

Commercial Drive



Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Slurping creamy cappuccinos and watching the world go by at several Italian-run coffee bars, including perky, new **Renzo's** (p124).
- 2 Spending a summer evening drinking and dining on a patio at **Havana** (p122).
- 3 Diving tongue-first into BC's craft-beer scene with a piquant tasting flight at **St Augustine's** (p122).
- 4 Hanging with the locals at a late-night cult movie screening at the **Rio** (p126).
- 5 Taking the stage (after a few beers) for poetry slam night at **Cafe Deux Soleil** (p124).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

When you walk north along Commercial Dr from the SkyTrain station, look out for the sidewalk book vendors that often ply their trade here. There are typically some good deals to be had and you'll have something to read when you pull into your first coffee shop – which will likely be just a couple of minutes away.

Best Places to Eat

- Cannibal Cafe (p120)
- Kishimoto Japanese Kitchen + Sushi Bar (p120)
- Carthage Cafe (p121)
- Via Tevere (p121)
- Prothouse Cafe (p119)

For reviews, see p119 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Storm Crow Tavern (p122)
- St Augustine's (p122)
- Biercraft Tap & Tapas Bar (p124)
- Renzo's (p124)
- Café Calabria (p124)

For reviews, see p122 ➡

Best Places to Shop

- Barefoot Contessa (p128)
- Attic Treasures (p128)
- Licorice Parlour (p128)
- People's Co-Op Bookstore (p128)
- Audiopile (p128)

For reviews, see p128 ➡

Explore Commercial Drive

Take SkyTrain's Expo or Millennium line from downtown and when you hop off at Commercial-Broadway station a few minutes later the Drive will be just around the corner. Walk north towards the mountains and everything will unfold in a linear fashion: the Drive's main stores, restaurants and bars run on either side of the street for about 17 blocks until the intersection with Venables. If it's too far to walk, bus number 20 trundles along much of the Drive's main drag so you can jump aboard when you feel tired. Better still, just take a coffee-shop pit stop and you'll be back on your feet in no time. If you're exploring both of East Vancouver's two top thoroughfares – Main St and Commercial – take the 99B-Line express bus along Broadway: it links the two streets in around 10 minutes.

A lively, colorful strip most of the time, some locals say the Drive is at its best on sunny summer afternoons. In fact, it's a perfectly relaxing half-day excursion from the city center. For others, it's languid summer evenings when the Drive thrives. This is the time when its abundant patios are at their most animated. If you're planning to eat here, make sure you wander along the strip for a few blocks before you settle on a place that truly whets your appetite. The same goes for the chatty bars, where you'll meet everyone from pixie-chick bohemians to chin-stroking poets and old-school dope smokers.

Local Life

- **Streetlife** From locals passing by with naughty cigarettes to hand-holding tattooed lovers strolling into stores, just taking a sidewalk cafe seat and watching the Drive go by is recommended.
- **Shopping** The opposite of Robson St's slick chain stores, the Drive is teeming with one-of-a-kind indie shops that are always worth perusing.
- **Dining** Like a far tastier, food-based version of the UN, it often seems like every cuisine on the planet is available here and the locals tuck right in.

Getting There & Away

- **SkyTrain** Board the Expo/Millennium line from downtown to Commercial-Broadway station.
- **Bus** The 99B-Line express and the regular number 9 both stop at the intersection of Broadway and Commercial, while the number 20 trundles along much of the Drive.
- **Car** There is metered parking on the Drive and some nonmetered parking on its residential side streets.