

Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- **Wedgewood Hotel** (p191)
- **Opus Hotel** (p195)
- **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** (p191)
- **Granville Island Hotel** (p196)
- **Sylvia Hotel** (p195)
- **O Canada House** (p193)
- **West End Guest House** (p194)
- **Pacific Palisades Hotel** (p193)
- **Victorian Hotel** (p192)
- **Shaughnessy Village** (p197)

SLEEPING

Although there are 25,000 hotel, B&B and hostel rooms in Vancouver, the city is completely colonized by tourists in summer months, so booking ahead is a smart move, unless you want to be sleeping with your head on a damp log in Stanley Park. While rates are at their highest in July and August, there are some genuinely good deals in spring and fall, when you can avoid the school-holiday crush and join the locals in enjoying a day or two of wild 'Wet Coast' rainfall.

With the Olympics on the horizon, the city is launching a rash of new, mostly high-end hotel developments. The Loden and L'Hermitage will be joining downtown's designer boutique offerings, while the Shangri-La, the Ritz-Carlton, Coast Coal Harbour, Fairmont Pacific Rim and the revamped Crowne Plaza will be luring the gold-card crowd with their top-of-the-range amenities and central locations.

But Vancouver is not just about high-end sleepovers. There are many good midrange hotels – especially in the downtown core – as well as pockets of homely heritage B&Bs in the West End and Kits. If you want to be closer to the forests and mountains yet not too far from downtown, the North Shore is ideal. And for those on a limited budget, there are hostels scattered across the city, as well as some good student-style digs out at UBC.

From high end to budget, lodgings are increasingly adding free wireless internet access to their offerings, while spas, pools, air-conditioning and laundry facilities are more sporadically applied: see the symbols in each listing to see what's available and call ahead to see what's new.

Accommodation reviews here are arranged by neighborhood and then by budget – most expensive first. Quoted prices are for the height of the summer season, but rates can drop by as much as 50% in the off-season and many hotels also offer good-value packages that might include restaurant deals, spa treatments or entry to local attractions. Check hotel websites and call ahead for the best deals and a selection of available packages. Also check online or call for the dedicated accommodation services offered by **Tourism Vancouver** (☎ 604-966-3260, 877-826-1717; www.tourismvancouver.com) and **Hello BC** (☎ 604-663-6000, 800-663-6000; www.hellobc.com) for up-to-the-minute deals and packages.

Be aware that there are some significant additions to most quoted room rates. These include taxes of up to 16% – an 8% to 10% hotel tax (PST) and 5% federal goods and services tax (GST). Overseas visitors may be able to claim back the GST (see p235). Many hotels, particularly in the downtown core, also charge parking fees that often range between \$10 and \$20 per night. You can avoid this by staying at B&Bs, which generally don't charge for parking.

BOOKING B&BS

B&Bs across the city run from homely rooms in residential neighborhoods that start at under \$100 per night to sumptuous, antiques-lined heritage mansions at prices over \$250, where every pampering treat is offered. The average is around \$150 and you can expect a warm welcome and plenty of friendly personal attention. It's not all smiles, though:

some B&Bs require a two-night minimum stay – especially on summer weekends – and cancellation policies can cost you an arm and a leg if you decide not to turn up.

There are several handy regional agencies that allow you to search and book Vancouver-area properties online. These generally show photos and available amenities at local properties and can save you a lot of time when you're on the road. You can do your pre-trip homework via the recommended agencies **BBCanada** (www.bbcanada.com) or **Western Canada B&B Innkeepers Association** (www.wcbbia.com). Alternatively, you can contact **Tourism Vancouver** or **Hello BC** (above) for area listings and late-availability deals.

BOOK ACCOMMODATIONS ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

TIPPING

Bellhops typically get \$2 for hailing you a cab at the front of the hotel and \$2 per item for