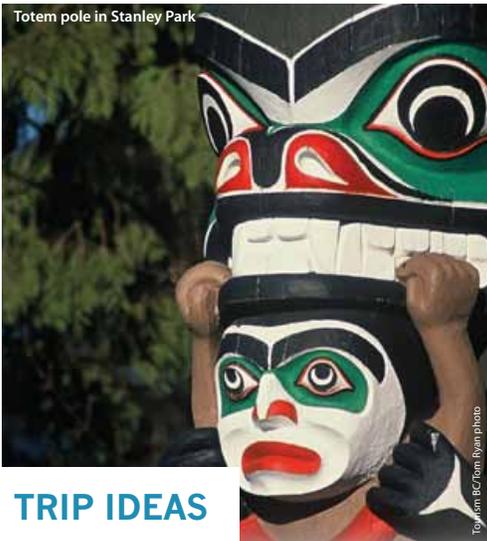


Totem pole in Stanley Park



Top: from BC.com; Ryan photo

## TRIP IDEAS

# VANCOUVER'S ABORIGINAL CULTURE

Aboriginal art: it's striking, richly symbolic and, in Vancouver, much of it is new. From the revamped Museum of Anthropology to summer's Klahowya Village in Stanley Park, Aboriginal art and culture is leading the way in Vancouver's cultural scene.

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### Aboriginal Artwork at YVR

Vancouver International Airport welcomes visitors with dozens of stunning works in wood, stone and textiles, many on a monumental scale. International passengers are greeted by Nuuchah-nulth artist Joe David's Welcome Figures – they stand in the arrivals meet and greet area. Bill Reid's iconic Jade Canoe, the centrepiece of the collection, is in the international terminal near the check-in desks where everyone can admire it.

### Museum of Anthropology

A first stop for most art lovers is the Museum of Anthropology on the University of British Columbia campus. In the Great Hall, house posts, totem poles and more created by the Haida, Gitksan, Nisga'a and others tower against a 15-m/50-ft high wall of glass overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Don't miss the Haida houses and totem poles on the cliff-top behind the museum.

The Museum of Anthropology also has an excellent collection of works by Bill Reid (1920-1998), one of BC's best-known artists. See more of Reid's work, at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art in downtown Vancouver.

### Aboriginal Culture in Stanley Park

For more Bill Reid, check out the artist's Orca sculpture, Chief of the Undersea World, outside the Vancouver Aquarium in Stanley Park. Also in the park are the much-visited totem poles and cedar gateways at Brockton Point. The nine poles and three gateways were carved by Haida, Nisga'a, Coast Salish and other artists. An on-site interpretive centre provides historic details.

Off the seawall, just north of Third Beach, look for Siwash Rock. This 32-million-year-old sea stack is the focus of a Squamish legend about a young man immortalized in stone. At nearby Ferguson Point stands a memorial to Pauline Johnson, an Aboriginal poet who recorded many local legends. Just outside the park at English Bay is an Inukshuk, an Inuit-inspired memento to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Finish the tour in North Vancouver to see traditional First Nations weaving and beading demonstrations at Kia'palano, located at the Capilano Suspension Bridge.

In summer, part of Stanley Park morphs into the Klahowya Village. Watch artisans at work, sample Aboriginal cuisine, chat with elders and see daily cultural performances. Or ride the Spirit Catcher Train through the forest to learn more about BC's Aboriginal history and culture.

### Aboriginal Cuisine

Try real Aboriginal home cooking, like clam fritters, wild deer stew and buffalo burgers, all served with bannock (traditional fried

bread) at Salmon n' Bannock, a bistro and gallery on West Broadway. Aboriginal cuisine has inspired other Vancouver chefs too. Top tastes include cedar plank or alder-grilled salmon, with its delightful smoky flavour, and salmon candy – smoked salmon drenched in brown sugar or maple syrup. Most Granville Island fishmongers carry it: try Longliner Seafoods or Finest at Sea.

Oysters, alder-grilled salmon and even smoked salmon and prawn spring rolls reflect indigenous influences at West Vancouver's Salmon House. Check out the Aboriginal masks, canoes and other artifacts gracing the interior – when not eyeing the view, of course.

### Vancouver Accommodation

Wake up to a room full of art on the Museum Floor of the Listel Hotel. Thanks to a partnership with the Museum of Anthropology, works by renowned Aboriginal artists grace the rooms.

Lord Stanley Suites On The Park offers easy access to Klahowya Village in Stanley Park, where summer guests can experience Aboriginal crafts, culture and cuisine. Also close to Stanley Park, as well as the bustling Robson shopping district, is the West End Guest House, a 1906 heritage refurbished B&B.

### Shopping for Aboriginal Artwork

Aboriginal works, from museum-quality antiques to fun fashions, abound in Vancouver. Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Galleries, with stores in Gastown and Yaletown, has contemporary works from basketry to silver jewellery. For sheer volume, visit Hill's Native Arts in Gastown, with three levels of treasures from bentwood boxes to totem poles. On Granville Island, check out the Wickaninnish Gallery, Eagle Spirit Gallery, the Raven and the Bear, and the Inukshuk Gallery for Northwest Coast Native Art.

The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, located downtown, features Reid's gold and silver jewellery, sculptures and information on this influential artist. An onsite gift shop sells original works and prints by local artists, accessories and more.

### Vancouver Transportation

To see the galleries, museums and public art in downtown, Gastown and Stanley Park, the best bet is a TransLink bus or a hop-on-hop-off tour, like those run by the Vancouver Trolley Company. False Creek Ferries and Aquabus sail to Granville Island from downtown, and any TransLink bus marked "UBC" travels near the Museum of Anthropology. A car is handy for exploring the North Shore, but a SeaBus-bus combo is an easy way to reach the Capilano Suspension Bridge.



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