

📍 Othello Tunnels, Hope BC

TAKE THE >> SCENIC ROUTE

Highway 1 & 5 from Vancouver > 5.5 hours

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

VANCOUVER >>>

HOPE

The drive east from Vancouver quickly leaves the city behind as Highway 1 follows the Fraser Valley toward Hope. Mountains surround the town in every direction as you drive alongside the Fraser River, making for an easy and scenic start to your adventure.



Scenic Stop: Othello Tunnels

Even if you don't have time to walk the trails, the area around the Othello Tunnels offers beautiful canyon scenery and dramatic rock walls. It's a great place to stretch your legs before continuing east.



Recommended Eatery: Mountainview Brewing Co.

A great place to stop in Hope for a local beer and a selection of delicious food items including a kids menu.



THROUGH THE HILLS

HOPE >>

MERRITT

Leaving Hope, Highway 5 climbs into the Cascade Mountains before opening into rolling hills and expansive Interior landscapes. As you approach Merritt, the forests gradually give way to grasslands and ranch country, offering a completely different side of British Columbia.



Recommended Eatery: Valley Graze Box

A great stop for coffee and homemade menu options featuring local farm-fresh produce.



Recommended Eatery: Empty Keg Brew House

Enjoy a local beer and a delicious meal before continuing your journey.



Recommended Eatery: Curbside Cookhouse

Perfect for a fast and easy meal, featuring burgers and milkshakes made fresh to order.



FOLLOW THE RIVER

MERRITT >>

NICOLA VALLEY

Leaving Merritt, Highway 8 follows the Nicola River through one of British Columbia's hidden gems. Rolling ranchlands, winding rivers, dramatic cliffs and wide-open valleys make this a peaceful and incredibly scenic stretch of highway. You will follow Highway 8 until you pass Spences Bridge and merge back onto Highway 1. Keep an eye out for bears and wild horses.



Scenic Stop: Nicola River Pullouts

There are many safe pullouts along Highway 8 where you can stop to enjoy the Nicola River, surrounding cliffs and valley views. It's worth taking your time.



Recommended Stop: Fresh Farm Stands

You'll find several roadside farm stands selling fresh fruit, vegetables, preserves and locally grown produce – a perfect opportunity to stock up on snacks for the rest of the journey.



THE MOUNTAIN PASS

NICOLA VALLEY >>

SPENCES BRIDGE

As Highway 8 approaches Spences Bridge, the landscape becomes increasingly dramatic. Rolling hills transition into rugged canyon country as the Nicola River winds toward its meeting point with the Thompson River. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife along the way.



Wildlife Spotting: Ospreys and Bighorn Sheep

Ospreys are one of our personal favourite birds as they almost always live near lakes and rivers. They can plunge from heights of up to 30 metres (100 feet), plunging feet-first into the water to catch fish with their powerful talons. You can spot them on the power poles through this stretch of the drive. If you're lucky enough to see one hunting, it's an unforgettable sight.

Bighorn sheep are incredibly agile climbers and can scale steep cliffs that would be impossible for most predators to follow. They use the rocky canyon walls as their natural escape route, making the Fraser and Thompson Canyons a perfect habitat.



CANYON RESILIENCE

SPENCES BRIDGE >>

LYTTON

From Spences Bridge, Highway 1 follows the mighty Thompson River north toward Lytton. Towering canyon walls, rushing water and rugged landscapes make this one of British Columbia's most dramatic drives. Keep your eyes peeled along the way for wildlife, including bears and wild horses.



Significant Sight: The Town of Lytton

Lytton is an interesting and meaningful place to pass through on your journey. The community was devastated by the 2021 Lytton Creek wildfire, which destroyed much of the village, and the town has been rebuilding ever since.

Today, passing through Lytton gives visitors a glimpse of both the incredible resilience of the community and the dramatic landscape where the Fraser and Thompson Rivers meet. It's a small town, but beautifully situated above the Fraser River.



THE RIVER'S EDGE

LYTTON >>

REO RESORT

From Lytton, the route continues through the Fraser Canyon before turning toward the Nahatlatch Valley. The landscape becomes increasingly wild and remote as you leave the main highway behind and make your way toward REO. The final stretch is part of the adventure: winding roads, rugged forest, and eventually the feeling that you've really escaped the hustle and bustle.

Welcome to REO Rafting & Yoga Resort – You've made it.

You'll arrive at REO, an off-grid adventure resort tucked away in the Nahatlatch Valley, surrounded by mountains, forest and the Nahatlatch River. Here, the pace slows down, the phones can go away, and the adventure begins.

We can't wait for you to arrive!

