



Vancouver is a city of adventure. Tours, whether professionally-guided or a personal adventure, give visitors the chance to take advantage of the city's vitality and experience the area's natural beauty. The biggest problem is deciding how you're going to take in all there is to see.

Discover the city by foot For a glance into the city's past, try the free [Historic Walking Tours of Gastown](#). Set in the city's birthplace, the daily tour highlights the area's many attractions and shopping, restaurants and bars. Visit the [Steam Clock](#), shop at The Landing, and get a picture taken with the statue of the area's founder, Gassy Jack. You'll stroll through streets named Blood Alley and [Gaoler's Mews](#), the city's first jail cell.

There is much to discover by walking through the streets of Vancouver. The [Architectural Institute of B.C.](#) (AIBC) provides a variety of tours in the summer months. The free tours show Vancouver's history through the city's architecture. Visit highlights like [Canada Place](#), Robson Square, [Cathedral Place](#), and [Strathcona](#).

You can stroll through [Burnaby Village Museum](#), saunter through the exhibits in the [Canadian Craft Museum](#), enjoy a sample of micro-brewed beer in the [Granville Island Brewery](#), and learn about West Coast First Nations culture at the [Museum of Anthropology](#).

Another guided walking tour follows the history of the Chinese-Canadian community in [Chinatown](#). [City Sights Walking Tours](#) takes you through one of North America's largest Chinatowns. You'll see [Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Gardens](#), the [Chinese Cultural Centre Museum](#) and the bustling street markets.

If you would rather explore Vancouver at your own pace, then pay a visit to the [Vancouver Tourist Information Centres](#). One of the city's best features is its close proximity to natural wonders. For guided hikes through some of its closest attractions, such as [Lighthouse Park](#), Horseshoe Bay and Bowen Island, check out [Rockwood Adventures](#). They have an extensive selection of walking tours.

Explore the city by land For bus tours, there are several companies in the city, including Gray Lines and [Pacific Coach Lines](#). If you're looking for a smaller mini-van tour, then try Cityscape or Blue Mountain Tours. Many offer multilingual, narrated tours that can be customized.

With the fresh air and views, it's easy to get caught up in the city's healthy vibe. [Urban Cycle](#) and [Velo-city Cycle Tours](#) take you on guided cycle tours of the city and surrounding area. You'll spend time in and around [Granville Island](#), [Vanier Park](#) and [Grouse Mountain](#).

There are also several options for those looking for unusual excursions. At [Stanley Park](#), [Horse Drawn Tours](#) take passengers on an old-world wagon ride through the 1000-acre park. For something less equestrian, the [Vancouver Trolley Company](#) takes passengers on a turn-of-the-century trolley ride to view the city's sites along various avenues and thoroughfares. You can see the city at your own pace, getting on or off at any of the 16 stops to visit attractions.

For a minivan customized tour, try Captain Billy's Magical Tours. Or see the city in style with [Fridge's Early Motion Tours](#), who not only personalize their excursions, but do it all in a 1930s Ford Model A. To learn more about West Coast First Nations, several tour companies, including [West Coast City and Nature Sightseeing](#) and Detours Excursions B.C. have special day trips that highlight the heritage, history, art, and importance of B.C.'s native cultures.

For an extravagant and romantic tour, B.C. Rail's [Pacific Starlight Dinner Train](#) runs from spring to autumn. A restored dining car provides gourmet cuisine and views as it glides through North Vancouver, Howe Sound, and Porteau Cove. Another opulent B.C. Rail excursion offers a combination voyage. Take the luxury steam locomotive [Royal Hudson Steam Train](#) to Squamish, passing along the coastline past West Vancouver and Horseshoe Bay. Once at Squamish, cruise home to Vancouver on the [Harbour Cruise's](#) "Britannia."

Often referred to as the "Hollywood of the North," Vancouver is the third largest film and TV shooting centre in North America, after L.A. and New York. The popular "X-Files" was shot here for years. Hence the idolatrous [X-Tours](#), which, among other special experiences, offers limousine tours of spots where X-scenes and memorable film moments took place.

Tour the city by water Touring Vancouver by water can be adventurous and is one of the best ways to see the area. Although the more daring can charter their own boats at places like [Cooper Boating](#), companies like [Harbour Cruises](#) offer guided sightseeing cruises that let passengers view the city from Burrard Inlet, Howe Sound, Vancouver's harbour and [English Bay](#).

[B.C. Ferries](#) can take you to the city's surrounding islands for great day trips, and the convenient [SeaBus](#) enables you to travel quickly to and from the downtown waterfront and the North Shore. Starline Boating Tours offer seasonal trips throughout the area. You can take a tour of the historic fishing village of [Steveston](#), hop aboard the sea lion cruises in the spring, marvel on a killer whale watching expedition or relax on the Pitt Lake cruise.

There are also several wilderness sightseeing tours that use Vancouver as a launching point. [Paddlewheeler River Adventures](#) and

[LotusLand Tours](#) provide water excursions that offer insight into the spectacular scenery and history of British Columbia.

Enjoy the city by air Vancouver by air is a spectacle that every visitor should experience. There are a number of reliable air tour providers in the region. Although more extravagant than a ground-bound tour, air charters offer unforgettable bird's-eye views. [Harbour Air](#) has a fleet of seaplanes that provide quick city tours, as well as outings into secluded wilderness areas.

[Vancouver Helicopter Tours](#) also offers panoramic air trips over the city and surrounding mountains and valleys. They have a nighttime flight, the Grouse Heli-Picnic, where you can fly up to [Grouse Mountain](#) and dine while overlooking the city.

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