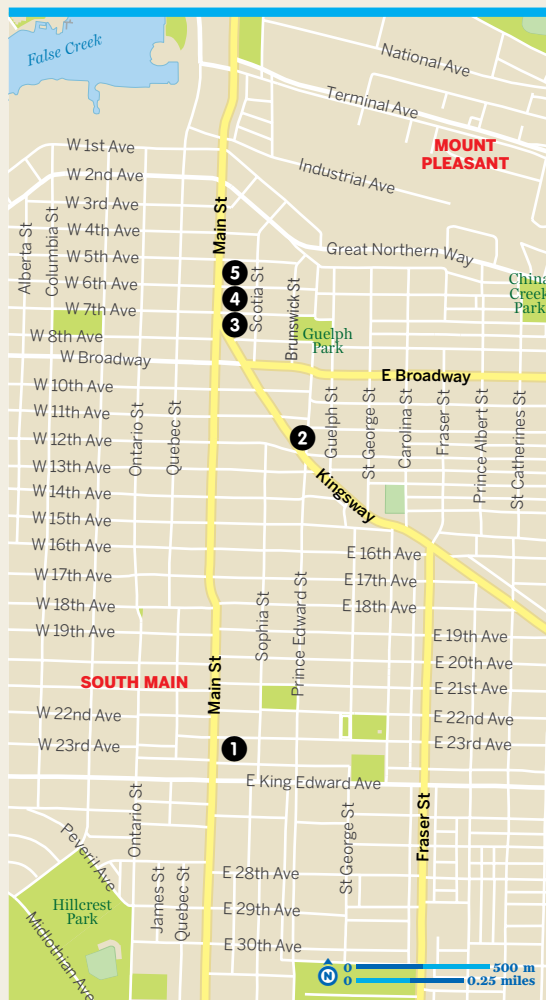


Main Street



Neighborhood Top Five

- ① Composing missives to your loved ones on vintage typewriters at the legendary monthly letter-writing club at **Regional Assembly of Text** (p142).
- ② Catching a live show and moshing to your heart's content at **Biltmore Cabaret** (p139).
- ③ Sipping coffee in the sun on a wood-block perch outside **Gene Cafe** (p139).
- ④ Catching a quirky gallery opening at **Hot Art Wet City** (p134) and buying some cool-ass local art.
- ⑤ Lounging on the little patio at **Whip** (p137) with a Sunday afternoon guest cask beer.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Locals like to keep the community suppers at **Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church** (Map p278; www.uocvancouver.com; 154 East 10th Ave; ☺1st Fri every month 5-8pm; ☎3) a secret. The reason? The queues, forming well before its 5pm opening, are long enough already. It's worth the wait for home-cooked pierogy, borscht and cabbage rolls. Budget for \$15 and you won't need to eat for days.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tap & Barrel (p135)
- ➔ Burgoo Bistro (p136)
- ➔ Sun Sui Wah Seafood Restaurant (p136)
- ➔ Budgie's Burritos (p135)
- ➔ Acorn (p136)

For reviews, see p135 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Whip (p137)
- ➔ Shameful Tiki Room (p138)
- ➔ Narrow Lounge (p138)
- ➔ Portland Craft (p138)
- ➔ 49th Parallel Coffee (p139)

For reviews, see p137 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Regional Assembly of Text (p142)
- ➔ Smoking Lily (p142)
- ➔ Bird on a Wire Creations (p142)
- ➔ Neptoon Records (p142)
- ➔ Mountain Equipment Co-op (p142)

For reviews, see p140 ➔

Explore Main Street

After the north-end hub of Science World and the nearby Olympic Village, the main action on Main takes place further south in two key areas: around the intersection with Broadway and then south from 18th Ave: these are the twin hearts of Vancouver's hipster scene. The first, the center of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, is lined with independent bars and coffee shops, while the Riley Park area past 18th is perfect for airing your credit cards: it's full of one-of-a-kind fashion, arts and accessories stores. Consider an afternoon of window shopping here, followed by dinner and a few beers in either area. Bus 3 runs along Main from the Main St-Science World SkyTrain station, but make sure you hop off regularly for some on-foot exploration. If you're still hungry, stay on the bus south past 48th Ave where you'll find the Punjabi Market district. Known by some as Little India, it's a colorful, compact strip of Asian clothing stores and some of the region's best-value, all-you-can-eat curry restaurants.

Local Life

- ➔ **Coffee Shops** Locals spend more time hunched over laptops in cafes here than anywhere else in the city. Join them for a glimpse of what makes the area tick (ie good java).
- ➔ **Bars** Lined with some of Vancouver's best watering holes, this is a good area for an independent-minded neighborhood night out.
- ➔ **Community Events** From yarn-bombing to craft fairs to pop-up book exchanges, the locals are always staging happenings here – check notices at libraries and coffee shops to see what's on.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Number 3 runs the length of Main St. The 99B-Line express bus connects Main and Commercial Dr along Broadway, as does the much slower number 9.
- ➔ **Train** SkyTrain connects to bus 3 services at Main St-Science World Station. But if you're on the Canada Line, alight at Broadway-City Hall and take the 99B-Line along Broadway to Main St.
- ➔ **Car** There is some metered parking on Main St, plus lots of side-street parking the further south you drive.