

City name



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Neighborhoods


Google Map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1t_xvng9j-qbDEVcfm-cANXHDbuwtxos&ll=48.421544869483235%2C-123.34422225&z=14

Video: [How to draw neighborhoods](#)

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1. Big beautiful buildings (Legislative Precinct and Inner Harbour)

Link to photograph

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/victoria-harbor-british-columbia-parliament-building-1256780200>  Big beautiful buildings.jpg

Tags

Architecture, Historic Center, Promenade, Tourists

Description

If you're fresh off the ferry and unsure where to start, come here for a healthy introduction to the city's energy and postcard-worthy sights. Rows of boats, Victorian (ha!) architecture, and local Indigenous art await. Most hotels are in this area, but keep in mind there's a premium for staying in the tourist center.

Local tip

The pickle boats (water taxis) at the causeway docks are a great way to move around the city, and they're not that expensive.

2. Walk back in time (Old Town)

Link to photograph

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B6NOot2AB4h/> photo 2 @armanabt

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CMuysSXHZss/> @from.alana

Tags

Architecture, Historic Center, Culture, Old town

Description

Gold diggers are good for something: the Gold Rush turned Victoria from a little trading fort to a beautiful, bustling city. And no wealthy settlement worth its salt goes without a gorgeous downtown! While many parts of Old Town are touristy, there are also quiet side streets and local haunts to explore in this pedestrian's paradise.

Local tip


On the sidewalks along Government St. up to Bastion Square, you'll see a line of bricks with names – they're the outline of the original Fort Victoria. Snag stunning harbor views from the parking lot north of the square, just up a staircase.

Alerts/safety info

🙄 Don't be fooled by "going out of business" signs on tourist shops; there are no deals

3. Indie shopping (LoJo / Lower Johnson)

Link to photograph

 Indie shopping, LoJo.jpg Credit: Thomas Guerrero

Tags

Boutiques, eclectic, hipsters, shopping

Description

Downtown is for more than oohing and ahing – it's also for shopping! And "LoJo" is the best place to do it, whether you need unique clothes, a vintage camera, or a

2000-piece puzzle. The heart of things is Market Square, an open-air mall of local, independent stores housed in repurposed Gold Rush buildings.

Local tip

Have a pint at the Whistle Buoy brewery or the Drake Eatery, or check out the Assembly of Text stationery store: they have desks ready for you to pen a letter to a friend.

Fun fact

 Waddington Alley is the only road in Victoria still paved with wooden blocks

4. Coffee & long walks (Fairfield)

Link to photograph
(on drive) by Thomas Guerrero

Tags

Laid-back, parks, upscale, walkable

Description


To do Victoria right, grab a coffee at Cook Street Village and take it on a walk through Beacon Hill Park or on the waterfront. On a clear day you can see the Olympic Mountains across the strait; in the evening, you'll see the twinkling of Port Angeles. Meander through eastern Fairfield to admire Edwardian mansions and gardens.

Local tip

Moss Rock Park has one of the best views of downtown and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Between May and October, the Saturday Moss Street Market features farm stands, art, and music.

Alerts/safety info


 Parking is scarce in Cook Street Village; walk there if possible

 Dogs not allowed on Dallas Road beaches; it's a migratory bird sanctuary

5. Cruise ships & retirees (James Bay)

Link to photograph

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/james-bay-harbour-victoria-bc-canada-1723306657>

 Cruise ships and retirees.jpg

Tags

Tourists, walkable, retirees, port

Description

Ringed by a waterfront walk, this neighborhood is a great place to spend an easy morning wandering between cruise ships and Victorian homes. Stay here for R&R and everyday amenities, but be sure to pack a sweater – it can get chillier here than in the rest of the city.

Local tip

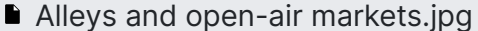
By far the best fish market in the city is Finest at Sea. They even have a great seafood taco truck outside if you don't feel like cooking.

Alerts/safety info

👉 Big events like the Victoria Marathon will cut off access to James Bay for hours

6. Alleys & open-air markets (Chinatown)

Link to photograph

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/red-lanterns-hanging-over-fisgard-street-1444035644> 

Tags

Red lanterns, culture, restaurants, vibrant

Description

Victoria's Chinatown may be small, but there's a buzzing energy in its alleyways. It has its own look, thanks to pagoda-style phone booths and red garbage cans, and it's one of the only parts of the city where vendors can hawk their wares on the street. Be sure to check out the eclectic stores in Fan Tan Alley!

Local tip

One of Chinatown's great street snacks is the pork hanging in windows. You can get it to go on its own or on rice.

Alerts/safety info

🚗 Parking is scarce; try the city lot on Fisgard's 600 block

7. Work, sleep, shop (Central Business District and Harris Green)

Link to photograph

https://www.instagram.com/p/CG_ppkrD45E/ @sidewalkingvic (our local)

Tags

CBD, crowded, locals, offices

Description

You don't need to wear a corset or waistcoat to live like a Victorian – just cycle through the REAL city center among tech offices, stores, and cafes favored by locals. Check out the diverse restaurants of Fort St. and Harris Green, and hit up Antique Row's vintage shops to sneak in some time traveling after all.

Local tip

If you're looking for Canadian maple syrup, skip the tourist traps of Government St. and head to one of the grocery stores in Harris Green – you can get 100% pure stuff at half the price.

Alerts/safety info

👉 The 900 block of Pandora St. is potentially unsafe for visitors

8. Little Britain (Oak Bay)

Link to photograph

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CioxwwXA0Tq/> @bernardogsphotography

Tags

Eclectic, locals, picturesque, shopping

Description

It's usually just hype that Victoria is a mini-UK – but it's a bit truer in this area, "behind the Tweed Curtain." Have a pint at a Tudor-style pub in Oak Bay Village, or wander among stately mansions and well-tended English gardens and parks. In summer, you can chill with locals at Willows Beach.

Local tip

Between Oak Bay Village and the marina is Windsor Park, a massive green space where on almost any weekend you can watch high-caliber football and rugby matches between local teams.

Alerts/safety info

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9. Castles & art (Rockland)

Link to photograph

(on drive) by Thomas Guerrero

Tags

Villas, walkable, art, architecture


Description

North America has its castles, too, and this beautiful neighborhood is where to find them. Stay in a quiet B&B in Rockland to more easily tour Craigdarroch Castle, explore the grounds of Government House, and admire the creativity on display in the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

Local tip

At the annual Moss Street Paint-In, which stretches from the art gallery to the waterfront, hundreds of local artists show off their skills in real time.

Fun fact

 No nobles in these mansions: most have been converted into apartments for fancy bohemians

10. Views & rich people (Songhees)

Link to photograph

https://www.instagram.com/p/CfrWE_olMlf/ @realestatenate.ca

Tags

Elite, picturesque, residential, retirees

Description

What this growing neighborhood lacks in your typical restaurants and shops, it makes up for in sweet views of downtown. Walk the harbor from Johnson Street Bridge to West Bay Marina to spot an abandoned railyard, kayakers and seaplanes, seals and otters, and probably some wealthy Canadian retirees.

Local tip

The Boom + Batten Restaurant & Cafe and Spinnakers Brewpub are both favorites among locals and visitors, and they have tremendous views of the water.

Alerts/safety info

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NO-GO zones

1. Pandora Green

Pandora Green is potentially unsafe for visitors

2. Rock Bay Avenue

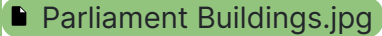
Rock Bay Ave. is potentially unsafe for visitors



Classic sights

1. Parliament Buildings

Photo

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/victoria-british-columbia-parliament-building-inner-145548211> 

Coordinates

48.41961626355974, -123.37026366656266

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/mALPHdVoioDJnSpK7>

Description

For architecture buffs and the politically curious, or anyone up for some sweet photos. Take a tour to see inside the gorgeous complex and watch real legislative sessions. Can you find the statues of Queen Victoria and Captain George Vancouver? (No googling – it's easy enough!)

Local tip

The Legislative Dining Room is open to the public and has amazing food for a good price.

Alerts/safety info

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Website


<https://www.leg.bc.ca/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/6478/legislative-assembly-of-british-columbia/>

2. Empress Hotel

Photo

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/inner-harbour-empress-hotel-victoria-vancouver-35877226> 

Coordinates

48.421506287826425, -123.36707409928401

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/TP4Bt3Tru2HuoQAN7>

Description

Spruce yourself up in your Sunday best: a spot of afternoon tea at this iconic hotel comes with a dress code, but repays you with an experience fit for an empress. Step inside to take in the sumptuous decor and savor fine dining at the Q.

Local tip

The hotel has its own world-famous gin! Produced locally at the Victoria Distillery, the Empress 1908 Indigo Gin has become a sensation due to its beautiful color and subtle taste.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://www.fairmont.com/empress-victoria/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/217316308/fairmont-empress-hotel-victoria/>

3. Royal BC Museum

Photo

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_British_Columbia_Museum#/media/File:Main_entrance_to_Royal_British_Columbia_Museum,_Victoria,_British_Columbia_02.jpg Credit: [Michal Klajban](#)

Coordinates

48.41980885412788, -123.3674550663585

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/4Q5NPNKWYA7aKS1b8>

Description

The museum's pride and joy is its fur baby, Woolly, a realistic-looking mammoth reconstructed from fossils. Spend an afternoon with all sorts of critters that swim, crawl, and fly (or used to) in the natural history collection. Then, if you're not bugged out by live creepy-crawlies, the Victoria Bug Zoo is just a short wriggle away.

Local tip

The IMAX theater here has the largest screen in the province, and in addition to daily documentaries, you can catch feature films on the weekend.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/832482/royal-bc-museum/>

4. Government St.

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CaiMzqjPgZq/> photo 2 @jackywah0220

Coordinates

48.424648259040296, -123.36792872262247

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/fBCzNRg2D4gZkqc78>

Description

Think of this pedestrian-friendly street as the Golden Mile connecting major tourist attractions and lots of good shopping. The Irish Times Pub and its Scottish counterpart Bard & Banker are two stars in the constellation, next to a galaxy of places to eat, drink, and browse to your heart's content.

Local tip

Murchie's teahouse and Munro's Books are super popular with both locals and visitors, and they're almost right next to each other.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

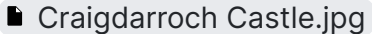
n/a

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/283688518/victoria-downtown-government-street/>

5. Craigdarroch Castle

Photo

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/historic-craigdarroch-castle-built-1890-dusk-186437690> 

Coordinates

48.422627599250696, -123.34371656697014

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/iSTDpRp6DcmiLzeca>

Description

You can't spell extraordinary without extra. Tour this exquisite mansion's 39 rooms to ooh and ahh at intricate woodwork and stained-glass windows and get the tea about the Dunsmuir family drama. Grab an interactive tablet for augmented reality scenes and voice actors that liven up the learning experience.

Local tip

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://thecastle.ca/>

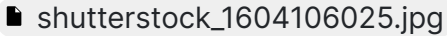
Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/253348/craigdarroch-castle/>

6. Butchart Gardens

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj9LmAhvVZI/> @angelalingling02

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/autumn-colors-victoria-bcs-butchart-gardens-1604106025> 

Coordinates

48.563892881879774, -123.47014206320793

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/wW5fj4szyg4m7Aac8>

Description

Props to Jennie Butchart for upcycling a limestone quarry into a gorgeous floral display garden way back in 1904. Now you can wander through 55 acres of flora and fountains, photograph yourself on the stepping stones of the Japanese garden, or smell some prize-winning roses. Every season brings new charm.

Local tip

The winter lights at Butchart are legendary, and a trip to see them is an annual tradition for Victorians. Can you spot all 12 days of Christmas in the decorations?

Alerts/safety info

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Website

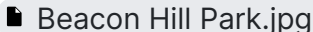
<https://www.butchartgardens.com/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/617611/the-butchart-gardens/>

7. Beacon Hill Park

Photo

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/bench-overlooking-lake-fountain-beacon-hill-2210899383> 

Coordinates

48.412224843289856, -123.36280453604454

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/XcfEfe1SmEtBbRCw5>

Description

It's not in every city park that you can cross paths with a peacock. This enormous urban green space has all the top hits, including duck ponds, playgrounds, and sports fields – but adds flashy blue birds and a Garry oak ecosystem, a lovely but endangered environment endemic to Vancouver and the Gulf Island region.

Local tip

Visit the petting zoo early in the morning in summer, and you might just witness the daily running of the goats – a big favorite among kids.

Alerts/safety info

🌙 Avoid walking here at night

🚧 Stay on marked paths, especially in the southern forested parts

Website

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/parks/beacon-hill.html>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/219264280/beacon-hill-park/>

8. Fan Tan Alley

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CkFEhKCLt7o/> @sunshinicole

Coordinates

48.42930367232433, -123.36793221780218

Google Maps

<https://goo.gl/maps/gWupTbF1unCNqP426>

Description

Canada's oldest Chinatown is an attraction in itself, but it harbors yet another superlative: the country's narrowest street. This tiny, photogenic alley is lined with boutique shops for clothes, tea, and trinkets, plus a temporary exhibition space for the Chinese Canadian Museum.

Local tip

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Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

n/a

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/341791756/fan-tan-alley/>

9. Inner Harbour

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj9GnlnP7uC/> @timgoos

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Ch-WmO7PSnJ/> @lostthings.ca

Coordinates

48.42159998300862, -123.36889101253345

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/b2CbkA4SqWYmf56m6>

Description

If you haven't been to Inner Harbour, you haven't been to Victoria. This part of the coast is a lively hub for major tourist attractions and events, and it's just plain pretty. It's also the departure point for many whale-watching tours, so head this way to spot gray, humpback, minke, and killer whales.

Local tip

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Alerts/safety info

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Website

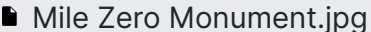
<https://qvha.ca/marinas-facilities/causeway-inner-harbour/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/799448710192071/inner-harbour-on-the-water/>

10. Mile Zero Monument

Photo

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/mile-0-monument-start-transcanada-highway-171948161>  Mile Zero Monument.jpg

Coordinates

48.409099198775834, -123.369010619732

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/up82LqqdR5P8SAvr9>

Description

You can get your kicks on Route 66 – or you could seize the day the northern way on the glorious Trans-Canada Highway, starting here at the zeroeth mile marker. Nearby, find a statue of Terry Fox, who set off running from Newfoundland for charity, but passed from cancer before he could make it here.

Local tip

Just a block from here is the Beacon Drive-In, a Victoria favorite for decades. The soft-serve is magical. Some people think it's too creamy! Is that even a thing?

Alerts/safety info

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Website

n/a

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/221685481989620/mile-zero-monument/>

11. Bastion Square

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CjvRNj5L2Dn/> @teddyaya (photo in reserve)
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CgIekkkuY-3/> @jorgeernestodiaz

Coordinates

48.42580601339682, -123.36900818504078

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/1Nvz36pjYicNqnap7>

Description

Pass through the ceremonial arch to this historic square, which comes to life with sidewalk restaurants and a huge artisan market in the summer. Year round, there's a lovely view of the Inner Harbour. And if you like a spooky tale or two, some say the place is haunted...

Local tip

Bastion Square is one of the most popular filming spots in Victoria. It often gets turned into a little piece of Europe due to its scale and beauty.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

n/a

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/100430538310378/bastion-square/>

12. Fisherman's Wharf

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CkG3UMUPdLf/> @debabbbble

Coordinates

48.42194208684058, -123.38301874796909

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/aXH3QCSnKHK2PRLWA>

Description

An ideal seaside outing for a sunny day. There's a marina full of fishing and pleasure vessels, along with rows of colorful, whimsical houseboats. Grab some fish and chips or an ice cream from a food kiosk and spend an hour or two enjoying the nautical nonsense all around.

Local tip

Don't miss out on the Finest at Sea Fish Market across the street. This is the best place to buy fresh seafood in the city, and they have a great food truck out front. The fish tacos are amazing!

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<https://gvha.ca/marinas-facilities/fishermans-wharf/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/226719316/fishermans-wharf-victoria-official/>



Local favorites

1. Cook St. Village

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cd4HvG7PltR/> @mukahousevictoria

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.41505891027849, -123.35626940843532

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/KDw9aA6byuXNvAG66>

Description

Government St. may be the classic tourist destination, but this is where locals go to relax. Grab food from one of the many restaurants, cafes, and bakeries, and sit outside under the huge chestnut trees – or take a coffee and some pals out to the waterfront nearby. Even on a rainy day, this place is hoppin'!

Local tip

If you want multiple food options in one place, there's an open-air food court. Just look for the gates about halfway through the village on the east side of the road.

Alerts/safety info

Parking is a challenge here – park at Beacon Hill Park and walk the rest of the way


Website

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/cookstreetvillage/>

2. Ogden Point Breakwater

Photo

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/ogden-point-breakwater-lighthouse-on-victoria-1447214747> 

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.415052057602516, -123.38506870861436

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/Npyvmyuy55H4c2xi9>

Description

Hear that? The water's breaking and a new day's being born! This concrete walkway is popular among locals for its views of the strait, the city, and the cruise ships, as well as the lovely red and white lighthouse at the end. You might spot divers popping up on the other side: they're exploring an underwater kelp forest.

Local tip

Locals love to grab coffee to go at the breakwater cafe. By the way, consider coming here in the evening – the walk back in the dark is beautiful with all the lights twinkling.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/search/keyword/?q=ogden%20point%20breakwater>

3. Westsong Walkway

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cj4ZnEsrt1r/> @ms_sweetleaf

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.42602897648583, -123.37584112016343

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/svHRm4Kik9Y6hUet9>

Description

Follow the northern edge of the Victoria Harbour for a breath of sea air and some enticing sights: not just the strait and downtown, but also such marine wildlife as

seals, otters, and kayakers. The farther you go, the more nature you see on this must-visit two-mile (3km) walk.

Local tip

For one of the best views of the city, make sure to go up to the lookout by the totem poles near the beginning of the walk.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

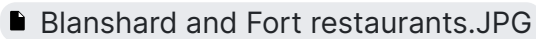
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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/294354602/westsong-walkway/>

4. Blanshard & Fort restaurants

Photo

 by Thomas Guerrero

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.42432182287118, -123.36250785916351

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/dz1seUVnEcJ42eXc6>

Description

Whatever phenomenon led to this amazing density of international restaurants, we're here for it. Over 30 eateries serve grub ranging from tacos and pizza to banh mi and seafood. The area really lights up with the lunchtime crowd, but many places have dinner service too.

Local tip

After your meal, browse the area's shops for books, vinyl records, vintage clothing, and chocolates. Russell Books has a massive selection of new and used books on two levels, and readers could easily spend hours here.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/fortstreetvictoria/>

5. Government House

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CkrSV-NMAEi/> @redgatoradepapi

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.418708774242255, -123.34247688806573

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/yLco9nnzX7RrNc9t7>

Description

Imagine having free rein to tramp through your governor's yard. In Canada, you can! Sort of. This is the official residence of BC's lieutenant governor, and the estate's well-tended gardens and Garry oak meadows are a popular attraction – especially the roses and the herb garden.

Local tip

Near the parking lot behind the house, there's a set of buildings containing a small Costume Museum and a teahouse. Working days are limited, but both are well worth a visit.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<https://ltagov.bc.ca/getting-here/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/272216397/bc-government-house/>

6. Fernwood Square

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CU0NyL5JGpz/> Credit [@stephmosstattoos](#) instead of this account

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.43049070384507, -123.34530947754068

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/JqY9GswcCTF1sZko9>

Description

This pedestrian square is anything but pedestrian. Pop in and out of eclectic boutiques and cafes housed in early 20th-century buildings, then catch a show at the Belfry – a live theater in a former church. A permanent outdoor patio across the road solidifies the square's vibrant atmosphere.

Local tip

Behind the Fernwood Community Center on Gladstone, there's a makeshift skate park. This is a great spot to sip coffee and watch Victoria's aspiring skateboarders try to land a 360 flip-flop.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/search/keyword/?q=fernwood%20square>

7. Ross Bay Cemetery

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/ClxBc2nOlwN/> @cemetery_explorer

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ru/image-photo/ross-bay-cemetery-victoria-vancouver-island-1935186323>  Ross Bay Cemetery.jpg

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.41221986643065, -123.33995671443564

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/PQxGYoeBtxXiAxM67>

Description

A graveyard? Yep. More European in style than North American, this final resting place is full of meandering paths and oak trees as well as soaring obelisks and statues. Grab a snack from the nearby mall and a map from the cemetery's gatehouse, and you're set for a peaceful stroll among the graves.

Local tip

Look for the grave of renowned Victoria artist Emily Carr. Local artists often make a pilgrimage there and leave pens, pencils, drawings, and crayons.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/parks/ross-bay-cemetery.html>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/rossbaycemetery/>

8. Phillips Brewery

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/ChQqbJZPS8X/> @funkeegrowler

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
48.43232734503492, -123.3684235056205

Google Maps:
<https://goo.gl/maps/AaR5YsNymaYmevZcA>

Description

Let it be a testament to Victoria's love of a good brew that this legendary microbrewery takes up nearly an entire city block. They have a huge tasting room for you to sample their beers, but if you're lucky, you may also catch one of their popular concerts, like the Backyard Bash.

Local tip

This area is full of breweries and popular for bar crawls. Just within a five minutes' walk, there are Vancouver Island Brewery to the north and Herald Street Brewing to the south.

Alerts/safety info

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Website
<https://shop.phillipsbeer.com/>

Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/phillipsbrewery/>

9. Galloping Goose Trail

Photo

https://www.instagram.com/p/CjL_JQpN60/ @mikegboivin
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CkRAVvWJnJI/> @wild_seed

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)
48.428569910571376, -123.37073620602614

Google Maps:
<https://goo.gl/maps/Jx6rxu2hzTMmW3jT9>



Description

Once this trail followed the tracks of a very bumpy train ride – hence the name. Transformed into a two-lane bike path in the '90s, it has been extended multiple times and is wildly popular among bike commuters. To follow the trail to its end, you have your choice of riding to Sidney or Sooke.

Local tip

For a leisurely ride, avoid rush hour in the morning and afternoon! On the way, stop in at Caffe Fantastico, about half a mile (1km) from the Johnson Street Bridge.

Alerts/safety info

-  Pass others to their left and ding your bell first
-  Watch for aggressive cyclists, especially during rush hour

Website

<https://www.gallopinggoosetrail.com/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/551425451982885/galloping-goose-trail/>

10. Abkhazi Garden

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/ChDvRnwpsF2/> @louzjen Photos 1 and 2

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.415660577396736, -123.32619007930037

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ruhLiQfpJMNzsqQG7>

Description

It's the definition of a hidden gem: you won't find this beauty unless you're looking for it. A sign on the gate distinguishes Prince and Princess Abkhazi's donated land from the other million-dollar estates in the area, and behind it, visitors trace serene pathways through diverse gardens.

Local tip

In what used to be the family home, there's now a teahouse. They serve amazing sandwiches and baked goods.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<http://conservancy.bc.ca/featured-projects/abkhazi-garden/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/abkhazigarden/>

11. Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bz16LvkiOmL/> @marcnartowski
<https://www.instagram.com/p/B67eigMAqpX/> @eyeofthethor

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.42214936291068, -123.34767189053387

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/DqwsXDa6NDUqZYxq6>

Description

Occupying a modern building and an 1889 mansion, this small but passionate art gallery hosts both traveling exhibitions and work from local artists. A perennial favorite is Emily Carr, a Post-Impressionist painter inspired by the region's Indigenous people. In summer, start here to explore the annual Moss Street Paint-In!

Local tip

If you want a truly unique souvenir, the gift shop in the mansion is perhaps one of the best places to get something that really showcases the city and its art.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

<https://aggv.ca/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/artgalleryofgreatervictoria/>

12. Macaulay Point Park

Photo

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CiBxrA9vAg7/> photo 2 @ladyxsunshine

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.418821, -123.410206

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/M5JRboR5uYjKXXzEA>

Description

The combination of dramatic seaside scenery with historical fortifications makes this park a perfect spot to recharge and have a low-key adventure. Explore tunnels, cannon mounts, and old barracks; join local freestyle climbers on a four-story rock face; or just enjoy the view. Hide-and-seek spots are endless!

Local tip

Turn left out of the parking lot and follow the road for about half a mile (1km) to visit Saxe Point Park. It's a local favorite for summer weekend picnics.

Alerts/safety info

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/macaulaypoint/>

 Instaspots

1. Dragon Alley

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.429795866005165, -123.3683886054997

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/Z11ABiUBpFbvTZHy7>

Photographer's tip

Use the colorful buildings or the classic brick as backdrops! Afterward, stop at Union Coffee for a snack and snap a photo or two on their outdoor patio.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

N/A

Website

N/A

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1021308466/the-emporium-dragon-alley/>

2. Pillars behind the BC Museum

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.41971123625753, -123.36856136472983

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/Zaz5KuCwvYnDiwse7>

Photographer's tip

When using the glass wall as a backdrop, get really low so that you can capture the top curve of the building along with your subject. Dress smart for an extra-sharp look!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

N/A

Website

(I'll attach the Royal BC museum website although it's not really related to this photo spot) <https://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/>

Instagram

(This spot is not a super well known spot, so there aren't any applicable hashtags or geotags that show the pillars)

3. Johnson St. Bridge

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.428387322962855, -123.3718555076195

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/vXRn57HPLuANLTEa9>

Photographer's tip

You can either use the bridge's architecture to frame your shot or show off the ocean view. On the east end of the bridge, there's also the sculpture display, which is an iconic photo opportunity.

Alerts/safety info

 Stand on the pedestrian walkways only, and watch for cyclists

Website

N/A

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/johnsonstreetbridge/>

4. Legislature archways

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.41961849407095, -123.36948208893062

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/KLtFiZsmmgkh875c6>

Photographer's tip

Stand under the arches to frame a totally Instagram-worthy shot! When the sun is high in the sky, the light shines right through the archways. Perfection!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

Website

N/A

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/victorialegislature/>

5. Mt. Tolmie

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.45684480210441, -123.32567220170309

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/hDuZgc2tT49fGHpE8>

Photographer's tip

Follow the white railing to have the Victoria city view as your background, or venture to the east side of the mountain for oak trees and a distant ocean view.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

⚠️ Grass is slippery; don't walk down the slope in poor weather or without suitable shoes

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1029934073/mount-tolmie/>

6. Ivy wall in Bastion Square

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.426246418621766, -123.36899170451001

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/CeCQwxkKTdgCceQp7>

Photographer's tip

Ivy can be a pain, but it sticks around all year – enjoy a little bit of greenery even in the winter. Avoid wearing natural green or red to stand out more!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

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Instagram

(Both equally don't have many pictures to help visualize the spot)

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/100430538310378/bastion-square/>

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/bastionsquare/>

7. Market Square

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.42781521441783, -123.36842924766724

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/vq8zRmG9n8CdLEL28>

Photographer's tip

Tell the photographer to use the fountain or the different stairways to position the light behind you and out of your eyes. While you're there, enjoy the many restaurants and coffee shops in the area!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

Website

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/299528/market-square/>

8. Empress walkway & sign

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.42170065216126, -123.36809698785665


Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/VxArYAr7qgoWuSDa8>

Photographer's tip

Pose between the hedges with the historic hotel's sign in the background. While you're there, pop inside to see the iconic chandelier and smell the signature scent of the Empress.

Alerts/safety info

 Lots of tourists in summer

Website

<https://www.fairmont.com/empress-victoria/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/49254/fairmont-empress/>

9. The Atrium

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.426289644876796, -123.3614443912635

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/6VSu5tbiZef7duGx7>

Photographer's tip

Come here to hide from a rainy day and still get great photos. Experiment with the camera close to the ground and angled upward to show off the architecture.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/237259761/the-atrium/>

10. Inner Harbour walkway

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.422554463625445, -123.36868038214583

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/uKsHQQQtSX3ZLKQ8>

Photographer's tip

The entire walkway is stunning. Tell the photographer to aim for the perfect angle to show off the Legislature while still keeping the light behind you and out of your eyes. Return in the dark to see all the pretty lights!

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/799448710192071/inner-harbour-on-the-water/>

11. Beacon Hill Park spots

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.41203314367228, -123.36241236458169

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/bqiJmdrEDb3Kp2236>

Photographer's tip

With lots of natural foliage as well as groomed gardens, this park has plenty of potential backdrops. My favorite spot, however, is the rose garden when it's in bloom (late summer and early fall).

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/219264280/beacon-hill-park/>

12. Dallas Road beach bluffs

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.40742217511618, -123.36586944721472

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/8EhUNGBjJoydQeix6>

Photographer's tip

After going down the stairs, follow the rock around to the right to get the perfect view of the ocean and bluffs. Be aware that in summer, most beaches become clothing-optional in the early morning.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

▲Rocks get very slippery in rainy weather

Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/216228499/dallas-road/>

13. Saxe Point

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.421494244619815, -123.4187035315474

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/a6amHmGykSABeM7j9>

Photographer's tip

At this photo spot, you can choose from a variety of backdrops, including small gardens, sheltering groves, and ocean views.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

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Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/1029018212/saxe-point/>

14. Fan Tan Cafe neon sign

Coordinates from [Google Maps](#)

48.429265023164525, -123.36787287368944

Google Maps:

<https://goo.gl/maps/2SHYziXUS1DHvk7F7>

Photographer's tip

This is always a stunning spot, but it's especially cool at night with flash on or during the spring when the cherry blossoms are in bloom.

Alerts/safety info (when relevant)

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Website

<https://fantancafe.ca/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/140461086656272/fan-tan-cafe/>