



Travel Guide and Activities



Useful Information

Climate

Vancouver enjoys the most temperate climate in Canada, characterised by mild, rainy winters and warm, dry summers. Winters are typically wet, with rain being more common than snow in the city, though the nearby mountains offer excellent skiing conditions. Summers are warm and pleasant.

Money

Canada's currency is the Canadian dollar (CAD).

Major credit card companies in Canada include American Express, Visa, and Master Card.

Standard banking hours are Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 16:30. Some banks and specific branches may be open later and even on Saturdays and Sundays.

Telephone Country Code

The country code for Canada is +1

Electricity

110 V; 60Hz – 2 flat-pin plug

Tap water

Tap water in Vancouver is safe to drink unless there are signs to the contrary, and it is of very high quality.

Embrace the Magic of Vancouver

Must-See Sights and Travel Essentials

Located in British Columbia, Vancouver offers a unique blend of urban sophistication and natural beauty. With so much to see and do, you'll learn in the classroom and through your experiences around this stunning West Coast city. Additionally, the city is surrounded by mountains and ocean, providing ample opportunities for recreation.

[Check out the Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

5 Things to Do

- Explore Stanley Park
- Visit the Vancouver Art Gallery
- Check out Granville Island
- Stroll through Robson Street
- Walk across the Capilano Suspension Bridge



Transportation

Vancouver is known for its efficient and eco-friendly transportation system, featuring a combination of buses, SkyTrain (light rail), SeaBus ferries, and West Coast Express commuter trains. The TransLink system provides comprehensive coverage throughout the metropolitan area. The city is also very bike-friendly, with designated bike lanes throughout. Taxis and ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft are available as well.

Public Transport Info

Transit costs vary depending on time of day, day of the week, and distance of travel. Vancouver's transit system is divided into three zones. Students can purchase a Compass Card, which allows for easy access to all public transit. The SkyTrain is a fast and convenient way to travel across the city and into the surrounding suburbs. Buses cover extensive routes across Vancouver.

[Schedules & Maps](#)

[Fares & Passes](#)

[Trip Planner](#)

Useful Links

[Events](#)

[What's On](#)

[Weather in Vancouver](#)

Medical

If you have a medical emergency, go to the hospital's emergency department closest to you. Take some identification and your insurance policy number. Some hospitals may ask you to pay a fee. Keep the receipt to send to your insurance company for payment. For emergencies, call 911.

Go to a walk-in medical clinic for medical problems that are not emergencies. You do not need to make an appointment; you can simply see a doctor. The closest walk-in clinic to EC Vancouver is Coal Harbour Health Centre, 622 Bute Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 3M1. Call (604) 558-3313.

Legal Driving Age

In Vancouver, the legal age to drive is 16, but the minimum age to rent a car is 21. Additional charges may apply to drivers 21 to 24 years of age. Most rental companies require an international driving license, a second form of identity, and a major credit card.

Alcohol Age

The legal drinking age in British Columbia is 19. You must present identification when purchasing alcohol, and this applies to bars, restaurants, and liquor stores across the city.

Smoking Laws

The legal age for smoking in Vancouver is 19. Smoking is prohibited in public indoor spaces, including restaurants, bars, and workplaces. There are also restrictions on smoking near entrances and exits to public buildings and bans in some outdoor areas, such as beaches and parks. If you smoke in a 'smoke-free' place, you may receive a fine of up to CAD\$2000.

Canadian Public Holidays

Public holidays falling on a weekday

2026: 01 January, 16 February, 03 April, 18 May, 01 July, 03 August, 07 September, 30 September, 12 October, 11 November, 24 December & 25 December.

Visa Requirements

To study in Vancouver, you may need a study permit or a visitor visa. Please get in touch with us for more information.

[Visa Requirements](#)

Cost of Living

Bottle of water / soda (0.33 litre)
Around C\$3.00
Coffee/Cappuccino (Starbucks)
C\$7.00-C\$10.00
Fast-Food combo meal
C\$10.00-C\$15.00
Meal, inexpensive restaurant
C\$25.00- C\$50.00
Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult)
C\$25.00-C\$50.00
Public transport (local transport)
C\$5.00
Public transport (monthly pass)
C\$85

Insurance

All EC Vancouver students must have health insurance for the entire length of their stay. EC can help students purchase insurance upon arrival at the school. The cost of insurance is CAD\$18 per week. Students who do not purchase insurance through EC will be asked to show proof of coverage on arrival.

