

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.

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



Accessibility

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



INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES



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. Interpretive adventures of cultural canoe or walking tour depart from the Inner Harbour. Indigenous-inspired casual cuisine is available at the Songhees Food Truck located in Esquimalt.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Prince of Whales

Prince of Whales is celebrating 30 years of operating and servicing the Salish Sea. Prince Of Whales has proudly achieved climate positive status by partnering with Ostrom Climate and Synergy Enterprises to develop an emissions reduction, monitoring and reporting program.



Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours

In 2022 Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours won the 2022 Marine Education Award from National Marine Educators Association. Not only is Eagle Wing big on education, but sustainability to match. They received the award for 2022 Air Transat Sustainable Tourism—outstanding contributions to the practice and promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism in Canada by TIAC.

Derailed Adventures

Derailed Adventures is a guided cycling tour offering fully catered, expertly guided bikepacking and cycle tours to anyone looking to explore Vancouver Island, create lasting memories and form supportive friendships. The small group sizes mean you'll get premium service and quality food. Suited for people seeking out adventure by bicycle, mountain bikers, gravel riders and bikepacking enthusiasts—as well as people who don't yet know that they are bikepacking enthusiasts!



HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION



The Vic, Ascend Hotel Collection

Opening in January is the Vic Hotel, a boutique hotel near Victoria's Inner Harbour featuring upscale, spacious, apartment-style suites with rainfall showers, refrigerators, microwaves, and kitchenettes. Also offering pet-friendly Gorge Waterway accommodations. Don't forget to check out their games room! Fun for the whole family.

Fairmont Empress

The newly redesigned Fairmont Gold at Fairmont Empress, the brand's exclusive 'hotel within a hotel' experience, is set to reopen in 2023. The expanded Fairmont Gold Lounge is located on the first floor of the heritage building with a private lounge and terrace that features dedicated concierge service. Fairmont Gold is designed to fulfill the needs of discerning travellers, ensuring their stay is nothing short of unforgettable. The reimagined Gold Floor and guestrooms celebrate both the history and natural beauty of the west coast, and elevates the historical property further into a new era of modern luxury.



Delta Hotel by Marriott Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort

The Delta Hotels by Marriott Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort is located in Victoria's Inner Harbour with stunning ocean views. A large renovation of the entire hotels 240 guestrooms is set to be complete May 2023. Additionally, the Delta Hotel is replacing all carpet and wall coverings in the corridors.



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.

Abigail's Hotel

Tucked away in a gorgeous neighbourhood just three blocks from downtown Victoria. Abigail's Hotel mixes historic charm and modern luxury and is expanding to add eight new luxury guestrooms.

Abigail's has been voted #3 Most Romantic Hotel in Canada – Trip Advisor Traveler's Choice Awards 2022 and #5 Best Small Hotel in Canada - Trip Advisor Traveler's Choice Awards 2022.



Huntingdon Manor

New at the Huntingdon Manor is the Dr. Bonnie Henry Community Garden. This initiative was launched at the beginning of 2021. In partnership with JBNA this garden is becoming permanent with 27 plots, including several that will be fully accessible for gardeners with mobility issues. Construction begins January for its full opening in the spring 2023.



HEALTH & WELLNESS & INNOVATION



HAVN

HAVN is a floating park-like environment on the edge of Victoria's Inner Harbour. Lush green spaces, cold pools, hot tubs, and hand-built saunas bring us together for a vibrant self-care experience.

Located on a 44-meter marine barge built in 1943 that was originally used as a floating wartime workshop for welders and other tradesman.

RITUAL Nordic Spa

Scandinavian-style wellness opened in Victoria in February 2022! Ritual Nordic Spa offers a modern take on the classic Finnish sauna house experience in the heart of downtown.





Harbour Air

The Harbour Air ePlane announced that the first direct all-electric point to point test flight has been completed. The historic De Havilland Beaver, which was completely retrofitted in 2019 to operate using 100% electricity flew 45 miles in 24 minutes. The aircraft left their terminal on the Fraser River adjacent to YVR and landed in Pat Bay adjacent to YYJ. This is a major milestone in the advancement of all-electric commercial flights.

ATTRACTIONS

The Teahouse at Abkhazi

The enchanting Teahouse at Abkhazi Gardens celebrate their 10th anniversary in 2023. The Teahouse at Abkhazi Garden offers four-star guest service and exceptional food in a beautiful setting, giving guests an Afternoon Tea memory to cherish. Seasonal menus showcase regional or Abkhazi Garden-grown produce, complementing the garden's appearance when it is in bloom.



Haunted Manor

Haunted Manor Mini Golf is an immersive twist on the classic game of mini golf. Players putt their way through a 15-hole, family friendly haunted manor with fun effects and unique games.

Iron and Wood

Each of the three climate controlled private room features over 100 championship golf courses and 12 multi-sport games that range from hockey, baseball & even zombie dodgeball. Iron & Wood also offers a locally curated drink menu, private HDTV's to watch the big game and three surround sound Bluetooth audio systems to make sure you get the music YOU want to listen to.



Swingers Golf Victoria

The state of the art simulators allow you to tee off at over 150,000 golf courses around the world, from St. Andrew's to Pebble Beach. Swingers uses the most advanced simulator software available on the market today.

Challenge your friends or play people from around the world in these immersive online courses.

Use the facility's clubs or BYOC—bring your own clubs.

The Pedaler-New Tour

The Pedaler's new tour, Eat Drink Pedal in partnership with Off The Eaten Track is not to be missed. Discover the delicious food and drinks that Victoria, BC has to offer while pedaling around the city on a food and bike tour.

The Pedaler is also offering a new evening cruise. Designed for you night owls or late-arriving cruise passengers. Experience the beauty of Victoria, B.C. from a unique perspective with an evening bike tour!



Tally-Ho Carriage Tours

2023 marks the 120th anniversary of the incorporation of Tally-Ho. Since 1903, Tally-Ho Carriage Tours has been recognized as one of Victoria's most iconic sightseeing experiences. Let the majestic horses and professional guides escort you on a relaxing yet entertaining tour through the city's historic, scenic beauty.



ART, FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



Chinese Canadian Museum - Fan Tan Alley Exhibit

"First Steps: Chinese Canadian Journeys in Victoria", is a new temporary exhibition that highlights important starting points for Chinese Canadians in Victoria. Examples of intergenerational resilience and agency are shared through stories of community support, entrepreneurship, and personal accomplishment.

Studio 106

Studio 106 is a Victoria art gallery and gift shop, located in the historic Seaman's Institute Building in James Bay, near Fisherman's Wharf. It features Canadian artists and artisans that are inspired by nature.

+Studio 106 believes that art should be for everyone and the gallery, exhibits and sells original paintings and sculptures, as well as prints and art cards.

New this year, are art classes of all kinds. From sculpting to painting and drawing classes.





Royal BC Museum New Exhibit

Dig into prehistoric British Columbia and get up close and personal with “Buster”, the Iron Lizard of the Sustut River, and the other dinosaurs that once roamed the province’s highest peaks, densest forests and most remote river basins. Through research done by the Royal BC Museum’s palaeontology team, we’re learning just how many ancient creatures once called these lands home.

Royal BC Museum New Exhibit

The Royal BC Museum is introducing three new exhibits! Starting April 17, 2023 - January 7, 2024 the Dinosaurs of BC exhibition opens. Joining this exhibit June 16, 2023 - February 16, 2024 is SUE: The T.Rex Experience exhibition. From June 2, 2023 - January 14, 2024 introducing the Angkor: Empire of Cambodia exhibition.

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FOOD & DRINK



CRAFT Beer Market

A premium casual restaurant and bar with a passion for fresh local food and great craft beer. Located in the heart of Victoria Harbour on the water, CRAFT is situated at the bottom of Swift Street. 110 taps of draft beers, wines, cocktails- focusing on local brews. Multi level with private Surf Lounge, covered patio, games area and indoor/outdoor fireplaces. Stunning views of the harbour, with optional access via boat and seaplane.

Duo Cafe at Inn at Laurel Point

Coffee culture is alive and well in Victoria and it's time for Inn at Laurel Point to offer guests and locals alike. Duo is a great new café and bakery experience.

Opening 2023, with the smell of freshly baked croissants (the best in the city) and the growl of the espresso machine, Duo Café Bakery will entice those looking for the perfect takeaway coffee or a great local spot to meet friends.



The Ugly Duckling

Ugly Duckling is a fine dining restaurant that takes its inspiration from the intersection between Vancouver Island's magical terroir and the rich cultural heritage of North America's first Chinatown.

Its experiential dining is built around two promises: to serve only those things which they have made by hand; and to work really, really hard to make guests smile.

FATHOM

Fathom offers an exceptional dining experience for the discerning diner. Fathom is a well-appointed venue with room to breathe, to people watch and to be seen. Its new chef, Peter Kim, has a passion for creating dishes using fresh, local ingredients, while taking inspiration from the rugged west coast. The result is a unique seafood forward yet well-rounded menu tailored to please all those who choose to explore its depths.





Artemis

Space Themed Whiskey Bar

Riddled with superstition, divination and charms, the port of Artemis located in outer space is a wicked place for whiskey and cocktails. The power of a magical book will unlock the speakeasy place for you. Be sure to choose the right book.

Somewhere between alchemy, science and mixology exists the mysterious art of our bartenders- called Taskmasters!!

Off The Eaten Track

Launching May 2023, Evening Fine Dining Tour. This easy 3-hour walking tour of downtown will stop at four exceptional restaurants for a moving diner feast that includes two appetizers, a main course, and dessert. Wine pairing package available for additional cost. Tour will run 7pm-10pm, small groups only (maximum 10 guests), and 19+ only.



The Art of Slow Food

The Art of Slow Food is an exclusively gluten free bakery & cafe. Handcrafted gluten free sourdough breads and treats fresh daily, and source all the cafe ingredients locally. The famous sourdough is the heart of the bakery and is vegan and free of all common allergens. Using local organic ingredients and traditional methods of food preparation to make unique, delicious creations that nourish your body.