

EXPERIENCE VANCOUVER

Vancouver Laugh & Learn

tourismvancouver.com



Theme: Students and Youth

Season: Year-round, with an emphasis on summer (April to October)

Background:

Whether it's a walk amongst the trees, a *Birds of Prey* demonstration atop **Grouse Mountain**, or a marine adventure on the waters of the Howe Sound, visitors can experience the energy of the outdoors while learning about the abundance of flora, fauna and marine life surrounding them. There are also a variety of museums and attractions that provide insight into the diverse cultural and historical heritage of the city. Vancouver is the perfect place for hands-on learning!

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

This tour combines active and educational urban experiences where visitors will learn about the diversity and history of attractions in and around Vancouver.

DAY 1 DISCOVER THE CITY BY CYCLE

Today begins with a magnificent view high above the city, from the **Vancouver Lookout**. This is the best way to get a unique overview of Vancouver, to appreciate its size and topographic diversity while learning interesting facts about all of the various points of interest around town.

From the Vancouver Lookout, visitors can take a short walk to the **Seawall Adventure Centre** where bicycles can be rented for a

guided tour or self-guided ride along the Stanley Park seawall, stopping at various attractions and viewpoints along the way.

A must-see first stop is the **Vancouver Aquarium** where visitors can learn about the exciting and unique marine life of the Pacific Coast, the friendly Beluga whales in the Arctic section and thousands of other creatures in the *Amazon*, *Tropics* and Canada's *Wild West Coast* exhibitions.

Visitors can then ride on the renowned seawall to Hornby Street and take their bikes on board an **Aquabus Ferry** for a transfer to Granville Island. Vibrant **Granville Island** is the culinary and artistic neighbourhood of Vancouver. This is one of the most popular places in Vancouver to grab a snack, enjoy the view or watch any number of street performers - from musicians to magicians.

After enjoying some refreshments, it's time to continue cycling along the seawall to Vanier Park, home of the **Vancouver Maritime Museum**, **Vancouver Museum** and the **HR MacMillan Space Centre**, all located within close proximity to each other and offering unique and interactive visitor learning experiences.

At the end of the day, riders can return to the city centre via historic Chinatown and Gastown to complete their city by cycle circle trip.



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DAY 2 NORTH SHORE ADVENTURES, FROM MOUNTAINTOP TO THE WATER'S EDGE

Day two of this adventure will be spent in the great outdoors on Vancouver's North Shore mountains. After being picked up from their hotel, visitors will transfer straight up to Grouse Mountain - The Peak of Vancouver. After taking the *Skyride* to the top of the mountain, there are numerous activities to enjoy such as visiting the *Refuge for Endangered Wildlife's* two orphaned grizzly bears, watching the *Birds in Motion* demonstration and the entertaining *Lumberjack Show*.

Having had their fill of fresh mountain air it's then time to head down the mountain for the short drive to the *Capilano Fish Hatchery* where visitors can learn about various salmon species, how they spawn, and see the lifecycle of these amazing fish in action. Visitors with

good walking shoes and inherent curiosity will enjoy a **Rockwood Adventures *Coastal Rainforest Adventure*** with a walk in Capilano Canyon discovering lichen, moss, ferns and towering trees along the way.

Just a short distance further down the road is the **Capilano Suspension Bridge**, where visitors will learn about the ecosystem of the temperate rainforest. Once across the famous bridge, they'll enjoy the fun *Treetops Adventure* taking them up high in the trees for a "squirrel's eye view" of the forest canopy. On-site naturalists and story boards throughout the park offer a wealth of knowledge. The newest heart-stopping attraction is *Cliffwalk* – a series of narrow walkways and a u-shaped bridge cantilevered 91 metres (300 feet) over the river canyon. Educational signage with ecological information from the David Suzuki Foundation provides guests with information on the environment.

At the end of the day, those with an appetite for cooking can have their taste buds tantalized at the **Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts** – Vancouver's most exciting culinary playground. A place for amateur cooks, the curious, and professionals alike to learn, explore and unleash their inner chef.

HAVE MORE TIME? MINING EXPLORATION (1/2 DAY)

Established in 1971 to preserve the material and social history of mining in British Columbia, the **Britannia Mine Museum** got its start in the 19th century rendering copper, zinc and gold. Today, visitors can ride a train into the mine and enjoy the films, displays and numerous hands-on exhibits and activities including gold panning – taking home what they find! Located just a 30-minute drive north of Vancouver on the Sea to Sky Highway, the Britannia Mine Museum beckons those who like a hands-on approach to learning.

VICTORIA (1+ DAY)

Transfer from Vancouver to Victoria via a **Prince of Whales** whale-watching tour in the morning. Arriving just after noon, enjoy lunch in downtown Victoria before taking a tour of the **Royal BC Museum**. On the way back to Vancouver, visit **Butchart Gardens** before taking a **BC Ferries** sailing across the Georgia Strait to the mainland, enjoying dinner in the cafeteria on-board.

Note, there are more members than currently listed here which provide a range of fun and educational experiences. For a full list, please contact the Travel Trade team at Tourism Vancouver.

