

Experience Onset Of Spring In Cherry-Pink Vancouver

Thanks to Vancouver's mild climate, the city starts to spring out of winter earlier than you might imagine.

As early as late February, visitors and locals can witness the blossoming of the city's 40,000-plus cherry trees. Come spring, 35 varieties of cherry trees announce the end of winter by blanketing Vancouver's streets with delicate flowers. From exploring the city's array of majestic gardens to attending one of the most colorful festivals of the year, here's how you can enjoy the best of Vancouver's stunning spring season.

Garden hop

Start off with a visit to the 55-acre VanDusen Botanical Garden, which touts tree-lined paths, vibrant flower gardens, peaceful lakes and colorful birdlife. In spring months, view cherry tree varieties, flowering bulbs, early rhododendrons and camellias. Next, take a stroll through the UBC Botanical Garden & Greenheart Canopy Walkway (located on the University of [British Columbia](#) campus), where you'll see cherry blossoms, magnolias, early rhododendrons and spring ephemerals. The colorful Nitobe Memorial Garden, considered one of the top Japanese gardens outside of Japan, also boasts cherry

trees, streams, stone lanterns, a reflecting pond and a rare authentic tea garden with a ceremonial teahouse. Lastly, head to Vancouver's Chinatown neighborhood for a stroll through Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. Built by **(Continued on page 7B)** 52 master craftsmen from Suzhou, China, this urban oasis is the first garden of its kind outside of China, and features delicate blossoms intertwined in a landscape of weathered rocks, peaceful paths and a jade-green pond.

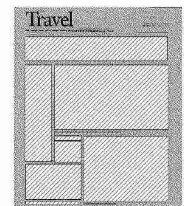
Celebrate

This year's Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival takes place Apr. 3 to 28. In addition to soaking up views of beautiful blossoms, festival-goers

will experience lively musical performances, colorful artist demonstrations and educational guided cherry tree walks. Additional highlights include a free outdoor Cherry Jam Downtown Concert, the Sakura Days Japan Fair at VanDusen Botanical Garden, the Sakura Illumination Tour on Granville Island and more. Picnic, walk or bike the cherry-pink way. Use the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival bloom map to locate your favorite blossom variety and the whereabouts of city streets lined with blooming cherry trees then decide whether you want to eat, walk or bike under the pink canopy. If you're keen to join a group, pedal along at the Bike the Blossoms event, a free blossom bike ride that takes place on Apr. 26.



Friends enjoy a spring day with cherry blossoms in bloom at Nitobe Memorial Garden.





Dr. Sun Yat Sen Garden with ladies framed in archway. (Tourism Vancouver photos)



UBC Botanical Garden Canopy Walkway.