

# Cortes ISLAND



Public Wharf at Squirrel Cove

## Ferry Schedules

### Campbell River - Quadra Island

Crossing Time: 10 minutes

Leave Quadra Island		Leave Campbell River	
6:15 am	3:05 pm	6:40 am	3:30 pm
†7:05 am	**4:00 pm	†7:30 am	4:30 pm
8:00 am	5:00 pm	8:30 am	5:25 pm
9:00 am	5:50 pm	9:30 am	6:15 pm
10:00 am	7:00 pm	**10:30 am	7:30 pm
11:00 am	8:00 pm	11:30 am	8:30 pm
12:00 pm	9:00 pm	12:30 pm	9:30 pm
1:00 pm	10:00 pm	1:30 pm	10:30 pm
2:00 pm	*11:00 pm	2:30 pm	*11:30 pm

### Quadra Island - Cortes Island

Crossing Time: 45 minutes

#### Leave Cortes Island - Leave Quadra Island

† 7:50 am	† 9:05 am
9:50 am	**11:05 am
11:50 am	1:05 pm
**1:50 pm	3:05 pm
3:50 pm	5:05 pm
5:50 pm	6:45 pm

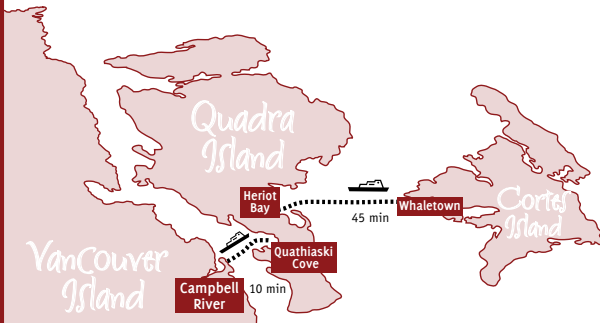
\* - Fridays and Saturdays only. † - Daily except Sundays.  
 \*\* - Tuesday sailings are for Dangerous Cargo. No passengers.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Ambulance - Fire - Police.....911
- Coast Guard.....1-800-567-5111
- Cortes Medical Clinic.....250-935-6718  
(Manson's Landing)
- BC Ferries.....250-286-1412  
(Campbell River)
- Weather Forecast.....250-287-4463
- Marine Weather.....250-286-3575

Post Offices: Whaletown, Manson's Landing & Squirrel Cove  
 Medical Clinic: Beasley Rd. Manson's Landing



Manson's Landing

**Start and end your visit hassle free  
 by taking the ferry off peak commuter sailings.**  
 CHECK OUT THE Q-COVE & CR FERRY CAMS AT QIHA.CA

**For fare information and schedules for all of  
 BC Ferries routes visit [www.bcferrries.com](http://www.bcferrries.com)**

## For More Information

Pick up a copy of the  
 2012 Guide to the Discovery Islands  
 for more information about Cortes &  
 the surrounding Discovery Islands.



Available at the Cortes Museum along with lots of other local  
 information - 957 Beasley Rd, Mansons Landing.

 [www.CortesIsland.com](http://www.CortesIsland.com) 

**To order additional copies & submit a listing contact:**  
 Discovery Islander Publications  
 Ph: 250-285-2234 Fx: 250-285-2236  
 eMail: [info@quadraisland.ca](mailto:info@quadraisland.ca)

printed on Quadra Island by Castle Printing 250-285-2724  
 Starfish and crab by William Van Orden. Photos by Philip Stone

## About Cortes Island

Cortes is an island paradise, with beautiful lakes, lagoons, forests, and white sandy beaches. Known for its abundant wildlife, delicious shellfish, and self-sufficient people, Cortes offers visitors a wide variety of things to see and do.

The island is situated at the northern end of the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia), on Canada's west coast, between Vancouver Island and the British Columbia mainland.



Hernán Cortés

Cortes was mapped by Spanish explorers in the late 1700s notably Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra a contemporary of the English Captain George Vancouver who first circumnavigated neighbouring Vancouver Island. It was named for Hernán Cortés de Monroy y Pizarro, 1st Marquis of the Valley of Oaxaca, infamous as the conquistador of Mexico.

Long before the Spanish and English explorers reached the Pacific coast of North America the region was home to the indigenous Coast Salish First Nation. The Klahoose First Nation's traditional territory stretches from Cortes Island to Toba Inlet. The Klahoose had winter campgrounds on the island and settled in Squirrel Cove permanently in the 1800s after their Toba village was flooded. The island currently has about 1050 full-time residents, and most live on the southern portion. Cortes is approximately 25 km long and 13 km wide.

## Things to Do...

Those who enjoy spending time in the outdoors have their choice of numerous recreational activities on Cortes. Hague Lake is perfect for swimming, sunbathing, and fishing for an ancient strain of trout (no motor boats allowed). The island's trails are great for hiking and mountain biking, and there is a campground and beautiful beach in Smelt Bay Park.



Desolation Sound

Cortes is at the gateway to world-famous boating destination Desolation Sound. The area is a sailing and sea kayaking mecca, and boasts incredible views of the mainland mountains and inlets. Nearby Mitlenatch Island is a Provincial Marine Park protecting a unique ecosystem created by the same rainshadow effect Cortes enjoys from the high Vancouver Island mountains. Mitlenatch is an excellent destination to enjoy with a local naturalist/boat charter. Depending on the time of year there may be sea lions, nesting gulls, cormorants, harbour seals, eagles and abundant blooms of wildflowers, even cactus and swimming garter snakes!

Gorge Harbour has a marina, and there are government wharves at Cortes Bay, Whaletown, Squirrel Cove, Manson's Landing, and Gorge Harbour. Services vary but may include, shore power, garbage drop and of course moorage.



Traditional First Nations welcome at Seafood Fest.

Salmon fishing attracts many visitors to the region, and charter boat operators are available for fishing or wildlife viewing excursions. It's easy to catch sight of wildlife on ruggedly beautiful Cortes. Many species of birds and marine creatures live on the island or off its shores, and the observant visitor will no doubt be impressed by the diversity of life. The island boasts many beautiful beaches and lagoons that are perfect for bird watching.

## Our Community...

Cortes has a thriving arts and crafts industry. Drum makers, potters, painters, carvers, and other artisans live and work on the island. Cortes Craftshop in Squirrel Cove, a co-op of island artists and craftspeople, showcases local work. Island galleries and gift shops also sell local art and crafts.

The Cortes Waste Management/Recycling Centre is also well worth a visit. This well-maintained site includes a comprehensive recycling depot and a free store. The Cortes Island Museum is situated on Beasley Road next to the Manson's Landing firehall.

Cortes is home to Hollyhock, Canada's leading educational retreat centre, world-renowned for life-long learning and skills development programs.

There are a number of highlight events and festivals on Cortes Island throughout the year. Recent springs have been kicked off in May with the gourmet extravaganza - the Cortes Island Seafood Festival at Squirrel Cove. The Garden & Studio Tour, a fundraiser for the Cortes Island Museum, will be held on June 16, 2012. Cortes Day, an annual festival held in Smelt Bay Park, is a fun event for the whole family with a parade, competitions, games, and food booths. Another event to watch out for is the sandcastle competition held in August. To find out what events are coming up pick up a copy of the Discovery Islander free throughout the islands or check in online at [www.DiscoveryIslander.com](http://www.DiscoveryIslander.com)

Provisions and hardware supplies are available at the island's general stores, and fuel and propane are sold at Squirrel Cove and Gorge Harbour. Manson's Landing is the main community and commercial centre: there is a credit union, community hall, shops including: the Cortes Market and the Cortes Natural Food Co-op which carries organic, natural, gmo-free, fair-trade foods and lots of local crafts and produce for members and non-members. At Squirrel Cove the General Store also carries groceries, hardware and fuel. There's also a craft shop, restaurant and launch for boats & kayaks, high water dock, picnic tables and tenting area at Squirrel Cove, gateway to Desolation Sound.

Cortes has a number of cafes and restaurants to suit a variety of palates. To truly soak up the island's atmosphere, it's a good idea to stay a few days. Accommodation options on the island include campgrounds, bed and breakfasts, holiday rental homes & cottages, plus resorts.

For more info visit [CortesIsland.com](http://CortesIsland.com)

## Getting Here...

Cortes Island can be reached via a 40-minute ferry ride from Quadra Island which in turn is accessed by a shorter 10 minute ferry crossing from the City of Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

Look online at [www.discoveryislands.ca](http://www.discoveryislands.ca) for ideas on making travel plans to reach Campbell River by air, land and sea.



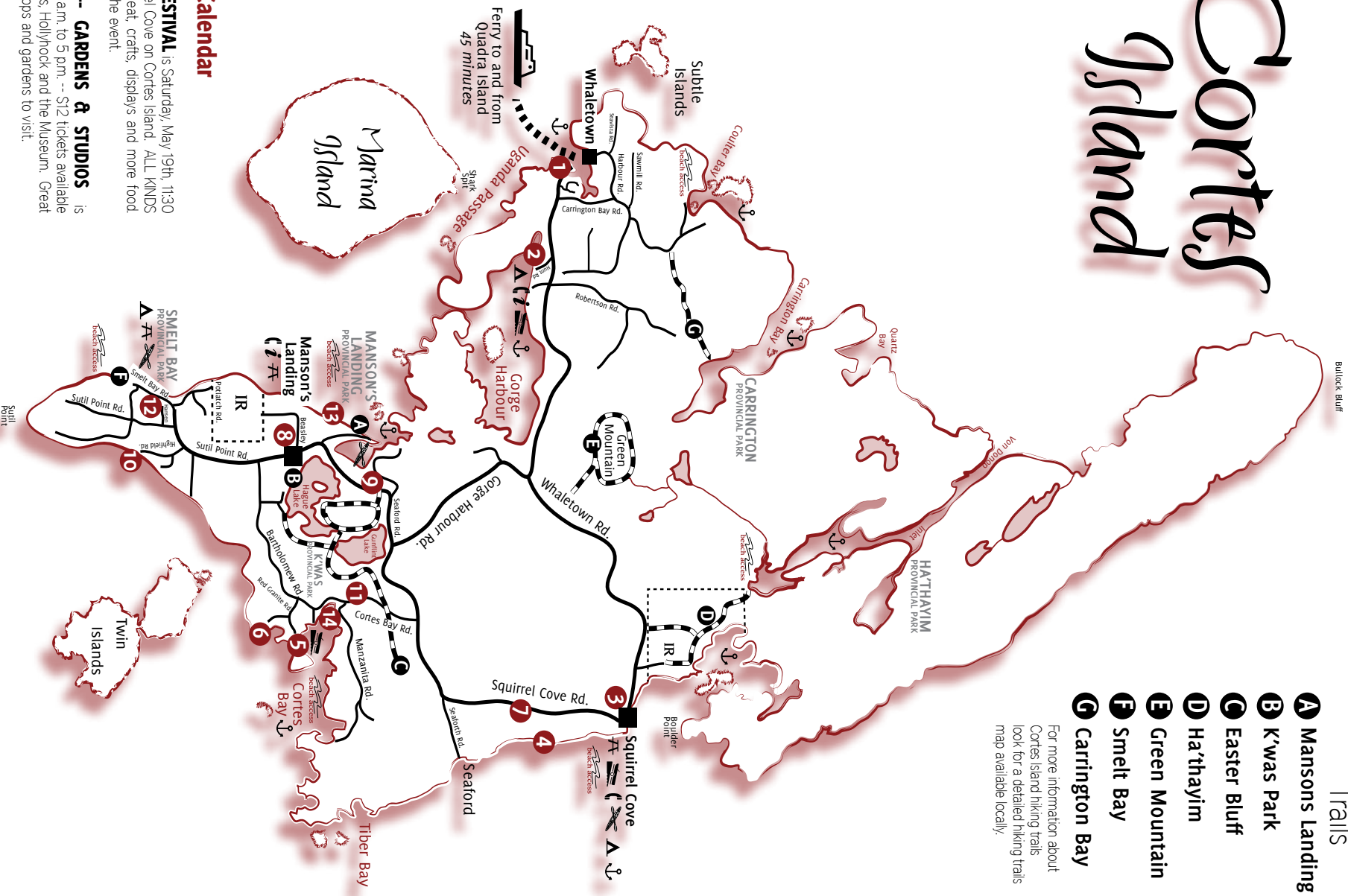
Checkin' what's on at local noticeboard

# Cortes Island

## Trails

- A** Mansons Landing
- B** K'was Park
- C** Easter Bluff
- D** Ha'thayim
- E** Green Mountain
- F** Smelt Bay
- G** Carrington Bay

For more information about Cortes Island hiking trails look for a detailed hiking trails map available locally.



## Cortes Calendar

**SEAFEST - OYSTER FESTIVAL** is Saturday, May 19th, 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Squirrel Cove on Cortes Island. ALL KINDS of seafood to taste and eat, crafts, displays and more food. Food tickets available at the event.

**CREATIVE SPACES -- GARDENS & STUDIOS** is Saturday, June 16th, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- \$12 tickets available at all Cortes general stores, Hollyhock and the Museum. Great variety of studios, workshops and gardens to visit.

**CORTES DAY** this year is Saturday, July 21st -- one very full day, held at Smelt Bay Park by the beach, with an evening dance at one of the Cortes Halls in the evening. Parade, games, food, crafts, displays, Nail-Sail-Bail and lots of fun!



## Accommodation

- 6 Arbutus Point Camp At T'ai Li Lodge** **250-935-6711 (800) 939-6644**  
Remote oceanfront cabins/platform tents, camping. Astonishing views of Desolation Sound & snow-capped mountains. Private, tranquil. Central building with kitchen, bathrooms, spacious dining/living room. Please call ahead for reservations. Self-contained waterfront cabin available year-round. View wildlife, storm watch, snuggle up by the fire!  
[www.taililodge.com](http://www.taililodge.com)

- 11 Barbara's B&B** **250-935-6383**  
Deluxe, full organic breakfast. Homemade breads, pastries and jams. Pastoral setting with garden and orchard. Very private location at Cortes Bay. email: bbbuffington@gmail.com

- 4 Beach House Holidays** **250-935-6676**  
Spectacular oceanfront cottages, stunning water views and secluded beaches available for weekly vacation rentals or monthly sabbaticals at: Cedar Moon Beach House, Huckleberry Hide-Away, or Zen Gardens Beach Cottage.  
[www.bc-vacation-rentals.ca](http://www.bc-vacation-rentals.ca)

- 7 Boulder Bluff B&B** **250-935-0099**  
Quiet, cozy cedar cabin on private 10 acres near Squirrel Cove. Private bathroom, queen bed, fridge, dishes/utensils, coffeemaker. Home-made breakfast on our main deck. May thru Sept. \$75 per night

- 9 Cortes Island Motel** **250-935-6363 or 1-888-935-6363**  
Located in a cedar and fir forest between Gunflint Lake and Hague Lake, 14 km from Whaletown ferry on Seaford Road. Quiet, comfortable housekeeping units. Children welcome. Reservations suggested. 1078 Seaford, Manson's Landing, BC, VOP 1K0. email: parkerre@telus.net  
[www.cortesislandmotel.com](http://www.cortesislandmotel.com)

### Cortes Island Vacation Rentals

**250-935-6711 or 1-800-939-6644**

Vacation home rentals. Luxury homes to small cottages. Waterfront, stunning views, some with docks. British Columbia Tourism Approved Accommodation. Travel Agent License #54799

[www.cortesislandvacationrentals.com](http://www.cortesislandvacationrentals.com)

- 2 Gorge Harbour Marina** **250-935-6433**  
Pool side cottage. 2 bdrm fully contained cottage, pool and ocean view. Rustic lodge rooms with ensuite. Overlooking beautiful Gorge Harbour. Common lounge & kitchen facilities for room guests. Open year round. Beautiful RV park & campground. Laundromat & showers. Licensed waterfront restaurant. Full service marina. Bill and Tammy, Box 89, Whaletown BC, VOP 1Z0. email: gorgeoffice@gorgeharbour.com  
[www.gorgeharbour.com](http://www.gorgeharbour.com)

- 12 Lighthouse B & B and Vacation Rental** **1-888-246-5005**  
Spectacular oceanview Smelt Bay. Heated therapeutic saltwater pool. Hi-Speed Internet, Satellite TV. Hearty breakfasts. denelly@twincomm.ca Your Hosts Dennis & Eleanor Hansen, 887 Hansen Road, Smelt Bay  
[www.vrbo.com/23072](http://www.vrbo.com/23072) or [www.HomeAway.com/72821](http://www.HomeAway.com/72821)

- 1 Nana Gumps Guest House** **250-935-6811**  
Your executive accommodations in Historic Old Whaletown internet, Satellite TV. Washer dryer all inclusive NanaGumps Bed and Breakfast.  
[www.nanagumpsbandb.com](http://www.nanagumpsbandb.com)



## Restaurants - Cafés

- 3 The Cove Restaurant** **250-935-6350**  
The Cove at Squirrel Cove serves fabulous food in a magnificent waterfront setting overlooking Desolation Sound. Open for lunch and dinner. Daily specials and a full range menu which includes a Children's Menu. Patio, take-out service, fully licensed. Call for reservations, hours, and special events. WiFi internet access available.

- 2 The Floathouse Restaurant** **250-935-6631**  
Delicious food & exquisite waterfront location at Gorge Harbour Marina (Hunt Rd). Licensed. Open Friday thru Monday for dinner March through December. Open for lunch and dinner July and August. Call (250) 935-6433 for reservations.



## Services

- 8 Cortes Island Tourist / Visitor Information Booth** **250-935-6340**  
Open mid-June to Labour Day, every day except Monday, 10am to 4pm. Located in the Cortes Island Museum and Archives on Beasley Road between the Firehall and the Health Clinic. More information online at:  
[www.cortesislandtourism.ca](http://www.cortesislandtourism.ca)



## Tours & Attractions

- 2 Gorge Harbour Marina Resort** **250-935-6433**  
Ideal base for kayakers and boat day trippers. New docks in 2009. Boat & vehicle rentals. Waterfront restaurant, pool side cottage rental, lodge accommodations, full service RV park & marina. Large stone fireplace with social area overlooking the water, weekly entertainment on the waterfront 5 night a week and much more ! Bill and Tammy, Hunt Road, Box 89, Whaletown, BC, VOP 1Z0 fax (250) 935-6402 email: gorgeoffice@gorgeharbour.com

- 10 Hollyhock** **800.933.6339 or 250.935.6576**  
Canada's leading lifelong learning centre. Visit for a program or holiday. Book in for excellent organic meals. Bodywork, sailing, kayaking. Gift store also available.  
[www.hollyhock.ca](http://www.hollyhock.ca)

- 8 Misty Isles Adventures** **250-935-6756**  
Kayak rentals, instruction or guided day trips with spectacular scenery. Cruise Desolation Sound & Mitenatch Island onboard the 43 ft schooner Misty Isles. Transport Canada certified for 12 passengers. Large pilothouse and ample seating - great family boat! Visit us on the web at:  
[www.mistyislesadventures.com](http://www.mistyislesadventures.com)

- 13 Cortes Fishing Adventures** **250-202-3414**  
Come fish in some of the best salmon grounds in the world, or go on a chartered trip out to Mitenatch marine park and see the amazing marine life, or if you are just in need of a water taxi to anywhere in the area. Everything provided, just bring camera. cortesfishingadventures@gmail.com  
[cortesfishingadventures.com](http://cortesfishingadventures.com)



## Crafts/Galleries/Museum

- 3 Cortes Craft Shop Co-op** **250-935-6635**  
Open 10am-5pm daily during July & August located next to the Squirrel Cove Store, this cooperatively run gift shop showcases treasures created by 40 Cortes artists: pottery, jewelry, paintings, books, cards, fabric art & more.  
**Opening Hours:** May 19- June 24: Weekends 12-4; June 25 - 30: Daily 12-4 Summer: 7 days a week 10am - 5pm; Fall: Sept 3 - 16: Daily 12-4  
[www.cortesisland.com/tideline/show327b/Cortes\\_Craft\\_Shop\\_Co-op](http://www.cortesisland.com/tideline/show327b/Cortes_Craft_Shop_Co-op)

- 8 Cortes Island Museum & Archives** **250 935-6340**  
Settlement and Natural History Exhibits, Heritage Garden and Gift Shop. Summer hours: mid-June to Labour Day, every day except Monday, 10am to 4pm. Winter hours are Friday & Saturday afternoons 12 - 4 pm. Located on Beasley Road between the Firehall and the Health Clinic.  
[www.cortesmuseum.ca](http://www.cortesmuseum.ca)



## Stores - Provisions

- 8 Cortes Market** **250-935-6626**  
Located in uptown Manson's. Largest selection on the island for groceries and produce. Coffee bar with deli. Free high speed WiFi DVD rentals. Liquor and Lottery Agent. Free delivery on minimum order. Publisher of the weekly Cortes Marketeer. Open 9 to 9, 7 days a week. Fax 250-935-6619.

- 8 Cortes Natural Food Co-op** **250-935-8577**  
Located in Sunset Square in downtown Manson's. Wide variety of organic groceries including local meat, seafood rental, and veggies. In-store bakery with fresh breads, pastries, and lunch items. Open 7 days a week from 9 am to 9 pm. Both members and non-members welcome.

- 2 Gorge Harbour Marina Resort** **250-935-6433**  
Open 7 days a week, year-round. On island grocery delivery. Full service grocery store with fresh produce, meat, baking, frozen foods, dairy, ice cream, ice, sundries, souvenirs, video rentals, car gas, propane. Liquor store. Fishing gear, licenses, charts. Laundromat & showers. Seasonal outdoor pool and spa. Internet. Boat & vehicle rentals.  
[www.gorgeharbour.com](http://www.gorgeharbour.com)

- 3 Squirrel Cove General Store** **250-935-6327**  
Everything you need on Cortes including laundromat with wireless internet, showers, gas & oil, propane, hardware & marine essentials, groceries, dry goods, fresh meat, produce, organic produce, baking, in store post office, liquor agent, fishing gear & licences, ice, ATM. Diver for repairs, recovery and inspections available. Cortes Craft store and Cove Restaurant next door. Open every day.  
[www.cortesisland.com/squirrelcove](http://www.cortesisland.com/squirrelcove)