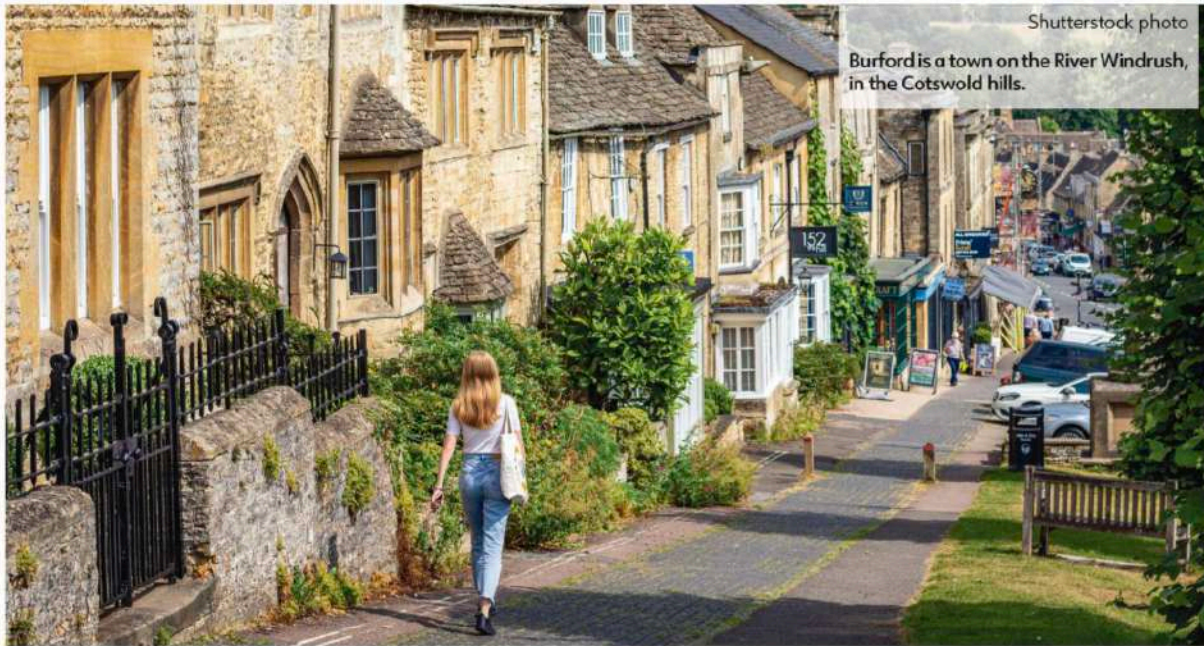


# TRAVEL

## Countryside, culture, and cool breezes



### Cool Is the New Hot

Welcome to the rise of the *cool-cation* — a travel trend that's quietly gained momentum over the last few summers and is now taking center stage. After years of sweltering European heat waves and packed beaches, travelers are choosing destinations where the air is crisp, the landscapes wild, and the crowds considerably thinner.

According to Virtuoso's latest summer travel report, bookings to European countries with more moderate summer climates are up a staggering 263 percent year-over-year. Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark are leading the charge, offering a version of summer more about fjords and forest hikes than sunburns and sandy flip-flops.

Even ski towns — typically considered off-limits in the warmer months — are experiencing a dramatic rebrand. Alpine destinations like Courchevel in the French Alps have seen a 132 percent increase in bookings for summer, while St. Moritz in Switzerland is up 153 percent. The biggest surprise? Val-d'Isère has seen bookings skyrocket by 457 percent compared to last summer.

Without snow, these places take on a different kind of magic — flower-filled trails, glacier-fed lakes, and long dinners on sunlit terraces where the evening air cools just enough to warrant a sweater. It's luxury without the fuss, adventure without the crowds.

See EXPLORE on A19

### Cassandra Karpik

IT WAS THE KIND of afternoon that makes Kamloops shimmer — sunlight dappling through ponderosa pines, the hush of the hills carrying a whisper of summer. But as I sipped my espresso on the patio of my favorite downtown café, the conversation at the next table turned to a far more European kind of summer.

"We're skipping the States this year," one said. "Thinking Norway — or maybe the UK countryside. Just

something slower, quieter...and hopefully fewer crowds."

She's not alone.

This summer, more Canadians are opting out of traveling to the U.S., and the reasons are as practical as they are political. For starters, the Canadian dollar doesn't stretch nearly as far south of the border as it used to. With exchange rates hovering close to 72 cents on the dollar, a simple family holiday to Disneyland or a long weekend in Seattle can quickly become

cost-prohibitive — especially when you factor in accommodation, meals, and transportation.

But it's not just currency. The reignited trade tensions between the U.S. and Canada, spurred by former President Trump's renewed tariff push, have further cooled cross-border enthusiasm. For many Canadians, it's not just about price—it's about principle.

"At the rate I've been canceling Alaskan cruises, that will be the

deal of the summer," says Roxanna Ferguson, an Independent Advisor with Direct Travel. "The majority of the people that might have gone to the States are definitely going elsewhere. I haven't seen a lot of deals anywhere—except where Canadians are not keen to go."

For some, that means staying closer to home. But for others, it's become the perfect excuse to look across the Atlantic for something more refreshing, both in experience and climate.

### Final Boarding Call On These Great Canadian Summer Escapes!

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Blue Jays in Toronto 4 Seats Left!	Aug 14	5 days	\$3555
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# Explore the relaxing countryside of Europe

*Continued from A18*

And you don't have to cross an ocean to find that kind of summer. Just 45 minutes from Kamloops, Sun Peaks sheds its snow for singletrack come summer. The alpine village transforms into a playground for hikers, bikers, golfers and paddlers eager to explore wildflower meadows and high-country lakes beneath cloudless skies. There's live music in the village square, lift-accessed trails and just enough European charm to make it feel like a mini mountain escape — without the long-haul flight. For many locals, it's a reminder that the best "cool-cation" might be in our own backyard.

For those who urge to escape BC, travelers also discover that Europe's cooler corners often offer better value — especially when compared to the sticker shock of popular

U.S. destinations. Countries like Austria (+254 percent), the Czech Republic (+309 percent), and Hungary (+143 percent) are offering upscale experiences at a fraction of the price of Paris or Rome, with the added bonus of elbow room and authenticity.

And it's not just about escaping the heat — it's about changing the pace. Travelers, especially Canadians, seek something that feels more grounded and real — less Instagram, more immersion.

## Countryside Charm

While many travelers still dream of European summers, the dream itself is evolving. Gone are the days when Paris in July or Rome in August felt aspirational — these days, the real luxury is found in the quiet corners just beyond the spotlight. And nowhere is that

more evident than in the UK countryside, which has seen a 173 percent increase in bookings, according to Virtuoso.

Forget the hustle of London or the selfie queues at Edinburgh Castle. This summer, Canadians are opting for the rolling hills of the Cotswolds, the dramatic moors of Yorkshire, and the misty lochs of the Scottish Highlands. They're trading tube maps for winding country lanes and chain hotels for family-run manors with creaky staircases and fireside tea service.

It's a version of Europe that feels more like a deep exhale — less itinerary, more meandering. Days begin with a walk to the village bakery, followed by a visit to a local market or a pint in a 500-year-old pub. Afternoons might be spent wandering castle ruins or rambling across sheep-dot-

ted hillsides, with the only deadline being when the scones come out of the oven.

If there's one place I haven't stopped thinking about, it's the Scottish Highlands — specifically, a quiet bend in the River Dee just down the road from Balmoral Castle.

I had the chance to visit Braemar, a tiny storybook village in the Cairngorms, where I joined a local guide for a wild swim in the crisp, peaty waters of the Dee. The air was sharp, the current bracing, and the clarity that followed, unlike anything I've ever experienced at a spa or plunge pool. Afterward, we thawed out in a riverside wood-fired sauna, sipping whisky toddies under a soft Highland sky.

It wasn't just the scenery — the stillness, the slowness, the sense that I'd tapped into something ancient and alive. I've been dreaming of return-

ing ever since, this time for longer. That's the kind of travel people are chasing now. Not just a vacation but a feeling they want to carry home.

For Canadian travelers — especially those from the interior of BC — there's something deeply familiar about the UK's wide-open spaces and pastoral pace. It's not unlike home but with that extra layer of history, charm, and storytelling built right into the walls.

Plus, it's cool. Literally.

With summer temperatures often hovering in the low 20s Celsius, the UK countryside is an ideal escape for travelers looking to avoid the

oppressive heat that's become increasingly common across southern Europe and much of the U.S.

It's also more accessible than people might think. With more direct flights into smaller regional airports — like Bristol or Inverness — travelers can often bypass the bigger hubs entirely. And once you're there, it's easy to rent a car, follow your curiosity, and get pleasantly lost for a while.

Whether it's the Highlands of Scotland or a weekend in Sun Peaks, this summer is all about travel that feels cooler in every sense of the word. Less rush, more room. Less heat, more heart.

## OBITUARY

### Corneli Christine "Tina" van de Wetering 1940 - 2025



With sadness, we announce the peaceful passing of Tina van de Wetering (née Hengeveld) on April 11, 2025 in Kelowna, B.C. Tina was born in the Netherlands and immigrated to Canada with her parents and brother. She met her future husband Willem (Bill) van de Wetering in Vancouver, BC. Tina was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. An accomplished piano player, she encouraged her daughters to enjoy music, play musical instruments, participate in sports, and pursue advanced education. She was always game to try new things.

Self-taught, she was an accomplished sewist and knitter and took up painting in later years. She had a sweet tooth and would never say no to dessert, especially if it was lemon!

She enjoyed the company of friends and would always offer to lend a helping hand. She thoroughly enjoyed the Kamloops Symphony, was an avid gardener and raised several lovely dogs. Her grandsons were a particular source of joy, and she and Bill spent many happy years in their company.

She will be missed by her daughters Shirley, June and Debbie, grandsons, nieces and other family and friends. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Bill, in 2019.

Tina's family is grateful for the care and support from the staff at Mission Villas and the Village at Mill Creek.

Condolences, photos, and memories may be sent to the family by visiting her obituary page at [www.springfieldfuneralhome.com](http://www.springfieldfuneralhome.com).

## OBITUARY

### Robert Paul Carrey September 29, 1978 - April 18, 2025



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Robert "Paul" Carrey on April 18, 2025, in Kamloops, BC, at the age of 46. Paul was a devoted husband, father, son, and friend. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Corinn; his sons, Derek and Darryl; his mother Beverley Barnes; and his father Butch Carrey and preceded by his daughter Deborah.

Paul was a dedicated electrician and construction manager, known for his strong work ethic, sharp mind, and willingness to take on any challenge. One of his proudest accomplishments

was building his own 60' x 30' shop with a suite—a project that showcased both his craftsmanship and determination.

Beyond his work, Paul had a deep love for the outdoors and could often be found hunting, fishing, or cheering on his favorite football and baseball teams. He had a passion for cars, and all things hands-on.

But what truly set Paul apart was his incredible sense of humor. He had a gift for making people laugh and always knew how to lighten a room with a joke or a smile. His quick wit and infectious laugh will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

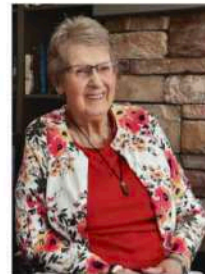
A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 PM at the Barnhartvale Community Hall in Kamloops. All who knew and loved Paul are welcome to attend and share memories.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

## OBITUARY

### Joan McDougall

October 7, 1932 - April 10, 2025



Ben and Great Grandma to Aiden, Adalie, Liam, Tay, Sterling, and Ilya.

She was immensely proud of the family she and Earl created and was always most happy when she was able to share time with her family. Earl and Joan shared 54 years of marriage.

Joan was a quiet woman who shared the best of herself, often in private ways, with those closest to her. She was strong and determined and always seemed to find the strength to push through difficult times. She was stoic in hard times and carried herself with grace — always. Her delightful sense of humour and silent fits of laughter will long be remembered. She loved reading, was an avid gambler and collector of lucky charms. She loved making and eating good food and sharing sweet treats with family and friends.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, her brothers Roy and Bobbie, her husband Earl and her much loved son, Terry. She is survived by her sister Phyllis Mabee.

Over the years, Joan made many sacrifices for the benefit of her family. We were blessed to have been gifted such a dedicated and loving Mom. May the best of her, live on in us.

It is with profound sadness that we share news of the passing of our much loved Mom, Joan McDougall, on Thursday, April 10, 2025. Doreen Joan was born on October 7, 1932 in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, second eldest of four children, to Robert and Elizabeth Crawford (nee Potts). Joan married Earl McDougall in 1951 and she worked outside the home until the birth of the first of her four children in 1956. Joan was a loving and present Mom to Terry Alan, Brenda Lee (Vern), Andrew Earl (Crystal), and Betty Joanne (Todd). She was a humble, kind and caring soul who dedicated herself to the care and well-being of her parents and her family. Joan was a proud Grandma to Carmen, Michael, LeeAnne, Matthew (Rayanna) Celeste (Chris) Ali (Gerald), Jordan (Olivia) Samuel (Mica) and