

VANCOUVER

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Vancouver this fall and winter

With more than 50 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel
planning a snap for the 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.



INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. For a better exchange rate, don't rely on in-store rates. "Bring a few hundred nice crisp **Canadian dollars**. Get the rest as needed from **ATMs**."—TripAdvisor Member, Lorneville, New Brunswick
2. "Bring **waterproof outdoorwear** or a great raincoat, **umbrella** and **waterproof boots** if you intend to walk a lot."—TripAdvisor Member
3. Vancouver is a city with exceptional views. "Bring **binoculars**."—TripAdvisor Member, Okanagan, British Columbia

Inside VANCOUVER

Vancouver's spectacular Pacific Rim setting surprises many first-time visitors. It's one of the few cities that, from a distance, can be described as beautiful in addition to impressive. The Georgia Strait stretches west to Vancouver Island, downtown's gleaming high-rises glisten against the jagged backdrop of the North Shore Mountains and the Coast Mountains loom to the east.

The city offers the perfect balance between a cosmopolitan urban center and the great outdoors. A temperate year-round climate makes Vancouver enjoyable in any season, whether you're a hiker, cyclist, birdwatcher or you just like strolling the city streets. The weather cools in the fall months, the rainiest season in Vancouver, while winters are mild, with flowers beginning to bloom as early as February. Safe, clean and welcoming—with an impressive dining scene that's exploded in recent years—it's little wonder Vancouver frequently tops many of the "best places to live" lists.

Top VIEWS



VANCOUVER'S BEST VIEWS

The Lookout is a rotating observation deck at the top of a 40-story building in downtown Vancouver. "We went in the morning on our first day, got our bearings, including a personalized tour and returned to see the sunset, as the ticket is valid for the entire day. We learned lots from this concierge in the sky." —TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.
Vancouver Lookout, Harbour Centre Tower, 55 West Hastings St., 604 689 0421

"Drive the **Sea to Sky Highway** north to Whistler. The scenic views of bodies of water and snow-capped mountains are absolutely gorgeous. Stop for a break at Shannon Falls, where you can take a short hike to a beautiful waterfall cascading from high above." —TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D. C.
Sea to Sky Highway, Highway 99

The western side of **Stanley Park's Seawall Promenade** "looks out over English Bay and is covered with sandy beaches, with thick patches of temperate rainforest on the other side. The mountains are also in the background. The eastern side of Stanley Park's seawall gives you the view of the downtown Vancouver skyline." —TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver
Stanley Park's Seawall Promenade, Foot of 13th to 25th St.

"take a short hike to a beautiful waterfall cascading from high above."

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Stanley Park, W. Georgia St.
2. Sea to Sky Highway, Highway 99
3. Lynn Canyon Park, Peters Road, Lynn Valley
4. Wreck Beach, University Blvd and South West Marine Drive
5. University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology, 6393 N.W. Marine Dr., 604 822 5087
6. Vancouver TheatreSports League, 1502 Duranleau St., Granville Island, 604 738 7013
7. Queen Elizabeth Park, Cambie and 33rd streets, 604 257 8584
8. Granville Island, 604 666 5784
9. Spanish Banks, 4707 N.W. Marine Drive
10. English Bay, Denman and Davie streets



FAMILIES

"**Science World** is a favorite with children. There are many hands-on displays that make this a very user-friendly museum." —TripAdvisor Member, Calgary, Alberta
Science World, 1455 Quebec St., 604 443 7440

"Just like the name suggests, **Granville Island's Kids Only Market** houses over 20 stores that sell mostly toys, clothes and shoes for kids. There's an arcade in the main building and a park in the back, where kids can run amok." —TripAdvisor Member, California
Kids Only Market, 1496 Cartwright St., Granville Island

"Set aside half a day to see the **Vancouver Aquarium**, nestled inside beautiful Stanley Park. Between the white beluga whales, interior aquariums and shows, it's an incredible learning experience." —TripAdvisor Member, Kitchener, Ontario
Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, 845 Avison Way, Stanley Park, 604 659 3474



ROMANCE

"**Lighthouse Park** is one of the few forests in Greater Vancouver that has never been touched by logging. Even if it's raining, the trails in the park are covered by dense forest and it feels like you're under a giant tree umbrella. Definitely a beautiful, tranquil, nature experience." —TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver
Lighthouse Park, Beacon Lane, Marine Dr., South of Highway 1/99, W. Vancouver, 604 925 7200

Enjoy the watery wonders of Vancouver's west coast from the deck of one of **B.C. Ferries'** boats, which voyage between Horseshoe Bay and the Sunshine Coast. The beautiful cruise between islands takes 40 minutes. "I saw dolphins three times, killer whales twice, seals and eagles on three different crossings." —TripAdvisor Member, Victoria, British Columbia
B.C. Ferries, Horseshoe Bay, W. Vancouver, 888 223 3779

Bike Stanley Park Seawall, a scenic 5.5-mile path running past statues, picnic spots and the aquarium. North America's third-largest park will "leave you speechless. Even in the rain it was breathtaking. Plan to spend a lot of time here, walking the trails, strolling along the seawall, viewing the city skyline, etc." —TripAdvisor Member, Edmonton, Alberta
Stanley Park Seawall, Georgia St. at Stanley Park Causeway

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

"For those who want to save money, there's a free suspension bridge located at **Lynn Canyon**. It has an ecology center, lots of hiking trails and a nice low-key cafe on site."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge, Peters Road, Lynn Valley, 604 990 3755

"**Central Park** is a wooded area with plenty of trails and facilities at the border of Burnaby and Vancouver. It is one of the oldest parks in the city, and includes an outdoor pool, small Pitch and Putt, a track and field stadium and playground."

—TripAdvisor Member

Central Park, Burnaby Road and Kingsway, 604 294 7450



Picnic while taking in skyline and mountain views from **Jericho Beach**. "Amazing beach. I recommend staying up for the sunset; it's amazing!"—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Jericho Beach, Wallace and Discovery Sts., Vancouver West

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

"**Whistler** is known as a ski resort but before the snow arrives there are other things to do. Our favorite was the zip sliding, an experience not to be missed—flying between the mountains over the rivers, also walking over the tree tops."—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Whistler Mountain, Whistler

Grouse Mountain boasts skiing and year-round fun: "lumberjack shows, birds of prey demonstrations, helicopter rides and a panoramic view of Vancouver below."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Grouse Mountain Resorts, 6400 Nancy Greene Way, North Vancouver, 604 980 9311

"...don't miss the stunning interior"

"**Seaside Route** runs along the shoreline for 20 kilometers, passing some interesting animal habitats, marshes and forests along the way. You'll find walkers, sightseers, beachcombers, joggers, cyclists and rollerbladers here year-round, but the route is most exciting in summer, when the city's many festivals and events bring vibrant crowds to the area."—TripAdvisor Member

Seaside Route



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

The **Vancouver Museum** "presents history in a colorful and unique way. Explore buildings from old Chinatown, learn about Japanese internment and experience drive-ins and hippie protests."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St., 604 736 4431

"If you care about historic architecture, don't miss the stunning interior of **Christ Church Cathedral**. On some days a labyrinth based on the one in Chartres Cathedral is available to walk. As well as religious services, the Cathedral hosts many public events and performances."—TripAdvisor Member, Summerland, B.C.

Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St., 604 682 3848

The **Museum of Anthropology** is "incredible! First Nations carvings, history, artifacts. This is a world-class museum. If you're interested in the First Nations or just like museums, don't miss this."—TripAdvisor Member, Rocklin, Calif.

University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology, 6393 N.W. Marine Dr., 604 822 5087



RELAXATION

Miraj Hammam is "decadent, sumptuous, oh so relaxing. I've had my best massages there. Absolutely worth it for a very different experience."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Miraj Hammam, 1495 W. 6th Ave., 604 733 5151

"...a little piece of paradise"

Bloedel Floral Conservatory is home to exotic plants from around the world as well as more than 100 birds of various species that fly free within the dome. "On top of Queen Elizabeth Park in the middle of this big city lies a little piece of paradise. This domed building houses tropical plants and birds. If you need a relaxing place to get away from it all for an hour or two, this is the place."—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Bloedel Floral Conservatory, Queen Elizabeth Park, Cambie St. at W. 33rd Ave., 604 257 8584

"I was so delighted to discover **Van Dusen Gardens**. An interesting range of plants and landscaping, beautifully signed and labelled, made the experience not only enriching but also educational. Its location, just a 15-minute bus ride from downtown, was an amazing surprise. Such a haven of tranquility in the middle of the city suburbs!"—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Van Dusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St., 604 878 9274

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"You can pick up one of the many little pedestrian ferries (either **Aquabus** or **False Creek Ferries**) from several docks around the False Creek area and ride them to several popular destinations: Science World, Yaletown, Granville Island and the Maritime Museum at Vanier Park."—TripAdvisor Member

Aquabus, <http://www.theaquabus.com>, 604 689 5858
False Creek Ferries, <http://www.granvilleislandferries.bc.ca>, 604 684 7781.

"One thing we learned, locals and tourists seem to get a late morning start. So if you're an **early bird**, you'll never get caught in traffic or a crowd."—TripAdvisor Member, California

"If you're looking to save a little money on transportation, the **public transit system** is very good in Vancouver. You can buy a **day pass** and use it for the bus, the Seabus or the Skytrain."—TripAdvisor Member, Windsor, Ontario.

When crossing **Lion's Gate Bridge** go with the flow to fit in with the locals. Cars move forward, taking turns from each approaching lane, merging into two, then one lane of traffic to cross the narrow bridge

Want more information on Vancouver? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Vancouver or any other destination you choose.



WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

Organic, vegetarian and freshly made brunch choices abound at this colorful "1950s style diner. **The Templeton's** cinnamon raisin French toast was heavenly!"—TripAdvisor Member, Rochester, New York

The Templeton, 1087 Granville St., 604 685 4612

Yew Restaurant is "outstanding. The servers engaged with my children while simultaneously making sure that my wife and I were treated as adults."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.

Yew Restaurant & Bar, 791 W. Georgia St., 604 692 4939

"Perfect choice, perfect husband."

ROMANCE

"My partner and I were greeted at the **Five Sails** by an ever-so-friendly maître d' who urged us to wait for a table to be cleared, as it had the best view of the lake and sunset over the mountains. And it did!"—TripAdvisor Member, Cambridge, U.K.

Five Sails, Pan Pacific Hotel, 999 Canada Place, 604 844 2855

"My husband took me to **Bistrot Bistro** to celebrate my birthday. Perfect choice, perfect husband. The owners were the perfect hosts, and the wait staff were amazing. The food was PERFECT, the wine was French and everything was superb. Ooh la la!"—TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.

Bistrot Bistro, 1961 W. 4th Ave., 604 732 0004

"We loved our cozy corner table for two at **Chambar**. Great menu with lots of options—you can tailor make your evening depending upon your appetite. We each sampled many Belgian beers, which was a real treat. A shared pot of the mussels Congolaise was a dining highlight of the vacation."—TripAdvisor Member, Franksville, Wis.

Chambar, 562 Beatty St., 604 879 7119

BUDGET

"Any tourists out there want to try a uniquely flavored hot dog? You gotta start with **Japadog!**"—TripAdvisor Member

Japadog, 899 Burard St. and other locations, <http://www.japadog.com>

"**Terra's** blueberry bread with white chocolate was the most wonderful dessert. The white chocolate was melted and the blueberries were so fresh."—TripAdvisor Member, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Terra Breads, 2380 W. 4th Ave., 604 736 1838

"The only negative thing to be said about **Lee's Donuts** is that it will spoil you for chains such as Tim Hortons or Krispy Kreme."—TripAdvisor Member

Lee's Donuts, 1689 Johnston St., Granville Island, 604 685 4021

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“The food at **Nuba** is absolutely fabulous for vegetarians, and our carnivore friends have enjoyed the meat items. The fried cauliflower is not to be missed. You won’t find the like at many other restaurants.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tucson, Ariz.

Nuba, 1206 Seymour St., 778 371 3266

Panne Rizo brings joy to the hearts and stomachs of Vancouver’s gluten-free. The bakery offers tasty muffins and more substantial items, such as pizza.

Panne Rizo, 1939 Cornwall Ave. 604 736 0885

“At **Gorilla Food**, all the menu items are organic, vegan and raw. As healthy as it gets, but I promise that taste is never sacrificed.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Gorilla Food, 436 Richards St., 604 772 2504

HIDDEN GEMS

So slight in dimensions, it’s almost waif-like, **Bin 941** manages to pack vast amounts of flavor into its tiny space. “A great wine list and interesting munchies” cause late-night lines for the few tables. —TripAdvisor Member, Vancouver

Bin 941, 941 Davie St., 604 683 1246

The seafood at **Bishop’s** is “not to be missed! They use the highest quality local ingredients and prepare them in an uncomplicated way so as to emphasize the flavors.”—TripAdvisor Member, Idaho

Bishop’s, 2183 W. 4th Ave., 604 738 2025

Located in Gastown, **Cobre** has “delicious food in a stylish setting that manages to achieve true fusion with Latin cuisine. The Wild Sea Prawn is delish and Crusted Chicken is magic in your mouth. Good wine list with reasonable prices. Prepare to share!”—TripAdvisor Member

Cobre, 52 Powell St., 604 669 2396

SPECIAL EVENTS



“Celebrate diversity in film,” and catch the screenings, panel discussions, and gala events at the **Vancouver Asian Film Festival** (November 3 – 6) and the **Vancouver Jewish Film Festival** (November 10 – 20)

Vancouver Asian Film Festival, Various venues, 604 251 6828, <http://www.vaff.org>

Vancouver Jewish Film Festival, Various venues, 604 266 0245, <http://www.vjff.org>

Head east through the Fraser Valley to discover one of North America’s treasures in its natural habitat during the **Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival**. Enjoy family events, crafts, food and contests on the ground while overhead soar thousands of majestic eagles. (November 19 – 20)

Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival, Various venues along Fraser Valley, 604 826 7361, <http://www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca>

VanDusen Botanical Garden twinkles with innumerable lights during its **Festival of Lights**, when the Gingerbread Wood, Floating Bridge, Magic Marsh and Livingstone Lake glow under the dancing light show, set to seasonal music, and Santa and his host of elves, magicians and entertainers enchant kids of all ages with stories and fun. (December 9 – January 2)

Festival of Lights, VanDusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St., 604 878 9274, <http://www.vandusengarden.org>

Chill out after your New Year’s Eve celebrations with an awakening dip in the cool waters of the great Pacific Ocean at the **Vancouver Polar Bear Swim**, when thousands of brave adventurers take the plunge in one of the largest Polar Bear Swims in the world. (January 1)
Vancouver Polar Bear Swim, English Bay

Sip fine wines from around the world and taste the best in Vancouver’s cuisine at the **Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival**. Your palate will be tempted by a multitude of tastings, luncheons, winery dinners and auctions. (February 27 - March 4)
Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, 604 872 6622, <http://playhousewinefest.com>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

One happy dad found the **Hampton Inn and Suites** “simply the best value hotel” he had ever stayed in. “Superb breakfast” and an ideal location clinched the deal. —TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Hampton Inn and Suites, 111 Robson St., 604 602 1008

In addition to “beautiful views over the city skyline,” **910 Beach** boasts “very nice and affordable accommodation in a very nice area of the city, close to attractions such as English Bay and Granville Street and just across the water from Granville Island.” —TripAdvisor Member, Barcelona, Spain

910 Beach - Apartment Hotel, 910 Beach Ave., 604 609 5100

Times Square Suites is like “a temporary home rather than a room—very tastefully furnished, clean and equipped with everything we needed.” —TripAdvisor Member, Almeria, Spain

Times Square Suites, 200-1821 Robson St., 604 684 2223

“...quirky, lavish, lush”



Have questions about Vancouver? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“Exquisite style and impeccable service” star at the lush Opus Hotel. “There is simply no contest—the **Opus Hotel** is head and shoulders above its competition.” —TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia

Opus, 322 Davie St., 604 642 6787

“The **Wedgewood** is quirky, lavish, lush and just one of the most gorgeous places to rest your head in Vancouver. We had a fabulous suite. Even the handmade (yes, handmade!) biscuits in the room were incredibly delectable. I loved, loved, loved this hotel!” —TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, U.K.

Wedgewood Hotel & Spa, 845 Hornby St., 604 689 7777

“We had a great time at the **Barclay House**. The room was well-furnished, well-equipped and decorated beautifully. There were lovely touches, such as home-baked cookies in our room. Everyone was so helpful, and we really enjoyed our stay.” —TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, U.K.

Barclay House, 1351 Barclay St., 604 605 1351

BUDGET

Light Heart Inn “was perfect. Good location, excellent breakfast and a very helpful host! The room was cute with a comfortable bed and its own en suite washroom, and there was also a little area for guests where you could use internet and the laundry.” —TripAdvisor Member, Ravenna, Italy

Light Heart Inn, 2118 E. 10th Ave., 877 299 5993

Vancouver Traveller B&B is a “great value and a friendly place. We were in the great value Stanley Park room with lovely views of the mountains. The room was spacious and clean. Breakfast was healthy, tasty and varied. We met some pleasant visitors here.” —TripAdvisor Member, Kettering, U.K.

Vancouver Traveller B&B, 2159 W. 21st Ave., 604 435 3826

“**Hostelling International Vancouver Downtown** was great. We had a sink in our room. There was a great games room, library and decent tv room. It’s also brilliantly located, so close to everything—Granville Island, Stanley Park, the SkyTrain, etc. The breakfast was the best I’ve ever gotten in a hostel—better than some hotels!” —TripAdvisor Member, Dublin, Ireland

Hostelling International Vancouver Downtown, 1114 Burnaby St., 604 684 4565

LUXURY

“We truly hit the jackpot with the **Le Soleil Hotel and Suites**! The decor throughout the hotel was gorgeous—very stylish and classic. The staff are incredibly friendly and efficient. We were always greeted with a smile, and everybody went the extra mile. The location is perfect. You’re a two-minute walk from the heart of it all.” —TripAdvisor Member, Surrey, U.K.

Le Soleil Hotel and Suites, 567 Hornby St., 604 632 3000

“WOW! The **Loden** was a find. Our room was outfitted with a WiiFit and a DVD player. The restaurant was beyond all expectations. The gym has state of the art equipment. We had massages in a room outfitted with an infra-red sauna. Can’t rate it high enough.” —TripAdvisor Member, Bowen Island, British Columbia

Loden Vancouver, 1177 Melville St., 604 669 5060

“For all those luxury minded travellers like me, I can reassure you that you cannot go wrong with the **Fairmont Pacific Rim**. The rooms are oversized and the beds are heavenly. The poolside rooms come with a private, covered balcony” so you can dine outside in front of an open fire. —TripAdvisor Member, New York

Fairmont Pacific Rim, 1038 Canada Place, 604 695 5300

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

The Listel is a thoughtfully designed boutique hotel with a fabulous restaurant featuring live jazz. The hotel has an arrangement with local art galleries and museums and features an art floor graced with Pacific Northwest native art. You'll find original masks, prints, carvings in the hallways and in the rooms."—TripAdvisor Member, Bellingham, Wash.

The Listel, 1300 Robson St., 604 684 8461

Robson Suites "is small—only 4 floors—so it's not super busy with people and it's not noisy from guests. I loved the location. You're about 30 seconds from Robson, but yet you're on a quiet street so you don't get any street noise."—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Robson Suites, 777 Bidwell St., 604 685 9777

"Is it possible to fill a vacation with hiking, biking, shopping and fantastic dinners out and still feel relaxed? It is when you stay at the **Corkscrew!** The moment you step foot into this charming B&B, you'll be pleased with your smart self for selecting such a great place to stay. Great location, great staff, great home and great guests!"—TripAdvisor Member, Minneapolis, Minn.

The Corkscrew Inn, 2735 West 2nd Ave., 604 733 7276

About **TRIPADVISOR**

TripAdvisor is the largest travel community in the world with 50 million monthly visitors and featuring more than 50 million reviews and opinions of 675,000 hotels and attractions. TripAdvisor.com is the most trusted source for travel recommendations about where to go, where to stay and how to play for 93,000 destinations around the world. TripAdvisor.com also provides easy access to the major online travel sites to make booking your next vacation, your best vacation, easier than ever.



Edited/compiled by Aefa Mulholland, Michelle Schwartz and Kris Horton

This brochure and its contents are copyright © 2011, TripAdvisor, Inc., all rights reserved. TRIPADVISOR, the owl logo and all other marks displayed herein are registered and/or common law trademarks of TripAdvisor and/or third parties. Representations made in this brochure are current as of its publication date. This brochure contains reviews, comments, photographs and other content regarding destinations, accommodations, airlines and other travel products and services submitted by users of tripadvisor.com. Reviews and ratings represent the opinions of such users. TripAdvisor does not sponsor or endorse any user content and therefore is not liable for any statements, representations or other information contained in such user content.

Further, reference to any products, services, processes or other information of any third party does not constitute or imply endorsement, sponsorship or recommendation of or affiliation with, such third party by TripAdvisor. Such third parties are owned and operated by independent retailers or service providers, and TripAdvisor cannot ensure that you will be satisfied with their products, services, business practices or provided information. TripAdvisor recommends that you pursue any and all investigation you feel necessary or appropriate before transacting with any third party.