

Downtown & West End

DOWNTOWN | WEST END

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Strolling the entire **Stanley Park seawall** (p52) for smile-triggering views over the shimmering, mountain-framed shoreline – plus beaches, camera stops and bird-watching along the way.
- 2 Hanging with the arty locals at **Vancouver Art Gallery** (p55) during an evening FUSE event.
- 3 Supping a pint or three and watching a local band on the tiny **Railway Club** (p66) stage.
- 4 Diving into the West Coast's lip-smacking regional bounty with a locally sourced feast at **Forage** (p64).
- 5 Watching a pyrotechnic sunset from a log perch at Stanley Park's **Third Beach** (p53).



For more detail of this area see Map p266 and p270 →

Explore Downtown & West End

Radiating from the central intersection of Granville and Georgia Sts, Vancouver's downtown core is easily walkable. Consider starting your exploration on the waterfront at Canada Place and then heading slightly uphill, with the mountain at your back, along Burrard or Granville Sts. You'll pass plenty of stores and cafes before reaching Robson St, the city's main shopping promenade. Wander along here (ducking into shops en route) before arriving at the intersection of Robson and Denman. Explore the West End and its menu of midrange restaurants, side-street wooden heritage homes and the friendly 'gayborhood' vibe. Davie St is the West End's main strip, and both Denman and Davie Sts lead to English Bay Beach, one of Vancouver's most popular summer hangouts. From either end of Denman St you can stroll into Stanley Park. Hitting the seawall here is the perfect way to commune with nature. See the totem poles and take in the Vancouver Aquarium, one of the city's best family-friendly attractions.

Local Life

- **Markets** Arrive early at the summertime West End Farmers Market (p74) to have your pick of the fresh, locally grown fruit before it sells out.
- **Restaurants** Robson St is always lined with tourists, but locals are much more likely to be dining out at the well-priced neighborhood eateries on Denman and Davie Sts in the West End.
- **Jogging** The Stanley Park seawall (p52) is a vista-hugging jogger's paradise. Avoid the summer crowds by hitting the trail early morning.

Getting There & Away

- **Walk** The downtown core is very walkable and the grid system of streets makes navigating easy. As a guide, strolling from Vancouver City Centre SkyTrain station to Stanley Park takes about 25 minutes.
- **Train** SkyTrain's Expo and Millennium Lines share the tracks through downtown, and the Canada Line also runs through the area. All three lines come together (via a short walk) at Waterfront Station.
- **Bus** The number 5 trundles along Robson St, the number 6 along Davie, the number 10 along Granville and the number 19 runs into Stanley Park. Numerous other services crisscross the city and beyond.
- **Car** There are parkades (parking lots) and parking meters throughout downtown. The West End has metered parking and Stanley Park has pay-and-display parking lots.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The Granville Strip nightlife stretch between Robson St and Granville Bridge is fine for a look (the twinkly neon is quite cool) but the generally humdrum bars and clubs here are aimed at partiers rolling into the city from the suburbs for vomit-inducing nights out. Especially on weekends, the area is a legless booze-fest abandoned by discerning locals. Instead, head to Gastown or the indie bars of Main St and Commercial Dr.

Best Places to Eat

- Forage (p64)
- Hawksworth (p63)
- Guu with Garlic (p64)
- Chambar (p63)
- Finch's (p59)

For reviews, see p59 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- Railway Club (p66)
- Mario's Coffee Express (p67)
- Uva Wine Bar (p66)
- Vancouver Fanclub (p71)
- Sylvia's Lounge (p68)

For reviews, see p66 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- MacLeod's Books (p72)
- Mink Chocolates (p73)
- Holt Renfrew (p72)
- Golden Age Collectables (p72)
- West End Farmers Market (p74)

For reviews, see p72 ➔