



British Columbia



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Introduction

Canada's western-most province styles itself as "Beautiful British Columbia", and for good reason. Majestic mountains, dramatic fjords, dense rainforests, lovely lakes, and coastal variety.

Here are pictures from a visit to a small part of southern BC.

I worked in Vancouver for six months a long time ago, and visited fairly frequently on business after that, but hadn't been back since I started taking digital photos.

I was fortunate to be joined on these explorations by Chris Paton, a very good friend who lives in Vancouver and who contributed a lot of local insight to the development of our itinerary.

We were fortunate that we were spared any serious amount of rain but, as you'll see, we did have our share of cloudy days. Nevertheless, as you'll also see, there were some great days for photos as well.

The first section on Vancouver is primarily for those not familiar with the city. The truly stunning views are mostly found out of town in BC, and they show up here in the Excursions and Vancouver Island sections.

– Bruce McKay

Southern British Columbia



Vancouver Area

Sea to Sky Highway to
Squamish and Whistler

Horseshoe Bay

Nelson Canyon
Park

Cypress Mtn Lookout

Marine Dr

Lighthouse
Park

West Vancouver

Capilano River
Regional Park

Montroyal Blvd
Mosquito Creek
Park

North Vancouver

Lynn Canyon
Park

Indian
Arm

Belcarra Regional
Park

Belcarra

English Bay

Lions Gate Bridge

Stanley
Park

Burrard Inlet

Vancouver Harbour

"West End"

Locarno Beach

Jericho Beach

Kitsilano Beach

U.B.C

Pacific Spirit
Regional Park

VANCOUVER

False Cr

Powell St

Clark Dr

E 1st Ave

Nanaimo St

Renfrew St

E 1st Ave

Hastings St

Kensington
Park

Spring Ave

Burnaby Mountain
Conservation
Area

Burnaby 200
Conservation
Land

Lougheed Hwy

North Rd

W 16th Ave

W 4th Ave

West Point Grey

Dunbar St

MacDonald St

W King Edward Ave

Granville St

Oak St

Main St

E 49th Ave

E 57th Ave

Central Park

Imperial St

Rumble St

Kingsway

10th Ave

Canada Way

George Derby
Conservation
Area

Queens Park

New Westm

SW Marine Dr

Musqueam 2

W 41st Ave

Iona Beach
Regional Park

Sea Island 3

VANCOUVER
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

Bridgeport Rd

Cambie Rd

KNIGHT ST

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Richmond

Strait of
Georgia

To Ferry to Victoria

Ferry
Cruise



Vancouver

Welcome to Vancouver.
Vancouver is many things ...



Vancouver

... a busy sea port ...



Vancouver

... a popular tourist destination ...



Vancouver ... BC's prosperous commercial centre ...



Vancouver ... a collection of friendly neighbourhoods ...



Vancouver ... a mix of coastal lifestyles ...



Vancouver

and, increasingly, the home of the newly wealthy.



Vancouver

My base is in Vancouver's West End. We begin exploring at the harbour to the north, and then continue counter-clockwise.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

Vancouver developed first as a port. The Burrard Inlet is a deep and sheltered channel, excellent for large oceangoing ships.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

The Vancouver harbour port remains busy, now supplemented by container and other port facilities along the lower B.C. coast.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

Port facilities on the north side of the Burrard Inlet in North Vancouver specialize in bulk materials handling and marine operations services.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

The south shore has been redeveloped for mixed uses as heavy industry has relocated elsewhere.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

Canada Place, completed in time for Expo 86, introduced innovative architecture with its fabric roofs resembling sails.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

**Canada Place has served as a convention centre
and now also plays host to visiting cruise ships.**



**Vancouver
Harbour**

The new Vancouver Convention Centre has won awards for environmental design. It triples convention centre capacity and adds hotel, marina, and transportation facilities.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

The living roof, seawater heating and cooling, on-site water treatment and fish habitat in the foundation make it one of the greenest convention centres in the world.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

Vancouver Harbour also has a busy seaplane aerodrome, with float planes servicing Victoria, Nanaimo, and destinations throughout B.C.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

The harbour seaplane terminal gives travellers immediate access to the city's business district, hotels, and convention centres.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

The harbour also plays host to pleasure craft ...



**Vancouver
Harbour**

... and marinas for megayachts.
This one, A2, is registered in the Cayman Islands, owner not disclosed.



**Vancouver
Harbour**

And, to service all these vessels, there's a floating gas station right in the heart of downtown Vancouver harbour.



**Lions Gate
Bridge**

The Lions Gate bridge, completed in 1938, connects the City of Vancouver to the North Shore communities of West Vancouver and North Vancouver.



**Lions Gate
Bridge**

The centre lane reverses direction to accommodate traffic patterns, but the bridge is one of several serious traffic bottlenecks in the Vancouver area.



**Lions Gate
Bridge**

**Proposals to replace or supplement the bridge have all been rejected.
And there area no major transit expansion plans.**



Stanley Park

Stanley Park is a huge forested park that borders downtown Vancouver and is almost entirely surrounded by the waters of Vancouver Harbour and English Bay.



Stanley Park

Unlike other large urban parks it is not the creation of a landscape architect but rather the evolution of a forest and urban space over many years.



Stanley Park

The Hollow Tree is a monument to the original forest of giant trees. It is about 1,000 years old, possibly the oldest in the park, having survived extensive logging from 1865 to 1885.



Stanley Park

The park's most popular feature with its 8 million annual visitors is the walking and cycling path that runs along the perimeter Seawall that protects the park from erosion.



Stanley Park

Park Area: 1001 acres / 1.6 square miles / 4.0 km². Larger than New York's Central Park. Stanley Park was named "Top Park in the Entire World" by TripAdvisor in 2014.



Stanley Park

Park features include beaches, a fresh water lake, a pool, formal gardens, forest trails, an aquarium, an outdoor theatre, a miniature railroad, and a variety of sports facilities.



Stanley Park

There's even an oh-so-British Tea House on the west side of the park.



Stanley Park

The Vancouver Rowing Club is successful in Canadian and Commonwealth competitions. It has medals from Olympics in Paris, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Rome, and Tokyo.



Stanley Park

The Vancouver Rowing Club originated in 1886 and moved to Stanley Park in 1905. It now also has Yachting, Rugby, and Field Hockey divisions.



Stanley Park

The First Nations totem poles in Stanley Park are one of BC's most visited attractions. The Parks Board has been collecting poles from remote locations in BC since the 1920s.



Stanley Park

British Columbia has been inhabited for thousands of years. These towering First Nations monuments are one of the most recognizable cultural symbols of Western Canada.



False Creek

False Creek is a large inlet that extends east from English Bay along the south side of downtown Vancouver.



False Creek

The iconic little False Creek Ferries offer good sightseeing and picture taking opportunities.



False Creek **As we enter the inlet the beaches give way to ...**



False Creek ... the new high-rises and marinas of the Yaletown district ...



False Creek ... which seem to go on and on ...



False Creek ... displaying some of Vancouver's new-found prosperity.



False Creek

Granville Island, tucked under the Granville Bridge, has been re-developed. A few traditional industries remain, but



False Creek

... tourists and locals alike now come to Granville Island mainly to shop, eat, and be entertained.



False Creek

Even Ocean Concrete, Granville Island's last major tie to its industrial past, has done its part for the transformation.



False Creek

Sea Village, on the south-east side of Granville Island, is a collection of colourful floating houses that rise and fall with the tides.



False Creek

This geodesic dome at the east end of False Creek was created for Expo 86. It now houses Science World's interactive science exhibits and displays.



False Creek

BC Place served as the main stadium for the 2010 Winter Olympics. It now features a cable-supported retractable roof, the largest of its kind.



English Bay

Downtown Vancouver as seen from Kitsilano Beach.



English Bay

Homes along exclusive Point Grey Road have long been among Vancouver's most expensive.



English Bay

Jericho Beach



English Bay **Royal Vancouver Yacht Club**



English Bay **Locarno Beach**



**Queen
Elizabeth Park**

Queen Elizabeth Park, south of downtown and the highest point within the city, provides views of the park, the city, and (on a clear day) the mountains on the North Shore.



Queen
Elizabeth Park



Queen
Elizabeth Park

Quarry Garden



**Queen
Elizabeth Park**

The Bloedel Conservatory is a domed conservatory and aviary that houses three different tropical climate zones.



**Queen
Elizabeth Park**

More than 200 free-flying exotic birds and 500 exotic plants and flowers thrive in its temperature-controlled environment.



Queen
Elizabeth Park

There are smaller birds too, but they don't pose.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Time to head out of town, north across the Lions Gate Bridge, and towards the Sea to Sky Highway.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**First stop is a viewpoint part way up Cypress
Mountain, north of the city of West Vancouver.**



Sea to Sky
Highway

Looking south-east



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**Looking south-west: English Bay, the University of British Columbia,
the Strait of Georgia, and Vancouver Island in the distance.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Horseshoe Bay is a community of about 1,000 permanent residents that sits at the southern end of the Sea to Sky Highway.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Visitors come to Horseshoe Bay by land and by sea to visit its shops and restaurants or just take in the scenery.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Horseshoe Bay is a major terminal for the BC Ferries which link the mainland to BC's various islands and to parts of the mainland without road access.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**The lower end of the Sea to Sky Highway
travels along the east coast of Howe Sound**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**The highway links Vancouver to the Whistler
ski area and communities to the north.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**Howe Sound is actually a network of fjords
carved out of the Coast Mountains.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Porteau Cove is a departure point for scuba diving on artificial reefs sunk in the area.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

This monster dump truck parked by the highway at Britannia Beach is intended to draw attention to the British Columbia Museum of Mining.



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**The mine is no longer operational, but visitors can
tour underground and see the processing areas.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**Shannon Falls is the third-highest waterfall in BC.
Water falls from a height of 1,099 feet / 335 metres.**



Sea to Sky
Highway

Shannon Falls



Sea to Sky
Highway

Shannon Falls



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**Alice Lake looks green because its surface
reflects the surrounding green forest.**



Sea to Sky
Highway

Alice Lake Park



Sea to Sky
Highway

Alice Lake Park



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**The Tantalus Viewpoint north of Squamish provides
some of the most impressive sights in the region.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Snow-capped Tantalus Mountains



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

Tantalus Viewpoint



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**Tantalus Viewpoint.
Satisfied, we head back south from here.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**The West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish
preserves much of the region's railway history.**



**Sea to Sky
Highway**

**The museum presents a typical railway
facility of the mid 20th century.**



Sea to Sky
Highway

The museum's rolling stock collection represents several decades and a variety of operators.



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Next we board the Harbour Princess (centre rear) for a four-hour cruise through the Burrard Inlet and then north into the Indian Arm fjord.



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Burrard Inlet



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Burrard Inlet



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Burrard Inlet



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Heading into the Indian Arm fjord



Indian Arm
Cruise

Indian Arm



Indian Arm
Cruise

Indian Arm



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Indian Arm. Coast Mountains.



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Indian Arm. Welcome to Norway.



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

Residents here have no road access.



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

**Silver Falls is located about two-thirds of the
way up Indian Arm on the west shoreline.**



Indian Arm
Cruise

Silver Falls



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

**The captain manoeuvred the ship amazingly
close to the falls, without incident.**



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

**These two are headed further up,
but we're turning back here.**



**Indian Arm
Cruise**

**I really love day cruises. Spectacular scenery. Unique vantage points.
Armchair comfort.**



**Vancouver
Island**

Next we're off to Vancouver Island, via BC Ferry from Tsawwassen, south of Vancouver, to Victoria.



Victoria

Victoria is the capital of BC.
Like Vancouver, it is a port.



Victoria

The Empress Hotel is the queen of the inner harbour.



Victoria

The Fairmont hotel chain is refurbishing the Empress and giving her a facelift.



Victoria

British Columbia Parliament Buildings



Victoria

Victoria's inner harbour is also a seaplane aerodrome.



Victoria

Harbour-to-harbour seaplane service to Vancouver is very popular with business travellers.



Victoria

We go sightseeing in Victoria's James Bay neighbourhood via pedicab. Chris (left) and Renée, our pedaller-guide.



Victoria

Fisherman's Wharf



Victoria

**Victorian character homes abound here.
This was the home of famous Canadian painter and author Emily Carr.**



Victoria

English influences are evident.



Victoria

Some homes are less formal, more homey.



Victoria

**Tastefully decorated surfboard,
showcased beside the stained glass.**



Victoria

Beacon Hill Park includes woodland and shoreline trails, playgrounds, a waterpark, playing fields, a petting zoo, tennis courts, ponds, and landscaped gardens.



Victoria

Thunderbird Park



Victoria

This 127 foot / 39-metre totem pole by Mungo Martin was the world's tallest when erected in 1956.



**Butchart
Gardens**

The Butchart Gardens north of Victoria cover over 55 acres / 22 hectares, and include the Sunken, Japanese, Rose, Italian, and Mediterranean Gardens.



**Butchart
Gardens**

The Sunken Gardens were devised to beautify a worked-out limestone quarry which had supplied a cement plant.



Butchart
Gardens



Butchart
Gardens



**Butchart
Gardens**



**Butchart
Gardens**



Butchart
Gardens

Japanese Garden



Butchart
Gardens



Butchart
Gardens



**Butchart
Gardens**



**Malahat
Highway**

"The Malahat" is the term commonly applied to the 16 mile / 25 km portion of Trans Canada Highway 1 running along the west side of Saanich Inlet and to the region surrounding it.



**Malahat
Highway**

Saanich Inlet



**Malahat
Highway**

The Salish Bear Pole by Salish carver Stan Modeste depicts Thunderbird at the top and, at the bottom, Grizzly Bear holding a mask.



**Malahat
Highway**

Saanich Inlet



**Malahat
Highway**

Continuing north



Chemainus

Wall mural painting is not new, but its use as an economic development strategy to promote tourism for the small town of Chemainus was novel.



Chemainus

The town of 3,000 faced the possible closure of its only major employer, a sawmill, and initiated a program to transform itself into a unique tourist destination.



Chemainus

The building murals were a key element in the revitalization program. Even the federal post office got with the program.



Chemainus

The Chemainus project fueled spin-offs, some for tourism, some for beautification, in cities across Canada and in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.



Parksville

In Parksville we're staying right on the coast, overlooking the Strait of Georgia.



Parksville

**The view from our digs at the Ocean Sands Resort
on a cloudy afternoon.**



Parksville

**And a very different view, of the mud flats,
when the tide goes out.**



Parksville

**Rathtrevor Beach Park is popular with campers.
No bears or exotic wildlife here ...**



Parksville

... just us.



Parksville

French Creek Harbour is just north of town.



Parksville

Commercial vessels operate from here ...



Parksville

... and all in all it's a busy place.



Parksville

But not so busy that there isn't.
time for some fun with Chris



**Heading
Home**

**We take a ferry back to the mainland from
Nanaimo and arrive here at Horseshoe Bay.**



Sunset

**Sunset on May 16 from the shore
at the Tea House in Stanley Park.**



Sunset



Sunset



Sunset

Good night.

< End >

British Columbia