





# The 20 best things to do in Vancouver

Given the water and mountains surrounding it, it's no surprise the best things to do in Vancouver deal with the outdoors

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Surrounded by mountains and sea, no visit to Vancouver is complete without a taste of both, not to mention a taste of the deliciousness that comes from them and is served at the best restaurants (<https://www.timeout.com/vancouver/restaurants/best-restaurants-in-vancouver>) in town. Downtown Vancouver sits on a flat peninsula surrounded by water and guarded by the mountains of the North Shore, so enjoying the city means going outside (yes, even when it rains) and breathing in some fresh sea and mountain air. Whether it's a strenuous hike up Grouse Grind or a relaxed stroll on cherry tree-lined streets, the city has loads to offer. Fuel up with a proper brunch or a hearty meal and then get ready to tackle our list of the very best things to do in Vancouver.

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## Best things to do in Vancouver

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Stephen Downes

## Stanley Park

**What is it:** This 1,000-acre park is larger than New York City's Central Park and is home to beaches, totem poles, an aquarium, playgrounds, a pool and splash park, botanical gardens, a par-54 golf course, 17 tennis courts, lawn bowling and a rowing club.

**Why go:** Walk or hike the exterior seawall, or venture inside through the 40 miles of trails to get lost among ferns and century-old

**WALK OR BIKE THE EXTERIOR SEAWALL OR VENTURE INSIDE THROUGH THE 411 MILES OF TRAILS TO GET LOST AMONG TREES AND CENTURIES-OLD**  
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**BOOK NOW (<http://attractions.timeout.com/en/11312/tours/Vancouver/Stanley-Park-Bike-Tour/d616-7039STANLEY>)**

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Nico Aguilera

## Seawall

**What is it:** The 5.5-mile paved pathway starts in downtown Vancouver at the cruise ship terminal, heads west around Stanley Park and then encircles False Creek past Kitsilano beach and pool out toward Spanish Banks on English Bay.

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Rick C.

## Royal Dinette

**What is it:** Royal Dinette is a downtown farm-to-table restaurant helmed by Kaitlyn Stewart that serves delicious sustainable food and cocktails like the Ru Paulitan and Kumbaya.

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**BOOK NOW** (<https://www.bookenda.com/restaurant-booker?idMerchant=8762218&partySize=2&dateTime=2018-7-16-19-0&choice=&minorCount=0&find=true&Language=en&idClientApplication=3823>)

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Pongers

## Granville Island

**What is it:** Technically a peninsula, Granville Island is home to a public market, food shops, restaurants, artist studios and galleries, shopping and green space. Vancouverites pick up their groceries here too, though they tend to avoid crowded summer weekends.

<https://www.timeout.com/vancouver/things-to-do/best-things-to-do-in-vancouver>





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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Kimberly R.

## Whale watching

**What is it:** Get out on the water for a chance to see some of the local marine mammals: orca, grey whales, humpbacks, minke, harbour porpoise, Dall's porpoise, Pacific white-sided dolphins, harbour seals and Stellar and California sea lions. Choose operators that respect laws and guidelines that protect the animals, and consider a donation to an environmental or wildlife fund so your

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[CHECK WEBSITE \(WhalesVancouver.com\)](#)

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/haRee

## Capilano Suspension Bridge

**What is it:** Walk across Capilano Suspension Bridge or Lynn Valley Suspension Bridge for wiggly views of the temperate rainforest on Vancouver's North Shore.

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Tim Gillin

## Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia

**What is it:** Enclosed in a building designed by Arthur Erickson and on the traditional territory of the Musqueam people with grounds landscaped by Cornelia Oberlander, the Museum of Anthropology (MOA) features art by Canada's and the world's indigenous peoples.

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**CHECK WEBSITE (<https://moa.ubc.ca/>)**

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Sandy Kemsley

## Sea to Sky Gondola

**What is it:** Open year round, this ten-minute gondola ride takes you up almost 2,800 feet past Shannon Falls.

**Why go:** Drive the stunning Sea to Sky Highway to Squamish and gaze out the gondola window for even more spectacular views of

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Edward L.

## Vancouver Aquarium

**What is it:** This aquarium in Stanley Park focuses on sustainability and conservation. The staff rescues marine animals and aims to



educate the public in everything they do. The Vancouver Aquarium originated the Ocean Wise sustainable seafood and ocean

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Suzan L.

## Kintaro

**What is it:** Vancouver is blessed with many tiny ramen places, several clustered in the West End around Robson and Denman Streets, near Stanley Park. One of the originals is Kintaro.

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## Mr. Bannock

**What is it:** Mr. Bannock is the city's first food truck serving indigenous food.

**Why go:** British Columbia's first peoples knew all about the richness and nutritiousness of the land and sea, and how to harv

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**CHECK WEBSITE (<https://www.mrbannock.com/>)**

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/GoToVan

# Vancouver Pride Parade

**What is it:** Davie Street, in Vancouver's West End, is known as the home to the city's Gay Village. The annual Vancouver Pride Parade (end of July/early August) passes nearby to the delight of residents and visitors and ends at the Sunset Beach Festival. Throughout the year, the neighbourhood is bedecked in rainbow flags, rainbow-painted crosswalks and friendliness.

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Thom H.

## Shop Vancouver brands

**What is it:** Vancouver is the birthplace of several international brands and up-and-coming labels. See the latest at Lululemon Athletica, John Fluevog for shoes, Arc'teryx for outdoor wear, Herschel for retro bags and luxury Kit & Ace for Technical Cashmere T-shirts, or discover the next great thing.

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Elaine

## Pam Rocks

**What is it:** The curious seals in the colony at Pam Rocks in Howe Sound often interrupt their sunny snoozes to dive in and swim over to see what the kayakers and snorkelers are doing.

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Vitor Pamplona

**Group Guid**

## Grouse Grind

**What is it:** Think of it (as it's often referred to) as "Mother Nature's stairmaster."

**Why go:** This challenging 1.8 mile trail takes you 2,800 feet up Grouse Mountain via a trail and 2,830 stairs (you take the gondola

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Photograph: Courtesy CC/Flickr/Howard/Harriet Greenwood

## Wreck Beach

**What is it:** A 4.8-mile long, clothing-optional beach.

**Why go:** To admire the views—of the ocean, of course—offered by the largest naturist beach on the continent. Nearby beaches like

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**CHECK WEBSITE (<http://www.wreckbeach.org/>)**

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## Popina Canteen

**What is it:** This restaurant and takeaway counter is housed in three shipping containers with an outdoor seating area that boasts views of busy False Creek.

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Jean C

# Richmond Night Market

**What is it:** Open weekends and holiday evenings from May to October, this is the largest night market in North America, giving visitors a taste of Asia's night markets. It's near the airport.

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**CHECK WEBSITE (<http://www.RichmondNightMarket.com>)**

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Edward L.

## Vancouver Police Museum

**What is it:** The oldest police museum on the continent, with 20,000 crime-related artifacts in Vancouver's Gastown plus a special walking tour.

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**CHECK WEBSITE (<http://www.VancouverPoliceMuseum.ca>)**

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Photograph: Courtesy Yelp/Danny K.

## Sunset Beach

**What is it:** Vancouver's sunsets are often vivid and there is probably no better place to catch one in all of its glory than Sunset Beach. The sun sinks over English Bay—in the summer, well after 9pm—frequently with vibrant red, orange, pink and purple clouds.

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[SITE MAP \(HTTPS://WWW.TIMEOUT.COM/VANCOUVER/SITEMAP\)](https://www.timeout.com/vancouver/sitemap)

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