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INTRODUCTION

The cities of the world – whether they’re modern, steeped in tradition, developing or all three – are premier destinations for all types of travellers. In this book, some of the world’s most distinctive, intriguing and outstanding cities have been turned into challenging mazes for the armchair traveller and adventurous puzzle enthusiast alike.

This book features a total of 30 cities, each of which has staked its rightful place on an increasingly competitive and crowded world stage. As an intrepid puzzle-solver, you are tasked with finding your way from start to finish, enjoying an insightful tour as you go. Each maze is based on the real street map for the relevant city, give or take the odd liberty. Wind your way through backstreets, stride down main thoroughfares and negotiate expansive parks and meandering rivers to explore your possible route.

As you explore the maps, you’ll discover the sights and experiences of each city, ranging from major landmarks and tourist hotspots to hidden gems and quirky local hideouts. Read all about them in the accompanying descriptions.

So, pack your pencil and eraser, and journey to the metropolis of your choice. Take in the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the urban landscapes on offer as you tackle the challenge of the book’s 30 mazes.

How to use this book

Look for the start flag to see where to set off on your journey. Your challenge is to find your way through each city to reach the finish line.

Use a pencil or trace your finger over the page, as you journey through the streets, avenues and boulevards of some of the world’s greatest cities.

How many sights and landmarks will you pass on your way? Read all about them by going to the corresponding number in the text.

Lost? Going round in circles? Took a wrong turn? Don’t panic! The solutions are on pages 92–96. No peeking!

Crossing the maze boundaries is not allowed! Go back or use an eraser to plan your route again.
You’re just as likely to find yourself as you are your way around the chilled yet vibrant San Francisco streets. Leave your inhibitions at home and dive into good times as you make your way from east to west.

1. WAVE ORGAN
2. THE FILLMORE
3. PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE
4. HAIGHT-ASHBURY
5. EXPLORATORIUM
6. SOMARTS CULTURAL CENTRE
7. PAINTED LADIES
8. COLUMBARIUM & FUNERAL HOME
9. SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH
10. LOTTÀ’S FOUNTAIN
11. TENDERLOIN NATIONAL FOREST
12. COIT TOWER
13. GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH
14. ALCATRAZ
15. LOMBARD STREET
16. DIEGO RIVERA’S ALLEGORY OF CALIFORNIA FRESCO
17. EMPEROR NORTON’S FANTASTIC TIME MACHINE
18. T-HE TEA
19. HEATH CERAMICS
20. KENSINGTON PARK HOTEL
21. HOTEL VITALE
22. AXIOM
23. PIANOFIGHT
24. OASIS
25. BOURBON AND BRANCH
26. SIGHTGLASS COFFEE
27. TERROIR NATURAL WINE MERCHANT
28. FARM:TABLE
29. FERRY PLAZA FARMERS MARKET
30. BENU
Walkable neighbourhoods, drink-and-dine delights and memorable cultural and outdoor activities framed by dramatic vistas – there’s a glassful of reasons to love this lotusland metropolis. Whether discovering coffee shops, hipster haunts, indie bars or heritage-house beachfronts and browsable stores, you’ll find this city perfect for easy-access urban exploration. And the outdoors is never far away; Vancouverites really can ski in the morning and hit the beach in the afternoon.

1. CANACRENE CENTRE
   The city’s first public library was a landmark corner building funded by US philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Now a community centre for services provided to residents of the Downtown Eastside, it’s still a handsome edifice to gaze at on your way through the area.

2. VOGUE THEATRE
   www.voguevancouver.com
   A 1940s heritage venue – check out the retro neon figure perched on the top of the streamlined exterior – the Vogue was bought and refurbished a few years back. Happily, the refurb didn’t change much and this is a great old-school venue to see bands.

3. BIERCRAFT BISTRO
   With a chatty, wood-lined interior plus two popular street-side patios, this beer-forward resto-bar is a great spot for ale aficionados. Dive into the astonishing array of varieties from around the world (nutcracker oolong favourite is ideal for visiting tea nuts. Choose from dozens of Belgian tipples and compare them to some choice local sips or heritage-house beachfronts and browsable stores, you’ll find this city perfect for easy-access urban exploration. And the outdoors is never far away; Vancouverites really can ski in the morning and hit the beach in the afternoon.

4. PEKO TEA LOUNGE
   A restorative respite from busy Broadway, this locals’ favourite is ideal for vasing tea nuts. Choose from dozens of varieties from around the world (nutcracker oolong recommended), then sink into a coveted sofa seat at the back of the store.

5. VANCITY ANTHROPOLOGY
   www.moa.ubc.ca
   Vancouver’s best museum is studded with spectacular First Nations totem poles and breathtaking carvings – but it’s also teeming with artefacts from cultures around the world, from Polynesian instruments to Cantonese music, often of the Celtic persuasion, on most weekends.

6. VANCOUVER AQUARIUM
   www.vanaqua.org
   Stanley Park’s biggest draw, the aquarium is home to 9000 water-loving critters – including sharks, wolf eels and a somewhat shy octopus. There’s also a small walk-through rainforest area of birds, turtles and a statue-still sloth.

7. GRAVITY POPE
   This unseem temple of footwork is a dangerous place to come if you have a shoe fetish – best not to bring more than one credit card. Quality and designer alien are the keys here and you can expect to slip into Vancouver’s best selection of fashion-forward clogs, wedges, mules and classy runners.

8. A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER
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   This stunning 763-hectare park stretches from Burrard Inlet to the North Arm of the Fraser River, a smashing spot to explore with its 70km (43.5 miles) of walking, jogging and cycling trails; a bird and plant haven.

9. SECOND BEACH
   Second Beach is a family-friendly area on Stanley Park’s western side, with a grassy playground, an ice-cream-serving concession and the Stanley Park Pitch & Putt course. Its main attraction is the seasonal outdoor swimming pool.

10. JERICHO BEACH
    An activity-lover’s idyll, Jericho is great if you just want to putter along the beach, clamber over driftwood and catch stunning views of downtown. It’s popular with locals on summer evenings, so expect impromptu, but civilised beach gatherings, where discreet coolers of beer may appear.

11. SEABUS
    The iconic Seabus shuttle is part of the TransLink transit system and it operates throughout the day, taking 12 minutes to cross Burrard Inlet between Waterfront Station and Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver.

12. GROUSE MOUNTAIN
    www.grousemountain.com
    This mountain-top playground offers smacking views of downtown glinting in the water below. In summer, Skyride gondola rides include access to lumberjack shows, alpine hiking, bird-of-prey displays and a giantly bear refuge.

13. THE WOLF & HOUND
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    The nearest good pub to UBC and one of Vancouver’s best Irish watering holes; you’ll find plenty of students avoiding their assignments here. They come to watch sports in the denlike back room or to catch free live music, often of the Celtic persuasion, on most weekends.

14. VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
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    A vital part of the city’s cultural scene, the VAG hosts contemporary exhibitions – often showcasing Vancouver’s renowned photoconceptualists – combined with blockbuster international travelling shows.

15. ROYAL VICTORIA MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
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16. VANCOUVER AQUARIUM
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    The MOV houses cool temporary exhibitions and hosts evening events for culturally minded adults. There are superbly evocative displays on local 1950s pop culture and 1960s hippie counter-culture, plus a shimmering gallery of vintage neon signs from around the city.

17. KITSILANO FARMS MARKET
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    Kitsilano’s best excuse to get out and hang with the locals, this seasonal farmers market is one of the city’s most popular. Arrive early and you’ll have the pick of freshly plucked local fruit and veg, such as sweet strawberries and flavourful heirloom tomatoes.

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19. STANLEY PARK
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    This magnificent 404-hectare park combines excellent attractions with a mystical natural aura. Don’t miss a stroll or cycle around the 8.8 km (5.5 miles) seawall and past the park’s popular totem poles.

20. GRANVILLE ISLAND PUBLIC MARKET
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    Granville Island’s highlight is the covered Public Market, a multisensory smorgasbord of fish, cheese, fruit and bakery treats. From June to September, there’s also an alfresco farmers market.

21. BLOEDEL CONSERVATORY
    BLOEDEL CONSERVATORY
    This balsam, biotectonic-doomed conservatory is an ideal romantic daydream spot, as well as Vancouver’s best-value attraction: for little more than the price of a latte, you’ll find tropical plants bristling with bright-plumaged birds.

22. MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY
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24. GALLERY OF BC CERAMICS
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    The star of Granville Island’s arts-and-crafts shops and the public face of the Potters Guild of BC, this excellent spot exhibits and sells the striking works of its member artists.

25. ST REGIS HOTEL
    ST REGIS HOTEL
    www.stregishotel.com
    An art-lined boutique sleepover in a 1913 heritage shell. Befitting its age, almost all the rooms seem to be a different size, with leather-look wallpaper, earth-toned bedspreads, flatscreen TVs and multimedia hubs.

26. ROSEWOOD HOTEL GEORGIA
    ROSEWOOD HOTEL GEORGIA
    www.rosewoodhotels.com
    Vancouver’s current ‘It’ hotel underwent a spectacular renovation a few years back that brought the 1927-built landmark back to its golden-age glory. The hotel’s rooms take a classic, elegant approach.

27. WEST
    WEST
    www.westerntown.com
    This sleek, but never snobbish, fine-dining restaurant is committed to superb West Coast meals with ultra-attentive service and a great wine selection. Ideal for a classy night out.

28. FORAGE
    FORAGE
    www.foragevancouver.com
    A champion of the local farm-to-table scene, this sustainability-friendly restaurant is the perfect way to sample the flavours of the region. Brunch has become a firm local favourite.

29. PUREBREAD
    PUREBREAD
    www.purebread.ca
    When Whistler’s favourite bakery opened here, salvaging Vancouverites began flocking en masse. Expect to stand slack-jawed as you try to choose from a cornucopia of cakes, pastries and bars.

30. GALLERY OF BC CERAMICS
    GALLERY OF BC CERAMICS
    www.bcpc.org
    This is where Drive hipsters add a little vintage glam to their look and there’s a Westernalon feel to the interior, but don’t be fooled – this is one of the city’s most kaleidoscopically eclectic stores.

31. MINTAGE
    MINTAGE
    www.mintagevancouver.com
    This stationery and gift store is an ironic antidote to the digital age, luring ski-stamped locals with its journals, hand-drawn pen boxes and T-shirts printed with typewriter motifs. Check out the tiny under-the-stairs gallery showcasing worldwide zines.