

What's New in Victoria



*Destination Greater Victoria is honoured to be based on the traditional territory
of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

Sustainability

Greater Victoria was the first urban city in North America to obtain Biosphere Certification in March of 2023 and has since been recertified in 2024 and 2025. Destination Greater Victoria continues to expand this commitment by supporting business members through the Biosphere Certification Accelerator Program, offering subsidized access to the certification for all member businesses. To date, 21 Destination Greater Victoria members have earned Biosphere Certification and counting. In addition, Destination Greater Victoria has developed and implemented both a Circular Economy Strategy and a Climate Action Plan to guide long-term sustainability efforts within the visitor economy.

From the Circular Economy Strategy, the Tap into Local Drinking Water project was created by Destination Greater Victoria, providing subsidies to hotels across Victoria to install water refill stations in exchange for a ban on the distribution of single-use plastic water bottles to their guests. This initiative aims to significantly reduce single-use plastic consumption by eliminating a consistent source of plastic waste within the visitor economy and making convenient, sustainable hydration options readily available.



Safe.Sustainable.
Delicious.

Choose clean Victoria, B.C.
water. Straight from the tap.



Accessibility

Victoria International Airport Launches Accessibility Initiative MagnusCards

Victoria Airport Authority (VAA), in partnership with Magnusmode, has launched a new accessibility initiative, MagnusCards®, to assist travellers. MagnusCards is a smartphone application available for iOS and Android, offering travellers step-by-step visuals, audio, and text how-to's to make everyday activities more manageable for people of all abilities. This initiative helps to improve the passenger experience at Victoria International Airport (YYJ) by reducing barriers for travel and ensuring that everyone that uses our airport can navigate their journey safely and efficiently.



INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES



Songhees Tours

Songhees Tours is an Indigenous-owned and operated company offering Indigenous-led walking and canoe experiences in Victoria, guided by ləkʷəŋən hosts and owned by Songhees Nation. Tours share place-based history, language, and living culture. New offerings include the Xʷsəyqəm Tour – Place of Mud, a guided walk through ləkʷəŋən territory with teachings connected to the Songhees and Xʷsepsəm Nations, and the Breakwater Cultural Tour of Meqʷeʔn, exploring Coast Salish artworks and waterfront histories. Guests encounter works by artists including Master Carver Butch Dick and Darlene Gait, set against views of the Salish Sea and Olympic Mountains.

Indigenous Roots Coffee Company

Launched on September 30th, 2024, Indigenous Roots Coffee Company is 100% Indigenous owned (Haida and Métis) and have developed their business with Community in mind. Each of their coffee blends is partnered with grassroots, local Indigenous initiatives. Using high grade, ethically sourced, specialty coffee beans, they have developed a product that is as unique and authentic as the art on the packaging. By working very intentionally, Indigenous Roots Coffee offers a product that tells their stories and provides excellence all around.



Placemaking Project Celebrating Ləkʷəŋən Artworks

The [Greater Victoria Harbour Authority](#) (GVHA), together with Xʷsepsəm Nation and Songhees Nation, launched a collaborative placemaking project installing ləkʷəŋən artworks in downtown Victoria, aimed at connecting residents and visitors to the area's rich First Nations' culture. Placemaking is a concept that expresses a community's identity through art, design, or architecture. The project's first artworks are viewable at the Inner Harbour causeway, including four red and yellow octopus umbrellas designed by Songhees artist and educator Clarence "Butch Dick" (Yux'wey'lupton).

GETTING HERE AND GETTING AROUND



Harbour Air

The airline has announced a network expansion for summer 2026, including new service between downtown Victoria and downtown Seattle, launching June 11th, 2026, ahead of the FIFA™ World Cup.

Porter Airlines

Service between Ottawa International Airport (YOW) and Victoria International Airport (YYJ) began on May 15th, 2025 and now operates up to seven weekly roundtrip flights.

Porter Airlines also operates service between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Victoria International Airport (YYJ), launched in September 2023 using the Embraer E195-E2 aircraft.



Sustainable City Exploring at The Parkside Hotel & Spa

HeyYa Carts has partnered with The Parkside Hotel & Spa to offer guests a convenient and low-impact way to explore downtown Victoria. These fully electric, street-legal carts are available to rent via QR code or online booking and are designed for easy city cruising. Each cart includes practical features such as built-in navigation, radio, windshield wipers, and phone charging cords. Offered in both four- and six-seater options, the carts allow guests to move through the city at their own pace, with custom “Happy Trails” maps available through Guest Services or directly from HeyYa Carts.

HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

MICHELIN KEY DESIGNATIONS



Fairmont Empress Hotel

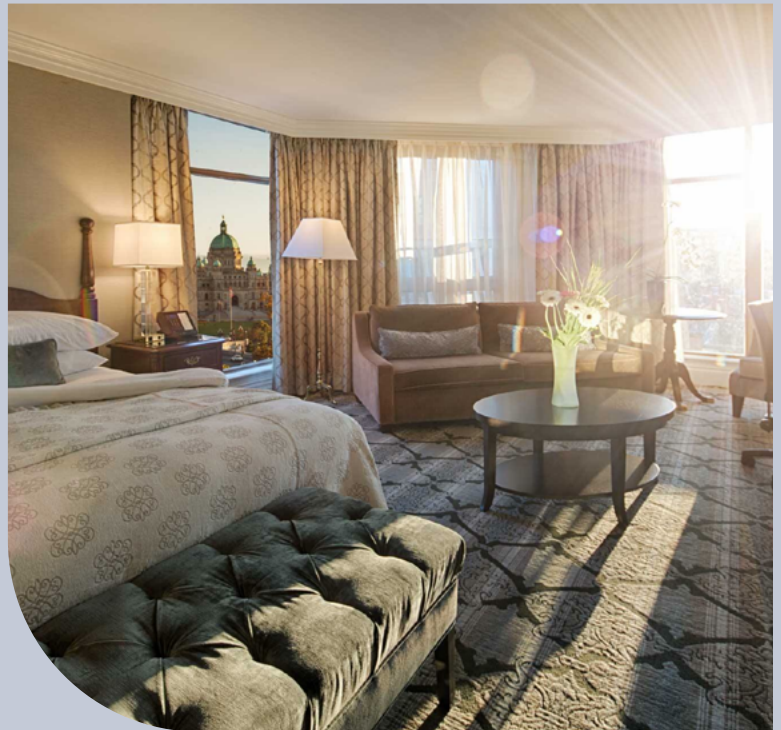
The Fairmont Empress is the iconic “Castle on the Coast” with sweeping views of Victoria’s Inner Harbour. It is an ultimate blend of modern and historic charm. The Gold Floor underwent a complete renovation in 2023 and is a highlight that is not to be missed. From January to April 2026, the Fairmont Empress will continue its transformation with additional enhancements. During this period, Q at the Empress will be closed, with dining service temporarily relocating to The Bengal.

**Best Historic Hotel in the Americas (Historic Hotels Worldwide Awards of Excellence);
Michelin Key; #1 City Hotel in Canada
(Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards).**

The Magnolia Hotel & Spa

The Magnolia Hotel & Spa is a modern boutique through and through. With sixty-four rooms it’s kept to a personable scale, and the service is pure West Coast charm. The décor is classic, never breaking the spell that’s cast by the views of the historic downtown, and the bathrooms stick with tradition as well — deep soaking tubs are a highlight. In fact indulgence, in one form or another, is what the Magnolia is all about: the Spa Magnolia cements the hotel’s status as a getaway destination, and The Courtney Room, just off the lobby, would have suited the Victorian Victoria just as it does the modern one.

**#1 Hotel in Canada (Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards);
Michelin Key**





Updated Suites at The Parkside Hotel & Spa, Designed for People and Planet

The Parkside Hotel & Spa has completed a suite refresh that brings in locally made furnishings, regional artwork, and updated living spaces across its 126 suites. Designed for longer stays and group travel, suites include full kitchens, in-suite laundry, and generous living areas. The downtown property continues to pair these updates with sustainability-focused operations and amenities such as a rooftop garden, spa, and indoor pool.

Rosemead House

Following an extensive restoration, Esquimalt's historic Old English Inn has reopened as Rosemead House, now offering full luxury hotel service. Originally designed by renowned architect Samuel Maclure—best known for his work on Government House (with Francis Rattenbury) and Hatley Castle—the property has been thoughtfully reimagined while honouring its storied past. The restored hotel features 28 distinctive guest rooms and suites, the Salt and Ivy Spa, and the signature Janevca Kitchen and Lounge, which opened to the public in October 2024, setting the stage for Rosemead House's return.



The Magnolia Hotel & Spa Unveils Refreshed Diamond Guestrooms

Recognized as Canada's #1 Hotel by Condé Nast Traveller readers and a MICHELIN One Key Hotel, the property has refreshed its Diamond guestrooms. Updated rooms feature rich grey velvets, warm camel tones and brass accents, paired with crisp white Frette bedding and traditional cherry wood furnishings.

Each guestroom includes an original, signed work by Victoria artist Donna Anderson. Inspired by the West Coast's shifting landscapes, Anderson's textured acrylic and gel works reference horizons, oceans and forests, offering a subtle connection to place and reinforcing the hotel's emphasis on locally rooted design.

New Rooms at Pendray Inn and Tea House

Opening May 2026, Belleville House (formerly the Judge's House) offers eight newly renovated guest rooms in a restored 19th-century residence in Victoria's Inner Harbour. Located on the grounds of the Huntingdon Hotel & Suites and part of the Pendray Inn and Tea House collection, it expands Pendray's offerings to 18 boutique rooms. Guests enjoy a complimentary tiered breakfast and access to the Pendray Tea House for traditional Afternoon Tea, Scottish High Tea, and Sunday Roast—making Belleville House a refined, character-rich Inner Harbour stay.



New Hotel in Old Town

Victoria Council has approved a project to overhaul two heritage buildings in Old Town to make way for a 139-room hotel. UVic Properties and Chard Development plan to use the site to build a Hyatt-centric, branded hotel covering almost a full block of Broad Street. The proposal preserves the front and rear walls and parts of the side walls of the Duck's historic building, as well as an original rock wall of the Carriage Factory, which dates to 1874.

AWARDED HOTELS



Fairmont Empress

Travel + Leisure's Top 500 Hotels in the World



Rosemead House Hotel & Spa

Conde Nast's 2026 Hot List Winner

2026 Travel + Leisure's 100 Best New Hotels



Abigail's Hotel

#7 Hotel in the World

#1 Hotel in Canada

(Tripadvisor Traveller's Choice Awards)



Oak Bay Beach Hotel

#1 Hotel in Western Canada

(Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards)



The Parkside Hotel & Spa

Named to Canada's Top 25 Hotels,
2025 Travellers' Choice Awards



Victoria Regent Waterfront Hotel & Suites

Tripadvisor Traveller's Choice Award

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Salt & Ivy Wellness Spa & Retreat

Salt & Ivy Wellness Spa & Retreat launched in November 2025, blending modern science with time-honoured ritual at the core of its philosophy. The spa prides itself on innovation while honouring ancient wellness practices. Salt & Ivy will open in two phases: the first debuted in November 2025 with a range of sensory-focused treatments, and the second will introduce an immersive hydrotherapy experience inspired by European thermal traditions, featuring hot and cold therapy, dry saunas, steam rooms, a rain room, snow room, cold plunge, and a dedicated rest and recovery lounge.

Drift: The Parkside Hotel & Spa

The Parkside Hotel & Spa has introduced a new wellness experience designed to make guests feel as though they're floating into complete tranquillity. Drift | A Floating Sound Meditation blends crystal alchemy bowls, gongs, and other sacred instruments guided by Pilar Munoz, all while participants float on the warm water. The movement of sound waves through both the body and the surrounding water encourages deep relaxation and calm. The 75-minute experience is offered in both morning and evening sessions, providing an immersive moment of solitude.



Intention: A Wellness Getaway in Victoria

Start your year centred with Intention: A wellness getaway in Victoria, as the third annual kicks off January 4th - 17th, 2027. Immerse yourself in wisdom, community and uplifting practices on an intuitive wellness journey. Reconnect to practices that bring you balance and clarity, with experiences like speaker series, cooking classes, and guided workouts. Whether you're seeking moments of zen, restful sleep programs, or awe-inspiring views, Victoria's hotels offer unique ways to help you flourish. Reaffirm your goals and rediscover what wellness means to you in this community-centred, vibrant city.

ART, FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

A Little Bit Sweet Exhibit at The Victoria Chinatown Museum

The Victoria Chinatown Museum Society presents A Little Bit Sweet: Chinese Canadian Confections, Culture & Community, highlighting stories from four local families and exploring how traditional desserts connect cultures, communities, and generations.



Royal BC Museum – Ancient Egypt: Obsessed with Life

From June 5th, 2026, to January 3rd, 2027, the Royal BC Museum presents Ancient Egypt: Obsessed with Life. Journey through the Pharaonic Bronze Age with immersive light, sounds, scents and stunning artifacts that bring ancient Egyptian beliefs about life, death and the afterlife into focus. Discover the stories, ritual objects and complex worldview of a civilization obsessed with eternal life.

Beehive Wool Shop Expansion

As of November 17th 2025, The Beehive Wool Shop has expanded into a multi-use space called the Beehive Fibre Arts Centre, designed to cultivate a vibrant fibre art community. Celebrating its 120th anniversary, the centre offers gallery display opportunities, classroom space, and a welcoming social area for makers to connect and create.



Monkey C Interactive's Artcade

Monkey C Interactive's Artcade is truly a one-of-a-kind space filled with interactive art experiences featuring sound and sculptural installations by local composers, DJs, and artists. Each piece is designed to be played and activated by guests. Press buttons, flick switches, and be surprised by the sounds and lights that emerge. In early 2026, Monkey C Interactive's Artcade will expand by 1,000 square feet with The Alien Lab, offering even more room to explore what happens when you simply play.

ATTRactions

Malahat SkyWalk's The Overhang

The Malahat SkyWalk's newest attraction, The Overhang, open Victoria Day weekend (May 16th–18th). The experience features the first enclosed glass cube in the world attached to the top of a spiral tower. Suspended 250 metres (820 ft) above sea level and extending beyond the 10-storey Spiral Tower, it creates the illusion of defying gravity while offering sweeping views of West Coast rainforest, Pacific waters, and surrounding mountain ranges.



Selenite Spa Opens Larger Downtown Location

Selenite Spa has expanded with the opening of a larger location at 852 Fort Street in downtown Victoria, bringing its wellness offerings in the heart of the city. The new space increases capacity while maintaining the spa's calm, minimalist approach to relaxation and restoration. The spa specializes in Japanese head spa and holistic treatments designed to promote deep relaxation, balance, and overall wellbeing.

New Water Bikes at Ocean River Sports

Available from their downtown location (450 Swift Street), water bikes offer a stable and accessible way to explore Victoria's waterways for all ages and fitness levels. All rentals include life jackets, safety equipment, and route guidance. Guided harbour tours (2 hours) operate Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 3:00 PM, taking guests past iconic landmarks such as the Legislative Buildings, Songhees Point, Fairmont Empress, and Victoria Harbour Airport, with opportunities to spot seals, otters, herons, kingfishers, sea stars, and other marine wildlife. Self-guided rentals, available daily, explore the scenic Gorge Waterway, featuring local landmarks such as the Selkirk Trestle and Tillicum Falls, and offer a relaxing way to experience Victoria from the water in a comfortable, upright riding position.



AWARDED ATTRACTIONS



Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours

Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours offers guided marine wildlife experiences on the Salish Sea, departing from Victoria's Inner Harbour. Their tours take guests out by boat to observe orcas, humpback whales and other marine life including sea lions, seals and seabirds. Led by trained naturalists, the experience combines wildlife viewing with interpretation of the local ecosystem, with a focus on responsible, conservation-minded practices and year-round operations.

Tripadvisor's 2026 "Travellers' Choice Awards: Best of the Best Things To Do" list in Canada

A Taste of Victoria Food Tours

A Taste of Victoria Food Tours delivers guided walking tours through downtown Victoria that combine local cuisine with city history. Over the course of a two-hour experience, guests visit multiple stops across Chinatown, Old Town and the Inner Harbour, sampling dishes from locally owned businesses while learning about the neighbourhoods, culture and stories that shape the city. The tours are designed as small-group experiences that highlight independent food vendors and offer an introduction to Victoria through its culinary scene.

Tripadvisor's 2026 "Travellers' Choice Awards: Best of the Best Things To Do" list in Canada



FOOD & DRINK



Janevca Kitchen & Lounge

Janevca Kitchen & Lounge, located in the historic Rosemead House, celebrates the art of sharing through locally sourced ingredients and wood-fire cooking. Designed for friends and family to gather around the table, the menu encourages guests to sample multiple dishes for a full culinary experience. Under the creative vision of Chef Andrea Alridge, Janevca has brought this concept to life, earning the prestigious title of YAM Magazine's Best New Restaurant in 2025.

Marilena Café & Raw Bar

Marilena Café & Raw Bar has not only earned the title of Victoria's No. 1 Fine Dining Restaurant, but was also named Canada's No. 1 Fine Dining Restaurant by Tripadvisor's Best of the Best Travelers' Choice Awards (2025), an honour celebrating the top 1% of restaurants worldwide. And that's not all: Marilena also took home YAM Magazine's prestigious Restaurant of the Year award in 2025.



The Bengal - Fairmont Empress

The Bengal at the Fairmont Empress has reopened to the public after closing in 2016 during the hotel's renovations. Originally named the Coronet Lounge in 1954, it was Victoria's first cocktail lounge. Today, the revitalized Bengal serves breakfast and dinner, meticulously preserving its heritage-style beams while creating a bright space and enhancing its connection to the surrounding gardens.

Late Night Food & History Tour

Off the Eaten Track Tours has introduced the Late Night Food & History Tour, a guided evening food walk designed with cruise passengers in mind, running May 16th to October 31st from 9–11 pm. Set in Victoria's lively after-dark downtown, the tour blends local storytelling with curated tastings at stops such as Block Kitchen and Bar, The Drake Eatery for local craft beer, cider, or mead, and Better Acres Ice Cream on Government Street for a sweet finish. It offers a relaxed, flavour-forward way to experience Victoria at night.



Grub at Whistle Buoy Brewing

A new addition to Whistle Buoy Brewing's Market Square taproom, Grub brings a compact, in-house food offering to the brewery experience. This new sandwich shop and quick-service counter serves a simple menu focused on fresh and grilled sandwiches, salads, snacks, shareable boards, and sweet treats, designed to pair easily with Whistle Buoy's small-batch beers.

Photo courtesy: Brit Kwasney



Hoyne Brewing, Gold

Pale Bitter European Beer: Hoyne Brewing's North Star Light Lager

Vancouver Island Brewing, Gold

American Pale Ale: Vancouver Island Brewing's Mystic Haze Pale Ale

Superflux Beer Co., Gold

Mixed Style Beer: Superflux Beer Co.'s FOM

Phillips Brewing + Malting Co., Gold

Fruit Beer: Phillips Brewing + Malting Co.'s Dinosaur Dragonfruit Lychee

Category 12 Brewing, Gold

Spiced Beer: Category 12 Brewing's Spruce Tip IPA

Whistle Buoy Brewing, Gold

American Wild Ale: Whistle Buoy Brewing's Fuzzy Peach

Legend Award

Paul Hadfield of Spinnakers



Merridale Cidery & Distillery

Recently awarded Gold at the World Whiskies Awards, Merridale earned top honours for Best Canadian Small Batch Single Malt 12 Years & Under with its Whisky Jack's, cementing the distillery's place among Canada's leading whisky producers.

Whisky Jack's is a rare single malt, single barrel whisky made from organic BC malt, aged five years in French oak, an additional two years in a cider brandy barrel, and bottle-aged for over a decade after distillation in 2007. Its depth, gentle finish, and distinctive character make it one of British Columbia's oldest and most notable craft whiskies.

Sanctuary Single Malt Whisky

Embodying Canada's West Coast terroir and British Columbia-grown barley, Phillips Brewery proudly introduces its 2026 release: Sanctuary Single Malt Whisky. Crafted with locally grown barley malted on-site, this whisky matures in a combination of Bourbon, red wine, and Phillips beer casks, creating a distinctive depth of flavour and balance. Inspired by the grit and rugged beauty of Vancouver Island's coastal forests, Sanctuary reflects a character that is bold, unique, and undeniably West Coast.



Whistle Buoy Brewing

At the 2025 Canada Beer Cup, Victoria's Whistle Buoy Brewing received both Gold and Silver medals. The brewery was awarded Gold for Fuzzy Peach, a contemporary sour ale, and Silver for its Spruce Tip Pale Ale, which draws on West Coast brewing traditions and local ingredients. The results place Whistle Buoy among the Canadian breweries recognized at the annual competition, which brings together producers from across the country.

2026 Anniversaries

Beehive Wool Shop

120th Anniversary



Abkhazi Garden

80th Anniversary



Dutch Bakery

70th Anniversary



Miniature World

55th Anniversary



Belfry Theatre

50th Anniversary



FRS Clipper

40th Anniversary



Victoria Fringe Fest

40th Anniversary



Maple Leaf Adventures

40th Anniversary



Intrepid Theatre

40th Anniversary



Coast Victoria Hotel & Marina

35th Anniversary



Victoria Pedicab Company

25th Anniversary



Victoria Whisky Festival

20th Anniversary



Flavour Trails

20th Anniversary



Hoyne Brewing Company

15th Anniversary



Macaloney's Island Distillery

10th Anniversary



Malahat SkyWalk

5th Anniversary



Awards, Accolades & Designations



- #1 Small City in the World in 2023, 2024 and 2025– Condé Nast Traveler Reader's Choice Awards
- Top 10 Most Walkable Cities in the World - Skyscanner 2025
- Ranked 3rd Globally among Small Cities on the Global Destination Sustainability Index (2025)
- #2 Best Island in the World (Vancouver Island) - Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards
- 2025 Good Housekeeping Family Travel Award Winner
- Canada's #1 Best Boating Town - BoatBooker
- [Resale Capital of Canada](#)

DESTINATION GREATER
VICTORIA
BC, CANADA

DESTINATION GREATER VICTORIA

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