

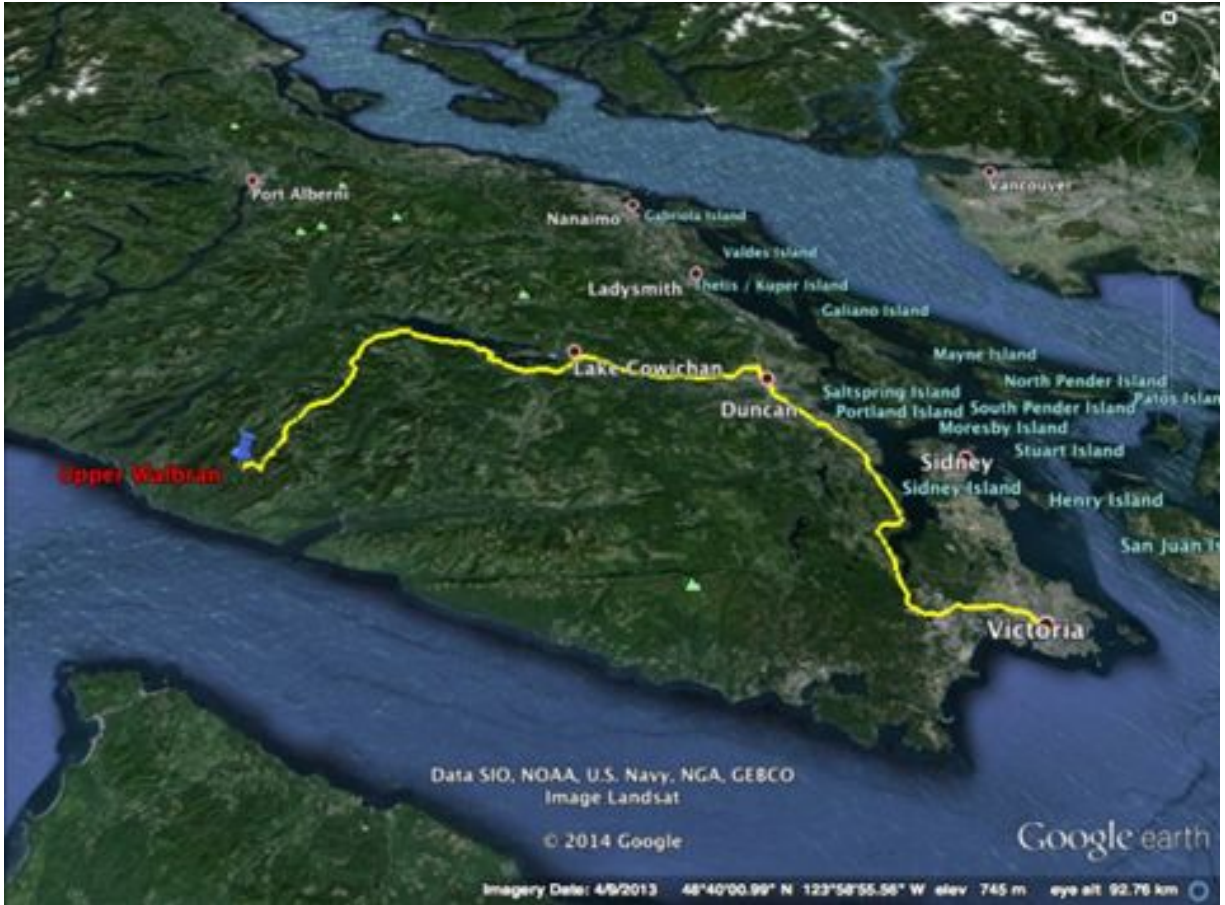
Driving Instructions to the Walbran Valley via Lake Cowichan

(updated July 2018)

1. Drive to Lake Cowichan via Highway 18 (which connects to the Trans-Canada Highway just north of Duncan)
2. At the traffic circle in Lake Cowichan, set your odometer to 0 (also note that Lake Cowichan is your final fuelling stop, so make sure you've got a full tank of gas here)
3. Continue on the Highway through the town of Lake Cowichan to Honeymoon Bay (10km) and continue through the town, staying on South Shore Rd at 12.5km
4. At just under 14km, turn RIGHT and the stop sign towards Caycuse Campsite (gravel road begins here, use caution, especially on weekdays as logging trucks have right of way)
5. At just over 31km, a sign indicates access to Carmanah-Walbran Provincial Park via a turnoff to the right – **continue straight ahead here** (the turnoff is for the Carmanah Valley trailhead, which is nowhere near the Walbran)
6. A few kilometres later you'll begin the steepest climb of the drive, followed by a very short one-way section just before 40km (at which you stay Right – the opposite of normal one-way sections)
7. At just under 42km, stay straight and stay off smaller spur roads
8. At around 42.2km, go LEFT at the fork in the road. This fork is often marked with pink or blue tape and is where most people go wrong on route to the Walbran.

9. At around 50.4km continue straight ahead – do not turn right across the bridge
10. At just over 55km, you'll pass McLure Lake on your left – there are often groups camping here on weekends
11. At around 58.7km, you'll reach "the ballpark", a wide open space where several logging roads converge: here, stay STRAIGHT AHEAD, DO NOT TAKE THE ROAD UPHILL AND TO THE RIGHT (this road is marked *Walbran Main*, but is not, in fact, the way to the Walbran – this is obviously extremely confusing, and we're looking into why the road is marked like this)
12. For the next 15km, stay on what looks like the path most travelled: ignore the smaller uphill spurs to the left at around 62.4km (this is the Bugaboo main with access to Port Renfrew) and at just before 71km, where you will again stay right on the bigger road
13. At around 74.2km, turn RIGHT off the main road onto a smaller, rougher road, making your way downhill and into Walbran river valley (this is the roughest section of road by far)
14. At just over 76km you will reach Walbran base camp, with wall-tent and welcome booth, just before the bridge over the Walbran River

You're here! Please keep tents and fires in designated areas only, practice low-impact, wildlife-aware camping, and enjoy yourself!



Driving Instructions to the Walbran Valley via Port Renfrew

(updated July 2018)

Although the Walbran access via Port Renfrew is shorter in terms of logging road distance, the road this way is much rougher. We recommend the Lake Cowichan access for folks travelling in all but the sturdiest, highest-clearance vehicles (a large SUV or truck).

1. Take the West Coast Road (Highway 14) to Port Renfrew (or access from Lake Cowichan via Pacific Marine Rd) -- from Victoria this drive takes between 1.5 and 2 hours, depending on traffic and weather
2. As you enter Port Renfrew you will hit the intersection of Deering Rd on your right, just beyond the Pacheedaht Gas Bar (which is the last fuel station, so fill up and support the Pacheedaht as you travel in their territory)
3. Rest your odometer to 0 at this intersection, and then take the sharp left downhill onto proceed to the North along Deering Rd
4. At around 1.4km, stay right, continuing on Deering Rd
5. At around 2.9km, turn left (the road on the right is the road to Mesachie Lake and Lake Cowichan), the next 6 or so kilometers are a mix of uneven pavement and gravel, drive slowly and with extreme caution
6. At around 8km, keep left and cross over bridge above the Gordon River
7. At around 10km, you'll pass the trailheads for Avatar Grove, a great place to get out and stretch your legs (there are usually cars parked along here, especially on weekends)
8. At around 15.7km, take the very sharp LEFT turn uphill onto the Bugaboo Main, where you'll immediately begin climbing a much rougher road (this turn is often marked by flagging tape or blue spray paint)

9. At around 17.1km, stay LEFT
10. At around 19.1km, stay LEFT
11. At around 19.7km, stay RIGHT
12. At around 21.4km, after the road has flattened out, you'll go over a steep rise into a wide open section of road – this is one of the more difficult features on the whole drive, as there is often an exposed log at the lip of the rise: proceed cautiously, but try to avoid spinning your tires on the rise
13. Continue through the open section, where the road starts to wind downhill again
14. At around 25.2km, the Bugaboo joins the Walbran Main, where you'll turn LEFT (the road to the right heads to Lake Cowichan)
15. At around 33.6km, stay RIGHT on the bigger road
16. At around 36.8km, turn RIGHT off the main road onto a smaller, rougher road, making your way downhill and into Walbran river valley (this is the roughest section of road by far)
17. At around 38.5km you will reach Walbran base camp, with wall-tent and welcome booth, just before the bridge over the Walbran River