

# Oh, Canada!

**Vancouver offers a variety of outdoor activities and scenic mountain courses with breathtaking views.**

**By Kevin Woodley**

Vancouver is a postcard waiting to happen, a tranquil blend of beaches and forests framed by blue shoreline and set against a snow-capped mountain backdrop. But the best part of a trip to Canada's West Coast is the many ways to enjoy those surroundings.

Visitors have the option of taking it in on a waterfront patio, savoring the area's uniquely fresh flavors, or getting to know it more intimately on foot, with golf club, shopping bag or loved one in hand.

Vancouver's variety continues on the golf course, including a few adventure options.

A 26-foot Zodiac provides a 200-horsepower zip up the waters of Howe Sound to Furry Creek Golf and Country Club, a mountainside track with breathtaking views, dizzying elevation changes and the best sightseeing golf in British Columbia. The boat ride goes halfway to Whistler, but if there's enough time for an overnight trip, visitors find out

*The first hole at Furry Creek  
Golf and Country Club.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLF BC GROUP



**1 FRASERVIEW GOLF COURSE.** With a great course and a forest-like feel within city limits, pay the extra \$10 to book in advance because locals jam the tee sheet with five-day advance bookings.  
[www.fraserviewgolf.ca](http://www.fraserviewgolf.ca)

**2 UNIVERSITY GOLF CLUB.** Tucked into Pacific Spirit Park and carved out of old-growth forest, this 77-year-old, tree-lined gem features equally old-school small greens and a true West Coast feel.  
[www.universitygolf.com](http://www.universitygolf.com)

**3 WESTWOOD PLATEAU GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB.** Inspiring views and award-winning service add to the course's enjoyable combination of large trees, mammoth rock faces, rugged ravines and breathtaking elevation changes.  
[www.westwoodplateaugolf.com](http://www.westwoodplateaugolf.com)

**4 NORTHVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB.** The Arnold Palmer-designed Ridge Course was a PGA Tour stop for seven years and it is well worth the drive. Better yet, make it a day as the Canal Course also is worth the trip.  
[www.northviewgolf.com](http://www.northviewgolf.com)

**5 MORGAN CREEK GOLF COURSE.** More fairways are lined with million-dollar homes than big, old trees, but the picturesque marsh terrain, impeccably kept course and first-class service more than make up for it.  
[www.morgancreekgolf.com](http://www.morgancreekgolf.com)

**6 NORTHLANDS GOLF COURSE.** Cut out of a 100-year-old mountainside forest, the tight, target-golf track blends stunning views with a rugged, tree-lined, creek-crossing landscape in a spectacular natural setting.  
[www.golfnorthlands.com](http://www.golfnorthlands.com)

**7 STANLEY PARK.** Spend a day exploring the tranquil grass fields, forest paths, beaches, lakes, lagoons, wildlife and aquarium inside the city's first park, or skirt its edges with a trip around its postcard-inspiring sea wall, either on foot or wheels (Bayshore Bicycles & Rollerblade Rentals, [www.vancouverbikerental.com](http://www.vancouverbikerental.com)).  
[www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/stanley/](http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/parks/parks/stanley/)

**8 ROBSON STREET.** A seven-block mix of top brand stores, small boutiques and local originals like Lululemon Athletica yoga wear, along with more than 40 restaurants with well-placed patios, make this a perfect spot to shop, eat or just people watch.  
[www.robsonstreet.ca](http://www.robsonstreet.ca)

**9 GRANVILLE ISLAND.** This one-time industrial area in the heart of the downtown harbor has been reborn as a public market with fresh food and seafood, great restaurants and small local art shops.  
[www.granvilleisland.com](http://www.granvilleisland.com)

**10 CAPILANO SUSPENSION BRIDGE & PARK.** With only planks between you and the river 230 feet below, it's worth the short trip just to cross the bridge, but the surrounding forest, First Nations carvings, and nearby salmon hatchery and gondola up Grouse Mountain for incredible panoramic views make the visit worth a half day.  
[www.capbridge.com](http://www.capbridge.com)

why Whistler's reputation as one of the world's finest winter resorts now carries over to the summer months with the addition of championship golf courses from designers like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Robert Trent Jones and Robert Cupp.

One unique option is to take a helicopter from downtown for an aerial tour of the city and harbors before flying to the award-winning service and views at Westwood Plateau Golf Course, a mountain course with big Douglas Firs, granite rock faces and rugged ravines. The more traditional paved path east to Westwood only takes half an hour, as do worthwhile treks south to play courses at Morgan Creek Golf Club and Northview Golf and Country Club, which, for seven years, was the site of a PGA Tour event. (The Greater Vancouver Open was played there from 1996-98, then renamed the Air Canada Championship, which was played through 2002 and discontinued.)

Closer to downtown, there are a pair of public layouts with a tree-lined, lost-in-the-woods feel normally reserved for top private clubs, all just a short cab ride from the steel-and-glass high rises. University Golf Club, named for its close proximity to the University of British Columbia, is the home of the BC Golf Museum, and many players continue to list Fraserview Golf Club as one of the top public courses in the country.

It's the kind of choice that extends to many of the attractions in a city where it is possible to play golf in the winter, ski in the summer or just sit back and enjoy the scenery all year round.



*The fifth hole at Northview Golf and Country Club (Ridge Course).*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



*At the 1999 Air Canada Championship at Northview Golf and Country Club, Canadian Mike Weir won his first PGA Tour title.*

GETTY IMAGES

As Vancouver, located just a 30-minute drive from the United States border, is Canada's mildest city—there's no month in which the mean daily low is below freezing—afternoons in the sand can be spent tanning, enjoying the views from nearby walking paths or playing a game of beach volleyball.

The view of English Bay almost always includes sailboats, windsurfers, kayaks or a charter looking to catch dinner for the crew and guests. Better yet, have that salmon smoked to take home and satisfy your appetite among a diverse multicultural menu featuring everything from award-winning sushi, Chinese and Indian food, to fresh Pacific Northwest cuisine that has inspired homegrown chefs like Rob Feenie to international acclaim—and an Iron Chef title.

Whatever one's style or speed, on the course or off, Vancouver is a cosmopolitan city that has it covered, and usually with a view worthy of National Geographic. So bring a camera and save on postcards. 📷

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