

CLIPPER

VACATIONS magazine

2015-2016 Edition

YOUR GUIDE TO
**VICTORIA
& SEATTLE'S**
BEST
PLACES

TAKE ME
WITH YOU!
COMPLIMENTARY
COPY

Koru
Collection
by Naot

Featuring
Etera



Black
Ice



Poppy



KUBO
energy efficient transportation



orthotic friendly, removable leather foot bed
light weight, low-slip sole
leather lining, adjustable straps
comfortable padded slip at heel



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- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
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| 2238 Oak Bay Ave. | 598-9255 |
| 2449 Beacon Ave. | 655-7463 |
| Woodgrove Mall | 390-7463 |



ecco



DORKING

MERRELL



Terran Flip



Terran Post



Terran Convertible



Terran Cross

Inside

Inner Harbour causeway



(Tourism Victoria)



Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle (Seattle Art Museum)

On the cover: Stained glass dome in the Fairmont Empress Hotel (Evan Leeson)

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locally sourced menu items. Our terminals have been renovated, and incorporate the Clipper Café and the latest online check-in technology. We can now ship your adventure purchases and collectables seamlessly to your home with Clipper Cargo. This renewal and new look brings great excitement to our entire staff and further demonstrates our philosophy of exceptional service; all of which is focused on you, our customer.

We thank you for your continued trust and are grateful for the opportunity to help you create amazing memories. Please complete our online customer survey to forward your comments, suggestions and feedback so we can continue to learn how to serve you better.

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It is a personal goal of mine to capture the essence of the Pacific Northwest and Southwest Canada, and to share its adventures and phenomenal beauty with each and every one of my customers.

Enjoy your journey.

CLIPPER NAVIGATION, INC.
Merideth Tall
CEO and Chair

Stem to Stern

Welcome aboard the new Clipper!



THIRTY YEARS AGO WE CREATED A COMPANY whose mission was to develop custom Northwest travel adventures that create keepsake memories. The heart of this mission was service; concierge service that cherished and tended our customer's travel journey from beginning to end. Our first endeavor was ferry service to Victoria, British Columbia on sleek, striking, high-speed catamarans. These state-of-the-art boats became our signature.

With almost 30 years of expansion, Clipper Navigation now provides a variety of memorable experiences — all which highlight our exquisite Northwest and Southwestern Canada. You can sail with an experienced naturalist through the San Juan Islands and be face-to-face with orcas, gray and humpback whales. You can also test your skills on a zip line, be awed by breathtaking beauty on a bicycle, taste local delicacies on a food and wine tour, or travel further by land into the Okanagan and Canadian Rockies.

By boat, seaplane, deluxe motor coach, train, car or helicopter, our award-winning travel experts will customize your experience from beginning to end. Each mode of transportation, hotel and activity has been vetted personally by us to provide you with a more meaningful travel experience. Concierge service is our mainstay and the reason why we are regarded as the finest most well-informed travel service in our region.

This year is very memorable in Clipper history. We are reinvesting like never before. Our boat interiors will now include plush leather seats and



THE FLEET

VICTORIA CLIPPER
VICTORIA CLIPPER III
VICTORIA CLIPPER IV

OWNERS

Clipper Navigation, Inc.,
Seattle, U.S.A.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

Aluminum alloy

AMENITIES

- Concierge/cruise director
- Outdoor deck areas
- Secure baggage containers and ability to transport bicycles (limited space)
- Duty-free shop
- Galley and bar service
- Two enclosed decks surrounded by windows and furnished with plenty of comfortable seating
- Tours and activities for sale onboard



Captain Tiffany

THE VICTORIA CLIPPERS

are some of the world's fastest catamarans. The speed of the Clipper vessels during the 71-mile voyage between Victoria and Seattle is 30 knots (about 35 miles per hour), enabling them to complete the journey in less than 3 hours.

Passengers on the vessels can enjoy a panoramic view of the islands, mountains and ocean; it is not unusual to spot whales, seals, sea lions and porpoises.

From the upper deck of Clipper I and III, you can observe the master, mate and chief engineer at work on the bridge, surrounded by the most up-to-date navigational aids available. Because so little of the ship is below the waterline, it is remarkably easy to handle and provides a very smooth ride. At the rear of the upper cabin, a door exits to an open-air sundeck that affords a view of the impressive wake left by the two diesel engines.

	VICTORIA CLIPPER	VICTORIA CLIPPER III	VICTORIA CLIPPER IV
DIMENSIONS			
Length o.a.	127 feet	114 feet	132 feet
Breadth	30 feet	28.5 feet	33.3 feet
Depth	13 feet	7.5 feet	13 feet
Draught loaded	5 feet	3 feet	8 feet
Tonnage	427 GRT	88 GRT	478 GRT
CAPACITIES			
Passenger	293	231	330
Fuel	5,812 gallons	1,940 gallons	3,170 gallons
Fresh water	394 gallons	400 gallons	396 gallons
MACHINERY			
Main engines	2 x 2685 hp MTU 16V 396 TE 74L	2 x 1600 hp 149 TA 16V Detroit Diesel	2 x 2685 hp MTU 16V 396 TE 74L
Auxiliary engines	2 x 82 kW MTU	2 x 50 kW	2 x 82 kW
	MTU	John Deere	John Deere
Propulsion system	KaMeWa Waterjet	KaMeWa Waterjet	KaMeWa Waterjet
SPEED			
Service speed	30 knots	25 knots	30 knots
FUEL CONSUMPTION			
At service speed	200 gallons/hour	140 gallons/hour	250 gallons/hour
CRUISING RANGE			
At service speed	819 nautical miles	346 nautical miles	350 nautical miles
NAVIGATION AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT			
Electronics	2 radars, satellite compass, depth sounder, autopilot, AIS, VDR, GPS	2 radars, depth sounder, autopilot, AIS, GPS	2 radars, depth sounder, electronic chart, autopilot AIS, GPS
Radio	Sailor SSB, 2 Sailor VHF, inter-com/public address system, internal TV monitor from the engine room to the bridge	2 ICOM VHF, SEA, public address, entertainment, security system,	Skanti TRP 6000 receiver, Skanti TU 6400 transmitter, Skanti WR 6020 watchreceiver, Sailor RT 2047, EME public address/intercom system
Classification	Det Norske Veritas + 1A1 R150 Light craft	U.S. Light Craft USCG Inspected passenger vessel	Det Norske Veritas + 1A1 HSLC R3 Passenger E0

HISTORIC TROUNCE ALLEY



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MADRONA GALLERY

Madrona Gallery specializes in contemporary and historic Canadian art by well established and emerging artists. The gallery also exhibits a world-class collection of Inuit carvings, drawings and prints.



Nicholas Bott. *Wickaninnish Bay*. 36 x 60. Oil on Canvas



Tim Pitsiulak. *Spring Hunt*. 34 x 46. Coloured Pencil



Ernestine Tahedl R.C.A. *Passacaglia* 46 x 65. Acrylic on Canvas

606 View Street, Victoria B.C.
250 380 4660

www.madronagallery.com

Customs

Before purchasing items, be aware of the Canada Border Services Agency regulations applicable when entering Canada and the United States Customs and Border Protection regulations that apply for entering the United States.

ENTERING CANADA

CANADIAN RESIDENTS:

After each absence of 24 hours or more, Canadian residents can claim up to \$200 CDN worth of goods without paying any duties. You must have the goods with you when you arrive and you cannot include tobacco products or alcoholic beverages in this exemption. If your goods exceed \$200 CDN in total, you cannot claim an exemption. Instead you have to pay full duties on all goods brought into Canada.

After each absence of 48 hours or more, Canadian residents can claim up to \$800 CDN worth of goods without paying any duties. You must have the goods with you when you arrive and they can include some tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.

After each absence of 7 days or more, (the day you depart does not count as one of the 7 days, but the day you return does), Canadian residents can claim up to \$800 CDN worth of goods, which can include some tobacco products and alcoholic beverages without paying any duties. Any tobacco products and alcoholic beverages must be in your possession when you arrive. All other goods can follow, but must be declared upon your arrival in Canada.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE EXEMPTIONS/ENTITLEMENTS:

Canadian residents who have been absent from Canada for at least 48 hours and visitors who are a minimum of 19 years old are allowed to import all of the following amounts of tobacco into Canada without paying duty and taxes:

- 200 cigarettes
- 50 cigars or cigarillos
- 200 grams (7 ounces) of manufactured tobacco
- 200 tobacco sticks

Canadian residents who have been absent for 48 hours or more and visitors who are a minimum of 19 years old and are allowed to import only one of the following amounts of alcohol free of duty and taxes:

- 1.5 liters of wine
- 1.14 liters of liquor
- A total of 1.14 liters of wine and liquor
- 24 12-ounce cans or bottles of beer or ale

Note: Passengers must be 21 years of age to purchase duty-free items onboard.

VISITORS TO CANADA:

Visitors to Canada can import gifts for an individual in Canada duty- and tax-free, as long as each gift is valued at \$60 CDN or less. If the gift is worth more than \$60 CDN, you will have to pay duty and taxes on the excess amount. Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages cannot be claimed as gifts.

Visitors to Canada can also claim a personal entitlement for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages if the visitor meets the provincial or territorial authority minimum age requirements. The minimum age for the Province of British Columbia is 19.

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES RESIDENTS:

After each absence of less than 48 hours, each United States resident can claim up to \$200 USD worth of goods without paying any duties. Residents who are a minimum of 21 years old can include in these goods a maximum of 50 cigarettes and 5 ounces of alcoholic beverages or 5 ounces of perfume containing alcohol. If the worth of the individual's goods exceeds \$200 USD the entire amount is dutiable. In addition, family members cannot combine their individual exemptions.

After an absence of 48 hours or more, each United States resident can claim up to \$800 USD worth of goods without paying any duties. Residents who are a minimum of 21 years old can include in these goods a maximum of 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars and 1 liter of alcoholic beverage. Family members who live in the same household and are returning together may combine their personal exemptions.

VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES:

All visitors to the United States who are a minimum of 21 years old are allowed to import free of duty and tax up to 1 liter of alcoholic beverage for personal use. They may also include up to 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of smoking tobacco. Each visitor to the United States who remains a minimum of 72 hours in the United States can bring with them up to \$100 USD in gifts for individuals in the United States duty- and tax-free. This exemption may include up to 100 cigars, but alcoholic beverages may not be included.

Subject to change

Shop Onboard for Great Savings

The Clipper's on-board gift and duty-free shop offers an attractive selection of high-quality items designed to give you lasting pleasure as well as pleasant memories of your holiday.

These include Clipper garments, novelties, binoculars and other souvenirs. The duty-free items include a generous range of spirits and liqueurs, as well as fine perfumes and cigarettes. You'll get a complete list from the cabin attendant, enabling you to make your own purchases without leaving your seat, if you wish. Alternatively, visit the gift and duty-free counter at the rear of the main deck to place your order.

As an international traveller, you are exempt from taxes levied on the alcohol, cigarettes and fragrances sold on board this vessel.

These tax-exempt, or duty-free, luxury items are less expensive than the same items purchased in either Canada or the United States after city/state/provincial and federal taxes are added.

Ask your onboard attendant or visit our gift shop for current selection and prices.



Enjoy Fresh, Local Food on Board

One of the many exciting new features at Clipper is the Clipper Café, which is open daily for coffee, light breakfast or lunch to “eat in” or “grab and go.” This addition to the Clipper family grants us the opportunity to upgrade our onboard menu with fresh, locally-grown, minimally-processed ingredients to bring you the very best our region has to offer. Clipper Café Chef Katie Parrish has built a menu that includes everything from sumptuous sandwiches, to delicious snacks, to kid-friendly fare and incorporates home-grown ingredients. Café team members assemble all of our food items fresh each day in the Clipper Café kitchen. Fresh produce deliveries arrive every morning, while our kitchen team seasons, roasts and slices meats in-house.

Our mission of sourcing locally does not end with the ingredients used in our food. We are proud to feature a great representation of local products such as Caffé Vita coffee, Theo chocolates, a rotating selection of beer from Pike Brewing Company, Cougar Mountain Baking Company gourmet cookies and selection of Washington wines and locally crafted liquors.

As part of our commitment to providing outstanding customer service, we created menu items to suit all of your needs and have vegetarian, dairy-free and gluten-free options available to meet special dietary requirements.



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Schedules and Fares

2015/2016 SEATTLE/VICTORIA SCHEDULES & FARES				
DATES AND DEPARTURE TIMES				
	DEPART SEATTLE	ARRIVE VICTORIA	DEPART VICTORIA	ARRIVE SEATTLE
May 9 - June 25	7:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:20 AM	2:05 PM
	3:00 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	9:30 PM
June 26 - Aug. 23 * Not available Tues/Wed	7:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:20 AM	2:05 PM
	*8:30 AM	11:15 AM	*5:30 PM	8:15 PM
	3:00 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	9:30 PM
Aug. 24 - Sept. 27	7:30 AM	10:30 AM	11:20 AM	2:05 PM
	3:00 PM	5:45 PM	6:45 PM	9:30 PM
Sept. 28 - Oct. 17	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	6:00 PM	8:45 PM
Oct. 18 - Mar. 31, 2016	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	5:00 PM	7:45 PM
Apr. 1, 2016 - May 6, 2016	8:00 AM	10:45 AM	6:00 PM	8:45 PM
No service December 25, 2015 and January 4-15, 2016. Additional departures may be available on select dates, as needed. ****SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE****				
FARES (ONE WAY / ROUND TRIP)				
	ADULT	CHILD*	ADULT ADVANCE PURCHASE	CHILD ADVANCE PURCHASE*
May 1 - June 25	\$104 / 174	\$52 / 87	NA / \$129-141	NA / \$35
June 26 - Sept. 7	\$105 / 179	\$52.50 / 89.50	NA / \$141-150	NA / \$35
Sept. 8 - Oct. 31	\$99 / 167	\$49.50 / 83.50	NA / \$123-134	NA / \$35
Nov. 1 - Feb. 29, 2016	\$90 / 146	\$45 / 73	NA / \$109-120	NA / \$35
Mar. 1, 2016 - April 30, 2016	TBD	TBD	TBD	NA / TBD
*CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$35 with round trip full fare paying adult. 1 adult; 1 child, available with advance purchase select fares. 2 AND 7-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE: Non-cancelable; date, voyage & other restrictions may apply. Please see clippervacations.com for web specials. A fuel surcharge and security fee may be added to all Victoria fares. ****SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE****				

SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WHALE & SEALIFE SEARCH SCHEDULES AND FARES						
SCHEDULE						
Depart Seattle 7:45 AM / Arrive Friday Harbor 11:15 AM Optional Whale & Sealife Search 11:30 AM-2:00 PM Depart Friday Harbor 4:30 PM / Arrive Seattle 7:15 PM						
Dates of Operations: May 22 - June 17 (Thurs-Mon only) • June 18 - Sept 7 (Daily) • Sept 8 - Oct 4 (Sat & Sun only) Vessel substitutions and/or weather could affect route and sailing times. Northbound route through Deception Pass. Southbound route direct.						
2015 FARES - SEATTLE/FRIDAY HARBOR						
	ADULT Advance Purchase Round Trip (1-day minimum)	CHILD Advance Purchase Round Trip (1-day minimum)	ADULT Round Trip	ADULT One Way	CHILD Round Trip	CHILD One Way
With Whale Watch						
May 22 - Jun. 17	\$99	\$25	\$112	\$73	\$56	\$36.50
Jun. 18 - Sept. 7 (Mon-Thurs)	\$126	\$25	\$166	\$121	\$83	\$60.50
Jun. 18 - Sept. 7 (Fri-Sun)	\$138	\$25	\$166	\$121	\$83	\$60.50
Sept. 8 - Oct. 4 (Sat-Sun)	\$99	\$25	\$112	\$73	\$56	\$36.50
Ferry Only						
May 22 - Jun. 17	\$81	\$40.50	\$94	\$55	\$47	\$27.50
Jun. 18 - Sept. 7 (Mon-Thurs)	\$87.50	\$43.75	\$100	\$55	\$50	\$27.50
Jun. 18 - Sept. 7 (Fri-Sun)	\$97.50	\$48.75	\$100	\$55	\$50	\$27.50
Sept. 8 - Oct. 4 (Sat-Sun)	\$81	\$40.50	\$94	\$55	\$47	\$27.50
Whale & Sealife Search Only						
May 22 - Oct. 4			\$75		\$37.50	
9/8-10/4 SAT & SUN SERVICE ONLY. Prices are in US Dollars. Space limitations may apply. Advance purchase, date restrictions & cancellations policies apply. Children under 12-\$25 one child per paying adult. Transportation-only fares also available between Seattle and Friday Harbor. A \$2 Friday Harbor Port fee and \$2 pp/RT security fee will be added to all fares. ****SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE****						

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History of the Clipper

IN 1985, WASHINGTON ENTREPRENEUR MERIDETH TALL saw the potential for a catamaran service to operate year-round between Seattle and Victoria, Canada. Ms. Tall formed a partnership, incorporated the company Clipper Navigation Inc. and contracted with the firm Fjellstrand AS of Omastrand, Norway to construct the Victoria Clipper.

High-speed catamarans originated in Norway in the 1970s. The knife-edge design of their twin hulls and lightweight aluminum structure allowed the catamarans to reach speeds of greater than 30 knots, efficiently.

Catamaran is from a word for the outrigger canoe that originated in Polynesia and is a common sight on beaches throughout Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. It is a popular sailboat design, with two hulls side by side, joined with decking or netting.

Catamarans differ in important respects from the hydrofoils they largely replaced. The hydrofoil rises on V- or T-shaped struts to reduce drag. This makes it sensitive to rough seas. The jetfoil is a hybrid designed to overcome that limitation. The catamaran handles difficult crossings better and is much quieter and more fuel-efficient, although not quite as fast.

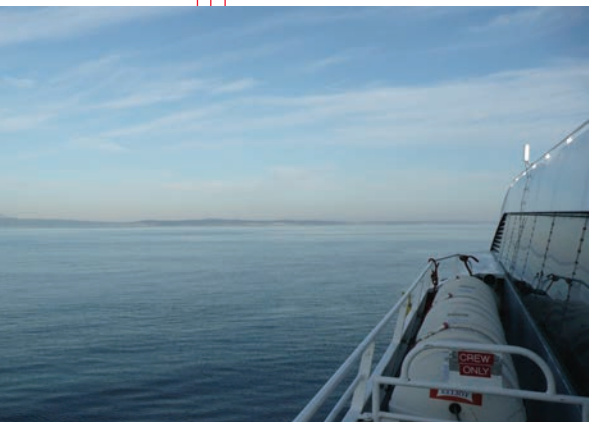
The Victoria Clipper was the first high-speed catamaran to operate in North America. Among its features are wheelchair access to washrooms and large picture windows to allow sightlines of the scenic surroundings of Puget Sound and the Victoria waterfront from each seat.

The company's first employees were Darrell Bryan and Janis Smith. Today Mr. Bryan is a partner in the company and Ms. Smith is Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Overall, the company is supported by a staff of about 120 year-round and 30 to 40 seasonal employees.

The Victoria Clipper started service on July 1, 1986. Today the company continues to provide fast, convenient, reliable travel between Seattle and Victoria and summer day trips to the San Juan Islands, as well as a host of Pacific Northwest travel planning services.

The company provides many services to the traveling public. Clipper Vacations' booking service is a major broker of Victoria and Seattle hotel rooms and has expanded its services into multi-leg travel packages, including motor-coach and rail travel, in a service area that has expanded to include Vancouver and Whistler, BC and Portland, OR.

On the marine side, Victoria Clipper III, with its three observation decks, has made seasonal whale-watching daytrips from Seattle to the San Juan Islands since 1991. The Victoria Clipper IV, a somewhat larger vessel than the original, augmented the Seattle-Victoria run in 1993; the boats work in tandem during the summer season, making a combined three round-trip crossings a day.



Graham van der Wielen/Flickr



Clipper Thermopylae, 1868 (Georges Jansoone/Wikimedia Commons; public domain)

WHY IT'S CALLED THE CLIPPER

Clipper ships were a class of cargo-carrying sailboats built for trade between American and Chinese ports. Slender and square-rigged, with as many as six tiers of sails on each mast, they were called clippers because – according to one source – they “clipped” over the waves, rather than ploughing through them. The first clipper, the Rainbow, launched in New York in 1845, clipped two weeks off the route around Cape Horn to Guangzhou, China.

Beginning in 1849, American clippers started trading tea from China to England, causing a sensation when they imported teas to English consumers in record times. A lively rivalry for the tea trade grew up between American- and British-built clippers. For a few years clipper ships ruled the sea lanes. Every spring the clippers loaded up near the tea port of Fuzhou and began the 16,000-mile race to England.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 marked the introduction of steamships to Asian sea lanes. The era of the clipper was over nearly as quickly as it had begun. Steam power made the clipper a thing of the past.



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Along the Way

WE DETAILED THE FOLLOWING POINTS of interest to make your trip more meaningful. This information is presented for a Seattle to Victoria trip. If you're travelling from Victoria to Seattle, start at the end of the guide and read to the beginning.

Start Seattle

The city of Seattle, named after Chief Sealth, was built on Elliott Bay in Puget Sound. At the south end of the bay is Alki Point, where the first white settlers arrived in 1851. At the north end is Discovery Park, once a large Shilshole Indian settlement. Puget Sound was named after a second lieutenant under George Vancouver, the British navigator who explored this area in 1792. During that trip, Vancouver named more than 30 landmarks along the sound's 870-kilometer-/1,400-mile-long coastline. The City of Seattle was incorporated in 1869.

A Bainbridge Island

As we cruise past Discovery Park, we pass Bainbridge Island to the west, named by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, the first American to explore this area for the U.S. Navy, in 1841. The island is named for Commodore William Bainbridge, Captain of the U.S.S. Constitution during the War of 1812.

B Kingston/Edmonds

To the west we pass the town of Kingston; to the east, the city of Edmonds. Farther north on the eastern shore is Mukilteo.

C Point No Point/Whidbey Island

To the west is Point No Point, named by Lt. Wilkes. To the east is Possession Point, the southern tip of Whidbey Island. Both points are



Paul Schultz/Flickr

popular fishing spots. Whidbey Island was named by Captain Vancouver to honor the master of his flagship, H.M.S. Discovery. Whidbey Island is 89 km/55 miles long.

D Admiralty Inlet

Now we enter Admiralty Inlet, which Vancouver named for his superiors at the British Board of Admiralty. To the west are Foulweather Bluff and the entrance to Hood Canal; both were named by Vancouver.

E Marrowstone Island

To the west we pass by Marrowstone Island. At the north end of the island, on Marrowstone Point (named by Vancouver), is Fort Flagler, one of three forts constructed beginning in 1897 in the run-up to the Spanish-American War, to create a "triangle of fire" across Puget Sound. The others are Fort Worden, near Port Townsend and Fort Casey on Whidbey Island.

F Port Townsend

To the west is Port Townsend, named by Vancouver. When the city was founded in 1851, the residents' dream was to see it become a major seaport and railhead. But Seattle and Tacoma became the termini of transcontinental railroads and the dream died. Port Townsend retains its 19th-century cityscape and charming setting.

G Strait of Juan de Fuca

Point Wilson (named by Vancouver) is the last point to the west as we enter the Strait of Juan de Fuca. By legend, the strait was discovered in 1592 by a Greek pilot exploring the coast under



- VICTORIA CLIPPER I & IV
- VICTORIA CLIPPER III - Southbound
- - - - VICTORIA CLIPPER III - Northbound

Spanish colours; the name was revived by British Captain Charles Barkley in 1787. Spanish explorer Manuel Quimper landed at New Dungeness in 1790. His party was the first Europeans known to set foot on mainland Washington soil.

H San Juan Islands

To the north are the 172 San Juan Islands; the largest are San Juan, Orcas, Lopez and Shaw islands. Visited and named in 1791 by Spanish explorer Francisco de Eliza, they have many Spanish-named landmarks. Following a boundary dispute between England and the United States, the San Juan Islands were awarded to the United States in 1872.



Lime Kiln Lighthouse, San Juan Island
(Mike Douglas/Shutterstock)

End Victoria

In 1843 Fort Victoria was built by the Hudson's Bay Company. The Fraser River gold rush of 1858 brought many settlers and in 1862 Victoria became a city. It was made the capital of British Columbia in 1868. Today, Greater Victoria's population is about 345,000.

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Inner Harbour Kayaker. (Tourism Victoria)



Vibrant Victoria

A City Full of Life

SURROUNDING A PICTURESQUE HARBOUR, historic landmarks, modern hotels, quiet pathways and lovely gardens all jostle for visual attention along Victoria's shimmering waterfront, offering at a glance a sense of the city's historic value, recreational richness, seaside ambience and exciting options for visitors. Just off the waterfront, elegant Victorian homes and busy modern shops offer clues about the city's colonial character and its progress into a bustling modern commercial centre. The mild temperatures and frequently blue sky above testify that Victoria boasts one of the finest climates in Canada and the vistas of nearby forests and distant snow-clad mountains are a reflection of the Victoria region's marvellous natural facets.

The city's cultural wealth shines as brightly as its visible virtues. Victoria's chefs use local ingredients to prepare memorable meals in surroundings ranging from friendly neighbourhood pubs to deluxe dining rooms. Dozens of ethnic cultures blend into a worldly community whose perspectives span the globe from Asia to Europe to indigenous Canada. Wellbeing is a daily mission and residents and visitors alike benefit from the healthful lifestyle of Canada's fittest city. The city's high quality of life has brought numerous young families to Victoria who keep the community dynamic and modern.

Yes, the delicate tinges of Victoria's colonial heyday still flavour life here. Cut-glass chandeliers and bay windows glisten in the evening light; high tea draws fans of Victoriana and lacy garments and 19th-century antiques are for sale in local stores. One can enjoy all that, go for a bike ride far out into the countryside, savour a dinner based on island foodstuffs and take in a top-notch contemporary theatre production all in one day, in this colourful capital of modern civilization.

Getting Around

Central Victoria is an eminently walkable city – in fact, walking is by far the best way to get around and see the sights. Whether you are planning to stay at a central hotel or inn, or are simply here for the day and spending your time in the city, there is no need for a car unless you plan to travel elsewhere on the island. If your plans include exploring more of the island, most major car-hire companies have rental facilities downtown. It's a half-hour drive to the airport from downtown and 40 minutes to the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. Sooke is about 35 minutes west, Cowichan Valley an hour or more north, Nanaimo at least two hours and Tofino, on the west coast, at least four.



Fabulous Fort Street

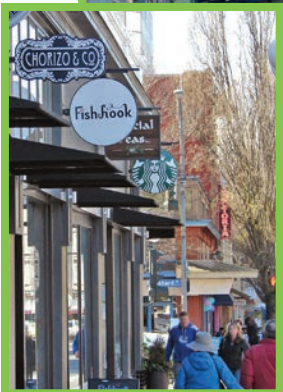


Downtown Victoria's Fort Street is anchored at one end by the city's active inner harbour and at the other end by the Mosaic Village. In between are six blocks of one of the city's oldest and busiest commercial streets. If you are visiting downtown Victoria, be sure to spend some time strolling this street.

Fort Street offers a vibrant mix of boutiques, shops, antique malls, art galleries, eateries, restaurants and services, not to be found on any other street in Downtown Victoria. We must warn you though, **Fort Street takes it's food very seriously**, so be sure to pack your appetite. With locals, it is known as Victoria's foodie hot spot. Some of the city's best delis, bakeries, food shops, eateries and restaurants are situated on this foodie corridor. Follow your stomach and you'll find bakeries to tempt you with pastries and tarts, delis with artisan and local cheeses, tea shops, coffee stops and food from around the globe. Yes, the folks of Fort Street do love their food!



From the harbour right up to Cook Street, be sure to wander up one side of the street and back down the other, to fully appreciate and discover all that is here. You will know when you're in the Mosaic Village, as you cannot miss the fabulously colourful Mosaic Building. With its low streetscape and eclectic mix of buildings, Fort Street is home to some of Victoria's favourite family and locally-owned businesses. Fort Street truly has it all!



Whether it's food, fashion, fiction, flags, funk, flowers, finance, fabric, furniture, fitness or footwear... there's not much you won't find on this busy and bustling street ... Fabulous Fort! What will you find?



Aegean Cafe
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BC Shaver & Hobbies
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Breathe Athletic
1031 Fort St

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& Silverware**
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Fort Properties

Heart and Sole Shoes
1023 Fort St

Leka
1044A Fort St

**Not Just Pretty
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Paul Mara Jewellers
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Russell Books
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Satin Moon Quilted Garden
825 Fort St

**Stevenson's
Shoe Clinic &
Luggage Outlet**
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**Street Level
Espresso & Teas**
714 Fort St

The Bay Center
Fort & Government

The Flag Shop
822 Fort St

**The Good Planet
Company**
764 Fort St

The King's Deli
773 Fort St

**The Little
Cheese Shop**
1034 Fort St

The Papery
669 Fort St

Van City
752 Fort St

Tales from the Past

INDIGENOUS SALISH PEOPLE have lived on Victoria's Saanich Peninsula for thousands of years, thriving on the plentiful natural resources — chiefly seafood, shellfish, berries and cedar — and creating an artistically and culturally rich civilization. Huge cedar canoes carried people to and from nearby islands; cedar logs were hand-carved into the planks, poles and beams needed to make massive longhouses that afforded shelter to extended families and clan groups; songs, dances, chants and stories carried the history and legends of the bands down through generations.

Though there is some evidence to suggest early 16th- and 17th-century European explorers such as Juan de Fuca, Sir Francis Drake and several Spanish sailors may have visited the region, Captain James Cook is often credited as the first European to set foot on what is now Vancouver Island in 1778. Years later in 1795, British Royal Navy Captain George Vancouver negotiated title to Vancouver Island from the Spanish, who considered it low-value wilderness.

Hudson's Bay Company representative James Douglas established a fort on the prime anchorage of the Inner Harbour in 1843, at what's now Bastion Square. The outpost named for Britain's queen grew into the area's lead city as logging, fishing, fur trapping, coal mining and other resource extraction industries brought people and industry to the island. Gold was discovered in the interior Cariboo region in 1858 and the city was declared the capital of British Columbia in 1866, maintaining that role when BC joined Canada in 1871.

The Victoria-based Dunsmuir family became the province's richest, on par with the rail barons of California, by mining coal mid-island and building rail lines to transport it and the island's timber to ports; the Dunsmuir legacy can be seen at Craigdarroch Castle and Hatley Castle. Two huge estate manors that testify to turn-of-the-century industrial wealth. Victoria settled into a role as a relatively sedate government and retirement centre and the colonial capital aura that adheres to the city still was cemented in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — though in reality this was an outpost of the British empire for just 28 years.

While its colonial heritage is far in the past, its status as a government centre is as strong as ever. About 20 percent of the capital region's residents have government jobs; high-tech employers and tourism are the other major employers. The city has transformed itself from a retirement centre into one of Canada's most popular residential areas for young families. As a result, both its past and present combine to fashion a uniquely appealing visitor destination for all.



Thunderbird Park, outside the Royal British Columbia Museum, has many totem poles. (Tourism Victoria)



Inner Harbour at sunset (Tourism Victoria)

The VISITOR CENTRE, with the distinctive Art Deco tower at 812 Wharf St., was built by the Imperial Oil Company. Why such a big top for a gas station? It was built after Charles Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic solo flight in 1927. The tower had a revolving beacon, visible for 100 kilometres/61 miles, to guide seaplanes into the harbour. Later it was a ferry terminal. Now it's a full-service information centre with restaurants and shops.

(paul.malon/flickr)



The Inner Harbour

FEW OF THE WORLD'S GREAT HARBOURS ARE AS PROTECTED, scenic, accessible and central to the city's life as Victoria's Inner Harbour. Clasped between Laurel Point and Old Town, the harbour buzzes constantly with activity. Tall sails from around the globe mark the Inner Harbour's quays, floatplanes dash into the air while ferries sound their horns, harbour seals bark and eagles cry above. The granite walk and steps of the Promenade in front of the Empress are popular spots for street performers, artisans and artists on sunny days. From here, horse-drawn carriages depart for a variety of city tours. See Tally Ho, 250-514-9257, tallyhotours.com or Victoria Carriage Tours, 250-383-2207, victoriacarriage.com for more information.



Boomer Jerrit/Tourism Victoria

Just behind the promenade, the **Empress Hotel** is one of Western Canada's best-known landmarks, a stately edifice designed by early BC architect Francis Rattenbury, now a signature property in the Fairmont chain (721 Government St.; fairmont.com/Empress). Despite its colonial



Tourism Victoria

Arts Centre

The natural world is the focus of a major new Victoria attraction that opened in 2013 inside the impressive historic CPR Steamship Building in the Inner Harbour. The Robert Bateman Centre (470 Belleville St.; batemancentre.org) features works by the renowned Canadian artist who travelled the world to view and paint wildlife. Delicate studies of birds in natural settings to bold images of striding grizzlies will be among the mix of works from around the world, from the mountains of BC to the savannahs of Africa. The new centre includes a gallery, a gift shop and something unexpected: paintings of birds that sing when visitors touch the labels.

appearance, it opened in 1908, long after the end of the city's colonial heyday. A stroll through the lobby takes one past tony shops into the serene fastness of the elegant lobby, where high tea is served each afternoon. The Bengal Lounge is famed for its daily curry bar and its neo-colonial décor.

Across the street from the Empress, the **Royal BC Museum** (675 Belleville St.; royalmuseum.bc.ca) is one of Canada's most popular museums and one of North America's most significant. Huge collections of First Nations art and lifestyle traditions are on display; vast exhibit halls cover British Columbia's history, natural history and culture in highly realistic, even sensory-based exhibits, including a popular early street scene exhibit complete with tapping teletype and curtains blowing. The First Peoples Gallery tells the story of BC's human history, with a vast collection of Vancouver Island Nuu-chah-nulth artifacts positioned in dioramas and the ground-floor display of historic totem poles from across the province lends a powerful presence to the setting.

Just north of the museum, **Thunderbird Park** holds an impressive display of totems along with a longhouse and pioneer buildings. The 62-bell carillon tower out front of the museum was a gift from BC's Dutch community.

A half block east of Thunderbird Park, at Blanshard and Humboldt, **St. Ann's Academy** (835 Humboldt St., stannsacademy.com), a huge former girls' school is now a national historic site. This late 19th/early 20th century landmark has extensive grounds and gardens worth wandering; self-guided tours of the historic building are available 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

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Royal BC Art Museum (Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)



(Tourism Victoria)



(Tourism Victoria)

Pickle Boat Ballet

Victoria Harbour Ferries' claim to fame is the touristy, if entertaining, Victoria Harbour Ferry Water Ballet, held at 10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings in the summer, when the "pickle boats" do aquatic pas de deux, much to the delight of children and others watching.



Victoria Harbour Ferries Ballet (Laurie McCormick/Tourism Victoria)

Also designed by Francis Rattenbury, the **BC Parliament Buildings** (Government and Belleville Streets; leg.bc.ca), outlined in glittering necklaces of light after dark, are perhaps Victoria's most-photographed sight; with the edifice's imposing granite embellished with stained glass, gold and silver leaf and marble, with a huge copper dome. Daily tours are available in the summer and on weekdays the rest of the year.

Just below the Empress, the tiny, tub-like **Victoria Harbour Ferry boats** carry passengers to more than a dozen points of interest throughout the harbour, including Chinatown, the Design District and Fisherman's Wharf. The ferries, which run from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the summer, offer "hop on, hop off" service and a 45-minute guided harbour tour.

The north end of the Inner Harbour is devoted to the city's floatplane base; from here, flights depart daily for Vancouver and Seattle, as well as numerous island locales throughout southern BC. At the very north end of the complex, the popular wharf-side Red Fish Blue Fish, serving fare to outdoor diners out of a re-purposed cargo container, is a popular purveyor of sustainably-caught fish and chips. Up the Gorge Waterway just a few blocks to the north, the famous Johnson Street "Blue Bridge" marks the far northern end of the harbour. It's expected to open in 2017.

Tourism Victoria's main Info Centre is also on the Inner Harbour, just west of the Promenade at 812 Wharf St.; tourismvictoria.com. It's open daily, with extended hours in the summer.



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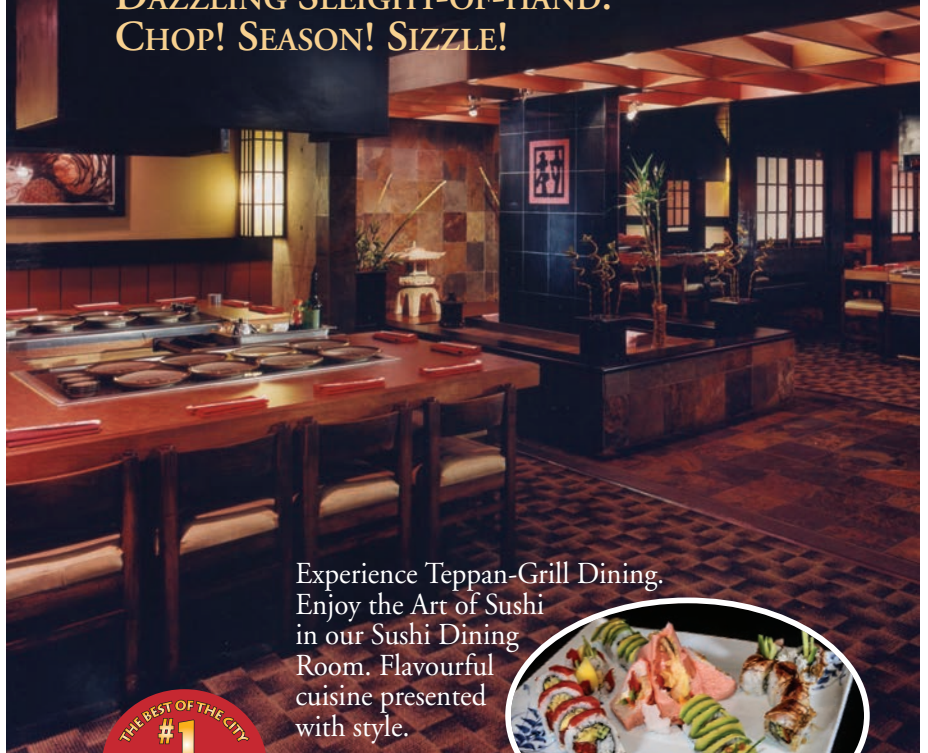
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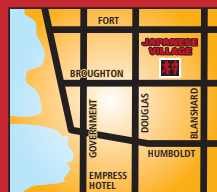
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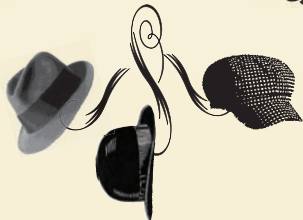
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IN SCENIC OLD TOWN VICTORIA



(Tourism Victoria)

Government Street and Chinatown

CENTRAL VICTORIA'S MAIN THOROUGHFARE, Government Street, runs from the shoreline at the Strait of Juan de Fuca past the Inner Harbour, into Old Town, by Chinatown and up to the north end of downtown. North of the Inner Harbour, it's best known as a shopping street, with many of the city's most famous stores along its length.

Just a block north of the Inner Harbour and a block west of Government, **Bastion Square** marks the original site of Victoria. Today the square hums in summer with an arts and crafts market Thursday through Saturday and a local foods market on Sunday (bastionsquare.ca). A bastion, by the way, is a fortified tower.

Among the artifacts is Tilikum, a hand-carved canoe that sailed from Victoria to England from 1901 to 1904 in a colourful career as a sail-driven dugout.

(w4nn3s/Wikimedia Commons)

Dozens of stores offering visitors unique goods line Government from the Inner Harbour north. Best-known are Rogers' Chocolates (913 Government St.; rogerschocolates.com), famed for its European-style treats since 1885; Murchie's Tea & Coffee (1110 Government St.; murchies.com), purveyors of





(Courtesy Roger's Chocolates)



(Tourism Victoria)



(Another Believer/Wikimedia Commons)

traditional British and Asian teas since 1894; Munro's Books (1108 Government St.; munrobooks.com) next door, featuring a fine collection of Canadiana; Old Morris tobacconist (1116 Government St.; oldmorris.com), offering everything from Cuban cigars to British pipe tobaccos; Irish Linen (1019 Government St.; irishlinenvictoria.com), celebrating a century of retailing the best Irish and British Isles garments and linens; Cowichan Trading Company (1328 Government St.; cowichantrading.com), specializing in the famous sweaters made by members of the up-island Cowichan Tribes; and Silk Road Tea (1624 Government St.; silkroadteastore.com), a contemporary tea shop with unusual blends, lotions and aromatherapy supplies.

Just off Government to the east is the **The Bay Centre** (1150 Douglas St.; thebaycentre.ca), a compact and inviting enclosed urban mall with more than 90 stores, cafés and galleries.

Chinatown, between Government and Store Street, is marked by the impressive and gaily painted **Gates of Harmonious Interest** on Fisgard Street, just west of Government. This small but lively district is considered to be the second oldest Chinatown in North America (after San Francisco) and dates back to the arrival of Chinese labourers in the province after the 1858 gold discovery. The neighbourhood was designated a National Historic site by the Canadian government in 1995 and its best-known feature, **Fan Tan Alley**, is considered to be the narrowest street in Canada. Sources on its width vary wildly – its national registry page indicates an average width of 1-2 m/3.2-6.5 ft. The Alley holds quirky little shops and elsewhere in Chinatown, Asian food stores and import shops join Chinese restaurants; several serve midday dim sum, tidy dumplings a with pork, chicken or shrimp inside.

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Victoria's floating community

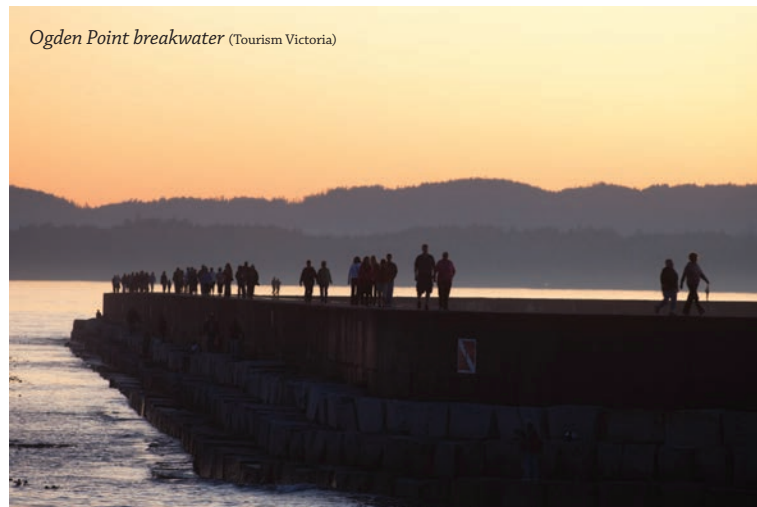
James Bay & Cook Street

OCCUPYING THE PENINSULA that defines the southern side of the Inner and Outer Harbours, this is one of the oldest residential neighbourhoods on the West Coast, surpassed only by a couple in San Francisco. Easily reached by a short walk from the Inner Harbour, it has several attractions of visitor interest.

Fisherman's Wharf (fishermanswharfvictoria.com), west of Laurel Point, is a charming marina with colourful houseboats, berths for sailboats and a handful of eateries, including an ice-cream shop as

well as a famous Victoria quick-bite spot, Barb's Fish & Chips. A quintessential Victoria evening consists of a stroll over to Fisherman's Wharf, placing an order to go and wandering the marina to admire the boats while you wait for supper. Picnic tables on the wharves provide ample space for diners.

Beacon Hill Park (beaconhillpark.ca), a lush preserve of greensward, woods and gardens, lies between Douglas and Cook Streets from just south of the Royal BC Museum, stretching all the way to the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Visitors here find famous rhododendron gardens, domestic farm animals to pet at the Beacon



Ogden Point breakwater (Tourism Victoria)



Beacon Hill Park (Tourism Victoria)

Emily Carr House (Samuel Croteau/flickr)



Cook Street Village (Alexia Foster/Tourism Victoria)

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James Bay is also the site of the **Emily Carr House** (207 Government St.; emilycarr.com), the childhood home of Victoria’s most famous native daughter, who was born here in 1871 and spent her girlhood here. Now a provincial and national historic site, the home is restored to its Victorian splendour and features lovely gardens; it’s open Tuesdays through Saturdays in the summer.

Marking the east side of the area, **Cook Street Village** is a bustling, small shopping district with many popular niche restaurants and stores, including a liquor purveyor dedicated to island craft beers and BC wines, Cook Street Liquor. Next door is one of Victoria’s most popular pizza makers, Pizzeria Prima Strada, and down the street is a classic neighbourhood bar, The Beagle Pub.

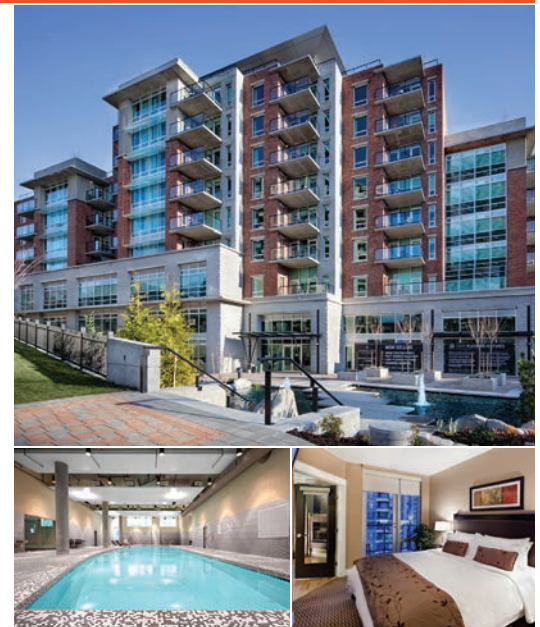
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The Parkside Hotel & Spa features some of the largest guest rooms in Victoria. All rooms come fully equipped with LCD televisions, kitchenettes or full kitchens, separate bedrooms, spa-inspired bathrooms and private balconies. Guests can rest easy after touring the city and wake up to enjoy a cup of full-leaf tea or coffee with a breath of fresh air.

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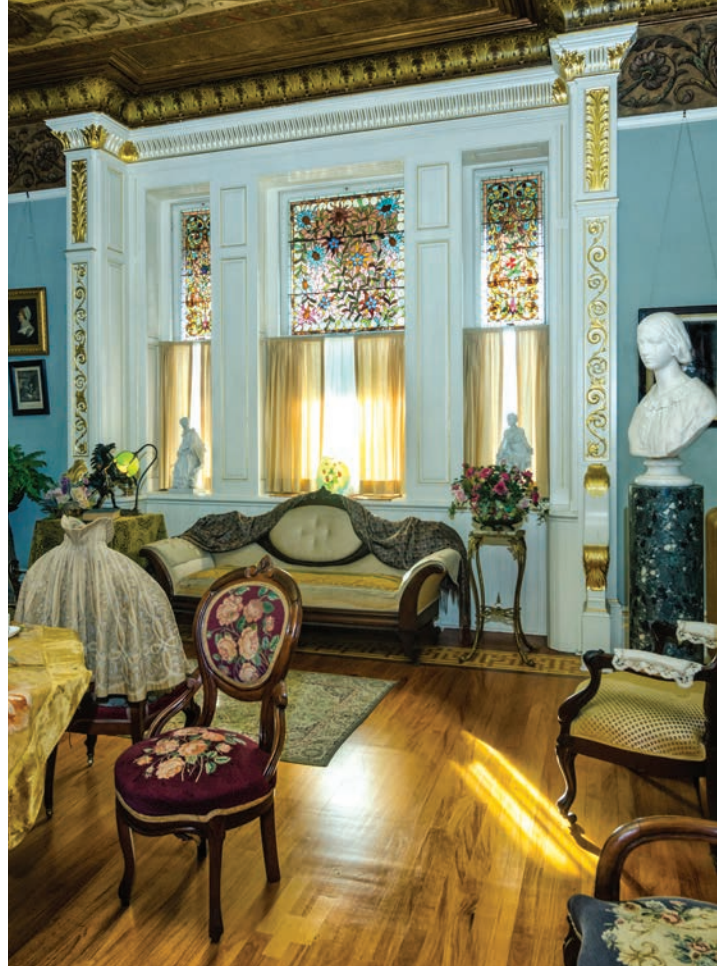
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Beyond Downtown

ALTHOUGH MANY OF VICTORIA'S BEST-LOVED sights are within easy walking distance of the Inner Harbour, other attractions lie beyond the downtown city centre area and require some mode of transportation. Several are quickly reached by taxi or local tour bus, and rental cars are available in or near the Inner Harbour as well.

Built by 19th-century coal baron Robert Dunsmuir, **Craigdarroch Castle** (1050 Joan Crescent; thecastle.ca) is simply astounding. The four-story, 39-room, 20,000-square-foot edifice exhibits an elegance and refinement unusual in what came to be called "bonanza castles" built by 19th-century tycoons. The Romanesque-revival exterior features massive stone blocks with turrets, garrets and towers on every side. Inside lies a jaw-dropping treasure chest of finely carved oak, mahogany, cedar, cherry and exotic tropical woods. Stained glass sprays a rainbow of dappled light and vast parlours and halls offer dancing and dining space equal to the average home.



Elegant interior of Craigdarroch Castle (Nathan Philips)

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Shinto Shrine at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Philosophers can mull the fact that Dunsmuir's riches were of little avail here — he died before the mansion was finished.

Though relatively small, the **Art Gallery of Greater Victoria** (1040 Moss St.; aggv.ca) makes up for it in quality. The gallery itself is adjacent to an 1889 hillside mansion on Rockland Hill and includes a lovely outdoor Asian garden. The museum's gallery devoted to Victoria native daughter **Emily Carr** is the most notable public display of this iconic artist's work. Carr's modernist and post-Impressionist art was inspired by her early 20th-century visits to the region's First Nations villages. Not only are more Carr works on display here than anywhere else, their juxtaposition with other artists who were her peers lends depth. The Art Gallery also holds one of the best collections of Asian artworks in North America.

Official residence of the royal family when they happen to be in their former colony, **Government House**, atop Rockland Hill (1401 Rockland Ave.), is closed to the public, but the estate's extensive gardens and Garry oak prairie preserve are open during daylight hours. The formal English-style cottage gardens range across 36 acres, focusing on roses and a small lily pond, but there are also azaleas, rhododendrons and perennial borders.

The fittest city in Canada boasts one of the nation's best recreation trail networks, the centrepiece of which is the memorably named **Galloping Goose Regional Trail** (crd.bc.ca/parks). Fashioned from an old railroad route, the Goose winds its way 55 km/34 miles from downtown into the Sooke foothills, passing over old trestles, beneath city hubbub and out into pastoral countryside dotted with lakes, woods and farms. Its entry point — a good place for a quiet walk — is just over the Blue Bridge and then north along Alston Street.



The Galloping Goose Trail is one of the region's finest recreational features. (Destination British Columbia)



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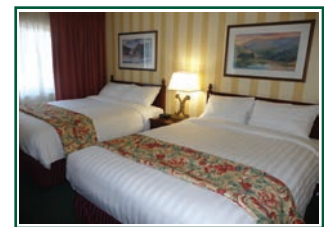


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Bat-Man (Tairona period, 900 – 1600 A.D.)
Photo - Clark M. Rodriguez, Gold Museum, Central Bank of Colombia. Gold Museum Collection 016790

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Through interactive displays and rare artifacts, Gold Rush! El Dorado in BC exhibition showcases the far-reaching impact of the gold rush. This includes the exclusive North American engagement of Allure of Gold, with more than 100 pre-Hispanic gold artifacts, on loan from the Museo del Oro in Bogotá, Colombia.

At IMAX Victoria, the biggest screen in all of BC will take you on a glittering trip around the world to examine the cultural, economic and historical impact of gold on different cultures. Gold Fever travels from the Klondike gold rush to India, Thailand, Africa and beyond.



Close-up of tree blossom with Hatley Castle in the background (Tourism Victoria)

The **Butchart Gardens** (800 Benvenuto Ave., Central Saanich; butchartgardens.com) is one of the best-known tourist attractions on the continent and ranks among the top five most-famous gardens on earth. About 1 million visitors per year come to tour a complex that is big, but not gargantuan: 55 acres include separately themed gardens (Italian, Japanese, Sunken, Mediterranean) along with 26 greenhouses spanning 2 acres. A staff of about 50 full-time gardeners oversees the gardens, aided by more than 500 other workers in peak season. Jennie Butchart, wife of the owner of what was once a gaping quarry, decided to turn it into an aesthetic attraction in 1904. Her descendants still operate the garden and Butchart celebrated its centennial in 2004 with a designation as a Canadian National Historic Site.

The wonders here include stunning colour zones achieved by masses of blooming annuals; ranks of rhododendrons, azaleas and other flowering shrubs; pathways and ponds, embankments and bridges, gazebos and arches and fountains and more. Fireworks shows every Saturday night in the summer, along with outdoor concerts, add to the appeal.

Not to be outdone by his father, Robert Dunsmuir's son James built **Hatley Castle** (hatleypark.ca) 15 km/9 mi west of Victoria in the early 20th century as his own magnificent estate. The 40-room, 1908 building is meant to mimic a 15th-century Scottish castle; among other TV shows and movies, it was featured in *Smallville*, *X-Men* and *MacGyver*. "Money doesn't matter, just build what I want," the younger Dunsmuir told his architect.

A one-hour guided tour of the estate includes an introduction to the site's history, from a First Nations site to today's owner, Royal Roads University, as well as an excursion through the castle's extensive gardens.



Butchart Garden (Ian Abbott/flickr)

Victoria Attractions

Fun abounds throughout the city

Kidding Around

THEY CREEP, THEY CRAWL, they flash stingers and buzz and whine and click. The denizens of the **Victoria Bug Zoo** (631 Courtney St.; victoriabugzoo.ca) are not ones most people want to see in the wild. This famous facility, just north of the Empress Hotel, is extremely popular with kids whose insect intrigue is not yet leavened by adulthood, and adults who have never before had the opportunity to safely sneak close to scorpions or spiders. Aside from simply looking at the bugs, some are available for touching, such as tarantulas. The

Bug Zoo's summer day camps (yep, schmoozing with spiders) are a huge hit, as well. You can buy them to bring home, but you may not want to tell your kids that.

Also within walking distance of the Inner Harbour is **Beacon Hill Children's Farm** (beaconhillpark.ca), contained within its lovely namesake park. From alpacas to turkeys, goats to sheep, the animals here help kids (and adults) learn about the many domesticated creatures that have long shared life with humans. Especially popular are

the twice daily "goat stampedes."

Kids will also love a jaunt around the Inner Harbour aboard the pickle-boat **Victoria Harbour Ferries**. Chugging back and forth like gaily coloured little cabooses, these boats hold about a dozen passengers and trundle among 17 docks, from the Empress to Fisherman's Wharf, from far up the Gorge out to the Outer Harbour. A ferry happens by every 15 minutes in summer, every 20 minutes the rest of the year.

North of the city, on the Saanich Peninsula, Sidney's **Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre** (9811 Seaport Place, Sidney), which devotes its holding tanks to the creatures that live in the Salish Sea just offshore, is both kid-friendly and highly educational.



The Beacon Hill Children's Farm offers kids the opportunity to cozy up to peacocks and other animals.
(Tourism Victoria)



Children playing in Beacon Hill water park. (Tourism Victoria)



(Adrena LINE Zipline Adventure Tours)

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The rides and activities at Adrena LINE Zipline Adventure Tours (adrenalinezip.com) take guests to the upper edge of the thrill meter, with eight ziplines above the Sooke area's temperate rain forest, plus two suspension bridges. The monthly full-moon nighttime adventures add magic.

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Symphony Splash is an exciting and beloved Victoria tradition. (Tourism Victoria)

Art-Filled Evenings

THE SUPERB VICTORIA SYMPHONY (victoriasymphony.ca) is led by Tania Miller, one of the few female maestros in North America and is the equal in live performance of much bigger orchestras in much larger cities. The annual-subscription program offers a full slate of concerts in the classical and pop pantheon, including especially lively concerts devoted to movie themes and music associated with Shakespeare; the symphony does not shrink from pieces as substantial as Verdi's Requiem. The main performance venue is the opulent 1913 **Royal Theatre** (805 Broughton St.), a restored beaux arts-style venue, which has hosted stars from Sarah Bernhardt to Luciano Pavarotti. The symphony also offers numerous summer concerts at Butchart Gardens and a hugely popular event, **Symphony Splash**, which consists of an August concert from a barge moored in the Inner Harbour, complete with fireworks and a cannon blast.

Several theatre companies offer year-long rosters of plays that range from classics to modern, path-breaking works. **Belfry Theatre** (belfry.bc.ca), which utilizes a historic Baptist church near Fernwood Square, offers a year-long series specializing in new productions of modern works that challenge social and cultural norms, with an emphasis on Canadian playwrights. **Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre** (bluebridgetheatre.ca) is Victoria's mainline company, offering classics from Shakespeare to Albee. **Pacific Opera Victoria** (pov.bc.ca) presents four productions per year from the classic opera catalogue.



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Lower Johnson (LoJo) (Alexia Foster/Tourism Victoria)

Shopping Excursions

SHOPPING IN VICTORIA OFFERS VISITORS the chance to bring home far more than the usual tourist souvenir. Here are world-class art galleries, old-fashioned antique shops, edgy clothing boutiques and the vast new **Victoria Public Market at the Hudson** (1701 Douglas St.), which brings under one roof a dozen of the city's finest artisans and food vendors.

Most visitor shopping interest focuses on Government Street, whose stores range from chocolate to tea, linen to lamps. Two major cross streets, Johnson and Fort, are also shopping districts that have been transforming themselves in recent years.

Fort Street, once one of the busiest antiques districts in North America, is evolving into a thoroughfare of small, fashion-forward boutiques. Yes, you can still find 19th-century china and crystal at stores such as Old 'n Gold Estate Jewelry, Pacific Antiques, Lunds auctioneers, Vanity Fair Antique & Collectibles Mall (with 40 dealers), Kilshaw's Auctioneers and Faith Grant Connoisseurs Shop.



Fort Street Shopping (Courtesy Fabulous Fort Street Business Association)



Thrilling pages, both old and new, are available at Chronicles of Crime, a mystery bookstore whose sales staff is always happy to offer recommendations to suspense fans desperate to find worthy new authors. Thousands of titles, new and used, invite browsing.

New to the Fort Street ambience are fashionable boutiques such as Leka (1044 Fort St.), whose wares range from high-design Scandinavian goods to island-made products and made-in-house clothing. Not Just Pretty specializes in environmentally friendly, practical fashion such as yoga jeans and nearby, at Paradise Boutique, many of the lovely swimsuits and sundresses are locally designed and manufactured.

Just north of Fort Street, Cook Culture is the city's newest cooking store and school; this is also one of the top shops in the province in which to buy chocolate, with dozens of single-source chocolate bars.

Nearby, **Lower Johnson ("LoJo")** has become a dynamic centre for boutiques and galleries. The brightly painted "Victorian ladies" (19th-century storefronts) hold numerous small shops and arcades, including Market Square (560 Johnson St.), with brick buildings filled with more than a dozen shops — including Tonic Jewellery, which crafts handmade gold and silver pieces onsite — clustered around a courtyard. The Paper Box Arcade is another mini-mall and Smoking Lily offers Victoria-designed and locally made clothing.

On Government Street, Stone's Jewellery (910 Government St.), a Western Canada icon, specializes in showy pieces in white or yellow gold, and just over two blocks away, in quaint, narrow Trounce Alley,




Victoria's many art galleries exhibit contemporary and historic Canadian art. (Tourism Victoria)



Bastion Street (Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)

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the Button & Needlework Boutique (614 View St.) offers an astounding array of buttons from around the world, along with an extensive collection of yarns.

Victoria's art galleries offer some of the finest indigenous and modern regional artwork in Canada. On Fort Street, Alcheringa Gallery, though small, holds fabulous Aboriginal art from around the Pacific Rim, including the work of BC First Nations artists who are inventively expanding the bounds of their traditional art forms, resulting in works with modern flair. The expansive Madrona Gallery specializes in top-notch, modern West Coast artists, whose works range from carved stone to classic oil-painting landscapes. Eagle Feather Gallery focuses on First Nations artists working in both classic and modern styles. Out of the Mist Gallery combines art, sculpture, clothing and home décor, all of indigenous origin, on its shelves. And Victoria Emerging Art Gallery is for fans of contemporary, edgy art and photography.

Last, but definitely not least, Capital Iron, just west of Chinatown, is perhaps the world's most interesting "hardware" store. Its beginnings as a scrap business in 1934 have shaped its present-day character as an emporium for a wide array of goods ranging from marine buoys to barbecue grills to casserole dishes to Chinese antiques.



Fan Tan Alley (Tourism Victoria)

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(Tourism Victoria)



Victoria Public Market at the Hudson

This engaging new market, which opened in 2013, draws comparisons to San Francisco's Ferry Building public market. The market was hewn into a former department store building at the north edge of downtown. The 18,000-square-foot first floor holds a mix of experienced restaurateurs and exciting young food-related startups offering everything from local honey to fresh-caught seafood, including such luminaries as Salt Spring Island Cheese, Silk Road Tea, Wildfire Bakery and Island Spice Trade. Food vendors offer limited sit-down service and an open lot out back is the setting for weekend and Wednesday farmers markets. The Victoria Public Market is on Douglas Street, between Fisgard and Herald streets. For more information see victoriapublicmarket.com.



Spinnaker's Gastro Brewpub (Tourism Victoria)

After Dark

NIGHTLIFE IN VICTORIA centres on the various pubs, taverns and nightclubs downtown and weekend evenings can find throngs of celebrants cruising between the most popular sites. Best-known are the brewpub at Swans Hotel (506 Pandora Ave.; swanshotel.com), which offers live music every night and the half-dozen entertainment venues at the Strathcona Hotel (919 Douglas St.; strathconahotel.com), including The Sticky Wicket Pub and the after-hours Clubhouse.

Canoe Brewpub (450 Swift St.; canoebrewpub.com) features handcrafted beer and what they call "real food," in a soaring timber-frame waterfront building; get there early for a table on one of the waterside patios. Local singer-songwriters add to the lively atmosphere. A more sedate atmosphere prevails at Spinnaker's Gastro Brewpub (308 Catherine St.; spinnakers.com), Canada's oldest licensed brewpub. Aside from its many beers, ales and seasonal brews, Spinnaker's restaurant offers exceptional regional cuisine.




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(Tourism Victoria)



(Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)

Romance is in the Air

ONE COULD ARGUE THAT ITS VERY SETTING and atmosphere make Victoria intrinsically, deeply romantic — sparkling blue waters reflecting high skies specked with cotton-ball clouds, horse-drawn carriages plying visitors through Victorian neighbourhoods, brilliant flowers brimming from baskets and street-side gardens, historic small inns and elegant boutiques, clean air and starry night skies. It's close to perfection for courtship and intimacy, but the city has a number of shops to enhance the effect.

Start with chocolate at two equally famous but quite different purveyors: traditional, Victorian-style sweets at Rogers' Chocolates (913 Government St.) and modern, Belgian gourmet chocolates at Bernard Callebaut (621 Broughton St.). Chocolat (703 Fort St.) features flavoured confections ranging from truffles to creams to caramels.

The romantic finery continues at a large selection of intimate dining locales, all offering splendid service, gourmet cuisine and lovely atmospheres: Camille's, a dimly lit Bastion Square eatery; the Empress Room at the Fairmont Empress Hotel (721 Government St.), where the ultra-elegant atmosphere is only

matched by the European-style service and classic cuisine; Padella Italian Bistro (2524 Estevan Ave.), a cozy neighbourhood retreat; Brasserie L'école (1715 Government St.), near Chinatown, a French bistro famed for its mussels and frites; and Café Brio, whose art-filled brick walls shelter gourmet Italian-flavoured West Coast cuisine.

Follow dinner with a moonlit stroll back to a deluxe hotel suite or historic inn, or a ride in a horse-drawn carriage and magic is sure to ensue. There are no tricks to this magic, just good old-fashioned romantic flavour in one of the world's loveliest cities.

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Chinatown Walks explore Canada's original Chinatown, now a national historic site. Visit the oldest temple and the narrowest alley, savour a tasty snack and find out about the current vibrant arts scene. June 1 to Sept. 6: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday; Rest of the year: Saturday only. Starting time: 10:30 am outside Starbucks, Figgard at Government Street.

Ghostly Walks reveal downtown's gritty past with stories of murders, hangings and ghosts. Victoria is the most haunted city in the Pacific Northwest. May 1 to October 31: every night; Rest of the year: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Starting times: 7:30 pm (plus 9:30 at peak times). Meet outside Visitor Info Centre.

Discovery Walks cover heritage neighbourhoods, architecture, downtown landmarks, colourful characters, parks and gardens throughout the city. June 1 to Sept. 6: Daily at 2:00 pm. Rest of the year: Saturdays at 2:00 pm and Sundays at 10:30 am. Various starting locations.

Gold Rush Tales (June 1 to Sept. 6 only) at 1:00 pm. Meet outside main entrance of Royal BC Museum.

Check website or call for all starting locations, prices and schedules. No reservations needed for most tours (except Gold Rush). Private group tours available on request.

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James Bay heritage house (Tourism Victoria)

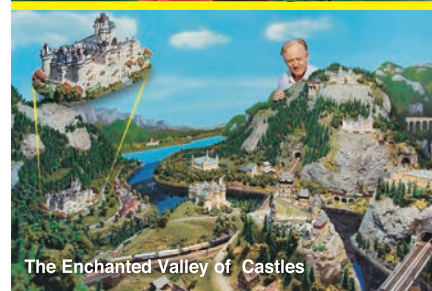
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International Chalk Art Festival

(Photos: Tourism Victoria)



Fireworks at the harbour



Fringe Festival

Festive and Fun

A RAFT OF INTRIGUING FESTIVALS abound on the city's calendar. One of the best-known, the **Victoria Dragon Boat Festival** (victoriadragonboat.com), brings these colourful craft to the waters of the city's harbour each August. Other notable annual events include: **Victoria International JazzFest** (jazzvictoria.ca), in late June, which reflects the love of jazz on an island that nurtured Nanaimo native Diana Krall. The **International Busker Festival** (victoriabuskers.com), in late July, brings street performers from around the world to the Inner Harbour and downtown. In August, during **Symphony Splash** (victoriasymphony.ca), Victoria's excellent symphony gathers on a barge in the Inner Harbour for a performance that concludes with Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," complete with fireworks and a cannon blast.



Reuben Dot Dot Dot performing at the 2014 International Busker Festival

(Blake Handley/flickr)

Two festivals, the **International Chalk Art Festival** (victoriachalkfestival.com) and **Feast of Fields** (feastoffields.com), the annual outdoor-dining celebration of local foods, farmers, fishers, chefs and gourmards, take place in mid-September.

The change of seasons doesn't mean the end of festivities. The **Victoria Film Festival** (victoriafilmfestival.com) in February is more intimate than its big-city counterparts, but it still brings more than 150 films from around the world to the city.

2015 EVENTS

- **Victoria International Jazz Fest**
June 19 - 28
jazzvictoria.ca
- **International Busker Festival**
July 17 - 26
victoriabuskers.com
- **Symphony Splash**
August 2
victoriasymphony.ca
- **Victoria Dragon Boat Festival**
August 14 - 16
victoriadragonboat.com
- **Victoria Fringe Festival**
August 27 - September 6
intrepidtheatre.com
- **International Chalk Art Festival**
September 12 - 13
victoriachalkfestival.com

More events: tourismvictoria.com

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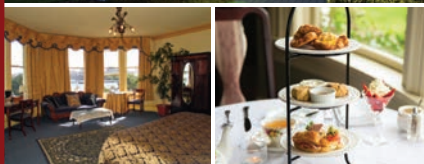
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Pathbreaking Art

VICTORIA'S MOST FAMOUS NATIVE DAUGHTER is unquestionably Emily Carr, the painter whose profound attachment to and innovative interpretation of the Canadian landscape and its people brought her global renown. Born in a lovely 19th-century home near Beacon Hill Park in 1871, Carr was a female practitioner of early 20th-century modern art in an era dominated by men. In the summer of 1898, Carr took a small coastal steamer to visit her sister in Ucluelet, on the west coast of the island. This short journey transformed her world. There was a small community of Nuu-chah-nulth nearby and Carr was welcomed into their community and became a frequent visitor, living with them for a time. There, she was exposed to the richness of native culture. She began visiting other First Nations communities and painting the landscapes and villages of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian peoples.

Her large, somewhat dark canvases are populated by surrealistic old-growth trees, in which ravens lurk and landforms behind which clouds swirl — human presence is often only seen in the characters on totem poles. Her lifestyle, famously uncompromising and adventurous, was recounted in several of her books, pathbreaking for their day. Carr's girlhood home, now known as the **Emily Carr House** (207 Government St.; emilycarr.com), refurbished in Victorian style and surrounded by lovely cottage gardens, is a historic site open daily in summer. The **Art Gallery of Greater Victoria** (1040 Moss St.; aggv.ca) has a small wing devoted entirely to Carr and a few of her contemporaries and is the best place to see her works. Carr is often associated with her contemporaries Georgia O'Keeffe and Frida Kahlo, and other painters who



Above: Emily Carr's 1936 oil painting *Blue Sky* can be seen at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. (AGGV/The Thomas Gardiner Keir Bequest)

Left: Emily Carr. (Harold & Vera Mortimer Lamb Purchase Fund)

defied convention personally and artistically; exhibitions assembled of the trio's works have traveled throughout North America and Europe.

There's a fine statue of Carr at the corner of Government and Belleville Streets, at the southwest corner of the Empress Hotel's grounds. She's looking serenely out over her native city, with which she maintained a lifelong relationship until her death in 1945. Today, her home city keeps the attachment alive for all visitors and residents.





(Blake Handley/flickr)



This **BRONZE STATUE** honors the renowned Canadian artist Emily Carr, ensuring that Victoria's famous citizen is commemorated in her hometown. The Parks and Recreation Foundation of Victoria commissioned the statue from gifted sculptor Barbara Paterson. The monument features a seated Emily Carr with her sketchpad. Emily's Javanese monkey 'Woo' perches on her shoulder and her dog 'Billie' stands nearby. The statue erected along Victoria's Harbourfront on the grounds of the Fairmount Empress Hotel was unveiled during Women's History Month in Canada, on October 13, 2010. Source: tourismvictoria.com.

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WHALE WATCHING

Special Advertising Section

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Whale watching and marine eco-tours provide the ultimate West Coast experience – a mix of fun, adventure and education.

"Seeing killer whales in their natural habitat can be a profoundly exciting and uplifting experience," says Andrew Lees, general manager of Five Star Whale Watching in Victoria. "Nowhere else in the world is there a city this size so close to pods of Orcas. This offers us a tremendous opportunity to remind people of the awesome power and beauty of nature."

Chris Hall, a skipper for Prince of Whales Whale Watching, agrees. "When you first see the whales off in the distance and all of a sudden the passengers realize that the whales are actually swimming towards you, that's when they get really excited," he says.

About 100 resident killer whales call this area home all year round and they're joined throughout the seasons by other transient orcas, minke whales, gray whales and even humpback whales. Through the Pacific Whale Watch Association Northwest, companies in Washington State and British Columbia are doing their part to ensure the safety and conservation of these local whales for generations to come.

"I am very proud that Five Star and other operators are part of the solution," says Five Star's Andrew Lees. "We are creating a positive adventure for our passengers and for many of them, the connection they have with nature will last long after they get back to shore."

Anna Hall, Chris's wife and a marine zoologist for Prince of Whales, says a lot has changed in whale watching over the years. "We now work with scientists from Canada and the United States to ensure our operating guidelines incorporate the latest biological information and our best understanding of the whales' ecological needs. We want to minimize any potential disturbance to the whales and reduce our impact on their environment."

Companies such as Prince of Whales and Five Star Whale Watching also emphasize there is much, much more to see in the waters around Victoria. A whale watching trip here might be better described as a "whole ecosystem tour," says Prince of Whales' Anna Hall. Five Star's Andrew Lees describes his company's adventures as "expedition catamaran experiences," something far more than just a boat ride.

Lees adds: "Given our climate and location, you're likely to see harbour seals, sea lions and seemingly limitless numbers of birds, including bald eagles, cormorants and more. The dramatic return of humpback whales over the last few years has made our adventures even more exciting".

"People really enjoy seeing the diversity of sea birds," says Anna Hall, "especially when we're headed back and these little rhinoceros auklets fly along and zip right in front of the boat, even at high speed."

Five Star Whale Watching's Kayla Glynn adds that every trip is different. "I just love that there's something new to see and learn every day. For example, summer is the strongest time for Chinook salmon in the area and of course, that brings in the three pods of killer whales. So we can see whales cooperating in their family groups at feeding and that's amazing."

"Or just observing Steller sea lions on shore: they have this big, grand stature, but then they do something vulnerable like scratch their chin with a flipper. I like the scratching sea lions."

This is a fantastic way to enhance your trip to Victoria.

Of course, Victoria Clipper passengers visiting Seattle can take advantage of similar whale watching and marine tour opportunities in Puget Sound and the fantastic San Juan Islands. For the uninitiated,



Rylee Isitt

here are a few quick facts to help convince you. Whale watching companies offer packages that cater to almost anyone's taste, whether you're seeking the thrill of blasting across the water in a rigid-hull inflatable or the leisure of cruising out to see the whales aboard a heated, covered boat with washroom facilities. Most tours range from two to four hours, though Victoria Clipper offers full-day packages from Seattle with an option for an overnight stay on San Juan Island.

Most companies have trained marine specialists on the trips to tell you all about the things you'll see and expert captains at the helm to make sure your trip is safe and pleasant.

Victoria Clipper's San Juan Island cruise with optional Whale and Sea Life Search is unique among the ecotours available in the Pacific Northwest, for the onboard naturalist program and the sheer amount of territory covered during the trip. Departing from Seattle on Victoria Clipper III, you'll cruise Possession Sound, Saratoga Passage and Skagit Bay and even through beautiful Deception Pass on your way to the San Juans, arriving in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island in the late morning. The evening return trip crosses the Strait of Juan De Fuca to Admiralty Inlet, with magnificent views of historic lighthouses and dramatic shorelines all the way back to Seattle. In the course of the day, you will circumnavigate Whidbey Island, one of the longest islands in the contiguous United States. Weather willing, both the Cascade and Olympic mountain ranges provide a stunning backdrop to it all.

While on board, trained naturalists will alert you to wildlife sightings and connect you with the history and ecology of the Salish Sea through hands-on and multi-media presentations. By the end of your day at sea, you will have a deeper understanding of marine mammal behavior, regional ecology and more. Victoria Clipper III has a larger travel range than most other whale watching vessels in the San Juans, so if you join us for the Whale and Sea Life Search you maximize your chances of seeing orcas, minke and humpback whales, Dall's and harbor porpoises, as well as Steller sea lions, harbor seals and a wide variety of marine bird life.

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Whale watching tour group view a pod of Orca surfacing for air

(Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)

The Great Outdoors

THE CENTREPIECE OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITY in the Victoria area is the recreational trail system, whose showpiece is the 55 km/34 mi **Galloping Goose Trail**. This abandoned railbed leads from downtown (at the northwest end of the Blue Bridge) all the way through the western suburbs and into the Sooke foothills, from whence it carried passengers, mail and commercial goods back and forth between Sooke and Victoria. Opened as a bike, pedestrian and horse path in 1992, it exemplifies the Victoria affection for outdoor recreation. Northwest of downtown, a newer path, the 29 km/18 mi **Lochside Regional Trail** (crd.bc.ca), heads north up the Saanich Peninsula to Swartz Bay, past suburban backyards, beaches and farms.

Victoria is also an excellent place for **wildlife watching**, both in and around the city. Bald eagles are a common sight, especially in Beacon Hill Park along the shoreline. Orcas are periodically seen from the same locale; the largest Salish Sea killer whale pod plies Haro Strait between Victoria and San Juan Island much of the year. Waterfowl of all kinds are common in and around the Inner Harbour, from the exotic puffins to everyday mallards. Raptors such as red-tailed hawks and osprey frequent the waters and prairies around the city, especially on the Saanich

Peninsula. **Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary** (swanlake.bc.ca), northwest of downtown, is an excellent locale for birdwatching.

Kayaking (or canoeing) the Inner Harbour is a lovely way to gain a different perspective on the city, watch for waterfowl and marine mammals such as harbour seals and get some fresh-air exercise. Ocean River Adventures (1824 Store St.; oceanriveradventures.com) is on the upper Inner Harbour and offers kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboard rentals.

Canadians are mad about golf. Come Easter, the skis get shelved in the garage and out come the golf clubs. While there are many fine courses on Vancouver Island,

Victoria Golf Course



(Boomer Jerritt / Tourism Vancouver Island)



Goldstream Provincial Park

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The 13 km/8 mi Scenic Marine Drive bike path yields astounding views and fresh salt air.

(Tourism Vancouver Island/Boomer Jerritt)

the best known is the centrepiece of the large residential development northwest of the city, Bear Mountain (bearmountain.ca). The centrepiece of **Bear Mountain** is a pair of high-profile Jack Nicklaus-co-designed golf courses that are among the most challenging and entertaining, in Western Canada. The signature hole on the older, Mountain Course, #13, is a 509-yard uphill masterpiece that crests at a saddle green with views of Mount Baker, the Olympic Mountains, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the city of Victoria, all spread below. The 18th hole is also a 500-yarder, featuring a long, narrow, target green guarded by six bunkers, two ponds and a rock gully. The newer Valley Course is a more user-friendly course with wider fairways, fewer bunkers and larger greens.

Two fabulous parks outside the city offer visitors the chance to experience different wonders of the area's natural environment. **Goldstream Provincial Park** (16 km/10 mi west of Victoria on Hwy. 1; bcparks.ca) is a famous site to watch spawning salmon as they blush crimson in the low, clear waters of late autumn. While the name of the creek (and thus park) derives from a brief gold rush here in the mid-19th century, it might as well apply to the colours of autumn in the creekside cottonwoods and hillside big-leaf maples. Hiking trails wend their way into the woods from numerous roadside parking lots, leading to old-growth Douglas-fir groves more than half a century old.

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With a vertical drop of 47 m/154 ft, one highlight is Niagara Falls, so named as it's almost the same height as its more famous East Coast cousin, though significantly smaller in width. The park's Freeman King Visitor Centre often has naturalists on hand to explain the complex ecosystem that supports the trees, waters and salmon that make the park a natural marvel.

Elk/Beaver Lake Park (west of Hwy. 17, 15 minutes north of Victoria; crd.bc.ca/parks) has a rowing centre, two swimming beaches, equestrian trails and canoeing and kayaking areas in a huge park in the middle of the Saanich Peninsula. Picnic facilities, bathhouses and a nature centre supplement the activity venues. The grounds offer hiking trails along the lakeshore, through pleasant woods and past wetlands full of migratory birds.



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The Butchart Gardens (Landon Sveinson/Tourism Vancouver Island)

Green Spaces

ALTHOUGH IT IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS GARDENS ON EARTH — and certainly the most famous in the Western Hemisphere — **Butchart Gardens** (butchartgardens.com) is just one of many lovely such preserves in the Victoria region and elsewhere on Vancouver Island. With a benign maritime climate, lots of summer sun, clean air and ample water and very few damaging pests, the island offers one of the best horticultural climates on earth.

Butchart was created inside the remains of a limestone quarry that founder Jennie Butchart's husband operated in the late 19th century. Today the carefully laid and exquisitely colourful gardens welcome vast numbers of visitors, who not



Abkhazi Garden (Jay Scratch/flickr)

ATTRACTIONS

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Gardens, Victoria Butterfly Gardens is warm and aromatic. The Gardens features stunning blooms and thousands of tropical plants, including foods of the world and carnivorous plant displays.

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only marvel at the beauty of the gardens, they enjoy spectacular fireworks every Saturday night in the summer and head for home with Butchart gift-shop treasures ranging from rare seeds to botanical prints.

Though biggest and best known, Butchart is only the start. **Abkhazi Garden** (1964 Fairfield Road; blog.conservancy.bc.ca) is a compact estate garden laid into a rocky hillside in Victoria by an expatriate European royal couple that's particularly noted for its inclusion of native elements, such as Garry oaks. Likewise, the spacious grounds at **Government House** (1401 Rockland Ave.; ltgov.bc.ca) hold elaborate English cottage gardens.

Farther up the island, at least a dozen gardens offer composed habitats ranging from floral displays to estate landscapes melded into native island ecosystems such as old-growth forest. The **Vancouver Island Garden Trail** (vancouverislandgardentrail.com) guides visitors to these diverse preserves.

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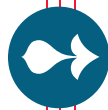
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(Tourism Victoria)



Grand Scenic Drives

WITH SEASIDE AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS from many vantage points, Victoria boasts some of the most magnificent scenery anywhere. You can pick up a rental car from Budget (budgetvictoria.com) or National (nationalcar.ca), grab a local map and set off for a grand scenic excursion starting right in the city.

Victoria's bluff-top **Marine Drive** is at the start of a beautiful scenic drive, meandering past grand homes with lovely flower gardens, with incomparable views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the distant Olympic Mountain Range. To begin, take Douglas Street from Thunderbird Park in downtown Victoria. Among the sights are Beacon Hill Park, Finlayson and Clover points, the lovely upscale community of Oak Bay with its elegant homes and flowery gardens and the Victoria Golf Club, where there are great views of the San Juan Islands and Cascade Mountain Range.

Malahat Drive is a gorgeous, 25 km/16 mi section of Highway 1 that runs along the west side of the Saanich Inlet with old-growth forest, salmon streams and spectacular, high-altitude views. The Malahat begins at Goldstream Provincial Park, approximately 19 km/12 mi from Victoria. Here, massive old-growth cedar and Douglas fir trees dripping with moss create a shady sanctuary for sword ferns, salal and salmonberry. The showpiece of the park is Goldstream, a world-class salmon stream with spawning salmon October through December; one of Canada's largest concentrations of bald eagles converge here to feast on salmon carcasses when they reach critical mass. After the park, the Malahat climbs to the 352 m / 1,154 ft summit where the first viewpoint features the Olympic Mountains through Saanich Inlet and the second reveals views of the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands.



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nauticalnelliessrestaurant.com
250.380.2260

Celebrating 18 years, this award-winning restaurant, located in the Victoria Inner Harbour serves the finest aged steaks & freshest seafood. Enjoy Happy Hour on the heated sundeck. The dining room has great views of the harbour, the perfect atmosphere for that special occasion.

Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub & GuestHouses
308 Catherine St., Victoria
spinnakers.com
250.386.2739

Consistently voted "Victoria's Best." Located on Victoria's Inner Harbour, Spinnakers is a sight to see. We were a pioneer of the North American craft-brewing renaissance and Canada's oldest brewpub. We're steps away from our GuestHouse which features double soaker tubs, rain showers, fireplaces and much more. Come and experience a legend.

Sticky Wicket Pub
919 Douglas St., Victoria
strathconahotel.com
250.383.7137

The Sticky Wicket Pub is a Downtown Victoria landmark featuring the best in local cuisine, great craft beer and all your favorite beverages. The Sticky Wicket Pub is just part of the Strathcona Hotel's 8 venues including The Rooftop Surfclub Patio.

The Japanese Village Restaurant
734 Broughton St., Victoria
japanesevillage.bc.ca
250.382.5165

Chop, Season, Sizzle - That's Teppan-Grill dining at the Japanese Village Restaurant. A personal chef at every table! For a more traditional fare, learn the art of sushi in our sushi dining room.

The Keg Steakhouse
500 Fort St., Victoria
kegsteakhouse.com
250.386.7789

Quality, comfort and value are three key ingredients that make The Keg Steakhouse & Bar experience like no other. Our menu features tender, juicy steaks, slow roasted prime rib, succulent shellfish, the freshest of salads.

Old Spaghetti Factory
703 Douglas St., Victoria
osf.ca
250.381.8444

Every meal includes bread, soup or salad, ice cream and coffee. The best dining value in Victoria!

SHOPPING

Artina's Jewellery
1002 Government St., Victoria
artinas.com
250.386.7000

Artina's Jewellery, with two locations in Victoria and Vancouver BC, has the world's largest selection of Hand Crafted Canadian Jewellery. We showcase over 90 of Canada's most talented artists including aboriginal West Coast carvers and contemporary Canadian jewellers. Family owned and operated for over 25 years, we specialize in unique, handcrafted jewellery and take pride in providing superior customer service.



(Courtesy Fabulous Fort Street Business Association)



Fort Street Shopping (Courtesy Fabulous Fort Street Business Association)

Baggins Shoes
580 Johnson St., Victoria
bagginsshoes.com
250.388.7022 / 1.866.224.8257

Baggins - since 1969. Visit the undisputed Kings of Converse in this unique shop that's become a Victoria institution. Baggins boasts the largest selection of Converse in the world, and one of the best selections of Vans found anywhere. The range of colour, styles and sizes will blow you away, a rainbow of sneakers. This is a shopping experience not to be missed. They also offer custom printing on Chucks and slip-ons, and ship worldwide.

BC Smoke Shop
2652 Quadra St., Victoria
BCSmokeShop.ca
250.383.4663 or 1.877.297.6653

The best in local glass, high quality vaporizers, fine imports, tobacco, and many other accessories for your smoking needs, we are also an online eCommerce store.

Button & Needlework Boutique
614 View St., Victoria
buttonedup.com
250.384.8781

The Button & Needlework Boutique specializes in luxurious yarns, fine needlework, and an outstanding collection of local and internationally handcrafted buttons and embellishments.

The Cobbler
718 View St., Victoria
Facebook.com/cobblervictoria
250.386.3741

Locally owned and operated. Many Comfortable and stylish European brands. Open 7 days a week. Voted Best Independent Shoe Store in Victoria.

Cuban Cigar Shop
938 Fort Street, Victoria
cubancigar-shop.com
250-592-7966 or 1-800-471 8479

We specialize in the finest Cuban Cigars, including collectables and limited editions. Largest selection and exceptional prices. We are an Appointed Dealer and Authorized Habanos Specialist. We look forward to seeing you. Enjoy your visit.

Designer's International
Empress Hotel - Tea Lobby
250.383.2115

Our boutique store is located in the Empress Hotel, Tea Lobby. We have a great selection of Italian made handbags and Canadian made leather jackets and furs. We also carry a large selection of accessories.

Fabulous Fort
500 - 1000 blocks of Fort St, Victoria

Downtown Victoria's Fort Street is anchored at one end by the city's active inner harbour and at the other end by the Mosaic Village. In between are six blocks of one of the city's busiest commercial streets. If you are visiting downtown Victoria, be sure to spend some time strolling this street.

Irish Linen Stores
1019 Government St., Victoria
irishlinenvictoria.com
250.383.6812

Beautiful old linen store established in 1910. In the same location since 1917. Imported linen, lace and embroideries.

Madrona Gallery

606 View St., Victoria
madronagallery.com
250.386.4660

Madrona Gallery is an historic and contemporary fine art gallery showcasing art from established mid career and emerging Canadian artists. The gallery prides itself on providing a welcoming environment to new and established art collectors alike.

Market Square

#39 - 560 Johnson St., Victoria
marketsquare.ca
250.386.2441

A unique, historic destination with local boutiques and tasty eateries.

Munro's Books

1108 Government St., Victoria
munrobooks.com
250.382.2464

Munro's Books has been a destination for book lovers for more than 50 years. Visit our heritage building and browse a wonderful selection of books and gifts.

Old Morris Tobacconist

1116 Government St., Victoria
oldmorris.com
250.382.4811

Mens finest shaving accessories and tobacco shop.

Roberta's Hats

1318 Government St., Victoria
RobertasHats.com
250.384.2778

At Roberta's Hats we're pleased to offer you a fabulous selection of hats at great prices. Trendy to Timeless, we have it all! Our funky, antique-filled decor, along with our friendly and knowledgeable staff make shopping at Roberta's Hats a truly unique experience. Come join us!

Rogers' Chocolates Ltd.

913 Government St., Victoria
rogerschocolates.com
250.384.1885

Established by Charles (Candy) Rogers in 1885, this chocolatier is a favourite of chocolate lovers around the globe. Visit one of their stores today, they are always sampling!

Sasquatch Trading Ltd.

1233 Government St., Victoria
cowichantrading.com
250.386.9903

Visit us for Victoria's finest in Cowichan sweaters & knits, handcrafted First Nations jewelry, carvings and more. Our stores have been serving Vancouver Island and visitors for over 50 years. We carry a wonderful selection of souvenirs and gift items for all your needs.

She She Bags

616 View St., Victoria
shesheshops.com
250.388.0613

A shop full of handbags...every woman's dream. From lap top to evening bags you will find it all at She She Bags. Let your fabulous handbag be the star of your outfit.

She She Shoes

618 View St., Victoria
shesheshops.com
250.383.1883

The most drool-worthy shoes in Victoria can be found at She She Shoes. Develop all sorts of shoe crushes here!! Heels, flats, wedges, and boots...we have it all!

Stone's Jewellery

Empress Hotel - Tea Lobby
250.382.4841

We are a family owned business that has been located in the Empress Hotel, Tea Lobby since 1974. Specializing in precious and semi-precious gemstones. All exclusively designed and custom made in Canada.

Tilley Endurables

560 Yates St., Victoria
tilley.com
250.590.6381

Iconic Tilley Hat and the finest travel clothing for men and women. Designed and made in Canada.

Triple Spiral

106-3 Fan Tan Alley, Victoria
www.triplespiralmetaphysical.com
250.380.7212

Triple Spiral is located in Canada's oldest Chinatown and narrowest street. We carry a large selection of unique handcrafted gifts.

Walk in Comfort

731 Fort St., Victoria
250.388.9910

Mayfair Mall, Victoria
250.389.1158

Hillside Mall, Victoria
250.592.2233

Oak Bay Ave, Victoria
250.598.9255

2449 Beacon Ave, Sidney
250.655.7463

Woodgrove Mall, Nanaimo
250.390.7463

Walk in Comfort has six locations that have been serving Vancouver Island for over 25 years. Locally owned our selection includes Birkenstock, Clarks, Dorking, Ecco, Kubo, Naot, New Balance, Portofino, Rieker, Rock Spring. Come in, have your feet measured and Walk in Comfort.

ATTRACTIONS

Adrena LINE Zipline

Adventure Tours
5128C Sooke Road, Victoria
adrenalinezip.com
1.250.642.1933

At Adrena LINE Zipline Adventure Tours, experience an exhilarating ride up to 60km/hr as you soar up to 150 feet off the ground on eight ziplines ranging from 150 feet to an unforgettable 1000 feet.

Alberni Valley Tourism

3835 Redford Street
Port Alberni
alberni-valleytourism.com
Destination Marketing Organisation for the City of Port Alberni and the Alberni Valley Region

The Butchart Gardens

800 Benvenuto Ave.,
Brentwood Bay
butchartgardens.com
250.652.4422

Open daily year round. Stunning floral display gardens. Summer entertainment and local boat tours. Plus summer Saturday firework shows. Afternoon Tea and more. Old style carousel. Shuttle buses from downtown Victoria.

Craigdarroch Castle

1050 Joan Crescent, Victoria
thecastle.ca
250.592.5323

Built by coal baron Robert Dunsmuir during the reign of Queen Victoria and now a National Historic Site, Craigdarroch Castle has been meticulously restored, giving visitors a glimpse of privileged life in the 1890s. The Castle weaves a fascinating tale of an intriguing family — their achievements, their relationships and even their quirks. You'll find us just off Fort Street at 1050 Joan Crescent just a short drive or leisurely walk from Victoria's inner harbour.



(Courtesy Adrena LINE Zipline Adventure Tours)

Five Star Whale Watching

645 Humboldt St., Victoria
5starwhales.com
250.388.7223 or 1.800.634.9617
Turning Heads since 1985, Five Star Whale Watching is Victoria's oldest and most respected Whale Watching Company. Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence in 2015!

IMAX Victoria
in the Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville St., Victoria
imaxvictoria.com
250.480.4887

In IMAX, you don't just see it - you experience it! The immense size of the IMAX screen and the powerful surround sound takes you to places you might only imagine! Dive in with humpback whales, travel to space, explore the culture of gold around the world and so much more. Victoria has the largest IMAX screen in Western Canada — it is gigantic! Bring your family and come along for an adventure in IMAX. Shows play hourly into the evening. Hollywood feature-length films are often added to the evening schedule. Concession and National Geographic Store onsite.

MINIATURE WORLD
649 Humboldt Street, Victoria
miniatureworld.com
250.385.9731

MINIATURE WORLD "The greatest little show on earth"! A WORLD CLASS Tourist Attraction in the famous EMPRESS HOTEL since 1970! Open every day.

Ocean River Sports

1824 Store St., Victoria
oceanriveradventures.com
250.381.4233 or 800.909.4233
Ocean River is a premier specialty kayak and adventure company. With over 30 years in the business, Ocean River includes an outstanding retail store, kayaking school, guided tours and rentals.

The Pedaler Bicycle Tours and Rentals

719 Douglas St., Victoria
thepedaler.ca
778.265.7433

Guided bicycles tours that showcase Victoria's unique and vibrant neighbourhoods and tasting tours to explore the creative local food and drink scene. Tours for the whole family! Stylish and comfortable rental bicycles that include helmet, lock, baskets and maps.

Prince of Whales Whale Watching

812 Wharf Street, Victoria
princeofwhales.com
1.888.383.4884

Prince of Whales has been sharing premiere whale watching experiences with guests for over 20 years! Choose a 3.5 hour adventure tour, a combination tour including The Butchart Gardens, or a whale watching connection from Victoria to Vancouver.



People outside pie shop at Victoria Public Market (Tourism Victoria)

ATTRACTIONS

The Robert Bateman Centre 470 Belleville St., Victoria batemancentre.org 250.940.3630

Visit the gallery of art and nature. Legendary Canadian artist and naturalist Robert Bateman has spent a lifetime painting the magic of nature. Explore seven decades of his inspiring work. Experience nature's most dramatic subjects up close. Multi-media commentary is available on his art and his vision for a world where everyone shares a deep connection with nature. Find a selection of books, prints, artworks and gifts at the gallery gift shop. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Daily; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays (June - September).

Royal BC Museum 675 Belleville St., Victoria royalbcmuseum.bc.ca 1.888.447.7977

The Royal BC Museum is a place of discovery. Through unique galleries, the museum and archives showcases the human and natural history of BC and brings in feature exhibitions from around the world.

Victoria Bug Zoo 631 Courtney St., Victoria victoriabugzoo.ca 250.384.2847

A visit to this must-see mini zoo offers visitors an excellent opportunity to view and experience live tropical bugs from around the world. Discover over 40 fascinating species including giant walking sticks, beautiful praying mantis, glow-in-the-dark scorpions, hairy tarantulas, and Canada's largest ant farm. Knowledgeable tour guides will introduce you to the wonderful world of bugs, give a wealth of information about the animals on display, and provide a safe bug handling experience for the more adventurous. Tours always in progress. Don't miss this hands-on adventure!



(Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)

Victoria Butterfly Gardens 1461 Benvenuto Ave. Brentwood Bay butterflygardens.com 250.652.3822

Enjoy the warmth, beauty and romance of a tropical jungle without going to the tropics. Stroll through this indoor wonderland, where Caribbean flamingos walk through the streams and ponds among the beautifully coloured koi, goldfish, Australian whistling tree ducks and red-eared slider turtles. In the climate controlled jungle environment you'll find a rich diversity of animals including poison dart frogs, geckos, tortoises, over 30 different varieties of tropical birds and 6,000 free flying butterflies. Just five minutes from The Butchart Gardens.

Victoria Walking Tours Tours start at various locations discoverthepast.com 250.384.6698

Three great tours help you discover Victoria's history, culture and ghosts. Ghostly Walks, Chinatown Walks and Discovery Walks take place year-round. Check our website for locations and times. No reservations needed. Rain or shine.

LODGING

Arbutus Inn 2898 Douglas St., Victoria www.arbutusinn.ca 250.386.1000

Arbutus Inn is located in the heart of Victoria, British Columbia with 52 renovated guest rooms. All rooms are Non-Smoking and feature private bath, air conditioning, cable television with 32inch flat screen tv. Free WiFi, hair dryer and coffee/tea makers are also included in your stay.

Best Western Plus Carlton Plaza Hotel 642 Johnson St., Victoria bestwesterncarltonplazahotel.com 250.388.5513

Beautiful Hotel in the heart of Downtown Victoria, BC.

Days Inn Victoria on the Harbour 427 Belleville St., Victoria daysinnvictoria.com 250.386.3451

Perfectly located on Victoria's downtown Inner Harbour, walking distance to Convention Centre, Parliament Buildings, restaurants, shopping, attractions. Harbour view, pet-friendly, and kitchenette rooms available. Come visit our beautiful Garden City, we'll take care of the rest!



Harbour Towers lobby

The Embassy Inn 520 Menzies St., Victoria embassyinn.ca 250.382.8161

The Embassy Inn is located within Victoria's Inner Harbour and is close to all of Victoria's main attractions. With recently refurbished rooms and a full service dining room, The Embassy Inn is the place to stay!

Gatsby Mansion Inn & Restaurant 309 Belleville Street, Victoria 250.381.3456

The Gatsby Mansion, located in the heart of Victoria's Inner Harbour and just steps away from the Huntingdon, is a boutique B&B experience in a historic Victorian mansion. Each of the nine rooms has a distinct personality and charm for those in search of a little old time romance.

Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites 345 Quebec St., Victoria harbourtowers.com 250.385.2405

Located within Victoria's Inner Harbour, just steps from the Victoria Clipper and Port Angeles Blackball Ferry terminals and exciting downtown. Spacious rooms range from standard to Penthouse suites — some of which feature dramatic harbour or mountain vistas. Complimentary local calls, and high speed internet. Suite reservations include bottled water and hot buffet breakfast daily. Enjoy West Coast cuisine and cocktails in our hotel restaurant, Vic's. Fitness centre features a weight room, indoor pool, hot tub and sauna.

Hotel Rialto 653 Pandora Ave, Victoria hotelrialto.ca 250.383.4157

Hotel Rialto is a small boutique style property located in the heart of beautiful downtown Victoria. The hotel is located in one of Victoria's most cherished heritage buildings originally built in 1911. The entire property has been fully renovated to a high standard welcoming guests with Italian fresco walls and richly adorned with hardwood and marble.

Huntingdon Hotel & Suites 330 Quebec Street, Victoria huntingdonmanor.com 250.381.3456

The Huntingdon Manor is a short walk into downtown and directly across the street from the Victoria Clipper ferry. Featuring 115 non-smoking guest rooms varying in layout and dimensions. Corporate rooms, bi-level gallery suites, pet-friendly rooms, and a wide range of amenities and services are available to help make your stay a memorable one.

James Bay Inn Hotel Suites & Cottage 270 Government St., Victoria jamesbayinn.com 800.836.2649

Stay at the historic James Bay Inn. Located in the quiet residential Heritage District, this quaint, affordable European-style hotel will charm you. Café-restaurant, pub. Steps to Beacon Hill Park. Scenic walk to the Inner Harbour.

The Oswego Hotel 500 Oswego St., Victoria oswegovictoria.com 250.294.7500

Stay in style at the Oswego Hotel! Steps from the Clipper terminal, our West Coast inspired boutique experience will wow you!

The Parkside Hotel & Spa 810 Humboldt St., Victoria parksidenvictoria.com 250.940.1200

Just one block from the Victoria Conference Centre and two blocks from the Inner Harbour and Provincial Legislative buildings, The Parkside Hotel & Spa features some of the largest guest rooms in Victoria. Rooms feature wi-fi, LCD televisions, kitchenettes or full kitchens, separate bedrooms, spa-inspired bathrooms and private balconies — ample space to work or relax. World-class fitness facility includes a 25-metre pool and hot tub. Relax at our rooftop garden or soak away the day's stress in the hot tub.

Sooke Point Ocean Cottage Resort

1000 Silver Spray Drive, Sooke
Greater Victoria
sookepoint.com
250.642.0350

SookePoint Ocean Cottages like luxury yachts! Live unbelievably close to the sea or own, rent and earn income in Greater Victoria BC. Show Cottage open daily 11am-5pm

SERVICES

BC Transit 520 Gorge Road East, Victoria bctransit.com 250.382.6161

Transit service operates seven days a week, 365 days a year. The service area includes Greater Victoria, Sidney and Sooke.

Budget Rent a Car of Victoria 757 Douglas St., Victoria budgetvictoria.com 250.953.5300

Budget Rent a Car of Victoria is locally grown with deep community roots. Offering the largest selection of vehicles in Victoria, we'll pick you up right at the Clipper dock and drop you back for your return trip.

Harbour Air Seaplanes 1000 Wharf St., Victoria harbourair.com 250.384.2215

Come aboard a scenic seaplane flight and experience an authentic west coast way of life. Offering scenic tours, charters or frequent scheduled flights between downtown Victoria, downtown Vancouver, South Vancouver, Pitt Meadows, Nanaimo, Sechelt, Whistler & the Gulf Islands. Book online - harbourair.com.

National Car & Truck Rentals 767 Douglas St., Victoria www.drivenational.ca 250.686.1213

National Car & Truck Rentals offers a large selection of vehicles including economy car rentals, minivans, SUVs, pickup trucks, cargo vans and 15 passenger van rentals. Locations in Victoria, Duncan, Nanaimo, Courtenay/Comox, Campbell River, Port Hardy and Vancouver.

Washington State Ferries wsdot.wa.gov/ferries 206.515.3426

Largest vehicle carrying ferry system in the world and fourth largest passenger carrying ferry system. We partner with the Victoria Clipper and have a great working relationship.

Cycling and Hiking on Vancouver Island

With Victoria sometimes referred to as Canada's Bicycling Capital, it's no wonder cyclists flock to the city to discover why. Bring your bike on the ferry or rent one (thepedaler.ca, cycletreks.com, coastalcycle.com, cyclebc.ca). Either way you're set for hours of fun, fresh coastal air and the best kind of exercise. BY ANNE NORUP

The bicycle-friendly Oswego Hotel (oswegovictoria.com) is only two blocks from the ferry terminal and makes a great home base for your cycling adventures with a convenient bike lock-up, on-site bistro and comfortable studios and suites. Linger in Victoria to enjoy its cosmopolitan vibe or ride out to explore the trails.

Start at Victoria's Visitor Centre across the street from The Fairmont Empress Hotel. There you'll find trail maps or go online to crd.bc.ca/cycling.

From the Visitor Centre, ride down Wharf Street to the Johnston Street Bridge (known by locals as the "Blue Bridge"). After crossing, keep right and follow signs for the **Galloping Goose Trail**.

Even though you may be headed to the **Lochside Regional Trail**, this is the correct route. A short ride (4 km/2.5 miles) brings you to the Switch Bridge where you can choose either trail you plan to take.

The Lochside Trail is 29 km/18 miles to the north toward **Sidney**, concluding at the **Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal**. Make a round trip in a day, with lunch in Sidney, or ride at a more leisurely pace, spending the night there. The trail is relatively flat, hugging the coastline for part of the trip, traversing across train trestles, down country lanes, through a bird sanctuary, around pastoral farms and wending through lovely neighbourhoods under canopies of trees. You'll not only meet other cyclists on the trail, but hikers, dog walkers and equestrians. Along the way, there are many places to stop for a bite to eat, indulge in a fresh-baked pastry or quench your thirst at a local pub.

The well-known Galloping Goose Trail stretches 60 km/37 miles from **Victoria to Sooke**. Fashioned from a railway line and named for the gas-powered passenger car that carried mail and people between Victoria and Sooke during the 1920s, it was opened as a bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian pathway in 1989. Ride this picturesque trail from the heart of the city across restored wooden railroad trestles, along rolling country farmland, past Matheson Lake, around the perimeter of Sooke Basin and into the wilderness of the Sooke Hills. Inhale crisp, clean ocean air and earthy forest scents. Pedal to the gurgling music of the Sooke River as you

ride through **Sooke Potholes** Provincial Park. Camp here for a night or two and take a dip in one of the enchanting swimming holes.

Ride back into Sooke and stay a night at the Sooke Harbour House (sookeharbourhouse.com) with a sumptuous meal in their world-renowned dining room. Enjoy their fresh, locally sourced cuisine, masterfully prepared and paired with one of BC's fantastic wines.



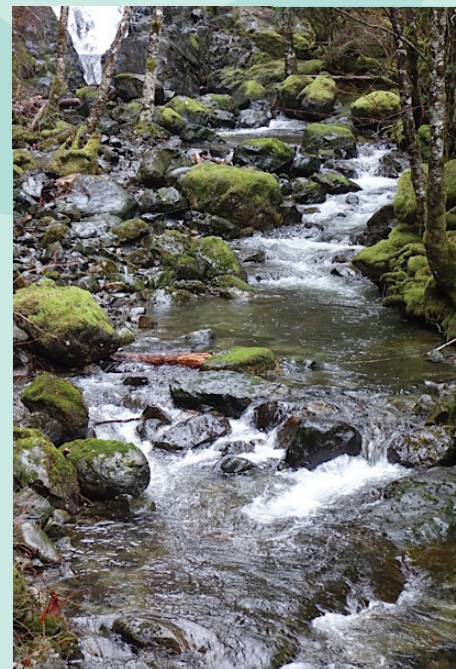
Cycle west on **Highway 14** for 22 km/13.5 miles to the Point No Point Resort (pointnointresort.com). Relax in one of their beachfront cabins, complete with a fireplace and hot tub on the deck overlooking the ocean. Dine in style only steps away in their cozy restaurant and savour a meal to remember.

If you love to hike, the **Juan de Fuca Marine** trailhead is located at Jordan River a few minutes west.

Training for a big ride? Ride the **Pacific Marine Circle Route** from Sooke to Port Renfrew to Lake Cowichan, Duncan and back to Victoria. pacificmarinecircle.com

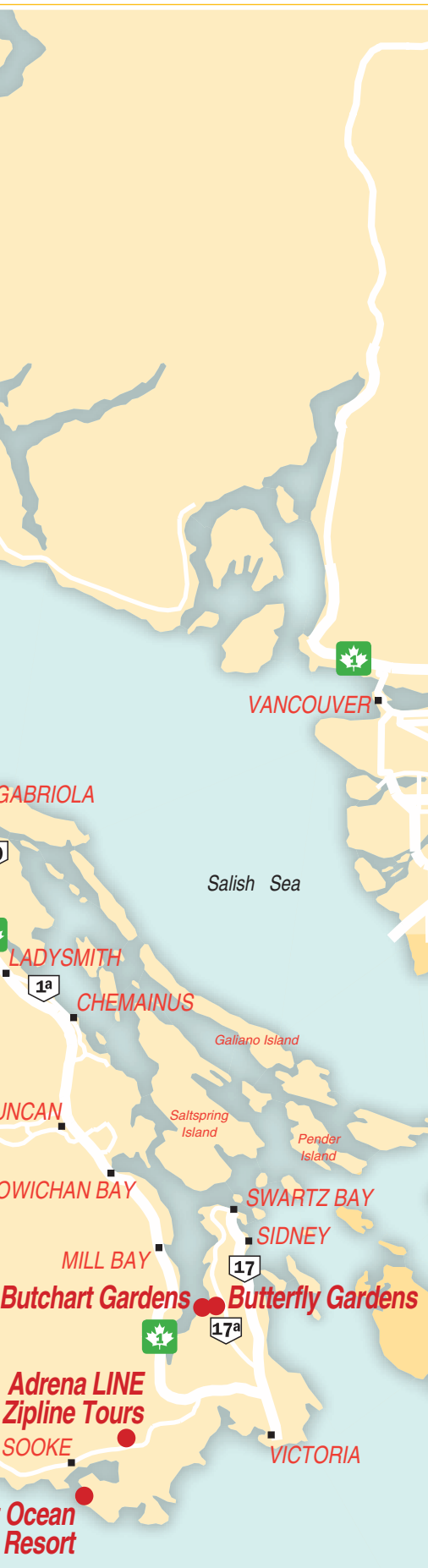
By 2017, it's anticipated that the 'Goose' will connect to the Trans Canada Trail leading to Nanaimo and on across Canada. The Kinsol Trestle, near Shawnigan Lake has recently been restored and the trail extends to Lake Cowichan and on to Nanaimo. trailsbc.ca/vancouver-island

Sooke Potholes Regional Park Anne Norup



Kinsol Trestle Anne Norup





A chef from the Unsworth Vineyard restaurant in Mill Bay, picks fresh produce from a garden on the vineyards property. (Landon Sveinson Photography/Tourism Vancouver Island)

Island Fare

A feast for foodies

BASKING IN THE WARMTH AND LUSHNESS of Canada's most benign climate, surrounded by a rich sea, coloured by the influences of European, Asian and indigenous culinary traditions, Victoria's cuisine is rich, locally based and inventive. Widely known under the rubric "West Coast cuisine," it is practiced at dozens of fine dining and casual-food purveyors throughout Vancouver Island.

The key elements are fresh seafood, island-grown or island-gathered produce and menus that transform daily to feature whatever is freshest and most appropriate for the season. Island wines complement the bounty — local craft beers and ales lend heartier accompaniment.

This philosophy was first brought to the island from France in the 1979 by Frederique and Sinclair Philip at **Sooke Harbour House** and spread from there. Victoria and Vancouver Island chefs are so committed to the local-food philosophy that they created a consortium solely to encourage and support local growers, the **Island Chefs' Collaborative** (iccbc.ca). To top it off, the tiny hamlet of **Cowichan Bay Village**, two hours north of Victoria, was designated North America's first Slow Food City in 2009.



The Oystercatcher Seafood Bar & Grill, on Salt Spring Island, features fresh-caught seafood and fresh sea breezes. (Tourism Vancouver Island/Boomer Jerritt)



Greater Victoria

Scenic Countryside and Seaside



Take in the refreshing sea air and scenic view from a Sidney pier. (Photos courtesy Town of Sidney)

Spectacular Saanich Peninsula and Sidney

FIELDS AND WOODS, BAYS AND VILLAGES speckle the thumb of the island, which extends north of Victoria toward the Gulf Islands. The farmland is home to a collection of small farm stands (in summer) and about a half-dozen wineries whose wines focus on cool-climate vintages such as Ortega, pinot noir and Maréchal Foch, as well as blackberries and kiwis. For a touring map visit wineislands.ca/regions/south-island/. The peninsula is also the last primary home of a rare ecosystem, the Garry oak prairie that once encompassed much of the Victoria region. Magnificent Garry oaks can be found here in wild meadows strewn with wildflowers.

The main town on the peninsula, **Sidney** (sidney.ca) is Canada's "booktown," borrowing a term popular in the United Kingdom for a village with a large number of bookstores. Sidney is a charming seaside village offering a mix of arts and culture, marine activity and boutique shopping including nine bookstores! The pedestrian-friendly streets are filled with restaurants and cafes and many types of accommodation from boutique hotels, motels and B&Bs.

Enjoy the seaside walkway, with a fabulous Sculpture Walk and two piers, or take a whale-watching tour, guided kayaking, or summer ferry to Sidney Spit to take in the full experience of Sidney-by-the-Sea. A map and guide are available at sidneybooktown.ca.



Gateway to the Gulf Islands

Located just 20 minutes north of downtown Victoria, the friendly seaside Town of Sidney is the hub of the Saanich Peninsula with restaurants, book stores, shopping, attractions and adventures such as boating, kayaking, diving and ecotours. Sidney is well served by major transportation links including ferries from the mainland and the US as well as the nearby international airport.

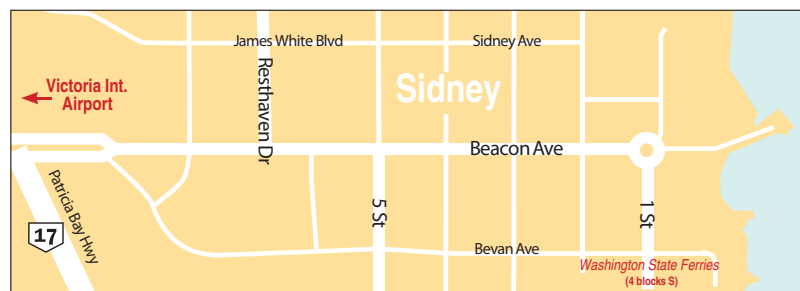




The Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre is great fun for kids. (Deddeda Stemler/Tourism Victoria)

While in Sidney, visit the amazing **Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre** (9811 Seaport Place; oceandiscovery.ca). Devoted exclusively to the underwater life of the Salish Sea, this waterfront facility is compact, but benefits from its tight focus — the waters off Vancouver Island hold a wealth of colourful, intriguing and important creatures, ranging from king salmon to microscopic plankton that support all other life in the ocean. Touch pools allow close inspection of starfish, urchins and other aquatic denizens. Near The Butchart Gardens, **Brentwood Bay** is a quaint little hamlet with a few shops and cafés. The deluxe Brentwood Bay Resort & Spa is a weekend-getaway inn with a lovely setting overlooking the water. From the bay, the charming little **Mill Bay Ferry** (bcferries.com) crosses Saanich Inlet over to the Cowichan Valley. Nearby, the **Victoria Butterfly Gardens** (butterflygardens.com) is an enclosed facility with colourful and fragrant tropical flowers and more than 3,000 butterflies of 75 species, free to flit about the conservancy building as they wish.

The far northern end of the peninsula is the site of the **Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal** (bcferries.com), from which BC ferries sail for the Gulf Islands and Vancouver.



Sooke and the West Coast

POISED PEACEFULLY AT THE SOUTHERN-MOST foothills of the Vancouver Island Range mountains, Sooke and westward comprise a largely rural area that draws travellers seeking quiet small inns, oceanfront beaches, towering old-growth spruce forests and oceanfront tidepools brimming with sea life. While it's a tidy, appealing small town with cozy shops, stores and B&Bs — and the very compact but interesting **Sooke Region Museum** — Sooke is perhaps best-known as the home of **Sooke Harbour House** (1528 Whiffen Spit Road, Sooke; sookeharbourhouse.com), an internationally famous deluxe inn. For more than 30 years, the dining room here has led the way in the slow food gourmet-dining movement that focuses almost exclusively on Island-grown foods; aside from memorable meals, which literally draw visitors from overseas, the inn's suites and villas provide luxury accommodations for quiet weekend getaways.

EXCURSIONS

Special Advertising Section



(Adrena LINE Zipline Adventure Tours)

ZIPLINE ADVENTURE

Adrena LINE Zipline Adventure Tours
250.642.1933 or toll free 1.866.947.9145
www.adrenalinezip.com

Looking to add some zip to your trip? Adrena LINE Adventure Tours offers a fully guided tree top tour through the picturesque Sooke Hills, including: eight scenic ziplines, two suspension bridges, and an exhilarating ATV ride. Shuttle transportation is available from the Clipper Terminal in Victoria's Inner Harbour. Reservations highly recommended. Call or visit our website for details.

North of Sooke, in the foothills, **Sooke Potholes Provincial Park** (bcparks.ca) is famed for its namesake pools in which Sooke River waters warmed by the sun lure swimmers and sunbathers on warm summer days.

Down the road west of Sooke is Juan de Fuca Provincial Park (bcparks.ca), a collection of preserves along the shore that hold luxuriant, old-growth forests with massive Sitka spruce trees and misty, peaceful beaches perfect for beachcombing. China Beach and Sombrio Beach each offer short trails leading through the forest to the open shoreline.

At the western terminus of Highway 14, outside the small town of Port Renfrew, **Botanical Beach** holds some of the best tidepools in British Columbia. At low tide, visitors here stroll rocky flats (despite the name, there is virtually no beach) to admire vivid orange seastars, green anemones, ivory nudibranchs and other intertidal creatures.

Port Renfrew is also the start of **West Coast Trail** (pc.gc.ca), a wilderness trek path through Pacific Rim National Park that follows the shore north to Bamfield. Notorious for its difficulty, the 75 km/47 mi path was originally created in the 19th century as an escape route for sailors whose boats wrecked along the hazardous shore. Dipping down to remote beaches and climbing up steep headlands (sometimes on rope ladders), the trail is for experienced adventurers only and requires permits.



Gulf Islands Idyll

WHILE IT'S BY FAR THE MOST NOTABLE ISLAND on North America's West Coast, Vancouver Island isn't the only isle around here that calls to visitors. The Gulf Islands in the Strait of Georgia northeast of the Saanich Peninsula are all serene, scenic and vibrant destinations. Easily reached from the BC Ferries terminal in Swartz Bay, 40 minutes north of Victoria, the islands hold many small inns and B&Bs, cozy cafés, galleries and shops. They are also the home of **Gulf Islands National Park Reserve** (pc.gc.ca), one of Canada's newest parks, which holds a dozen parcels and small islands in the area.

Biggest, most populous and best-known is **Salt Spring Island** (saltspringislandtourism.com), just a 25-minute ferry ride from Swartz Bay. The main town, Ganges, is a delightful waterfront village at the top end of a south-facing bay; in the summer, outdoor theatre and concerts, kayaking and bike riding occupy visitors when they are not poking into galleries, stores and cafés. Salt Spring holds one of BC's best-loved public preserves, Ruckle Provincial Park (bcparks.ca), which comprises most of a heritage homestead and holds



Ruckle Provincial Park, Salt Spring Island. (Leslie Forsberg)

lovely forests, fields, beaches and shoreline headlands for hiking and camping.

The other islands hold fewer residents and draw fewer visitors, but each has its own character and charm. **Pender Island** (penderislandchamber.com) is actually two islands: South and North, joined by a tiny causeway; its best-known feature is Mount Norman, a 244 m/800 ft rock face from which the vistas reach all the way to Victoria. Tranquil **Saturna Island** (saturnatourism.com) is best-known for the long-established vineyard, inn and winery, Saturna Island Family Estate Winery (saturnavineyards.com), which occupies much of the island. **Galiano Island** (galianoisland.com) has a famous small lodge, Galiano Inn & Spa (galianoinn.com); and a beautiful shoreline park, **Montague Harbour Marine Provincial Park** (bcparks.ca), famous for its white shell beach. **Mayne Island** (mayneislandchamber.ca) is almost entirely rural residential, with a few resorts, B&Bs and cafés.

Washington
State Ferries



Getting there
is half
the fun.



For more information, call 888-808-7977 or visit www.wsdot.wa.gov



A man and his dog exploring the trails in the Cathedral Grove forest — one of the few remaining sections of old-growth forest.
(Photos Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)

Up-Island Destinations

Adventures Beyond the City

NORTH OF VICTORIA AND THE SAANICH PENINSULA is a vast, diverse area known under the aggregate term “up-island”. Visitors find this one of the most appealing island destinations on earth, and it is often rated near the top in travel polls. The area is also psychologically and geographically separate from the Capital region around Victoria. The demarcation takes place on the shoulder of a huge mountain — Malahat — one of the southernmost outliers of the island’s Central Range, which Highway 1 crests at a narrow pass about 25 km/16 mi northwest of Victoria. Often subject to gnarly weather from November through April, the Malahat is in essence a high-mountain pass, though it does not thread through mountains on both sides. From the top, there are vistas of the Saanich Inlet, the Saanich Peninsula and the Gulf Islands.

Once you descend the north side, you are entering a land of lovely valleys, deep forests, snowcapped peaks and surging rivers. Small cities and towns front the coast on flat shelves of land, with wild forest starting barely 10 km/6 mi inland. Along the shoreline, pleasant, gray-sand beaches face the islands in the Strait of Georgia; or, farther north, the towering, snowy peaks of the mainland’s Coast Range. Quiet coves and bays pock the coastline; famously, Fanny Bay, between Qualicum and Courtenay, is a producer of much-sought-after oysters.

Here, between the Malahat and Campbell River, the high peaks of the central range fend off much of the Pacific’s wild weather

and sunnier, drier climes bless the shores, with many famed beach resorts at Parksville and Qualicum Beach that draw throngs of sun-seeking families in July and August.

This is a place of verdant farms — it’s a dairying centre — shore-hugging resorts, oyster farms, tree farms visible in the near distance and snowy peaks farther off. It boasts a major ski resort, several huge vacation-destination provincial parks beloved by campers, wild rivers with famous falls, teeming salmon runs, old-school family resorts with funky waterfront cottages, deluxe modern resorts with massive spas and charming country-house B&Bs.

For comprehensive travel information, visit vancouverisland.travel.

Early Island Life

The eastern shore of Vancouver Island, abutting the Salish Sea, was the territory of **Salish** language group peoples, while from Campbell River north lived the **Kwakwaka’wakw** peoples (formerly known as Kwagiulth or Kwakiutl). All enjoyed a fairly prosperous lifestyle based on the abundance of salmon, cedar, shellfish and wild game. In addition, they built large longhouses made out of cedar as living quarters and celebrated the periodic feast ceremonies known as the potlatch.

The **Hudson’s Bay Company** created a post at Nanaimo in 1853; the bastion (fort) still stands along the city’s downtown main street. Timber resources were plentiful and small mills began to process lumber as settlers arrived from Europe. More importantly, **coal seams**



in the area (ironically, a local Salish chief showed these to HBC managers) were developed for the growing populations and industries in Victoria and on the mainland. Scottish immigrant Robert Dunsmuir built a huge family fortune on the coal mines and a rail line between Nanaimo and Victoria. Coal mining was a dangerous business: The 1887 Nanaimo Mine explosion killed 150 miners and was ranked the largest man-made explosion in history to that point.

Late 19th-century efforts to “civilize” the First Nations people of the area focused on erasing indigenous languages and customs, such as the **potlatch**, a ceremonial bestowing of gifts. A federal ban on potlatches, first enacted in 1885, proved difficult to enforce and was widely ignored, especially by Kwakwaka’wakw bands. The controversy came to a head in 1921 with a notorious seizure of potlatch regalia at an “outlaw” gathering. The ban was formally repealed in 1951 and potlatch has since enjoyed resurgence among the indigenous peoples of the island.

Coal mining largely ceased around the mid-20th century; timber processing continues. Reliably sunny summer weather makes the shore from Nanaimo north a popular vacation area and the same lovely climate and ample recreation availability has boosted the region as a retirement centre. As in Victoria, a genteel culture, beautiful landscape and sensational local cuisine offer a bounty of delights to travellers.

For those driving these lovely lands, it is less than two hours from Victoria to the Cowichan Valley; two to three hours to Nanaimo; three-and-a-half hours to Comox; four hours to Campbell River; and four to five hours to Tofino.



(Photos: Landon Sveinson Photography/Tourism Vancouver Island)

Cowichan Valley

STRETCHING FROM COAST TO COAST, the Cowichan region lies between Victoria and Nanaimo. The Trans-Canada Hwy connects the two, but a myriad of gorgeous country side roads get you where you’re going in a tranquil and scenic fashion. Stunning water, forest and country views are around every corner.

The region’s charming towns offer an eclectic mix of art galleries, boutique shops, piers, marinas and markets. More than 40 murals and 30 totem poles grace the streets of **Chemainus** and **Duncan**, making them two of the world’s largest outdoor art galleries and guided tours available in both towns.

Shops and galleries featuring locally made clothing, jewellery, art, books and antiques dot every town. In Duncan you’ll find the authentic, internationally renowned Cowichan sweaters. Venture into the countryside for farmgate stands, potters studios and glass blowers. Six weekly outdoor farmers’ markets showcase vendors of fresh produce, hand-made artisanal foods and innumerable arts and crafts.

The tiny, “artsy” village of **Cowichan Bay** is a collection of cafés, bistros, artisan studios, maritime museum, nature centre and a cluster of eclectic shops. The first “Cittaslow” town in North America, Cowichan Bay epitomizes the slow food movement.

Fast becoming one of the top culinary destinations in Canada, the Cowichan region is home to organic farms, artisan food-producers and seafood fresh from



the boats. Pick up any “foodie” magazine these days and it usually has an article on chefs, culinary celebrities, authors and food enthusiasts who have chosen to live and work in the Cowichan region. Each community presents a host of distinctive dining experiences.

Nineteen **wineries**, most of which are within 30 minutes of each other, offer tastings of classic reds, whites and sparkling wines. Fruit wines, blackberry port-style wines, ciders, vodkas and brandies round out the list of delectable and award winning libations unique to the Cowichan region. Many wineries feature bistros, delis and bakeries or offer picnic sites.

Some of the best mountain biking on the island, golfing at six courses, world class river and lake fishing, kayaking, exceptional bird watching and whale watching make the Cowichan region a favourite with outdoor enthusiasts. The Raptors, a birds of prey centre located just north of Duncan, is one of the Island’s most unique attractions and an amazing experience for the whole family.

The western terminus of the **Trans Canada Trail** is at Lake Cowichan, a well known destination for family fun that includes tubing the Cowichan River, camping, swimming and boating.

At 187 meters / 614 feet-long and 44 meters / 145 feet above the Koksilah River, the **Kinsol Trestle** in the Shawnigan Lake area, must be experienced to be believed. It is one of the largest wooden trestles in the world and connects hundreds of kilometres of superb hiking and cycling trails. Two other “world’s largest” attractions are found in Duncan — the world’s thickest totem pole and world’s largest hockey stick and puck.

The calm, protected waters of the east coast are a world-wide destination for sail and power boaters, and Cowichan has more than a dozen marinas, plus small-boat harbours and government docks. For those who want to enjoy the marine setting from land, many marinas feature waterside restaurants or pubs. The town of Ladysmith honours its maritime history with artifacts displayed on its streets and at its heritage centre.

Cowichan is also a **festival destination**, showcasing hundreds of artists, live music and professional theatre virtually every day of the year. SunFest, the largest country music festival west of the prairies, is held the first weekend in August at Cowichan Exhibition Park. Wine and food lovers flock to the Savour Cowichan Festival, the last week of September and the Lavender Festival is held in July.

Accommodation options range from well-appointed hotels and motels, hundreds of delightful B&B’s, RV parks and camping to yurts, houseboats and float homes. There is something for everyone and every budget.

Discover why one day in Cowichan just isn’t enough. Pick up a free touring map at any of five Visitor Centres, including the Cowichan Regional Visitor Centre in Duncan (an attraction in itself!) and plan to give yourself time to enjoy this amazingly varied region (tourismcowichan.com).

Taste and Tour

Cowichan Valley’s Wine Route

BY ANNE NORUP

The name Cowichan is derived from the Coast Salish First Nations’ word Quw’utsun’ meaning “land warmed by the sun.” Sheltered by mountains to the west and the Salish Sea to the east, the valley’s sun-drenched vineyards are producing some of British Columbia’s best wines and the region is second only in size to the Okanagan.

The vibe of the wine scene complements Cowichan’s foodie culture with fresh, locally-sourced products that pair to perfection and are gaining an international reputation. An Italian offshoot of Slow Food International named Cowichan Bay North America’s Cittaslow (“slow city”) as a salute to the region’s rich, sustainable, delightfully diverse farm and culinary venues.

Tour the area, meet the winemakers and taste the varietals they’re producing such as pinot gris, Ortega, gewürztraminer and pinot noir. Keep a lookout for the Wine Route road signs, stop by a visitor centre to pick up a Wine & Culinary Guide or go to wineislands.ca for a map of the region.

Linger at a bistro alongside a vineyard or cycle through the region for an up-close view of the stunning landscape.



Enviro Foto/Tourism Vancouver Island

WHERE TO SIP AND SAVOR:

Averill Creek Winery

6552 North Road, Duncan
averillcreek.ca
250.709.9986

Blue Grouse Estate Winery

4365 Blue Grouse Road, Duncan
bluegrouse.ca
250.743.3834

Cherry Point Estate Wines

840 Cherry Point Road, Cobble Hill
cherrypointvineyards.com
250.743.1272

Damali Lavender & Winery

3500 Telegraph Road, Cobble Hill
damali.ca
250.743.4100

Deol Estate Winery

6645 Somenos Road, Duncan
deolestatewinery.com
250.746.3967

Enrico Winery & Vineyards

3280 Telegraph Road, Mill Bay
enricowinery.com
250.733.2356

Glenterra Vineyards

3897 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill
glenterravineyards.com
250.743.2330

Godfrey Brownell Vineyards

4911 Marshall Road, Duncan
gbvineyards.com
250.715.0504

Merridale Ciderworks Corp.

1230 Merridale Road, Cobble Hill
merridalecider.com
250.743.4293

Rocky Creek Winery

1854 Myhrest Road, Cowichan Bay
rockycreekwinery.ca
250.748.5622

Silverside Farm & Winery

3810 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill
silversidefarm.com
250.743.9149

Unsworth Vineyards

2915 Cameron-Taggart Road, Mill Bay
unsworthvineyards.com
250.929.2292

Venturi-Schulze Vineyards

4235 Vineyard Road, Cobble Hill
venturischulze.com
250.743.5630

Zanatta Winery

5039 Marshall Road, Duncan
zanatta.ca
250.748.2338

A view of Nanaimo's harbour from Newcastle Island
(Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island)



Nanaimo Region

THE "HARBOUR CITY" IS APTLY NAMED — its wonderful port is protected on all sides and the city is poised along the hillside above. Ferries from north and south of Vancouver dock here, as do container ships, yachts and pleasure boats sailing the Inside Passage. The city's waterfront is a delightful promenade of wharfs, shoreline paths and pocket parks overlooking the bustling harbour. At the north end of the promenade, the entrance to Maffeo Sutton Park is a man-made but nonetheless intriguing saltwater lagoon in which you can watch the seastars, anemones, fish and other intertidal creatures that make the area's waters so colourful. On the water in the harbour, Troller's Fish & Chips (trollersfishandchips.com) has many local fans who believe this is the best such place on Vancouver Island.

Nanaimo Harbour is also the home of the world-famed **bathtub races**, first conceived to celebrate the Canadian centennial in 1967. Each July, hundreds of "tubbers" sail what is now a 36-mile course that starts and ends in Nanaimo and is the highlight of the Nanaimo Marine Festival, held July 23-26, 2015. It's a raucous, community-wide celebration with many events.

The **Nanaimo Museum** (nanaimomuseum.ca), celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, highlights the city's maritime, coal-mining and timber-shipping history.

With the Bathtub Race, the city's hub status for BC Ferries and the large number of pubs that historically served the coal-mining community, Nanaimo is sometimes called the "Hub, Tub and Pub City" (tourismlanaimo.com).

In the city's harbour lies one of the most enchanting and evocative of all BC parks, **Newcastle Island** (bcparks.ca). Once the home of a

At the beach near Parksville



Landon Sveinson Photography / Tourism Vancouver Island

Cameron Lake and Cathedral Grove

Highway 4 curves around crystal-clear, shimmering Cameron Lake. Framed by dense, majestic, pristine forests, it's a recreational paradise for swimming (touted as the warmest lake in the area!), non-motorized boating and hiking. A campground is tucked into the woods at the eastern end of the lake.

A little further on, en route to Port Alberni, the road sweeps through Cathedral Grove, in MacMillan Provincial Park, flanked by ancient Western red cedar and Douglas fir with spires reaching to the sky. Their branches so thick, their shaded canopy makes you feel like you've found a secret place. Trails lead deeper into the hushed forest, away from cars and other visitors, beckoning you to find a picnic spot and stay awhile. Gaze up the rugged, textured trunk of a 75-meter (250 foot) fir piercing the blue sky above and breathe deeply of the heavy evergreen scent lingering in the air. You'll continue on your journey refreshed in body and soul.

— Anne Norup



popular early 20th-century resort, this preserve now holds gorgeous Garry oak prairie (this is almost its northernmost limit) and peaceful trails through old-growth conifer forest. Getting there is part of the fun, aboard Nanaimo's own tub ferries (nanaimoharbourferry.com), which also provide passage to the famous, boat-access-only Dinghy Dock Marine Pub (dinghydockpub.com), a delightful place for dinner on a warm, sunny evening.

Just outside Nanaimo, the deep gorge of the Nanaimo River may or may not have been the birthplace of bungee jumping. (New Zealand also claims it.) Here, **WildPlay**

Element Parks (wildplay.com) offers classic bungee, as well as zip lines, treetop adventures and a ride known as the Primal Swing, which is not for the faint of heart.

Heading north from Nanaimo, the twin resort towns of Parksville and Qualicum Beach offer a wide selection of family resorts that range from world-class spas to riverside campgrounds. The area is beloved by families for its broad, sandy beaches, which during summer low tides can encompass up to a half-mile of sun-warmed sand. One of the best is at **Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park** (bcparks.ca), a huge camping destination so popular families must make reservations months ahead of time to grab a site. Inland from the shore, two riverside provincial parks, **Little Qualicum Falls** and **Englishman River Falls** (bcparks.ca), both surround impressive waterfalls and offer popular swimming holes during July and August.

West of Nanaimo along Highway 4 to Tofino, two attractions offer completely contrasting views of humanity's care for our natural world. At MacMillan Provincial Park, **Cathedral Grove** (bcparks.ca) is a roadside preserve holding some of the finest old-growth forest on the island. The giant firs, cedars and hemlocks here have taken thousands of years to grow hundreds of feet tall and their preservation a century ago saved this magnificent creation of nature for generations to come.

Before you get there, in Coombs, you reach the **World Parrot Refuge** (worldparrotrefuge.org), a vibrant, immense free-fly facility that's home to more than 800 colourful parrots, parakeets, macaws and other tropical birds — all abandoned by human owners who avoided responsibility for creatures they had brought into their homes. Visitors here discover that the birds have personalities and voices (loud ones); visiting helps support the refuge's mission.

Halfway to Tofino, the lovely **Alberni Valley** is a fastness within the mountains whose relatively mild climate and beautiful surroundings have made it a retirement centre as it transitions from its former resource-extraction economy. Port Alberni, the main town, has a waterfront maritime museum, two fine golf courses and other visitor services. Nearby, the **McLean Mill National Historic Site** (alberniheritage.com) holds an early 20th century steam-powered sawmill and is the destination of a heritage train that heads to the mill from the town.



(Anne Norup)

Goats on the Roof in Coombs

You'll do a double-take when you drive through Coombs, catching sight of goats on the roof of a wooden house. If you're like the rest of us, you'll turn around to satisfy your curiosity. And maybe giggle. The Old Country Market has become a popular stop for visitors on Vancouver Island. Back in the day, the Norwegian owners expanded their small farm stand by building a market with a sod roof, as was common in their homeland.

Legend has it that when the grass grew too long, the owners borrowed goats from their neighbors to do the mowing and the rest, as they say, is history. For over 30 years, the goats have become a permanent part of the family with thousands of visitors coming every year to see the four-legged "staff."

With the draw of the goats, the Old Country Market has become famous for not only its furry crew, but also for fresh produce, gifts, delicious hand-crafted bakery items and ice cream. Additional enterprises include several restaurants and a deli, as well as imported specialty foods. Check out their website at oldcountrymarket.com to read bios for the goats, like Nibbles and Minion!

— Anne Norup



Crown Isle Golf Resort (Courtesy Golf Vancouver Island)



Highland Pacific Golf
(Courtesy Golf Vancouver Island)



Arbutus Ridge Golf Club

Landon Sveinson Photography /
Tourism Vancouver Island

Play Vancouver Island's Golf Trail

BY ANNE NORUP | Stretching from Victoria up-island to Campbell River, you'll experience some of British Columbia's best courses, offering breathtaking scenery to quicken your pulse, with soft sea breezes and enough challenging holes to make any golfer happy. You'll find packages and information about each of the courses at golfvancouverisland.ca, including a live-chat option with resident golf travel experts to answer any questions. Tee up and play a round (or several) on these spectacular courses:

GREATER VICTORIA AREA

Arbutus Ridge Golf Club

Boasting a four-star rating by Golf Digest, the front nine weaves along the seaside community of Cobble Hill and the back nine climbs a ridge to overlook the Satellite Channel.

250.743.5000 • arbutusridgегolf.com

Bear Mountain Golf Resort

As the only resort in Canada featuring 36 holes of Nicklaus Design golf and a luxury Westin Hotel, this resort is first and foremost a premier golf experience.

250.391.7160 • bearmountain.ca/golf

Highland Pacific Golf

The Pacific Nine of this public course has wide, sweeping fairways, dramatic elevation changes and challenging greens. The Highland Nine has spectacular views of Victoria.

250.478.4653 • highlandpacificgolf.com

Olympic View Golf Club

With a four-star rating by Golf Digest as one of the "Best Places to Play," you'll recognize why with the tranquil beauty of cascading waterfalls, distant mountain peaks and abundant wildlife.

250.474.3673 • olympicviewgolf.com

COWICHAN VALLEY

Cowichan Golf Club

This course is home to national and provincial championships, known for its challenging holes and picturesque course meandering through the Cowichan Valley.

250.746.5333 • cowichangolfclub.ca

Mount Brenton Golf Course

Located in the scenic town of Chemainus, this course has been in operation since 1948 and is challenging for every level of golfer, offering plenty of creeks, ponds and towering firs.

250.246.9322 • mountbrentongolf.com

PARKSVILLE AND QUALICUM BEACH

Fairwinds Golf Club

Voted the "Best Golf Course" on Vancouver Island by the BC's Best - People's Choice Awards from BC Living, it's established itself as a premier golf destination on the island.

250.468.7666 • fairwinds.ca

Pheasant Glen Golf Resort

Boasting "the three toughest finishing holes in BC" according to BCGA, this course is a test for the low handicap player while offering interest for golfers at every level.

250.752.8786 • pheasantglen.com

COURTENAY AND CAMPBELL RIVER

Crown Isle Golf Resort

The course stretches 5,200 yards from the forward tees to over 7,000 yards from the championship tees with wide, rolling fairways tucked in the shadows of the beautiful Beaufort Mountains.

250.703.5000 • crownisle.com

Quadra Island Golf Club

With broad ocean vistas and captivating mountain views, the contours of this secluded course with its tree-lined fairways create an unforgettable nine-hole experience for golfers at every level.

250.285.2811 • quadragolf.com

Storey Creek Golf Club

Voted the 3rd Best Public Course in BC in the Vancouver Sun and with a four-and-a-half-star rating by Golf Digest, here you'll find an abundance of natural beauty and tranquility.

250.293.3673 • storeycreek.bc.ca

Online tee times can be made at golfvancouverisland.ca or at golfbc.com.

The Alberni Valley, An Unexpected Adventure



Discover the Alberni Valley, the ultimate retreat. With breathtaking natural beauty and fascinating history, in the heart of Vancouver Island, the Alberni Valley is a great hub for exploring the rest of the island. Best of all, the Alberni Valley is home — a genuine BC town rich in culture and heritage, where you're always welcome.



Alberni Valley
tourism

Visit our website to book your stay:
albernivalleytourism.com



Comox Valley & Campbell River

IN COMOX VALLEY, Comox and Courtenay rest along a sun-bathed shore whose southern exposure gives it a famously benign climate that's hugely popular with retirees from Canada's prairie provinces.

The Courtenay and District Museum & Paleontology Centre (courtenaymuseum.ca) offers a compact look at the region's past, including an exhibit devoted to the surprise 1988 discovery of a major fossil deposit near the city by an amateur father and daughter fossil expedition. Crown Isle Resort & Golf Community (crownisle.com) is a massive complex in north Courtenay.

The nearby foothills town of Cumberland, once a fading coal town nicknamed "Dodge City," has transformed itself into one of the mountain-biking capitals of North America, with hundreds of miles of single-track trail threading the woods and slopes around the town. Dodge City Cycles (dodgecitycycles.com) offers rentals, gear, maps and guidance for visitors.

Perched high above the Comox Valley, Mount Washington Alpine Resort (mountwashington.ca) is among the West Coast's very finest winter sports — and summer riding and hiking — resorts. Winter snowfalls are prodigious; Mount Washington's average snowfall is 11.5 meters/38 feet of powder each season. And, yes, it is powder — the resort's relatively high base elevation and more northerly latitude bring it drier snow than other coastal ski areas, such as those outside Vancouver or down in Washington state. While there is ample expert territory here on the far side of the resort in the Outback, the highlight for most families is the broad and forgiving novice territory on the southwest side of the mountain and the vast intermediate terrain elsewhere.

At the base of the ski mountain is a sensational network of scenic Nordic trails stretching into massive Strathcona Provincial Park. Views throughout the resort are amazing, with several spots where one can see both the nearby peaks of the Vancouver Island Range and the distant spires of the mainland's Coast Range. The season ends in early April, more for lack of interest than lack of snow. Bike riding season starts in mid-June, if the snow has melted enough.

Evening at Mount Washington Alpine Resort in Courtenay

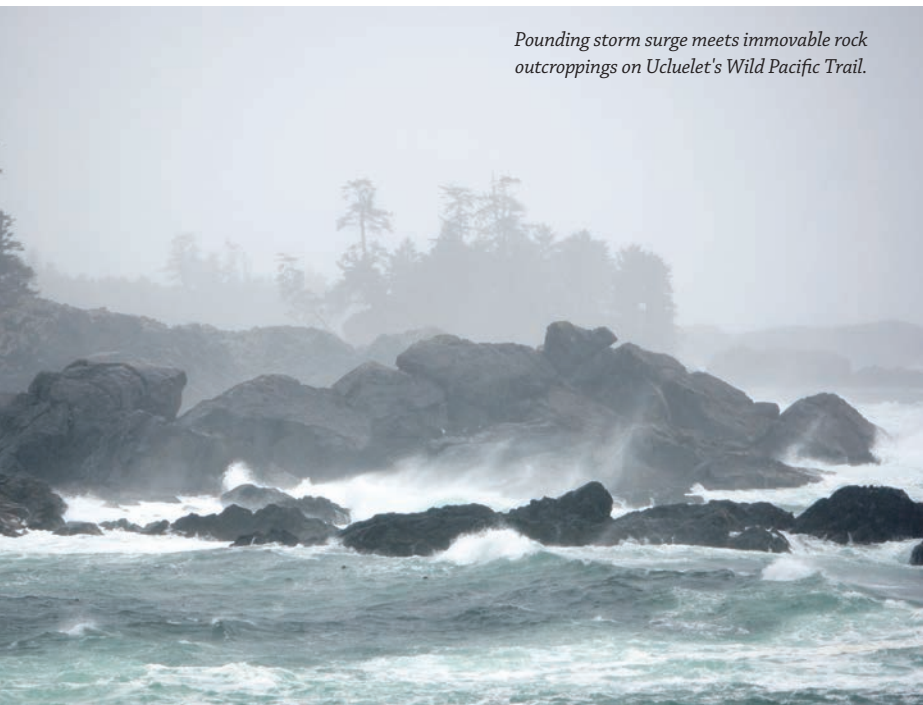


Visitors atop Mount Washington are treated to a spectacular scenic panorama that encompasses the mountainous Vancouver Island and trademark Comox Glacier in the distance.

Less than an hour north of Comox, anglers have been flocking for more than a century to Campbell River, the self-declared "salmon capital of the world," to ply the waters of the nearby Discovery Passage and Discovery Islands for big fish. All five species of Pacific salmonids spawn in Campbell River: Chinook (king), coho (silver), pink and chum salmon, and steelhead trout. Sockeye (red) salmon are plentiful as well. Complete travel information for the city and the region can be found at campbellrivertourism.com.

Campbell River is the gateway to two marvellous travel destinations. Strathcona Provincial Park (bcparcs.ca), the oldest (1911) and still one of the biggest BC parks, straddles more than 600,000 acres along the island's central mountain range, from saltwater on the West Coast to the foothills above Campbell River and the Comox Valley. It contains lakes, old-growth forest, glaciers, remote wilderness valleys, campgrounds, adventure lodges, forbidding alpine territory and vast wilderness plateaus, as well as the island's highest peak, Mount Golden Hinde, at 2,192 m/7,191 ft and BC's highest waterfall, the remote, 440-mM/1,443 ft Della Falls.

Pounding storm surge meets immovable rock outcroppings on Ucluelet's Wild Pacific Trail.



Photos Boomer Jerritt / Tourism Vancouver Island

The Wild West Coast

THE TWIN TOWNS OF TOFINO AND UCLUELET each anchor one end of the Long Beach Peninsula on Vancouver Island's West Coast; in between lie the misty, mysterious old-growth spruce forests and golden sand beaches of Pacific Rim National Park. Visitors flock to all three destinations to enjoy three distinctly different experiences; travel information for the entire peninsula can be found at pacificrimvisitor.ca.

Tofino and Ucluelet were long inhabited by Nuu-chah-nulth peoples who relied on cedar and salmon for a relatively prosperous lifestyle. European explorers came by over the centuries — most famously James Cook in 1778, who explored Nootka Sound, up the coast from Tofino. Spanish explorers Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés y Flores made a more thorough survey of Vancouver Island in 1792, leaving behind numerous Hispanic place names that include Tofino, the surname of a hydrographer on the expedition. Ucluelet, by contrast, is a Nuu-chah-nulth word that means “people of the safe harbour.”

Tofino is a thriving tourist town with a vast collection of famous lodges, inns, restaurants and galleries, including the well-known Wickaninnish Inn (wickinn.com), pioneer of the winter storm-watching travel concept. It's also the gateway to Clayoquot Sound, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve whose innumerable islets, bays and inlets offer wildlife watching, fishing, kayaking and old-growth forest exploration. Just outside the town, Tofino Botanical Gardens (tbgf.org) is a fascinating preserve devoted to rainforest climate plants from around the world, ranging from Chile to, of course, BC. Reached by water taxi from Tofino Harbour, the Big Tree Trail on nearby Meares Island is a pleasant half-hour walk, mostly on

boardwalk, through old-growth forest. Pacific Rim National Park draws more than 1 million visitors a year to its huge swaths of wilderness coast and sound (pc.gc.ca). Virtually all the human activity in the park is confined to the relatively small 18-kilometer-long section between Ucluelet and Tofino, known as the Long Beach Unit for the major feature within it, the 16-km/10-mi shore of Wickaninnish Bay. Here, curving strands of broad sand beckon beachcombers, quiet trails lead through dank spruce forest to wave-tossed headlands and surfers scan the horizon offshore for incoming swells. The park's Kwisis Visitor Centre introduces visitors to the rich and hardy ecology of the coast and First Nations' culture and history, from a bracing locale atop a headland. The short drive to the top of Radar Hill affords panoramic views in every direction. Long Beach itself is perhaps Canada's premier surfing location; several surf shops in Tofino offer rentals, lessons and gear.

Ucluelet (ucluelet.ca) was once considered Tofino's blue-collar sibling, though it has lately undergone a renaissance that brought luxury resort development. The town's Wild Pacific Trail (wildpacifictrail.com) wends its way along spectacular headlands, affording views of the ever-dynamic ocean and lighthouses and offering access to pebble beaches and wind-sheared shoreline forest. The town is also the main gateway for paddlers heading into the Broken Group Islands in Barkley Sound, a famous wilderness preserve for sea kayakers who wend their way among more than a hundred islands and skerries to idyllic white-sand beaches. The sound is largely contained within Pacific Rim National Park (pc.gc.ca).

What if they formed a zoo, but only borrowed the denizens within? That's exactly what the Ucluelet Aquarium (uclueletaquarium.org) does in its waterfront home on the town's sheltered harbour. Each spring, the sealife that inhabits the facility's display tanks is collected from local waters — and each fall, during a community festival, the anemones, fishes, crabs, nudibranchs and more are put back into the waters from whence they came.



Day and night the Emerald City thrums with activities. (Jeffery Hayes/Wikimedia Commons)



Spectacular Seattle

Emerald City Sights

WITH A POPULATION OF 640,500 (in a metropolitan region of 3.61 million), Seattle and King County hosted 18.6 million visitors in 2013. It's no wonder — this fresh-faced West Coast beauty has numerous charms that attract visitors, whether for a weekend or to use the city as a base while exploring the natural wonders of Washington state. The Emerald City has long been beloved as a thriving cultural center surrounded by some of the planet's most spectacular spaces. With the jagged backbone of the Cascade Range to the east, the (summertime) snow-cloaked Olympic Mountain Range to the west and regal, glaciated Mount Rainier appearing to float above the landscape to the south, the city is literally embraced by emerald forests, dashing waterfalls and lakes. The sailboat-dotted waters of the Puget Sound lap at the city's beaches and piers to the west and to the east, 35-kilometer-long / 22 mi Lake Washington is headquarters for summer fun, with canoeists, water-skiers and inner-tubers pirouetting on the water while parks and beaches are filled with sunbathers.

The quality of the city's northern light is said to have influenced artists, many of whom call the Emerald City home. With a dynamic arts scene including top-notch museums and visual and performing arts, as well as a world-renowned platform for up-and-coming musicians, Seattle is a powerhouse of culture. Add to that some of the West Coast's most eminent chefs and young entrepreneurs increasingly making their mark on the city's dining scene. The city is a youthful place filled with techies and outdoor enthusiasts, all of whom enjoy that quintessential Seattle accoutrement: a coffee shop on many a corner.



Flower bouquets at the Pike Place Market add brilliant colors to the mix of attractions. (Tama Leaver/flickr)

Raindrops and Sunshine

The spectacular emerald forests that embrace Seattle wouldn't be as lushly forested without the region's persistent rainfall. Yet Seattle's reputation for rain doesn't exactly jive with reality. In fact, with 1 m / 36 inches annually, on average, the city ranks 41st among U.S. cities for rainfall; mid-July through September it's typically dry and warm.

On the Waterfront

SEATTLE'S SHIMMERING WATERFRONT is a scenic shoreline promenade where historic piers used to offload gold nuggets during the Klondike Gold Rush today are packed with other “treasures” — shops and restaurants, entertainment arcades, the Seattle Aquarium and parks and vantage points overlooking Elliott Bay.

North of Pier 69, Victoria Clipper’s terminal, **Myrtle Edwards Park** stretches like a green ribbon along the waterfront, with 2-kilometer / 1.25-mile bike and walking paths and a pocket beach, complete with driftwood and beach grass. Just up the hill from the park, Seattle Art Museum’s **Olympic Sculpture Park** (2901 Western Ave.; seattleartmuseum.org), a free attraction, is a dynamic outdoor preserve devoted to large artworks by influential modern artists. Look for Alexander Calder’s *The Eagle*, a massive orange, origami-like figure, delicately balanced on slender legs. At the base of the park, Louise Bourgeois’ trio of *Eye Benches* — which, yes, you can sit on — resemble giant, watching eyes.

South of the Clipper ferry terminal, at Pier 59, the **Seattle Aquarium** (1483 Alaskan Way; seattleaquarium.org) is one of the best such facilities on the West Coast. The eye-catching Window on Washington Waters here is a massive aquarium with a 20- by 40-foot window through which you can see more than 800 Pacific Northwest fish and invertebrates; in the wondrous Dome Room you’re surrounded by Pacific Ocean sea life and even octopi. Last summer, the Aquarium opened a new harbour seal exhibit that gave them more space and gave visitors even better views of these slippery animals as they frolic in their new surroundings.

Pier 57 is the home of the hugely popular new **Seattle Great Wheel** (seattlegreatwheel.com), an immense Ferris wheel — one of the largest in the nation — with suspended enclosed cars that offer fabulous waterfront views from high atop its 175-foot frame. **Miners Landing** (minerslanding.com), also on Pier 57, is filled with a warren of shops and cafés, with a vintage indoor carousel and an arcade. Between piers 55 and 56, **Argosy Cruises** (argosycruises.com) offers a great way to explore Seattle’s



Alexander Calder's *Eagle* at Olympic Sculpture Park (Robert Wade)

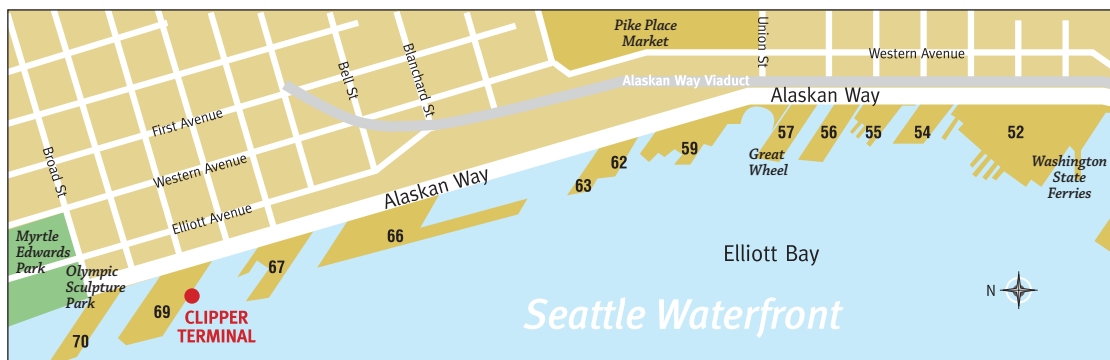


Seattle Great Wheel (Howard Frisk)

lake and harbour waterways while learning about the city’s history. The cruise company offers a number of options, including sunset and dining cruises, as well as sailings to nearby **Tillicum Village**, a Northwest coast Native American cultural center on nearby Blake Island, for dinner of salmon roasted over a fire and a dramatic dance presentation.

Farther south, at Pier 54, **Ye Olde Curiosity Shop**, in business since 1899, is part novelty shop, part gift shop, with an eclectic mix of oddities such as the Lord’s Prayer written on a grain of sand. They also carry miniature totem poles carved by local Native artists and plenty of T-shirts and tchotchkes.

Pier 52 holds **Washington State Ferries’** (wsdot.wa.gov/ferries) Colman dock. From here, ferries depart to **Bainbridge Island**, 35 minutes away, a pastoral place of beaches and gardens, shops and some of the best restaurants in the region; and **Bremerton** (60 min.), home of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, with locally owned shops and cafés and a revitalized waterfront.



What to See and Do

Discover the Emerald City beyond the stereotypes of rain, coffee and fleece — uncover the staggering aesthetics of Seattle's swelling art scene. From large-scale outdoor lighting exhibits and modest mom-and-pop display rooms, to live music and theatre debuts, the artists that founded Seattle as a cultural establishment are very much alive today. BY ERIN JAMES

PERFORMING ARTS PRECISION

Long revered for hosting classical masterpieces like "The Marriage of Figaro" or "Nabucco," the **Seattle Opera** prepares one signature production after another within the performing arts hall of Marion Oliver McCaw Hall in the Seattle Center. Founded in 1963, the opera company is one of the best respected in the country and does require advance planning — calendars for both 2015 and 2016 are available online.



Seattle Opera performing the "The Marriage of Figaro" (Neil Mackenzie)

Another staple in Seattle's performing arts is the **Pacific Northwest Ballet**, one of the largest and most highly regarded ballet companies in the country. When the company of more than 40 dancers is not touring the globe with its renowned renditions, they are clocking in one of its more than 100 annual performances at McCaw Hall.

On the musical circuit is **The 5th Avenue Theatre** — now a venue where Broadway opens productions and local acts come to life. With Chinese-inspired design from the coffered ceilings to the floral balcony walls, the historic theatre recently upgraded its "5th Avenue" marquee to a revolving design that's proudly posted outside the iconic building and inspired by the original 1926 sign.

Significant sibling Seattle auditoriums, the Seattle Theatre Group's **Paramount** and **Moore** venues host a wide variety of performing arts acts from rock revival concerts and lectures to Broadway musicals and touring comics. Although both locations are in opposing ends of downtown Seattle with a smorgasbord of dining restaurants, the theatres receive concessions and catering by Seattle restaurateur extraordinaire, Tom Douglas.



Over-the-Top Antics

Dinner guests at **Teatro ZinZanni** (zinzanni.com), a Seattle-born concoction of circus, vaudeville, acrobatics and comedy, have to come prepared for anything to happen. Every production is unique, with audience participation factored into the fast-paced fun, which might take place high in the air or next to surprised diners.



"Echo" by Barney Ebsworth at the Olympic Sculpture Park (Benjamin Benschneider)

ART ON DISPLAY

Defining art is not something Seattle has set out to do, rather the Emerald City provides its inhabitants — locals and tourists alike — with culture and creation that defines itself.

At the centre of the city, the **Seattle Art Museum** is a landmark to legendary collections, exhibits and programs focused on the arts. Previous collections have ranged from aboriginal Australian pieces and decorative Italian design to Chinese statues and portraits from around the globe and here in the Pacific Northwest. SAM's **Olympic Sculpture Park**, which sits on the waterfront, adjacent from the Victoria Clipper's dock, offers modern and mammoth sculptures that stun and satiate the ocular senses.

Located several blocks east of downtown proper, the **Frye Art Museum** is a "living legacy and celebration of art," founded by Charles and Emma Frye, prominent early-20th-century Seattle business leaders and art collectors. Many pieces featured in the contemporary gallery are from the couple's personal collection of late-19th- and early-20th-century European paintings. Tours, lectures, classes and workshops are also offered for those looking to procure a greater art collection of their own.

For exhibits concerning contemporary painting, drawing, sculpture and an emphasis on mid-20th-century contemporary photography, visit the **G. Gibson Gallery** in Pioneer Square. Tenured curator Gail Gibson brings the finest art through her doors, from local artists and more from around the world.

Down the street, **Glasshouse-Studio** features their own one-of-a-kind, hand-blown glass pieces from chandeliers and lamps to decorative platters for sprucing up your home. The first Thursday of each month, the studio also hosts an art walk that features a local artist and their work.

At **Flury & Co.'s Jackson Street Gallery**, the house specializes in a curated selection of vintage photos and antique Native American art. From the Northwest Coast and Alaska to the Great Plains, the gallery showcases the work of Edward S. Curtis, the famous turn-of-the-century American ethnologist and photographer.

What to See and Do

MONUMENTAL MUSEUMS

Steering clear of the staid and stuffy museums of yesteryear, Seattle's modern take on repositories puts the muse in museum. Hailed for its glassblowers, tech-savvy visionaries, enlightened scientists and a rich West Coast history entrenched in beauty, music and international-heritage, Seattle's museums provide a spread seen only in the Jet City.

Chihuly Garden and Glass sits inside the Seattle Center and is the namesake long-term exhibition of local artist Dale Chihuly's studio glass. His specific approach to glassblowing has made him a household name in the sculpture art world and his work is included in more than 200 museum collections worldwide. The Garden and Glass exhibition includes eight colourful galleries, the centerpiece Glasshouse and the lush glass Garden.

The hallmark of the Seattle Center museum line-up is the **Pacific Science Center** with its science and educational museum, IMAX theaters, planetarium and host of exhibits at the Seattle Center. Designed by prominent mid-century architect Minoru Yamasaki for the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle (along with its science fiction-based sibling, **The Space Needle**), the Center brings to life things that were once only imagined and continues the further expansion of ingenuity within its eight buildings, six-story-tall IMAX theater, one of the world's largest Laser Dome

Chihuly Garden & Glass



Seattle Art Museum Exterior
(Benjamin Benschneider)

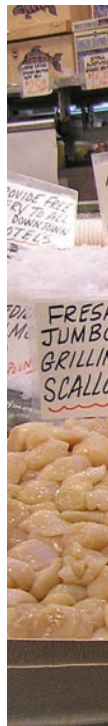
theaters, a tropical butterfly house and more.

Across the Center is the **Experience Music Project (EMP)**, Seattle's avant-garde answer to museums with a dedication to contemporary pop culture. Although the exterior and much of the interior exhibits were inspired by Seattle-born musician Jimi Hendrix, rotating acts have included costumes from *Star Wars* and HBO's *Game of Thrones*. Visitors can also see stationary museum features like the Guitar Gallery with 55 vintage guitars, the Sound Lab where anyone can play music at any volume in a soundproof room, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame and the Sky Church, the massive indoor music venue with a giant HD LED screen.

On the lakefront shores of the newly fashioned urban Lake Union Park, the **Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)** is the largest private heritage organization in Washington. The museum, which sits in the Naval Reserve Building, maintains a collection of nearly four million artifacts, photographs and archival materials on Seattle and the greater Puget Sound region. MOHAI also offers learning programs, lectures and even a pub-style history and beer trivia night at supporting sudsy venues throughout the year.

Check out the **Center for Wooden Boats** across the grassy knoll, a miniature waterside museum invested in preserving and documenting Pacific Northwest maritime history with its more than 100 historically significant boats.

- Erin James



Uptown Downtown

FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS ALIKE, the heart of the city resides in Seattle's historic **Pike Place Market** (pikeplacemarket.org), on the hillside across from the Seattle Aquarium — or, reached from the center of the city, at First and Pike streets. Founded in 1907, this is the nation's oldest continually operating farmers market. Rambling historic wood structures here hold seafood stalls filled with fresh Alaskan salmon and Dungeness crab, while other booths hold locally made artisan cheeses, berries (in summertime), local honey and hundreds of other local products, as well as flowers, crafts and jewelry. Stairs and ramps descending into the Market's lower levels lead to a maze of tiny shops that purvey antiques, imported apparel and offbeat collectables. The Market is also home to a number of highly regarded restaurants with a view, such as Matt's in the Market (Northwest cuisine; mattsinthemarket.com), Café Campagne (French brasserie; cafecampagne.com) and Place Pigalle (French-inspired; placepigalle-seattle.com), as well as inexpensive lunch counters. With street musicians playing tunes, vendors hawking their wares and the bustle of shoppers, Pike Place Market is a very lively place year-round.

One of the top Market standouts is Beecher's Handmade Cheese (1600 Pike Place; beechershandmadecheese.com), where visitors can watch vats of churning cream as it's turned into award-winning cheeses. On the periphery of the market are a number of great restaurants and retail shops. On the east side of Pike Place, the original Sur La Table



Above: Fresh produce at Pike Place Market.
(Wikimedia Commons)

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Far left: Bustling Westlake Center is at the heart of Seattle's downtown shopping district. (Tim Thompson)

(84 Pine St.; surlatable.com) offers a bounty of colorful imported cookware and table linens; famed local restaurateur Tom Douglas' Etta's (2020 Western Ave.; tomdouglas.com), serves up some of the city's best crab cakes; and, just steps north, the Steinbrueck Native Gallery (2030 Western Ave.; steinbruecknativegallery.com) showcases intricately crafted works of Northwest Coast Native-American art in silver, wood and other media.

Yet more shopping prizes can be had in the city's retail core, which centers on **Westlake Center**, between Fourth and Fifth streets and Olive and Pine. This glass-fronted, multi-level shopping mall has a food court on its top floor, which also holds the southern terminus of the **Monorail** elevated transit system, a holdover from the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, which whisks passengers to the Space Needle and cultural attractions at the Seattle Center every 10 minutes. The **Nordstrom** flagship store is one block north, at Fifth and Pine. At Sixth and Pine, **Pacific Place** shopping center features 50 upscale shops clustered around an atrium, as well as restaurants and a movie theater. Along Fifth and Sixth avenues and Pike and Pine are numerous national-brand clothing retailers such as Anthropologie and H&M.

VISIT

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The stepping off point for the Alaska Gold Rush of 1897 Pier 57 on Seattle's historic waterfront was witness to one of the largest migrations of adventurers ever seen in the United States. 100,000 people boarded ships of all shapes and sizes to make their fortune in Alaska. Most of them left from Seattle's downtown waterfront and Pier 57.



Today, the history of that exciting time lives on at Miner's Landing, where you can immerse yourself in Seattle's colorful history, enjoy bounty from the endless waters of Puget Sound and ride high above the city in the region's new landmark... the Great Wheel!

FISHERMAN'S RESTAURANT AND THE CRAB POT

Open for over 30 years, The Crab Pot and Fisherman's Restaurant & Bar are two of Seattle's family-friendly seafood establishments, serving only the freshest, sustainably harvested wild seafood from the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.



Visit Fisherman's spacious, waterfront patio-seating during the summer and enjoy breathtaking views of the Cascade Mountains.

Experience a Seattle-style clam bake at The Crab Pot, home of the *Famous Seafeast For Two* – a variety of shellfish, steamed with mouth-watering spices, poured out on butcher paper. They give you a mallet, board, bib and let you go at it!



ICE CREAM AND SHOPPING

Cool off with a cold beverage or a handmade ice cream cone or graze the food court before heading downstairs to pick up a unique Northwest souvenir at Pirates Plunder. Spin to nostalgic tunes of yesteryear aboard the waterfront's only Vintage Carousel. Beautifully painted and lovingly maintained, the Carousel will enchant children of all ages!



MORE THAN JUST A GREAT VIEW THE GREAT WHEEL

Start or finish the day at Seattle's newest downtown attraction, the Seattle Great Wheel! Soar high above the sky line and imagine yourself leaving family and friends as you head north to find adventure in Alaska—be it 1897 or 2015. You'll wonder at the diversity and dynamism of the Seattle waterfront as you gaze down on cargo ships loading containers for Asia, tugboats towing barges to Alaska, and fishing boats bringing in the bounty of the sea!



HERE ARE SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT THE SEATTLE GREAT WHEEL

- The Seattle Great Wheel is the largest observation wheel on the west coast, standing 175 feet tall.
- The wheel has 42 fully-enclosed gondolas. Each gondola seats up to eight people, meaning the wheel can hold over 300 passengers at any given time.
- The wheel was manufactured in various parts of Europe and the United States, and assembled right at the end of the pier.
- The wheel extends nearly 40 feet beyond the end of the pier, over Elliott Bay.
- The Seattle Great Wheel is open year round. With fully-enclosed gondolas and a covered waiting area, the rain can't stop the wheel from spinning!
- The Wheel weighs 280,300 pounds.
- 550 tons of concrete were poured to create the foundation for the wheel.



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www.minerslanding.com
www.seattlegreatwheel.com

Historic Pioneer Square

SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN, Pioneer Square, a National Historic Landmark, is where Seattle's founders settled in 1852 after a brief stint at West Seattle's Alki Beach. The district is filled with beautiful historic buildings in Romanesque style, shaded by street trees.

You'll find a number of **upscale wine bars and restaurants** in the neighborhood, offering sips and samples of local flavors. Saké Nomi (76 S. Washington St.), a saké shop and bar, focuses on Northwest-produced and other premium sakés.



Ming-yen Hsu/flickr

Salumi (309 Third Ave. S.) is the city's highly lauded purveyor of artisan cured meats, with a restaurant offering sandwiches, soups and pastas. The newly opened, high-ceilinged Bar Sajor (323 Occidental Ave. S.), by acclaimed Seattle chef Matt Dillon, features small plates inspired by North African, Spanish and Portuguese cuisines.

Pioneer Square offers dozens of **fine-art galleries**, with new exhibits unveiled during the festive **First Thursday Seattle Art Walk** every month. To learn more about local galleries see pioneersquare.org.

Learn about Seattle's history through two very different attractions: **The Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park** (319 Second Ave. S.), a gem of a small museum with interactive exhibits about life during the Gold Rush; and the popular **Underground Tour** (undergroundtour.com), which takes visitors into subterranean passageways beneath the city's streets and regales them with colorful narrative about the city's early life.

Directly south of Pioneer Square, two **sports stadiums** anchor the district known as "SoDo." CenturyLink Field is the home of Seattle Seahawks football team and Seattle Sounders FC, the city's Major League Soccer team. Safeco Field is the home of the Seattle Mariners baseball team.

What to See and Do

TEAM OUTINGS

Take yourself out for the ballgame with one of Seattle's star teams! No matter the season, there's a sporting event worth cheering on and a team proud to promote the city!

As American League greats, the **Seattle Mariners** take on a star-studded roster of big-league athletes at Safeco Field, the retractable roof stadium within the SoDo neighbourhood. Hard to beat on a sunny day, the ballpark, the Mariner Moose mascot and its home team bring in devoted fans by the masses.

The 2013 Super Bowl champions the **Seattle Seahawks** call nearby CenturyLink Field their home turf — a 67,000-seat multipurpose stadium that features skyline views and surrounding cityscapes. Watch winning quarterback Russell Wilson and the Legion of Boom take on the best of the National Football Conference West from one of the ultimate seats in town.

Also out of CenturyLink Field and toting their out clout to *fútbol*, the **Seattle Sounders FC** have a dedicated following of fans that are worth watching alone as they scream team songs and chants. As the 15th team in the expansion of Major League Soccer, the Sounders proudly represent the blue and green colors of Seattle sports.

The **Seattle Storm** brings the heat to the court of the KeyArena for the Women's National Basketball Association, with star players and winning records. Owned by three Seattle-area businesswomen, the Storm has qualified for the WNBA Playoffs in 11 of its 15 years in Jet City.

— Erin James



Fonté Café and Wine Bar



Seattle Coffee Works

Coffee and Donuts (and pastries, cupcakes and ice cream!)

People think of two things when they think of Seattle — rain and coffee. Although the city itself doesn't see as much rainfall as is implied (Seattle ranks 41st among major U.S. cities in average annual rainfall), it does roast, brew and drink a whole lot of coffee. According to a 2010 survey by The Daily Beast, people in Seattle consume more coffee than in any other American city and it is nearly impossible to pass a block in a commercial area that doesn't house a coffee shop.

As the home to coffee titans Starbucks, Tully's Coffee and Seattle's Best Coffee, a wide variety of local, independently owned roasters are getting their names in the headlines for Seattle Joe as well.

The booming **Caffé Vita Coffee Roasting Company** can be seen in restaurants and bars throughout the city, with three locations in Seattle proper. Recently launched by a former

Vita founder, Herkimer Coffee can also be sipped in coffee shops and eateries around town.

Downtown, a plethora of coffee shops brew their own roasts and more, like at **Seattle Coffee Works**, which sits outside of Pike Place Market. Divided into two sections, one side of the café is the Espresso Bar, which serves standard-setting espresso drinks and regular coffee made using a press pot. At The Slow Bar, on the other side, coffee enthusiasts can sip, savour and discover coffee varieties, test different methods of extraction, meet fellow coffee geeks and more.

Fonté Café & Wine Bar moonlights as a casual, downtown wine bar just below the Four Seasons Hotel, but coffee is still priority No. 1. Roasting in the south end of the city, the café specializes in unique coffee fusions like their signature Sage Latte with caramel sauce and fresh sage syrup or the

Aztec Mocha with bittersweet chocolate, cayenne, cinnamon and black pepper.

Although the famed original location for **Starbucks** sits outside and across the street from Pike Place Market, the new flagship store for the original Seattleite roaster is set like a caffeinated sentinel, looking over downtown from two blocks east on the edge of the Capitol Hill neighborhood. The Starbucks Reserve Roastery and Tasting Room is a 15,000-square-foot chic and contemporary coffee emporium, designed in quintessential Northwest modern décor of iron and wood and toting the seasonal pizzas of Seattle restaurateur Tom Douglas' Serious Pie.

One of the latest to the coffeehouse scene is **Storyville Coffee**, a nine-year-old roasting veteran from Bainbridge Island that recently swung open doors at three posh satellite coffee shops in Pike Place Market, Queen Anne



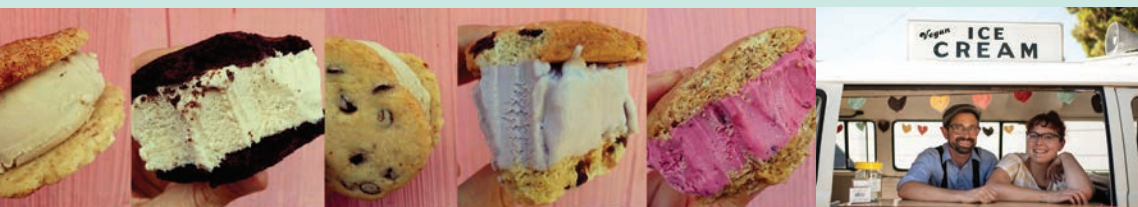
Trophy Cupcakes

and downtown. Baking is done in-house at all shops, so grab a heaping slice of fresh chocolate cake and salted caramel cookies.

Although "hand-forged doughnuts" is its claim to fame, **Top Pot**, with 17 locations in Washington and currently franchising out to a handful of other states, is eponymous with coffee and donuts in the city. Roasting and baking onsite, the flagship store downtown is restocked throughout the day with cake, bar, filled, fritter donuts and more. Try the maple-glazed Old Fashioned for a twist on two classics.

Still hankering for the sweets? The **Daily Dozen Doughnut Company** fries mini donuts fresh and hot daily in Pike Place Market, a true family operation in the market since 1978. Buy a bag of a dozen for under \$6.

Across the market is **Le Panier**, a Seattle baking institution since 1983. The "very French bakery" boasts lines that often run out the door and around the cobblestone



Seattle Cookie Counter

street corner with patrons patiently waiting for the traditional, world-class macarons, baguettes, croissants and more.

The mobile **Seattle Cookie Counter** brings treats to the vegan and gluten-free crowd with 100 percent vegan ice cream sandwiches. The rotational menu offers nearly two dozen staple flavors of ice cream and more than a dozen seasonals with up to six of these flavors on the truck daily, which always includes one gluten-free option.

Inside the upscale Pacific Place shopping center is **Trophy Cupcakes**, the mothership of cupcakeries in the city. With varieties ranging from the Martha Stewart-approved chocolate graham cracker cupcake with roasted marshmallow topping and the chocolate Nutella cupcake to classics like red velvet and carrot walnut — themed, special occasion and minis are also available on the daily.

The **Yellow Leaf Cupcake Co.** also receives critical acclaim for their “micro-bakery” that uses the finest ingredients for their baked goods — from premium Mexican vanilla and first-rate Belgian chocolate to creamy Italian butter cream. Playing with local components, Yellow Leaf is known for their use of Seattle coffee beans and Washington lavender.

— Erin James



(thebittenword.com)

Exciting Seattle Center

LOCATED NORTH OF DOWNTOWN, originally the campus of the 1962 World’s Fair, Seattle Center has become the city’s cultural “living room” with venues for numerous arts organizations, from the small, but innovative Book-It Repertory Theatre to the highly regarded Pacific Northwest Ballet.

The **Armory Building**, a glass-walled food court and performance area, is the beating heart of the Center and home to scores of festivals around the year. A plethora of exciting attractions spread out from the Armory, offering fun for nearly everyone. The **Space Needle** is the internationally known symbol of Seattle and justifiably so. Views are broad from high atop this slender, 184-meter / 605-foot tower, which was built for the World’s Fair. Cascade and Olympic mountain ranges, majestic Mount Rainier, float planes taking off from Lake Union and ferries on Puget Sound are among the things to see from this sky-high vantage point.

At the base of the needle, the new **Chihuly Garden and Glass** (chihulygardenandglass.com) showcases brilliantly colored glass art and the EMP Museum (empmuseum.org) offers exhibits on the independent Northwest artists who formed the city’s reputation for grunge, rock and other musical forms.

The Center is an especially exciting place for families, with a number of kid-centric attractions. The vast, highly regarded **Seattle Children’s Museum** (thechildrensmuseum.org), in the basement of the Armory Building, features numerous imaginative play stations, including Cog City and Global Village. The Pacific Science Center (pacificsciencecenter.org), marked by its iconic, graceful white arches, is a center for discoveries in science, math and technology, with dynamic interactive exhibits such as, “Professor Wellbody’s Academy of Health & Wellness.” The **Seattle Children’s Theatre** (sct.org), also at the Seattle Center, is one of the finest youth theater companies in the nation, with a full roster of plays that run the gamut from zany fun for tots to gripping dramas for teens.

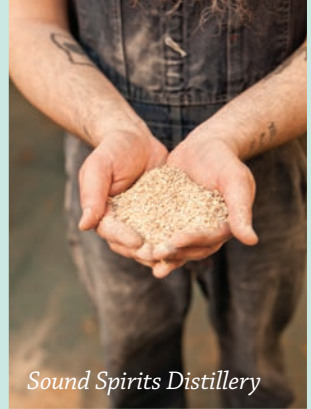
Lush green lawns at the heart of the Seattle Center roll up to the edge of the **International Fountain**, an immense silvery half orb that shoots water jets skyward, with music and lights offering a dramatic touch at night. Kids and teens love to attempt to dodge the jets as they burst forth at unexpected intervals; in summertime lots of families bring their kids in swimsuits.



The International Fountain is a splashy place to enjoy a hot day and the Space Needle offers cooling breezes and astonishing views. (Joe Mabel)



Pike Brewing



Sound Spirits Distillery



Local Craft Tours



Copperworks Distilling



Six Arms



Purple Café and Wine Bar

Seattle Thirst Quenchers

Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries

BY ERIN JAMES

SEATTLE SUDS

With more than 260 breweries and 74 percent of the nation's hop production coming out of Washington state, Seattle is home to more than 50 breweries.

Redhook, the state's largest beer producer, is only 20 miles from downtown Seattle and a number of other breweries, large and small, are found within Seattle city limits.

A landmark in its own right, **Pike Brewing** has been holed up in the hillside of Pike Place Market since 1989. Owned and operated by brewing veterans Charles and Rose Ann Finkel, Pike Brewing is best known for its classic British-style ales, full-service pub and "microbrewery museum" in the heart of the market. Take a taste test with Pike's Naughty Nellie Golden Artisan Ale and match it up with the pub's Dungeness crab and artichoke dip, stringing with cheese and screaming for a crisp beer.

Further into the hustle and bustle of downtown Seattle, beer lovers can find **Rock Bottom Brewing** near the base of the Motif hotel. The popular large-chain brewpub gets a taste of Seattle with its own in-house, award-

winning brewmaster and kitchen. Try an "El Diablo" pizza topped with charred habanero tomato salsa, a medley of cheeses, pepperoni andouille and chorizo sausages against the cleansing backdrop of the German-style Kölsch lager.

Bringing the quirky, colorful and creative beer scene of Portland to its sister city, the McMenamins chain of brewpubs comes to downtown Seattle by way of two equally unique locations. The first opened in the Queen Anne neighborhood, in the shadow of the Space Needle, in 1995. The open-air brew quarters of **McMenamins Queen Anne** allows a fishbowl effect for diners and drinkers to see their beer in action. The dark chocolate and roasty Paeter's Porter makes a nice companion to the classic Reuben sandwich, with corned beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and Russian dressing on grilled rye bread. The Capitol Hill McMenamins brewpub is named after the beer label's logo that reveals a Hindu idol with six, sinuous arms aloft — thus, **Six Arms** was dubbed for the funky downtown neighbourhood pub. On the corner of Pike and Melrose, guests can try a few McMenamins' ale classics as well as their Edgefield Hard Apple Cider paired with Cajun tater tots for only \$2.50 during happy hour.

Scope out the rest of the city's brewing scene with **Road Dog Seattle Brewery Tour**, the vivacious and entertaining multi-stop guided beer tour. With two suds-seeing options (sold by individual seats or exclusively as a private brewery tour), the tour is a great way to see Seattle, meet fellow beer

enthusiasts and taste brews outside of the downtown corridor.

SEATTLE DISTILLED

Washington has more distilleries than any other state in the union — an impressive growth considering there were no craft distilleries in the state before 2007. More than a dozen distilleries of this vast selection are coming from within Seattle and are popping up in restaurants and bars throughout town.

As Seattle's first craft distillery since Prohibition, **Sound Spirits Distillery** opened to the public in 2010 with their line of artisanal and Seattle-specific spirits. Small and slow batch in production, owner/distiller Steven Stone put pride into every bottle — from the Ebb + Flow Vodka made from 100 percent Washington malted barley to the Sound Spirits Aquavit, the traditional Scandinavian liquor with caraway, dill, coriander, fennel and anise. Sip the Ebb + Flow Gin in "The Water Tower" cocktail from the Four Season Hotel's ART Lounge, which uses gin as the base mixed with St-Germain elderflower liqueur, muddled cucumbers, rhubarb bitters and house-made sour mix.

Two tenured Seattle brewers heard bourbon calling and founded **Copperworks Distilling Company** down on the Seattle waterfront. Considering whiskey is more or less beer that has been through the distillation process (malted barley is the major common denominator), success was in the cards for the duo of Jason Park and Micah Nutt. Although whiskey is on the way (it's currently aging in charred, new American oak

barrels until at least 2016), Copperworks specializes in vodka, gin and booze-infused truffles in the meantime. Pair the New Barrel Gin — an oak-aged botanical take — with the Classic Botanicals variety of its Gin-Inspired Truffles featuring juniper, coriander, lemon peel, orange peel and cinnamon.

Glass Distillery proffers elegant, artistic vodkas, distilled from grapes and placed in aesthetically dramatic glass bottles. Clear and pure vodkas for classic cocktails, founder Ian MacNeil's well-connected Seattle entrepreneurial spirit led his vodka to the bar shelves of Emerald City dining elite — Glass' Gridiron Vodka is the premium-labeled vodka for the five-restaurant El Gaucho Hospitality group. Try it in the El Gaucho Glass Martini at the Belltown neighbourhood El Gaucho Seattle, for a classic serving of a classy vodka.

Jump on the bandwagon of **Local Craft Tours**, Seattle's premiere and only distillery tour that provides a memorable and remarkable experience sipping through the city's small-batch distilleries. Inside the bar on wheels, the tour includes a visit to three distilleries, local artisanal snacks, unique take-home gifts, two craft cocktails and transportation to and from it all.

WHERE TO WINE

Although grapes for Washington wine are grown on the other side of the Cascade Range, support for local wines is as much of the Seattle-food and -dining culture as if the vines lined the city streets.

Centrally located and definitively constructed as an urban wine library (complete with a two-story

spiral staircase of wine), **Purple Café and Wine Bar** is a must-do wine stop in the city. The multifaceted culinary and enological concept boasts one of the city's most extensive wine lists and a wide variety of flights to taste the breadth.

Celebrity chef and Washington-born restaurateur Michael Mina has opened the doors to the Seattle location of his Burgundian-influenced wine bar, **RN74**. Plating up creative yet simple renditions of regional French cuisines, RN74 also showcases a plush Champagne selection, more than two dozen wines by the glass, a number of featured Washington wineries and a train station-style reader board that lists the last bottle available of that particular wine.

An institution and icon in the Seattle dining world, **Wild Ginger** still holds its own as a wine authority and widely recognized Asian-inspired restaurant. The *Wine Spectator* Grand Award-winning wine list rosters 36 wines by the glass, roughly 4,000 on the bottle and reserve lists and more than 300 rieslings in inventory — one of the restaurant's biggest claims to fame.

Take an epicurean trip to France at **Le Caviste**, a wine bistro featuring all 10 crus of Beaujolais, a broad offering of Burgundian wines, Bordeaux blends for days and a menu that totes organic ingredients with straightforward French café fare.

Head into **The Tasting Room Seattle** in Pike Place Market for a taste of seven different Washington wineries or take a quick jaunt to the Queen Anne neighbourhood for a glass at **Ten Mercer**, the wood-accented, double-decker wine bar.



Beyond Downtown: Fremont and Ballard

NORTH OF DOWNTOWN LIE TWO OF THE CITY'S most-distinct neighborhoods, Fremont and Ballard. Fremont is beloved for its quirky, independent nature and Ballard has in recent years swiftly become a center for wine-sippers, craft-brew lovers and foodies.

Fremont (6 km / 4 mi north of downtown) has no problem with self-esteem: It's the self-declared "Center of the Universe." This quirky, artsy community is filled with locally owned boutiques, cafés, bakeries, clubs and restaurants and a few Seattle icons like none other. The shaggy-haired **Fremont Troll** lurks, knuckles resting on the ground, beneath the north end of the Aurora Bridge, clutching an actual VW Bug. A few blocks away, the 16-foot/5 m bronze **Lenin Statue** (N. 36th St. and Fremont Place N.), the largest such statue in the U.S., was spirited away from Czechoslovakia in 1995 after the fall of the Soviet Bloc. It was placed here as a bit of irony — locals dress it up with Christmas decorations at year's end.

Nearby, in a historic brick building, **Theo Chocolate** (3400 Phinney Ave. N.; theochocolate.com) is the first company to roast organic, fair-trade cocoa beans in the nation. The super-popular tours here are a sensory experience, with samples of single-source chocolates and a retail counter where you can sample and buy chocolate bars and truffles, all surrounded by the rich aroma of roasting beans. (Tours can fill up a month in advance; reservations are recommended.)

Ballard (9 km / 6 mi northeast), originally a Scandinavian enclave and home to the **Nordic Heritage Museum** (nordicmuseum.org), has evolved into a trendy neighborhood of condo complexes, chic shops, small music venues and innovative restaurants. The neighborhood's historic, brick-lined and cobblestoned **Ballard Avenue** thrums with diners and nightlife fanciers who stroll between wine bars and restaurants every evening. Among the



Fremont Troll (Jason Brackins/flickr)



(Curt Smith/flickr)

Fremont Wild Life

Fremont puts on the city's zaniest festival every year, the freewheeling Solstice Parade every June, which is equal parts street theatre and collective joyous expressions, such as a samba procession with wildly costumed dancers. The annual highlight: The (unauthorized) Naked Cyclists, who streak past, adorned merely with body paint.

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SEATTLE CityPASS

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OVER 300 WAYS TO SEE THE WORLD!**

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best-known hotspots along historic Ballard Avenue are La Carta de Oaxaca (Mexican regional; 5431 Ballard Ave. NW.); Bastille (French; 5307 Ballard Ave. NW.); Stoneburner (Northwest and Italian; 5214 Ballard Ave. NW.) and The Walrus and the Carpenter (contemporary seafood; 4739 Ballard Ave. NW.)



Ballard boasts one of the region's finest **farmers markets** on Sundays, year-round, on historic Ballard Avenue, with live music, local crafts and plenty of samples of regional foods; look for smoked salmon year-round and baskets of berries in the summer. A half-mile/1 km past downtown Ballard, the **Hiram M. Chittenden Locks** (nws.usace.army.mil) offer one of the city's best free attractions. Crowds line the viewing walkways to watch yachts and commercial vessels make their way between Puget Sound and the Ship Canal as the water levels rise and gates open and close. Across a dam and spillway, an underwater viewing area allows visitors to watch salmon migrating through the **fish ladder**, June through November. Beyond the Locks, **Shilshole Bay Marina** is a beautiful spot for a seaside stroll and **Golden Gardens**, with a fine-sand beach, attracts crowds on warm summer days and evenings.



Woodland Park Zoo's four lion cubs, born November 2012, are a hit with visitors. (Ryan Hawk/Woodland Park Zoo)

Woodland Park Zoo

About 10 km / 6 mi north of downtown, a wooded preserve holds the city's 92-acre Woodland Park Zoo (5500 Phinney Ave. N.; zoo.org), home to nearly 300 different species. The zoo was a path-breaker in naturalistic exhibits and devotes resources to saving endangered animals. Among the top exhibits are the African Savannah, with giraffes and hippos; Northern Trail, with river otters and brown bears; and a Humboldt penguin habitat.



DINING

Pike Place Chowder
Pike Place Market
1530 Post Alley, Seattle, WA
206.267.2537

Pacific Place Center
600 Pine St., 4th Fl, Seattle, WA
206.838.5680

From all over the world, travelers flock to two small cafes, rated by dozens of food and travel magazines among Seattle's Top Ten "Must Visit Places." Tantalizing varieties of soul-satisfying chowders are prepared in small batches and served fresh daily.

Pike Brewing Co.
1415 1st Ave, Seattle, WA
206.622.6044

Pike is a family owned gravity flow steam brewery and pub in the historic Pike Place Market. Beer brewed on premise; local sustainable pub fare; local craft spirits; NW wine; Guest beers. Visit Pike's Microbrewery Museum. Family Friendly. Tours 2pm Tue-Sat.

ATTRACTIONS

Argosy Cruises
1101 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA
888.623.1445
www.argosycruises.com

Argosy Cruises is Seattle's premier cruise company offering four narrated sightseeing tours, brunch, lunch and dinner cruises, holiday themed events and the Tillicum Village Salmon Bake.

Miner's Landing
Pier 57
1301 Alaskan Way, Seattle, WA
www.minerslanding.com

Miners Landing, located on Seattle's Historic Waterfront on Pier 57, is the home of The Seattle Great Wheel, The Crab Pot Restaurant, Fisherman's Restaurant, Pirates Plunder, Salmon Cooker, Alaskan Sourdough Bakery, Vintage Carousel and Arcade!

Woodland Park Zoo
601 N 59th Street
Seattle, WA
206.548.2500
www.zoo.org

Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo is a 92-acre oasis featuring over 300 animal species. Noted for cutting-edge exhibits and expansive horticultural collection, this top award-winning zoo is hailed as one of the finest in the world.



Manhattan

Pike Place CHOWDER



AMERICA'S #1 MOST TALKED ABOUT - CHOWDER -

Welcome to the Emerald City

In spring and summer, after a long rainy chill, Seattle becomes a city of bright blue skies, emerald-green trees, color-saturated blooms, and sun-dazzled waters. Bright white ferries cross Puget Sound delivering visitors to the villages and towns where locals commute to work.

Pike Place Market overflows with fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The vibe is low-key and friendly. A perfect place for the unpretentious, taste-thrilling chowders ladled up daily at Pike Place Chowder.

Visit PIKEPLACECHOWDER.COM and join the Chowderheads E-Club to receive exclusive offers and promotions!



Seafood Bisque

How Two Small Chowder Cafes Became National News

Even in the rain, locals and visitors from across the country and around the world, line up to savor the unforgettable Pacific Northwest flavors in every bowl of rich, delicious chowder. Against all odds, these two hole-in-wall chowder houses are listed in thousands of reviews as one of the Top Ten Must-Visit Places in Seattle.



How It All Began...

On a chilly, blue-sky morning in 2003, Larry Mellum opened a small eatery in Seattle's famous Pike Place Market. Using loads of top-quality seafood and fresh-from-the-market vegetables, he brought small, handcrafted batches of rich, savory chowders to a perfect simmer. Soon, following the briny aromas wafting down the cobblestone streets, hungry customers began to form a line, first in twos and threes, and soon, by the dozens.



Crab, Oyster & Chorizo

Even the reviewer of the laid-back local newspaper, The Stranger, wrote, "...You put a spoonful of perfectly hot soup to your lips, and realize...they make the best!#%#!# chowder anywhere.



Southwest Chicken & Corn

In no time, the walls were covered with awards and trophies, while Larry continued to develop a variety of the best chowders he could dream up. Smoked Salmon, because he loves Lox & Bagels. Seared Scallop because... why not? Crab & Oyster, with Chorizo.

Today, the little Chowder House where it all began serves eight varieties every day while a second café in the Pacific Place Shopping Center serves five varieties and offers an expanded menu, including fish 'n chips, fish tacos, and premium brews.



New England Clam

With thousands of Facebook and Twitter followers, over 3,000 rave reviews on Yelp and TripAdvisor, dozens of magazine interviews, and TV appearances, Larry says, “We never expected to become celebrities, but we’re definitely enjoying the spotlight.”

Seafaring Fisherman and Grandmothers

There’s much to see and do in Seattle. Among them is Pike Place Chowder, an adventure you won’t find anywhere else in the world. There’s much seafaring lore to be found in a simple bowl of chowder - of fisherman bringing home the catch and grandmothers passing down treasured recipes. Perhaps you’ll hear the echoes as you wander down a narrow alley and happen upon a little chowder house, in the heart of the Emerald City.



Locations

PIKE PLACE MARKET

1530 Post Alley, Seattle
(206) 267-2537

PACIFIC PLACE CENTER

Happy Hour 4-7

\$2+ Eats & Brews

600 Pine St, 4th Flr, Seattle
(206) 838-5680

Follow @PikePLChowder



Bites of Seattle

UNIQUE EATS

What is a visit to Seattle without standing in the rain for a fresh-off-the-truck bite or hole-in-the-wall specialty? Test out the following food trucks and walk-ups for the truth behind street eats.

Marination Mobile: One of the first to get wheels on the Seattle streets, this Hawaiian-Korean culinary mogul is known its Spam sliders and spicy pork tacos.

Skillet Street Food: You will know them by their vintage Airstream trailer that pumps out fried chicken sandwiches, poutine and more “upscale comfort food.”

Jemil’s Big Easy: Find this truck for authentic Cajun cuisine in the Emerald City from gumbo and jambalaya to po’ boy sandwiches.

Little Uncle: A “celebration of roots Thai food,” this small and succulent menu sports pork-cheek buns, khao soi gai, phad thai and rotating specials.

Il Corvo: This lunch-only, hard-to-find Italian eatery changes its fresh pasta menu daily and continues to impress locals and tourists alike.

La Bodega: Celebrated for its authentic puerco asado (slow-roasted pork), this tiny joint is true to its Dominican roots with empanadas, delectable sandwiches and more.

Piroshky Piroshky: The smells of this bakery flood Pike Place Market on a warm day, baking piroshkies and other Russian delicacies fresh daily.

Tour it all with a variety of Seattle-based food tours including **Seattle Bites Food Tours** which walks through Pike Place Market, **Savor Seattle Food Tours** for a walking tutorial of Seattle’s downtown food scene and **Taste Seattle Food Tours** that guides eaters through Pioneer Square or Alki Beach via bike.

HOW TO EAT SEASONALLY AND LOCALLY

Ask any chef — seasonality is everything and buying local for ingredients is a founding principle of many Seattle eating establishments.

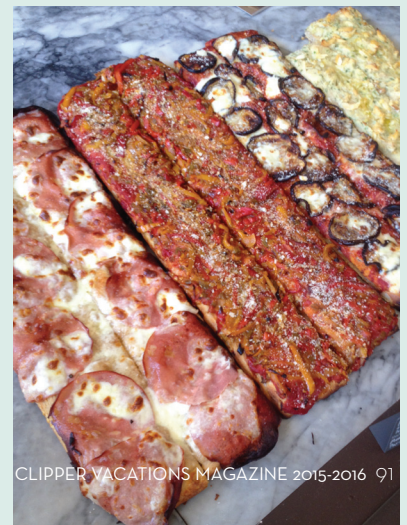
For eating locally and seasonally, *Seattle Met* magazine senior editor of food and drink Allecia Vermillion suggests visiting the markets, from Pike Place to the larger neighbourhood farmers markets to familiarize and educate yourself.

“[Eating locally] is a way to connect with your surroundings, especially in this corner of the world, where each season has so much to offer,” Vermillion says. “In Seattle, looking for a local or seasonal restaurant is akin to asking whether an establishment will have silverware — it’s part of the DNA for so many places. Given its location, Matt’s in the Market is an obvious destination, but eating seasonally doesn’t have to mean a high-end meal. Pizzeria Gabbiano in Pioneer Square lets the seasons drive the toppings on its Roman-style pizza.”

Executive Chef Stew Navarre of Local 360 restaurant in the Belltown neighbourhood says the best way to eat local and seasonally is to follow the seasons. “[This] allows you to naturally maintain a well-rounded diet and eating at the height of freshness means you will get the most nutrients into your body and the best flavour from your food,” Navarre says. “Eating seasonally and locally also pushes me as a chef to learn how to cook an item in different ways. Celebrate when something great is in season and cook with them frequently!”

Many folks know that colder months are the peak season for oysters, but Vermillion says, “If you happen to be here during a fleeting spot prawn season, consider yourself very lucky.” She suggests catching the peaches and heirloom tomatoes in the summer as the fruit is so good that certain varieties and farms have their own cult followings.

- Erin James





More ways to see the sights

THE VICTORIA CLIPPER offers year-around, first-class service to Victoria, as well as trips to a variety of picturesque and popular destinations around the area. Whether you are looking for romance and spa packages, golf, whale watching, exploration tours or pre and post cruise activities, we have fun and interesting packages designed just for you. Please call us if you have questions or would like to make a reservation, or visit www.clippervacations.com.

VICTORIA

With up to three Clipper departures daily from downtown Seattle to Victoria, you can choose how much time you want to spend in Victoria. In this multifaceted city, you can experience both new and old-world charm. Visit secret insider hot spots on a Victoria Food Tour, explore the many local micro-breweries, get out on the water with whale watching, paddle boarding and kayaking or soar through the air on an AdrenaLINE Zipline Adventure Tour. You can also soak in some of the British atmosphere with Afternoon Tea at The Fairmont Empress or take a deluxe motor coach ride past city sights to the world famous The Butchart Gardens to explore acres of beautiful flowers. Make traveling easier by booking one or more of these tours on aboard.

VANCOUVER

Travel to Vancouver via Amtrak Cascades train, deluxe motor coach, BC Ferries or even seaplane and stay at your choice of hotels. Within the heart of the city you can enjoy attractions like Stanley Park and the Vancouver Aquarium or shopping and dining at Granville Island Public Market. Outdoor enthusiasts can go for a breathtaking walk across Capilano Suspension Bridge and Cliff Walk that hangs 200 feet in the air or visit Grouse Mountain for skiing and ziplining.

VANCOUVER ISLAND "UP ISLAND"

Besides being home to Victoria, BC, Vancouver Island offers a variety of opportunities to relax and get in touch with nature. Rent a car and travel north for wine tasting in the Cowichan Valley, salmon fishing in Campbell River or in the town of Ucluelet, or visit Quadra Island for a whales and bears nature tour. The area is also great for storm watching, beach combing, hiking, camping and cave exploring.

SEATTLE

The starting point for many of our destinations, Seattle is world famous for its sights, scenery, shopping and seafood and offers an endless array of things to do. Travel to the top of the Space Needle, shop at Pike Place Market, learn more about one of the biggest air craft producers on the Boeing Future of Flight Tour or create your own music at the Experience Music Project. In addition, you can go on a variety of culinary tours to sample tasty bites from popular restaurants, see powerful and thought provoking theatre and enjoy pro sports and active night spots. You can also choose to venture outside of the city to sample some of Washington's famous wines in Woodinville or enjoy beautiful scenery with day trips to Mt. Rainier and Mt. St. Helens.

CANADIAN ROCKIES

Customize your own itinerary to explore the beautiful mountainous scenery of the Canadian Rockies. Visit the most treasured spots in the Canadian Rockies such as Hell's Gate, Sun Peaks, Lake Louise, Columbia Glacier, Banff National Park, Jasper, Bow Falls and more. These excursions provide an excellent opportunity to go for a stroll and take in the natural beauty of ice-blue glaciers, deep river gorges, thick forests and abundant wildlife.

WHISTLER

Get away to Whistler's world-class resort for fun and adventure outdoors. Whistler is best known for phenomenal skiing and snowboarding but there are other wintertime activities such as snowmobile and dogsled tours through Callaghan Valley or Snowcat rides to Crystal Hut restaurant on Blackcomb for a fondue dinner. In the summer, you can enjoy ziplining, golfing, hiking, ATV tours and horseback riding. Likewise, Whistler Village offers unique shopping as well as dining and nightlife in many cafes, lounges and clubs.



PORTLAND, OREGON

Visit "Portlandia" on its own or in conjunction with other Pacific Northwest destinations with basic packages featuring a round trip Amtrak Cascades ride from Seattle to Portland and overnight accommodations. Get a flavor of the city with a Hop On, Hop Off tour, which will make stops at all the hot spots including Powell's City of Books, the largest used and new bookstore in the world. Or take a tour to get out of town to experience Portland's wonderful wine and beautiful waterfalls. Finally, don't forget to indulge in the famous Voodoo Doughnuts and the food trucks around the city before you leave.

GRAY WHALE WATCHING

During March-April, the Victoria Clipper III heads out to observe 35 ton gray whales during their annual migration from Mexico to Alaska. This is the only whale watching tour that leaves out of Seattle and the boat has 3 decks with over 200 ft. of outdoor viewing areas providing you with the best chance of seeing the whales. The vessel also makes a stop in either Langley or Coupeville on Whidbey Island, offering passengers two hours to explore ashore.

SAN JUAN ISLANDS with ORCA WHALE & SEALIFE SEARCH

The Clipper III ferry provides one of the easiest ways to get to the beautiful San Juan Islands. Travel over for a day trip or overnight stay. Upon your arrival, you can either disembark to spend the afternoon in town or stay aboard for a 2.5 hour whale watch and sealife excursion, where you can expect to see orca, minke and humpback whales as well as bald eagles, Dall's porpoises, seals, otters and other wildlife. After the tour you will have about two hours to grab a bite to eat or do a little shopping. If you are staying overnight, you can spend your time hiking, biking, kayaking, scuba diving or relaxing with a spa treatment at Earthbox Inn & Spa.

GOLF

Experience tee time at one of Western Canada's premier golf courses. Visit Westin Bear Mountain Golf Club just outside of Victoria, Arbutus Ridge or Olympic View Golf Club on southern Vancouver Island, Chateau Whistler Golf in Whistler or The Bear and Quail courses at the Okanagan Golf Club. All packages and activities include green fees, power carts and feature scenic views.

ROMANCE

Impress someone special with a luxurious romantic getaway in the Northwest. Romance packages are offered at the Inn at Laurel Point, Hotel Grand Pacific and the Fairmont Empress in Victoria; and at the Warwick in Seattle. You will enjoy round trip transportation, one night hotel accommodation and amenities such as champagne or sparkling wine, chocolate, breakfast and late check outs.

SPA

Pamper yourself with an overnight spa package on Vancouver Island. Tigh Na Mara Spa & Resort in Parksville features a Grotto Spa that fills over 20,000 square feet and includes a mineral bath, manicure and pedicure room, Lavender Relaxation Lounge, full-service hair salon, treatment suites with hand-crafted copper soaker tubs for couples and an indoor whirlpool and sauna. If you would rather stay in the heart of Victoria, visit the Willow Stream Spa at The Fairmont Empress for a soak in the Hungarian mineral pool or to relax in the eucalyptus steam and sauna.

EXPLORATION

Discover several Northwest cities all in one convenient vacation! The BC Loop Self Drive Tour will allow you to explore Seattle, Vancouver Island, Whistler, Vancouver and Victoria, while the Drive Tour from Seattle to Osoyoos, Penticton & Kelowna will allow you to experience wine, golf, beaches and forests in Western Canada. Each of these self-drive tours, as well as the others we offer, provide you with the flexibility to get off the beaten path, so you can spend time in the areas that interest you.

GROUPS

For 15 to several hundred people, the Clipper Group Department can customize a perfect tour, hotel and transportation package for you. Consider Clipper for family reunions, corporate incentives, associations and educational outings.

Our Group Travel planning experts can recommend unique locations, attractions and activities with a customized itinerary while offering competitive pricing. Clipper Vacations knows the Pacific Northwest and Canada better than anyone. For more information, see ClipperVacations.com/group-travel or email reservations@victoriaclipper.com

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Acres of Clams Ivar's
 Reopening this summer
 (206) 624-6852
 This is where it all started, back in 1938. Today, Ivar's Acres of Clams is still the place where people come from all over the world to enjoy Seattle's favorite seafood.
 Also, shop online for Ivar's memorabilia, gift cards and chowder at ivars.com.

Ivar's SALMON HOUSE
 Located on the shores of Lake Union, near the University of Washington, Ivar's Salmon House offers mouth-watering alder grilled salmon prepared over an open barbecue and a panoramic view of the downtown Seattle skyline.
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