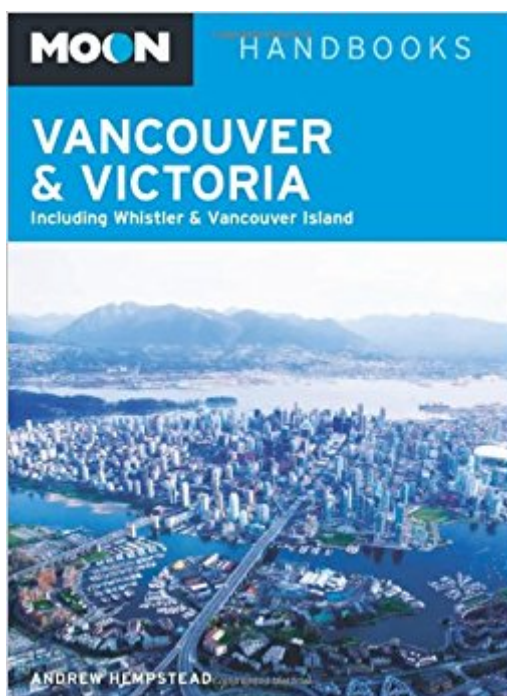


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Moon Vancouver & Victoria: Including Whistler & Vancouver Island (Moon Handbooks)



Synopsis

Canada resident and experienced outdoorsman Andrew Hempstead knows the best way to experience Vancouver and Victoria, from drinking coffee at fabulous caf  s to spotting gray whales and orcas near Victoria. In *Moon Vancouver & Victoria*, he offers unique trip ideas for a variety of interests, including From Snowboards to Surfboards. Whether you want to spend your trip shopping on Robson Street, finding the hippest art galleries and bars in Victoria, or enjoying the outdoors in Stanley Park, Hempstead is the perfect guide to begin exploring this gorgeous region. Also including Whistler and Vancouver Island, *Moon Vancouver and Victoria* addresses a wide range of travel budgets and gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kayaking around Bowen Island, enjoying a powder day at Whistler Blackcomb, chowing down on pancakes at the Elbow Room, joining the midday crowd at Butchart Gardens, and surfing on the west coast—Andrew Hempstead has done all of this and more. He's out there not because it's part of compiling a guidebook, but because he loves Vancouver and Victoria. These diverse experiences, coupled with a deep respect for nature and an interest in local history, have been essential in his creation of *Moon Vancouver & Victoria*. Andrew spends as much time as possible out on the road. Rather than having an itinerary laid out for him by local tourism offices, he travels incognito so he can experience the many and varied delights of Vancouver and Victoria the

same way his readers do. Since the early 1990s, Andrew has authored and updated more than 60 guidebooks, contributed to dozens of major magazines, supplied content for online clients such as Expedia and KLM, and been employed as a writer for Parks Canada. His photography has appeared in a wide variety of media ranging from international golf magazines to a Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum. Andrew has spoken on guidebook writing to national audiences, and has contributed to a university-level travel writing textbook. Andrew and his wife Dianne own Summerthought Publishing, a regional publisher of nonfiction books. He and his family live in Banff, Alberta.

•This itinerary includes all of the highlights, from urban pleasures in Vancouver and Victoria to natural wonders on Vancouver Island, and even an optional excursion to Whistler. Break out any section of the itinerary to tailor it to your interests and the amount of time you want to spend. For example, plan a long weekend with three days in either city; or add four days exploring the island to fill out a week. I assume you have your own vehicle or will be reserving one for pickup at Vancouver International Airport.

Vancouver DAY 1: Head north from the airport and loop around Point Grey to the Museum of Anthropology; the breathtaking totem poles are a wonderful introduction to the human history of the region. Duck through the old-growth forest behind the museum to get a feel for the city's natural splendor. Check into your hotel. Enjoy a water-view room at the Fairmont Pacific Rim or soak up the style of the Opus Hotel. Consider a harborside seafood dinner at Five Sails.

DAY 2: Spend an hour or so exploring the historical streets of Gastown, and then hail a cab to Chinatown. Spend the rest of the morning soaking up the sights and smells of this colorful precinct. Enjoy an authentic Chinese lunch: dim sum at Fu Wah or noodles at Gain Wah Restaurant. After lunch, head to the waterfront Museum of Vancouver, and then wander through VanDusen Botanical Garden. If the weather's favorable, book an evening kayaking tour from Granville Island; then enjoy waterfront dining at the island's Bridges restaurant.

DAY 3: To get out into nature, take your pick from the following North Shore attractions: Capilano Suspension Bridge, Grouse Mountain Skyride, or hiking in Cypress Provincial Park. Or for a day of recreation in the city, rent a bike and follow the seawall around forested Stanley Park to the regal beachside suburb English Bay. Take lunch at the Teahouse in Stanley Park or one of the many good beachside eateries. Then make the short hop back to Robson Street to return the bike. Spend the afternoon at your leisure; shopping on urbane Robson Street, visiting the Vancouver Art Gallery, or taking the elevator to Vancouver Lookout for sweeping city views. Back at street level, make reservations for dinner at the Water Street Café in

Gastown. Excursion to Whistler Ski and snowboard enthusiasts will want to head 90 minutes north along Highway 99 to Whistler for downhill adventure, especially in winter. Whatever the season, you can take a few turns on always icy Horstman Glacier, accessible via lift up Blackcomb Mountain. There are plenty of other recreation options as well. Go mountain biking on the lift-served slopes or go canoeing on Alta Lake. Take advantage of Whistler's excellent selection of restaurants and accommodations for an overnight stay.

Victoria DAY 4: Drive south along Highway 99 for 20 minutes to reach Richmond. From there, head out to the historical fishing village of Steveston for lunch at one of the harborfront cafés. This will give you plenty of time to catch a midafternoon ferry ride to the city of Victoria on Vancouver Island. You'll arrive in Victoria after the last of the bus tours have left Butchart Gardens; a perfect time to visit this famous attraction. Choose a restaurant with water views for dinner (the Flying Otter Grill is a personal favorite).

DAY 5: Today is a walking day, so leave your vehicle at your accommodation and make your way to Victoria's Inner Harbour, wandering through the Fairmont Empress and strolling along the busy promenade. For its modern interpretation of natural and human history, the Royal BC Museum is a must-see. It's possible to spend a full day at this wonderful facility. Barb's Place, built on a floating wharf, is the perfect place for enjoying fish and chips outdoors. In the afternoon, walk along the harbor front, visiting the Robert Bateman Centre, wandering through the Fairmont Empress, and then moving north to the historical streets of Old Town and Chinatown. Enjoy dinner at Local Kitchen.

DAY 6: Rise early and take Dallas Road through James Bay to Oak Bay. Make as many stops as you wish along this scenic drive; for a walk along Ogden Point Breakwall, to search out historically important graves at Ross Bay Cemetery, or to simply stretch out in the sun on one of the beaches. Another option for the day is Government House. Admire the surrounding native gardens, and then wind your way on foot back down to the harbor via imposing Craigdarroch Castle and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Spend the afternoon walking the forested trails of Goldstream Provincial Park. Return to downtown in time for dinner at Café Brio.

Explore Vancouver Island DAY 7: Drive 40 minutes north from Victoria on Highway 17 to Sidney. Jump aboard a ferry for my favorite of the Southern Gulf Islands, Galiano Island, where the highlight is kayaking along the sandy shore of Montague Harbour Provincial Park. Return to the mainland and drive three hours cross-island along Highway 14 to Tofino, where an evening walk along the beaches of Pacific Rim National Park is a fantastic way to end your day. Choose a Tofino accommodation such as Pacific Sands Beach Resort, where you can boil up crab purchased from the downtown dock.

DAY 8: Tofino is Canada's best-known surf town, so join the locals by hitting the local waves. Live to Surf will outfit you with a wetsuit and surfboard for a morning of fun in the breakers of Chesterman Beach.

Take a lesson if youâ™ve never surfed before. Then head back east along Highway 4 to Nanaimo (allow just under three hours) and the Buccaneer Inn, where youâ™ve reserved a room for two nights. End the day with dinner at the Lighthouse Bistro overlooking the marina. DAY 9: Tell the experts at Ocean Explorers Diving in Nanaimo that you want to try a wreck dive, and let them choose a dive site that best suits your experience. After drying off, head north for 30 minutes along Highway 19 to Parksville. Spend the afternoon either relaxing on the main city beach or exploring the forested hiking trails of Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park. Return to Nanaimo for a casual seafood dinner at Dinghy Dock Pub. DAY 10: Catch an early ferry from Nanaimo to Tsawwassen, heading back to Vancouver for the trip home—knowing youâ™ll be back.

not as good as lonely planet

The book was very informative and gave lots of good tips for enjoying Vancouver and Victoria. Referred to it many times. Good restaurant recommendations. Would highly recommend!

Will take the vacation trip in July 2014. Will take Moon along. Usually do. Most of the time Moon is a secondary resource.

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