

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

Destination Greater Victoria is the first Destination Marketing Organization in North America to achieve Climate Positive designation. Destination Greater Victoria is proudly certified Climate Positive by Ostrom Climate and Synergy Enterprises. In March 2023, Greater Victoria became Biosphere Certified, a prestigious tourism designation. Seventeen of our members are Biosphere Certified, including the Victoria Conference Centre—the most of any North American Destination. A further of 18 members Biosphere Certified; 50+ members Biosphere Committed.

Victoria has been named the most sustainable destination in North America by the 2024 Global Destination Sustainability-Index (GDS-Index)

When you visit Victoria, you're met with green initiatives right out of the gate! New to the Victoria International Airport, YYJ, is a native species pollinator garden with more than 2,000 flora planted in 1,100 square metres of garden to help pollinators thrive.



Accessibility

Victoria recently completed an accessibility audit to ensure travellers of all abilities can enjoy this beautiful city. What makes Greater Victoria special is the ease with which travellers of all abilities can access our world class activities, luxurious accommodations and elegant dining options.

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



Placemaking Project Celebrating ləkʷəŋən Artworks

The [Greater Victoria Harbour Authority](#) (GVHA), together with Xwsep̓səm Nation and Songhees Nation, has 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).

Explore Songhees

"əy? skʷéčəl "good day" The Songhees Nation welcomes all visitors to Lekwungen Traditional Territory to partake in meaningful Indigenous cultural experiences. The Songhees Wellness Centre is the cultural hub where people and traditions come to meet. It offers incredible views, an art gallery + cafe and full-service event facilities for over 600 people.

Established in 2008, the Seven Signs of the Lekwungen is an interpretive walkway along the Inner Harbour and surrounding areas that honours the art, history and culture of the Coast Salish people who have resided in the Victoria area for hundreds of years.



GETTING HERE AND GETTING AROUND



Porter Airlines

Starting May 15, 2025, service between Ottawa International Airport (YOW) and Victoria International Airport (YYJ) will operate for the summer season with up to four weekly roundtrip flights.

Porter Airlines began service between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Victoria International Airport (YYJ) with the new Embraer E195-E2 aircraft in September 2023.

Kenmore Air

Kenmore Air extends its connectivity to Victoria with seasonal service between Tacoma's Ruston Way and Victoria's Inner Harbour. The daily service runs from May 15th to September 15th, 2025. This new service offers the fastest and most scenic route to Victoria for South Sound residents. Kenmore Air provides connectivity to Victoria from Seattle, Tacoma, and the San Juan Islands.



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

MICHELIN KEY DESIGNATIONS

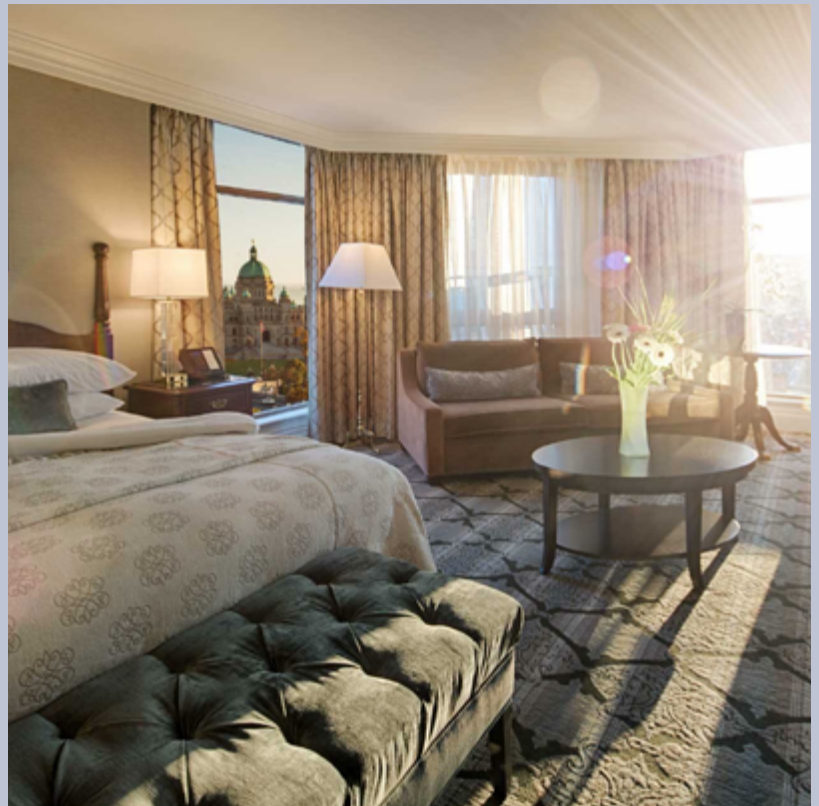


Fairmont Empress Hotel

Victoria has its own version of the railway-style grand hotels that span Canada from coast to coast. It's patterned after the French-style Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, but in this most English of Canadian cities it's got an identity all its own — after all these years (and after a thorough 2017 renovation) it's still the most luxurious hotel in town, and its position facing the Inner Harbour makes it an unmissable landmark and a fixture in Victoria's downtown city life. Make time for afternoon tea, served on china given to the Empress by the Queen herself in 1939.

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.





Rosemead House

Esquimalt's Old English Inn will reopen as Rosemead House following extensive restoration, for full, luxury hotel service this spring 2025. The newly restored hotel will feature 28 unique guest rooms, suites, the signature Janevca Kitchen and Lounge, Salt and Ivy Spa, and more. The historic property was originally designed by architect Samuel Macclure, best known for developing the Government House (with Francis Rattenbury) and Hatley Castle. Janevca Kitchen and Lounge opened to the public in October of 2024, to set the stage for Rosemead House.

Sooke Harbour House

After a four-year renovation, Sooke Harbour House is ready to welcome guests to the completely renovated hotel and dining room overlooking stunning coastal and shoreline views. Sooke Harbour House offers an exquisite culinary experience, where the menu reflects a commitment to farm-to-table principles, showcasing the finest local ingredients from Vancouver Island. Where guest can savour. a menu that evolves with the seasons, guests can savor expertly crafted dishes that highlight the region's bountiful produce and seafood, providing a truly immersive and unforgettable dining experience.



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.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Intention: A Wellness Getaway in Victoria

January 5-18th 2026: Start your year centered with the 2nd annual Intention - A wellness getaway in Victoria. 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-centered, vibrant city.



ATTRACTIONS



Victoria Tours

Launched June 10th, 2024, Victoria Tours specializes in walking tours of downtown Victoria. Victoria Then & Now, starts at the cenotaph outside the parliament buildings and ends up in Chinatown, giving an overview of Victoria's past, present, and future by tying together history, fascinating facts, and current events through story and interactive fun. Their tips-based tours offer personalized recommendations for food and fun for each client's stays - like a concierge for the whole city!

The Flavour Trails Extend to Greater Victoria's Westshore

This July, a new route was added to the Flavour Trails, self-guided agritourism itineraries. Barns, Beaches and Beyond showcases makers, farmers and producers in Langford, Metchosin and Sooke. Whether the new trail is explored as a loop, or as a collection of experiences, farm-fresh options abound. Highlights include a delightful brunch featuring locally sourced ingredients and an African twist, a charming lavender farm, delightful sugar shack, friendly barnyard buddies, and a blacksmith forge. The [Flavour Trails](#) also offer itineraries on the Saanich Peninsula and Southern Gulf Islands.



ART, FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



Spot Prawn Festival

Dates for the annual Spot Prawn Festival will be announced for May 2025. With Spot Prawn season beginning early May until mid-late June, visiting restaurants with local sea-to-table ingredients, such as Finest at Sea, will be sure to delight your senses. With sustainability top of mind, the commercial harvest season begins no earlier than May 1st to allow for increased growth of the prawns before harvest, and strict measures to ensure the population of prawns are managed in each area, thus lasting only 6-8 weeks. Finest at Sea is a leading provider of quality seafood with their products 100% wild and are caught by their own fishermen through sustainable fishing practices. Suppling to the finest restaurants in town, you'll be sure to savour the flavours wherever you go.

Dungeness Crab Festival

June 29th 2025 at Ship Point - Get ready for The Authentic BC CrabBoil & Festival, where fresh, sustainably caught Dungeness crab takes center stage! Dive into a bucket filled with Crab, mussels/clams, BC Shrimp/Prawns and more!! This communal dining experience will bring people together over incredible flavours, local drinks, and entertainment.



Chinese Canadian Museum - Fan Tan Alley Exhibit

Originally opened as a temporary exhibit, the Victoria Chinatown Museum is now a permanent museum. Located in Fan Tan Alley (Canada's narrowest street), the Victoria Chinatown Museum explores the distinctive story of Victoria's Chinatown (Canada's first Chinatown) and examines the roles that Chinese-Canadians played in building modern day Victoria through stories of community support, entrepreneurship, and personal accomplishment.

Royal BC Museum – Beyond the Beat: Music of Resistance and Change

The summer 2025 exhibition, Beyond the Beat showcases artists who have used their talents to promote equality and freedom. Popular music has a long history of uplifting and supporting collective movements and personal struggles for human rights. Beyond the Beat presents historical and contemporary examples of how musicians and audiences have used music to make a difference.

Explore ground-breaking and history-making moments where music played a pivotal role in social and political transformation. See legendary instruments and remarkable stage outfits. Interact with dynamic music and video exhibits and experiences. Learn about music that changed the world.



AWARDED RESTAURANTS



Café Malabar

Café Malabar takes the number five spot on the Top 10 list of Air Canada's Best New Restaurants 2024. Head Chefs Kiran Kolathodan and Karma Tenpa opened in June 2023, at Victoria Public Market. As a small restaurant, this recognition reflects the dedication of their team and the warm embrace of the community, which has allowed them to share the vibrant flavours of Kerala.

In February, Café Malabar has a new home at 407 Swift St.—bigger, better, and just around the corner from where it used to be, continuing their culinary journey in an even more welcoming space.

Pizzeria Prima Strada

Pizzeria Prima Strada has been ranked the 100th best pizzeria in the world by 50 Top Pizza, an online network that's been highlighting the world's most extraordinary pizza since 2017.



AWARDED RESTAURANTS

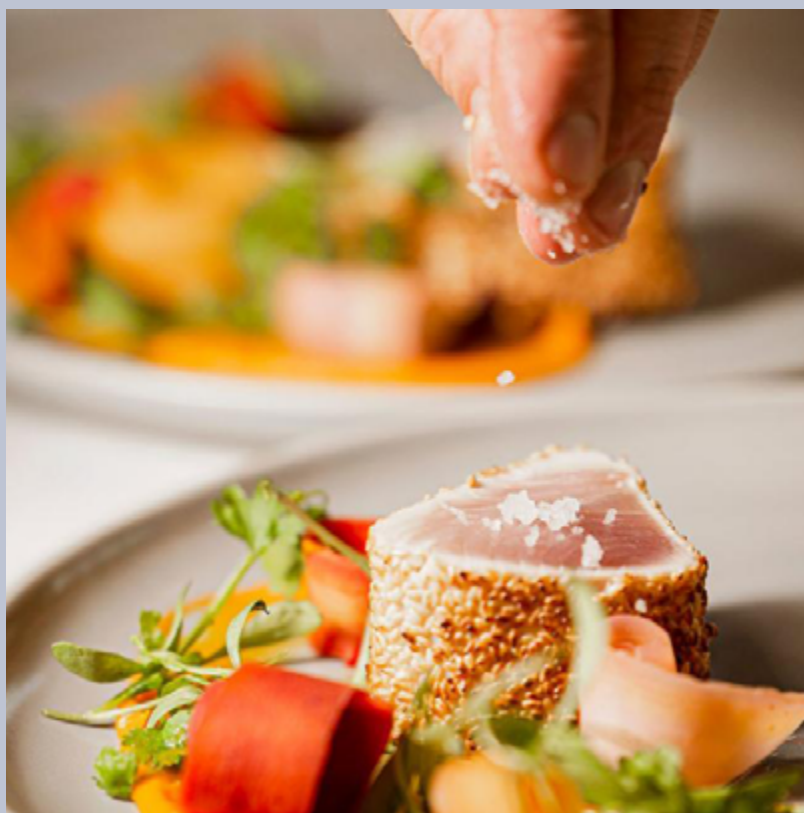


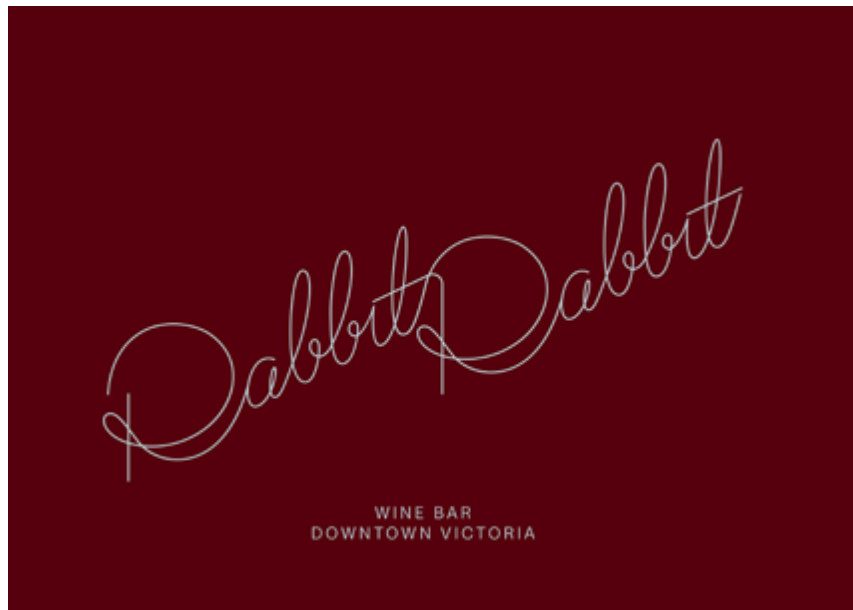
The Butchart Gardens – The Dining Room

OpenTable's Top 100 Restaurants 2024. Enjoy the stunning floral display gardens, plus the restaurant's historic surroundings and contemporary, fresh local foods. Located in the original Butchart family residence, you can experience spectacular views of the Private Garden, the Italian Garden and Tod Inlet. Indulge in Afternoon Tea in our Spring and Summer seasons, or our High Tea which offers more warm savories from October through the winter months. Lunch and dinner are served seasonally with a strong presence of local sustainable ingredients.

The Ugly Duckling

OpenTable's Top 100 Restaurants 2024. Ugly Duckling takes its inspiration from the intersection between Coastal BC's magical landscapes and the rich cultural heritage of North America's oldest Chinatown. Offering experiential dining which serves you only those things which have been made by hand; and working hard to make you smile.





Rabbit Rabbit Wine Bar

A new wine bar concept is opening in Downtown Victoria (658 Herald Street) this December 2024. Rabbit Rabbit is excited to welcome Chef Billy Nguyen as Executive Chef! Billy's memorable and inspired dishes took him to the finale of Top Chef Canada Season 9, where he finished as the runner-up. Since his time on Top Chef, Billy has run a series of successful pop ups, worked with Michelin starred chefs, and honed his unique style of transforming the tastiest bites from his childhood into new memories, by combining nostalgic flavour profiles with progressive and innovative techniques.

Macaloney's Island Distillery

On January 16th - Macaloney's Island Distillery took home Canadian Whisky of the Year honours for its Peat Project Moscatel Barrique single malt, at the 2025 Canadian Whisky Awards. The 100% malted barley whisky received the top overall score from a panel of 14 judges, who tasted and scored around 200 competing whiskies in blind tastings. The whisky was distilled using local barley and peat-smoked at the distillery, then matured in a European Moscatel wine barrique.



Better Acres Ice Cream

Lori Joyce, owner of Better Acres Ice Cream, combines her farm-grown values with her passion for food to make small-batch ice cream that's as fresh and wholesome as it gets. Made nearby in the countryside with fresh BC cream and a clean ingredient list, Better Acres Ice Cream is a taste of how ice cream used to be—pure, natural, and gluten-free. It's the perfect way to bring a little country charm to the city.

A Taste of Victoria Food Tours

Two Exciting New Culinary Experiences:

Alleyways and Ales

For beer lovers and history buffs alike, the Alleyways and Ales Craft Beer Tour provides a fascinating journey through Victoria's historic Chinatown and Old Town. This 2.5-hour walking tour will guide guests through hidden alleyways and iconic pubs, stopping at four local breweries for four beer tastings and three food tastings from local vendors. Between tastings, guests will learn insider information about local brewers and enjoy a fun dialogue on the rich history of these historic districts.



Vistas and Views

For those seeking a more upscale dining experience, Vistas and Views takes guests on a progressive-style lunch/dinner, visiting three of Victoria's finest restaurants for a complete 3-course meal. Each stop showcases a different gourmet course, accompanied by stunning views ranging from the Inner Harbour to the snow-capped Olympic Mountains. Guests can opt to enhance their experience with local beer or wine pairings.

2025 Anniversaries

Wilson's Transportation

45th Anniversary



Crystal Garden

100th Year Celebration



Flower Count

50th Anniversary



Best Western Plus Emerald Isle Hotel

40th Anniversary



Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

50th Anniversary



Rogers Chocolate

140th Anniversary



Brentwood Bay Resort & Spa

20th Anniversary



BRENTWOOD BAY
RESORT

Awards, Accolades & Designations



- #1 sustainable destination in North America by the 2024 Global Destination Sustainability-Index (GDS-Index)
- #1 Small City in the World in 2023 and 2024 – Conde Nast Traveler Reader's Choice Awards
- #1 Most Walkable City in the World - Travel Awaits
- #1 Friendliest City in the World - Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards (US)
- #2nd Favorite Cities in Canada of 2024 - Travel + Leisure Readers'
- #2 Best Island in the World (Vancouver Island) - Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards
- 2024 Good Housekeeping Family Travel Awards Must See City
- 2025 Good Housekeeping Family Travel Award Winner
- [Resale Capital of Canada](#)