

Time Travel

Watches to suit adventures on land,
at sea and in the air

BY SHERI RADFORD

If you're the type who lives for outdoor adventures—or if you enjoy merely looking the part—Citizen Watch Canada has an array of rugged but elegant timepieces for you. The most challenging part? Choosing just one. Fortunately, the decision is made slightly easier when you consider what watch pairs best with your favourite pastime (pun intended).

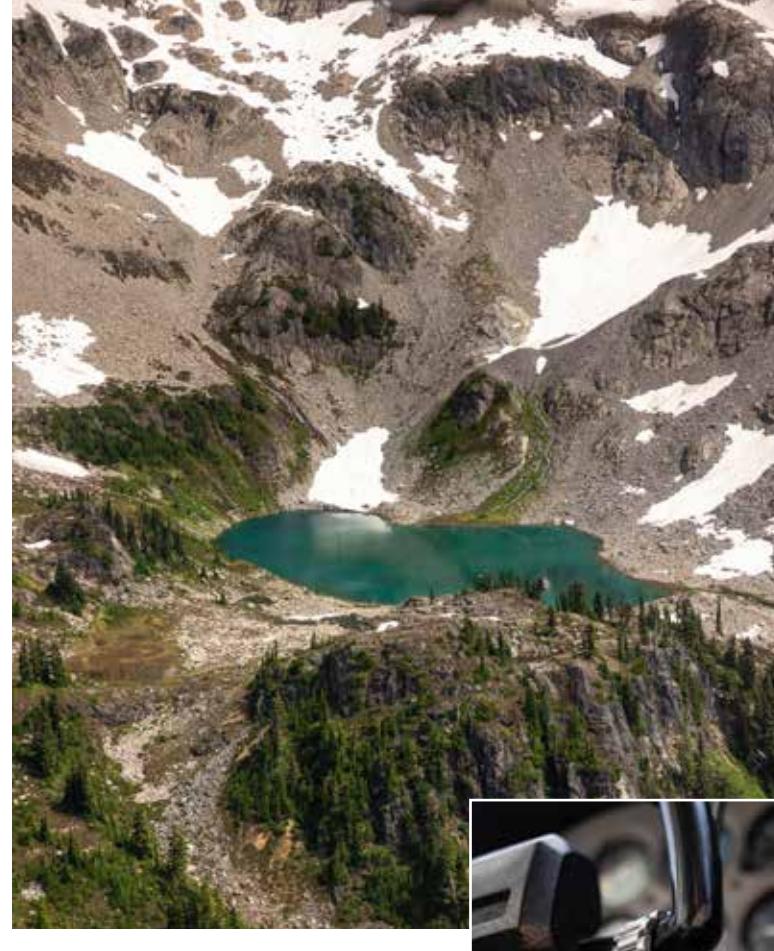
With this in mind, we travelled with the brand to British Columbia's famous Sea-to-Sky Corridor, a region just beyond Vancouver's city limits that spreads from Horseshoe Bay through Whistler to the Pemberton Valley, where one can find some of the best scuba diving, sailing, boating and whale watching in the world. There's no better way to while away a sunny Sunday afternoon than by searching for orcas, humpbacks and minke whales from a private boat on the Salish Sea, or diving into the deep for an up-close look at harbour seals and wolf eels.

The perfect accompaniment to these marine adventures is the Promaster Dive (BN0230-04E). If the watch's design makes you think of an orca, that's no coincidence. It was inspired by the shapes and colour scheme of a majestic killer whale. Nicknamed "Orca" by fans, this ISO-compliant timepiece is equally useful for adventures above and below the waterline, since it's water-resistant up to 200 metres. The one-way elapsed-time bezel is crucial for keeping track of scuba diving time, and the Super-Luminova hands and markers make everything easy to see—even in less-than-ideal light conditions. This iconic dive watch even comes in a cute scuba tank-inspired box.

Powering the Promaster Dive is Eco-Drive—Citizen's ingenious technology that converts any kind of light into energy. Everyday light sources such as fluorescents and floor lamps are all that the watch needs, and a single charge can keep the timepiece going for months, even in the dark. The use of Eco-Drive technology eliminates the need for millions of watch batteries each year.

Citizen's waterproof dive watches have long been renowned for their durability. In fact, one of the brand's self-winding watches was discovered in 1983 on Long Reef Beach in Australia. It had been underwater for so many years that barnacles completely encrusted it—but the watch itself was still running perfectly. The Promaster Dive Automatic (NB6021-17E) was inspired by the design of that long-ago, apparently indestructible timepiece, which has been lovingly nicknamed "Fujitsubo" (Japanese for "barnacles").

Although Citizen is best known for its dive watches, its offerings for air and land are as covetable. Sea-to-Sky country is home to majestic glaciers, best viewed from a four-seat aircraft—and the ideal accompaniment for any aerial adventure is the Promaster Snowbirds Skyhawk AT (JY8129-53H). Packed with features useful to both pro pilots and the everyday enthusiast, this timepiece is powered by Eco-Drive, has dual time, a pair of alarms and a 99-minute countdown timer. It's also water-resistant up to 200 metres and uses atomic time clock synchronization. The case is black stainless steel—and the coolest part? Both dial and case back feature the Snowbirds insignia. Citizen has an official partnership with the Royal Canadian Air Force's military aerobatics flight demonstration squadron for the creation of these timepieces—a testament to the strength of the brand's air offering. The Snowbirds exemplify the discipline and dedication of the Canadian Armed Forces. The precision and elegance they demonstrate is a perfect match for the Promaster Air collection.



PHOTOS: BEN WAUGH

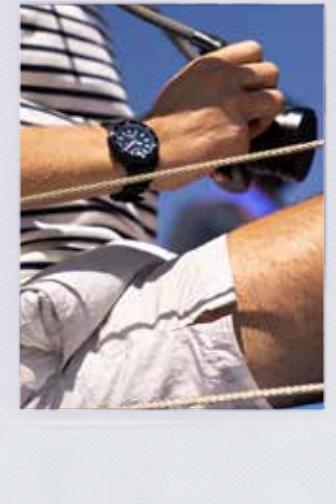
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After driving a couple of hours from Vancouver along the stunning Highway 99, our next stop is Whistler, to explore the backcountry. UTVs are best for those on the hunt for all-terrain thrills, while hiking is for anyone seeking a more relaxing sightseeing pace. No matter what the speed, the Promaster Altichron (BN5058-07E) is perfect for keeping track of the time. Water-resistant up to 200 metres, this watch has an electronic compass, an anti-reflective crystal and a shock counteraction function, to stop the watch's hands from getting accidentally bumped out of place. The whole thing is powered by Eco-Drive. This practical timepiece also has an altimeter that can measure anywhere from 300 metres below sea level all the way up to 10,000 above—higher than any mountain on the planet.

Of course, if you're feeling equally enticed by the land, sea and air options, no one will judge you for selecting a trio of adventures—and the perfect timepieces to go with them. Citizenwatch.com

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