

DESTINATION GREATER VICTORIA BC, CANADA

Conscious Choices Sample Itinerary



Is sustainability at the forefront of your next vacation plan? If so, Victoria is the destination for you. As North America's first Biosphere Certified Urban Destination, Victoria leads the way when it comes to green travel. In a city surrounded by water and connected to nature, you're always a stone's throw away from innovative, one-of-a-kind local businesses that put sustainability first, including hotels, restaurants, transportation and world-class attractions.

Day 1-Get to Know Victoria

Departing from Vancouver, arrive in Victoria on North America's first carbon-neutral airline [Harbour Air Seaplanes](#). The harbour-to-harbour flights from downtown Vancouver provide stunning views and convenient transportation right into the inner harbour while compensating for flight emissions through their carbon-offsetting program. They are also the first commercial airline to test a fully electric plane for commercial use.



From the Harbour Terminal, you're only steps away from [Ocean River Sports](#) for a guided kayak tour of the harbour and the Gorge waterway, suitable for experienced and beginner paddlers alike. Nature lovers rejoice as you paddle through the scenic waterway home to otters, seals, seabed creatures, and countless bird species. Don't be surprised if one of the local seals come by to say hello!



Victoria is known as one of Canada's most bike-friendly cities, so head over to The Pedaler Cycling Tours & Rentals and rent a stylish, comfortable ride (with a lock and helmet) that will help you explore using the city's extensive cycling route network.



Swerve through the peacocks and the Garry oak trees in [Beacon Hill Park](#) to reach quirky Cook Street Village and stop for lunch at Canada's only carbon-neutral fast-food spot, [Big Wheel Burger](#). Locally sourced ingredients and compostable packaging make these burgers some of the best in the city without compromising sustainability.



Cook Street Village is full of cute shops and sustainable gems. One of those local gems is [The Root Cellar](#) grocery store. The Root Cellar offers Vancouver Island's largest selection of locally grown, organic and conventional produce. From here, you're only a short walk (or bike) away from scenic Dallas Road, where you will be treated to an unobstructed view of the Juan de Fuca Strait and the Olympic mountains.

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As you head back to the downtown core, bike along Dallas Road and stop by the breakwater at Ogden Point. Stroll down to the Lighthouse, and pass by the [GVHA Unity Wall](#), One of Victoria's many public art pieces. This piece features artwork from Esquimalt and Songhees Nations artists like Yux'wey'lupton (Clarence "Butch" Dick), a Songhees Nation knowledge keeper, community elder, and educator who has brought Salish culture to life in this gorgeous and unique display.



Next, you can explore the quaint James Bay neighbourhood on your way back to the Inner Harbour. After returning your bikes, check in to one of our sustainable leaders in accommodation, like [The Inn at Laurel Point](#) and [The Oswego Hotel](#), who have recently become Biosphere Committed.

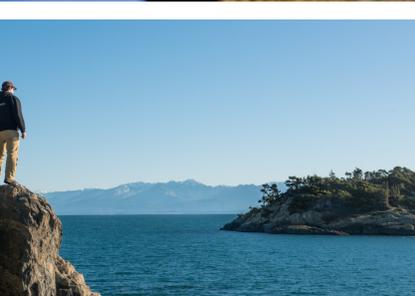
For dinner, [10 Acres Bistro's](#) west-coast, farm-to-table experience serves up Island grown food from their nearby farm for some delicious creations. Be sure to have a cocktail, which often features local spirits.



Day 2-Immerse Yourself in Nature.

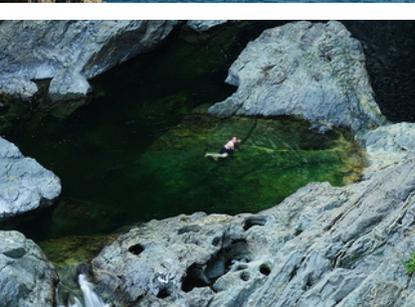
There's nothing quite like a venture into nature to get yourself grounded and re-centred, and Victoria's mild climate lets islanders and guests enjoy outdoor activities year-round.

Take a day trip to Sooke to get out of the hustle and bustle and into the stunning island rainforest. This small town is a 30-minute drive from Victoria, and although it is close, it feels like a world apart. [Alset Tours](#) provides zero-emissions transportation services in their comfortable Tesla fleet, a great way to reach your Sooke adventures.



Book a hike with [Rainforest Tours](#), where you'll explore the coastal trails outside of Sooke with a knowledgeable interpretive guide to teach you about this unique ecosystem teeming with life.

To cool off after your hike, take the short drive to the [Sooke Potholes Regional Park](#), and swim in the clear river waters inside the gorgeous natural rock formations. As the fall weather arrives, the river comes alive, with hundreds of salmon returning to their spawning grounds. While the salmon make their way upstream, your swim might have to wait, but you can still enjoy the beautiful trails as you witness this spectacular natural event.



Before returning to Victoria, stop by [Sheringham Distillery](#) to taste their award-winning gins and liqueurs, made to bring the ocean and rainforest to life in refreshing cocktails. From sustainably harvested West Coast kelp to locally grown lavender, regional products shine brightly and boldly in their new tasting room.

Day 3- Whales and Water



Start your day at [Aura Waterfront Restaurant +Patio at the Inn at Laurel Point](#). Soak in the views of the harbour as locally sourced ingredients transform into a fantastic breakfast, with many alternatives for dietary restrictions.



Victoria is known for its world-class whale watching. The Juan de Fuca Strait is home to resident orcas and transient species like grey, humpback, minke whales, and many other unique marine animals. [Victoria whale-watching companies](#) lead the way in sustainable methods; from contributions to marine conservation efforts through tracking, high-efficiency boat motors, carbon offsetting, and participation in programs like 1% for the planet, these companies lead the way in marine wildlife conservation. With zodiac, covered boats, and catamaran options from downtown Victoria, your whale-watching adventure awaits!



Once you've returned, warm yourself up in one of the [Oak Bay Beach Hotel's](#) mineral pools as you witness the glorious sunset over the water. You can also have delicious Wood Stone oven pizza at this Biosphere Certified hotel in their restaurant, [Faro](#).



Your time in Victoria may be ending (for now), and your return to Vancouver is made easy through the [BC Ferries Connector](#), which leaves from downtown Victoria and arrives in downtown Vancouver with numerous stops along the way. The operator of this shuttle, [Wilson's Transportation](#), has been converting a portion of its fleet to electric. It was the first fleet transportation business on Vancouver Island to be Green Certified and Surfrider approved by the Vancouver Island Green Business Association. Once you have boarded the [BC Ferries](#) ship, it will take you through the beautiful Gulf islands and back to the mainland. So keep your eyes peeled for more sightings of whales or porpoises as you reflect on your time in beautiful, sustainable Victoria.



Contact Us

If you would like more information on this and other itinerary suggestions, you can contact the Travel Trade team at Destination Greater Victoria.

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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.