

# What's New in Victoria



*Destination Greater Victoria is honoured to be based on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

# Sustainability

Destination Greater Victoria is the first Destination Marketing Organization in North America to achieve Climate Positive designation. Destination Greater Victoria is proudly certified Climate Positive by Ostrom Climate and Synergy Enterprises. In March 2023, Greater Victoria became Biosphere certified, a prestigious tourism designation.

When you visit Victoria, you're met with green initiatives right out of the gate! New to the Victoria International Airport, YYJ, is a native species pollinator garden with more than 2,000 flora planted in 1,100 square metres of garden to help pollinators thrive.



# Accessibility

Victoria recently completed an accessibility audit to ensure travellers of all abilities can enjoy this beautiful city. What makes Greater Victoria special is the ease with which travellers of all abilities can access our world class activities, luxurious accommodations, and elegant dining options.



# INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES

## Explore Songhees

“əyʔ skʷéčəl “good day” The Songhees Nation welcomes all visitors to Lekwungen Traditional Territory to partake in meaningful Indigenous cultural experiences. The Songhees Wellness Centre is the cultural hub where people and traditions come to meet. It offers incredible views, an art gallery + cafe and full-service event facilities for over 600 people.

Established in 2008, the Signs of Lekwungen is an interpretive walkway along the Inner Harbour and surrounding areas that honours the art, history and culture of the Coast Salish people who have resided in the Victoria area for hundreds of years.



# GETTING HERE AND GETTING AROUND



## Porter Airlines

Starting September 20, 2023 Porter Airlines will provide service daily between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Victoria International Airport (YYJ) with the new Embraer E195-E2 aircraft.

## Uber

Uber is (finally) available in Greater Victoria. This June start is long anticipated and greatly welcomed to augment transportation options in Greater Victoria.



## Kenmore Air

Kenmore Air launched new service between Boeing Field in Seattle and Victoria International Airport, with a stop in the San Juan islands on May 25th. This new service is in addition to Kenmore Air's seaplane service from Lake Union into Victoria's Inner Harbour.



## Malahat Skywalk Shuttle

New for summer 2023, visitor can now board the shuttle from downtown Victoria to Malahat SkyWalk. Pricing includes admission.

## Harbour Air

The Harbour Air ePlane announced that the first direct all-electric point to point test flight has been completed. The historic De Havilland Beaver, which was completely retrofitted in 2019 to operate using 100% electricity flew 45 miles in 24 minutes. The aircraft left their terminal on the Fraser River adjacent to YVR and landed in Pat Bay adjacent to YYJ. This is a major milestone in the advancement of all-electric commercial flights.



# OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

## Prince of Whales

Prince of Whales is celebrating 30 years of operating and servicing the Salish Sea. Prince of Whales has proudly achieved climate positive status by partnering with Ostrom Climate and Synergy Enterprises to develop an emissions reduction, monitoring and reporting program.



## Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours

In 2022 Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Watching Tours won the 2022 Marine Education Award from National Marine Educators Association. Not only is Eagle Wing big on education, but sustainability to match. They received the award for 2022 Air Transat Sustainable Tourism— outstanding contributions to the practice and promotion of responsible and sustainable tourism in Canada by TIAC.

Eagle Wing recently achieved Biosphere certification—the first and only whale watching operation in the world to achieve the designation.

## Derailed Adventures

Derailed Adventures is a guided cycling tour offering fully catered, expertly guided bikepacking and cycle tours to anyone looking to explore Vancouver Island, create lasting memories and form supportive friendships. The small group sizes mean guests will get premium service and quality food. Suited for people seeking out adventure by bicycle, mountain bikers, gravel riders and bikepacking enthusiasts—as well as people who don't yet know that they are bikepacking enthusiasts!



# HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION



## Magnolia Hotel

Celebrating their 25th anniversary in 2023, the Magnolia Hotel is a luxury boutique hotel in the heart of the city, only steps from Victoria's iconic Inner Harbour. Recognized by Travel + Leisure, Condé Nast and Trip Advisor as a top hotel in Canada, the hotel's timelessly elegant rooms, exquisite spa, fine dining and personalized recommendations create an authentic experience.

## The Vic, Ascend Hotel Collection

Opened in January, the Vic Hotel is a boutique hotel located near the stunning Selkirk Trestle, featuring upscale, spacious, apartment-style suites with rainfall showers, refrigerators, microwaves, and kitchenettes. Also offering pet-friendly Gorge Waterway accommodations. Don't forget to check out their games room! Fun for the whole family.



## Fairmont Empress

The newly redesigned Fairmont Gold at Fairmont Empress, the brand's exclusive 'hotel within a hotel' experience, re-opened in 2023, which also marks the Empress' 115th anniversary. The expanded Fairmont Gold Lounge is located on the first floor of the heritage building with a private lounge and terrace that features dedicated concierge service. Fairmont Gold is designed to fulfill the needs of discerning travellers, ensuring their stay is nothing short of unforgettable. The reimaged Gold Floor and guestrooms celebrate both the history and natural beauty of the west coast, and elevates the historical property further into a new era of modern luxury.

## Abigail's Hotel

Tucked away in a gorgeous neighbourhood just three blocks from downtown Victoria. Abigail's Hotel mixes historic charm and modern luxury and recently expanded to add eight new luxury guestrooms.

Abigail's Hotel has received outstanding recognition at the 2023 Trip Advisor Traveler's Choice Awards for hotels:

- #1 Best Small Hotel in Canada
- #11 Best Small Hotel in the World
- #2 Best Hotel for Sleep in the World

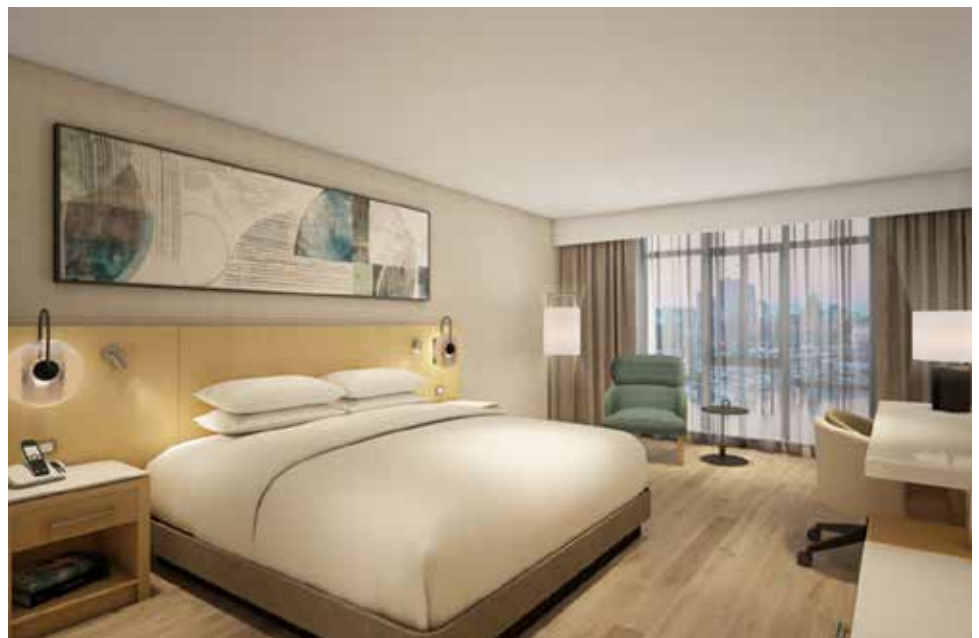


## New Hotel in Old Town

Victoria Council has approved a project to overhaul two heritage buildings in Old Town to make way for a 139-room hotel. UVic Properties and Chard Development plan to use the site to build a Hyatt-centric, branded hotel covering almost a full block of Broad Street. The proposal preserves the front and rear walls and parts of the side walls of the Duck's historic building, as well as an original rock wall of the Carriage Factory, which dates to 1874.

## Delta Hotel by Marriott Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort

The Delta Hotels by Marriott Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort is located in Victoria's Inner Harbour with stunning ocean views. A large renovation of the entire hotel's 240 guestrooms was completed in May 2023.



## Huntingdon Manor

New at the Huntingdon Manor is the Dr. Bonnie Henry Community Garden. This initiative was launched in partnership with JBNA with 27 plots, including several that will be fully accessible for gardeners with mobility issues. Construction began in January for its full opening in the spring of 2023.



## HEALTH & WELLNESS



### HAVN

HAVN is a floating park-like environment on the edge of Victoria's Inner Harbour. Lush green spaces, cold pools, hot tubs, and hand-built saunas bring us together for a vibrant self-care experience.

Located on a 44-meter marine barge built in 1943 that was originally used as a floating wartime workshop for welders and other tradesman.

### RITUAL Nordic Spa

Scandinavian-style wellness opened in Victoria in February 2022! Ritual Nordic Spa offers a modern take on the classic Finnish sauna house experience in the heart of downtown.





## ATTRACTIONS



### **The Teahouse at Abkhazi**

The enchanting Teahouse at Abkhazi Gardens celebrate their 10th anniversary in 2023. The Teahouse at Abkhazi Garden offers four-star guest service and exceptional food in a beautiful setting, giving guests an Afternoon Tea memory to cherish. Seasonal menus showcase regional or Abkhazi Garden-grown produce, complementing the garden's appearance when it is in bloom.

### **The Pedaler-New Tour**

The Pedaler's new tour, Eat Drink Pedal in partnership with Off The Eaten Track is not to be missed. Discover the delicious food and drinks that Victoria, BC has to offer while pedaling around the city on a food and bike tour.

The Pedaler is also offering a new evening cruise for night owls or late-arriving cruise passengers. It's a great opportunity to experience the beauty of Victoria from a unique perspective.



### **Tally-Ho Carriage Tours**

2023 marks the 120th anniversary of the incorporation of Tally-Ho.

Since 1903, Tally-Ho Carriage Tours has been recognized as one of Victoria's most iconic sightseeing experiences. Let the majestic horses and professional guides escort you on a relaxing yet entertaining tour through the city's historic, scenic beauty.

# ART, FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

## Chinese Canadian Museum - Fan Tan Alley Exhibit

“First Steps: Chinese Canadian Journeys in Victoria”, is a new temporary exhibition that highlights important starting points for Chinese Canadians in Victoria. Examples of intergenerational resilience and agency are shared through stories of community support, entrepreneurship, and personal accomplishment.



## Royal BC Museum New Exhibit

The Royal BC Museum is introducing three new exhibits! Starting April 17, 2023 - January 7, 2024 the Dinosaurs of BC exhibition opens. Dig into prehistoric British Columbia and get up close and personal with “Buster”, the Iron Lizard of the Sustut River, and the other dinosaurs that once roamed the province’s highest peaks, densest forests and most remote river basins.

Joining this exhibit June 16, 2023 - February 16, 2024 is SUE: The T.Rex Experience exhibition. From June 2, 2023 - January 14, 2024 introducing the Angkor: Empire of Cambodia exhibition.

## Studio 106

Studio 106 is a Victoria art gallery and gift shop, located in the historic Seaman’s Institute Building in James Bay, near Fisherman’s Wharf. It features Canadian artists and artisans that are inspired by nature.

Studio 106 believes that art should be for everyone and the gallery, exhibits and sells original paintings and sculptures, as well as prints and art cards.

New this year, are art classes of all kinds. From sculpting to painting and drawing classes.



## FOOD & DRINK



### Marilena Cafe + Raw Bar

Toptable Group has opened their first restaurant in Victoria, which happens to be Executive Chef Kristian Eligh's hometown.

The Marilena team is dedicated to delivering unforgettable dining experiences through the passion of award-winning chefs and dedicated staff.

Chef Eligh has crafted a menu that draws inspiration from memorable West Coast cuisine with an emphasis on local and globally sourced seafood.

### The Ugly Duckling

New in 2023, Ugly Duckling is a fine dining restaurant that takes its inspiration from the intersection between Vancouver Island's magical terroir and the rich cultural heritage of North America's first Chinatown.

Its experiential dining is built around two promises: to serve only those things which they have made by hand; and to work really, really hard to make guests smile.



### Fairmont Empress' Summer Sips

Fairmont Empress is introducing Sunset Sips, a new evening cocktail and culinary experience that offers an intoxicating new twist on tradition. For more than a century, Fairmont Empress has been a beloved spot for afternoon tea, having served famed royalty, celebrities and dignitaries alike and now, building upon the iconic service, Sunset Sips will offer a new elevated nightlife option for the City of Victoria.

## FATHOM

Fathom offers an exceptional dining experience for the discerning diner. Fathom is a well-appointed venue with room to breathe, to people watch and to be seen. Its new chef, Peter Kim, has a passion for creating dishes using fresh, local ingredients, while taking inspiration from the rugged west coast. The result is a unique seafood forward yet well-rounded menu tailored to please all those who choose to explore its depths.



## Artemis

Space Themed Whiskey Bar

Riddled with superstition, divination and charms, the port of Artemis located in outer space is a wicked place for whiskey and cocktails. The power of a magical book will unlock the speakeasy place for you. Be sure to choose the right book.

Somewhere between alchemy, science and mixology exists the mysterious art of our bartenders- called Taskmasters!!

## Clive's Classic Lounge

Clive's Classic Lounge has been recognized as the Whiskey Hotel Bar of the Year 2023 by Whiskey Magazine's Icons of Whiskey annual awards.





## CRAFT Beer Market

CRAFT Beer Market opened in 2022, with a huge multi-level space, downtown waterfront views, an all-season patio, surf lounge, indoor and outdoor fireplace, games area, dog friendly patio. No surprise it quickly became a locals favourite. Then in May 2023, CRAFT upped its offering with the opening of an on-site brewery: Swift Brewing and Good Time Tasting Room. Swift rocks a distinctly retro vibe, and their Raspberry Beret is a perfect summer sipper.

## Duo Café at Inn at Laurel Point

Coffee culture is alive and well in Victoria—and this September, Inn at Laurel Point will up the coffee scene with a new café for guests and locals alike.

Featuring their freshly baked croissants (the best in the city) and the growl of the espresso machine, Duo Café Bakery will entice those looking for the perfect takeaway coffee or a great local spot to meet friends.



## The Art of Slow Food

The Art of Slow Food is an exclusively gluten free bakery & cafe. Handcrafted gluten free sourdough breads and treats fresh daily, and source all the cafe ingredients locally. The famous sourdough is the heart of the bakery and is vegan and free of all common allergens. Using local organic ingredients and traditional methods of food preparation to make unique, delicious creations that nourish your body.

# Coming in 2024



## The Butchart Gardens

In 2024, The Butchart Gardens celebrates its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A National Historic Site of Canada, the gardens envelope guests in lush greenery and colourful blooms, or sensational seasonal illuminations after dark.

## Hockey Day in Canada

Victoria is hosting Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada on January 20, 2024. It is the first time that Hockey Day in Canada will be played on a synthetic ice surface. The rink will be located at iconic, Ship's Point on Victoria's Inner Harbour. Hockey Day in Canada has an estimated viewing audience of 10 million people.

