

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Comox Valley Area

Deep Bay and Mapleguard Point



Black-bellied Plover:
Bill Heybroek drawing



Mapleguard Point shoreline: Terry Thormin photo



Long-tailed Duck: Terry Thormin photo

[Photo Gallery](#)

Situated between Fanny Bay and Bowser, Deep Bay is a large protected harbour with rich habitats for birds and marine life. Deep Bay Road follows an arm-like spit through a residential area to Mapleguard Point, with excellent views across Baynes Sound to southern Denman Island and Chrome Island. Public beach accesses along the spit are great places to scope for birds, or look for Harbour Seals and California Sea Lions. Mudflats along the inner harbour attract shorebirds like Whimbrel, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Western Sandpipers. In the winter one can get close-up looks at waterbirds such as Long-tailed Ducks, Marbled Murrelets, Horned Grebes, Common Loons and Scoters. Black Oystercatchers with bright orange bills can often be seen on the rockier sections of shore. Salt-tolerant plants like pickleweed, searocket, sea-beach sandwort and dune grass colonize the high beach. The government wharf is a popular launching place to fish for Coho and Chinook salmon. Deep Bay is prime destination for wildlife viewing at any time of the year and for birders in particular, it is well worth a visit.

[Site Map](#)

Geographical Description

Southernmost reach of Baynes Sound: west side of Baynes Sound across from south end of Denman Island. Mapleguard Point is the 'elbow' of an 'arm' (spit) that protects Deep Bay's natural harbour.

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Area/ Trail Length	1 km. long spit; over 2 km. further shoreline.
Habitat	Roadside viewing possible. Spit of sand, cobble, mud flats , sand bar; deep water bay; forested area adjacent to south.
Highlights	Close viewing of winter waterbirds normally farther offshore.
Best Season	Winter for waterbirds, Summer for low tide & intertidal life.
Main Access	From Highway 19A at Cook Creek Rd. interchange turn south, turn east on Gainsberg Rd, Continue to Burne Rd, turn right, then turn left onto Deep Bay Dr. & follow to end.
Secondary Accesses	Roadside viewing from : west of 5005 Shoreline Dr; south of 5335 Deep Bay Dr; north of 5399 Deep Bay Dr; west of 5422 Deep Bay Dr; park at west end of Deep Bay Dr.
Cautions	
Jurisdiction	Regional District of Nanaimo, Area H. Intertidal zone: Provincial MOE; Fish & fish habitat: Federal DFO.
Birds	Long-tailed Duck; Horned Grebe; Surf Scoter; White-winged Scoter; Black Scoter; Bald Eagle; Harlequin Duck; Black Oystercatcher; Dunlin; Black-bellied Plover; Killdeer; Mallard; Common Loon; Bufflehead; Double-crested Cormorant; Common Merganser; Kingfisher; Goldeneye; Trumpeter Swan; Mute Swan. Bird List
Mammals	California Sea Lion, Harbour Seal.
Reptiles	
Amphibians	
Fish	
Intertidal Life	
Insects	
Other species	
Trees	Bitter cherry.
Shrubs	
Flowering Plants	Sea rocket, sea beach sandwort, beach pea, sea blush, gumweed, blue-eyed Mary, dune grass.
Ferns, Lichens, Mosses	
Other Species	
Invasive/Non-native species	

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Seaweeds

Mushrooms

Geology

The 1946 Vancouver Island Earthquake caused the bottom of Deep Bay to sink between 2.7m & 25.6 m.

Regulations

Dogs on leash.

Facilities

Limited roadside parking near end of spit, & along access road. Parking at marina. Picnic tables.

Other Features

Marina, Aquaculture leases, Shellfish research station on Chrome Pt Rd.

Other

Connections

FMI

[Deep Bay Field Station Centre for Shellfish Research](#)

[K'omoks Important Bird Area](#)

[Regional District of Nanaimo Parks](#)

[Tide Tables](#)

[WSU Intertidal Life Identification](#)

[eBird Hotspot](#)