

## 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://lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

# SLEEPING

## top picks

- **Loden Vancouver** (p198)
- **St Regis Hotel** (p196)
- **Sylvia Hotel** (p200)
- **Urban Hideaway Guesthouse** (p197)
- **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** (p195)
- **Opus Hotel** (p201)
- **Victorian Hotel** (p197)
- **Buchan Hotel** (p200)
- **Wedgewood Hotel & Spa** (p195)
- **Listel Vancouver** (p199)

# SLEEPING

Although there are 25,000 hotel, B&B and hostel rooms in Metro Vancouver, the city is 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. With rates 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.

While the 2010 Winter Olympics triggered a rash of slick new hotel developments – including the Shangri-La and the Fairmont Pacific Rim – not all the newbies managed to open in time for the gold rush. The revamped Hotel Georgia, a few steps from the venerable Hotel Vancouver, was still under wraps during research for this book but it promises to be one of the city’s swankiest new sleepovers.

Vancouver is not just about high-end hotels, of course. There are many good midrange options, especially in the downtown core, as well as pockets of homely heritage B&Bs in the West End and Kitsilano. If you want to be closer to the forests and mountains yet not too far from downtown, the North Shore is also a good alternative. And for those on a limited budget, there are hostels scattered across the city, as well as some good student-style digs out at the University of British Columbia (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 find out what’s new. Also note that some reviews include family-friendly (♻️) and pet-friendly (🐾) symbols.

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 to see what’s on offer.

Alternatively, save time by checking online or calling for the many deals, packages and accommodation services offered via [Tourism Vancouver](http://Tourism Vancouver) (☎ 604-966-3260, 877-826-1717; [www.tourismvancouver.com](http://www.tourismvancouver.com)) and [Hello BC](http://Hello BC) (☎ 800-435-5622; [www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com)).

Be aware that there are some significant additions to most quoted room rates. You’ll have to pay 12% HST (Harmonized Sales Tax), plus an additional hotel room tax of 2%. In addition, many hotels charge a destination marking fee of around 1.5%. In total, these extras can amount to as much as 16.5%. Many hotels, particularly in the downtown core, also charge parking fees that are often 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, antique-lined heritage mansions at prices over \$200, 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](http://BBCanada) ([www.bbcanada.com](http://www.bbcanada.com)) or [BC Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers Guild](http://BC Bed & Breakfast Innkeepers Guild) ([www.bcbestbnbs.com](http://www.bcbestbnbs.com)).

## TIPPING

Bellhops typically get \$2 to \$5 for hailing you a cab at the front of the hotel and up to \$5 for carrying your bags to your room. Housekeepers can be tipped \$2 to \$5 per night of your stay, although this is entirely optional.