



Get away for one special day: -VALENTINE'S DAY OPTIONS; [Final Edition]

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For some, a box of chocolates and/or flowers just won't do. So what's a person do for that hard-to-please Valentine?

Maybe it's time to take off for the weekend.

Here, then, is a guide to some local getaways that could add romance to your life -- on Feb. 14 or any other day of the year, for that matter.

PACIFIC SANDS BEACH RESORT, TOFINO

If the beach walks don't do it, romance is sure to flourish in the resort's suites, many of which face the big, fat waves of Cox Bay and its many Neoprene-suited surfers. In the resort's newest wing, room windows stretch from floor to ceiling on both levels of three-bedroom villas. The long-established Pacific Sands has emerged as a "go-to" place in Tofino, comparable in many ways to nearby Long Beach Lodge and the Wickaninnish Inn, located a couple clicks north along the sunset-facing ocean beach. Tofino has also become a haven for food lovers, with grade-A eateries in the form of Shelter and the Upstairs lounge at Schooner's, among other restaurants. Info: www.pacificsands.com, 1-800-565-BEACH (2322).

TIGH-NA-MARA SEASIDE SPA RESORT, PARKSVILLE

Prepare to robe up like Huge Hefner for the experience at the Tigh-na-Mara resort, located in Parksville on the eastern shores of Vancouver Island. The resort's Grotto Spa, part of a 20,000-square-foot den of decadence, is an oasis for the stressed. At its heart is a huge Hungarian mineral bath, into which water cascades from an imposing rock wall, which also surrounds an eight-person hot tub and lounge chairs. The nearby spa bungalow suites are set in a forest of trees and, in relation to the rest of the resort, furthest from the ocean beach, a five-minute walk away. At the spa, try the artful tapas on the menu at the Treetop lounge. Info: www.tigh-na-mara.com or call 1-800-663-7373.

THE FALLS, CHILLIWACK

What? A good time can be had in Chilliwack? Believe it. There on a hill east of the Fraser Valley farming town sits The Falls, which is shaping up to become quite the resort, with luxurious condos that overlook the first fairway of the beastly par-71 golf

course. All villas accommodate up to six people -- OK, not much of an attraction for Valentine's Day lovers -- and are equipped with gourmet kitchens, plasma TVs, soaker tubs and such. Info: www.thefalls.com.

SEMAIHMUO RESORT, WASHINGTON STATE

Glorious sunsets are frequent sights here on the American side of the Peace Arch, on Semiahmoo Bay just a few miles south of White Rock. The postmark says "Blaine" but it's almost like being on an island. The wooden patio of Packers Oyster Bar & Lounge is the place to be on warm summer nights when sailboats frame the setting sun, over Canadian soil to the west. The seaside retreat also pitches its Euro-style spa as a main attraction, but the pair of championship-calibre golf courses drive the majority of business to Semiahmoo. The landmark water tower, visible from the Peace Arch crossing, stands as a reminder of the area's former use as a fish cannery. Info: 1 800 770-7992 or www.semiahmoo.com.

SPINNAKERS, VICTORIA

The place is best known as a pub with a fantastic menu, but hidden away on a corner of Victoria's Inner Harbour are guest suites linked by a network of greenery-shrouded walkways. Some guest rooms, and most of the restaurant, offer peek-a-boo views of the Parliament building's dome and Olympic mountains. A winding seawall links this slice of prime land to surrounding shoreline sites. The award-winning Gastro brew pub -- deemed Canada's oldest but still a relative pup at 22 years of age -- has become an icon in the capital, mostly for its commitment to food made from fresh local ingredients. Info: 1-250-386-2739, www.spinnakers.com.