

British Columbia Day: A Celebration of Nature and Community



British Columbia Day is a public holiday celebrated in the province of British Columbia on the first Monday in August. It is a day to recognize the rich history, natural beauty, and cultural diversity of this western Canadian province. While it's not a federal holiday, BC residents enjoy the long weekend to connect with nature, community, and heritage.



British Columbia (BC) is one of ten Canadian provinces known for its towering mountains, lush forests, and stunning coastline. Cities like Vancouver and Victoria come alive with festivals, outdoor concerts, and community events during this holiday. Many people spend the day hiking, kayaking, camping, or relaxing at the beach. It's a time when British Columbians celebrate their unique lifestyle and deep connection to the outdoors.



The holiday also honours the Indigenous Peoples of the region, whose cultures have shaped BC for thousands of years. Throughout the province, events may include storytelling, drumming, and art exhibits to recognize and celebrate Indigenous history and traditions. British Columbia Day encourages reflection on the province's past, while looking forward to a future built on respect and unity.

In the 1800s, the land became a British colony. Because it lies near the Columbia River region, it was named British Columbia to show it was the British part of that area.

A symbol often seen during British Columbia Day is the Pacific dogwood, the province's official flower. With its creamy white blossoms, the dogwood represents the beauty and resilience of British Columbia. Just like the maple leaf does for Canada as a whole, the dogwood reminds people in BC of what makes their province special.

The Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) is BC's official bird. It is a smart and cheeky bird with vibrant blue and black colouring, found throughout the province.

Whether enjoying fireworks in the city or a quiet moment in the mountains, British Columbia Day is a chance to show pride in the land and people of this remarkable province.