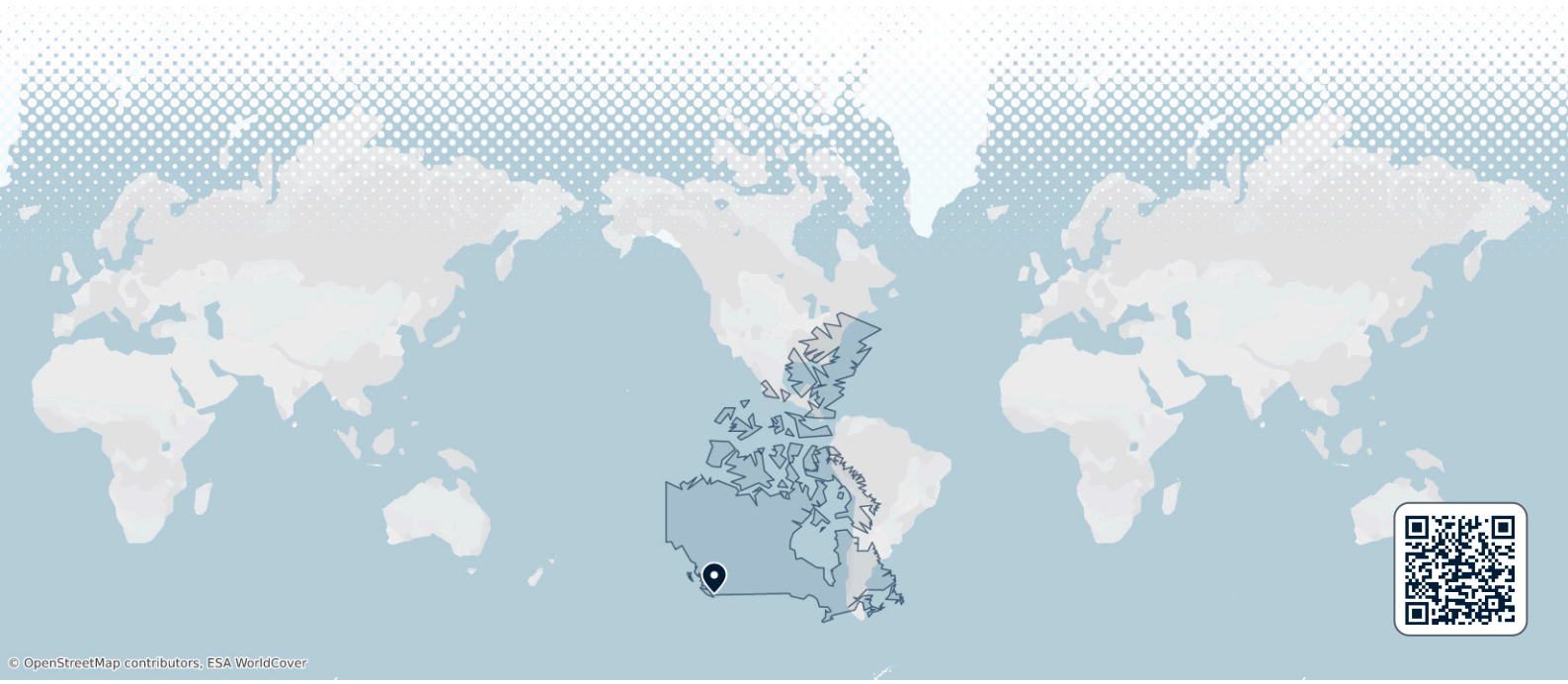


Vancouver

British Columbia · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Vancouver sits between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Mountains in British Columbia. Downtown occupies a compact peninsula, so the ocean, forested parks, and snow-capped peaks are visible from the street. It suits travelers who want an outdoor-focused city break: hiking, cycling, and beach time alongside a modern downtown, without a long drive out of town.

The city has no old town or grand historic monuments. It is a young Pacific port city shaped by its setting more than its past. Coast Salish and other Northwest Coast Indigenous cultures run through the city's art, architecture, and museums. Large Chinese and South Asian communities have shaped its food scene.

When to visit

Summer (June to September) is warm and mostly dry, with far less rain than the rest of the year. Spring and fall are cooler and wetter but still pleasant. Winter is mild but grey and rainy at sea level, though the North Shore mountains just outside the city get heavy snow.

The biggest annual event is the **Celebration of Light**, an international fireworks competition held over English Bay each summer, with several nights of choreographed shows.

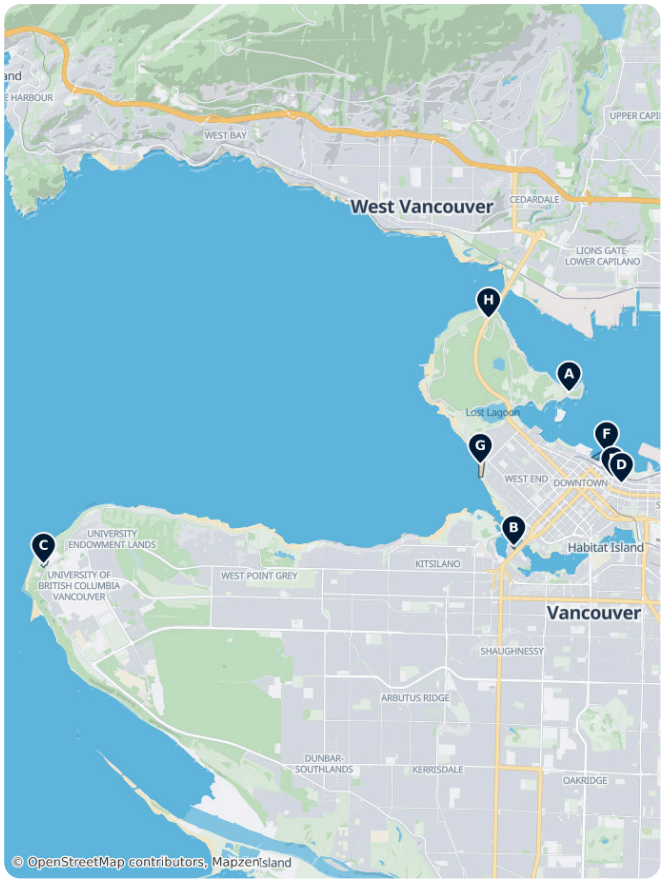
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 11° Feels like 3°	2° / -5°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 12° Feels like 4°	2° / -5°	16 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
March	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 15° Feels like 6°	3° / -1°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
April	Fair Fair for hiking	12° / 19°	5° / 1°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for cycling	16° / 24°	9° / 5°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 27°	12° / 8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	15° / 11°	Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 29°	15° / 12°	Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 26°	13° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 20°	8° / 4°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 13°	4° / -1°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 10° Feels like 2°	2° / -5°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: June, July, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Pack a light rain jacket for a spring, fall, or winter visit — showers can appear with little warning.

Top sights



A Stanley Park is a large peninsula park next to downtown, ringed by a seawall path for walking or cycling, with totem poles, old-growth trees, and beach coves.

B Granville Island Public Market is a covered food market on a former industrial island under the Granville Street Bridge, packed with produce stalls, bakeries, and artisan food stands.

C Museum of Anthropology, on the University of British Columbia campus, has a major collection of Northwest Coast Indigenous art, including totem poles and carvings by *Bill Reid*.

D Gastown is Vancouver's oldest neighborhood, with cobblestone streets, Victorian-era buildings, and the steam-powered **E** Gastown Steam Clock that whistles every quarter hour.

F Canada Place is instantly recognizable by its sail-shaped rooftops over the cruise terminal and convention centre, with a waterfront promenade looking out to the North Shore mountains.

G English Bay Beach is the city's classic sunset spot, a curving sand beach a short walk from downtown.

H Lions Gate Bridge links downtown to the North Shore across Burrard Inlet; the pedestrian path across it gives wide views over the harbor.

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What to experience

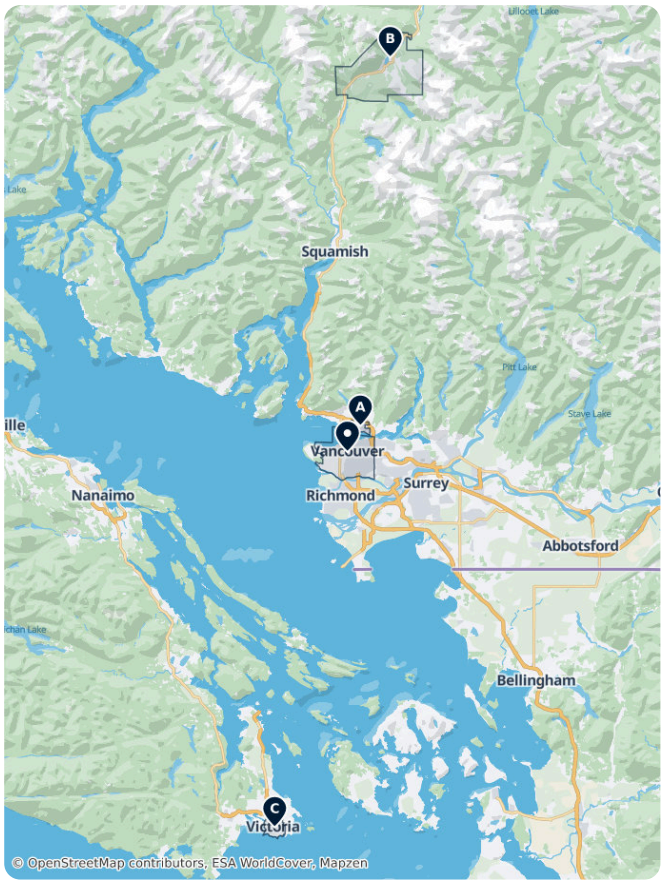
Vancouver's outdoor setting shapes most of its signature experiences.

- Cycle or skate the Stanley Park seawall at sunset, when the Coast Mountains turn pink over the water.
- Paddle a canoe or stand-up paddleboard across False Creek or English Bay — several outfitters rent gear right on the water.
- Ride one of the small passenger ferries that shuttle across False Creek between Granville Island, Yaletown, and Science World — a cheap, scenic way to get around.
- Watch a dragon boat practice or race on False Creek. Vancouver has a large, active dragon boat racing community.

Day trips

Vancouver's setting makes for easy day trips into mountains, forest, and along the coast.

- A North Vancouver's North Shore — about 25 minutes by car, or SeaBus plus local bus — home to Capilano Suspension Bridge Park and Grouse Mountain's gondola and hiking trails.
- B Whistler — about 2 hours by car or bus along the Sea-to-Sky Highway — a year-round mountain resort with hiking and biking in summer and a major ski area in winter.
- C Victoria — about 3.5 hours by ferry and bus, or a 35-minute floatplane flight — British Columbia's small, walkable capital, known for its waterfront and historic buildings.



Getting there

- **By air**: Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is the main gateway, about 12 km south of downtown. The Canada Line SkyTrain reaches downtown in about 25 minutes; a small surcharge applies for trips starting at the airport.
- **By train**: VIA Rail's transcontinental Canadian arrives at Pacific Central Station, and Amtrak Cascades trains from Seattle use the same station, about 4 hours south.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches to Seattle, Whistler, and other destinations in British Columbia also depart from Pacific Central Station.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: TransLink runs the SkyTrain (three lines), buses, and the SeaBus passenger ferry across Burrard Inlet to North Vancouver. Tap a contactless bank card or phone at the fare gates or on board. No separate ticket or card is needed. TransLink
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber and Lyft both operate citywide.
- **On foot / cycling**: Downtown, the West End, and the seawall are flat and easy to walk or cycle; a public bike-share system covers the central areas. Reaching the North Shore or UBC on foot is impractical — use transit.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Downtown, the West End, and the seawall are flat and very walkable. Reaching the North Shore or UBC takes transit or a longer ride.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Vancouver has an extensive network of protected bike lanes and greenways, plus a public bike-share system.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for downtown — parking is expensive and traffic backs up at bridge crossings. A car is useful mainly for reaching the North Shore mountains, the Sea-to-Sky Highway, or the Fraser Valley beyond transit's reach.
- **Parking**: Metered street parking and pay parkades are common downtown; expect CAD 15–25 per day. Pay by app or at the meter.
- **Restrictions**: none beyond normal city traffic rules — there is no congestion charge.

Food & drink

Vancouver's food scene reflects its Pacific setting and large Asian communities. Fresh seafood, sushi, and dim sum are all strong here. The city has a big Japanese-Canadian food culture, and is often credited as the birthplace of the California roll.

For a browse-and-graze meal, head to Granville Island Public Market's food stalls, or the restaurants along Denman Street and Commercial Drive, which cluster casual, affordable options from across the city's many cuisines.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

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Safety & health

Vancouver is generally safe for tourists; violent crime against visitors is rare. Petty theft from parked cars and unattended bikes happens, so don't leave valuables visible. The Downtown Eastside, a few blocks from Gastown, has a highly visible drug crisis and open drug use. It's fine to walk through in daylight, but best avoided alone at night.

Tap water is safe to drink everywhere in the city.

History

Vancouver's site has been home to the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations for thousands of years. The modern city grew out of a sawmill settlement nicknamed "Gastown" after saloon keeper *John Deighton* — the neighborhood now known as Gastown carries his nickname, "Gassy Jack." A fire destroyed the young settlement in 1886, the same year Vancouver was incorporated. It was quickly rebuilt in brick, so most of today's Gastown dates to the late 1880s and 1890s.

Expo 86, the 1986 World's Fair, transformed the old rail yards and industrial waterfront around False Creek. Those sites became the high-rise neighborhoods that define downtown Vancouver's skyline today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

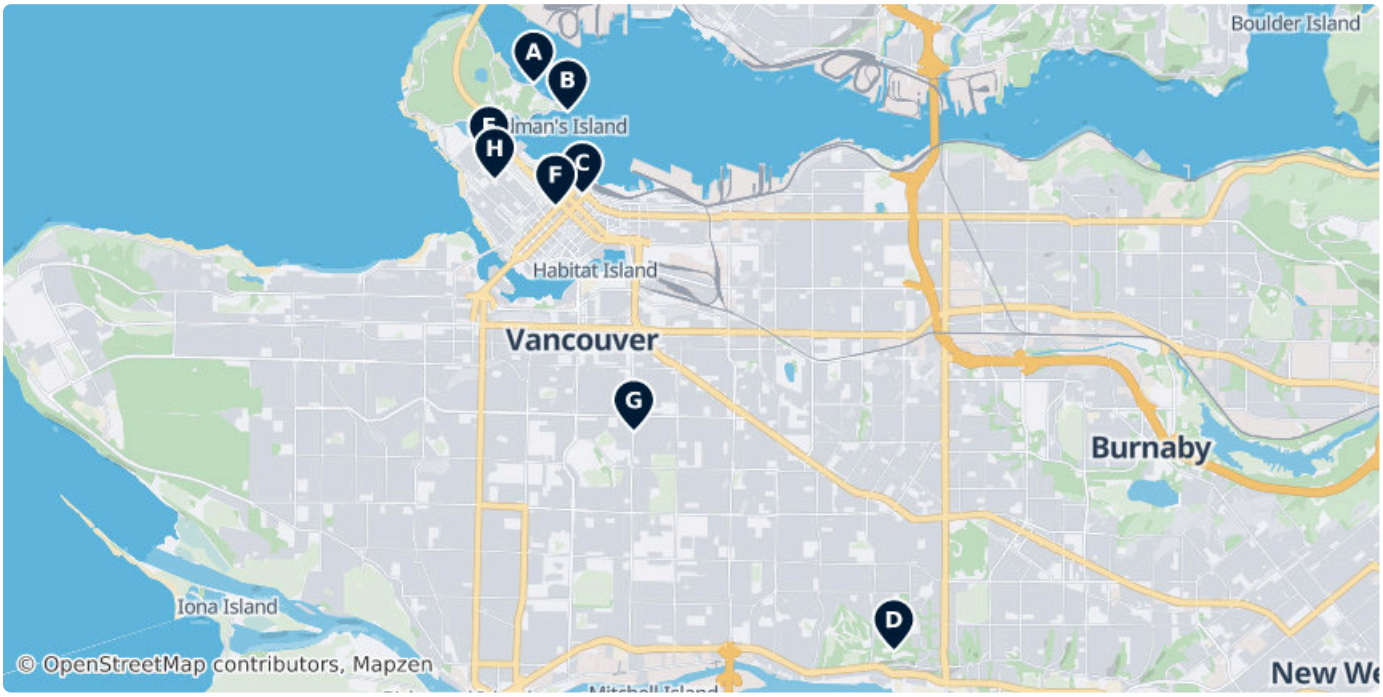
Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Vancouver's Hidden Gems

Explore Vancouver's lesser-known landmarks, from the 1972 "Girl in a Wetsuit" bronze sculpture to the daily 21:00 firing of the historic Nine O'Clock Gun. The city's urban fabric includes the vibrant Ackery's Alley, known as The Pink Alley, and the Art Gallery Cafe's secluded outdoor terrace. Culinary spots range from Kingyo's Japanese izakaya cuisine to the vintage Polynesian atmosphere of The Shameful Tiki Room. Natural escapes include the 38-hectare forested trails of Everett Crowley Park and the local neighborhood charm of the West End's Cardero Botega.





A Girl in a Wetsuit

Girl in a Wetsuit is a life-size 1972 bronze sculpture by Elek Imredy of a woman in a wetsuit, located on a rock in the water along the...

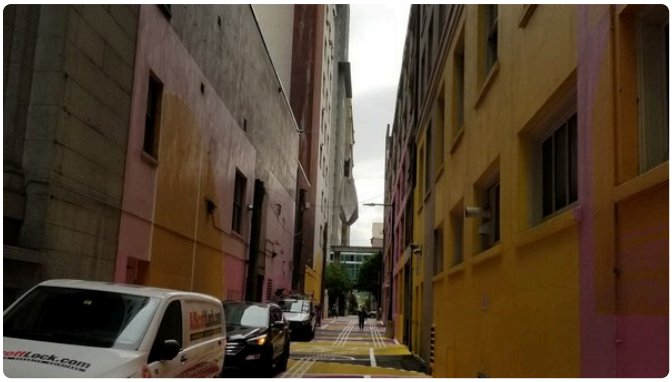
2964 Stanley Park Dr, V6G, Canada (49.30261, -123.12593)



B Nine O'Clock Gun

The 9 O'Clock Gun is a cannon located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, that is ordinarily fired daily at 21:00 PT.

Stanley Park Seawall (49.29804, -123.11755)



C The Pink Alley

Vibrant public art installation in downtown Vancouver, also known as Ackery's Alley. The space features bright pink and yellow painted surfaces designed to revitalize urban backlanes into interactive community spaces.

688 W Hastings St, Vancouver V6B, Canada
(49.28466, -123.11390)



D Everett Crowley Park

Everett Crowley Park is a 38-hectare large forested park with trails, located within the Champlain Heights area of Vancouver.

(Unnamed Road), V5S, Canada (49.21052, -123.03639)

vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/everett-crowley-tra...

E Kingyo

Japanese izakaya on Denman Street known for authentic small plates, stone-grilled Kobe beef, and signature bento boxes served in a modern, wood-accented interior.

Stovold Lane, Vancouver, BC V6G 1L2, Canada
(49.29057, -123.13706)

Mo–Th	11:30–14:30, 05:30–23:30
Fr–Sa	11:30–14:30, 05:30–00:00
Su	11:30–14:30, 05:30–23:30

kingyo-izakaya.ca, +1-604-608-1677

F Art Gallery Cafe

Located on the second floor of the Vancouver Art Gallery, this cafe features a large, quiet outdoor terrace overlooking Robson Square. It serves European-style soups, salads, and sandwiches.

800 W Georgia St, Vancouver V6Z, Canada
(49.28268, -123.12055)

Mo–Fr	09:00–21:00
Sa–Su	09:30–18:00

vanartgallery.bc.ca/visit_the_gallery/gallery_cafe.html

G The Shameful Tiki Room

Polynesian-themed bar on Main Street featuring vintage mid-century decor, dim lighting, and a menu of classic exotic cocktails often accompanied by live surf rock or burlesque performances.

(49.24610, -123.10104)

shamefultikiroom.com/vancouver/

H Cardero Botega

A neighborhood corner store and cafe in the West End. It serves Italian-style sandwiches, locally roasted coffee, and artisanal grocery items in a converted residential-style building.

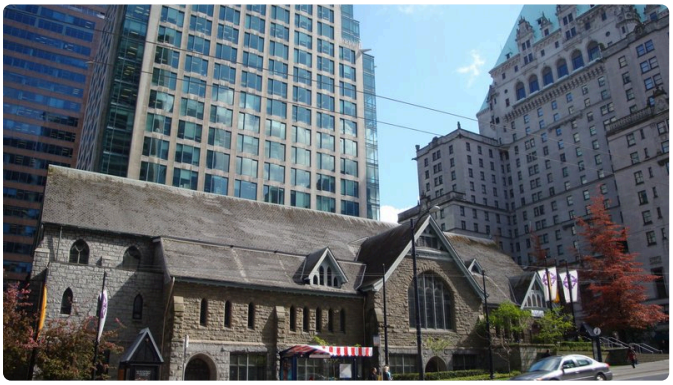
Cardero Street, Vancouver, BC V6G, Canada
(49.28699, -123.13566)

Mo–Fr	08:00–19:00
Sa–Su	09:00–19:00

Vancouver's Sacred Sites

Vancouver's religious landscape features a mix of historic Gothic Revival architecture and modern community centers. The collection includes the 1894 Christ Church Cathedral, the city's oldest church, and the Gold Buddha Monastery, which is uniquely housed in a repurposed bank building. These sites represent a diverse array of traditions, including Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, and Presbyterian congregations, alongside Buddhist temples that reflect the city's multicultural heritage and architectural evolution.





A Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, is the cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster of the...

690 Burrard Street, V6C 3L1, Vancouver, BC, Canada
(49.28449, -123.12036)

cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca, +1604 682 3848

B Vancouver Yuan Yung Buddhism Centre Society

A Mahayana Buddhist temple providing meditation space and community services.

(49.23197, -123.02534)

C St. Augustine's

Roman Catholic parish established in 1911, featuring traditional Gothic-inspired architecture.

(49.26515, -123.15106)

staugustineschurch.ca, +1-604-736-4455

D St. Patrick's Parish

Catholic parish in Mount Pleasant, established in 1910 and known for its active community engagement.

East 13th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 0C1, Canada
(49.25961, -123.10160)

stpatrickscatholicchurch.ca

E Holy Family Parish

Catholic parish notable for being a primary location in Vancouver for the Traditional Latin Mass.

4851 Beatrice St, Vancouver V5N, Canada
(49.24117, -123.06697)

holyfamilyvancouver.ca

F St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Roman Catholic church serving the Collingwood neighborhood since its founding in 1923.

(49.23692, -123.03394)

stmarysvancouver.ca, +1-604-435-9611

G Our Lady of Hungary Church

Catholic church established to serve Vancouver's Hungarian-speaking community.

(49.26383, -123.06730)

vancouveri-katolikus-templom.org/folap-en.htm

H Faith Fellowship Baptist Church

Baptist congregation focused on community worship and fellowship.

2551 E 49th Ave, Vancouver V5S, Canada
(49.22514, -123.05535)

faithyouth.org

I Grandview Calvary Baptist Church

Baptist church in East Vancouver known for its focus on social justice and community programs.

(49.26974, -123.06731)

gcbchurch.ca, +1-604-255-1411

J Pilgrim Church

Baptist-affiliated place of worship with wheelchair-accessible facilities.

(49.22928, -123.08026)

pilgrimchurch.ca

K Gold Buddha Monastery

A branch of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association housed in a distinctive repurposed bank building.

East 11th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5T 2C3, Canada
(49.26089, -123.09956)

+1-604-709-0248

L Tung Lin Kok Yuen Buddhist Temple

Buddhist temple and community center following the Mahayana tradition.

(49.26264, -123.06636)

tlkycs.buddhistdoor.com, +1-604-255-6337

M Chown Memorial & Chinese United Church

A United Church of Canada congregation serving the city's Chinese-speaking community.

(49.25381, -123.11573)

cmcuc.com

N Fairview Presbyterian Church

Historic Presbyterian church located in the Fairview neighborhood.

(49.26151, -123.14143)

fairviewchurch.ca, +1-604-736-0510

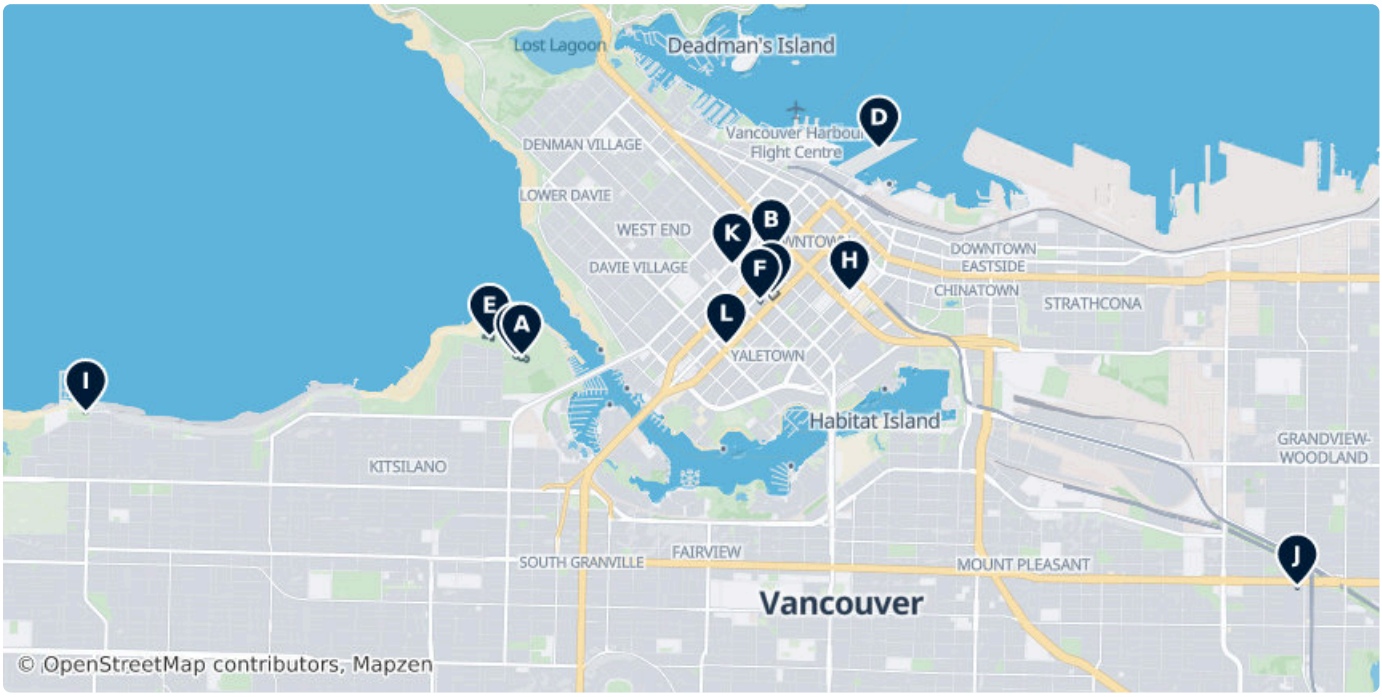
O Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian church providing services and community support for Vancouver's Korean population.

(49.26244, -123.10988)

Vancouver Cultural Attractions

Vancouver's cultural landscape features a mix of historic venues and modern institutions. Major hubs include the Vancouver Art Gallery, housed in a neoclassical former courthouse, and the waterfront Canada Place, which hosts immersive cinematic experiences. Vanier Park serves as a museum cluster, containing the Museum of Vancouver, the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, and the Vancouver Maritime Museum, which displays the historic St. Roch schooner. For performing arts, the city offers heritage theaters like The Orpheum, a 1927 vaudeville house, and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.





Ⓐ Museum of Vancouver

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, is an astronomy museum located at Vanier Park in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Chestnut Street 1100, V6J 3J9 Vancouver
(49.27634, -123.14438)

Mo–We	10:00–17:00
Th–Fr	10:00–20:00
Sa	10:00–21:00
Su	10:00–17:00

museumofvancouver.ca, +1-604-736-4431



Ⓑ Vancouver Art Gallery

The Vancouver Art Gallery is an art museum in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Hornby Street 750, V6Z 2H7 Vancouver
(49.28285, -123.12063)

Mo–Th	10:00–17:00
Fr	10:00–20:00
Sa–Su	10:00–17:00

vanartgallery.bc.ca, +1-604-662-4719



C H. R. MacMillan Space Centre

The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, is an astronomy museum located at Vanier Park in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Chestnut Street 1100, Vancouver (49.27635, -123.14498)

spacecentre.ca, +1-604-738-7827

D FlyOver Canada

An immersive flight simulation ride at Canada Place that uses a 20-metre spherical screen and special effects, including wind, mist, and scents, to showcase Canadian landscapes.

Canada Place 999, V6C 3E1 Vancouver (49.28920, -123.11035)

Mo–Su 10:00–21:00

flyovercanada.com, +1-604-620-8455



E Vancouver Maritime Museum

The Vancouver Maritime Museum is a maritime museum devoted to presenting the maritime history of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and...

Ogden Avenue 1905, V6J 1A3 Vancouver (49.27752, -123.14745)

Mo–Su 10:00–17:00

vanmaritime.com, +1-604-257-8300

F Vogue Theatre

Vogue Theater or Vogue Theatre may refer to:

Granville Street 918, Vancouver (49.27980, -123.12168)

voguetheatre.com, +1-888-732-1682

G Orpheum

A National Historic Site and 1927 vaudeville house featuring an opulent interior with a grand chandelier and ceiling murals. It serves as the permanent home of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Smithe Street 601, V6Z 1K3 Vancouver
(49.28017, -123.12059)

vancouvercivictheatres.com/venues/orpheum/



H Queen Elizabeth Theatre

The Queen Elizabeth Theatre is a performing arts venue in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Hamilton Street 650, V6B 5N6 Vancouver
(49.28031, -123.11316)

vancouvercivictheatres.com/venues/qu... , +1-604-665-2193

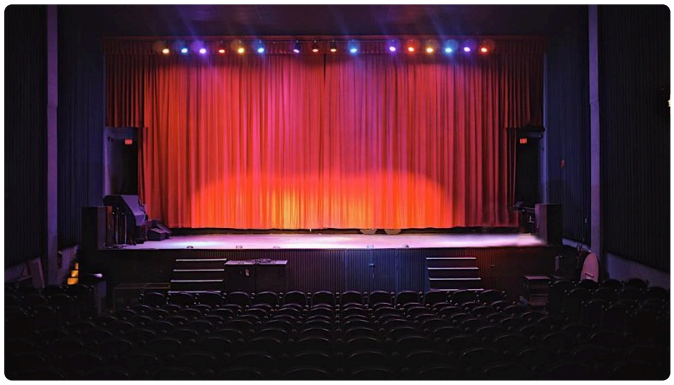


I Hastings Mill Park Museum

Hastings Mill was a sawmill on the south shore of Burrard Inlet and was the first commercial operation around which the settlement that...

Alma Street 1575 (49.27282, -123.18594)

hastings-mill-museum.ca, +1604 734 1212



J Rio Theatre

The Rio Theatre is an independent, multidisciplinary art house in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

East Broadway 1660 (49.26201, -123.07050)

riotheatre.ca, +1-604-879-3456

K Scotiabank Theatre

A very popular cinema playing both blockbusters and independent movies often in 3D. However, it is mainly focused on blockbusters.

Burrard Street 900, V6Z 3G5 Vancouver
(49.28200, -123.12435)

Mo–Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	11:00–18:00

cineplex.com/Theatre/scotiabank-theat... , +1-604-630-1407

L Vancouver International Film Centre

The permanent home of the Vancouver International Film Festival, featuring the Vancity Theatre which screens independent, international, and Canadian cinema year-round.

Seymour Street 1181, V6B 3M7 Vancouver
(49.27702, -123.12490)

Mo–Su	Open 24/7

viff.org, +1-604-683-3456

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