

Commercial Drive



Neighborhood Top Five

1 Havana (p120) Spending a summer evening drinking and dining on the Drive's best patio.

2 Rio Theatre (p124) Making new friends while hanging out with the locals at a late-night cult movie screening; costume and singing along optional.

3 Mintage (p125) Rum-maging the multitudinous racks for that perfect vintage prom dress, plus matching sunglasses and floppy hat.

4 Jamjar (p117) Craving, ordering and then failing to share the delicious serving of deep-fried cauliflower with your dining partner.

5 Cafe Deux Soleils (p123) Taking the stage (after a few beers) and regaling the locals with your flowery magnum opus at the city's favorite poetry slam night.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

While you're walking up and down the Drive, make sure you glance along the side streets. Almost every building just off the main drag seems to have an eye-popping mural to entice your camera. There's an especially excellent one – a huge crow (a popular East Vancouver visual symbol) – just around the corner on Venables St.



Best Places to Eat

- Jamjar (p117)
- Tangent Cafe (p117)
- Kishimoto Japanese Kitchen (p118)
- Carthage Cafe (p120)
- Eternal Abundance (p117)



Best Places to Drink

- Storm Crow Tavern (p120)
- St Augustine's (p121)
- Café Calabria (p123)
- Bump n Grind (p121)
- Prado (p122)



Best Places to Shop

- Mintage (p125)
- Attic Treasures (p125)
- Licorice Parlour (p125)
- Canterbury Tales (p126)
- Barefoot Contessa (p125)

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 along the street. Walk north toward the mountains and everything will unfold in a linear fashion: the Drive's main stores, restaurants and bars run on either side for about 17 blocks until the intersection with Venables. If it's too far to walk, bus 20 trundles along much of the 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, the Drive is said by some to be 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 and coffee shops, where you'll meet everyone from pixie-chick bohemians to chin-stroking poets and old-school dope smokers.

Local Life

➤ **People Watching** From locals with naughty cigarettes to hand-holding same-sex lovers strolling past: just taking a sidewalk cafe seat or a Grandview Park (p117) perch 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 always worth perusing.

➤ **Dining** Like a far tastier, food-based version of the UN, it often seems as if every cuisine on the planet is available here, and the locals tuck right in.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Train** Board the Expo/Millennium line from downtown to Commercial-Broadway station.

➤ **Bus** The 99B-Line express and the regular bus 9 both stop at the intersection of Broadway and Commercial, while bus 20 trundles along much of the Drive.

➤ **Car** There is metered parking on the Drive and some nonmetered parking on its residential side streets.