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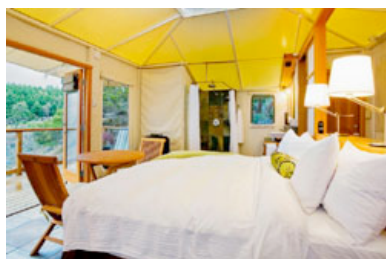
Places you want to go

### Camping Lite 16/APR/2009 Luxury Camping on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast

The days of waking with grit in my teeth and puddles of rainwater beneath my (usually deflated) air mattress are long gone. I've been forever spoiled by tenthouse suite Number 51 at Rockwater Secret Cove Resort on the Sunshine Coast just one-hour north of Vancouver. This tent's got attitude.



No more soggy sleeping bags. No more bent tent poles or leaky zippers. Nothing less than king-sized beds and 400-thread count sheets topped with thick down-filled duvets. The bathrooms are equally luxurious outfitted with radiant-heat slate floors and indoor rainshowers. There are cozy propane fireplaces and room service. In case you need to connect there is also wireless Internet.



It's still a tent. Really. Don't be fooled by the stand-alone Ayoura hydro-thermo massage tub with its massage jets that pump powerful streams of water. For the hippie in you, the tub tempts with underwater chromatherapy lights that blink through a spectrum of colours, from soothing to stimulating. And when the rain falls, which it often does, it is a bonus, creating a soft, romantic pattering on the walls of the tenthouse. Yes, I have found

the place I want to elope to. Now all I need is a fiance.

The 13 romantic tenthouse suites are designed for couples – a kid- and dog-free zone connected to the "other world" by a raised wooden boardwalk that zigs and zags through the forest, following a route designed to avoid the tall trunks of Douglas fir and the spreading branches of arbutus trees. Rooms are stocked with board games and besides romancing, this 'new rustic' is perfect for reading, stargazing, kayaking and watching for wildlife. Rockwater shares the woodlands with bear, lynx and cougar, and the spacious cove is visited by bald eagles, orca and grey whales. The cove-side "Spa Without Walls" has some basics (hot stone or Thai massage) that make camping yet more luxurious.

The Sunshine Coast — a vibrant, green stretch of coastline — is also home to Joni Mitchell who lives just up the road from the resort and novelist Michael Poole who is a neighbour. Poole wrote about the region in *Romancing Mary Jane: A Year in the Life of a Failed Marijuana Grower*, his tale of the hilarious challenges facing a neophyte marijuana grower.

A short drive away from Rockwater, Gibsons Landing and Sechelt are lined with galleries, quilt shops, oyster bars and bakeries.

In nearby Pender Harbour, skipper Andy Cardiff will whisk you and your beloved (and a kayak or two, if you'd like) aboard the Pender Eagle, his refurbished fishing boat, for a crossing of the Malaspina Strait to deserted Jedediah Island Provincial Marine Park. The boat chugs past a scattering of islands – Nelson, William, Martin and Pearson – some with cottages, most without. You'll likely be able to spot seals, sea lions, pods of whales and Pacific white-sided dolphins.



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On Jedediah there are trails that wind through lush forests of fir and a craggy outcropping of rock that is blanketed with spongy, shaggy green stuff nicknamed "electrified cat's tail moss." The coastline is designed for an afternoon of exploration by kayak. There are ruins of an old homestead, but otherwise you'll divvy up the space with the wild sheep and goats, lots of green, tons of solitude . . . and not much else.

Looking ahead, I hope that the hunt for the perfect man is even easier than the search for the perfect honeymoon spot.

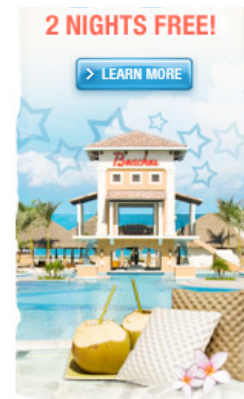
If you go:

[Sunshine Coast](#)  
[Rockwater Secret Cove Resort](#),  
[Malaspina Water Taxi](#)

By: *Josephine Matyas*

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*If you wish you reach Ms. Matyas a propos her hunt for a mate, please send a note to [TakeOffeh.com](#).*



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