

Vancouver Island Nature Viewing Region

Comox Valley Area

Little River to Powell River Ferry



Horned Grebe:
Bill Heybroek drawing



Shoreline at Little River: Terry Thormin photo



Rhinoceros Auklet: Terry Thormin photo

Photo Gallery

The BC Ferries route from Comox (Little River) to Powell River (Westview) is one of the best ways to study pelagic birds in the Strait of Georgia. In 2003, local birders considered the crossing to be so significant that it was officially added to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Departing from Little River in Comox, species such as Harlequin Ducks, Mallards, American Wigeon, Red-breasted Mergansers and Yellow-billed Loons can be seen right from the terminal. Further offshore there are large numbers of pelagic birds in the winter, most notably Ancient Murrelets, Common Murres and Long-tailed Ducks. In addition, species such as Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants, Western Grebes, Pacific Loons, Marbled Murrelets, Brant Geese and Pigeon Guillemots may be observed. The ferry crossing takes approximately one hour and twenty minutes. Expect to see (in winter) around 20-30 species on the crossing. For the current schedule and rates, check the BC Ferries website.

Site Map

Geographical Description	Strait of Georgia between Little River and Powell River.
Area/ Trail Length	30 km crossing (17 nautical miles)
Habitat	Pelagic waters, rocky islets, pier & dock, cobble shore.
Highlights	Pelagic birds.

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Best Season	Winter for waterbirds.
Main Access	North end of Ellenor Rd. at BC Ferries Terminal.
Secondary Accesses	Powell River Ferry terminal.
Cautions	
Jurisdiction	Intertidal zone: Provincial MOE; Fish & fish habitat: Federal DFO.
Birds	Long-tailed Duck, Pacific Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Mew Gull, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Thayer's Gull, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet. Bird List
Mammals	
Reptiles	
Amphibians	
Fish	
Intertidal Life	
Insects	
Trees	
Shrubs	
Flowering Plants	
Ferns, Lichens, Mosses	
Other Species	
Invasive/Non-native species	
Seaweeds	
Mushrooms	
Geology	
Regulations	
Facilities	BC Ferries pay parking lot; limited roadside parking on Wilkinson Rd. Indoor washrooms at ferry terminals. Food & washrooms available on ferry.
Other Features	Views of Texada, Harwood & Vivian Islands near Powell River.

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To Little River Nature Park on Comox side; to Texada Island on Powell River side.

**Other
Connections
FMI**

[BC Ferries Schedules](#)

[Comox Valley Regional District Beach Accesses](#)

[Audubon Christmas Bird Counts](#)

[Tide Tables](#)

[Coastal Shore Jurisdiction in BC pdf](#)

[WSU Intertidal Life Identification](#)

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