

## Getting Here

Getting to BC is easy: Direct flights to Vancouver are available from major centres in Europe, Asia and the United States. Road, rail and sea links connect BC with the rest of North America.

### Entry Requirements

Visitors from other countries must show a valid passport to enter Canada and may also require a visa. The Canadian Border Services Agency ([www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)) has details about entry requirements.



### By Air

British Columbia's primary international gateway is Vancouver International Airport (YVR).

Canada's second busiest airport after Toronto's Pearson International, Vancouver International Airport (YVR) handled 17 million passengers and more than 296,000 take-offs and landings in 2010. YVR is served by 62 airlines, including Air Canada, WestJet, Cathay Pacific Airways, British Airways, KLM, Japan Airlines, Air China, Alaska Airlines, American and Delta, which provide travellers and business access to more than 100 destinations.

From YVR, regional airlines connect passengers to locations around the province. Larger regional aircraft depart from the Domestic Terminal, while smaller aircraft and helicopters leave from YVR's South Terminal, served by a complimentary shuttle service from the main terminals. Floatplanes to island and coastal destinations leave from the Float Plane Facility on the Fraser River, a short distance from the South Terminal.

Vancouver International Airport is located on Sea Island, in Richmond, 12 kilometres (7.5 miles) south of Downtown Vancouver. The airport is easily accessible by private vehicle or taxi.

The Canada Line rapid transit service connects Vancouver International Airport to the city's Skytrain transit network. Trains travelling directly to downtown Vancouver leaves the airport approximately every six minutes (mid-day); the journey to Waterfront Station in downtown Vancouver takes 26 minutes.

### Flying Time

Vancouver to:	Flying Time
Calgary, Alberta	1.5 hours
San Francisco, California	2.25 hours
Los Angeles, California	3 hours
Toronto, Ontario	4.75 hours
New York, New York	5.5 hours
Amsterdam, Netherlands	9.5 hours

Tokyo, Japan	9 hours
London (Heathrow), England	9.5 hours
Sydney, Australia	15 hours
Auckland, New Zealand	13.75 hours



### By Road

From the south, Highway 99 is the extension of the Interstate 5 and connects Vancouver with Seattle, Washington and points south. The crossing point is at Blaine, WA, 48 kilometres (30 miles) south of Vancouver. Access from Idaho and Spokane, WA, is via Interstate 97 and 95 respectively. From Alberta, Highway 1, or the Trans Canada Highway, enters BC between Lake Louise, Alberta and Golden, BC. Highway 3, or the Crowsnest Highway, crosses the provincial border at Sparwood in the south, and Highway 16, the Yellowhead Highway, provides access through Jasper, Alberta, and continues across Northern BC to Prince Rupert. Highways 37, the Stewart-Cassiar Highway, and 97, the Alaska Highway, enter BC from the Yukon and Alaska.

Long distance bus service is available to most BC towns from many US and Canadian cities.

British Columbia's borders are approximately:	Drive Time
180 kilometres (110 miles) north of Seattle, Washington	2 hours
194 kilometres (120 miles) north of Spokane, Washington	2.2 hours
382 kilometres (237 miles) west of Edmonton, Alberta	5 hours
160 kilometres (100 miles) west of Calgary, Alberta	2 hours



### By Sea

The Port of Vancouver is one of the busiest ports in Canada, and the fourth largest tonnage port in North America. It's also the leading port for cruises along the Inside Passage to Alaska. Virtually all Alaska bound cruise ships originate or stop in BC and, though Vancouver is the main embarkation point, a growing number of ships also call at Victoria, Nanaimo, Campbell River and Prince Rupert.

It's also possible to travel to BC by ferry. Washington State Ferries provide car and passenger service from Anacortes, Washington to Sidney, near Victoria, BC. Black Ball transport sails a car ferry from Port Angeles, WA to Victoria's Inner Harbour, and the Victoria Clipper runs a foot passenger ferry service from downtown Seattle to Victoria's Inner Harbour. Alaska State ferries sail between southeast Alaska and Prince Rupert, BC.



### By Train

Amtrak provides daily service between Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver with connecting service from points across the US.

Via Rail, Canada's passenger rail network, has train service from points across Canada to Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

Rocky Mountaineer Vacations provides rail tours between Alberta and Vancouver, from Vancouver to Halifax, and from Vancouver to Whistler, travelling along the famed, "Whistler Sea to Sky Climb" route.