

TOURISM VICTORIA 2013 BRAND TRACKER AUGUST 1, 2013



TOURISM VICT**\$**RIA

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OBJECTIVES

1. Identify destination decision criteria and relative importance of each one 2. Determine Victoria's strengths & weaknesses as compared to competitive destinations

3. Assess sources of inspiration for taking a vacation

4. Profile travellers' behaviours and attitudes related to travel purchases and preferences

5. Measure travellers' media habits to inform marketing strategy

Where possible, measures are tracked to the 2011 baseline study.

METHODOLOGY

15-minute online survey	800 completed surveys	Margin of error*: +/-3.5%	Fielded between July 2 and 9, 2013		
Target Respondents					
Vancouver (400n) Seattle (200n) Calgary (200n)	Have taken overnight trip in past 2 years or likely to take one in next 2 years to Victoria	Likely to spend \$250+ per adult on next vacation	Between ages of 25 and 65 years		

Potential Victoria market grew: from **2.14M** in 2011 to **2.74M** in 2013

Victoria's potential visitor market is growing and points to a positive trend for tourism to the city.

- Recent/potential visitors has grown in Seattle, Vancouver and Calgary.
- Victoria continues to be attractive to travellers without children across a broad age range.
- Those who are adventurous and enjoy the outdoors are the most drawn to Victoria as a travel destination.



Continue to target Seattle.

- Seattle still represents the bulk of Victoria's recent and potential visitors because of its large population.
- While past 2 year visitation is down, this has created a larger untapped market of likely future visitors. It is critical for Victoria to reach this audience.
 - The decline is confirmed with both survey results and historical border crossings into BC. The USA Border crossings have not recovered since dropping in the mid 2000s.
- With familiarity down as well (not surprising as fewer have visited), education is critical.
- Also, despite slowly improving economic conditions in the USA the strong Canadian dollar remains a barrier. As such, promotions/deals will play a big part in motivating visitation from Seattle.



Vancouver residents are the low hanging fruit and a big proportion of Victoria's visitors. As a market it has risen in importance.

- This growth in the total potential market for Victoria since 2011 is largely driven by Vancouver.
- Significantly more Vancouver residents are recent or potential Victoria visitors this year.
- The proportion of Vancouver residents who recently visited Victoria is at a record high and now surpasses that of Seattle (which took the top spot in 2011).
- There is an opportunity to draw new and repeat visitors from Vancouver since they show stronger interest in Victoria this year, coupled with easier access (no border, more ferries) and no concerns about exchange rates.

Overall, destinations will need to deliver more in order to satisfy travellers.

- All travel factors are rated as more important (many significantly so) in 2013 compared to 2011.
- This hints that travellers are becoming more demanding of destinations and it may be more difficult to please them. Victoria will need to provide even more proof points to attract and satisfy travellers going forward.

Victoria should continue leveraging its strength of offering a relaxing atmosphere.

- This attribute is significantly more important to travellers when choosing a vacation destination this year compared to 2011, and Victoria is the only destination that can claim its relaxing atmosphere to be a competitive strength.
- There is a clear opportunity for Victoria to differentiate in its marketing.
- In addition, Victoria's heritage and walkability are secondary strengths to leverage.

Negative perceptions of Victoria's affordability and accessibility still exist and need to be addressed despite some improvement since 2011.

- Same as in 2011, affordability and accessibility hold a lot of weight for travellers when deciding on a destination, and they are still competitive disadvantageous of Victoria.
- Although Victoria made some directional gains for affordability and accessibility perceptions this year, more
 efforts are needed to continue to move the needle. Convenience of ferries and special price discounts need to be
 emphasized.

Focus on strengthening perceptions of Victoria's restaurants.

- Restaurants are playing a larger role in the travel industry today compared to 2011:
 - 1. Being well known for restaurants is significantly more important as a travel decision criteria this year;
 - 2. There is an increase in proportion of "foodies" compared to 2011; and,
 - 3. On an unaided basis, travellers tell us restaurants and dining inspire travel.
- For Victoria, this is especially critical since restaurants are a perceived competitive weakness. There is an opportunity to better communicate and showcase Victoria's restaurants.



Seattle and Vancouver are strong competitors for Victoria; finding ways to further differentiate is critical.

- Seattle and Vancouver boast many strengths, including being well-known for its restaurants and having a vibrant nightlife which are competitive weaknesses of Victoria.
- These destinations also share some strengths with Victoria (such as emphasizing its heritage, having a variety of museums/galleries and having marine/wildlife viewing opportunities). This threatens Victoria's ability to differentiate.
- Going forward, Victoria may face greater challenges if perceptions of Seattle and Vancouver continue to improve. Victoria must find more avenues to distinguish its offerings against Seattle and Vancouver.

Word of mouth is critical, and social media plays a role.

- Friends and family are major influencers of travel. Unaided inspiration for travel are:
 - Travelling for the purposes of visiting friends and family
 - Travelling because of friends/family recommendations
 - The opportunity to travel with friends/family
- It follows that social media plays a key role for travel. Online review websites, social media and blogs are all strong influencers of travel.
- Continuing to invest time and resources in social media will help bolster perceptions of Victoria.



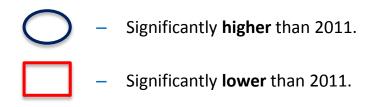
Victoria should continue focusing on integrated marketing campaigns to inspire and motivate travellers.

- Word of mouth is the top influencer of travel among a broad audience. Other than that, travellers use a variety of sources to inform their decisions.
- For instance, social media and other online sources, magazine articles and television shows all have an impact travel decisions.

DETAILED FINDINGS

LEGEND

Where possible, 2013 measures are tracked to the 2011 baseline study. The following symbols are used to indicate if changes are significantly different.



DETAILED FINDINGS: MARKET OVERVIEW

THE MARKET: 2.74M TRAVELLERS

REFERSTO PEOPLE WHO...

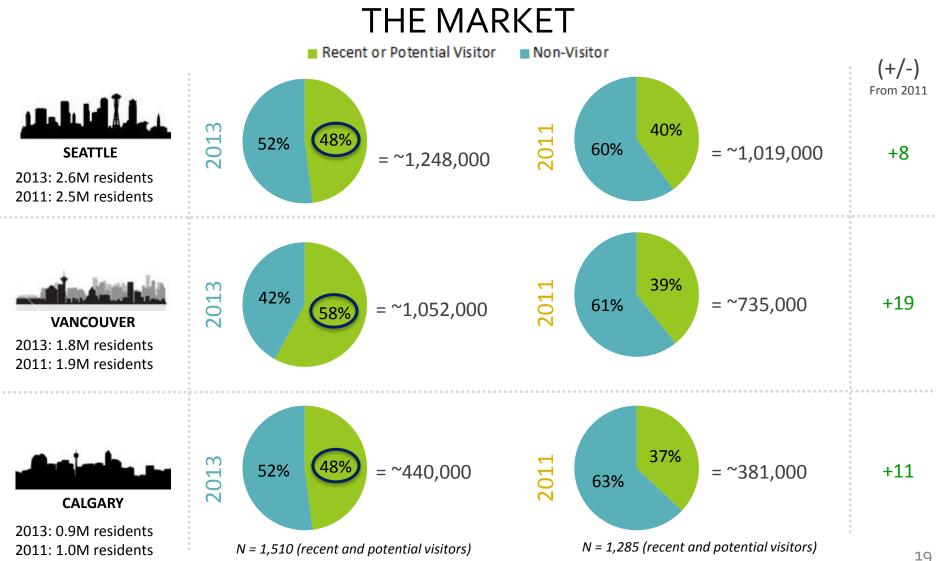
Visited Victoria in past 2 years or would visit in next 2 years

Would spent at least \$250 per adult

In 2013, the market size is ~2.74 M

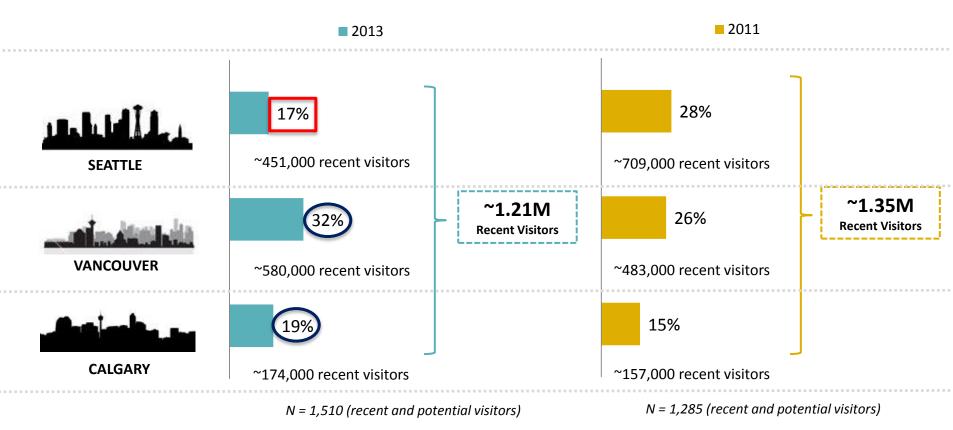
In 2011, the ~2.14M

Potential market for Victoria increased by 28% over the past two years.



Note: Canadian market estimates are based on Statistics Canada estimates for adults 20+ in 2011. US market estimates are based on US Census estimates for adults 18+ in 2011.

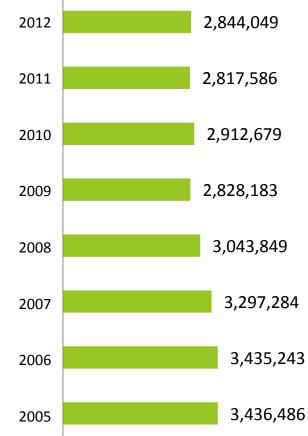
RECENT VISITATION TO VICTORIA (PAST 2 YEARS)



The bulk of Victoria's recent visitors shifted from Seattle residents to Vancouver residents.

US TOURISTS ENTERING BC



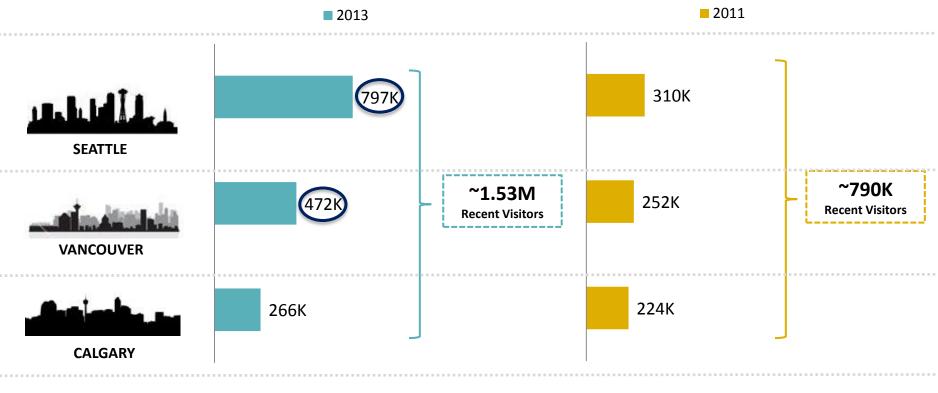


NEXT TWO YEAR GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

Untapped visitors have doubled from 790K in 2011.



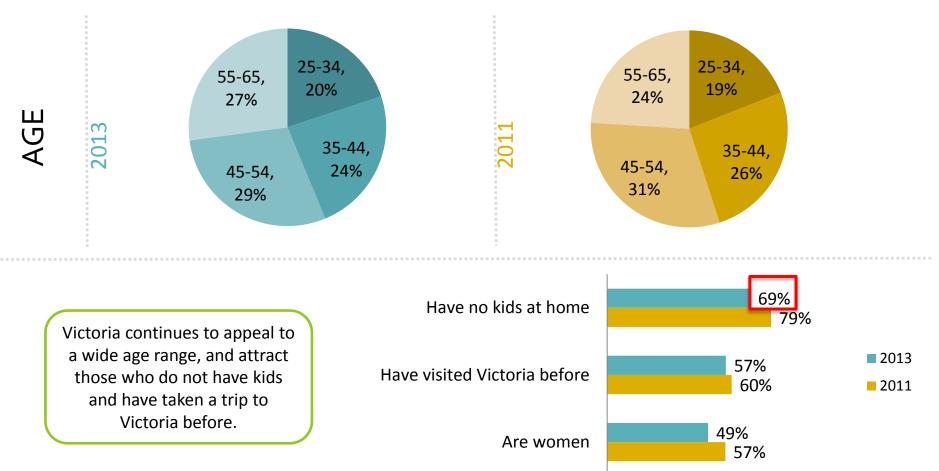
NEXT TWO YEAR GROWTH OPPORTUNITY



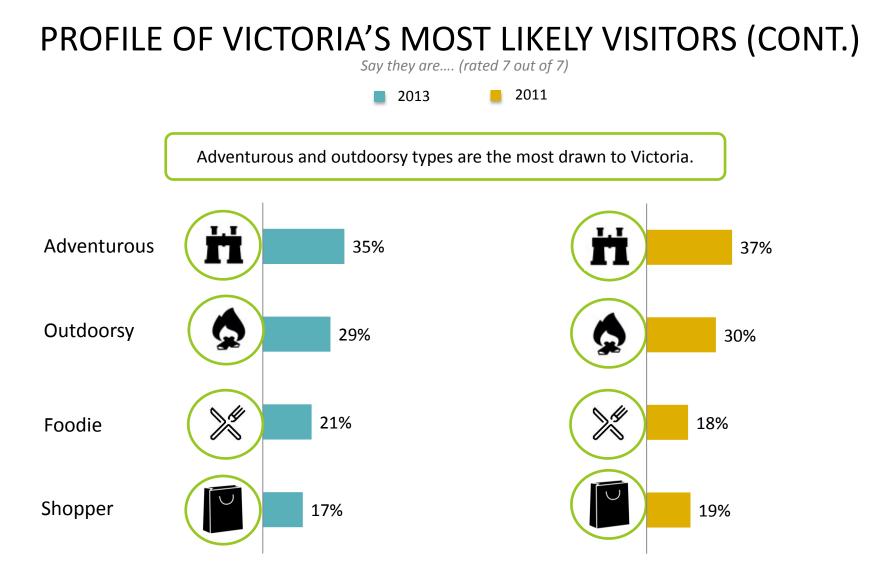
N = 1,510 (recent and potential visitors)

N = 1,285 (recent and potential visitors)

PROFILE OF VICTORIA'S MOST LIKELY VISITORS



2013: N = 302 (very likely to visit Victoria in the next two years)

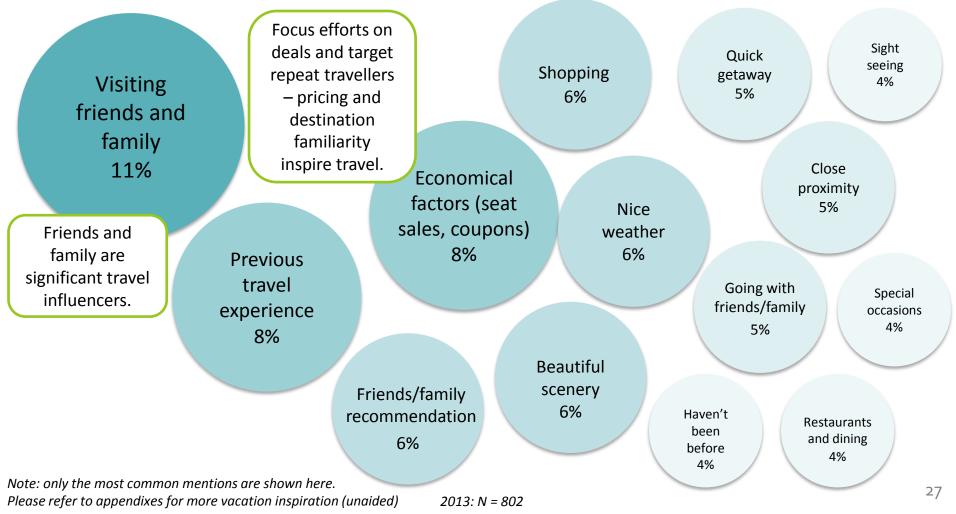


2013: N = 302 (very likely to visit Victoria in the next two years)

DETAILED FINDINGS: CATEGORY INSPIRATION

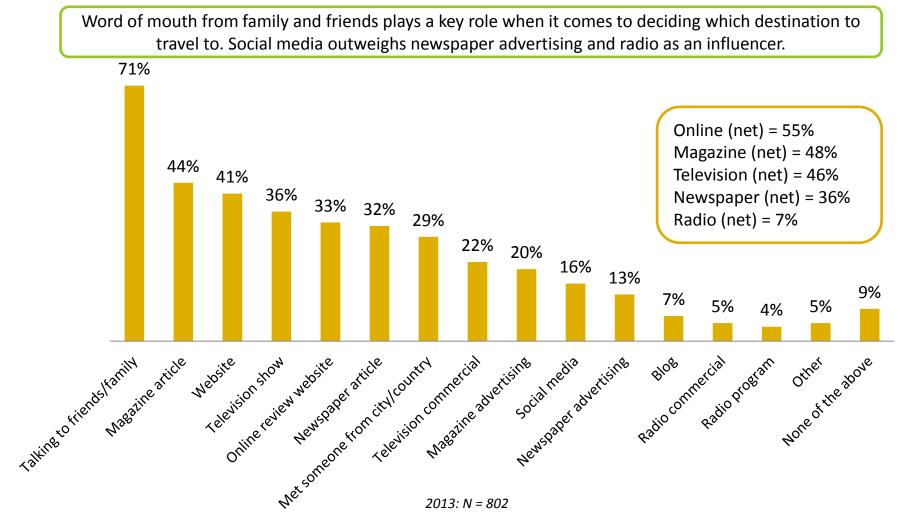
VACATION INSPIRATION (UNAIDED)

Thinking of your most recent vacation/weekend getaway, please tell us what **inspired** you to visit that destination. That is, did you see, read or hear anything that got you interested or reminded you of that destination?



VACATION INSPIRATION (AIDED)

Which of the following, if any, have ever inspired you to learn more about or to actually visit a place for vacation?



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DETAILED FINDINGS: CATEGORY IMPORTANCE

CATEGORY IMPORTANCE

- The next two slides outline the travel decision criteria that matter most to potential visitors to Victoria. The attributes are placed into three tiers:
 - COST OF ENTRY: Are attributes which are "do or die" in choosing a destination. Victoria must
 perform on all of these or risk losing a significant number of travellers.
 - SECONDARY: Are important in helping develop the distinct position and personality of a destination, but are not deal breakers. While it is not necessary to perform well on all secondary attributes, stronger general performance by a destination here will create more motivation to visit.
 - LESS IMPORTANT: These attributes are lowest in priority to address. They do help in boosting
 positive perceptions of a destination, but should not be focused on before attributes in the cost of
 entry or secondary tiers.

CATEGORY IMPORTANCE

How important are the following to you when choosing a vacation destination? % Important (rated 6,7 out of 7)

> The most critical factors in 2011 continue to be the most important this year.

81% 77%

77% 7<u>3</u>%

68%

72% 66%

68% 64%

61% 56%

38%

42% 41%

42% 41% Travellers are more demanding nowadays – nearly all attributes score higher on importance this year than in 2011.

Affordable to travel to Affordable accommodations Is easy for you to get to Offers a very relaxing atmosphere Range of attractions to choose from Variety of accommodations Unique experience found nowhere else Is walkable Known for its restaurants Variety of events Culturally diverse Ideal for travellers vacationing w/out children Great green spaces and gardens 2013

2013: N = 802 | 2011: N = 612

2011

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COST OF ENTRY Critical factors that cannot be ignored

SECONDARY Differentiators, help build a unique experience

CATEGORY IMPORTANCE (CONT.)

How important are the following to you when choosing a vacation destination?

% Important (rated 6,7 out of 7)

Emphasizes its heritage Romantic getaway for couples Many hiking and walking trails or paths Marine life and land based wildlife viewing NA Variety of museums and art galleries Very family friendly Excellent wineries and wine tours Vibrant nightlife Boutique shopping Great water sports Ideal for retirees Great cycling options NA Great golf courses

_38% 36% 35% 37% 34% 33% 30% 32% 29% 27% 26% 23% 19% 17% 16% 13% 11% 12% 10% 10%

Newly added attributes *marine and wildlife viewing* and *great cycling options* are lower on the priority list.

LESS IMPORTANT Low priority, address after cost of entry and secondary criteria

DETAILED FINDINGS: ACTION GRID

ACTION GRID: EXPLANATION

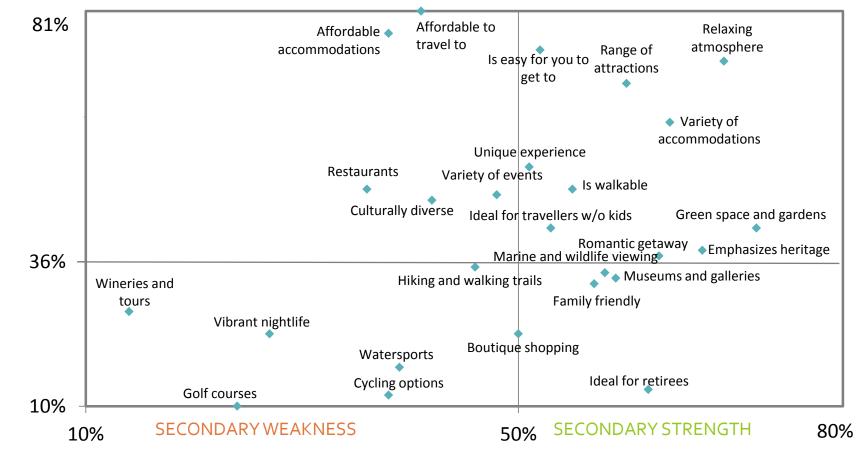
- The action grid is meant to help Victoria not only prioritize attributes, but also understand which need improvement by comparing category importance against Victoria's performance. The action grid is broken into four quadrants:
 - PRIMARY STRENGTH: <u>These strengths should be maintained and leveraged in messaging</u>. These are attributes which are cost of entry or secondary, and Victoria generally performs <u>above</u> competitors on them.
 - PRIMARY WEAKNESS: <u>These are critical to address and will yield the greatest return in driving more visitors.</u> These are attributes which are cost of entry or secondary, and Victoria generally performs <u>below</u> competitors on them.
 - SECONDARY STRENGTH: <u>These are differentiators and add to Victoria's brand</u> but should be only addressed after primary strengths and weaknesses. These are secondary or less important, but Victoria generally performs above competitors.
 - SECONDARY WEAKNESS: <u>Are the lowest priority</u>. These are secondary or less important, and Victoria generally performs below competitors.

2013 ACTION GRID OVERVIEW

PRIMARY WEAKNESS

IMPORTANCE

PRIMARY STRENGTH



PERFORMANCE

PRIMARY STRENGTHS

Attributes	Change in Importance (Since 2011)	Change in Performance (Since 2011)
Unique experience	11%	6%
ls walkable	8%	4%
Is easy for you to get to	6%	3%
Relaxing atmosphere	6%	5%
Romantic getaway	5%	2%
Variety of accommodations	5%	0%
Range of attractions	4%	-1%
Emphasizes heritage	2%	-2%
Great space and gardens	1%	-1%
Ideal for travellers w/out kids	1%	2%

Primary Strength

PRIMARY WEAKNESSES

			Primary
Attributes	Change in Importance (Since 2011)	Change in Performance (Since 2011)	Weaknes
Restaurants	11%	2%	
Culturally diverse	8%	-4%	
Variety of events	6%	-2%	
Affordable to travel to	4%	2%	
Affordable accommodations	4%	4%	

SECONDARY STRENGTHS

Attributes	Change in Importance (Since 2011)	Change in Performance (Since 2011)
Boutique shopping	4%	2%
Museums and galleries	3%	-5%
Family friendly	3%	2%
Ideal for retirees	2%	3%
Marine and wildlife viewing	N/A	N/A

Secondary Strength

SECONDARY WEAKNESSES

Attributes	Change in Importance (Since 2011)	Change in Performance (Since 2011)	Secondary Weakness
Vibrant nightlife	6%	-1%	
Excellent wineries and wine tours	1%	-2%	
Watersports	1%	4%	
Golf courses	0%	-2%	
Hiking and walking trails	-2%	5%	
Cycling options	N/A	N/A	

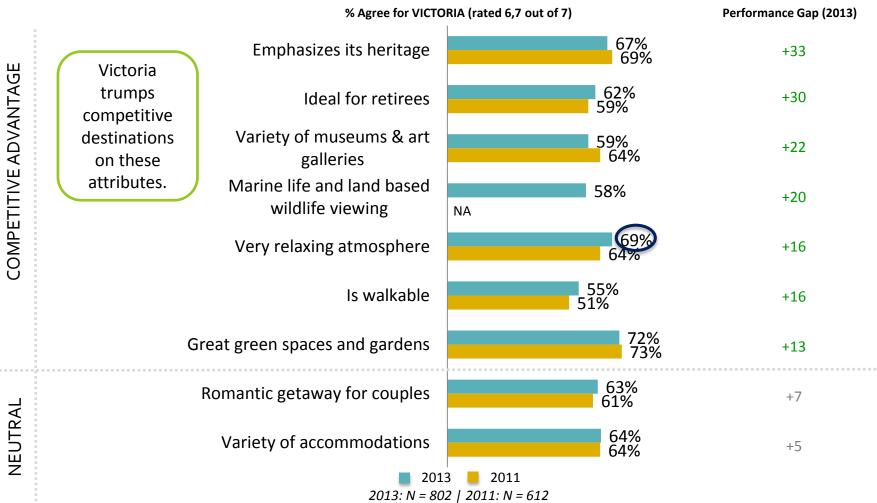
DETAILED FINDINGS: COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS: EXPLANATION

- Victoria's chief competitors (Seattle, Okanagan, Whistler and Vancouver) were all measured on the same attributes as Victoria so that we can perform a competitive assessment. Following are two types of analyses which outline the performance of Victoria and how it fares against competitors.
 - GAP ANALYSIS: This provides a benchmark to examine Victoria's scores against a competitive average (this norm is comprised of the ratings for Seattle, Okanagan, Whistler and Vancouver). There are three tiers to consider:
 - **Competitive Advantage:** Where Victoria scores significantly above the competitive norm.
 - **Neutral:** Where Victoria scores just above, equal or just below the competitive norm.
 - **Competitive Disadvantage:** Where Victoria scores significantly below the competitive norm.
 - PERFORMANCE SUMMARY: Summarizes the competitive gap analysis for each destination. Green indicates a competitive advantage, while red indicates a competitive disadvantage.
 - Note: In 2011, the competitive destinations included Seattle, Okanagan and Whistler. This year,
 Vancouver was added as the fourth competitive destination. As such, the competitive average from 2011 and 2013 are not directly comparable.

GAP ANALYSIS

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about Victoria, as well as about Whistler, Seattle, Vancouver or Okanagan.



Note: Performance Gap for 2013 = Victoria – aggregate ratings for Whistler, Seattle, Okanagan and Vancouver

GAP ANALYSIS

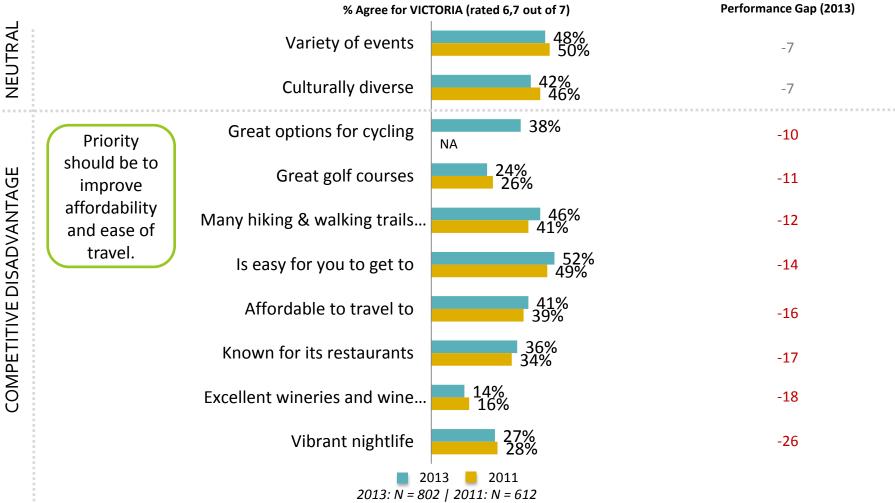
Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about Victoria, as well as about Whistler, Seattle, Vancouver or Okanagan.

		% Agree for VI	CTORIA (rated 6,7 out of 7)	Performance Gap (2013)	
	Variety and affordability of	Has boutique shopping	50% 48%	+3	
	accommodations and a unique	Range of attractions	60% 61%	+2	
	experience are highly important	Very family-friendly	57% 55%	+2	
۲L	and need to be strengthened by	Unique experience found nowhere else	51%	+2	
NEUTRAL	Victoria.	Recommended by friends/family	70% 67%	-2	
Z	At	ffordable accommodations	38% 34%	-2	
	I	deal for vacationing w/out kids	53% 51%	-3	
		Great watersports	39% 35%	-3	
		Popular place to travel to	72% 72% 72%	-7	
		2	013 📒 2011		
	2013: N = 802 2011: N = 612				

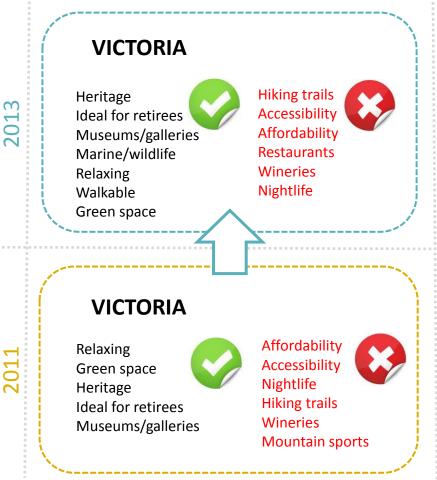
Note: Performance Gap for 2013 = Victoria – aggregate ratings for Whistler, Seattle, Okanagan and Vancouver

GAP ANALYSIS

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about Victoria, as well as about Whistler, Seattle, Vancouver or Okanagan.



Note: Performance Gap for 2013 = Victoria – aggregate ratings for Whistler, Seattle, Okanagan and Vancouver



A relaxing atmosphere is a unique strength that only Victoria can claim – no other competitive destinations score highly on this factor.

Affordability and accessibility (two factors that are critical when travelling) continue to be competitive disadvantageous of Victoria.

Restaurants is perceived to be a competitive weakness for Victoria this year. This should be addressed since restaurants are becoming increasingly important when choosing a destination.

Black = Scores significantly above competitors **Red** = Scores significantly below competitors

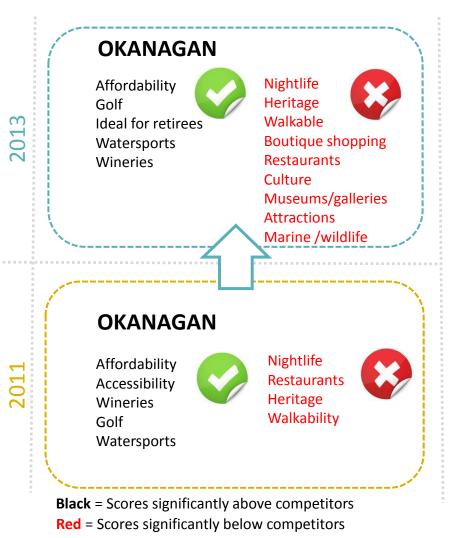


Seattle is the only destination to boost strengths in both affordable travel and accommodations.

Seattle is a stronger competitor this year. Perceptions of Seattle have strengthened in a number of areas – namely, heritage, shopping and museums/galleries.

Same as in 2011, many of Victoria's weaknesses are Seattle's strengths.

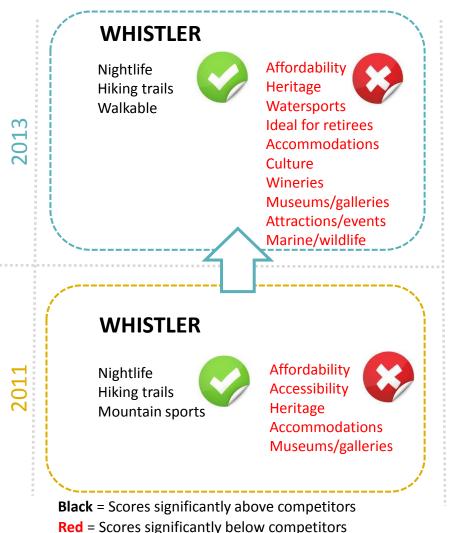
Black = Scores significantly above competitors **Red** = Scores significantly below competitors



Golf courses, wineries and watersports are unique strengths of Okanagan.

Compared to 2011, Okanagan scores significantly below competitors on more factors.

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Hiking trails is a unique strength of Whistler.

This year, perceptions of Whistler is much weaker compared to other destinations for many factors – especially for the range of activities and events.

48

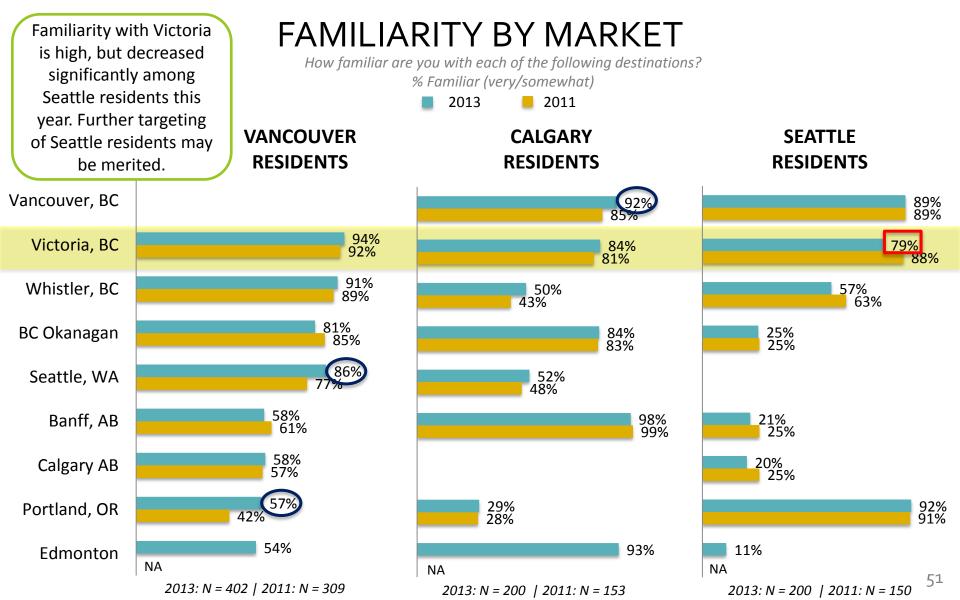


Vancouver shares many similar strengths to Seattle.

Vancouver does not boast strengths in any of the important factors identified as "costs of entry" for a tourism destination, only exception being a range of attractions.

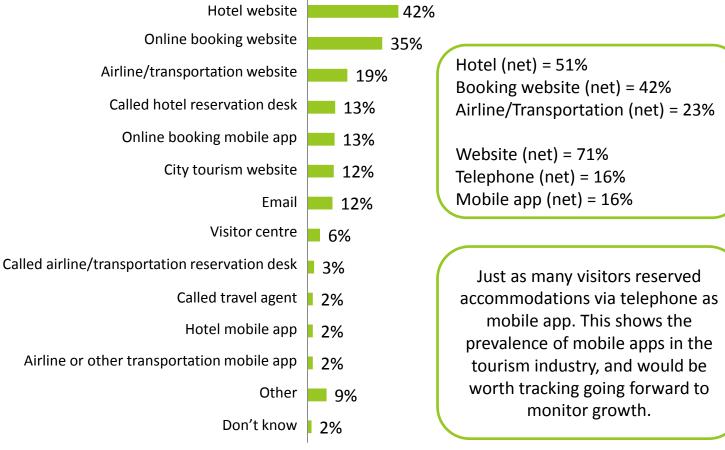
Black = Scores significantly above competitors **Red** = Scores significantly below competitors

DETAILED FINDINGS: TRAVELLING TO VICTORIA



SOURCES FOR BOOKING ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

Thinking of your <u>last trip</u> to Victoria, which of the following sources did you use to book your stay (keeping in mind accommodations and transportation)?



2013: N = 329 (visited Victoria)

ACCOMMODATIONS

And if you were taking a 3-day trip to Victoria, would you stay with friends/family or would you pay for accommodations?

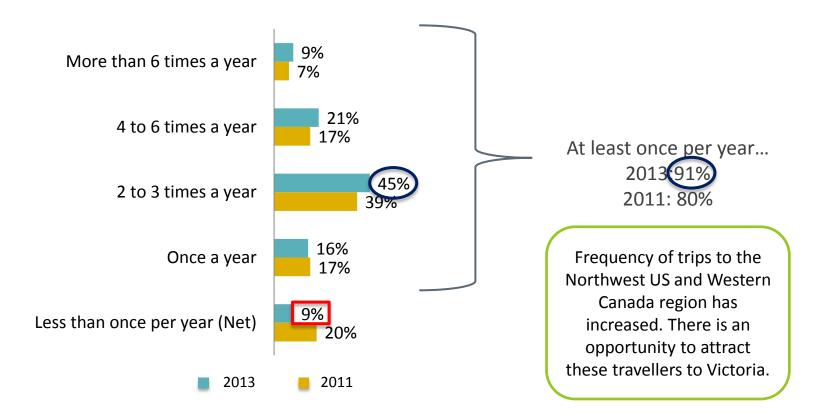


Residents from Seattle (98%) are more likely to pay for accommodations than Vancouverites (80%) and Calgarians (78%)

DETAILED FINDINGS: GENERAL PNW TRAVEL BEHAVIOURS

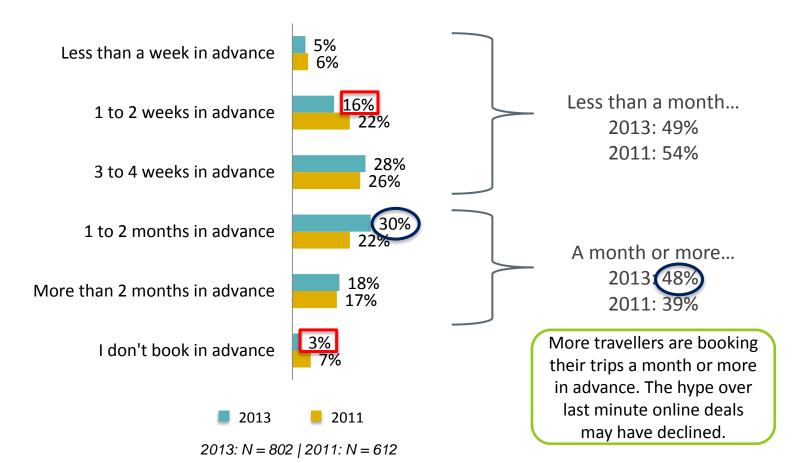
NUMBER OF TRIPS PER YEAR TO NORTHWEST US AND WESTERN CANADA

In a typical year, how often do you take overnight trips to destinations in the Northwest US and Western Canada for vacation?



ADVANCE BOOKING

And when you plan overnight trips to destinations in this region (Northwest US and Western Canada), how far in advance do you typically book your transportation (flights, buses, ferries, etc.) and accommodations?



PRICE DISCOUNTS AND SALES

Please tell us if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

% Agree for VICTORIA (rated 6,7 out of 7)

I actively look for price discounts and sales for...

Travellers are seeking price discounts and sales mostly for the two big ticket items – accommodations and travel.

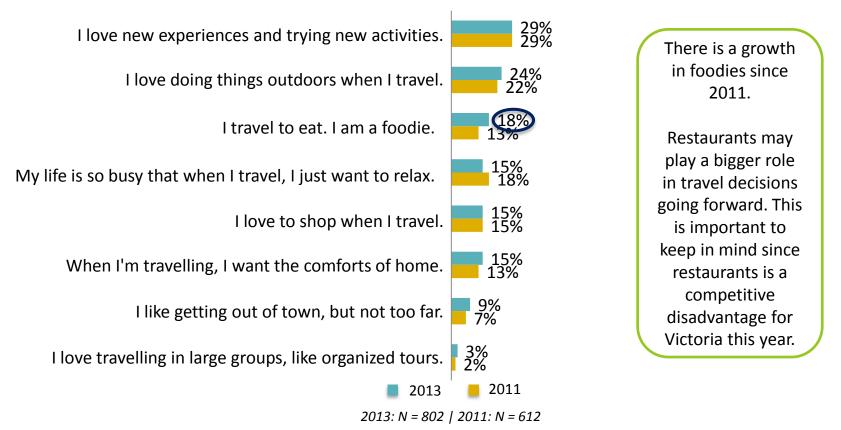
Seattle residents are the most likely to look for deals for these two items



ATTITUDINAL PROFILING

The following are some statements about how you may personally feel when travelling for vacation. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each.

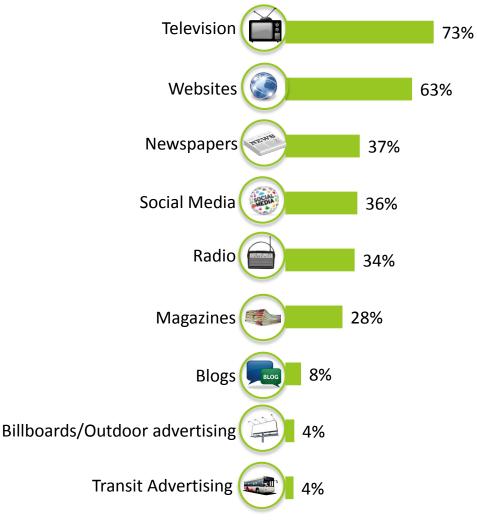
% Strongly Agree (rated 7 out of 7)



DETAILED FINDINGS: MEDIA CONSUMPTION

MEDIA CONSUMPTION

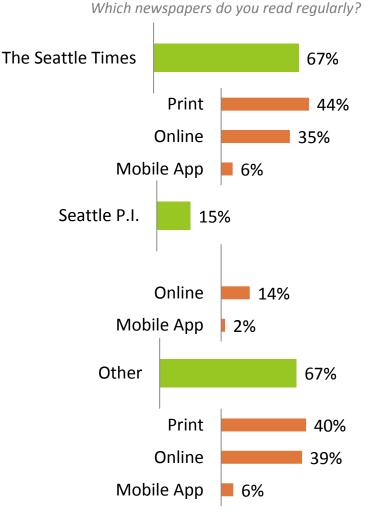
From the list below, please pick your top 3 sources that you watch, read or listen to regularly.



Television is effective for reaching older travellers (55-65 years olds: 84% choose TV as top 3 sources).

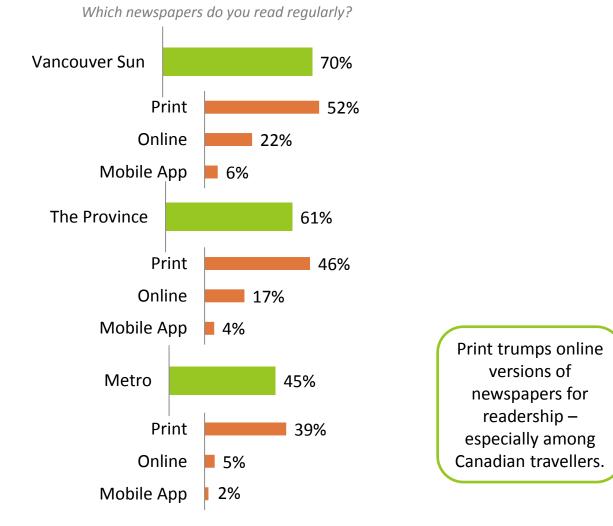
Websites, especially social media, is more popular among younger audiences (25-34 year olds: 69% choose social media as top 3 sources, 35-44 year olds: 42%).

MEDIA CONSUMPTION: NEWSPAPER (SEATTLE)



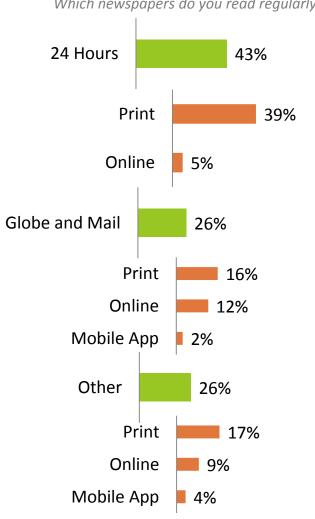
N = 52 (among those who chose newspapers as top 3 source in Seattle)*

MEDIA CONSUMPTION: NEWSPAPER (VANCOUVER)



N = 167 (among those who chose newspapers as top 3 source in Vancouver)

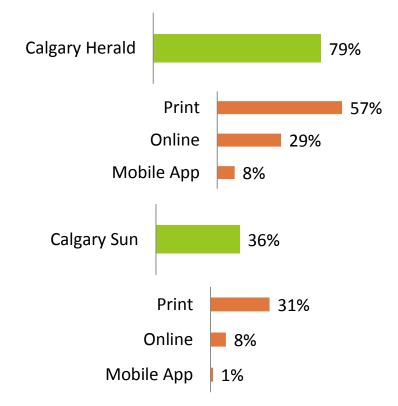
MEDIA CONSUMPTION: NEWSPAPER (VANCOUVER) Which newspapers do you read regularly?



N = 167 (among those who chose newspapers as top 3 source in Vancouver)

MEDIA CONSUMPTION: NEWSPAPER (CALGARY)

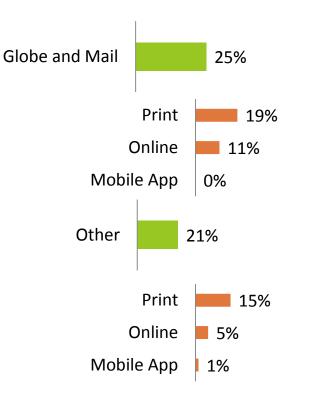
Which newspapers do you read regularly?



N = 75 (among those who chose newspapers as top 3 source in Calgary)*

MEDIA CONSUMPTION: NEWSPAPER (CALGARY)

Which newspapers do you read regularly?

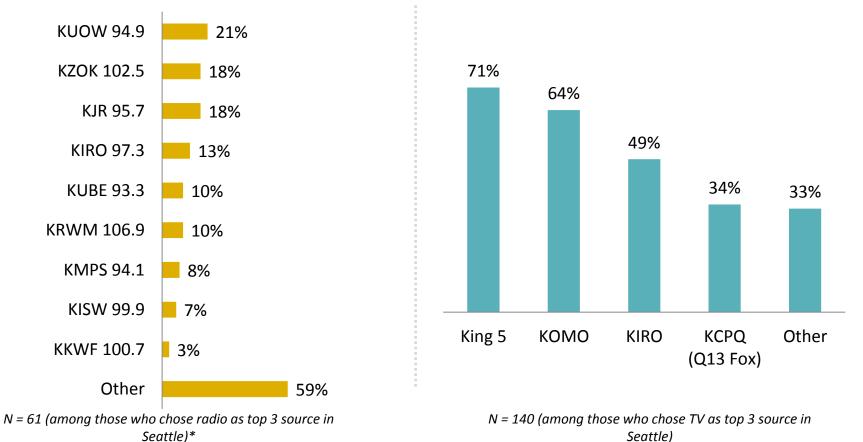


N = 75 (among those who chose newspapers as top 3 source in Calgary)*

MEDIA CONSUMPTION: SEATTLE

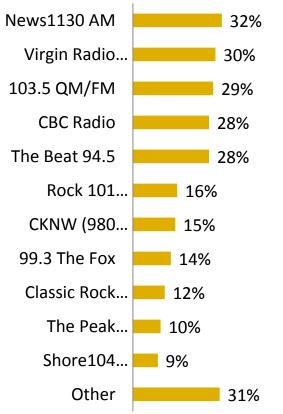
Which radio stations do you listen to regularly?

Which TV stations do you watch regularly?

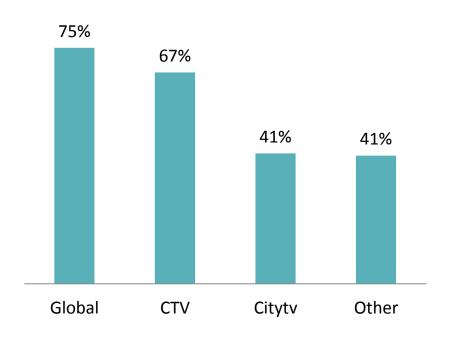


MEDIA CONSUMPTION: VANCOUVER

Which radio stations do you listen to regularly?



Which TV stations do you watch regularly?

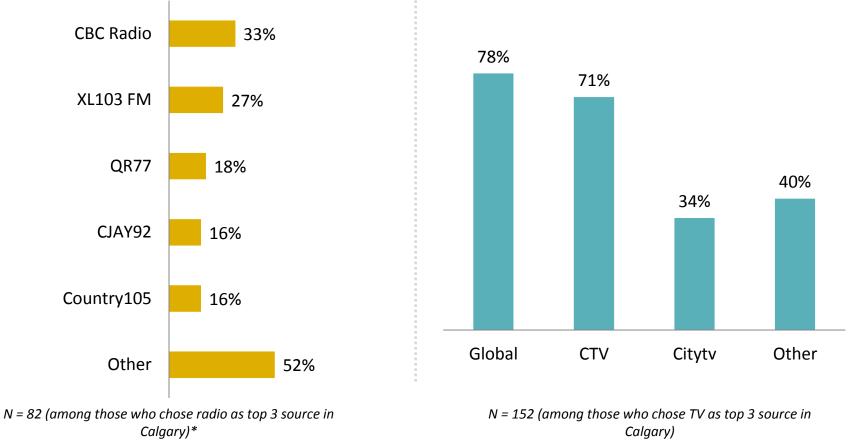


N = 131 (among those who chose radio as top 3 source in Vancouver) N = 295 (among those who chose TV as top 3 source in Vancouver)

MEDIA CONSUMPTION: CALGARY

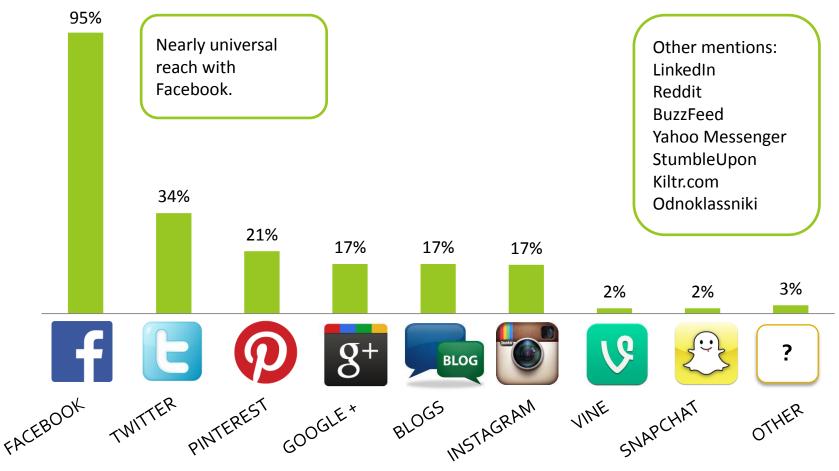
Which radio stations do you listen to regularly?

Which TV stations do you watch regularly?



SOCIAL MEDIA CONSUMPTION

Which social media channels do you use regularly?



N = 285 (among those who chose social media as top 3 source)

APPENDIX

TOP OF MIND DESTINATIONS

Thinking of destinations in the Northwest US and Western Canada, which place first comes to mind for a vacation/weekend getaway?

2013

- Victoria/Vancouver Island (130)
- Seattle (116)
- Whistler (99)
- Vancouver (86)
- Okanagan (Kelowna, Penticton) (45)
- Other mentions (even if they aren't in the region):
 - Alberta, Oregon, California, Tofino, Hawaii, Idaho, Yellowstone, Alaska

2011

- Victoria/Vancouver Island (112)
- Seattle (91)
- Vancouver (80)
- Whistler (50)
- Other mentions (even if they aren't in the region):
 - Alaska, Hawaii, Lake Louise, Las
 Vegas, Mexico, Portland/Oregon
 Coast and Tofino

2013: N = 802 / 2011: N = 612

VACATION INSPIRATION (UNAIDED)

Thinking of your most recent vacation/weekend getaway, please tell us what **inspired** you to visit that destination. That is, did you see, read or hear anything that got you interested or reminded you of that destination?

Additional Mentions (Order from L – R, highest to lowest)		
Activities/interesting activities/recreational activities (other & non-specific) Went to a concert/show/theatre/entertainment Go regularly/frequently Research/online research Advertising/saw advertising (i.e., radio, email, etc.) Participation in sporting Event/competition/tournament/charity run Wine/wine tasting/wine country Good accommodations/resort Friends/family (non-specific) Based on books/newspaper articles/travel magazines Business trip/for work/work conference/extended a business trip Attended event(s) (other & non-specific) Can drive/easy to drive there	Skiing/snowboarding Watching sporting event Nature/natural surroundings Have a place there/timeshare/had a place to stay Heard good things about it/good reputation Television program/travel Program/documentary/movie For fun/to have fun Camping History of the place Hadn't been there for a while and wanted to return Had the time to go No sales tax Impulse/last minute decision/spur of the moment Kid-friendly/good for the whole family Golf/golfing trip	
Ocean/coast/beach	On the way/close to somewhere else I was going	
Mountains	Just felt like going/wanted to go	
For rest/relaxation/low stress	The city/visiting city/enjoy the city	
Water/lakes/waterfall	Ferries/boat ride	

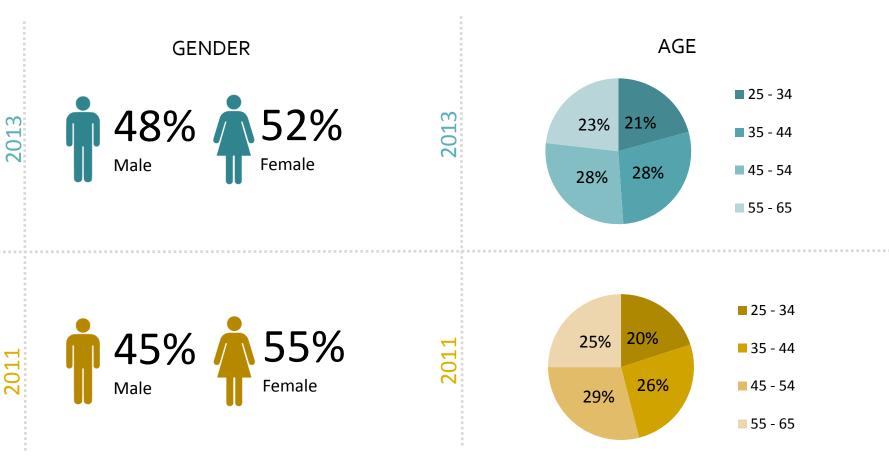
VACATION INSPIRATION (UNAIDED)

Thinking of your most recent vacation/weekend getaway, please tell us what **inspired** you to visit that destination. That is, did you see, read or hear anything that got you interested or reminded you of that destination?

Additional Mentions (Order from L - R, highest to lowest)		
Vacation/holiday/trip (non-specific) Familiarity/know my way around Easy/convenient (non-specific) Social gathering/family reunion Culture/cultural activities Animals/wildlife The outdoors/outdoor activities Cruise/part of a cruise/pre-cruise Christmas/Christmas holidays Attended a seminar/workshop Gambling/casino Snow/fresh snowfall Atmosphere (other & non-specific) Fruit/to pick cherries Beer/craft beer Fishing Biking/cycling	Parks/national parks Train ride/like taking the train Given to me/a gift/won a trip Nightlife/bars Forest/trees Romantic place European/English feel Cleanliness/clean place Nice/friendly people	

DEMOGRAPHIC OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

(Likely to visit Victoria or have recently visited and would spend at least \$250 per adult)



2013: N = 802 | 2011: N = 612

DEMOGRAPHIC OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

(Likely to visit Victoria or have recently visited and would spend at least \$250 per adult)

