



## Hotel Grand Pacific Concierge Guide To Victoria

### 1. The City of Victoria ([www.tourismvictoria.com](http://www.tourismvictoria.com), [www.victoriavisitorschoice.com](http://www.victoriavisitorschoice.com))

Established as Fort Victoria in 1843 the City of Victoria boasts the most moderate climate in Canada. You will be reminded of this as you walk, shop, eat and drink your way around its many boutique and restaurant lined streets. Visit Old Towne, China Town or Market Square for a flavour of the past. Whether you are walking, riding or driving there are many sights to see.

### 2. The Butchart Gardens ([www.butchartgardens.com](http://www.butchartgardens.com))

In 1904 the gardens began with an effort to beautify a worked-out quarry site on the 130-acre estate of Mr. and Mrs. R.P. Butchart. The Sunken Garden soon spilled over into the Rose, Italian and Japanese Gardens. Today the horticultural excellence achieved by the Butcharts is maintained throughout 55 acres of breathtaking gardens. You can spend two to three hours exploring the gardens and gift shop, then stop for lunch, tea or dinner. The gardens are open year round with exciting displays and events highlighted on Saturdays in the summer with a fire works display. Transportation is available and takes approx. 45 minutes to drive from the hotel. Phone: 1-866-652-4422 (Toll Free)

### 3. Whale Watching / Wild Life Tours with Orca Spirit (Seasonal) ([www.orcaspirit.com](http://www.orcaspirit.com))

The waters around Victoria are home to many species of animals. The killer whale or orca commands most of the attention yet there are porpoises, dolphins, eagles, seals, sea lions, herons, otters and that's just the beginning. Pick up at the hotel is available. Phone: (250) 383-8411

### 4. Afternoon Tea at the Empress ([www.fairmonthotels.com](http://www.fairmonthotels.com)) Phone: (250) 389-2727 or Hotel Grand Pacific ([www.hotelgrandpacific.com](http://www.hotelgrandpacific.com)) Phone: (250) 386-0450

Early in Queen Victoria's reign, the Duchess of Bedford, who habitually suffered a "sinking feeling" around five o'clock started taking tea with thin sandwiches and cakes, and the afternoon tea hour was born, a custom that was to evolve ultimately into a serious meal known as "High Tea."

### 5. Double Decker Bus Tours (Seasonal) ([www.victoriatours.com](http://www.victoriatours.com))

Grayline offers a wide variety of double decker bus tours, the tours range from the 90-minute city tours to three-hour long Butchart Gardens tours. These are excellent ways to see the city of Victoria. Phone: (250) 388-5248

### 6. Seaplane Tours (Seasonal) ([www.harbour-air.com](http://www.harbour-air.com))

This half-hour flight is an ideal introduction to seaplane aviation and includes spectacular vistas of downtown Victoria, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca with the Olympic Mountains in the distance. Enjoy unique views of the buildings ringing the harbour and grand houses perched above the rugged coastline. The exhilarating spray of the water is always a highlight during take-off and landing. Phone: 1-800-665-0212 (Toll Free)

### 7. Royal BC Museum, IMAX Theatre, Maritime Museum, Victoria Art Gallery, ([www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)) ([www.imaxvictoria.com](http://www.imaxvictoria.com)) ([www.mmbc.ca](http://www.mmbc.ca)) ([www.aggv.bc.ca](http://www.aggv.bc.ca))

British Columbia's premier natural history museum offers the very best experience, be sure to check into their on-going exhibits. The National Geographic Theatre, IMAX Theatre offers a spectacular array of their award winning shows through the day. The Maritime Museum offers a glimpse into the past of Victoria's sea faring history. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is one of Canada's finest art museums with a permanent collection of 15,000 objets d'art. The collection features art from Asia, Europe and North America with primary emphasis placed on Canada and Japan.

### 8. Craigdarroch Castle ([www.craigdarrochcastle.com](http://www.craigdarrochcastle.com))

Built in the 1880s by B.C.'s first millionaire, Mr Robert Dunsmuir's Craigdarroch Castle offers an incredible feast of the finest building materials available at that time. Visit the castle's 39 rooms and climb the 87 steps to the lookout tower. Phone: (250) 387-3014



### 9. Ghostly Walks ([www.discoverthepast.com](http://www.discoverthepast.com))

Behind Victoria's old-world charm lie tales of eccentric characters, heroic deeds, intrigue, love, humour, hangings, murder – and ghosts! Join a professional guide to explore courtyards, alleys and other spooky places where ghosts may lurk. The walk is 90 minutes. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. (no reservations – just turn up)

### 10. Horse and Carriage Ride ([www.victoriacarriage.com](http://www.victoriacarriage.com) or [www.tallyhoutours.com](http://www.tallyhoutours.com))

No visit is complete to Victoria without a ride in an open horse drawn carriage. Choose from several different routes that take you through Victoria's downtown area and oceanfront. Phone: (250) 383-5067

**These are just some of the possibilities for a memorable experience while you are visiting Victoria.**

**Please feel free to contact the Concierge at the Hotel Grand Pacific call (250) 380-4484 or contact the Concierge at [concierge@hotelgrandpacific.com](mailto:concierge@hotelgrandpacific.com) if you have any questions or suggestions or require reservations.**

## Activities In and Around Victoria

<b>VICTORIA BUG ZOO</b>	<a href="http://www.bugzoo.bc.ca">www.bugzoo.bc.ca</a>	631 Courtney Street	(250) 384-BUGS
The Victoria Bug Zoo™ is home to some of the world's most incredible insects, arachnids and other creepy-crawlies. Their friendly tour guides will even offer to let you hold some multi-legged creatures. In addition to the zoo, there is a gift shop carrying a variety of insect-related products.			
<b>ROYAL B.C. MUSEUM &amp; IMAX THEATRE</b>	<a href="http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca">www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca</a> <a href="http://www.imaxvictoria.com">www.imaxvictoria.com</a>	675 Belleville Street	(250) 387-3701 (250) 953-4629
The Royal British Columbia Museum is a place of discovery. Through three unique galleries, the museum showcases the human and natural history of British Columbia, and features periodic exhibitions of international renown. Highly realistic and inviting displays, such as the Ice Age and Coastal Forest dioramas, provide visitors with a sense of having truly experienced the authentic settings of many exhibits. The National Geographic IMAX Theatre is a 408-seat theatre features the 2-D IMAX Experience... the most powerful and involving film experience which brings images to life on a screen over six stories tall with 12,000 watts of IMAX Digital surround sound. The Royal British Columbia Museum is located at the corner of Belleville and Douglas Street, two blocks from Hotel Grand Pacific.			
<b>MARITIME MUSEUM</b>	<a href="http://www.mmbc.bc.ca">www.mmbc.bc.ca</a>	28 Bastion Square	(250) 385-4222
The Maritime Museum of British Columbia is committed to promoting, presenting and interpreting for the residents of British Columbia and their visitors our vibrant maritime heritage, through stimulating exhibits and dynamic educational and performing arts programs. On an ongoing basis, the museum will collect, document, preserve, store, study and display artifacts, scientific and technological specimens, works of art and archival material of maritime interest.			
<b>ROYAL LONDON WAX MUSEUM</b>	<a href="http://www.waxworld.com">www.waxworld.com</a>	470 Belleville Street	(250) 388-4461
Open year-round, this premiere exhibition of over 300 life-size wax figures and much more is conveniently located in the heart of downtown on Victoria's Inner Harbour, across from the Parliament Buildings.			
<b>PACIFIC UNDERSEA GARDENS</b>	<a href="http://www.pacificunderseagardens.com">www.pacificunderseagardens.com</a>	490 Belleville Street	(250) 382-5717
Visit the amazing Pacific Undersea Gardens and GO DEEP in Victoria's Inner Harbour. See the live dive show in the exclusive Undersea Theatre on the bottom of the sea. Descend into a world where Victoria's reputation as the <i>City of Gardens</i> extends beneath the tide line. Located in the Inner Harbour			
<b>MINIATURE WORLD</b>	<a href="http://www.miniatureworld.com">www.miniatureworld.com</a>	649 Humboldt Street	(250) 385-9731
Welcome to the little people's Wonderful World of Smallness. Walk down its road, step into the storybooks of fact, fiction and fantasy. Return to those fond memories of yesteryear, those childhood dreams and history's greatest moments.			
<b>SHAW OCEAN DISCOVERY CENTRE</b>	<a href="http://www.oceandiscovery.ca">www.oceandiscovery.ca</a>	9811 Seaport Place	(250) 665-7511



Located in Sidney (approx. a 30-minute drive north) on the waterfront, the Ocean Discovery Centre features exhibits such as the Deep Sea Elevator which creates the illusion of descending to the sea floor by using special effects, the Gallery of the Drifters where their Oceaneer will introduce you to algae, plankton and jellies. The Ocean's Heartbeat is a classroom with streaming underwater video and mini-ecosystems under microscopes. The Gallery of the Salish Seas is full of fish, invertebrates and marine plants. Check out the wolf eels, rock fish and especially the octopus in their overhead grottos. Using the one-finger rule, shake hands with an urchin and be tickled by a sea star.

**MINERAL WORLD & SCRATCH PATCH** [www.scratchpatch.com](http://www.scratchpatch.com) 9891 Seaport Place (250) 655-4367

Welcome to a family-oriented, hands-on experience of the Earth Sciences. The Interpretive Centre is an area within Mineral World given over exclusively to experiencing rocks, minerals, crystals and fossils. There's a great range of hands-on displays, which encourage you to look, interact and learn. Parents with small children will usually work as a team, but children over the age of eight are capable of experiencing this area for themselves at their own pace.

**HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES** [www.tallyhotours.com](http://www.tallyhotours.com) [www.victoriacarriage.com](http://www.victoriacarriage.com) Hotel pick up is possible. (250) 514-9257  
(250) 383-2207

Victoria's original and oldest sightseeing offering a unique experience, without which any visit to Victoria is incomplete. This is the best way for you and your family to experience our charming city of gardens with a horse drawn tour. Fully narrated, you will see the oldest church in B.C., wind through the beautiful 155-acre city park, Beacon Hill, and amble along Victoria's panoramic waterfront. Located between the Legislative Buildings and Hotel Grand Pacific on Victoria's famous Inner Harbour.

## Parks and Activities

**BEACON HILL PARK and PETTING ZOO (Seasonal)** [www.beaconhillpark.com](http://www.beaconhillpark.com) (250) 381-2532

Beacon Hill Park is located along the south shore of Victoria overlooking the Juan de Fuca Strait. It has been a city park since 1882. Beacon Hill Park was originally called *meeacan* (the Salish name for belly) by the First Nations people because from a distance, it looked like the belly of a large man lying on his back. The Children's Petting Zoo is a hands-on experience for young and old.

**CRAIG X CLIMBING GYM** [www.urbancliffculture.com](http://www.urbancliffculture.com) 341 John Street (250) 383-4628

Open since 1995, Craig X has provided Victoria with a complete urban climbing experience. Climbing is a modern and fun way to stay in shape and can also lead to some thrilling adventures outside. Whether you are a seasoned pro or just starting out, this great way to spend the day. Ages 7+

**FORT RODD HILL and FISGARD LIGHTHOUSE** [www.parkscan.harbour.com](http://www.parkscan.harbour.com) Fort Rodd Hill Rd. (250) 478-5849

Step inside Canada's oldest westcoast lighthouse, where colourful displays tell of ships wrecked and lives saved! Stroll along the ramparts of three coast artillery gun batteries built a century ago. Look down the barrels of the original guns and explore underground magazines. Located only 20 minutes from downtown Victoria via Highway 1A and Ocean Boulevard. Special family rates, open daily, all year around.

**WILDPLAY ELEMENT PARK** <http://www.wildplay.com/victoria/index.php> 1767 Island Highway (250) 590-7529

Our Monkido aerial adventure tree to tree courses are elevated obstacle courses set in a beautiful Douglas Fir forest, and securely suspended between the trees at 10 to 60 feet off the ground! Some of the elements of the park include zip lines, suspended bridges, scramble nets and swinging logs. Our aerial adventure courses offer a diverse and exciting experience within the comfort of knowing you're attached to continuous safety cables. No matter what your age or fitness level, our courses are designed for your pleasure in a unique outdoor environment.

**GALEY FARM (Seasonal)** [www.galeyfarms.com](http://www.galeyfarms.com) 4150 Blenkinsop Drive (250) 477-5713

Galey Farm's Egypt Exhibit and Country Maze are now two of Canada's leading mazes. This one-of-a-kind, highly educational experience is fun for all ages. It contains a fully animated ghost town and underground caves that take you through the underside of a vegetable garden. There is a 20-foot trestle, gardens, fun house, adventure playground, petting zoo and replica pyramid and Sphinx and hundreds of scarecrows going about their daily lives.

**SAANICH COMMONWEALTH PLACE** [www.saanichrecreation.com](http://www.saanichrecreation.com) 4636 Elk Lake Drive (250) 475-7600

Complete facility with a children's pool, hot tub, wave pool with pirate ship and a giant water slide. Drop in for some early morning fitness or start your day off by relaxing in the hot tub, sauna, or steam room.

**THE GALLOPING GOOSE TRAIL** [www.sookeoutdoors.com/gallopinggoosetrail](http://www.sookeoutdoors.com/gallopinggoosetrail) (250) 385-4222

The Goose is your trail. You can cycle, walk, run, jog, in-line skate, wheelchair, push a stroller, walk the dog, ride a horse, commute to work, spend a quiet Sunday afternoon, push yourself through the entire trail, or take a 15-minute break on this multi-use, 100-kilometre former railway line that is now a regional trail.



### **OAK MEADOWS/ASPEN PARK HORSEBACK RIDING**

www.oakmeadowsridingschool.com      4085 Prospect Lake Rd.      (250) 479-6843

Familiarize them with skills to help them have a good, safe ride. Cost starts when trail commences. An indoor riding area is available. Ride and enjoy the beautiful scenic trails of Thetis Lake Park on safe, well-schooled horses. Before embarking on your horseback ride on the trails, riders are given a practice session with instruction to for more information.

### **VIC WEST SKATE PARK**

Concrete, boxes, big bowl, quarter pipes, hubbas big & small, rails down banks, flat ground rails, flat bar rails, fun boxes, step up to manual pad, two pyramids. Located on Esquimalt road two blocks past Tyee road. It's the best and the biggest park on Vancouver Island.

## **Electronic Amusement Activities**

### **THE ZONE (AMUSEMENTS)**

1225 Blanshard Street      (250) 384-7215

They carry the latest in pinball, video games, simulators, and coin-operated sport games. Geared towards families, teens, and adults wanting to have a good time. Located in the Capitol 6 Theatre building.

### **LASER CITY**

www.lasercity.ca      749 View Street      (250) 382-1361

Drop in on your own or with a group to play an exciting game of in-door laser tag.

## **Cinemas**

Please check [www.forreel.com](http://www.forreel.com) and look under Greater Victoria listings. The Capitol and Odeon cinemas near the corner of Blanshard and Yates Streets are the closest to Hotel Grand Pacific (about a 15-minute walk).

### **CAPITOL SIX MOVIE THEATRE**

www.empiretheatres.com      805 Yates Street      (250) 384-6811

View the latest movie releases on six full-size screens.

### **CINEPLEX ODEON**

www.cineplex.com      780 Yates Street      (250) 383-0513

View the latest releases on eight screens.

## **Rentals**

### **SPORTS RENT**

www.sportsrentbc.com      1950 Government Street      (250) 385-7368

Sports Rent is Victoria's complete sports equipment rental center offering a diverse selection of high quality sporting goods for rent by the day, by the week or longer. Conveniently located within walking distance from Located at. Phone for more information.

### **CYCLE BC RENTALS (Seasonal)**

www.cyclebc.ca      685 Humboldt Street      (250) 380-2453  
1-888-380-2453

Cycle BC Rentals gives you the opportunity to experience one-of-a-kind adventure! They carry Canada's largest selection of rental motorcycles, scooters, mopeds and bicycles.