

A PERFECT STAY

Add A-list glamour to a night in Vancouver

The *X-Files* is back with a new series for the first time in 14 years, and like *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Smallville* and *Godzilla*, it was filmed in Vancouver. The city is at its best in spring and summer so fans of the big and small screen should book now to check out film locations and celebrity haunts in what has come to be known as Hollywood North. Below is a guide to where the A-list stay when they're in town.

Kathy Wade

1 Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth opened the Hotel Vancouver in 1939. Since then, this Grande Dame has welcomed a long list of the rich and famous. All 556 spacious rooms are luxurious; like a city centre resort, it has its own swimming pool, gym and spa. Head to Tea at the Top on the 15th floor to combine afternoon tea with spectacular views, or, in the street level Notch 8 restaurant-bar, sip a Vancouver 2.0 cocktail, made with local gin. For a frisson of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, book into the

Lieutenant Governor's Suite, where scenes from the film were shot.
001 604 684 3131;
fairmont.com/hotel-vancouver
Doubles from £145

2 Skwachàys Lodge

On the border between Chinatown and Gastown, Skwachàys Lodge (pronounced "skwach-



eyes") is steps away from film locations, such as Victory Square, where scenes from *The X-Files* were shot last summer. The 18 rooms have all been individually decorated by Pacific Coast artists. Themes include traditional images, such as the raven and eagle; more personal are the Poem Suite's hand-drawn words and faces. Over breakfast, guests chat at the long communal table. In the foyer, gifts include hand-



Scenes from *Fifty Shades of Grey* were shot in the Fairmont Hotel, left

centred in downtown Vancouver, all this is an easy walk from art galleries, shops, the harbour and Gastown. Also part of the hotel is the Gotham Steakhouse, where you may often see actors and crew relaxing after filming.
001 604 681 1125; streightshotel.com
Doubles from £85

5 Opus Vancouver

In trendy Yaletown, with its bars, restaurants and clubs, Opus has attracted fashionistas since it opened more than a decade ago. Inside this square brick, glass and steel building are 96 rooms, all different and all redecorated a couple of years ago. The brightly painted walls could be rose, caramel orange or lime green. Some have little kitchens; all have proper desks and contemporary furniture. La Pentola, open all day, is the hotel's three-year-old Italian restaurant. From the moment local offices close, the hotel bar is hopping. Celebrity sightings include Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez and Lady Gaga. Like them, you could take a limousine to the airport. Alternatively, take the Canada Line Skytrain from the station close by.
001 604 642 6787;
vancouver.opushotel.com
Doubles from £145



downtown hotel scores for location and value for money. The 65 rooms are comfortable, with cool, plain colours and modern art on the walls. The marble bathrooms are smart, often with walk-in showers. Even better, all the basic necessities are included in the room rate, from WiFi, bottled water, free international phone calls and newspapers to a hearty breakfast, gym and business centre. With the hotel

made moccasins for babies (£20), as well as bentwood boxes and carved masks.
001 604 687 3589; skwachays.com
Doubles from £60

3 Wedgewood Hotel & Spa

A top-hatted doorman welcomes guests to this



hotel, where discretion is matched by old-school luxury. Who needs minimalism when you can have wood panelling, chandeliers, thick carpets and hunting prints? The 83 rooms and suites are French country-house posh; many have balconies overlooking the gardens on Robson Square. In the Bacchus restaurant and lounge, menus focus on Pacific Coast seafood. Feel like a celebrity in the spa, perhaps with an Espresso Limon body treatment using coffee oil, lemon and cinnamon.
001 604 689 7777;
wedgewoodhotel.com
Doubles from £115

4 St Regis Hotel

One hundred years old but bang up to date, this

A PERFECT DAY

Do

Cycle tour
Whether you are tracking film locations or merely want to see the sights, why not hop on a bike? Vancouver is one of North America's most cycle-friendly cities, with some 800 miles of bikeways. Go with a group on Cycle City Tours' daily five-hour ride: explore the 1,000-acre Stanley Park, one of the world's largest urban open spaces; ride the ferry to Granville Island and its market; see the Olympic Village, Chinatown and Gastown. Or do your own thing, using a self-guided tour map.

Bike rental from £15 per half day; cyclevancouver.com

Eat

Hawksworth Restaurant

When A-list celebrities are in town, this award-winning restaurant is where they want to eat. Chef David Hawksworth spent a decade in the UK,

working in Michelin-starred restaurants. Back in his hometown, he created his own version of modern Canadian cuisine, combining classical techniques, French, Italian and Asian flavours and local produce, especially from the north-west: salmon, sablefish, lamb and pork. What makes it "so Vancouver" is the lack of snobishness. Go for lunch; pop in for a bar snack; linger over dinner. At £50, the six-course tasting menu is a bargain.

001 604 673 7000;
hawksworthrestaurant.com

Drink

Cardero's

Cardero's buzzy terrace overlooks a marina, crammed with yachts, and is the place to relax with a glass of wine. The list features some of British Columbia's best vineyards in the Okanagan Valley. Compare and contrast Blue Mountain bubbly, Blasted Church Sauvignon Blanc and Quails' Gate Gewürztraminer.

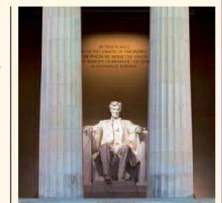
001 604 669 7666; vancouverine.com/carderos

TELEGRAPH TOURS

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- ◆ 03330 059102; telegraph.co.uk/ustour

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