

Downtown & West End

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Stanley Park Seawall** (p54) Strolling or cycling the winding perimeter pathway for sigh-triggering views of the forest-fringed ocean, including a multi-hued Third Beach sunset.
- 2 Vancouver Art Gallery** (p57) Rubbing shoulders with a crowd of arsty locals

at a partylike evening FUSE event.

- 3 Commodore Ballroom** (p73) Catching a great show and bouncing on the famous dance floor at downtown's favorite live venue.
- 4 Japadog** (p64) Scoffing a nori-topped Terimayo hot dog from one of the stands

or the ever-busy storefront location on Robson St.

- 5 Theatre Under the Stars** (p74) Watching an energetic, smile-triggering musical on Stanley Park's outdoor stage, while the occasional heron flies overhead toward the water.



For more detail of this area see Map p266 and p270 ➔

Explore Downtown & West End

Radiating from the intersection of Granville and Georgia Sts, Vancouver's downtown core is easily walkable. Consider starting a few blocks north on the waterfront at Canada Place heading slightly uphill, with the mountains at your back, along Burrard or Granville Sts. You'll pass plenty of stores and cafes before reaching Robson St, the city's main shopping promenade. Wander along for an hour or so (ducking into shops en route) before arriving at the intersection of Robson and Denman.

Explore the West End and its menu of midrange restaurants, side-street wooden heritage homes and the friendly 'gayborhood' vibe. Davie St is the West End's main strip, and both Denman and Davie Sts lead to English Bay Beach, one of Vancouver's most popular summer hangouts. From either end of Denman St, you can stroll into Stanley Park. Hitting the seawall here is the perfect way to commune with nature. It'll take you several hours to loop the entire park via this 8.8km pathway but there are a couple of ways to just dip your toes in: walk the seawall from Georgia St to the park's photogenic totem poles and back or take an easy nature-spotting stroll around Lost Lagoon where you'll almost certainly see raccoons, herons and possibly a sun-dappled turtle or two.

Local Life

- ➔ **Bookshops** Hang out with local bookworms at the intersection of Richards and W Pender Sts, home to several browse-tastic bookstores, including the legendary old-school Macleod's Books (p75) and the nearby young pup, Paper Hound (p75).
- ➔ **Restaurants** Robson St is always lined with tourists, but locals are much more likely to be dining out at the better-priced neighborhood eateries on Denman and Davie Sts in the West End.
- ➔ **Jogging** The Stanley Park seawall (p54) is a vista-loving jogger's paradise. Avoid the summer crowds by hitting the trail early morning.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Walk** Downtown's core is highly walkable with a grid street system that makes navigating easy.
- ➔ **Train** The SkyTrain's three lines meet at Waterfront Station while the Expo and Millennium Lines share tracks through downtown.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 5 trundles along Robson St, bus 6 along Davie, bus 10 along Granville and bus 19 runs into Stanley Park.
- ➔ **Car** There are car parks and parking meters throughout downtown. The West End has metered parking and Stanley Park has pay-and-display parking.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Downtown Vancouver is home to two art house cinemas and it's worth checking their eclectic schedules before you arrive. **Vancity Theatre** (p74) is the year-round home of the giant **Vancouver International Film Festival** (p35). But if you miss this 10-day late-September extravaganza, there's a full roster of movies throughout the year. The older but equally popular **Pacific Cinémathèque** (p73) is another film fans' fave; drop by in August for its film noir season when classic gritty flicks hit the big screen.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Forage (p66)
- ➔ Royal Dinette (p64)
- ➔ Guu with Garlic (p67)
- ➔ Fat Badger (p68)
- ➔ Jam Cafe (p65)

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Uva Wine & Cocktail Bar (p70)
- ➔ Devil's Elbow Ale & Smoke House (p69)
- ➔ Stanley's Bar & Grill (p72)
- ➔ 1181 (p72)
- ➔ TAP Shack (p72)

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Paper Hound (p75)
- ➔ Mink Chocolates (p76)
- ➔ Holt Renfrew (p76)
- ➔ Golden Age Collectables (p76)
- ➔ West End Farmers Market (p77)