

TRANSPORTATION

Vancouver is easily accessible from major international destinations, via air or sea, and is also a short drive from the US border. Cross-Canada train, bus and flight operations also service the city, which is the main gateway for accessing destinations throughout British Columbia. Within the city, the transit system – bus, light rail and commuter vessels – is extensive, although the downtown core and its environs are highly foot-friendly. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/bookings.

AIR Airlines

International and domestic airlines serving Vancouver International Airport include the following:

Air Canada & Air Canada Jazz (code AC; ☎ 514-393-3333, 888-247-2262; www.aircanada.ca)

Air New Zealand (code NZ; ☎ 800-663-5494; www.airnewzealand.com)

Air North (code 4N; ☎ 800-661-0407; www.flyairnorth.com)

Air Transat (code TS; ☎ 866-847-1112; www.airtransat.com)

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Alaska Airlines (code AS; ☎ 800-252-7522; www.alaskaair.com)

American Airlines (code AA; ☎ 800-433-7300; www.aa.com)

British Airways (code BA; ☎ 800-247-9297; www.britishairways.com)

Cathay Pacific (code CX; ☎ 604-606-8888, 888-338-1668; www.cathaypacific.com)

China Airlines (code CI; ☎ 604-682-6777; www.china-airlines.com)

Continental Airlines (code CO; ☎ 800-523-3273; www.continental.com)

Delta Air Lines (code DL; ☎ 800-221-1212; www.delta.com)

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motorized travel generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon-Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the level of greenhouse gases they are responsible for with financial contributions to sustainable travel schemes that reduce global warming – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

FLOATPLANES & 'COPTERS

Several handy floatplane operators can deliver you directly to the Vancouver waterfront. These include frequent **Harbour Air Seaplanes** (☎ 604-274-1277, 800-665-0212; www.harbour-air.com) and **West Coast Air** (☎ 604-606-6888, 800-347-2222; www.westcoastair.com) services from Victoria's Inner Harbour (\$120, 35 minutes). These companies also serve additional BC locations and fly in and out of Vancouver International Airport (South Terminal) on some routes.

For a different type of ride, **Helijet** (☎ 604-273-4688, 800-665-4354; www.helijet.com) helicopter services arrive on the waterfront, just east of Canada Place, from Victoria (from \$140, 35 minutes, four to 13 daily). This operator offers bargain \$75 summer standby tickets if you want to gamble on getting on – its website can advise you of the chances on any given day.

See [below](#) for more information on the location of helicopter and floatplane terminals.

Horizon Air (code QX; ☎ 800-547-9308; www.horizonair.com)

Japan Airlines (code JL; ☎ 800-525-3663; www.jal.com.jp/en)

Lufthansa (code LH; ☎ 800-563-5954; www.lufthansa.com)

Northwest Airlines (code NW; ☎ 800-225-2525; www.nwa.com)

Pacific Coastal Airlines Ltd (code 8P; ☎ 604-273-8666, 800-663-2872; www.pacific-coastal.com)

Qantas Airways (code QF; ☎ 800-227-4566; www.qantas.com)

Singapore Airlines (code SQ; ☎ 604-689-1223; www.singaporeair.com)

Thai Airways International (code TG; ☎ 800-426-5204; www.thaiair.com)

United Airlines (code UA; ☎ 800-241-6522; www.united.ca)

WestJet (code WS; ☎ 800-538-5696; www.westjet.com)

Zoom Airlines (code Z4; ☎ 866-359-9666; www.flyzoom.com)

Ticketing Websites

In addition to airline companies' own websites, which often offer internet-only deals, a number of travel agents and third-party online operators are helpful in finding flight discounts. Try the following:

www.cheaptickets.ca

www.expedia.ca

www.flightcentre.ca

www.lowestfare.com

www.orbitz.com

www.priceline.com

www.statravel.com

www.travelcuts.ca

www.travelocity.ca

Airports

Canada's second-busiest airport, **Vancouver International Airport** (YVR; [Map pp44–5](#); ☎ 604-207-7077; www.yvr.ca) is about 13km south of the city on Sea Island in Richmond. There are two main terminals – international (including flights to the US) and domestic. The additional South Terminal is for floatplanes and smaller aircraft, and it's linked to the main airport via a free shuttle bus.

Each of the main terminals has food courts, convenience shops, a spa, baggage storage facilities, ATMs, currency exchange booths and tourist information desks. The international terminal has a new shopping and dining plaza with its own stream and aquarium. In addition, the domestic terminal has a medical clinic, a dental clinic and a pharmacy. Baggage carts are free (ie no deposit required) throughout the airport.

In downtown Vancouver, there is a **floatplane terminal** ([Map pp66–7](#)) in Coal Harbour just west of Canada Place and a **helicopter terminal** ([Map pp48–9](#)) on the other side of Canada Place near Waterfront Station.

BICYCLE

Vancouver is a relatively good cycling city, with almost 240km of designated routes criss-crossing the region. Cyclists can take their bikes for free on SkyTrain and SeaBus services, as well as on the many bike-rack-fitted buses. You can also take your wheels on BC Ferries services and some Aquabus miniferry routes. Although the rule is often flouted, cyclists are required by law to wear helmets here.

Pick up a *Greater Vancouver Cycling Map & Guide* (\$3.95) from a convenience store or bookshop for details on area routes and bike-friendly resources. You can view and download the map for free on the **TransLink** (www.translink.bc.ca) website.