

CONTROVERSY

Southwest catches eyes with swimsuit model on side of plane

BY SCOTT VOGEL, CHRISTINA TALCOTT and ANDREA SACHS

When Southwest Airlines plastered a large photo of a bikini-clad woman on the side of one of its 737s last month, a certain amount of controversy was to be expected.

But the airline, which partnered with

Sports Illustrated to promote the magazine's annual swimsuit edition, can't have imagined what a smorgasbord of responses the marketing stunt would inspire.

"I am truly disappointed in this decision making. *Sports Illustrated* is meant for the filthy pleasure of men, and is quite offensive to most others," wrote an indignant visitor to the

Southwest website after a photo of the plane appeared on the airline's blog (www.blogsouthwest.com).

A woman who called herself Diane deemed the 737 "sexual harassment in the public sector" and vowed never to use Southwest for business travel again.

"Are you people all right? What do they wear in the Miss America

Pageant, or the Miss Universe Pageant!" wrote a commenter named Ellen as a backlash swiftly gathered steam.

For its part, Southwest maintains that only 25 per cent of the public reaction has been negative.

But you have to wonder what Kyla Ebbert is thinking.

In 2007, she was escorted from a

Southwest plane because of her low-cut top and short skirt.

As reported by the *Today* show at the time, when Ebbert asked for an explanation, a Southwest employee told her:

"This is a family airline. 'You're too provocative to fly on this flight.'"

Washington Post



with
**CHERYL
MacKINNON**

TRAVEL & lifestyles

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Travel & Lifestyles is a weekly information report from Cheryl MacKinnon, Founder of 'kid friendly!' family tourism and Tourism Industry of Canada 2006 Travel Media Award Finalist for outstanding tourism promotion of Canada. Watch Cheryl on Global TV Morning News every Wednesday at 8:50 a.m. in B.C.

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Home & Garden Gate's Jody Williams



I-Hos Gallery's Nikki and Pamela



Getaway BC

Heading over to Vancouver Island aboard BC Ferries, I love watching the kids romp about, even as harried parents nervously admonish rambunctious play and high-pitched squeals of laughter. It's a funny thing how the very essence of childhood — unabashed gaiety, spontaneous bursts of energy, and readily making new friends, simply flourishes aboard these magnificent vessels of travel. Adults seem to react in similar fashion. Relaxing during their trip across the water, weary students share their excitement in anticipation of returning home to loved ones, commuters unwind while exchanging casual conversation with fellow passengers and those travelling on a mini vacation? They bury themselves in brochures and maps, or simply recline near a window and enjoy the trip.

A SPECIAL REPORT PROVIDED BY GLOBAL TV'S CHERYL MACKINNON



Seeking Bliss at Kingfisher Oceanside Resort & Spa



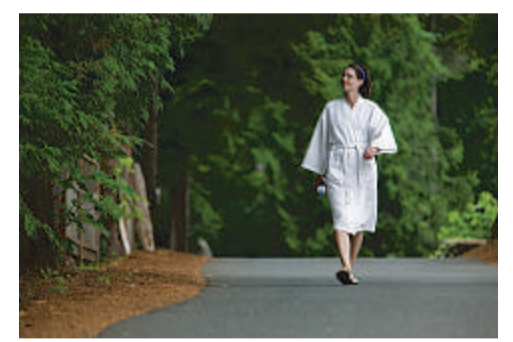
De-stress, unwind, rejuvenate...no matter what you call it, if you feel the need to get away (and who doesn't these days), for some rest and relaxation, the Kingfisher Oceanside Resort & Spa in the gorgeous Comox Valley region is an excellent choice. Within minutes of exiting off the ferry in Nanaimo, you're on the Island Highway driving straight to the peaceful setting of endless water views, draped against the purple-grey backdrop of the Sunshine Coast and, most importantly, bathrobe heaven. Ok, before you think I've completely lost it, allow me to explain. The Kingfisher Spa is synonymous with luxurious pampering in an easy, relaxed environment. So much so that guests comfortably wander the property in one of the resort's most popular dress codes...spa robes and flip flops.

Whether you stay in an ocean view guest room or a beachfront suite, everything you need is easily accessible from your restful accommodation. The Dining Room and Spa sit towards the front of the Resort's property, taking full advantage of the views and scenery. Lounge chairs thoughtfully placed on the beach beckon to come rest for awhile. Close your eyes and listen to the waves (not more than fifteen feet away in some spots), gently roll onto the shore. The warmth of the early spring sun fills you with a joy not felt in some time. It's a very good thing, this taking time for oneself.

Bliss, Utter Bliss

There are so many delectable choices as you put your energy restoration plan in place. Following a few laps in the heated, outdoor pool, with a pause in the Jacuzzi, immerse yourself in the innovative hydrotherapy experience of the Pacific Mist Hydropath®. Located in the lower section of the Kingfisher Spa, the one-hour session has guests following a recreated

west coast shoreline — complete with sandstone sculpted caves and mineral pools. A professional attendant guides you through eight different water therapies including a waterfall massage, steam cave, river walk and tidal bath, complete with seaweed scrub. Most popular response when asked how you feel is "Blissfully contented," finished off with a soft "Thank You!" The following day, complete your revival with a massage treatment. Having transcended the realities of daily life, the soothing ambiance of the relaxation lounge helps restore you to a functioning state. And yes, at some point you should get out of your robe, dressing appropriately to explore some of the community's culture.



Nearby Visits

Be sure to make a dinner reservation for one of your evenings at "Locals—Food from the Heart" Restaurant located in downtown Courtenay. This fairly new (opened in June, 08) dining spot epitomizes all that is good, clean and fresh in relation to food. Vegetables, meats and treats from the sea, to (a part of) the wine list, are locally sourced from throughout Vancouver Island, with particular emphasis on the availability from within the remarkable Comox Valley. Owner/Chef Ronald St. Pierre passionately produces dishes with flavours that are fresh and uncluttered — the tastes of which are simply "divine to devour." Working with his delightful wife, Trisha (she deftly manages the front of the house, greeting regulars and island visitors with warmth and charm), this culinary savvy couple is poised to make an incredible difference in the way locals and visitors feed themselves. The restaurant decor is a tribute to the people behind the products that Chef Ronald and his talented team work with — from the pictures of favoured suppliers adorning the walls, to the modern twist on French country colours and furnishings; everything has been purchased where possible from within the area.



Locals' Chef Ronald and wife Trisha



Touring Around Courtenay and Comox

Take a tour around downtown Courtenay where you'll find one-of-a-kind boutiques, cafes and museums lining 4th and 5th Street and adjacent cross streets. Stop by the newly opened **Brambles Market** where the purely British Columbia theme means all products — both fresh (meats, dairy, fruits and vegetables) and preserved (jams, pickles, sauces) are sourced from within the Comox Valley and Vancouver Island, to points around the province. Great outlet for a take away lunch to be enjoyed on the nearby beach, or pick out locally made cheeses and bread to nibble on with a glass of wine back at your room.

This time of year the weather is still on the cool side, so drop by Hot Chocolates for a smooth cup of cocoa and yummy cookie. Covered in the bright colours of spring, chocolate-covered sunflower seeds are a fun gift to bring home. And speaking of home, Jody Williams has a keen eye for decorating homes and gardens. Her sophisticated **Home & Garden Gate** boutiques (a second store is in nearby Cumberland), welcome visitors to linger over inviting displays of specialty items ranging from candle holders to imported linens. If you've time on this trip, take the drive over the 17th Street Bridge and turn right towards Comox. Located on the site of the original Comox Village, is the beautiful **I-Hos Gallery**. Featuring a collection of traditional and contemporary north-west coast First Nations artwork, books and home décor — hand-etched wine glasses, silver napkin rings and exquisite serving dishes, you can easily spend an hour here exploring the treasures within...and leaving with a special purchase to be enjoyed back home.

Getaway Details

Tourism Vancouver Island — www.vancouverisland.travel
Telephone 1.888.655.3483
Comox Valley Tourism — www.discovercomoxvalley.com.
Telephone 1.877.848.2427
BC Ferries — www.bcferries.com. Telephone 1.888.223.3779 or from your cell phone *223
Kingfisher Oceanside Resort & Spa — www.kingfisherspa.com.
Telephone 1.800.663.7929
Locals Restaurant — www.localscomoxvalley.com.
Telephone (250)338.6493. Open Tuesday to Saturday, lunch and dinner.
I-Hos Gallery — www.ihosgallery.com.
Telephone (250)339-7702.
Open 7 days a week 10am to 5pm.

WHAT'S NEXT? Exploring the Spring Time Beauty of Tofino and Ucluelet on Vancouver Island's West Side