

Cycling and rollerblading the Galloping Goose Trail



TRIP IDEAS

FAMILY ACTIVITIES IN VICTORIA

Victoria rocks for family fun. Ride a double-decker bus, paddle kayaks in the Inner Harbour, learn about pirates, handle huge millipedes or see teeny-tiny miniature worlds. After all that excitement? Relax on Fisherman's Wharf and ride the harbour ferries before setting out again.

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Royal BC Museum

At the Royal BC Museum, explore a frontier town (complete with a train station and a movie theatre), see a real First Nations Big House and drive a Jules-Verne-style submarine. There are three floors of cool stuff, plus an IMAX theatre. And look for dinosaur footprints outside the main entrance – there's no sign, so look hard.

Victoria Bug Zoo

Want to wear a millipede like a moustache? Head to the Victoria Bug Zoo. While there, pet a real 400-leg millipede, watch Canada's largest ant farm at work and ask the resident entomological experts about fascinating insects and arachnids.

The Maritime Museum of BC

Visit the Maritime Museum of British Columbia to learn about the explorers, seafarers and even pirates that once sailed the local seas. There's even a canoe that sailed all the way around the world more than a hundred years ago, and a historic courthouse on the top floor.

Fisherman's Wharf and Whale Watching

Access Fisherman's Wharf via a quick ferry ride across the harbour. It's a good place to meet harbour seals, have fish and chips on the dock, and check out the houseboats and fishing boats.

Head out on a whale watching adventure from the Inner Harbour. Most whale watching boats have hydrophones (underwater microphones) on board to listen in on whale chatter, as well as naturalists to answer questions. And keep an eye out for dolphins and seals.

Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre

Learn how to protect the oceans on a visit to the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre, which is located in Sidney near the ferry back to Vancouver. Also ride a (pretend) deep sea elevator, see glowing jelly fish, touch a sea urchin and watch the floor ripple like water.

Other Family Activities

Ride bikes on the Galloping Goose Trail or the Lochside Regional Trail. The trails connect and go all the way from Swartz Bay to Sooke. There are no cars and the trails are mostly flat, so the ride is super easy.

Have little kids? Check out the tiny trains, castles and circuses at Miniature World, pet the baby goats at the Beacon Hill Park petting zoo, then burn off some energy at Beacon Hill Park's playground.

Family-Friendly Restaurants

Sam's Deli, in a cool old building near the Inner Harbour, has quick soup and sandwiches and huge chocolate chip cookies. At the Noodle Box, everything from the Cambodian jungle curry to the kids' plain noodles comes in little-to-go cardboard boxes. Willie's Bakery has baked treats and huge pancake and French toast breakfasts. The kids may not like oysters, but Ferris' Oyster Bar and Grill also has big burgers, sweet potato fries and a great kid's menu, plus there's a garden out back. Treats? The Soda Shoppe looks like an olden-days soda shop with cones, candies and sundaes.

Family-Friendly Accommodation

Swans Hotel, a refurbished 1913 heritage building located in the heart of Victoria, has suites with room for up to six guests, in addition to fully equipped kitchens. The Hotel Grand Pacific offers family suites, complete with kid-sized bathrobes and amenities such as a 25-m/82-ft lap pool. The Executive House Hotel has spacious rooms, and its central location in the scenic Inner Harbour puts it within walking distance of family friendly attractions such as the Royal BC Museum and Beacon Hill Park.

Victoria Transportation

Food, play areas and video arcades, plus the occasional passing whale, make the 90-minute ride on BC Ferries from Vancouver just fly by. Arriving on a float plane in the Inner Harbour is pretty exciting too. Once in Victoria, it's possible to walk or bike just about anywhere, hop a harbour ferry for stops around the water, or step aboard big double-decker buses, which are part of the regular transit system.



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