

5 Multi-Generational Spring Activities Around Vancouver

Posted on Apr 13, 2017



After one of the longest, chilliest and wettest winters in recent memory, spring appears to be finally returning to Vancouver. There are longer, warmer days with blue skies. It's time to get out and get active. Luckily the region around Vancouver offers plenty of multigenerational activities that involve parents, grandparents and kids.

1. Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival

One of the highlights of springtime in Vancouver is the Cherry Blossom Festival. Rivaling Victoria on Vancouver Island for the sheer number and variety of cherry trees, Vancouver is the perfect place to observe the beautiful blossoms in just about every part of the city. And now there is a festival devoted to *hanami* with activities suitable for the whole family.

Cherry-blossom viewing is in fact an annual event in Japan. The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival gets many of its ideas from *hanami* in Japan: "The core idea of tranquillity and cherry-blossom viewing at night, *yozakura*, is about taking a moment to reflect on the shortness of life, the ephemerality of all things," says one of the organizers of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

"We've taken that, and created an experience around illuminating the cherry blossoms. In Japan, they set up spotlights in the trees; they're basically high-powered bulbs that illuminate the blossoms in white light, or yellowish-white light, so that people can see them."

For More Details

When: Until April 23, 2017

Where: Various locations around Vancouver

Website: <http://www.vcbf.ca/>

Best Places to View Cherry Blossoms in Vancouver

Vancouver's many parks and gardens are ideal showcases for the beloved trees, but there are also a number of urban places to view these pink and white beauties.

- *Queen Elizabeth Park* touts several varieties of cherry trees, which bloom at different intervals from early March to late April
- *Stanley Park* also has rows of blossoming trees near the formal rose garden and the Japanese Canadian WWI war memorial
- *VanDusen Botanical Garden* boasts more than 100 cherry trees, representing 24 varieties.
- For a truly peaceful (and cultural) experience, make sure to visit the *Nitobe Memorial Garden* at UBC, where you'll find colourful cherry trees in a traditional Japanese garden setting.
- Walk beneath a canopy of blooms at the downtown Burrard SkyTrain station, around Vancouver's City Hall at West 12th and Cambie, and along Yew Street in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood