

# Lower Mainland Nature Viewing Region

## Metro Vancouver Area

### Crescent Beach - Blackie Spit (Surrey)



*Beach : photo by Bill Kinkaid*



*Tidal Mud Flats: photo by Bill Kinkaid*

A popular beach strip with good undeveloped stretches and protected dune area.

[White Rock & Surrey Naturalists](#)

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[Photo Gallery](#)

<b>Geographical Description</b>	Georgia Basin
<b>Area/ Trail Length</b>	
<b>Seasons to Visit</b>	Year round; beach areas are extremely busy in summer months.
<b>Habitat</b>	Sandy and cobble beaches, tidal mud flats, littoral dunes.
<b>Viewing Highlights</b>	Easily accessible site for observing intertidal marine life; mostly sandy beach with eelgrass beds. Excellent habitat for Dungeness and red rock crabs, bivalves, snails and some sea stars.  Excellent birding at Blackie Spit, a spit with sandbars, eelgrass beds, dunes, grassland and riparian habitat. The Rene Savenye Environmentally Sensitive Area gives good views over the estuary of the Nicomekl River.  The bluffs above the southern portion of Crescent Beach are very good for spring migrants.

**Other Features**

**Main Access** There is access to the developed portion of Crescent Beach from several streets in the village. The only off-street parking is two lots at Blackie Spit at the north end of McBride Avenue. There is ample free on-street parking throughout the village but the area can be busy on sunny days. Bus 351 runs to the village.

**Secondary Accesses** The undeveloped part of the beach can be accessed by stairs from the west end of 24th Avenue or 15A Avenue (The 1001 Steps – actually only 232 steps).

**Cautions** Crescent Beach south of the developed village area is “clothing optional” so use discretion. Much of the undeveloped beach section can be impassable at high tides or in poor weather. Stay off the railway tracks on the undeveloped beach. Fatalities have occurred here, as recently as 2013 and 2018.

**Jurisdiction** City of Surrey

**Regulations** No camping, fires or alcohol. Observe local signs regarding dogs.

**Facilities** Flush toilets at the end of Beecher Street and at the north end of McBride Avenue. Picnic tables in several locations along Crescent Beach. A number of food options are available near the beach. Dunsmuir Community Gardens at Blackie Spit. Dog off-leash fenced enclosure at Blackie Spit.

**Other Recreational Activities** Sailing, Swimming.

**Other Connections** At a very low tide, it is possible to continue south from Crescent Beach and around to White Rock Beach This is a rough walk over boulders and cobble, caution is advised due to fast incoming tides.

**History** Walter Blackie was the first European settler at Crescent Beach in 1871. The lower elevations in the area remained mostly unsettled due to risk of tidal flooding, until the Great Northern Railway was built in 1909 and improved the protection of the land. The area soon became known as a beach resort. Material dredged from the Serpentine River was dumped on Crab Man’s Island at the north tip of the beach, and it became known as Blackie’s Spit. The spit was preserved as a park in 1999. Rene Savenye was a well-known naturalist and teacher who died from a lightning strike in 2002. He worked towards natural restoration of Blackie Spit and increased public awareness of this sensitive area.

**Publications** A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay, by Anne Murray. Published by Nature Guides BC, 2006.  
Tracing Our Past - A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay, by Anne Murray.  
Published by Nature Guides BC, 2008.

**Links** [Crescent Beach](#)  
[Blackie Spit](#)  
[White Rock & Surrey Naturalists](#)  
[Friends of Semiahmoo Bay](#)  
[Nature Guides BC](#)  
[Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas](#)

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