

# VAN COU VER

## TWO-DAY ITINERARY

**Vancouver in springtime sees streets lined with blossom-covered trees, and the mild climate makes for perfect weather to explore the city's gardens and parks.**

## SPRING IN VANCOUVER: DAY ONE

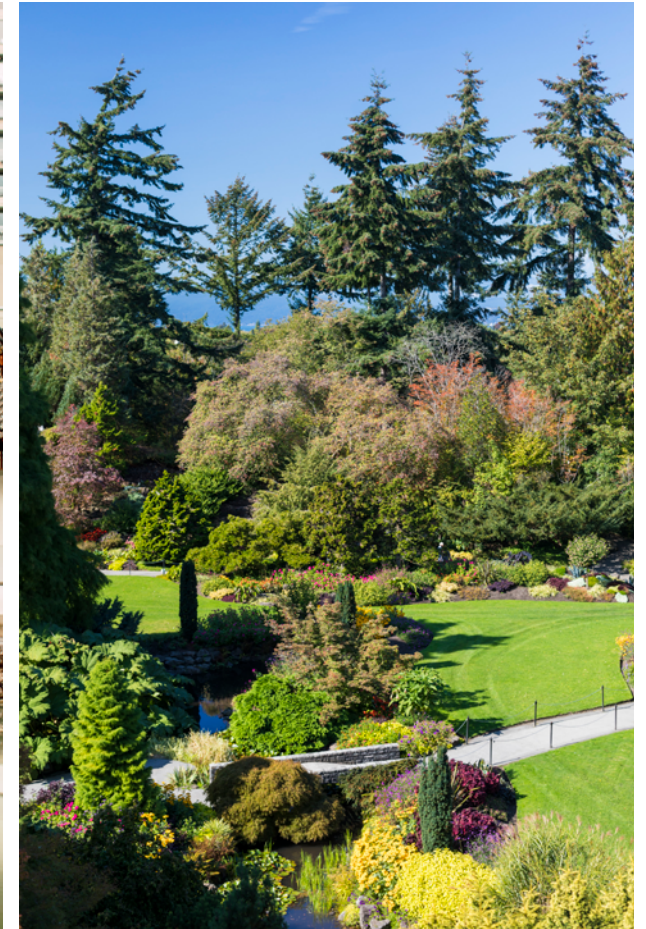
At the very west of the city, the University of British Columbia is a beautiful campus for visitors to explore. Just 30 minutes from downtown, you can take a taxi or easily get there on public transit. Start your visit with a walk through the **Museum of Anthropology**, where you can explore the area's indigenous heritage with one of the world's best collections of Northwest Coast First Nations art, including many pieces by Bill Reid, one of Canada's most recognized indigenous artists. The **Beaty Biodiversity Museum** offers a spectacular display of specimens, from the 26-metre-long blue whale skeleton suspended in the atrium down to insects and fungi.

Enjoy a casual lunch at **Mahony & Sons Public House**, then set out to explore the campus' gardens. **UBC Botanical Garden &**

**Greenheart Treewalk** is a hidden gem, with highlights including an Asian Garden, B.C. Rainforest Garden, a Physic Garden, and the treewalk – 310 metres of suspension bridges taking you up into the forest canopy. Looking for space for a little reflection? You'll find it at **Nitobe Memorial Garden**—a traditional Japanese “tea and stroll” garden.

Tonight, you'll quite literally get a taste of one of Vancouver's hippest neighbourhoods with **Vancouver Foodie Tours'** Gastronomic Gastown Tour. Gastown is home to some of the city's best restaurants and this tour connects you with them! Your local guide is full of insider tips, telling you the history of the area and taking you to four restaurants as you nibble your way through the neighbourhood.





## SPRING IN VANCOUVER: DAY TWO

At more than 100 years old, Vancouver's Chinatown is one of the city's most historic areas. Spend your morning strolling the neighbourhood's streets, taking in the sights, sounds and smells of Chinatown as it wakes up for the day. Duck into tea shops, boutiques, Asian grocery markets and traditional apothecaries as you explore and chat with the regulars. You won't be able to resist the bakeries offering traditional egg tarts, steamed buns and pastries. One stop you shouldn't miss is the **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden**—the first classical Chinese garden built outside China when it opened in 1986. Every element of the garden and structure is loaded with

symbolism. A guided tour, included with admission, will help you connect with the meanings and teachings that make this such a rich cultural stop on your itinerary.

After a traditional dim sum lunch, head south to **VanDusen Botanical Garden**. In the spring, you'll be treated to colour-bursting displays along their Rhododendron Walk, as well as the Japanese cherry blossoms, magnolias and laburnum, all set over 22 hectares. VanDusen's plant collections are grouped by variety, such as the grove of maples, or by geographic location, such as the Canadian Heritage Garden and the Sino-Himalayan Garden. It's also home to the **Shaughnessy Restaurant**, a relaxing

retreat that's perfect for a late lunch or afternoon tea overlooking relaxing natural displays.

Spring also sees Vancouver's chefs getting excited for the new seasonal ingredients available to them. There are a lot of great restaurants in the city that focus on creating dishes that highlight what's in season, and one of the best is **Forage** in The Listel Hotel downtown. Toast spring this evening with a dinner that celebrates all things British Columbian; along with dishes full of locally-grown ingredients, you'll enjoy B.C. wines, Vancouver craft beers, ethically-raised meats and sustainable seafood.





## 💡 INSIDER TIPS!

Check out the annual **Cherry Blossom Festival** in Vancouver, which takes place annually in April.

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## 📍 ITINERARY ADD-ONS

- Looking for other culinary tour ideas? Try out **Vancouver Foodie Tours' Best of Downtown Tour** or the **Granville Island Market Tour**.
- Visiting in April or May? Join a whale watching adventure with **Prince of Whales, Vancouver Whale Watch, Wild Whales** or **Steveston Seabreeze!**
- If you're lucky enough to have an extra day or two, visit **Victoria, British Columbia** and the beautiful **Butchart Gardens**.

# VANCOUVER

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