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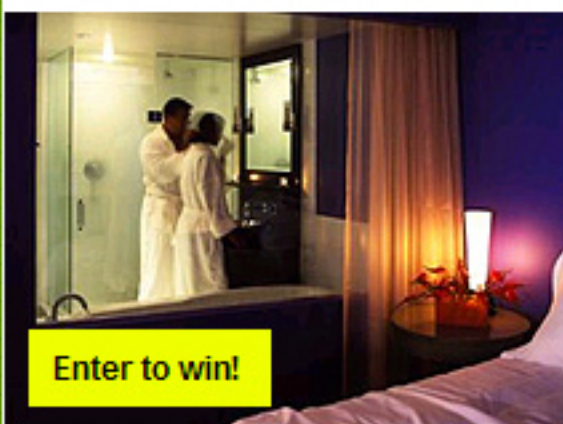
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A GUIDE TO VANCOUVER'S
CHERRY BLOSSOMS



"This is why I live here!" is a phrase many Vancouverites exclaim during cherry blossom season. Each spring, as the rainy season fades, city dwellers pack their sweaters away and are rewarded with one of the world's most cheerful sites: 40,000 cherry trees bursting with pink and white blooms.

Best Places to View Cherry Blossoms in Vancouver

Vancouver's many parks and gardens are ideal showcases for the beloved trees, but there are also a number of urban places to view these pink beauties.

- **Queen Elizabeth Park** touts several varieties of cherry trees, which bloom at different intervals throughout early March and late April
- **Stanley Park** also has rows of blossoming trees near the formal rose garden and the Japanese Canadian WWI war memorial
- **VanDusen Botanical Garden** boasts more than 100 cherry trees, representing 24 varieties. Plan your trip to the garden with this [cherry tree map](#)
- For a truly peaceful (and cultural) experience, make sure to visit the **UBC Nitobe Memorial Garden**, where you'll find colourful cherry trees in a traditional Japanese garden setting
- Walk beneath a canopy of blooms at the downtown Burrard SkyTrain station, Vancouver City Hall and along Yew Street in Vancouver's **Kitsilano neighbourhood**

Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Events

Each year, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival introduces an array of events to celebrate the blooming of the trees. From bike rides to art classes, these community activities bring people together to enjoy the natural splendor of spring.

Plein-Air Blossom Painting

Saturdays, April 7–28, 11am–2pm

VanDusen Botanical Garden

Plein-air instructors will lead watercolour, pastel, oil and acrylic painters in art-making sessions right inside the garden, helping them to capture its cherry trees, rhododendrons, crocuses and many other plants in their work.

Cherry Jam Downtown

Thursday, April 5, 11am–1:30pm

Burrard Skytrain station

The official festival kick-off will be a culturally rockin' good time with performances that honour Vancouver's multicultural heritage — all amid a sea of cherry blossoms, of course.

Tree Talks & Walks

Various times and locations

Six walks through some of Vancouver's spectacular spring gardens are led by notable tree enthusiasts who help visitors find the city's most beautiful blooms, talk about their origins and help identify different varieties.

Sakura Days Japan Fair

Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, 10am– 5pm

VanDusen Botanical Garden

Vancouver's original 500 cherry trees were a gift from the mayors of Kobe and Yokohama in the 1930s, thanking the city for honoring Japanese Canadians who served in WWI. Celebrating the city's longtime friendship with Japan, this family-friendly festival-within-a-festival includes tea ceremonies, ikebana (flower-arranging classes), sake tasting, geisha dances, taiko drumming, kimono demonstrations, Japanese cuisine and much more.

Bike the Blossoms

Saturday, April 28

Visitors are invited to view the cherry trees from atop two wheels. Join Velopalooza for a guided ride that weaves through Vancouver's most blossom-laden neighbourhoods.

2012 Haiku Invitational

Submissions accepted March 1–June 4

The cherry trees are sure to spark a creative sensation in all who witness them, and poets and non-poets alike are invited to submit haikus on the subject to festival organizers. The winning poets' works will be published on the festival's website.

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