This Guide introduces artworks, architectural landmarks, and heritage sites along a route which follows the 13-kilometre perimeter of Vancouver’s downtown peninsula. The route divides into seven neighbourhoods, each offering unique glimpses into Vancouver’s social history and urban development. Use it to explore specific areas or to guide a hearty hike around the whole downtown core.

Coal Harbour

This centuries old First Nation site takes its present name from traces of coal discovered in 1859. But the area’s historic riches – abundant clams, thick herring runs, prime timber – prevailed until the opening of the Panama Canal made the port of Vancouver North America’s largest shipper of grain. Today, several large developments are transforming 19 hectares of these former rail and harbour lands into a high density residential neighbourhood, complete with parks, community centre, arts complex, and new convention centre.

Canada Place, 1986
Ziedler Roberts Partnership, Downs/Archambault Architects, Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership

Canada Place opened to the public as the Canada Pavilion at Expo 86, and is now home to the Pan Pacific Hotel, World Trade Office Complex, and Convention Centre. The building’s nautical theme is dramatically evident through the sail shaped Teflon coated fibreglass roof. While walking around the pier, watch for information panels which provide interesting bits of history to correspond with the 360-degree view of the harbour.
Salute to the Lions of Vancouver, 1991
Gathie Falk

On 21K level, a pair of aluminum lions are frozen mid-jump to align with the distant Lions Gate Bridge and Lions Mountains (known to the local First Nations as the Two Sisters). After exploring Canada Place, cross the street and walk up the pedestrian mews to the foot of Hornby Street.

Working Landscape, 1998
Daniel Laskarin

901 West Hastings Street Laskarin quotes the typical business week in his design of three rotating platforms. Office workers and visitors can ride the macro time piece and complete a full revolution in one-hour, eight-hour, or forty-hour time frames.
Marine Building, 1930
McCarter and Nairne, Architects

355 Burrard Street  This art deco building with terracotta sea creatures and curling marine vegetation is handsome inside and out. The elegant entrance and intricate vaulted lobby are only rivalled by the exquisitely detailed elevator doors.

Public Service/Private Steps, 2002
Alan Storey

401 Burrard Street  Situated outside the main entrance, five cubes glide up and down a simple steel structure in direct correlation to the movement of the elevators on the inside of the building. The ebb and flow of activity is further revealed by the transference of elevator passenger’s footprints to a LED matrix screen on the underside of the sculpture’s travelling cubes.

Harbour Green Shoreline Walk
Philips Wuori Long, Landscape Architects

The original shoreline influenced the contours of this public walkway and emerges in the form of a stratified stone wall in one of the green spaces along the route. Art deco designs on lamp stands and pier detailing rekindle the aesthetic of the Marine Building. As the construction in this area is completed, more public art will be appearing in and around the shoreline walk.
Weave, 2002
Douglas Senft

323 Jervis Street Located at the foot of Jervis Street on the water side of a residential tower, Weave tells a story about some of Coal Harbour’s history: a collection of bronze rings outline the breadth of old growth trees; steel benches support First Nation, Spanish, and English words; and aluminum tree grates reference the area’s aviation history.

Make West, 1997
Bill Pechet

Nicola St. to Cardero, along Coal Harbour Quay Cast bronze fragments quoting local and regional histories are scattered among the paving stones in a series of alcoves at the foot of two residential towers. The fragments can be pieced together as parts of a game – directions can lead from one to another.

Bayshore Waterfront Walkway and Gardens
Durante Kreuk, Landscape Architects

To the north of the Westin Bayshore Hotel, three different steel and glass shelters collect and redirect rain water back to the harbour. Benches are strategically placed to optimize views across lawns and tiered gardens.
Stanley Park

First Nation villages, burial sites, pioneer villages, logging, and military fortifications provide the early history of Stanley Park, Canada's largest urban park. Its nine-kilometre seawall – the 31-year passion of master stonemason James Cunningham – offers many splendors over the course of an easy two-hour walk. Neither the Park Seawall nor the many paths through the Park interior are included in this Guide. Pick up maps from Park Board at 2099 Beach Avenue.

Leaf Stream, 2002
Douglas Senft

1600 block Georgia Street Water cascades from one pool to another along a progression of overlapping forged bronze maple leaves.

Search
S. Seward Johnson, Jr.

Devonian Park, at the foot of Denman Street
A life size bronze sculpture of a woman searching for something in her purse comes down from her pedestal and joins the everyday world of park benches and street life.

Solo, 1986
Natalie McHaffie

Devonian Park Mountain silhouettes, sail masts, and wings spiral gracefully in this stainless steel abstraction commissioned for Vancouver's 100th anniversary in 1986.

Jubilee Fountain, 1936
Lennox McKenzie, Engineer

Lost Lagoon was the site of a significant First Nation village and fishing and hunting ground known as Chelwah’ulch. The lagoon was once a mud flat, rich with clams at low tide and an extension of Coal Harbour at high tide. In 1912, the building of a causeway separated the water bodies and Lost Lagoon began its transition from salt water to fresh. Now home to a large number of water fowl and a stopover for migratory birds, it's a haven for birds and bird-feeders. Jubilee Fountain was installed to commemorate Vancouver’s 50th Anniversary in 1936.
West End

Residents of this high density urban neighbourhood – defined by Georgia, Burrard, English Bay, and Stanley Park – use Stanley Park and the beaches of English Bay as their backyard. More than 220 high rises, mostly built in the 1960s and 70s, share the landscape with 1950s walkups and the odd mansion from colonial days. Mature trees, shrubs, and gardens make West End strolls a pleasure.

**Untitled, circa 1970**
Jordi Bonet

845 Chilco Street An undulating concrete relief, beautifully adapted for the building’s long thin profile, stretches from ground to roof of this apartment building.
The Presidio, 1994
Henriquez Partners Architects

2080 Barclay Street  Richard Henriquez stretches, cuts, flips, and layers building parts according to the fictional narratives he writes as his conceptual guide. This unusual co-habitation of single family dwelling on the same lot as high-rise condominium was inspired in its form by an early 20th century Adolf Loos building, Villa Karma. The Villa is quoted in the two lower buildings, each a mirror image of the other, while the tower is a stretched and elongated version.

David Oppenheimer, 1911
Charles Marega

Entrance to Stanley Park, foot of Beach Avenue
This traditional bronze bust pays tribute to David Oppenheimer, Mayor of Vancouver from 1888 to 1891. Before he became Mayor, Oppenheimer worked behind the scenes lobbying for Coal Harbour Peninsula to be designated a park. His goal was met on September 27, 1888 with the official opening of Stanley Park.

English Bay
This long thin stretch of park land is the city’s busiest, regardless of the time of year. Designated pathways for walking and for bikes and roller blades follow a series of beaches from Stanley Park to the Burrard Street Bridge. Vancouver’s investment in recreation, tourism and trade are simultaneously evident by the numbers of kayaks, sail boats, cruise ships, and freighters sharing the waters of English Bay.

Vancouver International Sculpture Project
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery in cooperation with Vancouver Park Board
Watch for temporary rotating sculpture exhibits throughout the year along this stretch of park land and at Devonian Park, Harbour Green Park, and Vancouver Public Library.
The Eugenia, 1991
Henriquez Partners Architects

1919 Beach Avenue The pin oak tree growing on the roof of this residential high-rise is at the height of the massive first growth trees once found in this part of the city. Cast and planted cement tree stumps integrate with the footprints of previous buildings to bring the site’s past forward into the present.

Sylvia Hotel, 1912
W.P. White, Architect

1154 Gilford Street Sheets of ivy cover brick and terracotta detailing on this former apartment building converted after the Depression to a hotel. In the 1980s, it was expanded to include a restaurant and condominium tower.

George Cunningham Memorial Sundial, 1967
Gerhard Class

South of Denman Street along the shoreline walk. The sundial commemorates three men who held the first non-native land claims in the area of Coal Harbour and the West End. At the time, they were jokingly referred to as the three greenhorns because only a “greenhorn” would buy land so far from the city centre. They proved themselves to be far shrewder than anyone imagined.
Joe Fortes Drinking Fountain, 1927  
Charles Marega  
This granite water fountain in Alexander Park is dedicated to the memory of a long time lifeguard at English Bay Beach and continues the tradition of loving commemorations found in many of the parks in this part of the city.

Inukshuk, 1986  
Alvin Kanak  
This Inukshuk functions according to its Inuit traditions as a symbol of safe harbour and a landmark to help people find their way. The stacked granite block figure was originally made for the NW Territories Pavilion at Expo ‘86.

The Swimmer, 1977  
George Norris  
1050 Beach Avenue A small abstract steel sculpture, outside the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, mimics the action of a swimmer cutting through water.
**Untitled (Black Ball), 1993**  
*Gerry Vagelatos*

**1000 Beach Avenue** As part of a landscape architecture project for this quiet plaza, a large, polished, black granite ball sits at one end of a thin ribbon of carefully aligned pebbles. The path leads to a water source, widens, and cascades down to the shoreline walk.

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**GRANtable, 1998**  
*Bill Pechet and Stephanie Robb*

In a small Beach Avenue park between Hornby and Howe Streets, a giant concrete table and chairs (with peep holes) sit at the bottom of a classical garden staircase. Visitors can use the grand dining table for eating a picnic or playing chess on one of the inset game boards.
Before its industrialization in colonial times, False Creek was a lush tidal flat fed by salmon streams and inhabited by Coast Salish peoples. Years of industrial activity – beginning with the transcontinental railway’s arrival in 1887, and ending with an International Exposition in 1986 – displaced the Salish and the fish they depended on. For the Creek’s latest incarnation – as high density housing for 25,000 people – ecologists joined planners to improve habitat conditions. Keep First Nations and industrial histories in mind as you review the artworks in this area, and look for signs of the fish and wildlife also beginning to recolonize False Creek.

Marking High Tide and Waiting for Low Tide, 1996
Don Vaughan, Landscape Architect

Two circles situated at the water’s edge bring attention to the tidal changes of False Creek. One circle is an inscribed concrete ring resting on columns, while the other, 100 metres to the east, consists of carefully placed granite boulders.
**Collection, 1994**
*Mark Lewis*

1300 block Homer Street
Six wedges on pedestals sit on the east side of the street. Three are enclosed time capsules with listed contents and the other three are open containers intended for refuse. Questions of value unite the two.

**Footnotes, 1994**
*Gwen Boyle*

1300 block Pacific Boulevard between Homer and Drake Streets
Like many of the artists who produced sculpture specifically for the Concord Pacific site, Gwen Boyle chose to make present some of the lost history of the area. Writers’ impressions of the False Creek basin are interspersed throughout the sidewalk of Pacific Boulevard, creating a subtly unfolding physical poem.

**Password, 1994**
*Alan Storey*

1300 block Pacific Boulevard between Homer and Drake Streets
Stainless steel letters spin from the air outflow of three exhaust vents in an underground residential parkade. The letters randomly spell words, and with the title, imply the possibility of a password that will break the separation between public and private space.
Brush with Illumination, 1998
Buster Simpson
An illuminated kinetic “brush” pivots on a steel column balanced by two large spun steel buoys. The brush moves with the currents and transmits weather and tide changes to a website: www.brushdelux.com

Glass Umbrellas, 1996
Don Vaughan, Landscape Architect
The rain shelters’ design was influenced by the surrounding architecture. When lit at night, they act as beacons at the water’s edge.

Welcome to the Land of Light, 1997
Henry Tsang
Two lines of text, mounted on the seawall railings, address technology’s promise to bring cultures together. The languages are English and Chinook Jargon, a Nineteenth Century lingua franca that developed out of the need for cross-cultural trade in the Pacific Northwest. Coloured light pulses through a fibre-optic cable below the aluminum letters.
Street Light, 1997
Bernie Miller and Alan Tregebov

At the south foot of Davie Street, bronze I-beams support images taken from Vancouver’s archives. The sculpture is carefully aligned to cast shadow images onto the sidewalk on the anniversary of the selected historical event. At night, from the tilted traffic circle opposite the sculpture, a light illuminates the panels. The form of the sculpture quotes a mixture of objects: railway trestles, hand-cars, turntables, billboards, drive-in movie screens, movie cameras, and suggests Vancouver’s transformation from an industrial centre to an information age economy.

The Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre

181 Roundhouse Mews This renovated railyard now hosts a gymnasium, exhibition hall, performance centre and historic Engine 374. This engine led the first transcontinental train into Vancouver in 1887 thereby fulfilling British Columbia’s conditions for joining the Canadian Confederation.
Terra Nova, 1996
Richard Prince

Terra Nova, located on the exterior south wall of the Roundhouse, has two parts: the Theatre of Discovery consists of objects on the brick wall and invites imaginative storytelling while the Cone of Analysis, on the sidewalk, suggests the broader world of mathematical truths.

Perennials, 1997
Barbara Steinman

1008 Cambie Street A botanical theme unites the shattered glass fence, leaf shaped pool, and seating in this plaza. Words etched into simple granite benches – *transplanted, cultivated, hybrid* – take on double meanings in the context of Vancouver’s changing demographics.

Ring Gear, 1987
City of Vancouver, Engineering Services

What appears to be a large minimal sculpture is in fact a ring gear rescued from the Connaught swing bridge before its 1984 replacement by the current Cambie Bridge. The gear was installed by city engineers to honour the designers and builders of the many bridges crossing False Creek.
Untitled, 2000
Al McWilliams

Boathouse Pedestrian Mews and Marinaside Crescent
The shapes of water wheels, pinwheels and lotus flowers inform an arrangement of overlapping slabs of granite in this elegant fountain design.

Lookout, 1999
Noel Best and Chris Dikeakos

Marinaside Crescent between Davie Street and Coopers Mews
Twin sculptures located in two of three balconies overlooking the shoreline walk trace the site’s history and double as rain shelters. In the middle balcony, cast bronze chairs are arranged around a carpet of embedded silhouettes cut from the shelters’ thick steel supports.

The Coopers Mews, 2002
Alan Storey

Coopers Mews and Marinaside Crescent
A meandering path transforms from trail to rail to boardwalk. The line of the path is mirrored overhead and supports five wooden barrels in honour of the cooperage which once stood here. When the boardwalk planks are stepped on, the barrels emit steam and sound. A different note for each plank.
41

Coopers Park
Named after Sweeney’s barrel cooperage and sawmill, Coopers Park sits under and to the east of the Cambie Street Bridge. Information panels located at the site of the old cooperage tell the story of the art of barrel manufacturing.

42

Uncoverings, 1998
Jill Anholt and Susan Ockwell

East side of 800 block Beatty Street One of four sidewalk reliefs in different downtown locations which intermittently allow steam to escape from the city’s underground heating system. The combination of light and steam bring attention to the city’s subterranean mysteries. The steam clock in Gastown is connected to the same system.

43

The Fulcrum of Vision, 2002
Mowry Baden

858 Beatty Street Baden has created two sculptures for plaza visitors to sit on, touch, and explore. One is a large patched aluminum cloud like form, the other resembles a vertical lily pad. Seated at each sculpture, the viewer’s field of vision is particularised. The views that are blocked or framed include the surrounding built environment and the Terry Fox Memorial.

44

Terry Fox Memorial, 1986
Franklin Allen/The Corner Group Architects and Ian Bateson

Located at the Robson Street entrance to BC Place Stadium, this postmodern interpretation of the triumphal arches of Rome houses the story of Terry Fox’s valiant attempt to run across Canada in his Marathon of Hope. Intending to provide cancer patients with hope and researchers with funding, Fox left a legacy that far exceeds his original goal.

45

Percy Williams, 1996
Ann McLaren

A beautifully detailed bronze figure crouches in front of an imaginary starting line outside the BC Sports Hall of Fame. The inscription describes Canadian runner Percy Williams’ many sporting triumphs.

46

Rick Hansen – Man in Motion, 1997
Bill Koochin

Larger than life, a roughly hewn likeness of disabled advocate Rick Hansen continues the commemorative theme in this sports oriented area of the City. The carving sits in front of a tiled collage by Blake Williams which chronicles Hansen’s wheelchair journey across Canada in the Man in Motion World Tour.
The Game, 1995
Liz Magor

Scattered around the grounds of General Motors Place, 14 huge stainless steel balls have come to rest part way through an unidentified game. Two bronze medallions are inset into each ball; a star on one side and the expressive faces of individual players on the other.

Andy Livingston Park, 1995

One side of the park features creative plantings among meandering streams and lawns, while the other has a large artificial turf playing field, brightly lit for evening games.
Chinatown

Predating Vancouver’s incorporation in 1886, Chinatown functioned as a self-sufficient village within a city and was home to single Chinese labourers and merchants. After World War II, it became a meeting place for families separated by war and discriminatory immigration policies. In 1971, Chinatown was designated an Historic District, and walking tours of this heritage-rich area are available through the Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 East Pender Street.

Chinatown Millennium Gate, 2002
Joe Wai, Architect

Pender and Taylor Streets In celebration of the Chinese community in Vancouver, the gate announces the historical origins of Chinatown. On the gate’s eastern face, Chinese characters remind onlookers to “remember the past and look forward to the future.”
Downtown Eastside and Gastown

This leg of the tour passes through the oldest neighbourhoods in Vancouver. Gastown is affectionately named after a saloon owner, Gassy Jack Deighton. In 1886, Gastown was destroyed by fire. With the arrival of the railroad in 1887, the heart of the city shifted west, leaving eastside hotels and rooming houses to seasonal workers – loggers, fishers, miners – wintering over in the city. Today, Carrall Street from Chinatown to Gastown passes through one of the poorest neighbourhoods in North America. In 2000, three levels of government signed the Vancouver Agreement, a funding framework intended to support community health, safety, economic and social development initiatives.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens and Park
578 Carrall Street A team of 52 experts from China came to help build this Ming Dynasty Chinese garden. The Gardens require paid admission; the park is free to visitors.

Chinese Cultural Centre
50 East Pender Street The Chinese Cultural Centre is dedicated to preserving Chinese culture and the history of the Chinese in British Columbia. The Centre houses classrooms, meeting rooms, exhibition space, activity hall, bookstore, and reading room.
Mosaic Markers and the Old Vancouver Townsite Walking Tour

Partnership between Carnegie Community Centre, residents, and the Federal government under the Vancouver Agreement

Watch for 17 different mosaic markers embedded in sidewalks throughout the old Vancouver townsite (now known as Gastown, Chinatown, and Strathcona). Local residents collaborated with historians and businesses to research historical incidents unique to the area and worked with artists to learn and apply the skills necessary to fabricate the colourful mosaics.

Bruce Erikson Place, 1998

Henriquez Partners Architects

380 Main Street Gregory Henriquez designed the facade of this residential building as a tribute to long-time community activist, City Councillor, and Downtown Eastside resident Bruce Erikson. Across the street at Main and Hastings is the old Carnegie Library, now a community centre.

Captain John Deighton (Gassy Jack), 1970

Vern Simpson

Carrall, Water, and Powell Streets Founder of Gastown, first non-native settler and saloon owner, Gassy Jack stands atop a beer barrel to overlook Maple Tree Square. Opposite the statue is the Hotel Europe, a flat-iron building designed by Parr and Fee architects and completed in 1909.
Fish Fountain, 1987
Sam Carter

NW corner of Abbott and Water Streets
A commemorative fountain to local Gastown businessman and salmon fishing enthusiast, Samuel Leshgold. Four bronze salmon heads create a symmetrical fountain for people and hardworking Gastown horses.

Steam Clock, 1977
Robert Saunders, Horologist

Electricity runs the clock but the steam heating system used to heat many downtown buildings blows the clock’s whistles.

Angel of Victory, 1921
Coeur de Lion MacCarthy

This dramatic bronze sculpture of an angel carrying a World War I soldier to heaven is one of three identical pieces commissioned by the Canadian Pacific Railway for their Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver stations.
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   Downs/Archambault Architects,
   Musson Cattell Mackey Partnership

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   Vancouver, 1991
   Gathie Falk

3. Working Landscape, 1998
   Daniel Laskarin

4. Marine Building, 1930
   McCarter and Nairne, Architects

5. Public Service/Private Steps, 2002
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6. Harbour Green Shoreline Walk
   Philips Wuori Long, Landscape
   Architects

7. Weave, 2002
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8. Make West, 1997
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9. Bayshore Waterfront Walkway
   and Gardens
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10. Leaf Stream, 2002
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    S. Seward Johnson, Jr.

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28. Footnotes, 1994
    Gwen Boyle

29. Password, 1994
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34. The Roundhouse Community Arts
    and Recreation Centre

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    Richard Prince

36. Perennials, 1997
    Barbara Steinman

37. Ring Gear, 1987
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    Engineering Services

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    Al McWilliams

39. Lookout, 1999
    Noel Best and Chris Dikeakos

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48. Andy Livingston Park, 1995

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    Joe Wai, Architect

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Find more information about the artworks at:
www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/publicartregistry