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**Four Season Of Fun: Mount Washington Is A Gold Mine Of Adventures**

**By Alfie Betker**

Endless adventure. These two words sum up my experience of Vancouver Island. Talk about a gem

among giants. Most people who travel to the west coast of British Columbia come to see Vancouver, Whistler, and Victoria (the province's capital). But most never make it past the Malahat to the mid-northern region of the island. And their loss was my gain.

Situated among just outside the Comox Valley is a gem which shines year round. A four season playground for all ages, Mount Washington boasts around the clock activities and adventures no matter what time of year it is. If you enjoy cycling or hiking, then you would love visiting the mountain resort during the spring and summer months. But if winter is more your pick of choice, the resort is internationally renowned for having the freshest and best snow base in the western region. Most skiers prefer it to Whistler, but don't tell them that.

I had the delight of spending a year working nearby at a local resort one year. Totally unbeknownst to me I was staying at the foot of this monstrous giant. On my days off I would cycle around the valley or go kayaking in the nearby lakes & ocean, but in the back of my mind I always wondered what lay in the mountains. Finally winter arrived and I was itching to go snowboarding. I decided to check out the local airline flights to see if I could book a flight to Vancouver or catch a helicopter to Whistler when I stumbled across a local website, VIadventures.net, which showcased a couple airlines. It was a cool website with lots of pictures and images of activities that caught my eye. Before moving on I decided I would come back again and check out some summer adventures for the following spring when my jaw suddenly fell through the floor! Right there in front of me was a photo of a person skiing through beautiful, glorious powder. I quickly wiped the drool from my face and clicked on the link and was immediately teleported to the Mt. Washington Resort homepage. I couldn't believe my eyes. I had lived at the foot of this mountain for several months now and never once known the resort existed. Needless to say my eyes had been opened.

Ever since then I have come back the VIadventures.net site on several occasions to check out activities in the area, amazed at how much the island has to offer. But I will never forget my discovery of the greatest treasure find of all, my gold mine of adventures here at Mt. Washington.

Staff writer Alfie Betker is a fourth year commerce student from the University of Victoria. His background experience stems from 27 years of travel & 9 years of working in the hospitality & tourism industry. He is currently heading up the

<http://www.viadventures.net>

project launch, as

well as leading the international promotions campaign in the Asia region this fall.

## **Stand Out With A Gold Diamond Ring**

### **By Low Jeremy**

Engagement is definitely one of the most important events in any couple's life. Aside from being one of the crucial occasions to show your love, dedication, and commitment to your future spouse, engagement is the best time to shower your loved one the best forms of expressions you can afford. And, what could be the best way to show your affection but to give her an engagement ring?

One of the most preferred engagement rings out there are gold diamond rings. Most couple prefer the use of diamond as a stone because it reflects power, strength and everlasting love and commitment. Aside exuding brilliance and timeless beauty, diamonds appeal to most people because it is durable and quite elegant.

Precious diamonds are also known to fit perfectly in gold. Since time immemorial, gold has been known as a favorite option for engagement and wedding rings because it never goes out of fashion.

When gold and diamond collide

Because of the beauty and elegance of gold and diamonds, majority of soon-to-wed couples prefer this combination for their wedding or engagement ring. Because of the diversity of designs of gold diamond rings, couples are having a hard time choosing the perfect gold diamond ring for their momentous occasion. Here are some pieces of information that may help you in searching for that perfect gold diamond ring for your betrothal.

– Gold rings—with or without diamond—is the most popular choice for wedding and engagement rings long before until now.

– In looking for a gold mount or shank, bear in mind that there are three types of gold: white gold, yellow gold, and rose gold.

– Gold are usually categorized according to its weight or karat (K). It can either be 24K, 18K, 14K, or 9K. The most preferable among these selections is the 18K gold because of its characteristics and qualities.

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- Gold diamond rings have high value because the stone itself one of the most rare and expensive gem while the shank is one of the most durable because it can resist corrosion. And since it's quite durable, gold diamond rings can withstand daily wear and tear.
- Examine the diamond well and consider the 4Cs—Carat, Color, Cut and Clarity. Also consider the amount of karats the gold ring gold ring has. You can do this by checking quality mark.
- Wearing a gold diamond ring for a long time can wash away its polish but don't worry because the gold mount can be easily polished in many jewelry stores. Since gold and diamond are made up of high quality properties, you can assure that their radiance and luster can stand for a long time.

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