

Main Street



Neighborhood Top Five

1 Regional Assembly of Text (p141) Composing pithy missives to your loved one on vintage typewriters at the legendary monthly letter-writing club.

2 Brassneck Brewery (p137) Downing a Passive Aggressive pale ale or three at Vancouver's favorite neighborhood microbrewery; and adding a growler to go.

3 Gene Cafe (p138) Sipping a creamy coffee with the plaid-shirted locals on a sun-baked wood-block perch, while overlooking the Mount Pleasant street scene.

4 Hot Art Wet City (p132) Hanging with culture-hugging Mainsters at a gallery show opening, then buying some cool-ass art to take home.

5 Dock Lunch (p135) Rubbing elbows with the regulars over a homestyle meal that feels like dining in a family friend's house.

For more detail of this area see Map p278 ➔

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 further 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. Handily, bus 3 runs along Main every few minutes 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, home to 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 great java).

➔ **Microbreweries** Studded with some of Vancouver's best microbrewery tasting rooms, this is a great area for a hop-forward great night out with like-minded ale fans. Start at Brassneck (p137).

➔ **Indie Shopping** The last place any major big box retailer would move to, browsing the surfeit of one-of-a-kind boutiques, bookstores and record shops keeps area locals busy.

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 bus 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.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Locals like to keep the community suppers at **Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church** (Map p278) a secret. The reason? The queues, forming well before its 5pm opening on the first Friday of every month, are long enough already. It's worth the wait for home-cooked pierogi, borscht and bulging cabbage rolls. Budget for \$16 and you won't need to eat for days.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Dock Lunch (p135)
- ➔ Fish Counter (p136)
- ➔ Trafik (p135)
- ➔ Hawkers Delight (p133)
- ➔ Ernest Ice Cream (p135)

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Brassneck Brewery (p137)
- ➔ Shameful Tiki Room (p137)
- ➔ Narrow Lounge (p138)
- ➔ Main Street Brewing (p138)
- ➔ Whip (p138)

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Regional Assembly of Text (p141)
- ➔ Smoking Lily (p142)
- ➔ Urban Source (p141)
- ➔ Neptoon Records (p141)
- ➔ This Monkey's Gone To Heaven (p142)