

Day 1 Victoria/VBT Bicycle Vacation begins / Victoria City Ride

Meet your VBT trip leaders and the rest of the group at the Hotel Grand Pacific and Spa in Victoria, B.C., at 1:30 p.m. Your trip leaders will be wearing VBT staff garments. Please buy lunch on your own before this meeting and come dressed for bicycling.

Today's Ride Choices

Afternoon: Victoria Warm-up loop — 12 km (7 miles)

What to Expect:

Enjoy an easy ride through Victoria.

Cumulative Distance Range: 12 km (7 miles)

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Cycle along the North Saanich Peninsula / Ferry to Pender Island / Cycle to Hope Bay / Explore Brooks Point Regional Park

Start your morning with a group shuttle from Victoria to Sidney. From here, ride along the Salish Sea to the North Saanich Peninsula and its rural community. Pause at Moses Point where, at low tide, the rocky shores are a beachcomber's delight. Tide pools reveal tiny crabs, starfish, and other sea creatures. Sea lions, seals, dolphins, and the occasional pod of killer whales parade by. Eagles sometimes join in a feeding frenzy off the point.

Later this morning, you'll board a ferry to Pender Island, renowned for its beautiful parks and scenic vistas. Actually, two islands connected by a one-lane bridge, Pender Island is a cyclist's delight with pasturelands, forest-clad hills, and several beaches. Here, you'll spin along winding roads and gently rolling hills to Hope Bay. Later, you'll enjoy lunch featuring tasty local specialties. Continue cycling to the southeastern tip of South Pender Island to Brooks Point Regional Park. Enjoy exploring the exceptional natural surroundings. Follow the trail along the rocky beach to the grasslands with commanding views of Boundary Pass, the Strait of Georgia, the San Juan Islands, and Mount Baker. Cycle back to the resort and unwind in your cozy oasis overlooking Bedwell Harbour. Gather for dinner at the hotel tonight.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Patricia Bay to Swartz Bay — 14 km (9 miles) with a one hour 45-minute crossing | Otter Bay to Driftwood Center — 10 km (6 miles)

Afternoon: Driftwood Center to Brooks Point Regional Park — 15 km (9 miles) | Brooks Point to Poets Cove — 3 km (2 miles)

What to Expect:

Follow the easy bike route and bike path from Sidney to Swartz Bay ferry terminal. Pender Island is a great bicycling destination, but use caution on the island's main paved routes, which are narrow with

hills, some short but steep, and blind corners. The maximum speed limit is 30 mph (50 km/hr). The ride from Port Browning to Poets Cove Resort is along a paved, winding road with gently rolling hills. There is one steep and winding uphill for 0.6 km (0.3 miles) passing the road to the marina in Port Browning. VBT highly recommends that you dismount your bicycle and walk up this hill.

Cumulative Distance Range: 3 — 42 km (2 — 26 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Cycle to Port Browning / Sea kayaking

After a leisurely breakfast at the resort, cycle to Port Browning through an old-growth forest. See why Pender Island is known as the “Hawaii of Canada” due to its sub-Mediterranean climate.

Embark on your sea kayaking adventure. Led by a skilled guide, you’ll paddle through a protected harbor, keeping your eyes peeled for the rich marine life that thrives here. Enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by your leaders featuring locally sourced ingredients.

Afterward, continue cycling to the hotel, where you will have time for leisure. Dinner is on your own tonight at one of the hotel’s bistro and lounges or pick up nibbles at the market and enjoy them by the harbor.

Please note: depending on the group size, you may be split into two kayaking groups, one paddling in the morning and the second in the afternoon.

Today’s Ride Choices

Morning: Poets Cove to Port Browning — 12 km (7 miles) | Sea kayaking (includes safety talk) — 2.5 hours

Afternoon: Port Browning to Brooks Point and Poets Cove — 19 km (11 miles)

What to Expect:

The ride from Poets Cove to Port Browning is on quiet paved roads with some hills. Return to the hotel using the same route, with the option to ride via Brooks Point and enjoy an independent stroll along the coastline and admire the incredible views, perhaps for the second time (you had the opportunity to come here the day prior).

Cumulative Distance Range: 12 — 31 km (7 — 18 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 Ferry to Vancouver Island / Cycle to Oak Bay Beach

This morning, you'll say goodbye to your hosts at Poets Cove Resort and board the ferry to Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island, renowned for its blend of cosmopolitan cities and breathtaking wilderness, a mild climate, and long history. Disembark your ferry at the Swartz Bay terminal and enjoy a tranquil spin along this rail trail to Sea Cider Farm & Ciderhouse. This family-owned, farm-based cidery produces award-winning, traditionally fermented ciders from organically grown heritage apples. Enjoy a tasting and copious lunch in this peaceful setting.

Afterward, follow Lochside Trail towards Oak Bay. As you spin along this trail, admire fields of golden corn and cathedral canopies of green leaves, including Garry Oaks trees—British Columbia's only native oak. You might pause along the way for a Nainamo Bar, a three-layered, no-bake treat named for a city on Vancouver Island. Many varieties exist for you to savor.

On arrival at your boutique hotel, settle into your room and perhaps relax in its heated seaside mineral pools. Tonight's dinner is on your own at one of the hotel's dining venues, at the nearby marina or in downtown Oak Bay.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Swartz Bay to Sea Cider Farm & Ciderhouse — 14 km (9 miles)

Afternoon: Sea Cider farm & Ciderhouse to Oak Bay Beach — 29 km (18 miles)

What to Expect:

Enjoy easy rides today on quiet bike paths or secondary roads. The bike path/trail varies between paved and packed gravel surfaces. The morning ride gently ascends from the ferry terminal to Sea Cider Farm & Ciderhouse. The afternoon ride has some gentle hills and mostly descends to Oak Bay.

Cumulative Distance Range: 14 — 42 km (9 — 26 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Victoria / Butchart Gardens / Celebration dinner

After breakfast, cycle to the city of Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, blending a First Nations heritage with influences of British colonialism. Continue riding around the harbor to Butchart Gardens, a magnificent oasis north of the city and your destination for the day. Built atop a former limestone quarry over a century ago, this landscaping gem was the vision of Jennie Butchart, who dreamed of transforming the site into a grand sunken garden. Over time, the park was expanded with Japanese, Italian, and rose gardens and a children's pavilion, and it is now also a venue for outdoor concerts and other events. Most recently, the cultural heritage of the Indigenous People was recognized with the addition of two totem poles. Today, Butchart Gardens is a city treasure and a National Historic Site of Canada. Enjoy time to explore this tranquil haven and finish your day with a rewarding ride back to the hotel.

You'll have time to relax at the hotel this afternoon before gathering with your fellow travelers for a celebration dinner at the hotel featuring local favorites such as fresh seafood chowder, Wild Pacific halibut, and Saanich organic salad greens.

Today's Ride Choices

Morning: Oak Bay Beach via Victoria to Butchart Gardens — 37 km (23 miles)

Afternoon: Butchart Gardens to Oak Bay Beach — 32 km (20 miles)

What to Expect:

Ride from your hotel on paved roads to Victoria Harbour. There, you'll join the Galloping Goose Trail and cycle north toward Brentwood Bay and Butchart Gardens.

The afternoon's return ride gently weaves through the side streets of Greater Victoria, passing by Elk lake along your way back to the hotel. The ride is mostly flat after three short steep climbs (0.5 km each) at the very outset.

Cumulative Distance Range: 32 — 69 km (20 — 43 miles)

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Travel to Victoria / VBT Bicycle Vacation ends

Your tour ends after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast