

Time to Travel

DGV's travel trade newsletter



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.

Hi there from Victoria,

Summer is in full swing, and the destination is welcoming visitors with long daylight hours, vibrant waterfront activity, and a wide range of seasonal experiences. From scenic outdoor adventures and culinary offerings to cultural attractions and cruise-friendly experiences, there is plenty to discover for all visitors.

In this edition, you'll find exciting new product updates, including The Overhang at Malahat SkyWalk and water bike tours in the Inner Harbour, alongside accommodation enhancements, new dining experiences, seasonal events, and sustainable travel offerings. We also share insights from Rendez-vous Canada 2026 and highlight experiences that can help extend stays and add value to your itineraries.



Product Updates



Image Courtesy: Malahat SkyWalk

The Overhang at Malahat SkyWalk

A new experiential add-on for Victoria itineraries

Malahat SkyWalk has introduced The Overhang, a new viewing feature that adds an exciting element to Victoria itineraries focused on scenery and soft adventure. The experience features an enclosed glass viewing cube attached to the top of the SkyWalk's spiral tower, suspended 250 metres (820ft) above sea level. It is

the first of its kind globally and the only experience of this type in Canada, offering uninterrupted views over the surrounding West Coast landscape. Well-suited to self-drive programs, small-group tours, and pre- or post-Victoria stays, The SkyWalk's Overhang can be positioned as a short stop or itinerary enhancement, appealing to travellers seeking unique viewpoints and memorable destination moments without requiring advanced physical ability.

[Learn More](#)



Image Courtesy: Oak Bay Beach Hotel

Oceanfront Afternoon Tea at Oak Bay Beach Hotel

[Oak Bay Beach Hotel](#) has launched *Afternoon Tea by the Sea*, a weekly offering designed for small groups and FIT clients seeking a premium culinary experience. Served Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Lobby Lounge, the service features panoramic views of the Salish Sea in a relaxed, seated format. The experience follows a traditional multi-course tea structure with a West Coast focus, incorporating local ingredients alongside a curated selection of fourteen loose-leaf teas. Menu highlights include a mix of savoury bites, pastries and scones, making it suitable as a standalone midday dining experience. Advance reservations are required.

[Learn More](#)



Image Courtesy: The Parkside Hotel & Spa

The Parkside Hotel & Spa Unveils Suite Refresh for Extended Stays

The Parkside Hotel & Spa has refreshed its all-suite product to enhance comfort, functionality, and sustainability for longer stays in Victoria. Featuring residential-style amenities such as full kitchens and in-suite laundry, the redesigned suites strengthen its appeal for FIT, family, and extended-stay segments while reinforcing the property's commitment to eco-conscious hospitality.

[Learn More](#)



Image Courtesy: Fairmont Empress

Tea at the Empress Extends Hours and Adds Cocktails

[Fairmont Empress](#) has extended hours for its signature *Tea at the Empress* experience, now operating later into the evening in the Lobby Lounge. Travellers can book Monday to Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursday to Sunday until 9:00 p.m., creating added flexibility for cruise and overnight guests. The extended service also introduces a curated selection of tea-inspired cocktails, including new signature creations alongside classic pours, offering an updated take on one of Victoria's most established visitor experiences overlooking the Inner Harbour.

[Learn More](#)

Getting Tiddley: Navy Uniforms from Cap to Boot

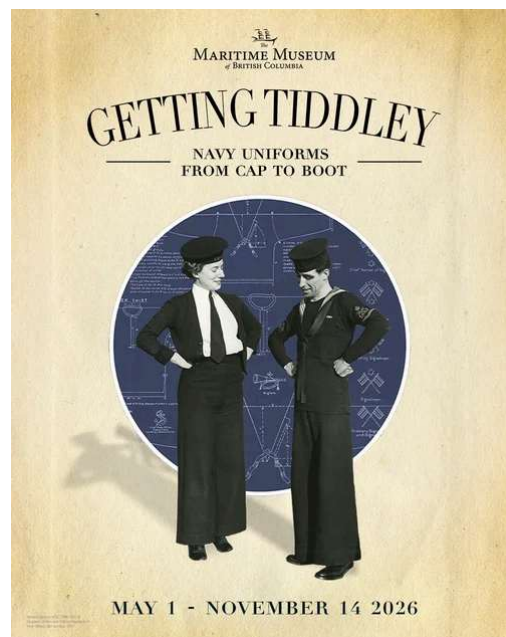


Image Courtesy: The Maritime Museum of British Columbia

This [Maritime Museum of British Columbia](#) exhibit looks at the history and evolution of Royal Canadian Navy uniforms, from traditional square rig to modern operational dress. It provides context on how naval identity and practical design have changed over time, with artifacts and interpretation focused on service life and dress standards. The exhibition runs from May 1-November 14, 2026 and is a relevant stop for groups interested in Canadian military history and maritime heritage when visiting Victoria.

[Learn More](#)



Image Courtesy: Heron Rock Bistro

Heron Rock Bistro in James Bay

Heron Rock Bistro is a casual neighbourhood bistro located in James Bay, offering a relaxed dining option close to Victoria's waterfront walking and cycling routes. The menu is broad and adaptable, with vegetarian options and flexibility for common dietary restrictions, which can make it suitable for mixed-interest groups or FIT travellers requiring simple, approachable dining solutions. On Mondays, the Bistro also features local live music from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

What's Happening



Victoria Again Proves Itself as Resale Capital of Canada

Newly updated data from our Research team confirms that Victoria remains the Resale Capital of Canada, with the highest concentration of used merchandise retailers nationwide at 9.6 stores per 100,000 residents.

For travel trade partners, this positions Victoria as a strong addition to itineraries for clients interested in sustainable, experience-driven shopping. Compact and easy to explore, the city's resale scene spans downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods, offering everything from vintage fashion to curated consignment and locally run charity shops.

Highlights include well-known spots such as [Grove Outdoors](#), [House of Savoy](#), and [WIN Resale Shops](#), each offering a different take on secondhand style while reflecting Victoria's creative and community-minded character.

[Learn More](#)

International Buyers Embrace Victoria's Year-Round Appeal

At Rendez-vous Canada 2026, international buyers showed strong interest in Greater Victoria's unique combination of mild weather, stunning coastal scenery, and high-quality visitor experiences. With 14 local tourism partners in attendance, the destination stood out for its ability to offer year-round outdoor adventure, wellness experiences, and a relaxed West Coast lifestyle that appeals to today's travellers.



Cruise Updates



Evening Options for Cruise Guests

With many cruise calls arriving or extending into the evening hours, passengers have plenty of ways to experience Victoria while in port. From harbourfront dining and local shopping to live music, night tours, illuminated views, wellness experiences, and dessert stops, the examples below highlight just a few of the many Victoria businesses offering evening-friendly options for cruise guests.

Dining and drinks: [Aura Waterfront Restaurant + Patio](#), [LURE Restaurant & Bar](#), [The Keg Steakhouse + Bar](#), [Earls Kitchen + Bar](#), [Afternoon Tea at the Empress](#) with evening service, [Pendray Tea House's](#) Scottish Tea and Sunday Roast, and [Market Square](#) restaurants and bars such as [Whistle Buoy Brewing](#) and [The Drake Eatery](#) offer easy evening options for meals, drinks, and tea experiences.

Shopping and sweet treats: [Chocolats Favoris](#), [Merchant Quarters General Store](#), [Experience Victoria](#), and select [Bay Centre Shopping Centre](#) businesses provide convenient stops for gifts, browsing, and late-night treats.

Experiences and attractions: [Aerth Saunas](#), [The Butchart Gardens](#) (Wednesday to Sunday), [Forged Axe Throwing](#), [Fisherman's Wharf](#), [HeyYa Cart Rentals](#), [Off the Eaten Track](#) foodie tours, and evening [Gray Line City Sights and Hop On, Hop Off Tours](#) offer memorable ways to enjoy Victoria after dark. Hours can vary by day of week and cruise schedule, so guests and travel advisors are encouraged to confirm directly with each business before visiting.

Sustainable Spotlight



Image Courtesy: Ocean River Sports

New Water Bikes in Victoria

[Ocean River Sports](#) has introduced water bikes, offering a low-impact way for clients to explore Victoria's Inner Harbour and Gorge Waterway. Operating from their downtown location, this beginner-friendly, pedal-powered experience is available as both guided tours and self-guided rentals.

Guided tours run Friday through Sunday at 3:00 pm and are two hours in duration, highlighting key harbour landmarks including the Legislative Building, Fairmont Empress, and floatplane activity. Self-guided rentals are available daily from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, with one-, two-, and three-hour options, allowing guests to explore quieter stretches of the Gorge Waterway at their own pace. Well-suited to a wide range of ages and fitness levels, with all equipment and safety gear included, water bikes offer an accessible, small-group experience that can be easily integrated into Victoria itineraries.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Events & Shows

Let's Connect at Upcoming Industry Events

Destination Greater Victoria will be attending the following industry event:

- Focus Canada - Mexico | Sep 22-24 | Mexico

If you'll be attending as well, we'd be happy to connect and share the latest updates on Victoria experiences for your itineraries.

Victoria offers a year-round Calendar of Events that adds value to pre- and post-cruise stays, FIT itineraries, and group programs. Below are a few highlights that may be of interest to your clients:

Forest Bathing at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary (Jul 27)

This guided nature therapy walk invites guests to tune in their senses, connect with nature, and quiet the mind.

Picklefest Victoria 2026 (Aug 15)

Featuring 35+ vendors offering all things pickled and fermented with fully licensed beverage selections and live music.

Bilston Creek Farm: Summer Lavender Festival (Jun 13-Aug 23)

Wander through lavender fields, enjoy live music, hands-on workshops, local artisan vendors, lavender distillation demonstrations, and family-friendly activities while relaxing under heritage apple trees with a tea or ice cream in hand.

For a complete and up-to-date list of events throughout the year, visit our Calendar of Events on our website.

Contact your Travel Trade Reps

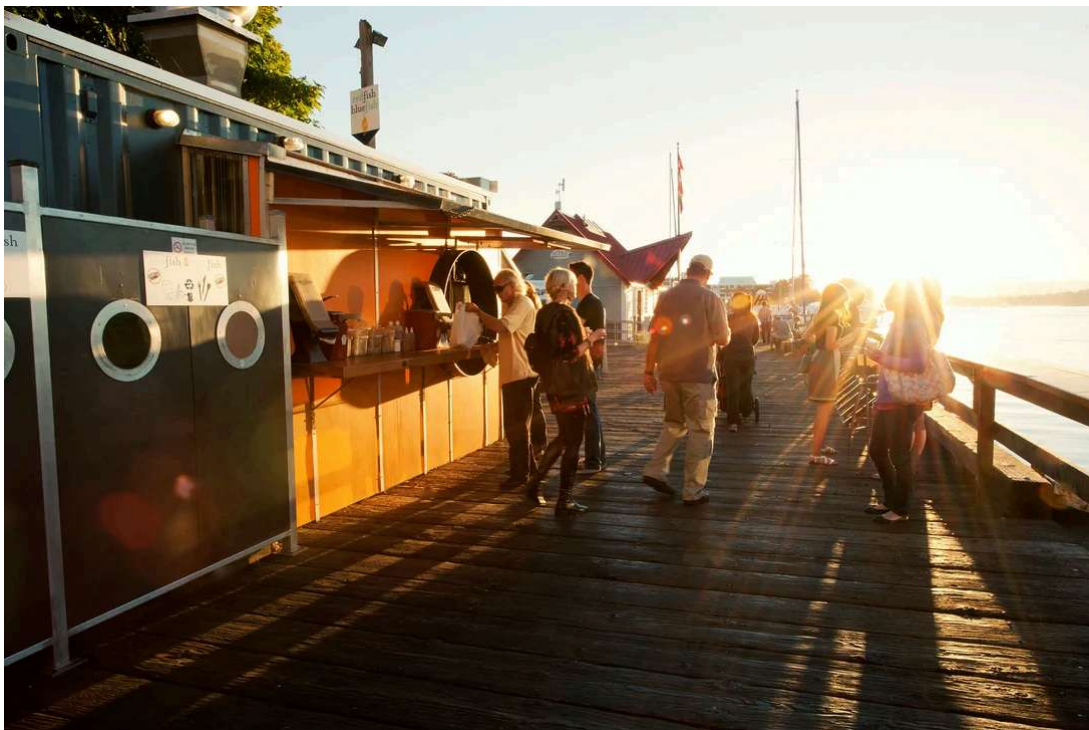
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