

**Vancouver Fast Facts**

**Information for use by meeting and convention planners**

**July 2019**

***For more ideas on how to present Vancouver, consult our on-line media kit at:***

<http://www.tourismvancouver.com/media>

Join us in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, on Canada’s West Coast! Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Coast Mountains, Vancouver is sassy, sophisticated and outdoorsy. Vancouver is home to two million inhabitants who enjoy a mild climate, breathtaking scenery and a wealth of recreational activities. Enjoy all the very best of world class destinations: superlative shopping, exceptional dining, great entertainment and galleries – all perched on nature’s edge.

Vancouver’s temperate climate makes visiting the city a great idea year-round. The weather is the mildest in Canada with daytime temperatures averaging 20º Celsius (70º Fahrenheit) in summer and or 2º Celsius (40º Fahrenheit) in winter. Spring comes early in Vancouver, with flowers generally in full bloom by early March. Late summer and autumn days tend to be warm and sunny providing the perfect environment for outdoor dining, walking or sightseeing.

The cosmopolitan city of Vancouver encompasses a mix of many ethnic groups. Out of this multiculturalism comes a remarkable culinary diversity, which, when combined with BC’s extensive selection of local ingredients, is born a distinct regional flavour that is unmistakably Vancouver. Visitors will enjoy the freshest seafood, award winning local wines from our emergent wine industry and one of the best selections of Asian dining in the world.

Vancouver has been described as one of the most spectacularly situated cities on earth. The downtown core stands proudly on an ocean swept peninsula surrounded by beaches, sailboats, parks and wildlife. The downtown core is only one mile across at its widest point making it a perfect city for walking. Local site-seeing opportunities include everything from whale watching tours to kayaking along the city shores, mountain biking some of the best trails in the world, to a gondola ride up Grouse Mountain to visit the grizzly bears.

Vancouver is also the gateway for further travel in the west coast. After your conference spend a few extra days in the area and explore the world-renowned ski resort of Whistler, only a two-hour drive away. The quaint city of Victoria on Vancouver Island is a picturesque two-hour ferry journey to the west. Wine tours, exquisite dining and lakeside days await you in the Okanagan Valley, BC’s internationally recognized wine region. Or, hop on a cruise ship from Vancouver harbour and sail up the BC coast to Alaska – a once in a lifetime experience that is not to be missed.

Vancouver entices visitors with its beauty, captivates them with its cosmopolitan charm and draws them in with its profusion of unforgettable attractions. Put simply, it’s one of the world’s finest cities. Join us in Vancouver, you won’t regret it.

**Transportation from the Vancouver International Airport to Downtown:**

The Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is approximately 11 miles from downtown. An efficient airport light rail service called Canada Line transports delegates from the airport to all the downtown core at a cost of CAD $9.25. Taxi Zone fares for airport to downtown Vancouver are CAD $36 and private limousine service is can also be utilized for CAD $64 one-way, plus gratuity for a sedan. All of these services accept credit cards, and all amounts are quoted in Canadian dollars. For all the transfer options from the Airport to Downtown visit this website: <http://www.yvr.ca/en/getting-to-from-yvr.aspx>.

# Currency:

Bank debit or credit cards are the most convenient means of getting cash at the many 24-hour-access automated banking machines. All our taxis accept credit cards. As in the U.S. and Europe, the automated banking machines accept cards with Plus, Interact, UnionPay and Cirrus symbols and can be found on almost every block in downtown Vancouver. Many Canadian businesses accept U.S. currency and traveller’s cheques. International currency exchanges are available at the airport and at all the banks in the city. Major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express), are generally accepted by Canadian businesses. Exchange rates vary daily and the U.S. dollar is currently at stronger value vs. the Canadian dollar. Many taxis and restaurants will accept US cash on par only so be sure to ask the exchange rate first!

# Passports, Visas, Medial Insurance:

Citizens and permanent residents require passport. Travellers are advised to stay informed of Canadian and U.S. passport regulations from www.cic.gc.ca. Know if your medical insurance covers you when you travel outside your country. US travellers can visit this website for American Citizens entering Canada: <http://canada.usembassy.gov/traveling_to_canada/entering-canada.html>

**Requirements for International Visitors entering Canada:**

Persons visiting from countries other than the United States must have a valid passport and may require other documentation such as visas. Check with the nearest Canadian Consulate well in advance of travel**.**

*Do you have a DUI charge?*

For more information, please see: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?q=152&t=8>

*Do you need an Electronic Travel Authorization?*

The Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) form is required as of March 15th, 2016. Citizens from countries other than the United States (U.S.) who do not need a visa to enter Canada will need to obtain an eTA before flying to Canada. To view the list of countries, please visit [www.canada.ca/eta](http://www.canada.ca/eta).

* Note: Travellers do not need an eTA when entering Canada by land or sea. <https://tourismvancouver.box.com/s/ek7pjiquv6ylwcbbepwflpfyzdi3z42o>

*Are you a single parent travelling with a child under 18 years of age to Canada?*

Foreign officials and transportation companies are vigilant concerning documentation for children crossing international borders. Generally, any individual younger than 18 years of age could be considered a child.Unless a child is accompanied by both legal parents, the following documentation listed below should be carried by the child or the accompanying adult:

* A valid passport or proof of citizenship for the child.
* A legal document proving that the child has the permission of the lawful parent(s) or guardian(s) to travel and includes contact phone information for the parent(s) or guardian(s). Such document must be specific for each trip. A sample document is provided on the website listed here: <http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/children/consent-letter>**.**

*Do you need Medical Insurance when you travel to Canada?*

Visitors are not covered by Canadian health insurance. Check with your personal medical plan before leaving the U.S. or your home country to ensure you have adequate travelling insurance. It is advised that all people travelling outside their own country take out trip cancellation insurance, medical insurance and insurance to cover loss/damage to personal effects.

**Students in the United States who are on a Student Visa:**

If you are on a student visa in the United States, you must have the following documents in order to be able to return back into the United States as advised by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

* A Valid Passport for at least six months after the date of reentry
* A Valid Student Visa
* A Valid SEVIS Form I-20, endorsed for travel and signed by your Designated School Official (DSO)

The DSO generally works in the International Student Office. You must have a current SEVIS Form I-20 endorsed for travel and your DSO needs to be able to verify that your SEVIS record is accurate and up-to-date.

For more information on entry and exit requirements, please visit: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/travel>.

SEVP Response Center Contact Information:

E-mail: sevp@ice.dhs.gov

Phone: 703.603.3400 (available between 8:00am and 6:00pm ET on weekdays, except holidays).

**Miscellaneous Information:**

**Altitude**: Sea level

**Time Zone:** Pacific Standard Time

**Population:** 675,000 approx.

**Metro Area Population:** 2.4 million

**Telephone Area Code:** 604 and 778

**Language**: English and French are Canada’s two official languages. English is the predominant language in British Columbia. Many banks, hotels, airline offices, shops, and key visitor attractions have multilingual staff.

**Climate:** Vancouver has one of the mildest climates in Canada. Winters are wet but temperatures seldom fall below freezing and snow is rare. Summer is sunny and warm, almost never too hot and seldom humid. Late autumn can be chilly with occasional rain and fog.

# Temperatures:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Average Daily High** | **Average Daily Low** |
|  | *° Celsius* | *° Fahrenheit* | *° Celsius* | *° Fahrenheit* |
| January | 6 | 42 | 1 | 34 |
| February | 7 | 45 | 1 | 34 |
| March | 9 | 49 | 3 | 38 |
| April | 13 | 56 | 5 | 42 |
| May | 16 | 63 | 8 | 48 |
| June | 19 | 68 | 11 | 54 |
| July | 21 | 72 | 12 | 56 |
| August | 21 | 72 | 12 | 56 |
| September | 17 | 65 | 10 | 52 |
| October | 13 | 56 | 9 | 50 |
| November | 9 | 49 | 4 | 40 |
| December | 7 | 48 | 2 | 36 |

# Holidays:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statutory Holidays** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** |
| New Year’s Day | January 1 | January 1 | January 1 |
| Family Day (BC) | February 18 | February 17 | February 15 |
| Good Friday | April 19 | April 10 | April 2 |
| Victoria Day | May 20 | May 18 | May 24 |
| Canada Day | July 1 | July 1 | July 1 |
| Civic Holiday | August 5 | August 3 | August 2 |
| Labour Day | September 2 | September 7 | September 6 |
| Thanksgiving Day | October 14 | October 12 | October 11 |
| Remembrance Day | November 11 | November 11 | November 11 |
| Christmas Day | December 25 | December 25 | December 25 |

# Tips on using Cell Phones – Get a data and long-distance plan before leaving home:

Are you a convention attendee traveling from the U.S. or internationally into Canada? Take Note: Roaming charges and data plan fees for cell phones especially smart phones and tablets can be costly, with prices spiking as high as several dollars per minute. Before catching your flight to Canada, contact your local cell phone carrier to get information about special pricing plans for calls, text messaging and internet usage outside your home country. If you use a smart phone, ask your carrier about certain settings such as "airplane mode" that may help you save money on usage.

Below are links to some popular carriers' international coverage plans:

* [Verizon Wireless](http://b2b.vzw.com/international/traveling_to/index.html)
* [AT&T](https://www.att.com/offers/international.html)
* [Sprint](http://shop.sprint.com/mysprint/services_solutions/category.jsp?catId=service_international&catName=International%20Services&id16=international)
* [Virgin Mobile](http://www.virginmobileusa.com/cell-phone-plans/beyond-talk-plans.jsp)

**10 Reasons to Visit Vancouver:**

1. Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, bordered by mountains and ocean.
2. Vancouver was the city chosen to host of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
3. Regularly ranked as “The Most Accessible City in The World” for travellers with disabilities and “The Most Livable City in The World” and the only city in North America to make it to the top 5.
4. Blessed with a sheltered marine climate that is mild year-round.
5. One of the only cities in the world where you can ski, golf and sail all in the same day.
6. Home to the 1,000-acre Stanley Park - one of the world’s finest urban parks.
7. Just 1.5 hours from Whistler/Blackcomb - North America’s top-rated ski destination.
8. A cultural crossroads located midway between Western Europe and the Asia Pacific region.
9. A food-lover’s dream with a wide selection of restaurants, ethnic cuisine, and better prices than any comparably sized city in the world.
10. The launching point for excursions to wild Alaska, enchanting Victoria, BC’s Okanagan wine country, and the stunning Canadian Rockies.

**10 Reasons to Choose Vancouver for your Meeting or Convention:**

1. The Vancouver Convention Centre is the AIPC Apex Award\* two-time winner for the ‘World’s Best Convention Centre’.
2. Vancouver has easy air access with 108 non-stop destinations.
3. Vancouver has exceptional meeting and conference facilities.
4. Vancouver is clean, green, safe, friendly and walkable.
5. Vancouver offers incredible pre and post vacation opportunities.
6. Vancouver makes transport of goods easy.
7. Vancouver offers a foreign, yet familiar experience to delegates.
8. Vancouver features world class restaurants, shopping, attractions, arts and entertainment, and a year-round mild climate with plenty of activities to enjoy.
9. The Convention Centre is a double LEED Platinum certified facility making it one of the greenest buildings in Vancouver.
10. Vancouver’s convention hotels are all within an easy 1 – 10 minute walk to the Vancouver Convention Centre which is located on the spectacular harbour area of Vancouver.

***\*AIPC*** *is**the International Association of Convention Centres – the industry association for professional convention and exhibition centre managers world wide.* [*http://www.aipc.org*](http://www.aipc.org)

For the latest information on Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, please see the official website for visitors to Vancouver: [www.tourismvancouver.com](http://www.tourismvancouver.com).