

### General Information

Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, is one of the premier travel destinations in the World. It is situated on the south tip of Vancouver Island off the west coast of British Columbia, Canada. The city has over 300,000 inhabitants, many who like to commute on bicycles. Its breathtakingly beautiful inner harbor area is overlooked by the majestic Harbour Princess Hotel and lined with Heritage homes converted to Bed & Breakfasts. The streets of downtown Victoria are safe, clean and well lit at night.

Cycling is very popular in and outside of the city limits; and you will find that drivers are very courteous to commuting cyclists even on busy roads. There are several cycling routes around the city and few that extend north along both shores of Vancouver Island. [Less...](#)

Total # of Rides Listed: 4

[Family Rides](#): 1

[Road Rides](#): 2

[MTB Trails](#): 0

[Bike Path Rides](#): 1

 [Loop Rides](#): 1

 [Out & Back Rides](#): 3



### When to Visit

The best time to visit Victoria and Vancouver Island is in the summer months (June – August) when the temperatures are the warmest. To avoid the high tourist season, you should travel late May through mid June or September through early October.

### Climate and Weather

Victoria, situated on the southern tip of Vancouver Island has one of Canada's mildest climates. This area is the sunniest spot (averaging 2,183 hours of sunshine per year) in the province.

The area owes its moderate temperatures to the prevailing westerly winds blowing off the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific maintains a year-round, constant 10°C (50°F) temperature and so is warmer than the land in winter and cooler in summer, keeping the temperatures in a comfortable range.

Rugged mountains confine this moderate climate to a narrow band of British Columbia between the ocean and the coast mountains. The Olympics of Northern Washington and the Vancouver Island mountains shelter the southern and eastern regions of the Island with Victoria benefiting the most. As a result, Victoria has the lowest rainfall and the most sunshine recorded of any West Coast region.

Victoria's climate with average daytime temperatures range from 22 C° / 71° F in July to 7° C / 45° F in December making this "Garden City" an ideal destination for cyclists any time of the year.

### How to Get There

If you traveling to Victoria by air, your closest airport is Victoria International Airport. This is a small airport with only one luggage carousel, and there are only few direct international flights arriving and departing on a daily basis. The airport is located about 40 minutes by car north of Victoria. Shuttle buses and taxis serve the airport for \$13CDN and \$30-\$40CDN (in 2005) one way, respectively.

If you traveling by air and are arriving at Vancouver International Airport near Vancouver, you must either fly or take a ferry to Vancouver Island. However, BC Ferries take cars and buses, so car rental and taking public buses are good options. The most economical way is to take a bus directly from Vancouver Airport to Victoria. The bus line is Pacific Coast Lines 1-800-661-1725 and the fair is \$32 CND one way, which includes ferry passage (in 2005). You can also rent a car and take it on a ferry transport to Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island, just north of Victoria. From the Swartz Bay Ferry terminal (near Sidney), drive south on highway 17 to Victoria. Hwy 17 runs straight south from Swartz Bay.

If you are traveling by car from the USA, you can drive to Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula and take the BC ferry from there directly to Victoria's harbor. Just beware that the ferry fills up quickly and is available only every 4 hours or so.

### Accommodations

Victoria is a world-class city and as such it offers plenty of world class accommodations, ranging from fancy (and really fancy) hotels and B&Bs to small, functional establishments.

### The Roads

The quality of roads is quite good. The occasional hazard you are likely to encounter will be in form of a wildlife rather than road damage, although there will be few rough spots as you venture farther out along the west coast towards Port Renfrew.

### What You Need to Know

One of the most beautiful botanical gardens is located just north of Victoria – The Butchart Gardens - and it is a must to see. In summer months you can even enjoy the fireworks which light up the sky over the gardens.

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Road Rides (1-3 of 3) Family Rides

**Road Rides**

Vancouver Island - Victoria: Victoria's Coastline  
32 mi/50 km (*Loop*)



Vancouver Island - Victoria: Galloping Goose Trail  
25 mi/40 km (*Out & Back* Total: 50 mi/80 km)



Vancouver Island - Sooke to Port Renfrew  
42 mi/67 km (*Out & Back* Total: 84 mi/134 km)



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Road Rides **Family Rides** (1-1 of 1)

**Family Rides**

Vancouver Island - Victoria: Galloping Goose Trail  
25 mi/40 km (*Out & Back* Total: 50 mi/80 km)

