Vancouver Fast Facts
Information for use by meeting and convention planners
May 2014

For more ideas on how to present Vancouver, consult our on-line media kit at:
http://www.tourismvancouver.com/media/media_kit/background/


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 (70ºFahrenheit) in summer and or 2º Celcius (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 transfer service called Canada Line transports delegates from the airport to all the downtown hotels at a cost of $9.00 inbound and $4.00 return during peak hours. On weekends the return would only be $2.75 for a 2 zone ticket as it’s non rush hour. Taxi fares are roughly $26 to $30 to the downtown core and private limousine service is $55 one-way, plus gratuity. 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](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. Vancouver is striving to be the greenest city in the world by 2020 and 60% of our taxis are hybrid cars. As in the U.S. and Europe these machines accept cards with Plus, Interact and Cirrus symbols and there is one on almost every block in downtown Vancouver. Many Canadian businesses accept U.S. currency and travellers 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. The U.S. dollar is currently valued at $1.09 Canadian and many cabs and restaurants will accept US cash on par. Exchange rates vary daily.


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 [www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)

Are you a single parent traveling 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 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 a document must be specific for each trip. A sample document is provided on the website listed here: [http://www.voyage.gc.ca/main/before/consent_letter-en.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/main/before/consent_letter-en.asp) The main website is: [http://www.voyage.gc.ca/main/before/children_travel-en.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/main/before/children_travel-en.asp)

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.
Miscellaneous Information:
Altitude: Sea level
Time Zone: Pacific Standard Time
Population: 514,000
Metro Area Population: 2.3 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Daily High</th>
<th>Average Daily Low</th>
<th>Bright Sun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>°Celsius</td>
<td>°Fahrenheit</td>
<td>°Celsius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
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Holidays:

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<tr>
<th>Statutory Holidays</th>
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<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>January 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>April 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>May 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada Day</td>
<td>July 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Holiday</td>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>August 3</td>
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<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>October 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remembrance Day</td>
<td>November 11</td>
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<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>December 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
<td>December 26</td>
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Tips on using Cell Phones – Get a data and long distance plan before leaving home

Are you one of many of convention attendees traveling from the U.S. or internationally into Canada? Take Note: Roaming charges and data plan fees for cell phones (especially smart phones like the iPhone or the Android) and tablets like the iPad 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
- AT&T
- Sprint
- T-Mobile
- Boost Mobile
- Virgin Mobile

12 Reasons to Come to Vancouver:

- The Vancouver Convention Centre is the AIPC 2 time winner for World’s Best Convention Centre
- Vancouver is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, bordered by mountains and ocean.
- Vancouver was the city chosen to host of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
- regularly ranked “the most livable city in the world and the only city in North America to make it to the top 5.
- blessed with a sheltered marine climate that is mild year-round.
- “the most accessible city in the world” for travelers with disabilities.
- one of the only cities in the world where you can ski, golf and sail all in the same day.
- home to the 1,000-acre Stanley Park, one of the world’s finest urban parks.
- just 1 ½ hours from Whistler/Blackcomb—North America’s top rated ski destination.
- a cultural crossroads that is located midway between Western Europe and the Asia Pacific region.
- a food-lover’s dream with more restaurants, a wider selection of ethnic cuisine and better prices than any comparably sized city in the world.
- the launching point for excursions to wild Alaska, enchanting Victoria, BC’s Okanagan wine country, and the stunning Canadian Rockies.

12 Reasons to choose Vancouver for your meeting or convention:

- Vancouver’s stunning Convention and Exhibition Centre expansion is the only centre to be voted as the World’s Best Convention Centre- not once but twice by AIPC
- Vancouver has easy air access
- Vancouver has exceptional meeting and conference facilities
- Vancouver is clean, green, safe, friendly and walkable
- Vancouver offers incredible pre and post vacation opportunities
- Vancouver makes transport of goods easy
- Vancouver offers a foreign, yet familiar experience to delegates
- Vancouver features world class restaurants, shopping, attractions, arts and entertainment
- Vancouver has a year-round mild climate and plenty of activities to enjoy
- The Convention Centre is a Platinum Level Leed Certified Building making it one of the greenest buildings in Vancouver
- Convention Hotels are all within an easy 1 – 10 minute walk to the convention centre which is located on the spectacular harbor area of Vancouver

For the latest information on Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada we invite you to link to our website. The official website for visitors to Vancouver: [www.tourismvancouver.com](http://www.tourismvancouver.com)
**Students in the US on a Student Visa**

With regards to student visas, should a visa be required for entry into Canada, all student travelers will need to apply through the Canadian embassy.

Check here to see if you require a VISA to enter Canada.


As it relates to returning back into the United States on their student visa, in addition to their valid student visas, they will need the following.

- A SEVIS Form I-20, endorsed for travel and signed by your DSO
- A current passport valid for at least six months after the date of reentry

**Student on a Visa in the US - this form must be filled out by the school:**

[https://tourismvancouver.box.com/s/dj556wzbgfcof0siovzi](https://tourismvancouver.box.com/s/dj556wzbgfcof0siovzi)

Students should consult their Designated School Official (DSO) prior to traveling. 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/exit requirements, please visit [http://www.ice.gov.sevis/travel/faq_f2.htm](http://www.ice.gov.sevis/travel/faq_f2.htm).

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**Visa Specialist/ccs**
**Public Inquiries Division**
**U.S. Department of State**
**Email:** fmjvisas@state.gov
**Tel:** 202-663-1851