

CDMC

Trip Report

[Home](#)
[Future trips](#)
[Past trips](#)
[Trip guidelines](#)
[Conditions](#)
[Routes >](#)
[Forum](#)
[Membership](#)
[Reference >](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Photo contest](#)
[What's new](#)
Member
[Login](#)
Changes

- today
- yesterday
- < 7 days
- < 30 days

Helliwell Bluffs (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Wed Dec 31, 2014

 Leader: **Carol Hunter**

Co-Leader:

Wow! What a day! I think everyone was happy with the sunny skies and great views while riding the ferry to Denman but we were all more than happy when we were treated to a sea lion extravaganza on the trip over to Hornby. Birds and sealions filled the channel, enjoying a feast of some kind, probably herring. There were sealions swimming and splashing everywhere we looked. We discussed the idea of just riding the ferry all day but figured the ferry crew might not agree with our plans.

After a short stop at Whaling Station Bay, we made our way to Helliwell. A brisk walk through the trees had us basking in the sun on the bluffs in no time. Although it had seemed that all of the sea lions from the area had been in Lambert Channel, there were still some sleeping and playing around Flora Islets. Eagles were majestically perched on tree tops all along our route and we even saw a heron on the rocks by the shore. Prickly pear cactus, arbutus in berry, windswept Douglas Fir, gi-normous arbutus and a meadow of Gary Oaks aroused comment and prompted more picture taking. We stopped for lunch in the sun on the bluffs before heading back through the forest to the van. A stop at Tribune Bay and the Co-op rounded out a relaxing and pleasant day on the island. Being able to watch more sealions up close on the ferry ride back to Denman was just icing on the cake.

Thank you to my fellow hikers for a thoroughly enjoyable day and thank you to Amber for co-leading. More pictures from the trip can be seen [here](#).

And a very short video of the sealions we saw can be seen [here](#).

Here's a more in depth look at the trip. Click [here](#)



*9am Buckley Bay to Denman
ferry crossing
[Amber Gargus photo]*



*Stellar Sea Lions
[Carol Hunter photo]*



Looking west along the bluffs
[Ed Tickner photo]



Lunch on the Bluffs
[Carol Hunter photo]



Lots of photo opportunities
[Carol Hunter photo]



Walking through the Gary Oaks.... Amazing
[Amber Gargus photo]



Biggest Arbutus any of us had ever seen!
[Ed Tickner photo]



Ferry crossing at the end of the day
[Amber Gargus photo]



Soaring above
[Amber Gargus photo]



Sun on the water
[Paula Field photo]

Report contributors: Paula F, Amber G, Carol H, Ed T,

Participant list (4 of 4): Paula F, Carol H, Jenny S, Ed T,

[return to Reports](#)