

Vancouver Cruise Port Guide

Your Gateway to Alaska and Canada's Beautiful Pacific Coast



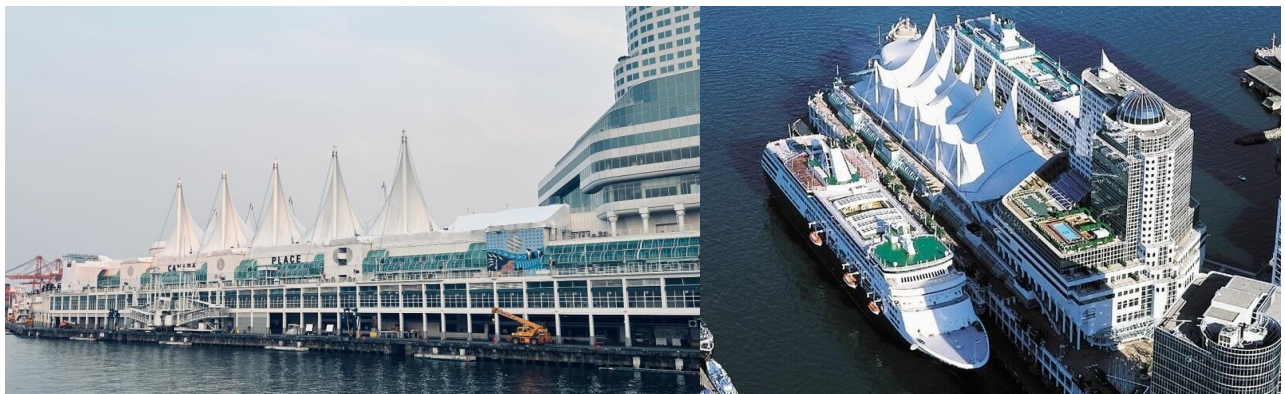
Welcome to Vancouver

Consistently ranked among the world's most beautiful cities, **Vancouver, British Columbia**, is one of the premier cruise homeports for Alaska sailings. Surrounded by mountains, forests, and the waters of Burrard Inlet, Vancouver combines spectacular natural scenery with world-class dining, diverse cultures, and vibrant neighborhoods.

Whether you're beginning your Alaska adventure or ending an unforgettable cruise, Vancouver is a destination well worth exploring before or after your voyage.



Canada Place Cruise Terminal



Nearly all Alaska cruises departing from Vancouver sail from the **Canada Place Cruise Terminal**, located in the heart of downtown.

Many major cruise lines operate from Canada Place, including:

- Princess Cruises

- Holland America Line
- Disney Cruise Line
- Norwegian Cruise Line
- Royal Caribbean
- Celebrity Cruises

One of the biggest advantages of Canada Place is its convenient downtown location, with many hotels, restaurants, and attractions just a short walk away.

✈ Getting There



Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is located approximately 10 miles (16 km) south of downtown.

Transportation options include:

- Canada Line SkyTrain
- Taxi
- Ride-share services
- Hotel shuttles (where available)
- Cruise line transfers

The Canada Line provides a fast, affordable connection between the airport and downtown Vancouver.



Top Things to Do Before Your Cruise



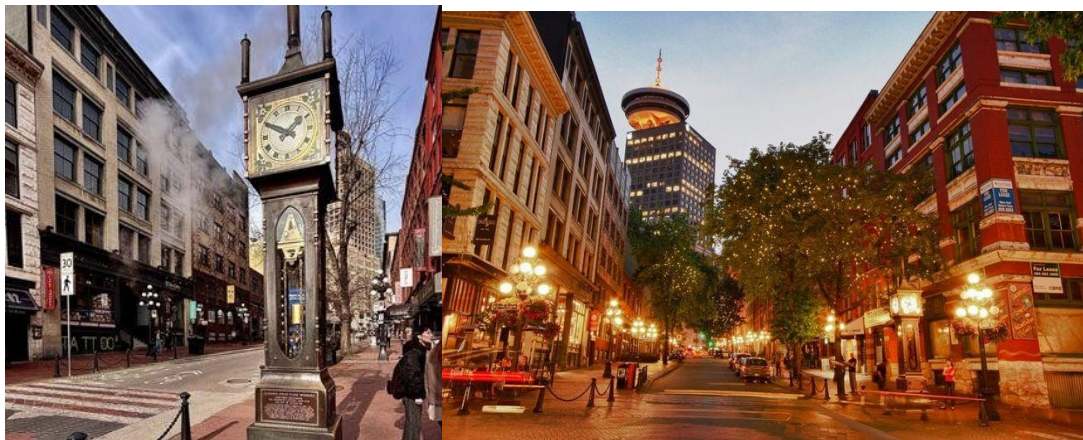
If you're arriving a day or two early, don't miss:

- Stanley Park
- Granville Island Public Market
- Capilano Suspension Bridge Park
- Vancouver Lookout
- Canada Place waterfront
- FlyOver Canada
- English Bay Beach

These attractions offer a wonderful introduction to Vancouver's unique blend of urban life and natural beauty.



Explore Historic Vancouver



Take time to explore some of Vancouver's historic neighborhoods.

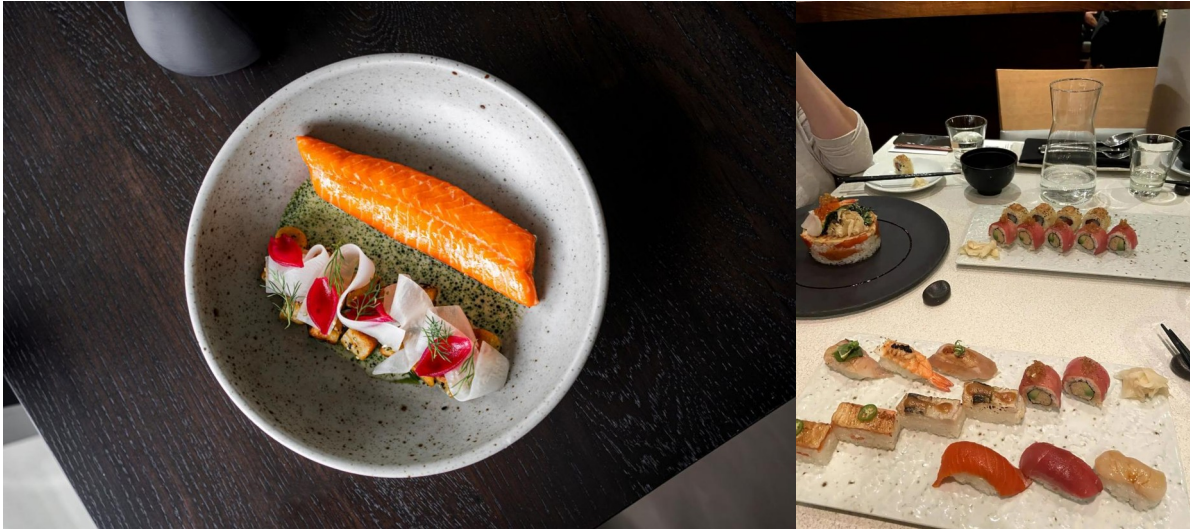
Highlights include:

- Gastown
- Steam Clock
- Chinatown

- Waterfront Promenade
- Coal Harbour

You'll find unique shops, local restaurants, cafés, and beautiful harbor views.

What to Eat in Vancouver



Vancouver is considered one of Canada's premier culinary destinations.

Popular local favorites include:

- Pacific salmon
- Fresh seafood
- Sushi
- Fish and chips
- Poutine
- Asian cuisine
- Artisan coffee
- Local bakeries

Granville Island is an excellent place to sample local specialties.



Embarkation Day Tips



Before boarding:

- Complete online check-in.
- Have passports and travel documents ready.
- Attach luggage tags before arriving.
- Keep medications and valuables in your carry-on.
- Arrive during your assigned boarding time.
- Allow extra time for customs and immigration processing.

Because Vancouver is an international departure port for many guests, embarkation procedures may take longer than at some U.S. ports.



Weather



During Alaska cruise season:

Spring

- 50–65°F (10–18°C)

Summer

- 65–80°F (18–27°C)

Fall

- 50–68°F (10–20°C)

Weather can change quickly, so layered clothing is recommended.



Premium Travel Group Tip

If your schedule allows, spend at least one or two nights in Vancouver before your cruise. It's one of the most scenic cities in North America, and visiting Stanley Park, Granville Island, or the Capilano Suspension Bridge is a wonderful way to begin your Alaska vacation.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a passport?

Yes. U.S. citizens generally need a valid passport for cruises embarking or disembarking in Vancouver.

Which airport serves Vancouver?

Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

Is the cruise terminal walkable?

Yes. Canada Place is located in downtown Vancouver within walking distance of many hotels and attractions.

Should I arrive the day before?

Absolutely. Arriving at least one day early reduces travel stress and gives you time to enjoy the city.



Why Start Your Cruise in Vancouver?

Vancouver offers the perfect blend of natural beauty and urban sophistication. With its spectacular waterfront, mountain backdrop, world-class attractions, and outstanding dining, it's much more than a cruise embarkation city—it's a destination you'll want to explore. Beginning your Alaska cruise here adds another unforgettable chapter to your vacation.



Joe's Logbook

If Seattle feels like the gateway to Alaska, Vancouver feels like the welcome mat.

The first thing that struck me about Vancouver was how effortlessly the city blends nature and urban life. One moment you're surrounded by modern skyscrapers, and the next you're walking beneath towering trees in Stanley Park or watching seaplanes land in the harbor.

I always encourage travelers to arrive a day or two early if they can. Vancouver deserves more than just a quick trip from the airport to the cruise terminal. Stroll through Gastown, enjoy fresh seafood on the waterfront, visit Granville Island, and take in the incredible mountain views before your ship sails.

One of my favorite moments is standing along the Canada Place waterfront, watching the cruise ships prepare to depart. There's an excitement that's hard to describe because you know an amazing Alaska adventure is about to begin.

Whether Vancouver is the start or the finish of your cruise, don't think of it as just another port. Treat it as a destination all its own—you'll be glad you did.

Happy cruising, and I hope your journey through Vancouver is just the beginning of an unforgettable adventure!