

# Historical Victoria Walking Map



Victoria was named the capital city of British Columbia in 1866, but the Coast Salish First Nations people's history in the region goes back well over 10,000 years; they called the region Camosun or Camosack. With 9 Coast Salish communities in the Capital Regional District alone, the ties to First Nations is strong. Watch for art and totem poles from local artists during your walk through the city.

Once the primary port for commerce in the west, ships from around the world brought goods that were stored in warehouses that lined the waterfront, and the city was the western terminus for Canadian Pacific Railway. Fur trading brought the Hudson's Bay Company who established Fort Victoria in 1843. With the discovery of gold on the mainland in 1858, the region was transformed by 25,000-30,000 gold seekers. Many used Victoria as their port of entry to the mainland and to re-supply, increasing the city's residents from a few hundred to several thousand. The region was incorporated as a city in 1862 and the Royal Navy established a naval base in Esquimalt.

## 1 Government Street

An important area in Victoria's Old Town District, Government Street was the main commercial artery in the city's boom period of the 1880s. Now you will find boutiques and shops featuring fashion, jewellery, art, linens, books, and delicious treats.



**Rogers Chocolate's** at 913 Government St, an Art Nouveau heritage shop, is said to be home to a pair of ghosts. Charles & Leah Rogers started making chocolates in the back of their grocery store in 1885, and some say they never left. Leah loves to re-arrange the chocolate displays and Charles is known for hiding things! Step in for a local tasty treat.

**The Weiler Building** at 921 Government St was the largest timber-framed building in BC when built in 1898 and the 5 story Romanesque brick building was the city's first department store. Now you find gifts, art and assorted goodies here.

**Munro's Books** at 1108 Government, is in a neo-classical building designed by Thomas Hooper for the Royal Bank of Canada in 1909, with a beautiful coffered 24ft ceiling. Established by Jim Munro and his first wife, author Alice Munro, in the 1960s. Step inside to admire the artwork and find your next great read.

**Bank of British Columbia** building 1020-1022 Government St is a 3 story Italianate style building was built in 1885. Now the Bard & Banker, you will find local ales, tasty pub fare and live music.

**Bank of Montreal** at 1200 Government St, is now the Irish Times Pub, was designed by Francis Rattenbury (Empress Hotel & Parliament Buildings) and built in 1897. Now you can enjoy a pint with a bite to eat, often to live music.

**Trounce Alley** with unique shops, restaurants and authentic gaslights, was created by architect Thomas Trounce in 1859 through his property between Broad and Government Streets in response to the city's refusal to extend View Street to the waterfront.

## 2 Chinatown

Victoria's Chinatown, once the largest in Canada, started as a collection of wooden shacks built by Chinese immigrants looking for work. Many Chinese traveled seasonally to the Interior gold regions, coastal salmon canneries and logging camps, returning in the winter to the area's stores, tea houses, gambling dens, opium parlours, theatres and brothels. Construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway brought more workers, and by 1911 Chinatown housed a population of more than 3,000 people.

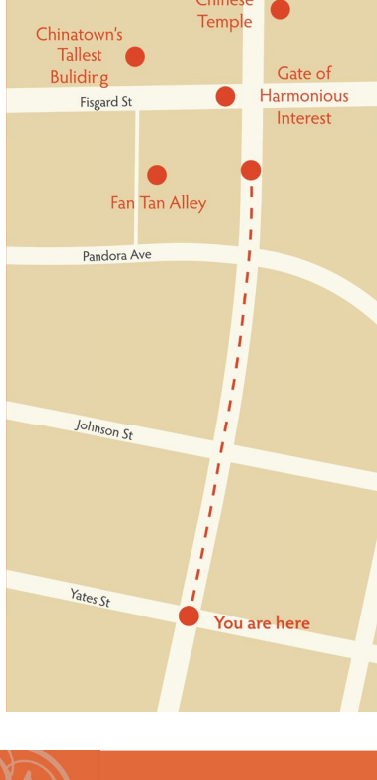


**Gate of Harmonious Interest** marks the entrance to Chinatown's centre. Two hand-carved stone lions, gifts from Victoria's Twin city: Suzhou, China. They guard either side of this elaborately detailed red and gold gate. Two time capsules, to be opened in 2081 and 2096, are encapsulated in each outer red pillar. The names of 61 Chinese Canadians who fought and died for Canada in World War II are engraved on a plaque.

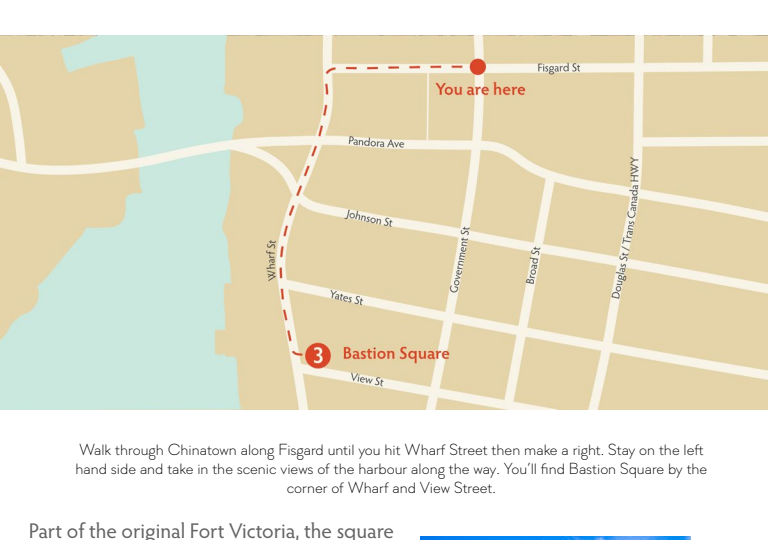
**The Oldest Chinese Temple** in Canada is a tall building at 1713 Government St, with 52 steps to the top floor.

**Chinatown's Tallest Building** at 558 Fisgard was the headquarters of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. To the left near the planter is a brass plaque portraying some of Chinatown's more important buildings.

**Fan Tan Alley** is the narrowest street in the country. Named for a gambling game "Fan Tan" that was played in 6 gambling dens upstairs above the alley, it was once a home to opium dens, restaurants, shops and a tofu factory. Now you will find organic treats, homemade ice cream, matcha tea, locally made jewelry, natural body care products and gifts.



## 3 Bastion Square

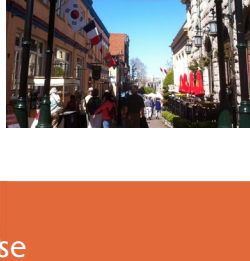
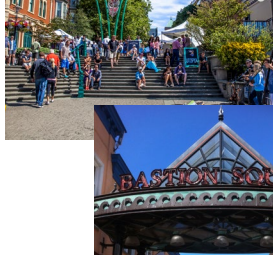


Walk through Chinatown along Fisgard until you hit Wharf Street then make a right. Stay on the left hand side and take in the scenic views of the harbour along the way. You'll find Bastion Square by the corner of Wharf and View Street.

Part of the original Fort Victoria, the square sits in the heart of downtown overlooking the Inner Harbour and includes several notable late 19th century landmarks. It is also reported to be one of the most haunted areas in Victoria.

28 Bastion Square was the Supreme Court of British Columbia, designed by architect H. O. Tiedeman, was the first concrete building in Victoria, built in 1889. Chief of Justice BC Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie presided, and was known as the "Hanging Judge".

This area was the jail and gallows, and Helmcken Alley is where executions took place and a graveyard for unclaimed bodies which remain there today.



## 4 Old Customs House



Return back to Wharf street and make a right. On the left handside on the corner of Wharf and Broughton Street you'll see the Old Customs house.



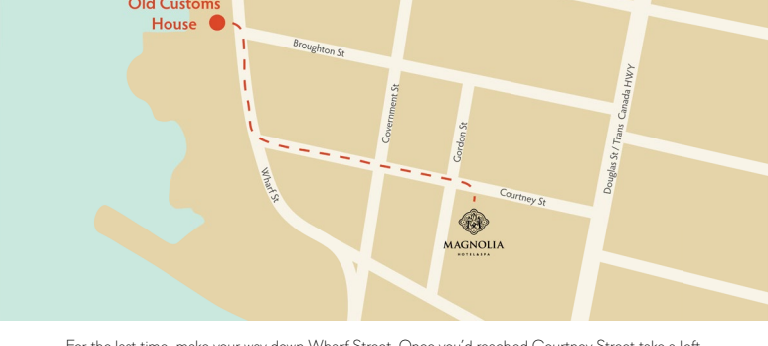
Fort Victoria in the 1830s

**The Old Victoria Custom House** or Malahat Building, in Victoria was completed about 1875 and designated as a historic building in 1987. It is a three-storey, mansard-roofed, custom house overlooking Victoria's harbour, symbolic of the time when Victoria was the pre-eminent commercial centre on Canada's West Coast.

Designed by Seaton Scott in a Napoleon III Style which you can see by the the square base domed roof of the building

**Fort Victoria** historic site on Wharf Street at Broughton The mooring rings on the rocks below are the only surviving fragment of Fort Victoria built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1843, marked by a plaque mounted on a concrete wall in front of steps to Old Victoria Custom House.

## Heading Home



For the last time, make your way down Wharf Street. Once you'd reached Courtney Street take a left and you'll find the Magnolia Hotel & Spa on the left hand side.

Now you've finished your historical tour of Victoria. We hope you've enjoyed your walk through time, now time to retreat to a deep soaker tub and relax the night away!