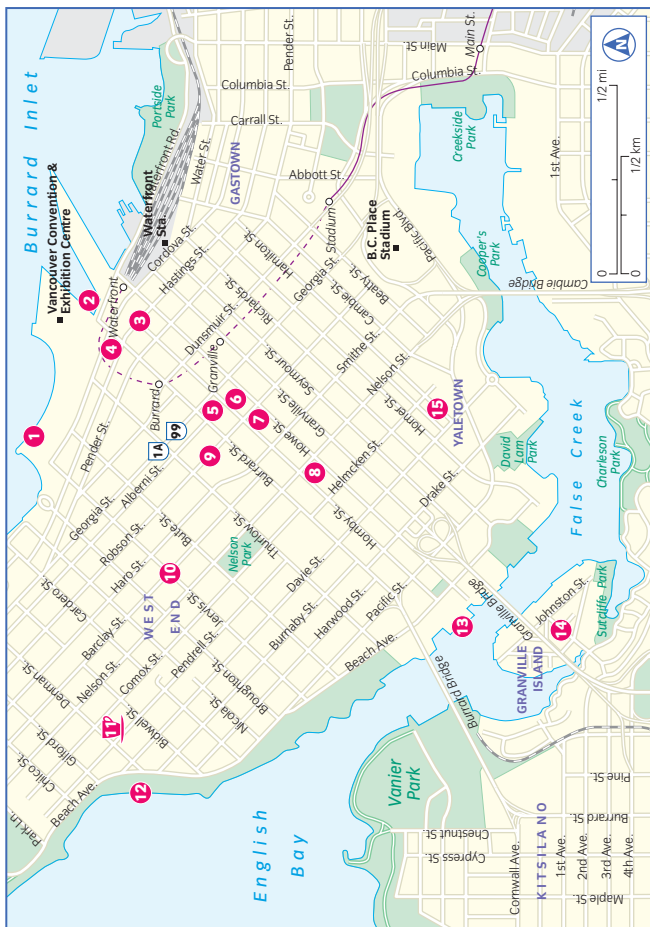


1

The Best **Full-Day** **Tours**



The Best in One Day



- 1 Coal Harbour Seawalk
- 2 Canada Place
- 3 West Hastings Heritage District
- 4 Marine Building
- 5 Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
- 6 Vancouver Art Gallery
- 7 Robson Square
- 8 Provincial Law Courts
- 9 Robson Street
- 10 The West End
- 11 Nat's New York Pizzeria
- 12 English Bay Beach
- 13 False Creek Ferries
- 14 Granville Island
- 15 Yaletown

Previous page: Centennial Totem Pole of Haida-Tlingit design in Vanier Park.

Thank Mother Nature, loggers, and the Canadian Pacific Railway for the fact that Vancouver began where it did—

on a small, idyllic peninsula surrounded by water and mountains, and thus not predisposed to easy sprawl. Today the city does cover some 114 sq. km (44 sq. miles), but its urban core remains centered on the original settlements. The tour below will guide you from downtown's north shore to its south, through its vibrant business district and most beautiful residential areas, and introduce you to some of its best culture. **START: Begin at Coal Harbour Park, at the corner of Jervis St. and W. Hastings St. Take in the view of Coal Harbour and Burrard Inlet, then walk down the stairway to your left and head east.**

1 ★★★ Coal Harbour Seawalk.

Vancouver is all about coastal paths, of which the lovely 1,600m (mile-long) promenade along Coal Harbour is the newest. To the west, you can see the beginnings of Stanley Park, the city's largest, which boasts its own, much longer seawalk (p 85, 1). In Coal Harbour, look for funky houseboats moored among hundreds of luxury yachts and sailboats. Across Burrard Inlet, Cypress Mountain, Grouse Mountain, and Mt. Seymour loom above the homes of North Vancouver. The seawalk itself is bordered by luxury condominiums, marine outfitters, several cafes and restaurants, and lovely Harbour Green Park, dotted along its length with public art (p 45, 2). ⌚ 30 min. *The seawall*

stretches from Stanley Park in the west to the Convention Centre in the east. Bus: 19.

2 ★★ **Canada Place.** Jutting out into the waters of Burrard Inlet, Canada Place is a combo convention center, cruise ship terminal, and hotel and office complex. What's remarkable about it is its design. Its Convention Centre extension is topped by a 2.4-hectare (6-acre) living roof—one of North America's largest—planted with indigenous plants and grasses that capture usable rainwater, reduce building heat, and clean the downtown air by trapping dust and creating oxygen. Next door, the cruise terminal is itself shaped like a ship, with five

The five "sails" atop Canada Place's cruise terminal make it easy to identify from afar.





The Marine Building, reflected in the glass of one of Downtown's many skyscrapers.

Teflon "sails" forming its roof. Both buildings are encircled by seaside promenades, letting you walk all the way around them for wonderful views. ⌚ 30 min.–1 hr. *At the north-end of Burrard & Hornby sts. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station. Bus: 4, 7.*

3 ★ West Hastings Heritage District. West Hastings Street was the city's main banking and commercial street in the early 1900s, and today the distinguished century-old buildings between Richards and Burrard streets house high-end luxury shops: Birk's jewelers in the Romanesque former CIBC headquarters (698 W. Hastings St.), Montecristo jewelers at the former Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien building (850 W. Hastings St.), and a number of high-end shops at the Sinclair Centre (757 W. Hastings St.), a complex of four former government and commercial buildings dating back to 1910. ⌚ 15 min. www.sinclaircentre.com. *Bus: 10, 44. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station.*

4 ★★★ The Marine Building. The 21-story Marine Building (opened in 1930) is one of downtown's most beautiful landmarks.

Designed in the art deco style, it's decorated inside and out with the kind of exuberance typical of the period. Check out its facade and cathedral-like entranceway, adorned with stylized sea horses, crabs, and other sea creatures, then duck into the vaulted lobby, an ornate masterpiece full of stained glass, gorgeous tilework, gleaming brass, and lighting sconces shaped like the prows of ships. ⌚ 10 min. *355 Burrard St. Bus: 10, 44. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station.*

5 ★★ Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Going south on Burrard Street, you'll pass several distinctive modern buildings (see "Art & Architecture" tour, p 24) before arriving at the chateau-style Fairmont Hotel Vancouver (p 126), the grand dame of the city's hotels. Opened in May 1939 for a visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the 17-story hotel was Vancouver's tallest building until 1972, and even today its steep green-copper roof is a fixture on the Vancouver skyline. On the outside, you can see a wealth of

The classically designed Vancouver Art Gallery is home to a surprisingly modern collection.





Robson Street is Vancouver's prime spot for shopping and socializing.

gargoyles and Renaissance detailing, while the lobby offers shopping, a lovely bar, and dogs whose job it is to greet guests. ⌚ 10 min. 900 W. Georgia St. www.fairmont.com/hotel-vancouver. Bus: 2, 22, 44. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Burrard Station.

6 ★★ Vancouver Art Gallery.

On first glance you think, “Staid old traditions,” because the Gallery’s 1912 building was originally a courthouse, designed in a classical Greco-Roman style by noted architect Francis Rattenbury (1867–1935). Then you spot the colorful boats up on the roof—a harbinger of the collection inside, which includes works from throughout the 20th century, paintings by regional modernist Emily Carr, and rotating temporary exhibits that range from early photography to contemporary video art. The building’s glass-topped dome floods the central rotunda with light, while ornate plasterwork and marble put a classical frame on many thoroughly modern pieces. In 2014, the museum is expected to move to a much larger new home on the shore of False Creek. ⌚ 1½ hr. 750 Hornby St. (btw. Robson & Georgia sts.).

☎ 604/662-4719. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca. Admission C\$20 adults, C\$15 seniors, C\$6.50 kids 5–12, free 4 and

under. Prices about C\$4 less Jan–May. Daily 10am–5:30pm (Tues & Thurs until 9pm). Bus: 5. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Burrard Station.

7 ★ Robson Square. Facing the Art Gallery, Vancouver icon Arthur Erickson’s modernist, concrete complex (built in 1980) is essentially a park built atop ground-hugging offices, with hundreds of trees and other plants surrounding a block-long reflecting pool and three waterfalls that flow from the Provincial Law Courts (below). Take a walk among its pathways, ziggurat stairs, and verdant greenery, or rent some skates at the domed ice rink near the Art Gallery. ⌚ 20 min. At Robson St., between Hornby and Howe sts.

8 ★★ The Provincial Law Courts.

The high point of Robson Square, the Law Courts offer one of Vancouver’s most stunning interiors: a tree- and greenery-filled public atrium the size of a football field, with tiered terrace gardens rising five stories beneath an enormous, sloping glass roof. ⌚ 15 min. Enter at the corner of Hornby and Nelson sts. Free admission. Mon–Fri 9am–4pm.

9 ★★★ Robson Street. The section of Robson Street between Burrard and Bute streets is one of the busiest shopping stretches in



English Bay Beach is the best place to sunbathe in Vancouver.

Canada, lined with big-name shops such as Salvatore Ferragamo, Armani Exchange, Tommy Hilfiger, H&M, Aveda, and Canada's own Roots. Farther west, the street becomes a hot social scene for young Asians, full of restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, and bubble-tea houses. On weekend evenings, the entire stretch west of Burrard turns into one giant party.

🕒 **30 min., more if you shop or people-watch.** **Bus: 5.**

10 ★★ The West End. Turn left off Robson Street at Bute Street and within a block you'll be in another world, where modern high-rises,

Victorian and Edwardian houses, early 20th-century apartment buildings, and restful pocket parks mix along tree-lined residential streets. To get a real sense of the neighborhood, follow the "Coal Harbour, Downtown & the West End" walking tour (p 44) from here to English Bay.

🕒 **45 min.** **Bus: 5.**

In the West End, Denman Street is to eating and snacking what Robson Street is to clothes shopping. You can choose from more than a dozen cafes and restaurants within a few blocks, including **11P Nat's New York Pizzeria**, which totally lives up to its name. **1080 Denman St.** ☎ **604/642-0700.** www.natspizza.com. \$.

12 ★★★ English Bay Beach.

English Bay is where Vancouverites come to stroll, picnic, take in views of distant Vancouver Island, and watch the sunset from dozens of huge logs scattered across the mile-long beach. On warm days there's no place finer, with sunbathers on the sand, sailboats tacking offshore, and runners and bikers doing their thing.

🕒 **30 min., or as long as you'd like to linger.** **Along Beach Ave., between Burnaby & Bidwell sts.** **Bus: C21, 5.**

Arthur Erickson

Born in June 1924, native son Arthur Erickson is Vancouver's most famous and influential architect. After studying at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Montreal's McGill University, he traveled extensively in Europe and the Far East before returning to establish his Vancouver practice in 1953. From the mid-'60s up until today, he's redefined Vancouver's cityscape with buildings and public spaces such as **Robson Square** and the **Provincial Law Courts** (p 11, **7** and **8**), the **MacMillan-Bloedel Building** (p 26, **2**), the new **Ritz-Carlton**, and UBC's **Museum of Anthropology** (p 16, **6**), the latter considered among the definitive buildings of modern Canadian architecture.

13 ★★★ False Creek Ferries.

Vancouver is defined by its relationship to the inlets, bays, and rivers that hem it in on three sides. The easiest way to get out on the water, and one of the most pleasurable, is via the cute car-size ferries that crisscross False Creek, shuttling passengers from various downtown and Yaletown docks to Granville Island (p 13, **14**), Vanier Park (p 19, **3**), and the Telus World of Science (p 39, **8**). ⌚ 15 min. Aquabus runs to Granville Island from the foot of Hornby St. ☎ 604/689-5858. www.theaquabus.com. False Creek ferries run to Granville Island and Vanier Park from the Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave., at Thurlow. ☎ 604/684-7781. www.granvilleislandferries.bc.ca. Fares to Granville island C\$2.50 adults, C\$1.25 seniors & kids 4–12; service runs every 15 min.

14 ★★★ Granville Island.

Granville Island began as an industrial park built on reclaimed land in 1915, but in the late 1970s its industries had fallen on hard times and the city began encouraging people-friendly redevelopment. Today, the 15-hectare (37-acre) pseudo-island (it's actually more of a peninsula, jutting out into False

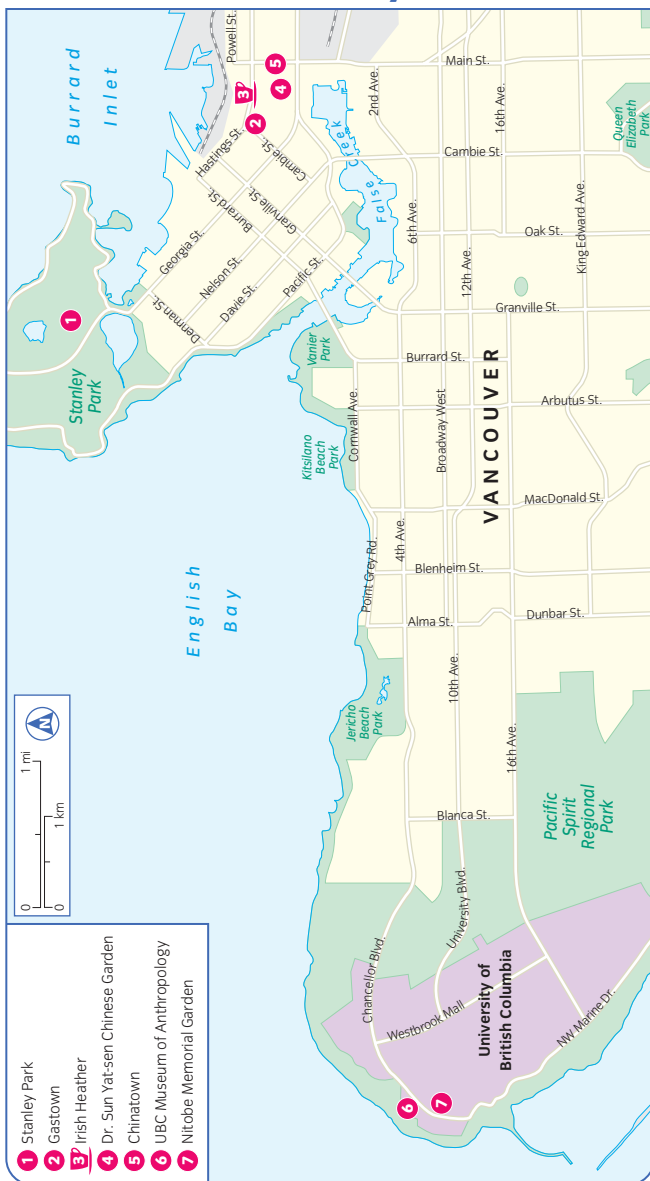
Creek under the Granville Bridge) is a playground for Vancouverites and visitors, its old warehouses and factories housing restaurants, theaters, shops, artists' workshops and galleries, museums, an art school, two small breweries, and a few remaining heavy industries to keep things real. Near the ferry docks, the Public Market (p 33, **1**) is a mecca for Vancouver's foodies. ⌚ 2 hr. www.granvilleisland.com. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 13, **13**).

15 ★★ Yaletown. Across False Creek, the former warehouse district of Yaletown was rediscovered during the late 1990s, when its large industrial spaces were transformed into dot-com offices. Today it's Vancouver's trendiest neighborhood, full of excellent restaurants, nightlife, shopping, and attractive young couples pushing baby carriages. The area is centered on Hamilton, Mainline, and Davie streets. For a detailed tour of the neighborhood, see p 52. ⌚ 1 hr., or more if you stop for dinner (p 89) or drinks (p 99)—which you should. Ferries from Granville Island (see above) run to the Yaletown marina every 15 min. Fare C\$3.50 adults, C\$2 seniors & kids 4–12. Bus: 6.

The charming restaurants, art galleries, and shops of Granville Island make it a favorite of locals and visitors alike.

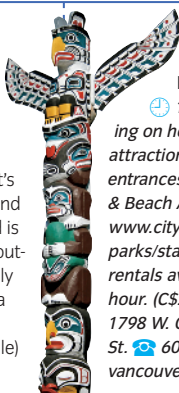


The Best in **Two Days**




You spent your first day in Vancouver seeing the city's most vital organs: its coast, its hippest neighborhoods, and its beating cultural heart. Now it's time to get out into its parks, explore the neighborhood where the city began, and get an introduction to two of its most important peoples. **START: Stanley Park entrance, west end of Georgia St.**

1 ★★★ kids Stanley Park. First opened in 1888, Stanley Park is a 404-hectare (1,000-acre) peninsular oasis located at the west end of the West End and surrounded by English Bay and Burrard Inlet. It's almost as large as downtown and is packed with opportunities for outdoor recreation (p 84) and family fun (p 36). At a minimum, rent a bike and circumnavigate the park's seawall, an 11km (6.5-mile) biking and walking trail that circles the park's perimeter; it has amazing views of the sea, the city skyline, and the North Shore Mountains, and accesses some of the park's best sights, including the eight totem poles near Brockton



A totem pole at Brockton Point in Stanley Park.

Point and the lookout under the Lions Gate Bridge at Prospect Point.

 **1½ hr. or more, depending on how many of the park's attractions you check out. Main entrances are via W. Georgia St. & Beach Ave. ☎ 604/257-8400. www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/stanley/index.htm. Bike rentals available from C\$9.50/hour. (C\$26 half-day) at Spokes, 1798 W. Georgia St., at Denman St. ☎ 604/688-5141. www.vancouverbikerental.com. Bus: 19.**

2 ★★ Gastown. Vancouver's oldest neighborhood, Gastown grew up around a saloon opened by former river pilot Gassy Jack Deighton in 1867 to serve the nearby logging

Victorian-flavored Gastown is known for its nightlife, boutiques, and dining options.





The entrance to a Buddhist temple in Chinatown.

camp. Today the neighborhood retains a Victorian flavor, full of low, shoulder-to-shoulder brick buildings, ornate streetlights, and cobble squares—all of it leavened by expensive condos, restaurants, high-end design stores, bars of all stripes, and a lot of souvenir shops along Water Street. For a comprehensive look at the neighborhood, follow the walking tour on p 52.

🕒 **1–2 hr.** *Between the waterfront and Hastings St., from Cambie to Main sts. Bus: 4, 7. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station.*

In Gastown's Maple Tree Square, the **3 Irish Heather** is one of the most authentic Irish bars in town, with a nook-filled interior and a glass-enclosed sunroom in the back, overlooking charming, brick-lined Gaoler's Mews. There's a good pub menu, and, of course, beer. **210 Carrall St.** ☎ **604/688-9779.** www.irishheather.com. \$.

4 ★★★ Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden. Opened in 1981 and named for Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (first

president of the Republic of China, in 1912), this is one of only a few classical Chinese gardens in North America, and was created by master artisans from Suzhou, the garden city of China. Its architecture is based on the yin-yang principle, in which harmony is achieved by placing contrasting elements in juxtaposition: soft water against solid stone, smooth swaying bamboo around gnarled immovable rocks, dark pebbles against light pebbles, and so on. Immediately next door, separated from the garden by only a classical footbridge and koi pond, the public Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park is less meditative but beautiful in its own right, with walking paths winding among Chinese trees and foliage.

🕒 **1 hr.** **578 Carrall St., between Pen-der and Keefer sts.** ☎ **604/689-7133.** www.vancouverchinesegarden.com. **Admission to garden C\$10 adults, C\$9 seniors, C\$8 students with ID, kids under 5 free; families (2 adults with up to 2 kids) C\$24. Free admission to park. Daily 10am–6pm (9:30am–7pm summer, 10am–4pm winter). Closed Mon, Nov 1–Apr 30. Bus: 22, 19. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Stadium-Chinatown.**

5 Chinatown. Surrounding Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden, the Chinatown neighborhood is a throwback to the days when Vancouver's Asian population could all squeeze into a tiny ghetto. Today, about 45% of all Vancouverites are Asian. See p 52 for a walking tour that takes you through Chinatown's highlights. 🕒 **1 hr. Chinatown is bounded by E. Hastings St. & Union St. to the north & south, Gore & Taylor sts. to the east & west.** **Bus: 22, 19. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Stadium-Chinatown.**

6 ★★★ University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology. Vancouver's finest museum opened at its current location in 1976, highlighting the artistic

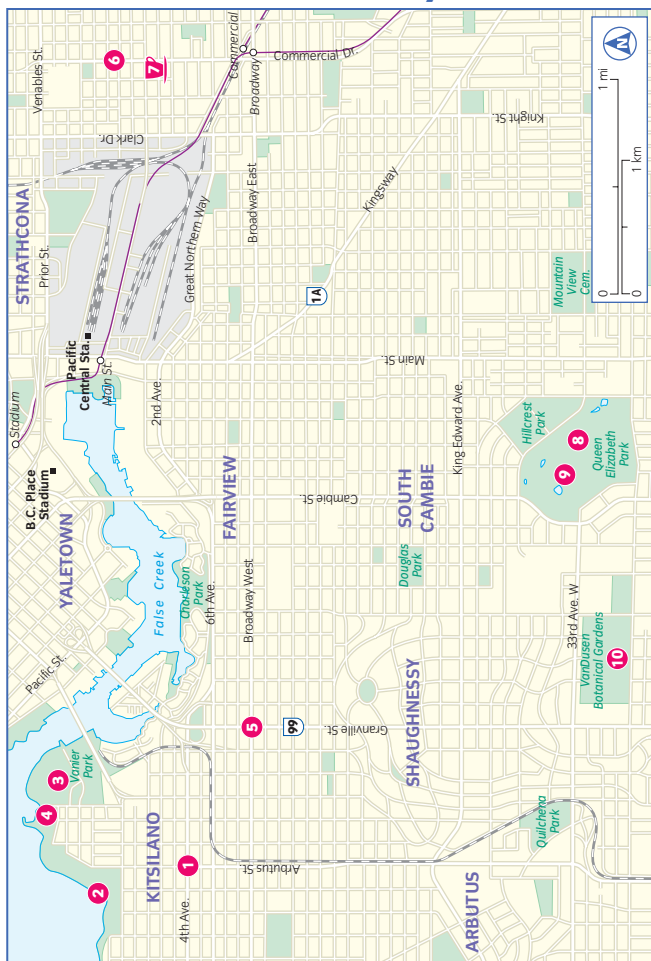
traditions of British Columbia's Haida, Kwakwaka'wakw, Gitksan, Nisga'a, Haisla, Oweekeno, and other First Nations peoples. Enter its glass-walled Great Hall to view an incredible collection of totem poles, carved boxes, canoes, blankets, and carvings, including works by famous Haida artist Bill Reid. His iconic cedar sculpture *The Raven and the First Men* is the museum's best-known work. The museum's building is an attraction all by itself, a modernist interpretation of First Nations post-and-beam architecture by Vancouver's most influential architect, Arthur Erickson (b. 1924), who also created downtown's amazing Law Courts building (p 11, 8). Outside, among the clifftop views of sea and mountain, are a Haida clan house and a number of totems and other structures that would have been present in a 19th-century Haida village. ⌚ 1½–2 hr. 6393 NW Marine Dr. ☎ 604/822-5087. www.moa.ubc.ca. Admission C\$9 adults, C\$7 seniors, free kids 6 and under. Mid-May to early Oct daily 10am–5pm (until 9pm Tues), early Oct to mid-May Tues–Sun 11am–5pm (until 9pm Tues). Bus: 4, 17 to the UBS transit center, then walk northwest (see www.maps.ubc.ca for campus maps & directions).

7 ★★★ Nitobe Memorial Garden. Named for scholar and statesman Inazo Nitobe (1862–1933), the 1-hectare (2½-acre) garden is considered one of the finest traditional Japanese stroll gardens in North America. It was created in 1960 by Kannosuke Mori, Professor of Traditional Landscape Architecture at Japan's Chiba University, who carefully chose and placed every stone, tree, and shrub to reflect an idealized version of nature in perfect harmony. Pathways are arranged around a central pond and island, with stone lanterns placed at the crossroads to symbolize choices in life and encourage meditation. Benches are positioned to frame different garden views, which offer different highlights in every season: cherry blossoms in April and May, blooming irises in June, and colorful maple leaves in October. ⌚ 45 min. 1895 Lower Mall (at NW Marine Dr.), UBC Point Grey Campus. ☎ 604/822-9666 or 604/822-6038. www.nitobe.org. Admission C\$6 adults, C\$5 seniors, C\$2 teens (13–17), kids 12 and under free, families C\$9. Daily 9am–5pm, but check in winter for shorter hours. Bus: 4, 17.

The very peaceful grounds of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Gardens make for wonderful strolling.



The Best in **Three Days**



- 1 Kitsilano
- 2 Kitsilano Beach
- 3 Vanier Park
- 4 Vancouver Maritime Museum
- 5 South Granville Rise & Gallery Row
- 6 Commercial Drive
- 7 Caffe Calabria
- 8 Queen Elizabeth Park
- 9 The Bloedel Floral Conservatory
- 10 VanDusen Botanical Gardens

On your third day in town you can begin to work the city's **periphery**, getting out to one of Vancouver's best beaches; checking out the parks, shopping, and galleries across False Creek; warming up in a domed nature conservatory; and heading east for a cappuccino in the Italian cafes of Commercial Drive. **START: Take Bus 4, 7, or 44 to Vine St.**

1 ★ Kitsilano. Across English Bay from downtown, Kitsilano was one of the first Vancouver neighborhoods to be established off the downtown peninsula. In the '60s it was a counterculture haven, a distinction that persisted into the '70s and '80s when both Greenpeace and the BC Green Party were founded here. Today, Kits (as it's known to locals) is a much more gentrified place, but in that liberal, eco-conscious, organic, multi-cultural way that keeps neighborhoods interesting. Its side streets are a mix of small homes and apartment complexes, while 4th Avenue—Vancouver's answer to San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury in the '60s—is a major destination for restaurants and shopping, full of independent boutiques, coffee shops, bookstores, and more. For more details, follow the "Kitsilano & Granville Island" walking tour on p 60. 🕒 *1½ hr. Kitsilano is bordered by English Bay to the north, 16th Ave. to the south, Burrard St. to the east & Alma St. to the west. Bus: 4, 7, 44.*

2 ★★ Kitsilano Beach. At the north edge of Kitsilano, along the shore of English Bay, Kitsilano ("Kits") Beach is one of the city's most popular. In warm weather, it's full of Vancouverites swimming and playing volleyball in the sand, with views of North Vancouver's snowcapped mountains in the distance. Facilities include washrooms, water fountains, concession stands, and tennis and basketball courts. At the beach's western end, the 137m, saltwater Kitsilano Pool is the largest in Canada, providing a safe "beach" swim for kids. 🕒 *1 hr. The beach runs roughly from Yew St. to Maple St. Kits Pool is at 2305 Cornwall Ave. ☎ 604/731-0011. Open mid-May to mid-Sept. Hours vary. Pool C\$5 adults, C\$3.45 seniors, C\$3.70 teens 13–18, C\$2.50 kids 6–12. Bus: 4, 7, 44.*

A walking path from Kits Beach heads east toward your next two stops.

3 ★★ kids Vanier Park. Located just east of Kits Beach, Vanier Park

Sun-worshippers flock to Kitsilano Beach in summer.



feels miles removed from busy downtown, even though it's just a quick ferry ride across English Bay. It's popular with kite flyers for its constant breezes; with dogs and their owners, who flock to the popular dog beach at its western edge; to theater-goers, who come for summer's Bard on the Beach performances (p 113); and with city visitors for its amazing views of downtown and the North Vancouver mountains, and for its museums: the Vancouver Maritime Museum (see below), the Vancouver Museum (p 62, 8), and the über-kid-friendly H.R. MacMillan Space Centre (p 38, 6). ⌚ 45 min. 1000 Chestnut St. at Whyte Ave.

☎ 604/257-8400. Bus: 2, 22. Also accessible from downtown via False Creek ferries from the Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave., at Thurlow.

4 ★ **kids Vancouver Maritime Museum.** This little museum is centered on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ship *St. Roch*, which patrolled the Canadian Arctic from 1928 to 1954 and was the first ship to ever sail the Northwest Passage from both east and west. You can climb aboard, and also view exhibits of shipping artifacts, Arctic artwork,

and model ships created in the museum's open-view workshop. A children's discovery center has displays on why ships float, as well as a model bridge where kids can act like captains. Down by the ferry dock, the museum's Heritage Harbour holds a floating collection of vintage and replica vessels, including (in summer), the *Munin*, a half-scale Viking longboat. ⌚ 1½ hr. 1905 Ogden Ave. ☎ 604/257-8300. www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com. Admission C\$10 adults, C\$7.50 seniors & kids 6–19. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun noon–5pm. Bus: 2, 22.

5 ★★ **South Granville Rise & Gallery Row.** South Granville Rise is a stretch of upscale shopping running along Granville Street, beginning at 6th Avenue and extending south to 16th Avenue. It's full of men's' and ladies' fashions, Oriental rug merchants, bistros and coffee houses, and other retailers. The blocks between 5th Avenue and Broadway are known as Vancouver's "Gallery Row," with a number of significant galleries displaying contemporary works. For more on the galleries, see p 31, 24. ⌚ 1½ hr. www.southgranville.org. Bus: 10, 98.

Colorful fall foliage abounds in Vanier Park.





Interactive exhibits and vintage ships make a visit to the Vancouver Maritime Museum a rewarding one.

6 ★ Commercial Drive. Lest you leave Vancouver thinking the whole city is high-rise condos and expensive seaside property, take the SkyTrain out to Commercial Drive, whose 12-block stretch between E. 6th Avenue and Venables Street is a mix of 21st-century youth culture, holdover '60s culture, old immigrants, new immigrants, neo hippies, artists, and lefty families. You'll find cuisine from across the globe, record stores, bookstores (including the inimitable People's Co-op Bookstore, p 72), coffee bars, and, most alluringly of all, classic Italian cafes, bakeries, restaurants, and delis—thriving holdovers from the wave of Italian immigrants who settled here in the 1940s and '50s. 🕒 *1–2 hr.* www.thedrive.ca. *SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Commercial Dr./Broadway Station.*

Don't miss **7 ☘ Caffè Calabria**, whose decor is pure over-the-top Italia: faux Roman statues and columns, marble cafe tables, chrome chairs, and a ceiling that's a take-off on the Sistine Chapel. Try a cappuccino, sandwich, gelato, or pastry while chatting with the super-friendly staff. *1745 Commercial Dr.* ☎ *604/253-7017. \$.*

8 ★★ Queen Elizabeth Park.

If you're more trees-and-flowers than counterculture-and-cappuccino, skip Commercial Drive in favor of a visit to Vancouver's second most popular park, located on the West Side atop a 150m (492-ft.) extinct volcano, on land that was once a basalt quarry. Highlights include the main and north Quarry Gardens, which transformed the old excavations pits into vibrant buckets of flowers, shrubs, and trees, all fed (in the main garden) by a tumbling waterfall. On the slopes around the gardens, the Arboretum displays a collection of trees native to nearly

For old-time Italian cafes and coffee bars, your best bet is Commercial Drive.





The quarry gardens at Queen Elizabeth Park.

every part of Canada. 🕒 1–2 hr.
Main entrance at 33rd Ave. & Cambie St. ☎ 604/257-8400. www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/queen-elizabeth. Free admission.

9 ★ The Bloedel Floral Conservatory. Opened in 1969 and perched at the highest point of Queen Elizabeth Park, this huge, humid geodesic dome is made of triangular plexiglass bubbles and is filled with more than 500 varieties of tropical flowers and exotic plants, over 100 birds, and swimming koi—*très Silent Running*, minus the robots. Behind the conservatory, a large plaza is highlighted by a beautiful dancing fountain. 🕒 30–45 min. **Main park entrance at 33rd Ave. & Cambie St.** ☎ 604/257-8584. www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/bloedel. Admission C\$4.60 adults, C\$3.20 seniors, C\$3.45 teens 13–18, C\$2.30 kids 6–12, free 5 and under. Daily 10am–5pm. Bus: 15.

10 ★★★ VanDusen Botanical Gardens. Just 3 blocks from Queen Elizabeth Park, this 22-hectare (54-acre) botanical garden is home to some 7,500 plant types from around the world, arranged to illustrate different botanical relationships—from plant groupings such as the Laberum Walk to geographic arrangements such as the Sino Himalayan

Garden and historical gardens such as the VanDusen maze, an Elizabethan hedgerow maze made from 3,000 pyramidal cedars. All are interspersed with reflecting ponds and lawns, as well as a great collection of stone sculpture, much of it created on the grounds during 1975's Vancouver International Stone Sculpture Symposium. 🕒 1–2 hr. **5251 Oak St. (at 37th).** ☎ 604/878-9274. <http://vancouver.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/website/index.htm>. Open daily at 10am. Closing time varies from 4pm Nov–Feb to 9pm June–Aug. Admission C\$8.50 adults, C\$6.25 seniors, C\$6.50 teens, C\$4.25 kids 6–12. Prices lower Oct–Mar. Bus: 15. ●

Star Gazer lilies are just one of many floral species that can be found in The Bloedel Floral Conservatory.

