

## HOW TO DO VANCOUVER THIS OCTOBER

### WELCOME!

We are excited you are coming to visit beautiful British Columbia, home of some remarkable natural features and exciting cultural offerings. To ensure your visit is easy, comfortable, and rewarding please review the information provided below. You'll find helpful tips for packing your travel bag, getting around town, and some highlights not to be missed.

### Weather

Vancouver, like most of the Pacific Northwest, experiences mild wet weather for much of the year. Being a temperate rainforest zone, precipitation during the rainy season (October – March) may be near-constant over long periods, though usually occurs as a light drizzle as opposed to heavy rain. Average high/low temperatures for in greater Vancouver area during the month of October are 59/46 °F and average rainfall is 6.56 inches. If travelling to higher elevations or to more inland regions be prepared for potentially dramatic drops in temperature and the possibility of snowfall.

To ensure you remain comfortable, please make sure you have an umbrella and/or reliable rain wear. While not terribly cold, the damp coastal air at low elevation is best managed with a steadfast rainproof outer layer and a series of lighter layers beneath. Wool under a waterproof breathable shell is a big part of the Vancouver's rainy season outdoor look, and for good reason. Stay dry and you should easily be able to stay warm.

### Getting Around

#### By transit and/or taxi

The Vancouver metropolitan area is serviced by an extensive public transit network including bus, rail (Skytrain) and seabus. Information regarding transit schedules, fares etc. can be found on the Translink website:

<https://www.translink.ca/>

A few quick transit facts:

- Metro Vancouver is divided into 3 transit zones
- Bus and single zone rail fare is \$2.95 for 90 minutes of travel including transfers
- reloadable fare cards, known as Compass cards, and day passes are available
- The "Canada Line" rail line connects Vancouver International Airport to the downtown
- Taxi fare between the airport and downtown is around \$35
- Vancouver is the largest city in North America **without** ride hailing services such as Lyft or Uber.

## **By foot**

Downtown Vancouver is relatively small and extremely walkable, though some steep grades do exist towards the water. Abundant opportunities for dining and shopping are located a short distance from the symposium hotel along Davie, Robson and Granville Streets. We encourage you to explore the vibrant downtown while you're here with us.

## **By bicycle**

Cycling as a mode of transportation is big in Vancouver, with trips by bike increasing by 40% from 2008 to 2011. Should you wish to participate in this cultural phenomenon numerous bike rental options can be found a short walk from the symposium hotel, and a particularly high concentration can be found in close to Stanley Park. If you choose to cycle in the city, please consider making use of [dedicated bike lanes](#) or routes when possible and abide by safe biking principles. A few links that may be of interest if you're looking to get your peddle on...

- City of Vancouver's cycling map: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/map-cycling-vancouver.pdf>
- HUB Cycling's resources page: <https://bikehub.ca/helpful-information-about-cycling-in-metro-vancouver>

## **Safety**

Vancouver generally experiences relatively low rates of crime. Risk of theft from vehicles is, however, an issue, particularly downtown. It's best to not leave valuables unattended and visible.

The area around east Hastings Street, centered at Main Street, is known as the Downtown Eastside. Much of the housing and services for Vancouver's low income and homeless communities is concentrated in this area. It can be a surprising contrast to the gleaming glass towers of the rest of downtown but is generally safe and friendly. It is one of Vancouver's oldest neighborhoods and home to many historic buildings.

## **A Few Highlights**

We encourage you to take time to explore some of the entertainment and attractions that make living in Vancouver so vibrant. Vancouver Attractions has compiled a number of potential sites of interest, including discounted admission for select sites, specifically for the Plant Collections Symposium. Further information can be found on the dedicated webpage: <https://www.vancouverattractions.com/apga-plant-collections-symposium>

In addition to the Vancouver Attractions listings linked above, you may want to consider including the following destinations as part of your Vancouver experience.

The Bill Reid Gallery - <https://www.billreidgallery.ca/>

An amazing gallery in the heart of downtown Vancouver. Dedicated to contemporary indigenous art of the North West Coast.

Vancouver Art Gallery - <http://vanartgallery.bc.ca/>

The VAG has rotating, curated shows throughout the year. The Art Gallery Café is one of the city's nicest spots for a delicious meal or snack and a glass of wine or beer.

Fly Over Canada - <https://www.flyovercanada.com/>

This fun activity takes you on a trip across Canada in a 4D experience. Fly coast to coast and see some of the wonders that Canada has to offer.

Stanley Park Seawall & Beaches – <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/stanley-park.aspx>

While October in Vancouver may not be typical beach weather, Stanley Park is surrounded by a seawall that stretches just under 10 Km (6 miles). From it you can see incredible views of the North Shore Mountains, West Vancouver, Kitsilano, Downtown Vancouver and historic Gastown. Stanley Park itself boasts intact coastal conifer forest plant communities that can be explored via numerous well-maintained trails and paths.

Granville Island - <https://granvilleisland.com/> - <http://granvilleislandferries.bc.ca/>

Granville Island is one of Vancouver's most amazing spots. The public markets, artisan shops and studios, galleries and delicious restaurants and cafes make it a must see when visiting the city. The nicest way to arrive is by False Creek Ferry (which you can take from the Aquatic Centre on the downtown side of False Creek)

Vancouver Craft Beer Tour - <http://craftbeervancouver.ca/breweries/>

Vancouver's craft beer industry has recently taken off, with more and more options opening almost daily. Taking advantage of some of the tastiest micro brewing in town, a popular thing to do is to take a walking tour.

Capilano Suspension Bridge - <https://www.capbridge.com/>

Cliffwalk, Treetops Adventure and a suspension bridge walk through amazing North West coast scenery. There is a free shuttle from downtown Vancouver.

Museum of Anthropology - <https://moa.ubc.ca/>

The museum of anthropology at UBC specializes in cultural communities and first nation culture from throughout BC.