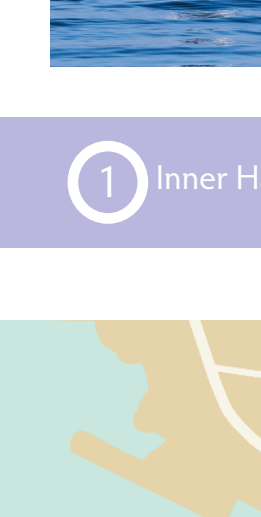
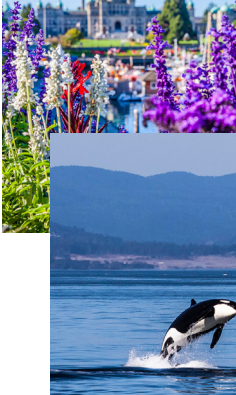


Welcome to Victoria!

Walking Map



Before Captain James Cook set foot on Vancouver Island in 1778, the southern island was home to the Lekwungen speaking people; and Victoria retains deep ties to indigenous culture and is home to several First Nations groups.

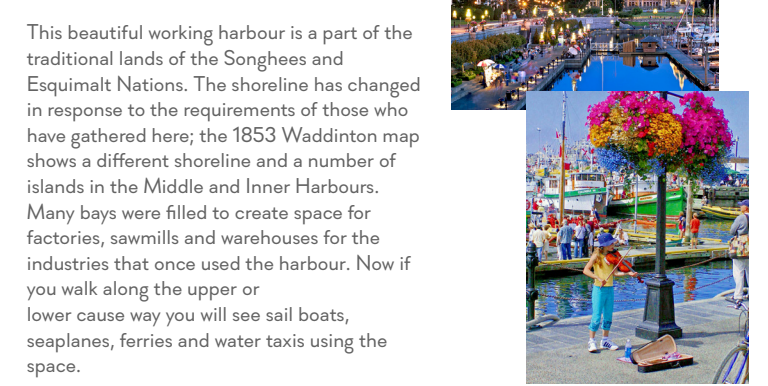
On July 21, 1871, British Columbia became the 6th province of Canada, and Victoria was proclaimed the Capital City. The city is home to Canada's western Naval base and a major fishing fleet. A thriving information technology sector is now one of the area's largest industries along with marine, forestry and agricultural research.

A botanical haven, Victoria is known internationally as the City of Gardens. The city has an annual flower count dating back to the 1970s. The total blooms counted in 2018 was over 3.4 billion.

Join us on a walk to commemorate the iconic landmarks of the city!

1 Inner Harbour & The Empress Hotel

790 Government St

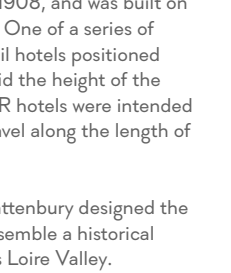
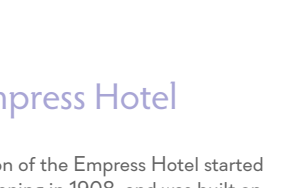


Head left onto Courtney Street, then make a left turn on Government Street. You should see the start of the Inner Harbour to your left and the Empress to your right after a block!

Welcome to Victoria's Inner Harbour

This beautiful working harbour is a part of the traditional lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. The shoreline has changed in response to the requirements of those who have gathered here; the 1853 Waddington map shows a different shoreline and a number of islands in the Middle and Inner Harbours.

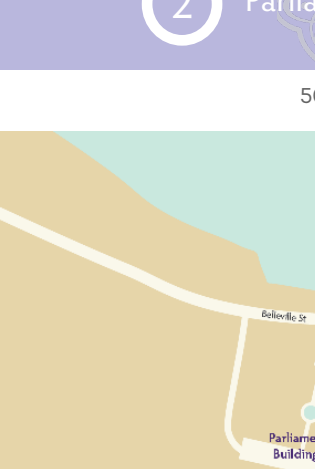
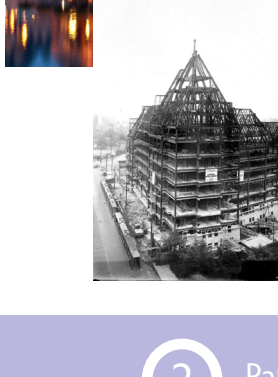
Many bays were filled to create space for factories, sawmills and warehouses for the industries that once used the harbour. Now if you walk along the upper or lower cause way you will see sail boats, seaplanes, ferries and water taxis using the space.



The Empress Hotel

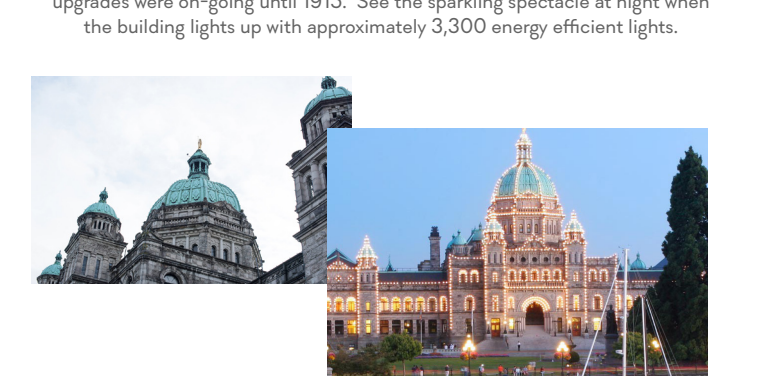
Construction of the Empress Hotel started in 1904, opening in 1908, and was built on reclaimed mud flats. One of a series of Canadian Pacific Rail hotels positioned along the railway amid the height of the Gilded Age, the CPR hotels were intended to spur passenger travel along the length of the track.

Architect Francis Rattenbury designed the hotel's exterior to resemble a historical manor from France's Loire Valley.



2 Parliament Buildings

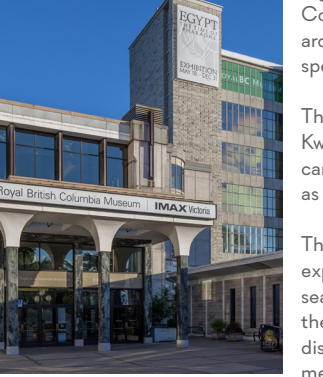
501 Belleville St



When you reach the end of the Inner Harbour you should find yourself situated on the corner of Belleville Street and Government Street, there you should see our Parliament buildings on the other side of Belleville Street.

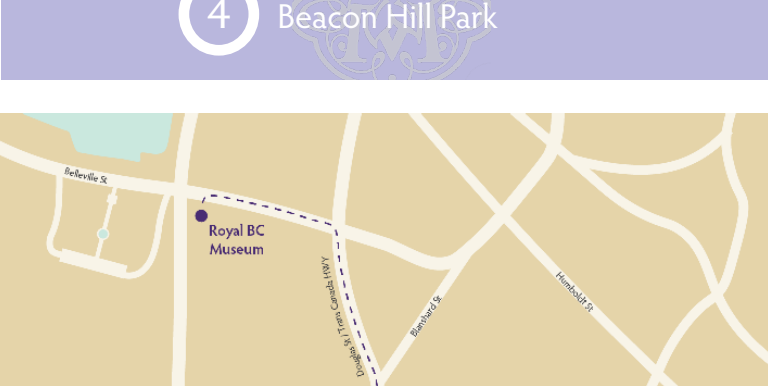
British Columbia's Parliament

The official residence of the B.C. Parliament, this is where the Provincial Legislative Assembly gather to pass laws and discuss the direction of the province. A dominant feature of the Inner Harbour, the buildings are situated on 12.5 acres on the waterfront, the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people. Designed by architect Francis Rattenbury, construction began in 1893 and officially opened in February of 1898. However, additions, refinishing and upgrades were on-going until 1915. See the sparkling spectacle at night when the building lights up with approximately 3,300 energy efficient lights.



3 Royal BC Museum

675 Belleville St



Head down Belleville street, you'll see its neighbour the Royal BC Museum on your right!

Royal BC Museum

The museum was founded in 1886; the Archives, in 1894. In 2003, these two organizations joined to become British Columbia's combined provincial museum and archives, collecting artifacts, documents and specimens of B.C.'s natural and human history.

The First Peoples Gallery with Totem Hall, a Kwakwaka'wakw ceremonial house, featuring carvings and masks from many First Nations, as well as ancient artifacts.

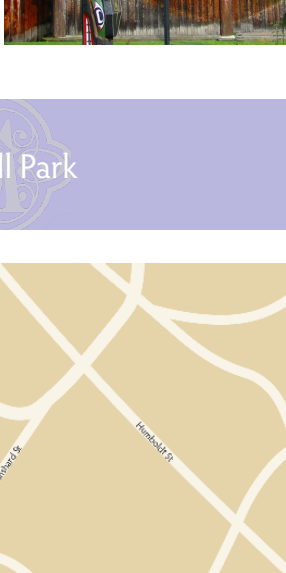
The Natural History Gallery allows you to explore a magnificent coast forest and a seashore while learning about the climate and the creatures that inhabit BC, or travel to the distant past of the Ice Age and learn about the mega-fauna that once roamed BC.

The becoming BC Galleries allow you to walk among our urban history, exploring Old Town and a replica of Captain George Vancouver's H.M.S Discovery, while learning about early industries.

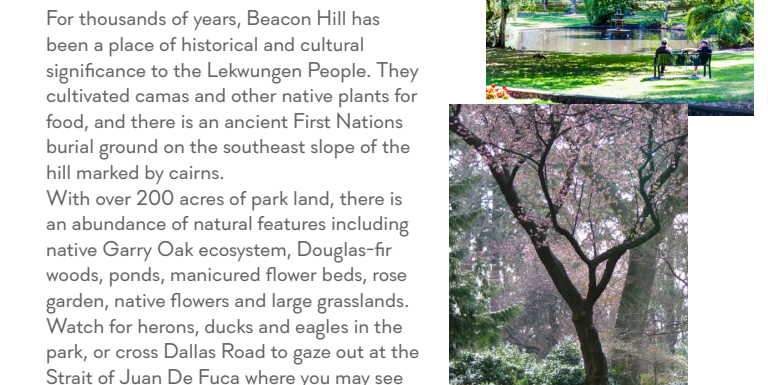
Thunderbird Park

On a quiet tree-filled corner of Douglas and Belleville streets, Thunderbird Park was established in 1941 from a collection of totem poles from the Royal BC Museum. In 1952 the museum initiated a pole restoration program with Kwakwaka'wakw master carver Mungo Martin as Head Carver.

The Thunderbird, a mythological animal able to cause thunder with its wings and lighting with its eyes, is considered to be a grandfather figure who cares for the people and will impose law and order.



4 Beacon Hill Park



Return to Belleville Street, then make a right onto Douglas Street. The beginning of Beacon Hill Park will be on the corner of Superior Street and Douglas Street.

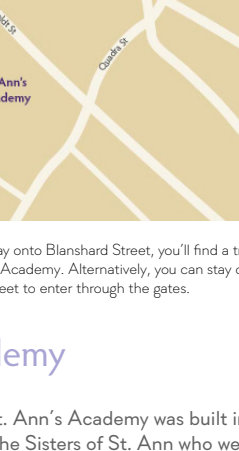
Beacon Hill Park

For thousands of years, Beacon Hill has been a place of historical and cultural significance to the Lekwungen People. They cultivated camas and other native plants for food, and there is an ancient First Nations burial ground on the southeast slope of the hill marked by cairns.

With over 200 acres of park land, there is an abundance of natural features including native Garry Oak ecosystem, Douglas-fir woods, ponds, manicured flower beds, rose garden, native flowers and large grasslands.

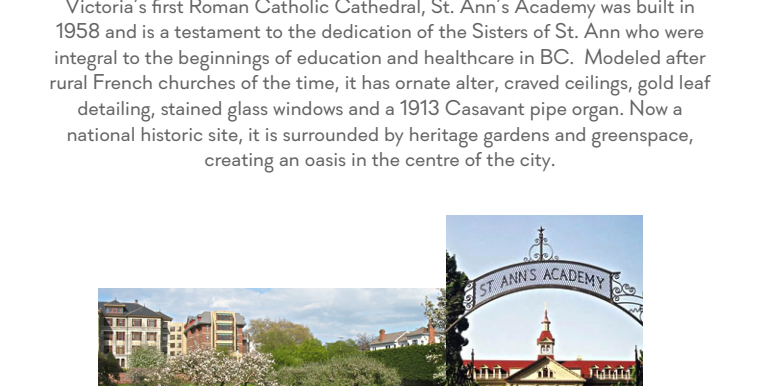
Watch for herons, ducks and eagles in the park, or cross Dallas Road to gaze out at the Strait of Juan De Fuca where you may see boats, paragliders or sailboarders.

Beacon Hill Park has an important status as Mile "0", the western terminus of the of the 8,000 kilometre Trans-Canada Highway.



5 St Ann's Academy

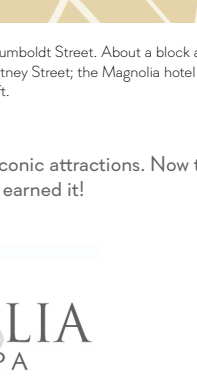
835 Humboldt St



Begin heading up Douglas Street, keep right and make your way onto Blanshard Street, you'll find a trail along the side that will guide you to the entrance of St. Ann's Academy. Alternatively, you can stay on Blanshard Street and make a right on Humboldt Street to enter through the gates.

St Ann's Academy

Victoria's first Roman Catholic Cathedral, St. Ann's Academy was built in 1958 and is a testament to the dedication of the Sisters of St. Ann who were integral to the beginnings of education and healthcare in BC. Modeled after rural French churches of the time, it has ornate alter, craved ceilings, gold leaf detailing, stained glass windows and a 1913 Casavant pipe organ. Now a national historic site, it is surrounded by heritage gardens and greenspace, creating an oasis in the centre of the city.



Heading Home

623 Courtney St



Leave through the gates of the Academy and head left on Humboldt Street. About a block and a half down make a right onto Douglas Street, then left onto Courtney Street; the Magnolia hotel will be a block down on the left.

Hope you've enjoyed your tour of Victoria's iconic attractions. Now time to unwind and relax, you've earned it!

MAGNOLIA
HOTEL & SPA

Beautiful British Columbia