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36 Hours in Vancouver, British Columbia



Kim Stalknecht for The New York Times

Clockwise from top left: kayaking in False Creek, Yew Seafood and Bar, cycling in Stanley Park, Revolucion, Keefer Bar and a harbor view. [More Photos >](#)

By HANNAH SELIGSON
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Between the jaw-dropping confluence of mountains and sea, some of the best ethnic food in North America and public transit bliss courtesy of the Canada Line and SkyTrain, Vancouver is much more than an erstwhile Olympic site, or a place to stop over on your way to some other destination. Where else can you find an international brand of exoticism that rivals Hong Kong, Nordic-style order and a limitless array of shops, restaurants and top-notch accommodations? An abundance of outdoor options — whether it is hiking or biking in Stanley Park, kayaking in False Creek or skiing on nearby Grouse Mountain — only adds to the appeal. The city doesn't take its natural gifts for granted; in recent years it has become so eco-friendly that some stores don't even offer plastic bags. With its multitude of immigrant communities and northwest Canadian culture of extreme friendliness, Vancouver feels just different enough to be intriguingly foreign but familiar enough to be easily conquered in a weekend.

36 Hours in Vancouver, British Columbia

- 1 p.m.
- 5. Dim Sum

For one of the most genuine Asian cultural and culinary experiences in North America, go to the Aberdeen Center for dim sum at Fisherman's Terrace (3580-4151 Hazelbridge Way, Richmond; 604-303-9739). This sprawling Asian shopping center has an entire store dedicated to Hello Kitty merchandise, a Korean barbecue and a pan-Asian supermarket, among other treasures. Fisherman's Terrace, as evinced by the crowds mingling outside, is a favorite institution among the thousands of Chinese residents of Richmond, a suburb 20 minutes south of Vancouver. Make a reservation or bring your own reading material if you don't (all the newspapers are in Chinese). Then sift through the 76 options on the dim sum menu. A cheat sheet: deep-fried chicken knee with spicy salt, mini sticky rice in bamboo leaves, steamed pork dumplings, triple mushrooms in rice noodle wrap, and chilled coconut cake with diced taro. Go with an adventurous eater to try some of the dishes you'd be unlikely to find at most Westernized Chinese restaurants, like steamed duck tongue. Items range from 3.65 to 8.80 dollars.

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