

## Day Two - Victoria, BC, Canada

This was really our only day in Victoria and we got a good feel for the place. Victoria is pristinely clean. No slums, no dirt on the side of the road, it is a perfect little city - that just happens to be outrageously expensive!

Draft beers in the restaurants run at CAN\$8.00 each (US\$7.70), and fish and chips will set you back \$15 the same as a hamburger while a steak is about \$30.00.



There are a lot of boats in a lot of marinas in Victoria. Here's a guy paddle boarding.

Good luck with that, the water temperature right now in the middle of summer is 45 degrees (7 Celsius) and this is YEAR ROUND as the water temperature does not change between summer and winter. SUCKWAD!

Victoria exists because this is where ships going to either Vancouver or Seattle leave the Pacific and enter The Strait of Juan De Fuco - protected waters.

The mountains you see in the background are actually in the USA, 18 miles the other side of the strait.

Note the fog bank behind the ship! Looks thicker than pea soup!



This is Chinatown, the second oldest in North America. San Francisco has the oldest. It's pretty small by SanFran standards too.



This is the seaplane harbor, there is a seaplane literally taking off and landing every five minutes.



This is the downtown harbor area, we had lunch at the restaurant building you see overlooking those little boats, which are water taxis.



These are the water taxis and tour boats, extremely cute! We were going to take a harbor cruise on them (\$22/person) but then the wind picked up and we started to freeze our asses off, so we went back to the B&B instead.



When we travel to cities we like to take the hop on hop off bus.

For only \$28 you get unlimited rides around the city and when you are tired, its a great place to rest and just watch the city go by as you relax in the bus.

Nice view of the city from upstairs.



This is us traveling around on the hop on hop off bus top deck.



The city is very quaint with all kinds of shopping and market areas.



Having lunch at the Seafood Grille. Beef Wellington (European style) and Wendy had lobster bruchetta. Awesome! But a \$75 lunch!!



Typical coastline in Victoria. Lots of expensive waterfront homes where rich people have retired. Victoria has the mildest climate in Canada.

Gas is expensive here, it is (and this is weird how they display it at the gas stations) 149 cents per liter (Why not say \$1.49??). As there are 3.75 liters to the gallon, that makes it \$5.50/gallon. And we complain!!!

Tonight we are ordering in dinner (feet too sore from walking today - we walked at least 6 miles) and tomorrow we take a ferry directly to the cruise ship terminal in Vancouver to board our Norwegian Cruise Line ship to Alaska!! Cab arrives at 9am.

They have this weird traditional dish in Victoria called a Poutine, it comes from Quebec - strong influence from Europe I suspect. It is French fries covered with gravy and then various other foods loaded on top such as chicken, smoked meat, onions, etc. added to it. Sounds decadent!