

# Three Days in Victoria

Victoria's a small city that's got it all: historic architecture, oceanside charm, nightlife, great dining, shopping, and beautiful natural surroundings. There's something for everyone regardless of your interests, but here are some highlights to get you started.

For more ideas about what to do in Victoria, ask our friendly staff for suggestions, or go online to our very own Victoria guide at:

[www.oceanisland.com/victoria-guide](http://www.oceanisland.com/victoria-guide)

## DAY 1: ARE YOU THE TOURISTY TYPE?

Never been to Victoria? Only have a couple of days? Don't worry, because we got you covered. If this is your first time in Victoria, go explore the touristy sites, which are a lot of fun. Step back into Victoria's rich history at the inner harbour, with the famous **Empress Hotel** and the magnificent **Legislature Building**. But if you are really into history, visit the **Royal BC Museum** for the natural and human history of British Columbia. As one of the top ten museums of Canada, the Royal BC Museum will surely entertain you for a big part of the day.

Enriched with new information, continue your day on to the **Fisherman's Wharf**. This funky place is home to some unique floating homes and it's a great place to eat some lunch and watch all kinds of sea animals. Walk along the harbour to downtown Victoria for a little bit of sightseeing. Check out **Bastion Square** and **Trounce Alley** before heading to Canada's oldest **Chinatown** where you can see its ornate gate and the very narrow **Fan Tan alley**. It also boasts many options for dinner such as **Bao** and **Varsha**. And may we suggest the **QV cafe & bakery** for dessert? Insider tip: finishing their Mount Everest cake gives you the same satisfaction as climbing the real thing.

## DAY 2: IN & OUTSIDE

Fuel up for the day by grabbing your free breakfast right here in the hostel. You will need the energy for outside activities! Book a **Whale Watching tour** with us and explore the waters to find orcas, humpback whales and other marine life. Go for brunch after your tour to discuss your adventures in restaurants such as **The Blue Fox**, **Floyds** and **The Jam Café**. After all those calories, you can either work-out or go for a stroll in **Beacon Hill Park**.

Grab an ice cream cone at the **Beacon Hill Drive Inn** and check out peacocks in tree tops or make your way to the beach and enjoy stunning views of the **Olympic Mountains**. Walk back via **Cook Street Village** and if you're hungry (emphasis on the "if" after your big brunch!) check out many of their great restaurants.

Alternatively, you can come back to the hostel and have your free dinner here! After all that walking you deserve some great drinks! You can check out the **Ocean Island Lounge** or go to the **Canoe Brew Pub** which is located by the water. But, if you are here in summer we totally (like, totally) recommend the **Rooftop Patio**, which offers great views of downtown Victoria together with great drinks!

## DAY 3: NEARBY NATURE

The city of Victoria is beautiful, but outside of the city boundaries is where the beauty of Vancouver Island really starts. Vancouver Island is known for its beautiful nature and areas around Victoria are not an exception. Start your day with a yummy breakfast at our hostel or go to one of the breakfast kingdoms such as **John's Place**, which is just located at the other corner of this block. You'll be busy all day, so make sure to pack some lunch! **The Market on Yates** can provide you with great sandwiches and healthy salads, but if you want more choice, visit the **Victoria Public Market**.

Easily accessible by both public transport and a car is **Mount Douglas Park**. You can choose to hike to the top, or drive to the top. Either way, **Mount Douglas** will provide you with great views. Preferably go there on a clear day so you can not only see downtown Victoria but also the surrounding mountains. Additionally, you can soak up the sun on **Mount Douglas Beach**, which is adjacent to the park's entrance. If you are feeling a little more adventurous, check out **Goldstream Park** which is set in a temperate old growth rainforest and is home to the **Niagara Falls** (you know, the little brother of the other Niagara Falls). Take the Goldmine Trail to see several old mines and to go up the railway trestle, which gives you a stunning view of the park. After a day of hiking and exploring, you must be feeling a lil' worn out.

The best way to combat this with? Great food! End your day on a high note and go to one of the many great restaurants Victoria has to offer. Get some big burgers at the **Pink Bicycle** or if you are running low on da cash, go to **El Furniture Warehouse** for some cheap but enjoyable eats!

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