

destination focus...

Essential VANCOUVER

Destination summary

Majestic mountains, sparkling ocean, rainforests and beautiful foliage all year round make Vancouver one of the most attractive cities in the world. Located at the south west corner of British Columbia, westernmost of Canada's 10 provinces. Greater Vancouver is made up of 21 municipalities occupying 2,930 sq.kms on the Fraser River delta. The northern limit of the city is Burrard Inlet, Vancouver's main harbour; English Bay defines the western edge - a large body of water popular for sailing which also serves as a 'parking lot' for freighters waiting for berths. The Fraser River marks the southern edge of the city and the municipality of Burnaby the east.

Brief history

Vancouver has been home to the Coast Salish native Indian peoples for thousands of years before the Hudson's Bay company set up a trading post in 1827. European settlement began in the 1860's when Vancouver was just a saw mill located on the Burrard Inlet. Entrepreneur, Jack Deighton, set up a saloon for the mill's working men, as he talked a lot he earned the name "Gassy Jack". Hence the neighbourhood of Gastown was born, to be renamed Vancouver in 1886. At this time the Canadian Pacific Railway arrived linking British Columbia with the rest of Canada. This led to the rapid growth of Vancouver as Canada's largest Pacific port and downtown Vancouver expanded beyond Gastown towards Granville Street in the west and Chinatown grew to the east - these neighbourhoods are essentially the same today. For many years Vancouver has claimed the top spot in The Economist's ranking of the world's most liveable cities.

Climate/when to go

Warmed by Pacific Ocean currents and protected by mountains, Vancouver's weather is mild all year round. From a high of 74°F/23°C in summer to a mild 40°F/6°C in winter, the climate is always hospitable. Winters are wet but it rarely snows, except on the local ski hills.

Population/language/currency

The population of the City of Vancouver city is approximately 600,000. Vancouver is a multicultural city but most of the population speak English as a first or second language. After English and Chinese, the most common languages spoken are Punjabi, German, Italian, Tagalog (Filipino) and Spanish. Currency is the Canadian dollar.

Vancouver with Hosmark

Hosmark represent the fabulous **Pan Pacific Vancouver** with its spectacular location right on the waterfront, adjacent to the world renowned Vancouver Convention Centre.

Pan Pacific Vancouver is a 5 diamond, award winning hotel offering 503 rooms with ocean, mountain or city views. 23 meeting rooms for a maximum number of 700 delegates with an additional 100,000 sq feet of space available next door at the Convention Centre.

Vancouver and Whistler hosted the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in February and March 2010, thus heightening the focus on Vancouver and Whistler as a great dual destination.

Whistler lies 78 miles north of Vancouver - a 2 hour drive along the 'Sea to Sky' highway and offers superb alpine skiing and mountain biking.

Hosmark represent two Pan Pacific properties in Whistler:

Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside - voted the best Whistler ski resort location by Conde Nast Traveller. The hotel offers 121 suites and meeting space for 18 delegates.

Pan Pacific Whistler Village Centre - a luxury boutique with 83 suites and meeting facilities for up to 60 delegates.

Both hotels have heated outdoor pools, fitness centres and excellent spa facilities.

Top Essential things to do

Stanley Park: a vast 1,000 acre open space - ideal for jogging along the seawall path, hiking trails, horse drawn tours, swimming or just strolling amongst the totem poles. Also home to the Vancouver Aquarium.

Vancouver Lookout: located at the Harbour Centre, with a height of 430 feet, it offers great city views.

Dr Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden: a sanctuary in the heart of the city. The first authentic Chinese garden built outside China.

The Neighbourhoods: take dim sum in Chinatown, explore the trendy shops in Gastown, art galleries in South Granville and visit Granville Island for its public market and local crafts plus excellent views of downtown.

Grouse Mountain: 15 minutes ride from downtown on the Skyride. See the grizzly bears at the Sanctuary for Endangered Wildlife, ski, ride a zip line, paraglide or take the trail up the face of the Grouse Grind.

Capilano Suspension Bridge: walk across the swaying bridge that stretches 450 feet across a canyon and the Capilano River 230 feet below.

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Passports/visas/health

A valid passport plus a return air ticket is required for all visitors.

There are no visa or vaccination requirements for UK citizens.

Canada does not provide health or medical services free to visitors - ensure you have travel insurance and carry the documents with you.

Vancouver streets are welcoming, clean and safe - day or night, all year round.

Time zone

Vancouver is hours 8 hours behind GMT.

Flight access

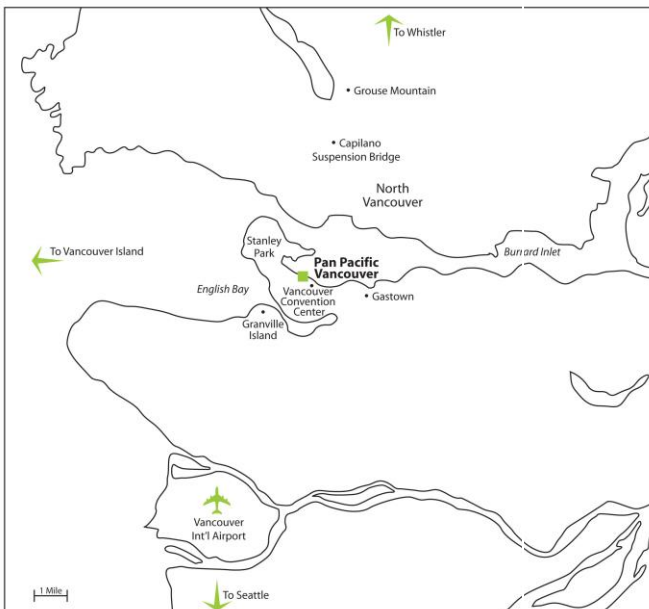
Vancouver is served by a regular number of direct flights from the UK including Air Canada, British Airways, KLM, Northwest, Continental and United.

Average flight time from the UK to Vancouver is approximately 9.5 hours.

Hotel transfer times

Transfer from Vancouver International Airport to Pan Pacific Vancouver is 25 minutes.

The hotel is within 5 minutes walk of the main downtown area.



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Vancouver with Hosmark

Popular group activities

Sailing, canoeing and kayaking in English Bay.

Golf, cultural city tours, cookery schools, etc

Breakfast with the Bears up on Grouse Mountain with blueberry pancakes and maple syrup.....

Ski and snowboard - 15 minutes from the city on the Grouse Mountain Skyride, try out the winter slopes.

Day trip to Whistler - a stunning coast and mountain drive.

In March/April choose a variety of snow related activities from tree trekking, snowmobiles and snowshoe nature walks to zip lining, skiing and dog sledding. In summer enjoy the alpine meadows, moose and deer or try your hand at river rafting.

Floatplane to Butchart Gardens, Vancouver Island - a 35 minute sea transfer to the world renown garden, plus an afternoon exploring the island capital. Afternoon tea at the Empress Hotel is a must!

DMC recommendations

CanTrav, HOST, Rare Indigo

F & B tips/info

Vancouver offers numerous excellent gala dinner venues plus a rich variety of dine around areas including Robson Street, Gastown and Yaletown districts.

A local delicacy you must try:

- *Victoria creams* - a famous chocolate delicacy derived from a recipe dating back to 1885.

Souvenirs/shopping

Robson Street: Vancouver's main shopping street.

Pacific Centre: a huge mall spans 3 city blocks and underground with over 140 shops.

South Granville Rise: showcases over 25 galleries - an art lover's haven - known locally as 'Gallery Row'.

Granville Island: an eclectic mix of shops, boutiques, galleries and studios plus the famous Public Market where local food vendors and artisans peddle their wares.

Yaletown: a renovated area of loading bays and warehouses now a stylish mix of high-end galleries, chic fashion and furnishings, smart restaurants and bars.

Kitsilano: a trendy seaside area, 10 minutes drive from downtown with over 300 shops, boutiques, cafes, restaurants and sports shops boasting a lively atmosphere day and night.

Vancouver's Chinatown - known as the 2nd largest Chinatown in North America.

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