

# Tourism and Invasive Species

## Key Messaging for Website Content

British Columbia's incredible biodiversity has long attracted nature lovers, adventurers, and tourists from around the world. At the [Invasive Species Council of BC](#) (ISCBC), our goal is to protect biodiversity by collaborating with the people who live, work and play in BC to address invasive species issues. Tourism operators, tourists, and local recreationists all play a critical role in the prevention and early detection of invasive species that directly impact BC's ecosystems, wildlife, and tourism industry. Join us in caring for BC's landscapes and habitats!

### Do you operate a tourism business?

Check out our [Invasive-Wise Certification Program](#)! This FREE program takes just 30 minutes to complete! Learn the simple best practices you can introduce to your operations to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. Plus get access to free support and resources. ISCBC will share your good work and commitment through our social media channels. Check out the [Invasive-Wise Tourism](#) page on our website and become a leader in sustainable tourism today!

### What Can You Do?

#### Report!

Reporting any suspected invasive species that you encounter is crucial to preventing their introduction and spread. Invasive species sightings can be reported in a few different ways:

- iNaturalist
  - This free app connects you to a network of naturalists, community scientists, and biologists.
  - Built to share observations of both native and invasive species across the globe.
  - Join ISCBC's "[I Spy and Identify](#)" Project on iNaturalist to record your sightings and help us track invasive species movement in BC!
- Report Invasives BC
  - This free app sends your reports of invasive species directly to an Invasive Plant Technician with the BC Ministry of Forests
- ISCBC's webpage
  - Submit your invasive species observations using our [online reporting form](#)
  - Include a picture if you can!

### Clean Drain Dry

Boats, stand up paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, and other watercraft can easily carry invasive species from one body of water to another. Invasive species can also hitch a ride on fly rods, paddles, motors and other equipment and gear!

Before travelling to a new body of water, remember to

**Clean** off all plants, animals, and mud from your boat and gear

**Drain** all water from your boat and gear onto land.

**Dry** all parts of your boat and gear completely.

### Play Clean Go

Outdoor recreationists who participate in activities like hiking, mountain biking, off-roading, and horseback riding may accidentally spread invasive species. The seeds of plants, invasive or not, can collect in our boot treads, and on our clothes, gear, and even our pets. Even the mud in our bikes, ATVs or other vehicle tires, can move invasives from one backcountry area to another.

Follow these simple steps to prevent invasive species from spreading to the places you love:

**Remove** plants, insects, debris, and mud from boots, gear, pets, and your vehicle.

**Clean** your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site.

**Stay** on designated roads and trails when walking, hiking, running, and biking.

### Don't Let It Loose

Did you know that some of the most serious invasive species within BC were originally sold as pets or plants for water gardens and aquariums? Never release your plants and/or animals into the wild, and do not dump aquariums or water garden debris into rivers, streams, lakes or storm sewers.

### Want To Learn More?

If you want to learn more about invasive species and their impacts on British Columbia's ecosystems, ISCBC has a variety of free resources for you! Interested in learning more about a particular invasive species? You can find informative factsheets on our [webpage](#). Visit our [Online Learning Centre](#) for a variety of free, self-directed courses on priority invasive species in British Columbia.

Some of our favorite courses include:

- [Invasive Species 101](#)
- [Observing and Reporting](#)
- [Community Science](#)