Downtown Grand Tour

The bustling heart of central Vancouver is an eminently walkable street grid of stores, coffeeshops and places to eat. There are also more than a few grand buildings and scenic sights worth whipping out your camera for. Keep your eye out for many lesser-known public artworks and historic stops.

**Start** Canada Place  
**Distance** 3km  
**Duration** 1 hour

1. Check out the towering **Olympic Cauldron**, a landmark reminder of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

2. Peruse the eye-catching outdoor artworks around the **Convention Centre West Building**, including a 'pixelated orca' statue by Douglas Coupland.

3. Give your camera free rein at postcard-favorite **Canada Place** while walking along the outer promenade.

4. On store-lined Granville St you’ll pass the **Pacific Centre** ([www.pacificcentre.ca](http://www.pacificcentre.ca); cnr Howe & W Georgia St; Mon-Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm), downtown’s biggest mall.

5. The Colosseum-like **Vancouver Public Library** (10am-9pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri & Sat; 11am-6pm Sun) looks like a temple to the great god of libraries. Grab a coffee in the glass-enclosed atrium.

6. Visit the **Vancouver Art Gallery** for a culture fix.

7. Duck into the grand **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver**. There are photos on one wall showing the historic building’s construction and its former incarnations.

8. There were 1970s moves to demolish 19th-century **Christ Church Cathedral** but these were mercifully rejected. Check out the new stained-glass bell tower alongside.

**Take a Break...**  
Stop for a delicious treat at **Bella Gelateria** ([www.bellagelateria.com](http://www.bellagelateria.com); 1001 W Cordova St; h11am-10pm Sun-Thur, to 11pm Fri & Sat).  

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**Classic Photo**  
Canada Place over the harbor.