

FAMILY ADVENTURE

Two Day Sample Itinerary

Victoria is one of Canada's most walkable cities and it doesn't take long to get around from place to place with your family.

If you have a few days and are looking to explore outside of Greater Victoria, renting a car is well worth it to explore all that the region has to offer.

Day One

Walk or take public transportation down Fort Street – also known as Antique Row – to **Craigdarroch Castle**, a 1890s mansion with exquisite stained glass windows, woodwork and period antiques. Built by wealthy coal baron Robert Dunsmuir, Craigdarroch Castle is a stunning example of the finest architecture, materials and craftsmanship of the Victorian era. See the spectacular oak staircase and climb 87 steps to the Tower for the best views in Victoria. <https://thecastle.ca/>

If you're feeling hungry after the castle, dig into a thick, juicy sustainably made hamburger at the bright **Big Wheel Burger**. They have a kid-friendly menu boasting a "Little Wheel Meal Deal" for kids of all ages and plenty of goodies for adults too!

<https://bigwheelburger.com/>

After lunch a great spot to spend the afternoon is at the Royal BC Museum and IMAX Victoria where families can experience B.C.'s intriguing history as they explore the Natural and Human History of British Columbia and its First Peoples with unique displays and galleries. Highly realistic and inviting displays provide visitors with a sense of having truly experienced the authentic settings. The museum is also host to periodic exhibits of international renown.

www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

You can purchase a combination ticket that allows you discounted access to the **IMAX Victoria** theatre. You won't just see it at IMAX - you'll experience it. Whether it's immersing yourself in the colour and culture of an ancient land, or deep in the ocean swimming alongside one of the planet's largest creatures, the IMAX experience takes you places that you could never otherwise go. www.imaxvictoria.com

Finish your day off by heading down to **Fisherman's Wharf** where the colourful floating houses and marine life are sure to dazzle the kids! Stop at **Red Fish Blue Fish** for dinner to enjoy fish and chips right on the



dock. This casual dining experience is one you will talk about for years to come. Red Fish Blue Fish is an outdoor waterfront eatery in an up-cycled shipping container on the Inner Harbour. www.redfish-bluefish.com/

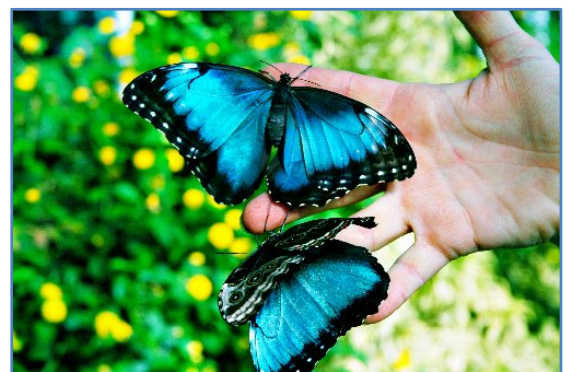
Day Two

Spend the morning out in the quaint town of Sidney, located 20 minutes away from downtown Victoria and minutes from the BC Ferries terminal at Swartz Bay. Here you can visit **The Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre**. The Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre showcases the extraordinary marine life in the waters surrounding the Gulf Islands. From plankton to Puget Sound King crabs, and wolf eels to giant Pacific octopus, the vast aquatic exhibits fascinate visitors of all ages. With 87 tonnes of sea water and seventeen habitats, the Centre's ever-changing seascapes and touch pools offer an unforgettable journey from seafloor to seashore through a unique hands-on, hands-wet experience. www.oceandiscovery.ca.

While you're in Sidney take time to visit **the BC Aviation Museum** and enjoy a trip back in time with the whole family. Experience Canadian aviation history with over 20 aircraft on display. You can even sit in the cockpit of a warplane! Discover the history of Canadian aviation pioneers with passionate tour guides or take a self-guided tour. <http://www.bcam.net/>

Just a short drive away, be sure to stop at Roost Farm Bakery & Vineyard Bistro for lunch. Enjoy local food and wine while overlooking a beautiful vineyard on 10 acres of farmland. Takeaway baked goods made from the farm's own milled flour are also available in their store. <http://www.roostfarmcentre.com>

After exploring the history of flying and marine life, open your senses and explore the jungle at the **Victoria Butterfly Gardens**. The gardens were designed and built specifically to showcase the life cycle and free flight of tropical butterflies and moths. The 12,000 sq ft enclosure is a riot of tropical colour, aromas and personalities. Stars of the show are the butterflies themselves – 3,000 of them fluttering amongst the flora. Enjoy the stunning beauty and colour of exotic butterflies, tropical ducks, flamingos, other rare tropical birds and Koi swimming in the stream and pond. Experience this living, breathing visual feast and enjoy a voyage of discovery into the life of the inhabitants and the tropical habitat. www.butterflygardens.com



Keep driving on Benvenuto Avenue for 5 minutes to reach **The Butchart Gardens**. There you will find fifty-five acres of floral finery await you as you stroll along meandering paths and expansive lawns of this National Historic Site of Canada. Initiated in 1904 by Robert and Jennie Butchart in an effort to beautify a worked-out quarry, the endeavour became a family commitment to horticulture and hospitality, spanning over 100 years and delighting visitors from all over the world. From the exquisite Sunken Garden to the charming Italian Garden, this colourful show place still maintains the gracious traditions of the past, in one of the loveliest corners of the world. Children will love the Rose Carousel adorned with hand crafted animals and carriages and the tasty gelato offered seasonally in the Italian Garden.

www.butchartgardens.com



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

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