

A Road Trip Guide to Victoria

Victoria the beautiful

By Serena Matter



Hugging the edge of the Pacific, the city of Victoria is a crossroads of cultures. While some have called the city more English than England (the red double-decker buses and colonial architecture help make the case), Victoria is home to a surprising mix of cultural influences past and present. The easiest way to get there for a weekend of exploring is to hop a midday Harbour Air flight from Vancouver's waterfront, which will have you in the heart of Victoria in 35 minutes (just in time for lunch). And as the warmest city in Canada, Victoria will soon be bursting with flowers. Perfect for a Valentine's weekend getaway, perhaps?

Magnolia Hotel



Courtesy of Magnolia Hotel

After a day on your feet, there's no better place to take a load off than at the [Magnolia Hotel](#). Just steps from the Inner Harbour, this boutique hotel's exterior conceals the charm that lies inside. With only 64 rooms, you can expect super personalized service from everyone you encounter — even Magnus, the hotel's resident Siamese fighting fish, who greets you from his fishbowl atop the check-in desk. Sophisticated decor is a hallmark of the property, with well-appointed rooms featuring luxe touches like raw-silk-inspired walls and marble bathrooms. We particularly love Magnolia's Curated Trails program, with self-guided maps highlighting local must-sees (the best tapas bars, secret viewpoints and the like) handpicked by the staff. Borrow one of the hotel's brand-new bikes and follow the map as it guides you through the city's historic streets.

Catalano Restaurant



Catalano Restaurant via [Website](#)

Victorians are serious about their weekend brunches, with the lengthy lineups to prove it. For a scrumptious start to the day, opt to enjoy this most important meal at [Catalano](#). With a focus on the foods of the Mediterranean, top brunch options here include lemon ricotta fritters for something sweet, Moroccan spiced chicken hash with poached eggs and apricots, and stuffed waffles. Enjoy with a Bloody Mary and soak in the views of the parliament buildings.

619 Courtney St., Victoria. 250-480-1824; ferrisoysterbar.com