



CHRISTMAS

Find Christmas Here

Every year during the holiday season, Victoria, B.C. is lit up with festive décor and a magical ambience that can be felt floating through the air.

Day One

December 1 – January 6

Christmas in Victoria isn't complete without a visit to **The Butchart Gardens**, a National Historic Site of Canada. From December 1 to January 6, tens of thousands of coloured lights combine with evergreen boughs and wreaths of holly and winter berries to line walkways and festoon lamp posts. The ever-popular Twelve Days of Christmas displays bring the Gardens to life as visitors and locals alike wander the pathways to discover each scene while singing along to the classic Christmas carol. Traditional Carollers and Festive Brass bands perform each evening on the Piazza. Skating on the outdoor Ice Rink in Waterwheel Square is sure to enhance the traditional experience. The Dining Room Restaurant, in the former residence of the Butchart family, is decorated in holiday finery and serves a delicious 3-tiered Afternoon tea. Evening dinners are accompanied by a solo pianist playing holiday melodies. The Blue Poppy Restaurant, filled with poinsettias, offers a variety of tasty main dishes and desserts with a convenient cafeteria-style service. For those wanting a more casual setting, the Coffee Shop has an array of light meals and snacks. The Magic of Christmas will delight young and old alike.

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

The transformation at **Craigdarroch Castle** at Christmas is amazing as the rooms are presented in traditional Victorian fashion and original period toys peak out from under the Christmas trees. The decorations are on display throughout the month of



December and they always offer a wide selection of music and children's performances.

www.thecastle.ca

Christmas in Old Town

Presented by the **Royal BC Museum**, enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas long ago as you visit the Old Town display. Enjoy wood-cobbled streets laced with festive garlands and see the shops decked with seasonal finery. Families can enjoy special appearances by Father Christmas on weekends through December.

www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca



38th Island Farms Santa's Light Parade

Hosted by the Greater Victoria Festival Society, the Island Farms Santa's Light Parade is one of the largest night time parades in Canada. The parade starts at the corner of Government Street and Belleville Street at the Legislative Buildings and travels along Government Street, finishing in Centennial Square, aka Christmas Square. Come and meet Santa after the parade and enjoy some milk and cookies! Please support the Mustard Seed Food Bank and bring a non-perishable food donation. Donations will be collected on the parade route, or they can be brought to Centennial Square. Help for those in need is especially appreciated during the holiday season.

http://gvfs.ca/gvfs_events/37th-island-farms-santas-light-parade/



IEOA Truck Light Convoy and Food Drive

This annual parade is an exciting spectacle of lights as the trucks and heavy equipment (decorated by their operators) traverse Victoria, travelling through downtown along Government Street. Bring the whole family and take the opportunity to donate to the Mustard Seed Food Bank at one of the drop off points along the parade route. This year, the parade is scheduled to take place Saturday December 7, 2019.

<http://ieoa.ca>



The Bay Centre's 28th Annual Festival of Trees

Join **The Bay Centre** for the 28th Anniversary of the Festival of Trees in support of BC Children's Hospital. The festival transforms the halls of the Bay Centre into an enchanted forest celebrating our local community. The event helps support the approximately 2,700 Vancouver Island children and families that use BC Children's Hospital services every year. On average, 22 kids from Vancouver Island are treated at BC Children's Hospital every day – that is almost one every hour. Bring your family and friends to tour the displays and vote for your favourite. For more information please visit www.bcchf.ca/fot

Levels 2 & 3 | Daily

www.thebaycentre.ca



Contact Us

For more information on this and other itinerary suggestions, contact the Travel Trade team at Destination Greater Victoria.

Suite 200 – 737 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1L6 Canada

Phone: 250-414-6999 | Email: traveltrade@tourismvictoria.com | www.tourismvictoria.com/travel-trade