

Fact sheet: Destination Greater Victoria



Victoria is a coastal capital where city life and nature are seamlessly connected. Historic architecture and vibrant urban experiences unfold along an active harbour, framed by the Salish Sea, mountain views, and lush gardens. Getting here is part of the experience, whether by ferry across the water or by air above it. With mild weather and diverse offerings year-round, Victoria invites visitors to explore at a pace that feels their own.

Facts

- Victoria is the capital city of British Columbia and is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island off the West Coast of Canada.
- Vancouver Island has an area of 31,285 km² and is comparable in size to countries like Belgium, Moldova and Taiwan.
- Victoria resides on the unceded traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation.
- Victoria is surrounded by the Salish Sea, which comprises the Juan de Fuca Strait, Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia.
- Victoria's Chinatown is the first in Canada and second oldest in North America. Fan Tan Alley is Canada's narrowest commercial street.
- Greater Victoria is home to over 20 craft breweries, including Canada's oldest licensed brewpub, Spinnakers Brewpub, which opened in 1984.
- Victoria has the highest number of restaurants, bars, and eateries per capita in Canada.
- Victoria has been recognized as Canada's most cycle-friendly city, reflecting its extensive network of bike lanes and multi-use trails.
- The start of summer is signified by the hanging of hundreds of flower baskets around the city, a tradition that began in 1937. Once potted, each basket weighs roughly 45 pounds.
- Greater Victoria is known as Canada's Garden City and is home to The Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site, spanning over 55 acres. The Butchart Gardens has been operating for over 120 years and features more than 1 million bedded plants across 900+ varieties attracting visitors from around the world.
- Goldstream Provincial Park, 16 km outside of downtown Victoria, contains old-growth trees known to be over 600-years old, and is a phenomenal place to witness the annual salmon spawning in the fall.
- Friendly is an understatement: Victoria has been ranked the #1 Small City in the World for the past three years, the #2 Best Island in the World, while also earning the title of the #1 Most Tourist-Friendly City in the World by Condé Nast Traveler.
- Hatley Castle, part of Royal Roads University in Colwood, has appeared in several movies and TV shows, including X-Men, Deadpool, Smallville, and Arrow, to name a few.

Picturesque Spots in Greater Victoria

CITY:

Lower Johnson Street, Fan Tan Alley, Government Street, Customs House, Fernwood Square, Rock Bay murals, Fisherman's Wharf.

ARCHITECTURE:

BC Parliament Buildings, Fairmont Empress, Christ Church Cathedral, Belfry Theatre, Craigdarroch Castle, Hatley Castle, Government House, Gonzales Observatory, Market Square, Rosemead House, Victoria Chinese Public School, Royal BC Museum, Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse.

NATURE:

Beacon Hill Park, Abkhazi Gardens, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, East Sooke Park, Gowlland Todd Provincial Park, Juan de Fuca Trail, PKOLS (Mount Douglas), Dallas Road, Ogden Point Breakwater, Botanical Beach, Galloping Goose Regional Trail, Sandcut Beach.



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