

# VICTORIA

## R O A D T R I P

### Leave Vancouver

*Plan to leave from Waterfront Station on the Canada Line train. A one-zone bus pass is fine on the weekend.*

### Take The Ferry

*You'll need to check the schedule at [www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com) in order to plan your travels efficiently.*

### Arrive in Victoria

*Your Vancouver bus pass won't work in Victoria. You'll need coins for your fare, or see below to rent a car.*

### Money You Need

*The ferry takes cash, debit, or credit for the tickets, but you can only use cash or credit when on the boat.*

## WEEKEND ROAD TRIP

Victoria, the capital of B.C., is a great weekend adventure with lots to see, do, and enjoy.

You want to plan a trip to Victoria, but you're not sure how to get there, or what to do when you are there? This guide will give you information about traveling and destinations. I grew up in Victoria and visit it often, and this file includes my top suggestions for places to visit and things to see. Don't forget your camera!

People are often surprised that it takes about five hours of travel to get to downtown Victoria from downtown Vancouver, but it is true. This means that you will need to wake up very early and go to bed very late if you want to spend only one day in Victoria! It is much nicer to stay overnight, and you'll be able to do and see more than on a one-day adventure.

Here is your route to Victoria from Vancouver on [Google Maps](http://www.google.com/maps).

Victoria is famous for its gardens and parks. [Beacon Hill](#) is the largest park, and beautiful free gardens can be found at [Government House](#), 1401 Rockland Avenue, and [Abkhazi Gardens](#), 1964 Fairfield.

While you are at Beacon Hill, go to the [Beacon Drive-In](#), 126 Douglas Street, for ice cream. Walk across the road and climb the hill for a great view of the ocean. After this, continue to [Ogden Point Breakwater](#), 199 Dallas Road. Walk to the end for a view of the city from the ocean.

If you have a car, you can drive all the way around Victoria on the waterfront road. Start on Belleville Street and drive east. Keep the water on your right side and you'll see parks, historic places, a golf course and some of the oldest and most beautiful houses in the city.



### Rent a Car

*You'll need a credit card and drivers' licence, and you should make a reservation before you go. When the ferry arrives, call the rental company and ask them to pick you up from the terminal. Take a map when you leave, and buy gas before you return the car to avoid extra charges.*

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## Vancouver Island

*Victoria is not the only city on the island. Drive north to the city of [Duncan](#) to see the view from the [Malahat](#), or drive west to [Sooke](#) to see tall trees, nature, and a small Canadian town. It should take between 60 - 90 minutes to reach these places. Take photos!*

## Using transit to travel

Using transit isn't bad. The buses and ferry make sensible connections, and the view from the boat is amazing on a clear day.

As a rule, leave Waterfront Station two hours before the ferry leaves. Check [www.bcf ferries.com](http://www.bcf ferries.com) for ferry times - the route you want is called "Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay".

("Tsawwassen" - say "saw-was-sun" and you'll sound like a Canadian) Take the Canada Line to Bridgeport Station. Get on the 620 Tsawwassen Ferry bus. Buy a ticket for the the ferry to Swartz Bay.

When you arrive in Swartz Bay, there will be only one bus - the number 72. Sometimes there is an Express bus - take that one if you can. Get off at the Bay Centre, and you'll be in downtown Victoria. This is the main downtown centre, and you can easily find lots to explore close to here.



Now it's time to go back home. Go back to the [Bay Centre](#), which is on Douglas at Fort, and wait on the opposite side of the street at the bus stop. Take the 72 bus again, and get off at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. If there's an Express bus, take it - it is much faster than the regular bus. Buy tickets to Tsawwassen, and get on

the ferry. When it arrives, head outside and get the 620 bus to Bridgeport. There is sometimes an express bus here, too - take it if it is there. At Bridgeport, transfer to the Canada Line to Waterfront.



## WHERE TO EAT?

| Restaurant                | Meals         | Address                           | Website  | \$        |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Barb's Place Fish & Chips | Lunch, Dinner | <a href="#">1 Dallas Road</a>     | <a href="http://barbsplace.ca">barbsplace.ca</a>             | \$10-\$20 |
| Blue Fox Café             | Breakfast     | <a href="#">919 Fort</a>          | <a href="http://thebluefoxcafe.com">thebluefoxcafe.com</a>   | \$5-\$15  |
| Ferris' Bar & Grill       | Lunch, Dinner | <a href="#">536 Yates</a>         | <a href="http://ferrisoysterbar.com">ferrisoysterbar.com</a> | \$10-\$20 |
| Floyd's Diner             | Breakfast     | <a href="#">866 Yates</a>         | <a href="http://floydsdiner.ca">floydsdiner.ca</a>           | \$5-\$15  |
| Rebar Modern Food         | Lunch, Dinner | <a href="#">50 Bastion Square</a> | <a href="http://rebarmodernfood.com">rebarmodernfood.com</a> | \$10-\$20 |
| Swan's Brewpub            | Lunch, Dinner | <a href="#">506 Pandora</a>       | <a href="http://swanshotel.ca">swanshotel.ca</a>             | \$10-\$20 |



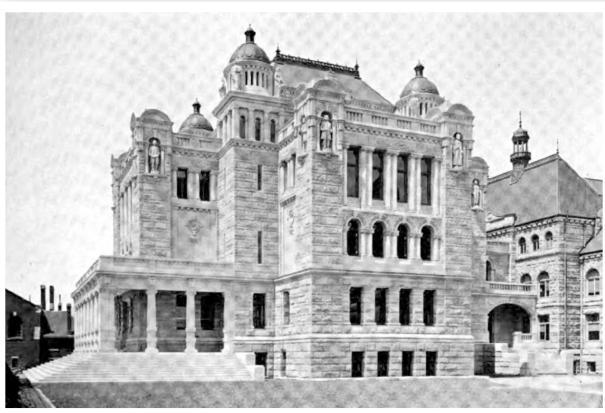
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## Shows and Sports?

Victoria has a great music scene. Big names come to the [Save On Foods Memorial Arena](#) on a regular basis - and you can [watch hockey](#) there in the winter, too! Local acts perform at [Logan's Pub](#), [Swan's Pub](#), and many other locations. Of course, there are also many nightclubs. For the best information about what's happening, where, and when, read [Monday Magazine](#).

## Take a Tour

[Discover the Past](#) runs walking tours of downtown Victoria in the evenings. Though most of the tours have a historical background, their ghost tours are the most popular. Enjoy the stories as you see some of Victoria's most interesting historical buildings. If you are traveling in October, this is a fun way to see some interesting sights.



## Want to see the beach?

*In the summer, Victoria has beautiful beaches for tanning, games, and swimming. Two of the most popular are [Gonzales Beach](#), near the intersection of Robertson and Ross streets in Fairfield, and [Willows Beach](#), near Esplanade and Esetvan. Willows Beach also has a small food stand that is open in the summertime. Take your towel and get some sun!*

*If you have a car, [Witty's Lagoon](#) is the king of Victoria beaches. It is an easy drive from downtown, at 4115 Metchosin Road, and it is huge!*



*The Royal BC Museum shows a great many pieces of the past.*

## History, Museums, and Art

Victoria has a rich cultural history. In the [Royal BC Museum](#), you can see exhibits from the beginning of history to the present, including native people, the exploration by Europeans, animals, and even John Lennon's Rolls Royce. You can find it on the web at [www.whatever.com](#), and it is on Belleville Street at Government.

The [Art Gallery of Greater Victoria](#) has the largest collection of Asian art this side of Toronto. See exhibits by famous Canadians, like Emily Carr, as well as many modern and contemporary pieces from a variety of artists. Experience the world from a different creative viewpoint!

[Victoria's Maritime Museum](#) is the place to go if you are interested in exploration, sea trade, or naval history. Including Tilikum, the boat used by Joshua Slocumb to sail around the world alone, the Maritime Museum will certainly make you feel like an explorer from long ago.