

Introduction

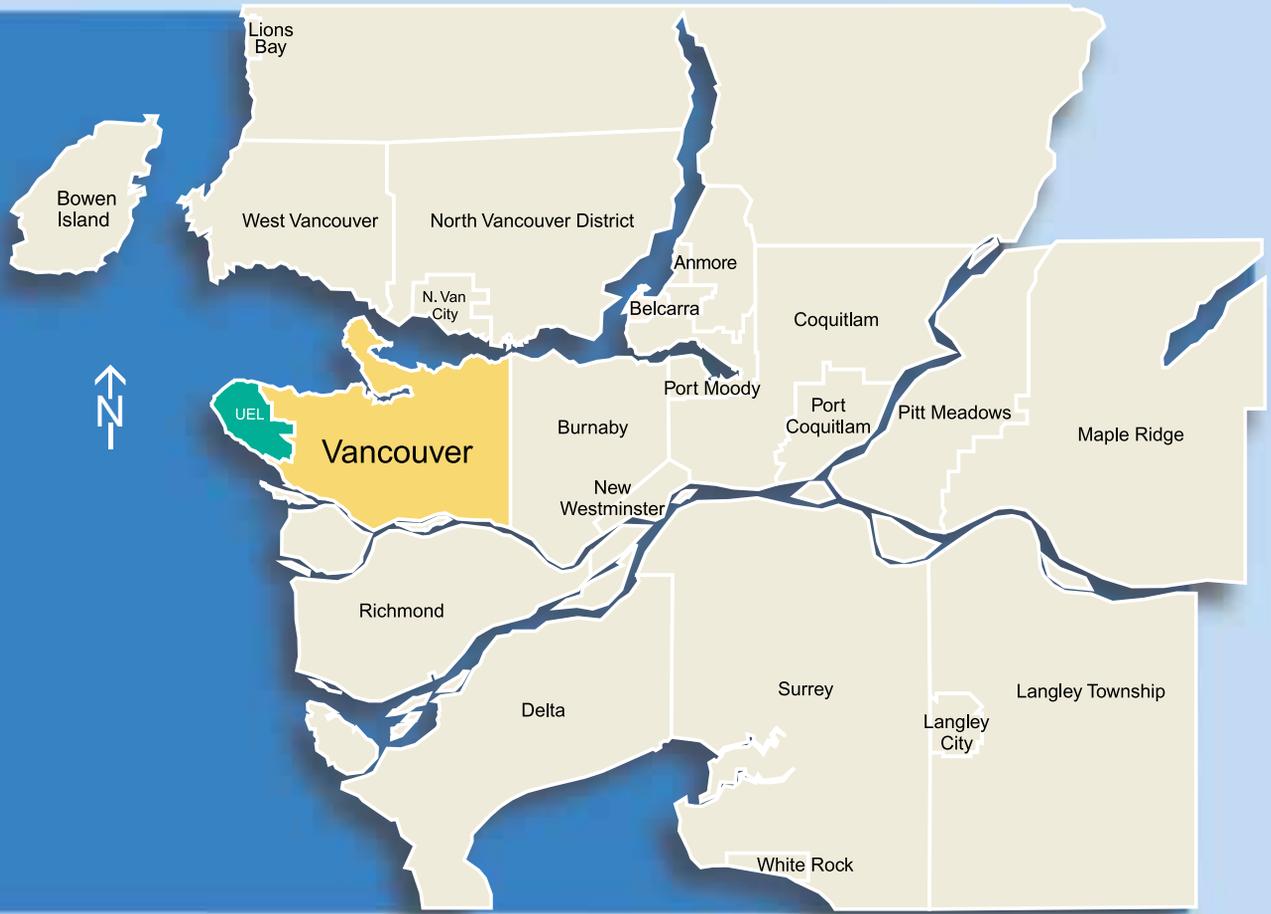


Welcome to Vancouver

Vancouver is Canada's third largest city and its biggest on the West Coast. Vancouver's location on the Pacific Ocean gives the city a mild climate year-round. It seldom snows in winter or gets extremely hot in summer. Vancouver's natural deepwater harbour has helped the city become one of the largest and busiest ports in North America and one of Canada's leading industrial centres. Leading local industries include high-tech, film production, tourism, forest products, and trade and financial services.

People come from all over to visit Vancouver, which is famous for its beautiful natural setting and for its more than 190 parks. Vancouver is consistently rated in the top three of the world's most livable cities. The city's combination of economic opportunity and environmental appeal has led people from around the world and across Canada to make Vancouver their home. These newcomers, like you, have helped contribute to the city and region's continuing rapid growth.

*Welcome to one of the
world's nicest places to live.*



Vancouver Facts and Map

Location: N 49° 16' 36"
W 123° 07' 15"

Vancouver is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Fraser River to the south, the Coast Mountains to the north and the Fraser Valley to the east. It is part of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, which has a population of two million.

Size: 114 sq. kilometres

Vancouver population: 514,000
(1996 Census)

Languages spoken: While English is the main language, Vancouver residents speak more than 70 languages.

Climate

Average temperature in January: 3° C (40° F)
Average temperature in July: 18° C (65° F)
Average annual rain and snowfall: 1,219 mm

Vancouver and its People

Though Vancouver is a relatively new city, aboriginal people have been living here for at least 8,000 years. The Coast Salish people, including the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, who still live here today, dwelt in villages throughout the area and thrived on a land and sea rich with resources.

The first Europeans to arrive were Spanish explorers, who came by ship in 1791. They were followed a year later by an English ship under the command of Captain Vancouver, for whom the city was later named. In 1808, the explorer Simon Fraser reached the mouth of the Fraser River by land from the east.



European settlement started in the 1860s and increased rapidly after the completion of the cross-Canada railroad in 1886, the year of Vancouver's founding. The railway's western terminus was in Vancouver. Over the following 100 years, Vancouver experienced several periods of rapid growth. The Klondike Gold Rush in the late 1890s and early 1900s, post-war booms after the First and Second World Wars, the 1960s, the late 1980s and early 1990s all brought new

people, new buildings and new opportunities for even greater success to Vancouver.

In 1986, the City celebrated its 100th birthday with Expo 86, a world exposition that attracted millions of visitors from around the world.

Though it has a rich indigenous heritage, Vancouver has been a city of newcomers from many different cultures since non-Native peoples began settling in the area. Early sawmill workers and local merchants came from all over Europe, China and Africa. The 1911 census

showed that Vancouver was a city of immigrants, with most people born outside of Canada.

Vancouver remains a city of newcomers. The 1996 census found that 45% of Vancouver residents say they are immigrants. Almost two-thirds of all recent immigrants have come from Asian countries. In the 1990s the largest numbers of immigrants arriving in Vancouver were of Chinese, South Asian and Filipino backgrounds.

Photo below: June 1886, City Hall in a tent three days after the great fire





Vancouver Neighbourhoods

Vancouver is a city of neighbourhoods, and neighbourhoods are places people call home. Vancouverites appreciate and identify with their neighbourhoods, each of which has its own distinct character. The following is a list of Vancouver's neighbourhoods:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Arbutus Ridge | 9. Kerrisdale | 17. Shaughnessy |
| 2. Downtown | 10. Killarney | 18. South Cambie |
| 3. Downtown-Eastside | 11. Kitsilano | 19. Strathcona |
| 4. Dunbar-Southlands | 12. Marpole | 20. Sunset |
| 5. Fairview | 13. Mount Pleasant | 21. Victoria-Fraserview |
| 6. Grandview-Woodland | 14. Oakridge | 22. West End |
| 7. Hastings-Sunrise | 15. Renfrew-Collingwood | 23. West Point Grey |
| 8. Kensington-Cedar Cottage | 16. Riley Park-Little Mountain | |

Vancouver Favourites

Every city has its special areas and spots that give it a unique flavour. The following are among Vancouverites' – and visitors' – favourite places.

- **Antique Row on Main Street** between 16th Avenue and 33rd Avenue has a number of shops that draw antique lovers and bargain hunters from all over the city.

- **Chinatown.** Located just east of the downtown core, Vancouver's Chinatown is one of North America's largest. Shops, restaurants, theatres, gardens and cultural centres all contribute to this commercial and residential district.



- **Commercial Drive** between East Hastings Street to East 12th Avenue is a gathering place of alternative lifestyle advocates and has an intriguing mix of exotic food, music and fashion.



- **Gastown,** located just south of the harbour, is the historic heart of the city, with cobblestone streets and heritage buildings, housing, shops, restaurants and galleries that add to Gastown's lively appeal.

- **Granville Island Market.** Located under the Granville Street Bridge, the market offers an unusual mix of food, shopping, theatre, arts and crafts in a waterside setting.

- **Kitsilano,** stretching from Burrard Avenue west to Alma Street along English Bay and south to West 16th Avenue is home to city professionals and style conscious crowds, leading the way with trendy shopping and dining.

- The heart of the **Punjabi Market** area is the corner of East 49th Avenue and Main Street. This is a prime



shopping area for the foods and spices of South Asia.

- **Robson Street** in downtown Vancouver is one of the most vibrant streets in the heart of the city with sidewalk cafes, high-end boutiques, shops and restaurants. It is also a great place for people watching.

- One of the world's great parks, **Stanley Park,** at the foot of Georgia Street & Beach Avenue, serves the neighbourhood of West End, but is also a favourite park for Vancouverites. With more than 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of forest and trees, the park offers an aquarium, miniature railway, tennis, pitch-and-putt golf course, restaurants, beaches, and live theatre on summer evenings.



- **South Granville,** extending from West 6th Avenue to West 16th Avenue on Granville Street is Vancouver's Gallery Row, with a wide range of art, high-end antiques and sophisticated shops.

- **The West End,** between English Bay and Coal Harbour, is one of North America's most dense-



ly populated neighbourhoods, with high-rise apartments clustered just west of the city's downtown skyscrapers. The area retains a green and peaceful air while offering ample opportunity for shopping and entertainment.

- **The University of British Columbia campus** at the extreme western tip of the city has multiple attractions, from the Nitobe Gardens and Chan Centre for the Performing Arts to the Museum of Anthropology and Botanical Gardens.



Planning for the Future



What will Vancouver be like in the future? No one can predict what lies ahead for our city but one thing is certain – it will change. To help Vancouver deal with this change and growth, City Council adopted CityPlan in 1995 as the city's official plan for the future. CityPlan was developed with input from thousands of residents. It will be used to guide City decisions on spending and development over the next 20 years on a range of topics including: the downtown and neighbourhoods, the environment and the economy, community services and safety, financial accountability and public involvement.



In addition to CityPlan, there are many other official City policies that will help shape the future, such as the Transportation Plan, Community Visions, Housing and Childcare. For more information, visit the City's website at www.city.vancouver.bc.ca



Georgian
Court Hotel