

Sample report. The facts and questions are real; the AI answers were simulated so every feature can be shown without running a paid audit. Nothing here is a finding about any real AI assistant.

— AI ACCURACY AUDIT · SECOND RE-MEASURE · 2027-04-15

What AI tells travelers about Tofino

British Columbia, Canada · 98 traveler questions × 4 AI assistants (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Perplexity) × 7 repetitions = 2,744 answers, checked against 67 verified facts: 63 scored, of which 9 are cultural and flagged, and 4 held out of the score until confirmed.

- . KEY FINDINGS
 - . PROGRESS
 - . FIX FIRST
 - . IN THEIR WORDS
 - . BY AI ASSISTANT
 - . WHAT IT PROTECTS
- 7. THE UNASKED GAP
 - 8. WHO SPEAKS FOR YOU
 - 9. SAFETY
 - 10. CULTURAL REVIEW
 - 11. APPENDICES
 - 12. METHOD

What to take from this audit

- **Visitors get Tofino's guidance 66 times in 100.** 11 times they get something too vague to act on, 2 times something wrong, and 21 times nothing at all.
- **Guidance reaches people who ask for it and misses people who do not.** Asked directly, 83 in 100 get it. Asked for a trip plan, 65 in 100 do, and that is how most visitors ask.
- **Welcome everyone is the weakest outcome.** Guidance that serves it reached visitors 65 times in 100.
- **The fix to make first: no lifeguards on any beach.** Told wrongly 3% of the time and left out 25%; weakest on ChatGPT and Perplexity.
- **Gemini gets Tofino wrong most; Claude least.** Scores of 67 and 73. Fixes aimed at Gemini's sources move the most visitors.
- **Your own sites and land managers are 44% of what the AI assistants cite.** Blogs and everything else are 16%. Being cited is not the same as being heard: the fix is plain statements on the pages already cited.
- **26 answers gave wrong information on a safety-critical fact.** Each one is quoted in the safety section.
- **4 cultural facts are held out of the score until confirmed.** They rest on a tourism-board page rather than the Nation's own publication. The cultural section shows what the AI assistants said and what would unlock each one.

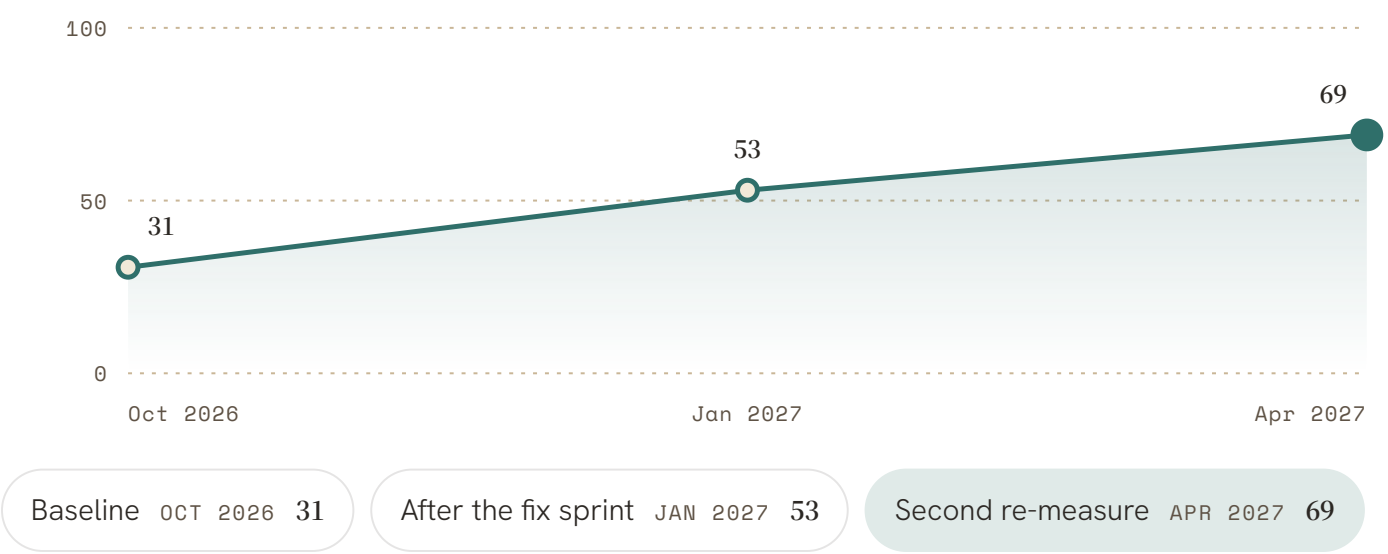
TOLD THE RIGHT THING 66 in 100 Stated fully and correctly. Counting half of vague answers too: 71 (70 to 72).	TOLD SOMETHING VAGUE 11 in 100 Touched the topic but too thin to act on	TOLD THE WRONG THING 2 in 100 Contradicted the verified fact	TOLD NOTHING 21 in 100 The fact never came up
TOLD WITHOUT ASKING 65 in 100 On trip-planning questions that never mention rules	YOUR OWN VOICE 44% Of 11,046 citations point to your sites or land managers	STEWARDSHIP SIGNAL SCORE 69 / 100 Moderate. Right answers plus half of vague ones, minus	

wrong ones. The number to track over time.

— PROGRESS

Since the last audit

The Stewardship Signal Score moved up 16 points to 69 since Jan 2027, and up 38 since the first audit in Oct 2026. That is larger than the margin of noise, so it is real movement.



The guidance most often missing or wrong, in the order to address it

Each entry names the AI assistants that fail most and the surface they draw on, which is where the fix goes. Tags show the kind of fact and what it protects; **SAFETY-CRITICAL** marks a fact where a wrong answer could hurt someone, **NEW RULE** one that took effect within the past year, and **CHANGES OFTEN** one that changes yearly or more, and **CULTURAL** one that concerns a Nation and rests on the Nation's own publication.

CRITICAL 1. No lifeguards on any beach

SAFETY

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

SAFETY-CRITICAL

Told right 62% · vague 10% · wrong 3% · nothing 25% · weakest: ChatGPT and Perplexity

The truth: There are no lifeguards or surf guards on any beach in Tofino or in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. All beaches are unsupervised.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Says Long Beach has lifeguards or Surf Guards in summer

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a reply with the source link in the forum threads the audit shows Perplexity citing; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a sourced edit request on the Wikipedia talk page for the place. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

CRITICAL 2. Storm watching hazards

SAFETY

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

SAFETY-CRITICAL

Told right 61% · vague 10% · wrong 1% · nothing 29% · weakest: Claude and Perplexity

The truth: During fall and winter storms, large waves can sweep over beaches and rocks without warning, and drift logs can float, roll and crush people. Official guidance is to stay off drift logs when the tide or swell is high, stay on trails and off the rocks, and check tide tables and the swell forecast first.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Does not mention any safety precautions for storm watching

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text,

and a reply with the source link in the forum threads the audit shows Perplexity citing. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

CRITICAL 3. Stay 100 m from predators

SAFETY

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

SAFETY - CRITICAL

Told right 67% · vague 11% · wrong 7% · nothing 15% · weakest: Perplexity and Gemini

The truth: In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve visitors must stay at least 100 metres from wolves, bears and cougars. A park order prohibits approaching, remaining near or viewing these animals within 100 metres unless fully inside a vehicle, with a maximum penalty of \$25,000.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Gives a shorter distance such as 30 m

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a YouTube video whose description states the guidance in text; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a reply with the source link in the forum threads the audit shows Perplexity citing. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

CRITICAL 4. Cold water all year

SAFETY

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

SAFETY - CRITICAL

Told right 63% · vague 11% · wrong 1% · nothing 26% · weakest: Gemini and Perplexity

The truth: Ocean water around Tofino stays between about 7°C and 14°C all year, even in summer. Parks Canada tells surfers to wear a wetsuit at all times and warns that maximum survival time in water this cold is two to three hours.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Gives much higher summer water temperatures

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a YouTube video whose description states the guidance in text; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a reply with the source link in the forum threads the audit shows Perplexity citing. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

CRITICAL 5. Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit

SAFETY

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

SAFETY - CRITICAL

CHANGES OFTEN

Told right 65% · vague 11% · wrong 3% · nothing 21% · weakest: ChatGPT and Gemini

The truth: Parks Canada has had a 'Wolves in Area' warning in effect for the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve since September 18, 2025, until further notice. Visitors are told to leave pets at home, keep children close, carry accessible bear spray and not hike alone.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Does not mention wolves at all

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a YouTube video whose description states the guidance in text; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a sourced edit request on the Wikipedia talk page for the place. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

CRITICAL 6. Rip current response

SAFETY **KEEP PEOPLE SAFE** **SAFETY-CRITICAL**

Told right 70% · vague 7% · wrong 2% · nothing 21% · weakest: Gemini and Perplexity

The truth: Rip currents are present at Tofino-area beaches. CoastSmart advises that if caught in one you stay calm, never swim directly against it, keep hold of your board or flotation, and swim parallel to the beach until out of the current before heading in.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Does not mention rip currents when recommending surfing or swimming

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a YouTube video whose description states the guidance in text; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a reply with the source link in the forum threads the audit shows Perplexity citing. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

CRITICAL 7. Park food storage rules

ENVIRONMENT **PROTECT NATURE** **SAFETY-CRITICAL**

Told right 75% · vague 5% · wrong 2% · nothing 18% · weakest: Perplexity and Claude

The truth: In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve all food, garbage and scented items, including empty coolers, pet food, toiletries and cookware, must be stored in a hard-sided vehicle or food locker, never in

a tent or tent trailer. Parks Canada also says never to approach or search for wolves, bears or cougars for photography.

What the AI assistants get wrong: Lists only food, not toiletries, sunscreen or empty coolers, as attractants

Where the fix goes: the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text; the official or land-manager page that already covers this, stating the rule outright in plain text, and a reply with the source link in the forum threads the audit shows Perplexity citing. In every case, update the existing page rather than adding a new one, and show the date it was last checked.

What travelers are told, in the AI assistants' own words

Stay 100 m from predators

THE RULE

In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve visitors must stay at least 100 metres from wolves, bears and cougars. A park order prohibits approaching, remaining near or viewing these animals within 100 metres unless fully inside a vehicle, with a maximum penalty of \$25,000.

WHAT GEMINI SAID

"Gives a shorter distance such as 30 m"

Beach Walk short-stay pass

THE RULE

Parks Canada sells a cheaper short-stay Beach Walk pass for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve at \$7.75 per adult, \$6.75 per senior and \$15.50 per family/group. It is valid for a maximum of four hours and only at the Long Beach, Kwisis, Incinerator and Wickaninnish parking lots.

WHAT CLAUDE SAID

"Says the Beach Walk pass is valid anywhere in the park"

West Coast Trail season and booking

THE RULE

The West Coast Trail unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is open and reservable from May 1 to September 30 each year; it is not open to hikers in October. Reservations for the 2026 season opened February 5, 2026 at 8 AM PT through the Parks Canada Reservation Service. The trail is 75 km and is not near Tofino; it runs from Pachena Bay to Gordon River.

WHAT CHATGPT SAID

"Says the trail can be hiked year-round"

Surfrider cleanups are drop-in for visitors

THE RULE

Surfrider Foundation Pacific Rim, a volunteer-run chapter, posts its beach cleanups on its events page and tells anyone who wants to attend to sign

WHAT CHATGPT SAID

"Lists only Washed Up Wednesdays and nothing outside July-August"

the waiver and just show up rather than fill in a volunteer form. Its 2026 calendar includes remote boat-based cleanups in Clayoquot Sound, sand dune restoration days with Parks Canada, and the summer Washed Up Wednesdays cleans. Tourism Tofino also lists citizen-science options such as Redd Fish Restoration Society sea star surveys and the Pacific Treefrog Chorus Project.

Park pass needed when stopped

THE RULE

A valid national park entry pass must be displayed in your vehicle whenever you stop in the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Tourism Tofino states that day and annual passes include parking.

WHAT CHATGPT SAID

"Says a District of Tofino parking payment covers national park lots"

Accessible beach entrances

THE RULE

The Hellesen Drive entrance to tinwis (Mackenzie Beach) has accessible parking, washrooms, an entrance ramp and a Mobi-mat onto the sand from the May long weekend until the Thanksgiving long weekend in October. Cox Bay has a boardwalk and concrete ramp between Long Beach Lodge Resort and Cox Bay Resort, and MacKenzie Beach Road has an accessible wooden boardwalk to the beach.

WHAT GEMINI SAID

"Says all Tofino beaches have accessible access or that none do"

Which AI assistant gets Tofino wrong most

Claude is the most reliable messenger for Tofino today; the others leave more out or get more wrong.

The four shares add to 100%. Ranges in brackets are 95% confidence intervals; where two AI assistants' ranges overlap, the difference may not be real.

AI ASSISTANT	SCORE	TOLD RIGHT	TOLD SOMETHING VAGUE	TOLD WRONG	TOLD NOTHING	TOLD WITHOUT ASKING	YOUR OWN VOICE
Claude simulated-claude	73	68% (72 to 76) 	13% 	1% 	18% 	69% 	50%
ChatGPT simulated-chatgpt	69	66% (70 to 74) 	10% 	3% 	21% 	66% 	46%
Perplexity simulated-perplexity	68	65% (68 to 72) 	10% 	2% 	22% 	62% 	43%
Gemini simulated-gemini	67	64% (67 to 71) 	11% 	3% 	22% 	64% 	39%

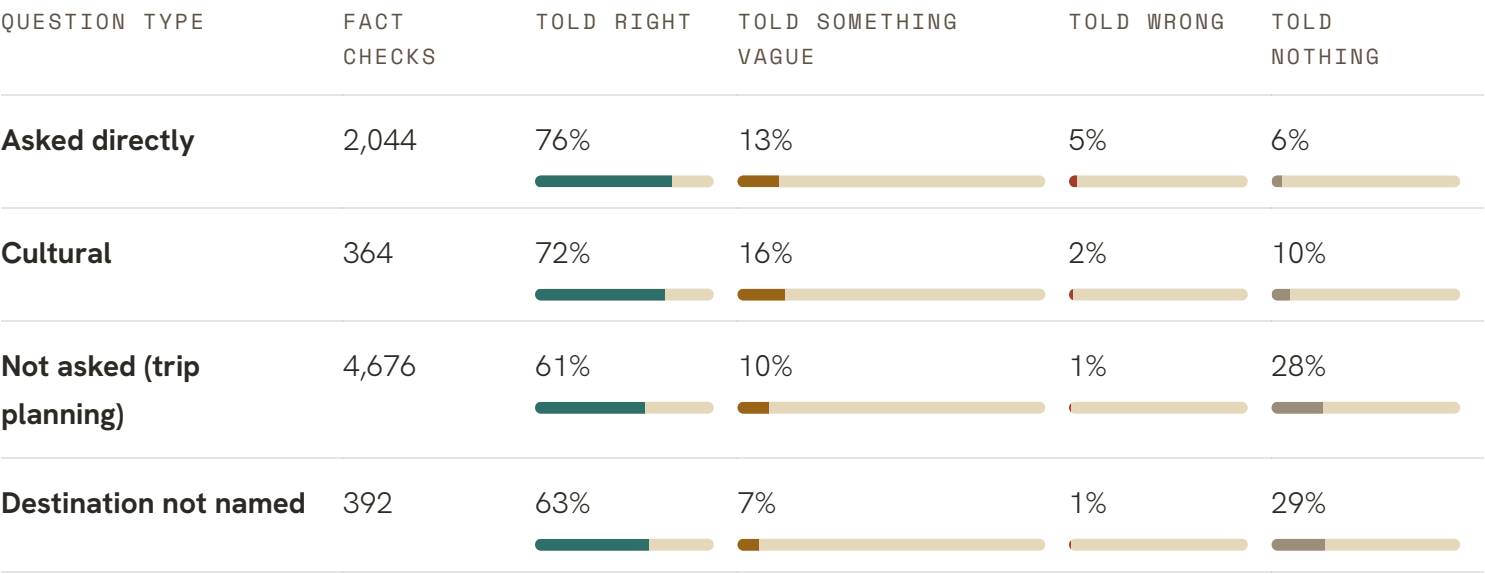
Results by stewardship outcome

Each verified fact serves one or more stewardship outcomes. This is the view for a board: it reads the way a destination plan is written.

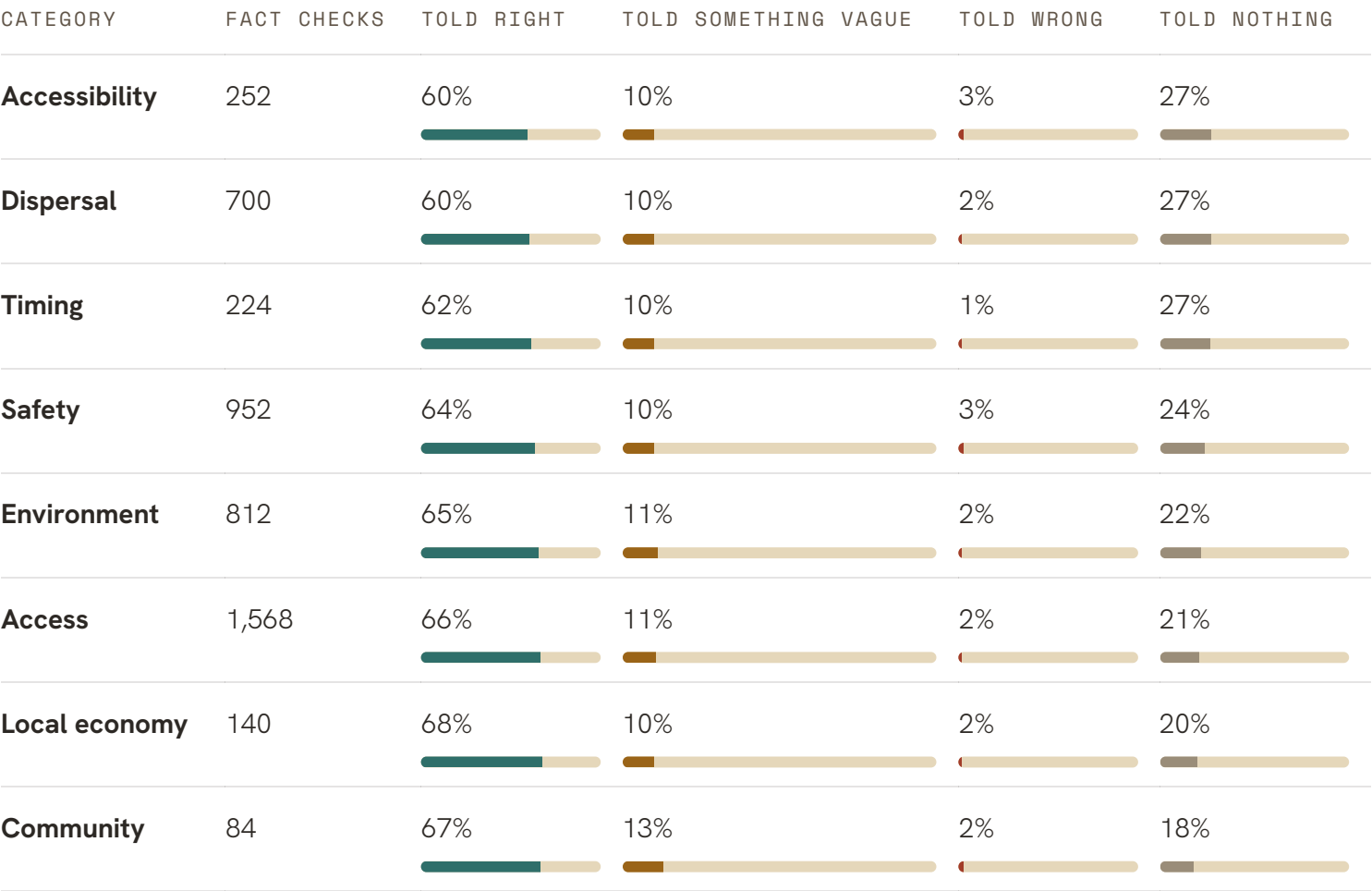
OUTCOME	FACT CHECKS	TOLD RIGHT	TOLD SOMETHING VAGUE	TOLD WRONG	TOLD NOTHING
Welcome everyone	252	60%	10%	3%	27%
Spread visits in place and time	2,604	64%	10%	2%	23%
Keep people safe	1,120	65%	10%	2%	23%
Lighten the footprint	2,072	65%	11%	2%	22%
Protect nature	2,408	67%	11%	2%	19%
Respect culture	700	68%	13%	2%	17%
Support residents and local business	2,324	68%	12%	3%	17%

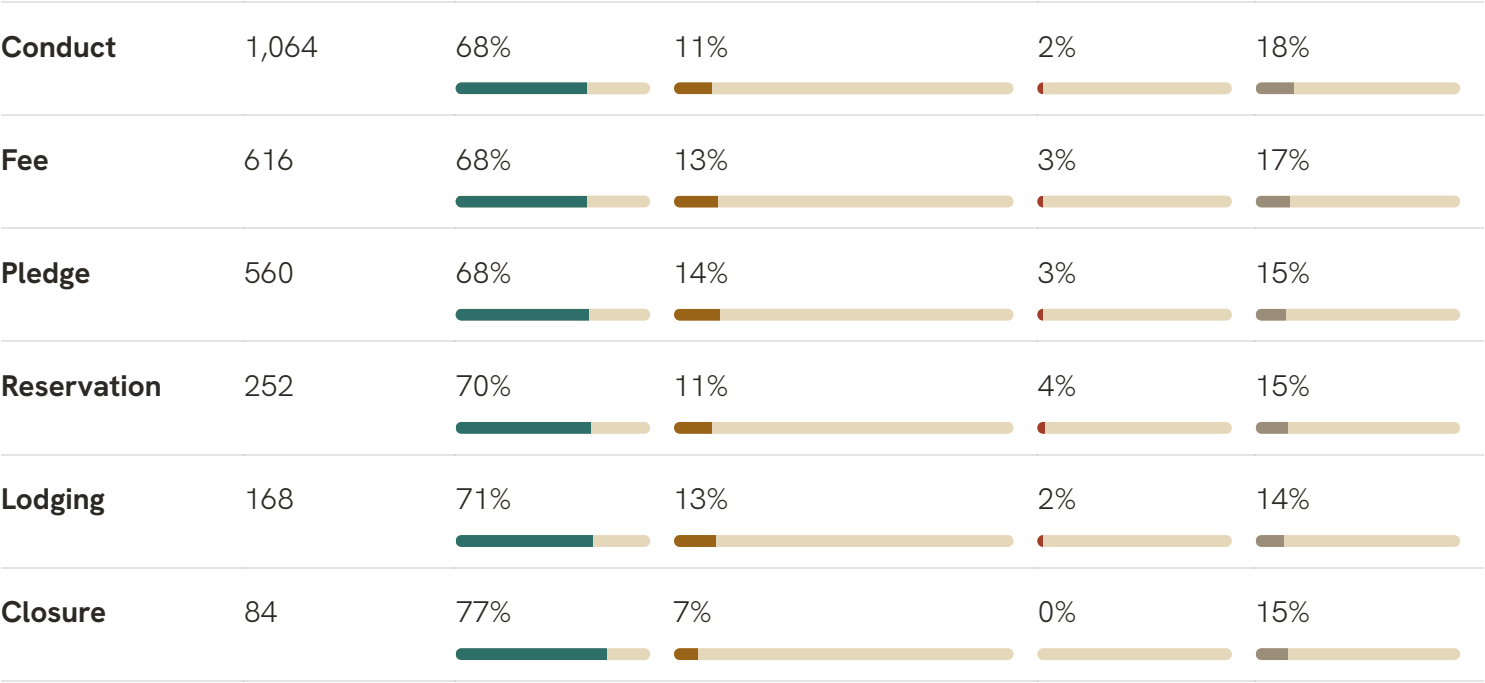
Guidance reaches travelers who ask for it, and misses travelers who do not

The gap is 18 points, and it is where most visitors are.



By kind of fact





Which sites the AI assistants cite about Tofino

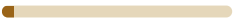
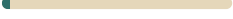
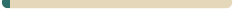
The largest outside voice describing Tofino to AI assistants is blogs and everything else, at 16% of citations. Your own sites and your land managers together are 44%.

This is who the AI assistants cite when they answer about Tofino. It is not a measure of where travelers get ideas in general: social media and video still drive demand and crowding; the AI assistants simply cite them rarely today. Expect this table to shift as the AI assistants change what they read, so it is worth tracking over time.

KIND OF SOURCE	CITATIONS	SHARE
Land managers and First Nations	3,765	34%
Blogs and everything else	1,811	16%
News and travel media	1,278	12%
Booking and review sites	1,214	11%
Destination's own sites	1,148	10%
Wikipedia and reference	615	6%
Video	611	6%
Forums and social	604	5%

Most-cited websites

WEBSITE	KIND	CITATIONS	SHARE
nomadicmatt.com	Blogs and everything else	658	6.0%
lonelyplanet.com	News and travel media	650	5.9%

cntraveler.com	News and travel media	628	5.7%	
en.wikipedia.org	Wikipedia and reference	615	5.6%	
tripadvisor.com	Booking and review sites	612	5.5%	
youtube.com	Video	611	5.5%	
reddit.com	Forums and social	604	5.5%	
expedia.com	Booking and review sites	602	5.4%	
thebrokebackpacker.com	Blogs and everything else	594	5.4%	
earthtrekkers.com	Blogs and everything else	559	5.1%	
tla-o-qui-aht.org	Land managers and First Nations	415	3.8%	
mhssahousaht.ca	Land managers and First Nations	397	3.6%	
tourismtofino.com	Destination's own sites	395	3.6%	
talktofino.ca	Destination's own sites	385	3.5%	
coastsmart.ca	Land managers and First Nations	384	3.5%	

Your own voice is spread across 13 websites (tla-o-qui-aht.org 415, mhssahousaht.ca 397, tourismtofino.com 395, talktofino.ca 385, coastsmart.ca 384, clayoquotbiosphere.org 375, parks.canada.ca 373, dfo-mpo.gc.ca 371, bcferries.com 370, tofino.ca 368, tribalparks.com 365, drivebc.ca 364, bcparks.ca 351). Pooled, they account for 44% of citations, which is why the first table ranks you higher than any single site in the second.

On questions that did not name Tofino, it was mentioned in 73% of 336 answers.

Answers that could get someone hurt

Some facts are marked safety-critical in the fact sheet because a wrong answer could injure someone. They are scored like every other fact; this section quotes the wrong answers so they can be acted on first.

26 answers gave wrong information on a safety-critical fact, across 16 fact-and-assistant pairs. One example is quoted for each.

No lifeguards on any beach GEMINI 4 ANSWERS

Truth: There are no lifeguards or surf guards on any beach in Tofino or in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. All beaches are unsupervised.

Asked: Are there lifeguards at Long Beach or Cox Bay?

Wrong: Says Long Beach has lifeguards or Surf Guards in summer

No lifeguards on any beach CHATGPT 3 ANSWERS

Truth: There are no lifeguards or surf guards on any beach in Tofino or in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. All beaches are unsupervised.

Asked: best surf towns in canada for beginners

Wrong: Advises swimming near the lifeguard tower

Stay 100 m from predators PERPLEXITY 3 ANSWERS

Truth: In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve visitors must stay at least 100 metres from wolves, bears and cougars. A park order prohibits approaching, remaining near or viewing these animals within 100 metres unless fully inside a vehicle, with a maximum penalty of \$25,000.

Asked: Are there a lot of bears around Tofino? Should I be worried staying in a cabin?

Wrong: Encourages approaching or photographing wolves on the beach

Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit CHATGPT 2 ANSWERS

Truth: Parks Canada has had a 'Wolves in Area' warning in effect for the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve since September 18, 2025, until further notice. Visitors are told to leave pets at home, keep children close, carry accessible bear spray and not hike alone.

Asked: Can I take my dog to Wickaninnish Beach?

Wrong: Does not mention wolves at all

Stay 100 m from predators GEMINI 2 ANSWERS

Truth: In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve visitors must stay at least 100 metres from wolves, bears and cougars. A park order prohibits approaching, remaining near or viewing these animals within 100 metres unless fully inside a vehicle, with a maximum penalty of \$25,000.

Asked: where can I see wolves or bears near Tofino

Wrong: Gives a shorter distance such as 30 m

Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit GEMINI 2 ANSWERS

Truth: Parks Canada has had a 'Wolves in Area' warning in effect for the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve since September 18, 2025, until further notice. Visitors are told to leave pets at home, keep children close, carry accessible bear spray and not hike alone.

Asked: tent camping near Tofino in August, what do we need to bring and know

Wrong: Says wolves are rarely seen and pose no concern

No lifeguards on any beach CLAUDE

Truth: There are no lifeguards or surf guards on any beach in Tofino or in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. All beaches are unsupervised.

Asked: Are there lifeguards at Long Beach or Cox Bay?

Wrong: Advises swimming near the lifeguard tower

No lifeguards on any beach PERPLEXITY

Truth: There are no lifeguards or surf guards on any beach in Tofino or in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. All beaches are unsupervised.

Asked: Are there lifeguards at Long Beach or Cox Bay?

Wrong: Says Long Beach has lifeguards or Surf Guards in summer

Storm watching hazards CLAUDE

Truth: During fall and winter storms, large waves can sweep over beaches and rocks without warning, and drift logs can float, roll and crush people. Official guidance is to stay off drift logs when the tide or swell is high, stay on trails and off the rocks, and check tide tables and the swell forecast first.

Asked: Give me a storm watching itinerary for Tofino in November

Wrong: Does not mention any safety precautions for storm watching

Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit PERPLEXITY

Truth: Parks Canada has had a 'Wolves in Area' warning in effect for the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve since September 18, 2025, until further notice. Visitors are told to leave pets at home, keep children close, carry accessible bear spray and not hike alone.

Asked: Best short hikes near Tofino

Wrong: Says wolves are rarely seen and pose no concern

Cultural facts: what is scored, what is held, and how review works

A machine should not decide what is true about a Nation. Facts about Indigenous peoples, protocols, names and places are handled at two levels. Where the Nation's own publication is the source, the fact is scored like any other and flagged. Where the only source is a tourism board or agency page, the fact is graded and shown here, but kept out of every score until the Nation's own source or confirmation exists.

Scored and flagged · 9 facts with a Nation-published source

FACT	FACT CHECKS	TOLD RIGHT	TOLD SOMETHING VAGUE	TOLD WRONG	TOLD NOTHING
Hot Springs Cove fees	140	69%	12%	1%	17%
Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee	224	68%	12%	2%	18%
Hot Springs Cove hours and season	84	75%	13%	0%	12%
Wild Side Trail fee	56	80%	11%	4%	5%
No dogs on Wild Side Trail	56	63%	16%	2%	20%
The ʔiisaak Pledge	252	68%	13%	2%	17%
Paved path and accessible park viewpoints	112	56%	10%	3%	31%
2025 Destination Stewardship Plan	56	64%	11%	2%	23%
Where the 1% Responsible Visitor Fee goes	56	70%	5%	0%	25%

Held until confirmed · 4 facts

These are not in any score. Each one is unlocked by either a source the Nation itself has published, or the Nation's confirmation of the wording through the channel you already use with them. A tourism board's say-so

does not unlock it.

FACT	CURRENT SOURCE	CHECKS	STATED AS PUBLISHED	CONTRADICTED	LEFT OUT	WHAT THE AI ASSISTANTS SAID
Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Tourism Tofino's Tribal Parks page, written in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, says there are four declared Tribal Parks in Tla-o-qui-aht territory: Wanačas Hithuuʔis (Meares Island), Tranquil Tribal Park, Ha`uukmin (Kennedy Lake Watershed) and Esowista Tribal Park. The first, Wanačas Hithuuʔis (Meares Island and its waterways), was declared on April 21, 1984. The Big Tree Trail is on Meares Island within this Tribal Park.	tourismtofino.com NEEDS NATION SOURCE OR CONFIRMATION	252	172	6	50	ChatGPT (incorrect): "Describes the area as untouched wilderness with no mention of Tla-o-qui-aht stewardship" ChatGPT (incorrect): "Describes the area as untouched wilderness with no mention of Tla-o-qui-aht stewardship" ChatGPT (correct): "Tourism Tofino's Tribal Parks page, written in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, says there are four declared Tribal Parks in Tla-o-qui-aht territory: Wanačas Hithuuʔis (Meares Island), T"

Big Tree Trail access Tourism Tofino states that the Big Tree Trail is within the Meares Island Tribal Park, a short water taxi or kayak trip from Tofino Harbour. One water taxi operator says trail fees are not included in its fare; no trail fee amount is published on the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks or Tourism Tofino pages that were opened.	tofinowatertaxi.com, tourismtofino.com	112	81	1	22	Perplexity <i>(incorrect):</i> "Describes the trail with no mention of the Tribal Park" ChatGPT <i>(correct):</i> "Tourism Tofino states that the Big Tree Trail is within the Meares Island Tribal Park, a short water taxi or kayak trip from Tofino Harbour. One water taxi operator says trail fees are not included in"
Tla-o-qui-aht territory Tourism Tofino states that Tofino (Načiks) is situated within the Hahuulthi (territory) of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. It also acknowledges the Ahousaht First Nation and states that Hot Springs Cove is in Ahousaht Hahuulthi (territory).	tourismtofino.com	168	128	4	22	ChatGPT <i>(incorrect):</i> "Speaks of First Nations only in the past tense" Gemini <i>(incorrect):</i> "Speaks of First Nations only in the past tense" ChatGPT <i>(correct):</i> "Tourism Tofino states that Tofino (Načiks) is situated within

the Hahuulthi (territory) of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. It also acknowledges the Ahousaht First Nation and states that Hot Springs Co"

Tla-o-qui-aht villages are residential

Tourism Tofino says Tla-o-qui-aht citizens live in the village sites of Opitsaht, Esowista and Ty-Histanis as well as in Tofino. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust's West Coast NEST pages describe these as primarily residential communities with very few services for visitors, no banks, stores or ATMs, and say Opitsaht on Meares Island is reachable only by boat, has no visitor accommodation, and that groups wanting to camp must get permission by special arrangement.

tourismtofino.com, westcoastnest.org

NEEDS NATION
SOURCE OR
CONFIRMATION

28

23

0

2

ChatGPT

(correct):
"Tourism Tofino says Tla-o-qui-aht citizens live in the village sites of Opitsaht, Esowista and Ty-Histanis as well as in Tofino. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust's West Coast NEST pages describe these as"

1. **Before you saw this report**, we read every cultural fact against its source to check it restates what the Nation or its partners published, and attributes rather than asserts.
2. **You route, you do not approve.** If you would like, we prepare the cultural fact list for the Nation or Nations you work with, and you share it through the relationship you already have, with no deadline attached. We never contact a Nation unannounced on your behalf.
3. **A held fact joins the score** when a Nation-published source is found or the Nation confirms the wording. The report records who confirmed it and when.
4. **Fixes that touch cultural facts are proposed, not executed**, until the Nation has seen the wording that would go on your pages. Nothing cultural appears in a public index or case study before then.

— APPENDICES

What was checked, and how it fits together

Every question lists the facts a good answer should contain. Every fact belongs to one category and serves one or more stewardship outcomes. Appendix C shows that each category was tested both by direct questions and by open trip-planning questions.

– Appendix A · The 67 facts checked (63 scored, 4 held for cultural review)

Access · 13 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Park pass needed when stopped A valid national park entry pass must be displayed in your vehicle whenever you stop in the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Tourism Tofino states that day and annual passes include parking. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/visit/heures-hours	3 direct 3 open	59%	15%	5%	21%
Paid parking at Tofino beaches The District of Tofino charges for parking at Tonquin Beach, tinwis (formerly Mackenzie Beach), Chesterman Beach and Cox Bay. Beach pay parking is enforced daily from 8 AM to 11 PM all year, at \$3 per hour or \$15 per day. tofino.ca/parking	1 direct 9 open	65%	10%	1%	24%
Downtown Tofino pay parking Downtown Tofino has pay parking daily from 9 AM to 6 PM between May 1 and October 31. Personal vehicles pay \$3 per hour and RVs pay \$6 per hour. tofino.ca/parking	1 direct 2 open	63%	12%	4%	21%
Free summer shuttle dates The Tofino Free Shuttle ran daily from June 29 to September 7, 2026, between 9 AM and 7 PM, linking downtown Tofino with the Tofino Visitor Centre near Cox Bay. It is a summer-only service and is not running in fall, winter or spring. tofino.ca/tofino-free-shuttle-returns-june-29-2026/	2 direct 5 open	64%	10%	5%	22%
Winter tires on Highway 4 Anyone driving to Tofino between October 1 and March 31 must have winter tires or carry chains. The BC government's South Coast winter tire map designates Highway 4 to Tofino as an October 1 to March 31 winter tire/chain route. tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/getting-here/	0 direct 5 open	57%	8%	1%	34%

Ferry from Horseshoe Bay needs booking	1 direct 2 open	60%	13%	2%	25%
Vehicles travelling on BC Ferries from Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) to Departure Bay (Nanaimo) must be booked and paid for in advance; drive-up fares are no longer available. The rule began October 15, 2025 and applies in that direction only. Bookings are recommended but not required for the return from Nanaimo to Horseshoe Bay. www.bcf ferries.com/hsb-travel					
Highway 4 planned closures	1 direct 3 open	69%	7%	0%	24%
Highway 4, the highway to Tofino, has periodic full planned closures near Cameron Lake. The most recent was Wednesday, September 23, 2026, from 9 AM to 3 PM between Chalet Road and the Alberni Summit. The District of Tofino directs travellers to DriveBC for the latest travel information. tofino.ca/highway-4-closure-wednesday-september-23-2026/					
Hot Springs Cove hours and season CULTURAL	2 direct 1 open	75%	13%	0%	12%
The park at Hot Springs Cove is open to the general public from dawn until dusk, but permitted commercial operators may only bring guests between 11 AM and 5 PM. During the core operating season, March 15 to October 15, an Ahousaht Watchman is present at the main park entrance. mhssahousaht.ca/hot-springs-maquinna-park/					
Where big RVs and trailers may park	1 direct 2 open	69%	13%	2%	15%
In Tofino, RVs, motorhomes and campers over 20 feet long may park only in designated pay areas, and are not allowed in the Municipal Office lots. Overnight parking for vehicles with trailers (for example a boat or kayak trailer) is permitted in non-pay zones such as Industrial Way if posted signage is followed, but this is parking only; sleeping in any vehicle anywhere in the District remains prohibited. tofino.ca/parking					
Scheduled bus from Nanaimo and Victoria	2 direct 1 open	86%	6%	0%	8%
The scheduled coach into Tofino is the Tofino Express Bus run by IslandLink (Island Express Bus Inc.) on the Nanaimo - Port Alberni - Ucluelet - Tofino corridor, with connections from Victoria. Tourism Tofino describes it as running 3 to 6 times a week from several communities and ferry terminals. Wilson's Tofino Bus and					

Vancouver Island Connector, the operator most older articles name, state they are currently not operating.

tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/getting-here/

Tofino-Ucluelet public bus	2 direct	73%	9%	2%	16%
BC Transit's West Coast Transit Route 1 Tofino/Ucluelet runs seven days a week linking Tofino, Ty-Histanis, Esowista, the Pacific Rim Visitor Centre, Ucluelet and hitacu, with stops at the Tofino Visitor Centre. An adult single ride is \$5 and a DayPASS is \$10; children 12 and under ride free. Since January 4, 2026 the schedule includes extra midday trips and late buses leaving Ucluelet at 9:20 PM and Tofino at 10:25 PM.	2 open				
www.bctransit.com/west-coast/fares					

Flights to Tofino from Vancouver	2 direct	75%	12%	1%	12%
Pacific Coastal Airlines flies daily scheduled flights between Vancouver's South Terminal (YVR) and Tofino-Long Beach Airport (YAZ). Harbour Air runs seasonal floatplanes into Tofino Harbour roughly April through October, and in winter 2025-26 added wheeled flights YVR South Terminal to YAZ four days a week from October 27, 2025 to March 29, 2026.	1 open				
tofinoairport.com/carriers					

EV charging in Tofino	1 direct	63%	14%	2%	21%
Tourism Tofino says there are multiple EV charging stations in the region, including two Level 2 ports at the Tofino Visitor Centre at 1426 Pacific Rim Highway near Cox Bay, and points drivers to PlugShare for other locations.	1 open				
tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/getting-around/					

Accessibility · 3 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Free beach wheelchair loan	1 direct	68%	11%	0%	21%
Two beach wheelchairs with large balloon tires can be borrowed at no cost from the Tofino Visitor Centre, by reservation, for a maximum of 3 days with a \$250 refundable deposit. The Visitor Centre itself has accessible and gender-neutral washrooms.	1 open				
tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/accessibility/					

Accessible beach entrances	1 direct 2 open	58%	11%	5%	26%
The Hellesen Drive entrance to tinwis (Mackenzie Beach) has accessible parking, washrooms, an entrance ramp and a Mobi-mat onto the sand from the May long weekend until the Thanksgiving long weekend in October. Cox Bay has a boardwalk and concrete ramp between Long Beach Lodge Resort and Cox Bay Resort, and MacKenzie Beach Road has an accessible wooden boardwalk to the beach. tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/accessibility/					

Paved path and accessible park viewpoints	CULTURAL	1 direct 3 open	56%	10%	3%	31%
The ʔapsčiiik ʔášii multi-use path is a paved pathway from Tofino to Ucluelet with flat sections and rolling hills, including two larger hills at the south end of Long Beach and just north of Wick Road. In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve the viewing decks at Radar Hill and at Kwisis Visitor Centre are accessible, Kwisis loans companion-operated all-terrain wheelchairs, and Long Beach, Wickaninnish and Green Point have accessible washrooms. The Broken Group Islands and West Coast Trail units are rugged and not barrier-free. tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/accessibility/						

Closure · 1 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Schooner Cove Trail closed	2 direct 1 open	77%	7%	0%	15%
The Schooner Cove Trail in the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is closed until further notice under a Parks Canada area closure. Entering a closed area carries a maximum penalty of \$25,000. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/bulletins/F1A487A7-AA72-4C9A-8115-					

Community · 1 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
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Quiet hours 10 PM to 7 AM

Under the District of Tofino's Public Property Use Regulation Bylaw, loud or unnecessary noise that disturbs others is not permitted between 10 PM and 7 AM, including excessive noise from vehicles, amplified music and instruments. Noise complaints go to the Bylaw Department (250-725-3229 ext. 706) or the on-duty officer (250-266-1674).

tofino.ca/public-services/safety/bylaw-enforcement/noise/

Conduct · 10 facts

FACT AND SOURCE

ASKED
IN RIGHT VAGUE WRONG NOTHING

No sleeping in vehicles

Overnight camping in any vehicle is prohibited everywhere in the District of Tofino at all times. The District states there is no free camping in Tofino, and camping in RVs, trailers, cars and tents is not permitted in parking lots, on beaches or on streets.

tofino.ca/parking

Beach fires in Tofino

Within the District of Tofino, beach fires are only allowed on tinwis (Mackenzie Beach) and Chesterman Beach, between 8 AM and 10 PM. Fires must be in a clean-burning or raised fire appliance no larger than 0.6 metres high by 0.6 metres across, and burning driftwood is prohibited.

tofino.ca/beach-responsibly-this-summer-and-canada-day/

No alcohol on beaches

Alcohol is not permitted on public property in Tofino, including the beaches, at any time.

tofino.ca/our-community/parks-natural-spaces/

Dogs must be leashed everywhere

There are no off-leash parks, beaches or areas in Tofino. Dogs must be on a leash at all times, and owners who do not comply can be fined.

tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/dog-friendly-tofino/

1 direct 67% 13% 2% 18%

2 open

3 direct 70% 8% 3% 19%

4 open

3 direct 67% 14% 2% 16%

2 open

1 direct 75% 10% 2% 13%

2 open

1 direct 70% 11% 2% 17%

2 open

Drones restricted in Tofino Drone use in the District of Tofino is restricted by law because of the town's proximity to the Tofino Harbour Water Aerodrome and the Tofino-Long Beach Airport (YAZ). tofino.ca/our-community/parks-natural-spaces/	1 direct 1 open	66%	11%	4%	20%
Drones banned in national park In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, no one may use, install or deploy a remote device (such as a drone) to record photos, video or sound on land or water unless permitted by the Superintendent. The maximum penalty is \$25,000. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/bulletins/D3ED0268-41A5-4448-9220-	1 direct 1 open	68%	14%	2%	16%
Dog ban on southern park beaches Since a Parks Canada order issued February 10, 2026, dogs are prohibited at all times on coastal areas and trails between Green Point Rocks and Willowbrae Trail in the Long Beach Unit. This includes Wickaninnish Beach, Florencia Bay, Halfmoon Bay Trail and Combers Beach. Elsewhere in the Long Beach Unit where dogs are allowed they must be leashed. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/bulletins/415AA62C-21AD-4A65-AF20-	3 direct 3 open	67%	11%	2%	20%
Beach fires in national park In the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, beach fires are allowed only at Florencia Beach, Wickaninnish Beach and Radar Beaches. Fires are not allowed on Long Beach between the bottom of Schooner Trail and Sandhill Creek on Combers Beach. Fires must be under 1 metre wide and high and at least 3 metres from drift logs and vegetation. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/feu-fire	2 direct 1 open	61%	14%	2%	23%
Marine mammal viewing distance Boats and people must keep at least 100 metres from whales, dolphins and porpoises, and 200 metres from killer whales in BC and the Pacific. Tourism Tofino describes the 100 m distance as 10 bus lengths and says to keep dogs far away from marine mammals on shore. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/nature/faune-wildlife	1 direct 4 open	69%	9%	3%	19%

No dogs on Wild Side Trail CULTURAL	1 direct	63%	16%	2%	20%
Dogs are not permitted on the Wildside Trail on Flores Island because of the high number of wolf sightings. Hikers are told to always carry bear spray, stick together and use the metal food caches.	1 open				
mhssahousaht.ca/wildside-trail/					
Dispersal · 5 facts					
FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Fall promoted as quieter	1 direct	65%	7%	3%	25%
Tourism Tofino actively promotes fall as a quieter time to visit, with less traffic, less waiting, a slower pace and lower accommodation rates than summer. It also warns that many businesses schedule closures after the busy summer months.	4 open				
tourismtofino.com/news-stories/fall-in-tofino/					
Plan asks for off-peak visits	0 direct	56%	10%	1%	33%
Tofino's 2025 Destination Stewardship Plan sets out a seasonality aim of inviting respectful visitors to return outside the busy summer months, and a low-impact travel aim that includes encouraging longer stays, focusing on nearby travel markets, and promoting active and public transportation.	4 open				
tourismtofino.com/site/assets/files/5748/tofino_destination_stewar dshi					
Parking congestion signal	1 direct	60%	11%	1%	29%
The District of Tofino states that parking congestion at Tofino's beaches and downtown core has in the past negatively impacted the experience of both visitors and residents, and that all parking is first-come, first-served. Tourism Tofino says parking in summer can be limited and advises arriving at your chosen beach early because lots fill up in peak periods.	5 open				
tofino.ca/parking					
Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest	1 direct	58%	12%	3%	27%
Tourism Tofino says mid-week or non-holiday weekends are the quietest times for a relaxing escape, and highly recommends restaurant reservations, or arriving early if walking in, because	7 open				

tables fill up.
tourismtofino.com/news-stories/your-fall-itinerary/

Plan names visitor pressure, sets no cap	1 direct	64%	11%	4%	21%
Tofino's 2025 Destination Stewardship Plan states that the area's growing popularity and a lack of awareness of traditional protocols place numerous pressures on area residents and biodiversity, and describes a desired future where tourism works in balance with the community's limits. The plan sets no numeric visitor cap. tourismtofino.com/site/assets/files/5748/tofino_destination_stewardshi	1 open				

Environment · 6 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Water conservation stages	3 direct	63%	16%	1%	20%
Tofino has a three-stage water conservation system because drier and busier summers strain its water supply. In 2026, Stage 1 took effect May 12 and was lifted September 1; there are currently no water restrictions. Visitors are asked to keep showers to 4 minutes or less. tofino.ca/our-community/make-every-drop-count/	5 open				
Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage	2 direct	61%	10%	3%	27%
Tofino is a designated Bear Smart Community and has a Wildlife Attractant Bylaw (No. 1317) adopted by council on April 23, 2024, that requires garbage and other attractants to be secured. Tourism Tofino asks visitors not to leave food out at any time and to take their garbage with them, including biodegradable food waste. tofino.ca/district-of-tofino-designated-a-bear-smart-community/	6 open				
Park food storage rules SAFETY - CRITICAL	1 direct	75%	5%	2%	18%
In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve all food, garbage and scented items, including empty coolers, pet food, toiletries and cookware, must be stored in a hard-sided vehicle or food locker, never in a tent or tent trailer. Parks Canada also says never to approach or search for wolves, bears or cougars for photography. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/nature/faune-wildlife	2 open				

Wickaninnish dunes are rare and fragile	0 direct 2 open	68%	14%	0%	18%
The sand dunes at Wickaninnish Beach in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve are a rare ecosystem that covers less than 1% of British Columbia and has shrunk by 56% across coastal BC. They are threatened by invasive European and American beachgrass, and Parks Canada runs restoration work including volunteer beachgrass pulls. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/nature/restoration-restoration/du					
Leave nature in place	1 direct 3 open	70%	12%	1%	18%
Tourism Tofino asks visitors to admire nature but leave it in its place and not take anything from the beaches or forests, to pack out all personal items, food and garbage, to stay on trails to avoid disturbing the forest floor, and to walk carefully in the intertidal zone to avoid stepping on marine life such as barnacles. tourismtofino.com/plan-your-trip/responsible-recreation/					
Water asks for guests and RVs	0 direct 4 open	65%	7%	4%	24%
The District of Tofino asks visitors to reuse towels and linens during their stay (saving up to 50 litres of water a day), and asks RV travellers to fill their water tanks and empty waste tanks before arriving in the area. Under Stage 2 water conservation, outdoor watering of lawns and gardens is prohibited; under Stage 3, indoor water use is restricted to drinking and sanitation. tofino.ca/our-community/make-every-drop-count/					
Fee · 5 facts					
FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
National park daily admission	2 direct 2 open	58%	15%	4%	22%
Daily admission to Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is \$12.25 per adult, \$10.75 per senior, \$24.50 per family/group, and free for youth 17 and under. Regular fees have applied again since September 8, 2026, after a period of free admission under the Canada Strong Pass ended on September 7. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/visit/tarifs-fees					

Beach Walk short-stay pass		2 direct	67%	14%	6%	13%
Parks Canada sells a cheaper short-stay Beach Walk pass for Pacific Rim National Park Reserve at \$7.75 per adult, \$6.75 per senior and \$15.50 per family/group. It is valid for a maximum of four hours and only at the Long Beach, Kwisitis, Incinerator and Wickaninnish parking lots.		1 open				
parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/visit/tarifs-fees						
Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee	CULTURAL	4 direct	68%	12%	2%	18%
Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks Allies are certified businesses and organizations in Tofino that have agreed to collect a 1% Responsible Visitor Fee on behalf of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. Visitors are encouraged to look for the Tribal Parks Allies symbol and support allied businesses.		4 open				
www.tribalparks.com/support-allied-businesses						
Hot Springs Cove fees	CULTURAL	3 direct	69%	12%	1%	17%
The Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (Ahousaht) states that BC Parks charges a \$3 per person day-use fee for Nism'aakqin (Maquinna Marine) Park, and that an additional \$15 per person, per visit, is collected for the Mux'si'xa Hot Springs by the guide operator or the on-duty Ahousaht Stewardship Guardian. Its fee schedule lists the hot springs amount as an add-on to the general Ahousaht Stewardship Fee of \$15 per person per day, and it advises visitors on tours to ask whether the stewardship fee is already included in the tour price.		2 open				
mhssahousaht.ca/hot-springs-maquinna-park/						
Wild Side Trail fee	CULTURAL	1 direct	80%	11%	4%	5%
The Wildside Trail on Flores Island, which starts in the Ahousaht community, is 11 km long and has an access fee of \$15 per person per day. Permits are available at the Ahous Fuel Stop, the MHSS office in Tofino, or online. Ahousaht is about 30 minutes by water taxi from Tofino.		1 open				
mhssahousaht.ca/wildside-trail/						

Local economy · 2 facts

Only licensed operators in the national park Only operators licensed by Pacific Rim National Park Reserve may run guided activities inside the park, including day hikes, kayaking, marine wildlife viewing, surf lessons and backcountry guiding. A Parks Canada business licence (valid April 1 to March 31) is required for every business, guide or vendor operating in the park, and visitors can check whether a company is licensed by calling 250-726-3500 or emailing pacrim.info@pc.gc.ca . parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/exploitants-operators	1 direct 2 open	67%	13%	4%	17%
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Where the 1% Responsible Visitor Fee goes CULTURAL Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks says it has renamed the Allies' 1% Ecosystem Service Fee the Responsible Visitor Fee, that participating businesses collect it from guests and direct it back to stewardship of the territory, and that it funds the Tribal Parks Guardians and regional services such as clean drinking water, hospital services, social programs, safety and emergency response, and infrastructure like sewage treatment and parking. Tofino businesses apply to Tribal Parks to become Certified Allies. www.tribalparks.com/blog/what-is-the-responsible-visitor-fee---and-why	0 direct 2 open	70%	5%	0%	25%
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Lodging · 2 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Short-term rental licence rules Short-term rentals in Tofino need a District business licence, a Permanent Resident must live at the premises, and rentals are limited to a maximum of 3 guest bedrooms and no more than 6 overnight guests at one time including children. Hosts must give guests the Good Neighbour Guide and water conservation information. The Mayor's statement says the community faces significant housing challenges. tofino.ca/business-development/short-term-rental-regulations/	3 direct 1 open	71%	13%	3%	13%

Provincial principal-residence rule does not apply The District of Tofino asked the Province to opt it out of BC's short-term rental principal residence requirement and the Province approved the request effective November 1, 2025; the Province's	1 direct 1 open	70%	13%	2%	16%
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own list now shows Tofino as exempt. Tofino's local bylaw still requires a Permanent Resident to live at any licensed short-term rental (see tofino-fact-046), so the provincial exemption does not mean investor-owned whole-home rentals are legal.

tofino.ca/?p=10853

Pledge · 5 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
The ʔiisaak Pledge CULTURAL Visitors to Tofino are asked to take the ʔiisaak Pledge, written in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks. It sets out four commitments: be respectful of Natural Law; speak truthfully, act honourably and learn the history of this place and its People; be generous and helpful; and leave healthy habitats undisturbed for future generations. tourismtofino.com/about-tofino/iisaak-pledge/	4 direct 5 open	68%	13%	2%	17%
2025 Destination Stewardship Plan CULTURAL Tofino's Destination Stewardship Plan, titled 'ʔiisaak: náčiqs Tofino stands for respect', states that it was created by Tourism Tofino and the District of Tofino with support from Destination Think, in collaboration with Tofino-area residents. Tofino council carried a motion on November 4, 2025 to adopt it as the District's tourism master plan. Its goal is that by 2030 every visitor, resident and business will take the ʔiisaak Pledge. tourismtofino.com/site/assets/files/5748/tofino_dsp_-_plan_on_a_page.pdf	1 direct 1 open	64%	11%	2%	23%
Washed Up Wednesdays beach cleans Tourism Tofino hosts a free, drop-in weekly beach clean-up called Washed Up Wednesdays every Wednesday in July and August, rotating between beaches such as Chesterman, tinwis (Mackenzie), Cox Bay and Long Beach. Gloves and buckets are provided and no registration is needed. The Tofino Visitor Centre also has a marine debris recycling station for visitors who run their own clean-up. tourismtofino.com/events-festivals/washed-up-wednesdays-beach-clean/	2 direct 1 open	75%	12%	2%	11%

Plan asks visitors to give back locally Tofino's 2025 Destination Stewardship Plan lists giving-back initiatives including encouraging voluntourism and citizen science, funding or collecting donations at businesses for community programs, and promoting locally owned businesses. Its visitor-education section says leaving a light footprint also means supporting local entrepreneurs. tourismtofino.com/site/assets/files/5748/tofino_destination_stewardshi	3 direct 1 open	68%	18%	4%	10%
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Surfrider cleanups are drop-in for visitors Surfrider Foundation Pacific Rim, a volunteer-run chapter, posts its beach cleanups on its events page and tells anyone who wants to attend to sign the waiver and just show up rather than fill in a volunteer form. Its 2026 calendar includes remote boat-based cleanups in Clayoquot Sound, sand dune restoration days with Parks Canada, and the summer Washed Up Wednesdays cleans. Tourism Tofino also lists citizen-science options such as Redd Fish Restoration Society sea star surveys and the Pacific Treefrog Chorus Project. pacificrim.surfrider.ca/volunteer	1 direct 1 open	64%	14%	5%	16%
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Reservation · 2 facts					
FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
West Coast Trail season and booking The West Coast Trail unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is open and reservable from May 1 to September 30 each year; it is not open to hikers in October. Reservations for the 2026 season opened February 5, 2026 at 8 AM PT through the Parks Canada Reservation Service. The trail is 75 km and is not near Tofino; it runs from Pachena Bay to Gordon River. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/SCO-WCT	1 direct 1 open	73%	11%	5%	11%

Green Point Campground booking Green Point Campground, the only campground in the Long Beach area of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, is open from May 1 to mid-October (October 12 in 2026) and is booked through the Parks Canada Reservation Service. Reservations for 2026 opened at 8	2 direct 5 open	69%	11%	3%	17%
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AM PT on January 29, 2026. Tourism Tofino advises booking camping early.

parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/camping

Safety · 6 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
Stay 100 m from predators SAFETY-CRITICAL In Pacific Rim National Park Reserve visitors must stay at least 100 metres from wolves, bears and cougars. A park order prohibits approaching, remaining near or viewing these animals within 100 metres unless fully inside a vehicle, with a maximum penalty of \$25,000. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/nature/faune-wildlife	2 direct 1 open	67%	11%	7%	15%
Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit SAFETY-CRITICAL Parks Canada has had a 'Wolves in Area' warning in effect for the Long Beach Unit of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve since September 18, 2025, until further notice. Visitors are told to leave pets at home, keep children close, carry accessible bear spray and not hike alone. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/bulletins/745610D9-0BA0-4921-B360-	2 direct 6 open	65%	11%	3%	21%
No lifeguards on any beach SAFETY-CRITICAL There are no lifeguards or surf guards on any beach in Tofino or in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. All beaches are unsupervised. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/surf	2 direct 8 open	62%	10%	3%	25%
Cold water all year SAFETY-CRITICAL Ocean water around Tofino stays between about 7°C and 14°C all year, even in summer. Parks Canada tells surfers to wear a wetsuit at all times and warns that maximum survival time in water this cold is two to three hours. parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/securite-safety/risques-hazards	1 direct 6 open	63%	11%	1%	26%
Rip current response SAFETY-CRITICAL Rip currents are present at Tofino-area beaches. CoastSmart advises that if caught in one you stay calm, never swim directly	0 direct 2 open	70%	7%	2%	21%

against it, keep hold of your board or flotation, and swim parallel to the beach until out of the current before heading in.

coastsmart.ca/hazards/rip-currents/

Storm watching hazards SAFETY - CRITICAL 0 direct 61% 10% 1% 29%

During fall and winter storms, large waves can sweep over beaches and rocks without warning, and drift logs can float, roll and crush people. Official guidance is to stay off drift logs when the tide or swell is high, stay on trails and off the rocks, and check tide tables and the swell forecast first.

coastsmart.ca/activities/storm-watching/

Timing · 2 facts

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN	RIGHT	VAGUE	WRONG	NOTHING
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Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons	0 direct	58%	10%	1%	31%
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Tourism Tofino describes fall as a slower season and winter as storm-watching season with quieter days, and tells visitors that the force of nature is on full display in the fall and winter months and to plan a visit for winter. Its consumer pages do not name specific storm-season months or recommend a trip length.

tourismtofino.com/about-tofino/seasons/

Green Point 7-night maximum	1 direct	71%	13%	2%	14%
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At Green Point Campground in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve the maximum stay is 7 consecutive nights for drive-in, walk-in, oTENTik and group sites.

parks.canada.ca/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/activ/camping

Held until confirmed · 4 cultural facts, not in any score

FACT AND SOURCE	ASKED IN
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Tla-o-qui-aht territory	4 direct
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Tourism Tofino states that Tofino (Načiks) is situated within the Hahuulthi (territory) of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. It also acknowledges the Ahousaht First Nation and states that Hot Springs Cove is in Ahousaht Hahuulthi (territory).

tourismtofino.com/about-tofino/

Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks	3 direct
Tourism Tofino's Tribal Parks page, written in collaboration with Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks, says there are four declared Tribal Parks in Tla-o-qui-aht territory: Wanačas Hiṭḥuuʔis (Meares Island), Tranquil Tribal Park, Ha`uukmin (Kennedy Lake Watershed) and Esowista Tribal Park. The first, Wanačas Hiṭḥuuʔis (Meares Island and its waterways), was declared on April 21, 1984. The Big Tree Trail is on Meares Island within this Tribal Park.	6 open
tourismtofino.com/about-tofino/tla-o-qui-aht-tribal-parks/	

Big Tree Trail access	1 direct
Tourism Tofino states that the Big Tree Trail is within the Meares Island Tribal Park, a short water taxi or kayak trip from Tofino Harbour. One water taxi operator says trail fees are not included in its fare; no trail fee amount is published on the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks or Tourism Tofino pages that were opened.	3 open
tourismtofino.com/activity/hiking-nature-trails/	

Tla-o-qui-aht villages are residential	1 direct
Tourism Tofino says Tla-o-qui-aht citizens live in the village sites of Opitsaht, Esowista and Ty-Histanis as well as in Tofino. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust's West Coast NEST pages describe these as primarily residential communities with very few services for visitors, no banks, stores or ATMs, and say Opitsaht on Meares Island is reachable only by boat, has no visitor accommodation, and that groups wanting to camp must get permission by special arrangement.	0 open
tourismtofino.com/about-tofino/past-present/	

– Appendix B · The 98 questions asked, and the facts each one checks

Each was put to every AI assistant 7 times. A direct question asks about a rule; an open question does not, and tests whether guidance is volunteered.

QUESTION	TYPE	ASKED	FACTS CHECKED
best surf towns in canada for beginners	Destination not named	open	No lifeguards on any beach; Cold water all year
Where should I go on Vancouver Island for a week in summer?	Destination not named	open	none (visibility only)
best places for storm watching in BC	Destination not named	open	Storm watching hazards
small coastal towns in British Columbia worth visiting	Destination not named	open	none (visibility only)
where can I see old growth rainforest and whales on the same trip in Canada	Destination not named	open	Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; Marine mammal viewing distance
Tofino or Ucluelet, which is better to stay in?	Destination not named	open	Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Fall promoted as quieter
best hot springs you can only get to by boat in BC	Destination not named	open	Hot Springs Cove fees
Indigenous-led tourism experiences on Vancouver Island	Destination not named	open	Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee
Is Tofino worth the drive from Victoria?	Destination not named	open	Highway 4 planned closures
best beaches in Canada	Destination not named	open	none (visibility only)

romantic winter getaway west coast canada	Destination not named	open	Storm watching hazards; Winter tires on Highway 4
where are the best places to go whale watching in british columbia	Destination not named	open	Marine mammal viewing distance
Do I need a park pass to park at Long Beach near Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	National park daily admission; Park pass needed when stopped; Beach Walk short-stay pass
how much is parking at Chesterman Beach	Asked directly	direct	Paid parking at Tofino beaches
Is parking free in downtown Tofino in October?	Asked directly	direct	Downtown Tofino pay parking
Can I sleep in my van in Tofino overnight?	Asked directly	direct	No sleeping in vehicles
Does Tofino have a free shuttle bus and is it running right now?	Asked directly	direct	Free summer shuttle dates
are beach fires allowed in tofino	Asked directly	direct	Beach fires in Tofino; Beach fires in national park
Can you drink alcohol on the beach in Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	No alcohol on beaches
Are there any off leash dog beaches in Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	Dogs must be leashed everywhere; Dog ban on southern park beaches
Can I take my dog to Wickaninnish Beach?	Asked directly	direct	Dog ban on southern park beaches; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit
Am I allowed to fly a drone in Tofino or at Long Beach?	Asked directly	direct	Drones restricted in Tofino; Drones banned in national park

Are there lifeguards at Long Beach or Cox Bay?	Asked directly	direct	No lifeguards on any beach
Is the Schooner Cove trail open?	Asked directly	direct	Schooner Cove Trail closed
Do I have to reserve the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo if I'm driving to Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	Ferry from Horseshoe Bay needs booking
How much are the fees to visit Hot Springs Cove?	Asked directly	direct	Hot Springs Cove fees; Hot Springs Cove hours and season
Is there a fee for the Wild Side Trail on Flores Island and can I bring my dog?	Asked directly	direct	Wild Side Trail fee; No dogs on Wild Side Trail
When do West Coast Trail reservations open and when is the trail open?	Asked directly	direct	West Coast Trail season and booking
Are there water restrictions in Tofino right now?	Asked directly	direct	Water conservation stages
how far do you have to stay from whales and orcas in a boat near Tofino	Asked directly	direct	Marine mammal viewing distance
Plan me a 3-day trip to Tofino in August	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Free summer shuttle dates; No lifeguards on any beach; Water conservation stages; The ʔiisaak Pledge; National park daily admission; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage; Leave nature in place; Parking congestion signal; Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest
I'm going to Tofino in July with two kids and a dog.	Not asked (trip	open	Dogs must be leashed everywhere; Dog ban on southern park beaches; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit; No

What should we do?	planning)		lifeguards on any beach; Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage; Leave nature in place
What's the best beach in Tofino to watch the sunset with a bottle of wine and a bonfire?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Beach fires in national park; Beach fires in Tofino; No alcohol on beaches
cheap ways to do Tofino, we have a campervan	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Where big RVs and trailers may park; No sleeping in vehicles; Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Green Point Campground booking; Water asks for guests and RVs; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage
Best places to get drone shots around Tofino?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Drones restricted in Tofino; Drones banned in national park
I want to learn to surf in Tofino. Where should I go and what do I need?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Only licensed operators in the national park; No lifeguards on any beach; Cold water all year; Rip current response
where can I see wolves or bears near Tofino	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Stay 100 m from predators; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit
Give me a storm watching itinerary for Tofino in November	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons; Storm watching hazards; Winter tires on Highway 4; Highway 4 planned closures; Fall promoted as quieter
We're driving from Vancouver to Tofino in January, how should we plan the trip?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Flights to Tofino from Vancouver; Winter tires on Highway 4; Ferry from Horseshoe Bay needs booking; Highway 4 planned closures
What's a good day trip from Tofino by boat?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Only licensed operators in the national park; Hot Springs Cove fees; Hot Springs Cove hours and season; Big Tree Trail access; Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; Marine mammal viewing distance

Is Tofino good to visit in October?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons; Fall promoted as quieter; Plan asks for off-peak visits; Downtown Tofino pay parking; Free summer shuttle dates; Winter tires on Highway 4; Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest
Best short hikes near Tofino	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Schooner Cove Trail closed; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit; Park pass needed when stopped; Big Tree Trail access; Paved path and accessible park viewpoints
How do I get around Tofino without a car?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Tofino-Ucluelet public bus; Free summer shuttle dates; Plan asks for off-peak visits; Paved path and accessible park viewpoints; Parking congestion signal
I want to kayak with whales in Tofino, how close can we get?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Marine mammal viewing distance; Cold water all year
Tofino on a long weekend in summer, is it going to be a nightmare to find parking?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Downtown Tofino pay parking; Free summer shuttle dates; Park pass needed when stopped; Parking congestion signal; Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest
We want to take our dog for a long beach walk near Tofino, where's best?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Dogs must be leashed everywhere; Dog ban on southern park beaches; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit
romantic things to do in Tofino for our anniversary	Not asked (trip planning)	open	No alcohol on beaches; Beach fires in Tofino; The ʔiisaak Pledge; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee
What should I pack for a week in Tofino in summer?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Cold water all year; Water conservation stages; Water asks for guests and RVs; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage
Can I swim in the ocean at Tofino or is it just for surfers?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	No lifeguards on any beach; Cold water all year; Rip current response
Where can I camp near Tofino last minute?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Green Point 7-night maximum; No sleeping in vehicles; Green Point Campground booking; Park food storage rules

planning)

What should I know about the First Nations in Tofino?	Cultural	direct	Tla-o-qui-aht territory; Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; The ʔiisaak Pledge; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee
Whose land is Tofino on?	Cultural	direct	Tla-o-qui-aht territory
What is the iisaak pledge in Tofino?	Cultural	direct	The ʔiisaak Pledge; 2025 Destination Stewardship Plan
What are Tribal Parks and can tourists visit them?	Cultural	direct	Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; Big Tree Trail access; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee
How can I support the local First Nation when I visit Tofino?	Cultural	direct	Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee; The ʔiisaak Pledge; Hot Springs Cove fees
I'd like to hike the Big Tree Trail on Meares Island, what's the deal with it?	Cultural	open	Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; Big Tree Trail access
Tell me about the history of Tofino	Cultural	open	Tla-o-qui-aht territory; Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks
Is Hot Springs Cove on Indigenous land? Anything I should do differently there?	Cultural	direct	Tla-o-qui-aht territory; Hot Springs Cove fees; Hot Springs Cove hours and season
why is there a 1% fee on my bill in Tofino	Cultural	open	Where the 1% Responsible Visitor Fee goes; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee
Is Tofino a wilderness area? I want somewhere totally untouched	Cultural	open	Tla-o-qui-aht territory; Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks; The ʔiisaak Pledge
Plan me a week in Tofino in July, we'll have a rental car	Not asked (trip planning)	open	EV charging in Tofino; Water conservation stages; Water asks for guests and RVs; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage; Parking congestion signal; Mid-week and non-

holiday weekends quietest; Paid parking at Tofino beaches;
Free summer shuttle dates; The ʔiisaak Pledge

Are there any beach cleanups or volunteer things a visitor can join in Tofino in the summer?	Asked directly	direct	Surfrider cleanups are drop-in for visitors; Washed Up Wednesdays beach cleans; Plan asks visitors to give back locally
We're a family of 7 looking for an Airbnb in Tofino for a week, what should we know?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Provincial principal-residence rule does not apply; Short-term rental licence rules; Quiet hours 10 PM to 7 AM; Water conservation stages
Is Tofino wheelchair accessible? I mean the beaches, trails and washrooms, not just hotels	Asked directly	direct	Free beach wheelchair loan; Accessible beach entrances; Paved path and accessible park viewpoints
tent camping near Tofino in August, what do we need to bring and know	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Park food storage rules; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage; Green Point Campground booking; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit
When is the best time to go to Tofino if I want to avoid the crowds?	Asked directly	direct	Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest; Fall promoted as quieter; Parking congestion signal; Plan names visitor pressure, sets no cap
What's the best beach in Tofino for tide pools and collecting shells with little kids?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Wickaninnish dunes are rare and fragile; Leave nature in place; No lifeguards on any beach; Wickaninnish dunes are rare and fragile
Can I take a water taxi over to Opitsaht to see the village?	Cultural	direct	Tla-o-qui-aht villages are residential; Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks
Driving our RV to Tofino in July, where do we park it and fill up water?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Where big RVs and trailers may park; Water asks for guests and RVs; No sleeping in vehicles; Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Green Point Campground booking

Are there a lot of bears around Tofino? Should I be worried staying in a cabin?	Asked directly	direct	Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage; Park food storage rules; Stay 100 m from predators
quieter alternatives to the busy spots on Vancouver Island's west coast?	Destination not named	open	Fall promoted as quieter; Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest
Are there any rules, permits or reservations I should know about for visiting Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	National park daily admission; Park pass needed when stopped; Beach fires in Tofino; Dog ban on southern park beaches; Water conservation stages; Green Point Campground booking
Can I do Tofino in a weekend from Seattle?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Scheduled bus from Nanaimo and Victoria; Plan names visitor pressure, sets no cap; Ferry from Horseshoe Bay needs booking; Plan asks for off-peak visits; Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest
Is anything closed in Tofino right now?	Asked directly	direct	Schooner Cove Trail closed; Highway 4 planned closures
I only have one day in Tofino, what should I do?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Park pass needed when stopped; Beach Walk short-stay pass; Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Parking congestion signal
How can I visit Tofino respectfully and responsibly?	Not asked (trip planning)	direct	The ʔiisaak Pledge; Tla-o-qui-aht territory; Leave nature in place; Water conservation stages; Bear Smart town, secure food and garbage; Plan asks visitors to give back locally
How can I support local businesses and the community when I visit Tofino?	Not asked (trip planning)	direct	Only licensed operators in the national park; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee; Plan asks visitors to give back locally; Washed Up Wednesdays beach cleans
Planning a beach trip to Tofino with my mum who uses a wheelchair, where should we go?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Free beach wheelchair loan; Accessible beach entrances; Paved path and accessible park viewpoints

Are there quiet hours or noise rules for rentals in Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	Quiet hours 10 PM to 7 AM; Short-term rental licence rules
Are Airbnbs legal in Tofino and how do I know mine is licensed?	Asked directly	direct	Short-term rental licence rules
We're staying a week in Tofino in July. Anything locals wish visitors knew?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Surfrider cleanups are drop-in for visitors; Where the 1% Responsible Visitor Fee goes; Washed Up Wednesdays beach cleans; The ʔiisaak Pledge; 2025 Destination Stewardship Plan; Water conservation stages; Quiet hours 10 PM to 7 AM; Plan asks visitors to give back locally
Is there a cheaper park pass if I'm only stopping at the beach for an hour near Tofino?	Asked directly	direct	Beach Walk short-stay pass; Park pass needed when stopped
Best multi-day hikes near Tofino?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Wild Side Trail fee; No dogs on Wild Side Trail; West Coast Trail season and booking; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit
is tofino expensive	Not asked (trip planning)	open	National park daily admission; Paid parking at Tofino beaches; Tribal Parks Allies 1% fee; Tofino-Ucluelet public bus
is tofino safe	Asked directly	direct	No lifeguards on any beach; Cold water all year; Wolf warning in Long Beach Unit; Stay 100 m from predators
can you fly to tofino from vancouver	Asked directly	direct	Flights to Tofino from Vancouver
can you surf in tofino in november	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Cold water all year; No lifeguards on any beach; Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons
how to get to tofino from vancouver without a car	Asked directly	direct	Scheduled bus from Nanaimo and Victoria; Flights to Tofino from Vancouver; Tofino-Ucluelet public bus

how many days needed in tofino	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons; Plan asks for off-peak visits; Mid-week and non-holiday weekends quietest
tofino airbnb rules	Asked directly	direct	Short-term rental licence rules; Provincial principal-residence rule does not apply
tofino bus schedule 2026	Asked directly	direct	Tofino-Ucluelet public bus; Free summer shuttle dates; Scheduled bus from Nanaimo and Victoria
tofino ev charging	Asked directly	direct	EV charging in Tofino
does it snow in tofino bc	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Winter tires on Highway 4; Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons
tofino camping provincial park	Asked directly	direct	Green Point Campground booking; Green Point 7-night maximum; No sleeping in vehicles
Tenting in December?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Green Point Campground booking; Storm watching hazards; No sleeping in vehicles; Fall and winter are the quiet, storm seasons
Do fire bans locally vary?	Asked directly	direct	Beach fires in Tofino; Beach fires in national park
Overnight Parking for Paddle Trip	Asked directly	direct	Where big RVs and trailers may park; No sleeping in vehicles
Which is the best beach?	Not asked (trip planning)	open	Dog ban on southern park beaches; No lifeguards on any beach; Wickaninnish dunes are rare and fragile; Accessible beach entrances

– Appendix C · Coverage: how questions ladder up to facts and categories

For each category of fact: how many facts were checked, which stewardship outcomes they serve, and how many direct and open questions tested them. Every category with facts was tested both ways.

CATEGORY	FACTS	OUTCOMES SERVED	DIRECT QUESTIONS	OPEN QUESTIONS
Access	13	Spread visits, Lighten the footprint	15	19
Accessibility	3	Welcome everyone	1	4
Closure	1	Protect nature, Keep people safe	2	1
Community	1	Residents and local business	1	2
Conduct	10	Protect nature, Residents and local business	12	15
Dispersal	5	Spread visits	1	11
Environment	6	Protect nature, Lighten the footprint	4	12
Fee	5	Residents and local business, Respect culture	10	9
Local economy	2	Residents and local business, Keep people safe, Respect culture	1	4
Lodging	2	Residents and local business	3	1
Pledge	5	Respect culture, Protect nature, Residents and local business	6	5
Reservation	2	Spread visits	3	6
Safety	6	Keep people safe	4	19
Timing	2	Spread visits, Lighten the footprint	1	7

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- How the numbers were produced and how to read them
 - **The four verdicts.** Every time an AI assistant answers a question, each fact a good answer should contain gets one verdict: told right (stated fully and correctly), vague (touched but too thin to act on), wrong (contradicted), or nothing (never mentioned). The four shares always add to 100%.
 - **The Stewardship Signal Score** is $100 \times (\text{right} + \text{half of vague} - \text{wrong})$, never below zero. Bands: 70 and above strong, 50 to 69 moderate, 30 to 49 weak, below 30 critical. Cultural facts with a Nation-published source are scored and flagged; cultural facts without one are held out until confirmed.
 - **Repetitions.** AI assistants answer differently every time, so each question was asked 7 times per AI assistant, and every figure is a rate across those answers, not a single answer. Overall figures carry a margin of about ± 1.1 points; per-assistant figures about ± 2.3 . For a repeat audit of the same size, a change smaller than about 1.6 points is noise.
 - **The answer key.** Answers were graded against 67 verified facts, each traced to a published source (Appendix A), using the 98 questions in Appendix B. Grader: heuristic (test mode only).
 - **How answers were collected.** Through each AI company's developer connection to the same models the public apps use, with web search on. A signed-in person can see small differences from personalisation and memory; research on this finds the run-to-run variation between answers is larger than that gap, which is why each question is asked many times.