

VICTORIA

british columbia full of life

Victoria, B.C. — *full of life*



- The capital of the Province of British Columbia, Victoria is located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, on the west coast of Canada, just a short trip by ferry, airplane or seaplane from Vancouver or Seattle.
- Surrounded by the sea on three sides, ocean views abound in Victoria and we boast the mildest climate anywhere in Canada. This natural bounty means Victoria is naturally beautiful and blooming year-round.
- In Victoria, heritage architecture, colourful gardens and traditions like afternoon tea mix with a plethora of outdoor adventure, world-class culinary experiences and vibrant arts and culture. Combined with the wild beauty of the Pacific Ocean and old-growth rainforests set against a backdrop of the Olympic Mountains, Victoria is the perfect place to visit or call home.
- Steeped in rich colonial British history with many buildings dating back to the 1880s, Victoria has an incomparable mix of old-world charm married with trendy new-world experiences.
- Victoria's compact size makes the entire city and all its attractions easy to explore by foot.
- In Victoria, there is never a shortage of things to do. From international icons like The Butchart Gardens to hidden gems like Canada's oldest Chinatown, Victoria boasts a wide variety of popular attractions, museums and unique activities to keep you engaged.
- Victoria isn't just "happening" during the daylight hours! At night the city comes alive with a pulsing arts and entertainment scene. Bastions of traditional British pub culture sit side-by-side with polished craft cocktail bars and fine restaurants and combine to form a fantastically vibrant nightlife.
- Victoria bars and restaurants use the freshest local ingredients and serve an array of local beers and wines. Fresh and local food has put Victoria on the worldwide culinary map.

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FAQs & Fun Facts

FAQ

Q: What is the weather like in Victoria?

Victoria boasts the mildest climate in Canada. Greater Victoria is one of Canada's driest areas, with an average snowfall of only 25 centimetres and an average rainfall of 592 millimetres.

Q: How large is Victoria?

Greater Victoria covers an area of 695.35 square kilometers. The City of Victoria's population is 82,653*. The Capital Region population is 366,162*. The population of Vancouver Island is 857,157*. (*2006 census data)

Q: What is Victoria's main industry?

Victoria's primary industries are government, information technology and tourism.

Q: How many parks are there around Victoria?

There are 48 regional, provincial and federal parks in Greater Victoria.

Q: When was Victoria established?

Victoria was established as Fort Victoria in 1843 by the Hudson's Bay Fur Trading Company and was incorporated as a city in 1862.

Q: What is the City of Victoria's motto?

Semper Liber, or Always Free.

Fun Facts

- Victoria is internationally renowned as the "City of Gardens"
- Approximately 1,500 hanging baskets adorn lampposts throughout the City of Victoria each summer
- There are 3,560 lights on the Parliament Buildings
- Number of cups of tea served annually at The Fairmont Empress Hotel: 500,000
- There are 2,855 farms on Vancouver Island including 991 in Greater Victoria and 700 in the Cowichan Valley
- National Geographic Magazine recognizes Vancouver Island as one of the best cold-water diving destinations in the world
- Victoria's waters are home to three resident pods of orca whales, totaling over 80 mammals
- The Butchart Gardens receive more than a million visitors each year and have been designated a National Historic Site of Canada
- Victoria was named one of the top 15 Friendliest Cities in the World by MSN.ca Travel, 2013

