



Vancouver, Whistler & Vancouver Island

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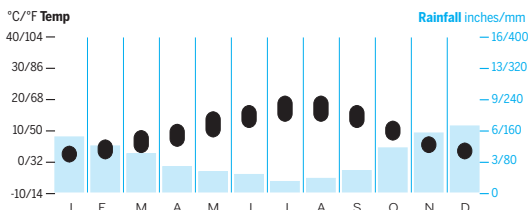
Why Go?

British Columbia visitors are never short of superlatives when writing their postcards home. It's hard not to be moved by looming mountain ranges, wildlife-packed forests and uncountable kilometers of pristine coastline that slow your heartbeat like a sigh-triggering spa treatment. But Canada's westernmost province is much more than a nature-hugging diorama.

Cosmopolitan Vancouver is an animated fusion of cuisines and cultures from Asia and beyond, while historic Victoria and resort town Whistler have their own vibrant and alluring scenes. And for sheer character, it's hard to beat the province's kaleidoscope of quirky little communities, from the rustic Sunshine Coast to the laid-back Southern Gulf Islands.

Wherever you head, of course, the great outdoors will always be calling your name. Don't just point your camera at it. BC is unbeatable for the kind of life-enhancing skiing, kayaking, hiking and biking that you'll be bragging about to everyone back home.

When to Go Vancouver, BC



December–March Powder action on the slopes of Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains

July & August Beaches, barbecues and a plethora of overlapping festivals in Vancouver

September & October Great surfing and the start of the storm-watching season in Tofino



Vancouver, Whistler & Vancouver Island Highlights

- ① Stretch your legs on a seawall stroll around Vancouver's **Stanley Park** (p355), then enjoy a relaxing Third Beach sunset
- ② Surf up a storm (or just watch a storm) in **Tofino** (p398) on Vancouver Island's wild west coast
- ③ Knock back some lip-smacking beers at a **Victoria** (p370) brewpub
- ④ Ski the Olympian slopes at **Whistler** (p375) and enjoy a warming après beverage while