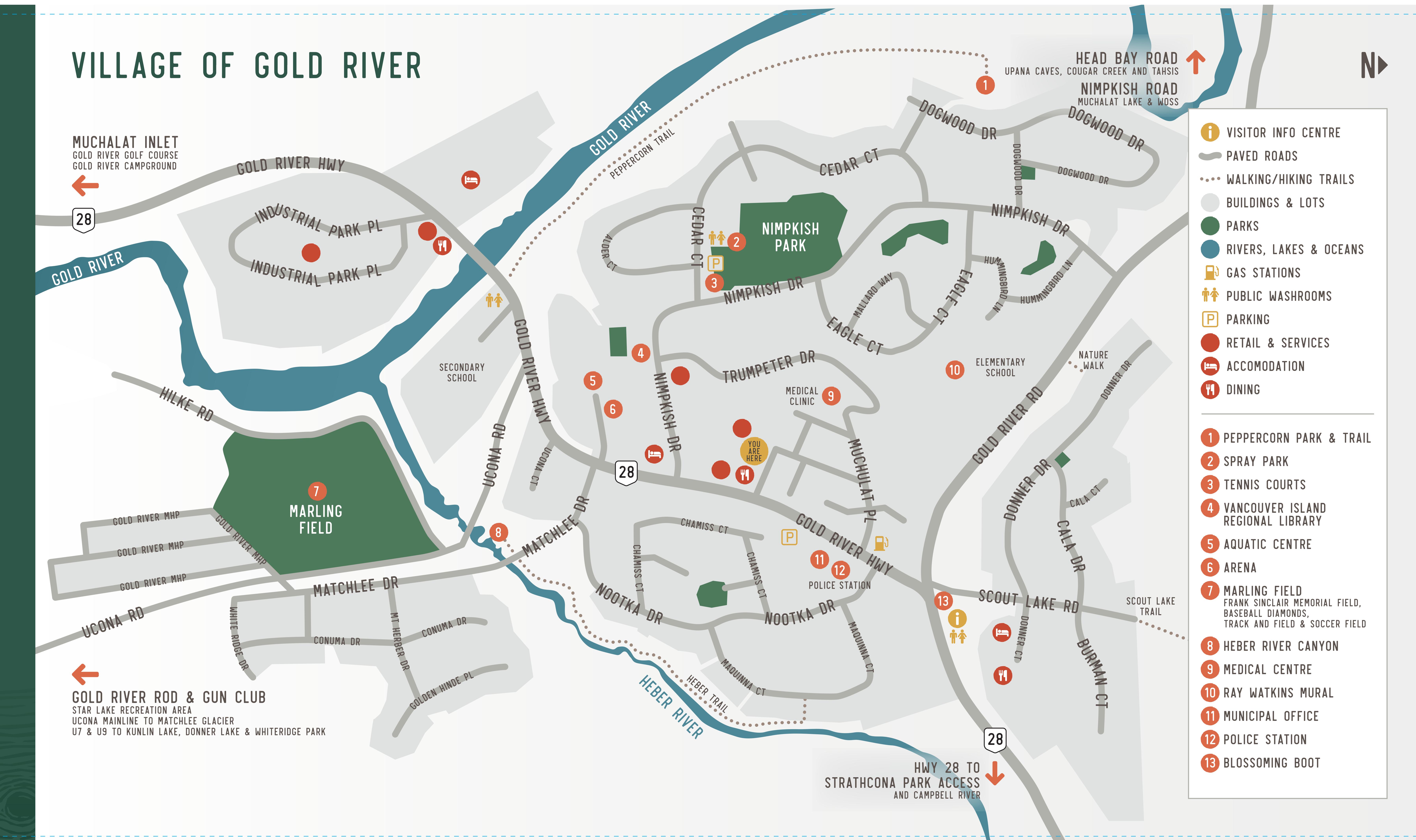
Locals and tourists can choose from a variety of eateries and modest shopping.


Collectively, Gold River is a community tapped into the outdoors and each other. We invite you to explore with us. Rooted in Nature.

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history of Nootka Sound. The stories here run back through the millennia and continue to be created by visitors today. Nootka Sound is home to beautiful historic locations. Set sail on the

historical MV Uchuck III—a 41-metre-long wooden hulled maritime vessel—to Yuquot, also known as Friendly Cove. First Nation peoples have occupied Nootka Sound for at least 4,000 years. Bligh Island Marine Provincial Park is just one of many corners of this sound showcasing the coastal rainforests, marine ecosystems and forested islands of this beautiful body of water.

Kayaking, canoeing and boating are very popular with those hoping to see wildlife like bears, orcas, humpbacks, seabirds, seals, otters and the ever-present eagles.

The iconic Nootka Island trail is a multiday hiking route traversing the glorious west coast beaches of Nootka Island. Fly by floatplane to the trailhead, find your own coastal adventure, and then sail back to Gold River.

More than anything, Nootka Sound may be best known for the world class fishing it offers; from halibut to salmon to rock cod, this marine wonderland provides sport fishing that rivals anywhere on the globe.

PAVED ROADS

RIVERS & CREEKS

DIRT/LOGGING ROADS

LAKES & OCEANS

•••• WALKING/HIKING TRAILS

••• MV UCHUCK III ROUTE

VIEWPOINT

FLOAT/AIR PLANE

CAMPING & RV

REC SITE

PINIC SITE

BOAT LAUNCH

13 KUNLIN LAKE

14 MT. MATCHLEE

PADDLING

HIKING

CAVING

1 YUQUOT (FRIENDLY COVE) 11 BIG BALDY MTN NOOTKA TRAILHEAD

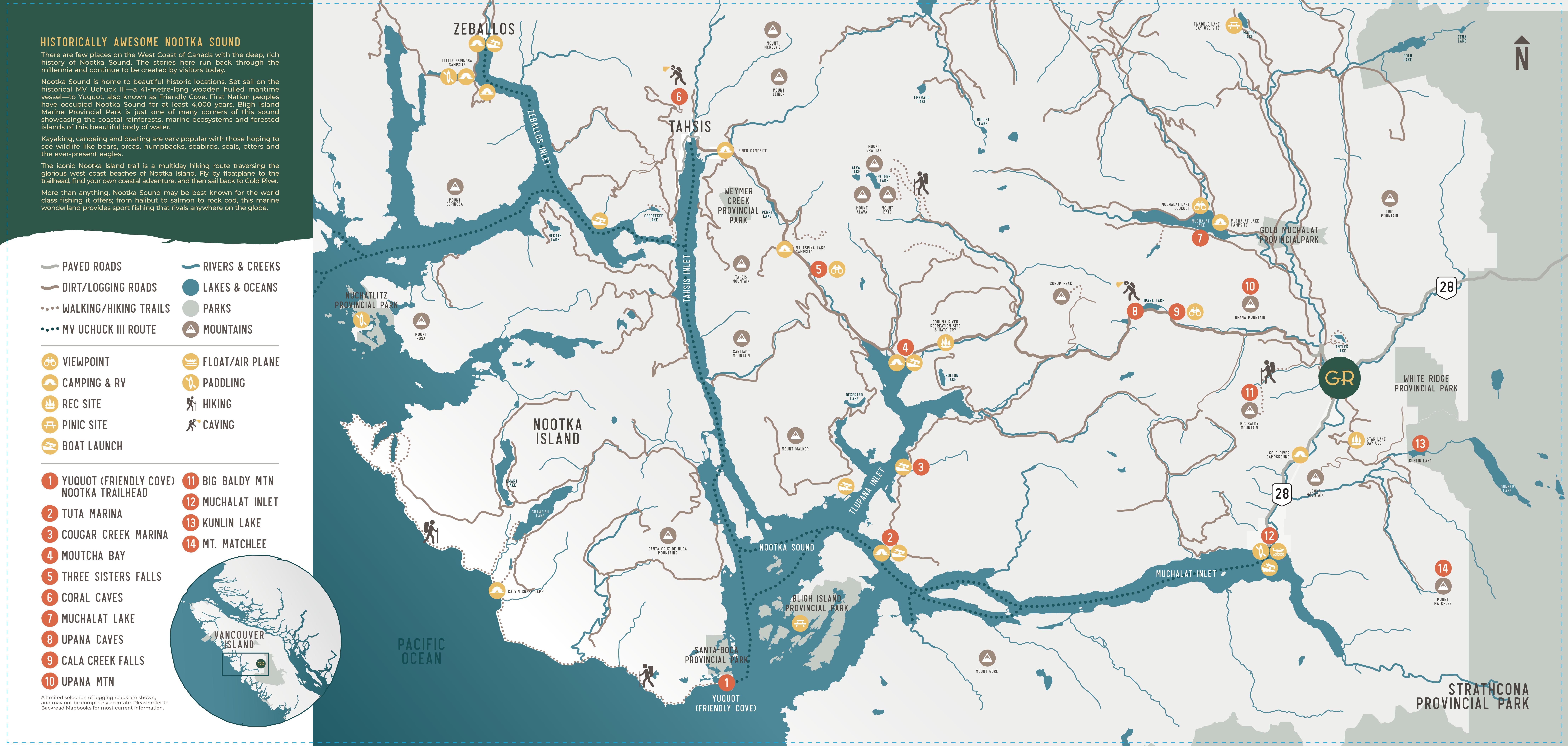
2 TUTA MARINA

3 COUGAR CREEK MARINA

4 MOUTCHA BAY

5 THREE SISTERS FALLS

6 CORAL CAVES



NATURAL HIGHLIGHTS MT. MATCHLEE UPANA CAVES GOLDEN HINDE SCOUT LAKE TRAIL

PEPPERCORN PARK

A pristine swimming paradise right in town. Several beaches with crystal clear swimming holes to enjoy, and an interesting hike over a sidehill along the Gold River.

HEBER RIVER TRAIL

One portion of the trail begins in town and follows the river as it rushes through narrow canyons and under bridges. The other section of trail begins two kilometres outside of town and meanders through moss covered forests to an icy swimming hole.

SCOUT & ANTLER TRAILS

The area around these two small lakes hosts numerous trails that criss-cross their way through forest service roads, amongst ancient cedars and firs, around lakes and between gigantic boulders. Investigate the different lichens and mosses, discover the many interesting wildflowers, and fill your belly with a range of wild berries. These trails are user maintained and shared with local wildlife.

MUCHALAT LAKE

One of Vancouver Island's hidden gems, Muchalat Lake is a fantastic site for camping, picnicking, and—of course—swimming in the fresh waters that make the island such a unique destination.

STAR LAKE

Close to Gold River, this day-use lake site is a local favourite. Sit on the wharf, use the picnic tables, have a fire, go for a swim, launch your canoe or kayak, do a bit of fishing, or walk the trail that loops around the lake.

KUNLIN LAKE

A beautiful lake close to town but in rugged territory, only those with 4X4 vehicle capabilities should try to drive up here. Once at the lake, it's worth the trouble; swim, picnic and camp in one of Vancouver Island's greatest kept secrets.

UPANA CAVES

Discovered in 1971, the Upana Caves are only a few of Vancouver Island's over 1000 subterranean passages. Accessible to everyone from rookies to experienced spelunkers, Upana is a must visit in the region.

CALA CREEK FALLS

Located ten kilometres out of Gold River on the Tree to Sea drive, Cala Creek Falls is conveniently viewed from the roadside. It's one of many cascading waterfalls found in these steep coastal mountains.

MT. MATCHLEE

Frigid alpine lakes and sub-alpine forests add colour to a vast landscape of stone very rarely associated with Vancouver Island. Mount Matchlee attracts alpinists in search of magnificent vistas and icy glaciers.

GOLDEN HINDE

Named after Sir Francis Drake's ship, the Golden Hinde is the tallest peak (2,195 metres / 7,201 feet) in the Vancouver Island Ranges. It was first climbed in 1913 and continues to be one of the most popular multi-day climbs on Vancouver Island.

KINGS PEAK

Located in Strathcona Provincial Park, Kings Peak is one of the most popular hikes on Vancouver Island. It cuts a beautiful silhouette against the coastal B.C. skyline.

ELKHORN

Dramatic and imposing, the second highest peak on Vancouver Island lies in the Elk River Valley. Once known as the "Strathcona Matterhorn", this mountain has a deep history of mountain climbing.

