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Sonora Resort on Sonora Island, British Columbia: This ain't your grandpa's fishing lodge!

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Ready to land at Sonora Resort on Sonora Island
Photo: Sue Frause

I'd been to [British Columbia's](#) Discovery Islands several times before. Located north of Desolation Sound, I passed by [Sonora Resort](#) on Sonora Island while on a day trip from [April Point Resort & Spa](#) on Quadra Island. But I never expected to spend three days on this remote island, let alone arrive by helicopter. What a way to begin my island adventure!

Sonora Resort had been on my mini-radar for a number of years, but in my mind it was one of those *guys only* fishing resorts. No thanks. Well, this is about as far away as a *guys anything*. As mentioned above, getting there

was just the beginning of the adventure. In less than an hour, a group of us aboard London Air Services' plush 15-seat helicopter were whisked away from Vancouver International Airport's South Terminal to Sonora Resort's private heli-pad, located just steps from the main lobby. All your luggage is taken care of, just follow your hosts for a low-key check-in.

One of the coolest features of **Sonora Resort** is that all your food and beverages are included, meaning three meals a day, along with appetizers and alcohol. Executive Chef Terry Pichor has created a thoughtful and fresh menu, sourcing as much of the ingredients as possible from the region. At dinner, either order *ala carte* or enjoy Pichor's six-course tasting menu.

Here's what's included with the nightly room rate at **Sonora Resort** (which starts at \$500):

Deluxe Suite accommodations with complimentary bar fridges in each room and turn down service daily. Robes and slippers provided.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and appetizers

Beverages (liquor, wine, beer, soda, juice and water)

Excluding *select* premium wines and spirits

Use of all resort amenities

Outdoor heated pool, covered tennis court, movie theater, nine-hole putting green, two virtual golf stations, stocked fly-fishing ponds, games room (video, billiards, shuffle board, foos ball).

Island Currents Spa's fitness room, gym, saunas, steam rooms, hot tub and mineral pools Business Center

Complimentary WIFI throughout the resort

Unlimited North American phone access

Outdoor Adventure

The resort is open six months a year, May through the end of October. As much fun as it is to do nothing or laze around and read a good book, you gotta get out into all that nature. Sonora's **Outdoor Adventure Activities** (not included in the room rate) range from *Helicopter Fly Fishing* and *Grizzly Bear Tours* to *Ocean Kayaking* and *Guided Salmon Fishing*. I chose the latter, and headed out one morning with a friend for a four-hour guided trip with Tommy Thompson. Things started out a bit slow, but we returned victorious: me with a 18.5 pound King/Chinook Salmon and my fishing buddy with a nine-pounder. You go, girls!

Island Currents Spa

You can bet that grandpa didn't treat himself to a spa treatment at his favorite fishing lodge. One afternoon, I indulged in a 60-minute *Island Currents Tension Relieving Massage*. It was doubly delightful as the room overlooked the water, with a slight sea breeze adding to my hour of tranquility. Afterward, enjoy the outdoor mineral pools after your treatment, or maybe the sauna or hot tub. It's all good.

Getting There

In addition to the 50-minute flight via London Air Services helicopter (departs YVR South Terminal at 3 PM and Sonora Resort at 4 PM), there is a water taxi from Campbell River on Vancouver Island (75 minutes) and also direct service via [Kenmore Air](#) from Seattle (2 hours, 20 minutes).

Slideshow: SONORA RESORT: Photos by Sue Frause



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Seattle events calendar

AUGUST 2010						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 25 Aug 2010 Chicago**
7pm - Tulalip Resort Casino
- 25 Aug 2010 Rufus Wainwright**
7:30pm - Paramount Theatre, The
- 26 Aug 2010 Robert Earl Keen**
8pm - Neumo's Crystal Ball and Reading Room

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Preferred city

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