

## Emily Carr

You can see what the most creative minds are up to in the city's art galleries. And it is no wonder that Victoria's creative community is so large and well rounded considering that Emily Carr is its unofficial patron saint. Emily Carr, one of Canada's foremost artists and writers, was born in Victoria in 1871 and has had a tremendous influence on the development of local arts. Her work continues to gain international respect and admiration posthumously. Emily is particularly renowned for her interpretations of coastal landscapes and First Nations villages. She is also well known for her writing and her first book, *Klee Wyck*, won the Governor General's Award in 1941. The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria holds a substantial, permanent collection of Emily's work, largely with First Nations themes. Emily Carr House, the artist's birthplace and childhood home, is a museum open to the public for tours and special events.

## On Stage Year-Round

Victoria is a city that treasures its performing arts. In addition to its very own symphony, opera, and dance companies, the city is home to a several venues staging an exciting lineup of live professional theatre, as well as dance and music by national and international performing artists.

Victoria's social calendar also includes an impressive schedule of touring performers

and shows at several venues throughout the city. The Black Eyed Peas, Rod Stewart, Cher, Blue Rodeo, Avril Lavigne, Bob Dylan, Def Leppard, Mötley Crüe, Steve Earle, Colin James, and Chris Isaak have all included a visit to Victoria on their tours.

To get the details on performing arts, visit [www.tourismvictoria.com/events](http://www.tourismvictoria.com/events).

## Festivals and Festive Fun

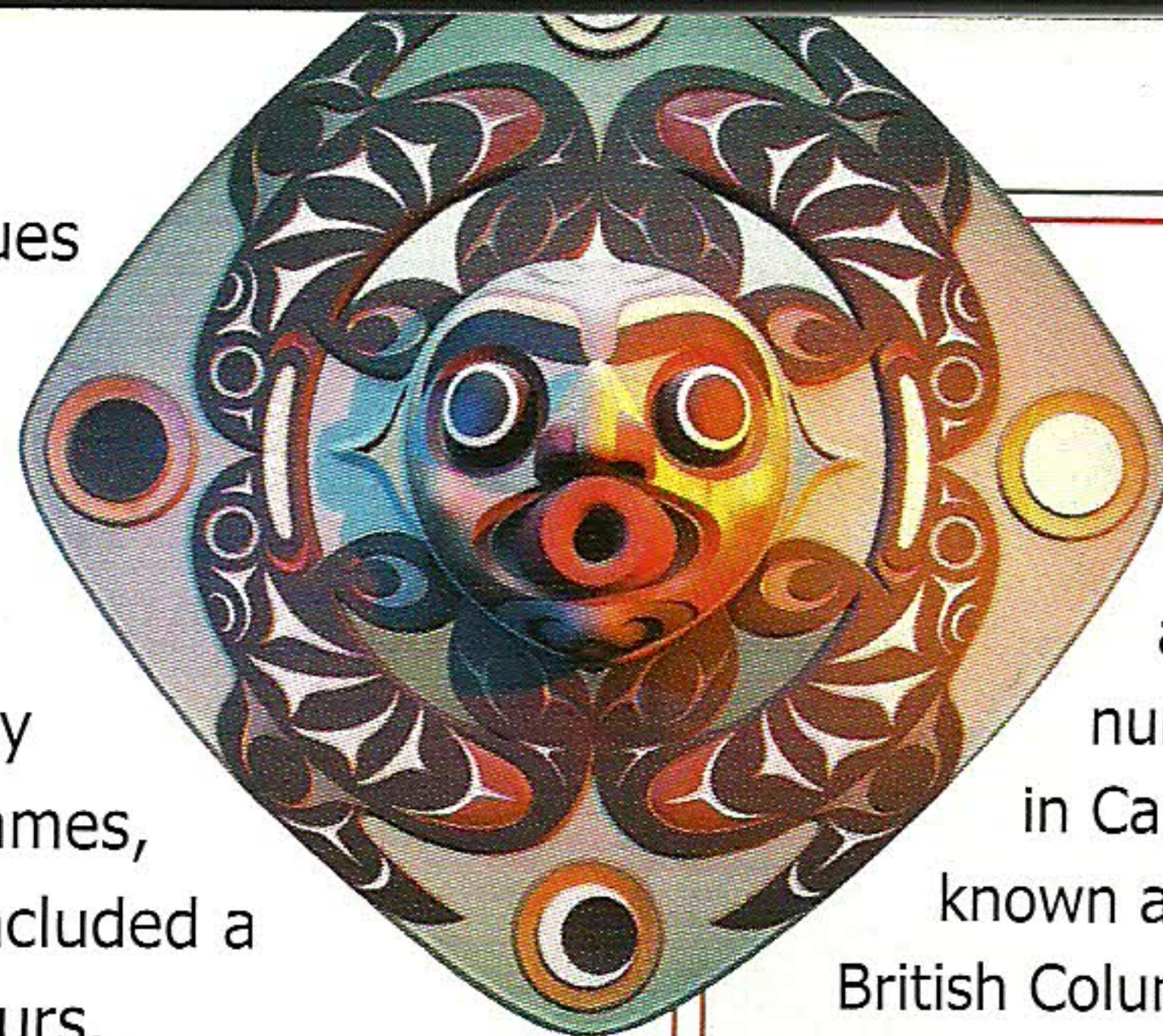
Victoria loves its festivals and the community gathers for gala celebrations to honour all the things Victorians love: world beats, jazz music, ghosts, gardens, beer, wine, fine food, visual arts, literature, boats, fringe theatre — and that's just the beginning!

At Christmas, the city sparkles with festive spirit. With the mildest climate in Canada, Victoria rarely sees snow. The Christmas season still arrives with fervour, however, and residents and visitors alike are swept up into the magical spirit of the most wonderful time of the year. Lights, music, and special events fill the streets and venues of B.C.'s capital city.

For more information on festivals and Christmas events, see page 16 or visit [www.tourismvictoria.com/events](http://www.tourismvictoria.com/events).

## Culinary Paradise

Victoria's youthful spirit is also amply evident in its cuisine. In addition to Victoria's



## FAST FACTS

Victoria and surrounding areas boast the highest number of artists per capita in Canada and is unofficially known as the "BoHo" capital of British Columbia.

Victoria's Uplands neighbourhood, located in Oak Bay just east of downtown, has the most millionaires per square kilometre in Canada.

Over the last decade, the number of vineyards and wineries on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands has doubled. Now, there are more than 60 vineyards and 22 wineries in the region.

longtime affection for afternoon tea, Victoria and southern Vancouver Island are developing a reputation as Canada's Provence. Artisan cheeses, seaweed, water buffalo, poultry, produce, ciders, and wines are created and harvested by a handful of local farms and producers.

You can experience Vancouver Island's bounty in many of Victoria's restaurants, thanks to a plethora of hip, young chefs committed to promoting local cuisine. The Saanich Peninsula, 20 minutes from downtown Victoria, and the Cowichan Valley, 45 minutes from Victoria, are gastronomic destinations that abound with opportunities to tour wineries and farms, sample an array of products, and meet the people behind the cuisine. Winery maps for self-guided tours are available, or you can sign up for a guided culinary adventure.

If you are a beer aficionado, you'll want to sample Victoria's locally crafted brews, a 150-year-old tradition that continues in several pubs and microbreweries. Distilleries are a new addition to Victoria's culinary scene and are making a promising debut.

## Soothing Spas

Victoria also has a reputation for its spas. While spas have been around for centuries, Victoria has given the concept a whole new angle by incorporating elements from nature into some of its most raved-about treatments. Unwind at one of Victoria's many spas, partaking of nature's plenty with a sea-salt body scrub, seaweed facial, or hydrotherapy bath infused with the fragrance of Douglas firs. Try a vinotherapy pedicure that includes crushing locally harvested grapes with your toes or a massage of homegrown lavender and hot stones collected from a nearby beach.

# Victoria



TOURISM VICTORIA