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# Time to Travel

DGV's travel trade newsletter

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**Hi there,**

In this edition of Time To Travel: New flight connections from The US and Canada are making Victoria more accessible than ever, Victoria businesses are recognized for world-firsts in sustainability, and the restaurant scene has an exciting newcomer!

## What's Happening

**Victoria named Most Walkable City & Best Mid-Sized City**

In June, TravelAwaits named Victoria as the Most Walkable City in their international rankings (excluding US cities), citing the Inner Harbour as a prime example of the downtown core's walkable design with its pedestrian-only streets, and harbourside walkways. Other attractions were mentioned, like [The Butchart Gardens](#), which is best experienced at a casual pace, topped the list of 16 international destinations, including London, Paris and Venice.

TravelAwaits also named Victoria the Best Midsize City in their international category due to its impressive balance of culture and accessibility. Public parks like [Beacon Hill Park](#), the historic [Fairmont Empress](#) and [The British Columbia Legislature](#), all in a tight downtown core make Victoria stand out in TravelAwaits' Midsize city rankings.



Photo: Beacon Hill Park  
Photo Credit: Matt Shannon Photography

## Victoria's Restaurants Are Making Waves

Victoria serves up a wide variety of culinary options, from on-the-go options to spectacular fine dining. The section below showcases some of Victoria's establishments that are generating buzz in the North American culinary scene.



## **Marilena Café and Raw Bar**

Victoria's newest high-end restaurant, led by Executive Chef Kristian Eligh and Sushi Chef Clark Park. West Coast seafood and sustainable ingredients are served in a beautiful and refined setting. Photo: Marilena Café and Raw Bar/Alison Kuhl

## **Saveur Restaurant**

Chef and Owner Robert Cassels' stunning plating with locally sourced produce is always evolving since Saveur opened nearly 10 years ago. Unsurprisingly, Chef Cassels will be inducted into B.C.'s Restaurant Hall of Fame this Fall. Photo: Saveur

Restaurant/Eli Hart Creative



## **AURA Waterfront Restaurant + Patio**

Amplifying the sustainable initiatives of [The Inn at Laurel Point](#), Aura's executive chef, Ken Nakano is lucky to have an herb garden built into the landscaping of the hotel. AURA has one of the best views of the Inner Harbour, with delicious dishes for brunch and dinner. Ken will also be inducted into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame this Fall. Photo: Inn at Laurel Point

## **Nourish Kitchen & Café**

Known for its "vegetable forward dishes" and its incredible brunch, Nourish is now open for dinner, bringing its delicious vegetarian flair into the evening in their heritage home James Bay location. Photo: Nourish Kitchen & Café/Lyndsey Eden



## New Flights to Victoria from the US and Canada

On May 25, 2023, Kenmore Air's first wheeled flight into Victoria International Airport (YYJ) arrived from Friday Harbor, WA. This marks the start of a twice-daily round-trip service for this 9-passenger flight. Travellers can connect to Seattle/Boeing Field and take a shuttle to SEATAC or connect to Paine Field. This flight connects two companion destinations in Victoria and the San Juan Islands, previously connected by ferry.

Starting September 20, 2023, Porter Airlines will offer a daily round-trip service to Victoria International Airport (YYJ) from Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ). Porter Airlines' state-of-the-art, fuel-efficient Embraer E195-E2 aircraft are an environmentally friendly single-aisle aircraft. These planes are up to 65 percent quieter and up to 25 percent cleaner than the previous-generation aircraft. The passenger-focused design features only aisle or window seating for every passenger, with no middle seats.



Photo: Kenmore Air  
Photo Credit: Destination Greater Victoria

# Product Update

## What's New this Summer

Marilena Café & Raw Bar: Opened June 28, 2023, this is Victoria's newest fine dining establishment features seafood and sustainably sourced ingredients on a menu designed by local executive chef Krisitan Eligh.

No Limit Charters: Departing from the Inner Harbour, this long-standing fishing charter will take you to the best fishing spots in the region to catch your own salmon, prawns and much more.

White Heather Tea Room: Nestled into Oak Bay, this high-tea experience is meticulous and delicious and is a hidden gem of Victoria.

Birds of a Feather Oceanfront BnB: Beautifully located on the Esquimalt lagoon, this B&B is one of the very few accommodations with direct water access, complete with kayaks and paddleboards for guests to use.

Uber: Victoria is now serviced by Uber! A convenient addition to Victoria's transportation services, available through the Uber App.

For more product updates, consult our [What's New Document](#).



Photo: Birds of a Feather Oceanfront B&B  
Photo Credit: Destination Greater Victoria

## Sustainable Spotlight

### **Marine Eco Tour World-First in Victoria**

[Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Tours](#) has become the first marine ecotour operator to become [Biosphere Certified](#) after a rigorous auditing process for all of their activities, both on and off the water. This certification is the culmination of many years of dedicated work to assist in researching and preserving the marine habitat in the Juan de Fuca Strait.

### **Destination Greater Victoria Wins Global Sustainability Award**

Destinations International, the global trade association for destination organizations, announced on June 16, 2023, that Destination Greater Victoria

(DGV) is the winner of its Destination Organization Award for Global Impact. The prestigious award is for the significant contributions DGV has made to the travel and tourism industry over the past four years. This award also came soon after Victoria's Biosphere Certified designation, making it the first urban destination in North America to achieve this status.

## The Sustainability Movement Keeps Growing

The Biosphere certification is being adopted by businesses in all sectors of the tourism industry. Most recently, The Pendray Inn and Tea House has become Biosphere Certified. In the last few months, more Victoria tourism businesses have become Biosphere Committed, the first step towards reaching certification. Victoria Pedal Tours, Victoria Market Collective, Martha's Delectables, Ocean River Sports, Off The Eaten Track Tours, and SpringTide Whale Watching & Eco Tours have all committed and are great additions to any itinerary, particularly for sustainably oriented clients.

[Learn More](#)



Photo: Eagle Wing Whale & Wildlife Tours  
Photo Credit: Valerie Shore

# Upcoming Events & Shows



## **CITAP+ Annual Hidi Nishi Golf Tournament**

**July 19, 2023**

Travel Trade Specialist Bernard Rechico Moisan will be attending the annual CITAP+ Golf Tournament in Tsawwassen Springs, Tsawwassen, BC. He is looking forward to connecting with fellow CITAP+ members! Please email [Bernard](#) if you want to meet him in Vancouver during this visit.

## **Focus Canada Australia**

**July 24 - 29, 2023**

Our Director of Travel Trade and Distribution, Chelsea Smith will be attending Focus Canada Australia, July 24th-29th. She is very much looking forward to this opportunity to connect with our partners across the Pacific. Please get in touch with [Chelsea](#) for more information and any meeting requests.



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**Contact your Travel Trade Reps**



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