

A taste of Asia in Richmond

Nestled where the Pacific Ocean and the Fraser River meet is Richmond, British Columbia, a thriving multicultural destination offering cultural, heritage, culinary and leisure experiences.

With a population that is 65 percent Asian plus more residents of Chinese ancestry than any other Canadian city, a visit to Richmond is akin to a stop-over in Asia (minus the jetlag). The sights, aromas and sounds are an instant immersion into the hustle and bustle of modern Asian life.

This three-day itinerary was provided by Tourism Richmond.



Photo: Group Tour Media, Ely DeVries

Thragu Monastery is the first traditional Tibetan monastery in Canada.

DAY ONE

Arrive in Richmond, get settled in a local hotel and spend the rest of the day exploring the city.

The Richmond Cultural Center houses the City of Richmond Archives, Richmond Arts Centre, Richmond Art Gallery and Richmond Museum within its walls. The Cultural Centre's rooftop garden hosts outdoor arts events and innovative programs.

Or spend some time at the Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art, a fine art museum established by Canadian author, artist and musician Rufus Lin. The gallery introduces North Americans to some of the most talented artists currently working in Japan.

In the evening, have dinner at the Shanghai River Restaurant, one of the most popular restaurants in the city, serving traditional Shanghaiese cuisine in a wide and open dining room. Handmade noodles are created on-site and the fascinating pulling process can be viewed through the open kitchen.

DAY TWO

After breakfast, head to Steveston, a waterfront village famous for its British-style fish and chips. Steveston is now a destination for west coast dining, shopping and exploring.

Stroll Fisherman's Wharf and watch as lo-

cals barter for the catch of the day including fresh salmon, crab, halibut and shrimp. Go on a whale-watching adventure, nature or historic tour with professional naturalists from April to October to see killer whales, porpoises, sea lions, bald eagles, seals and other wildlife.

Favorite pastimes include shopping at the boutiques sprinkled throughout the village, kite flying at Garry Point Park or savoring the temptations at the dockside restaurants.

For lunch, go to Tapenade Bistro.

Next, visit the Kuan Yin Temple of the International Buddhist Society. On a regular visit, guests can enjoy a Buddhist ceremony,

lectures, meditation classes or a tea ceremony.

Have dinner with a view at Blue Canoe Waterfront Restaurant. The maritime menu features fresh local ingredients including wild salmon and shellfish.

DAY THREE

Head to the Aberdeen Centre and enjoy a traditional Cantonese dim sum breakfast at Fisherman's Terrace.

After breakfast, explore Aberdeen Centre's fusion of East meets West shopping, dining and entertainment. It has eight full-service restaurants, an 800-seat food court, arts and culture performances and the only musical fountain show in Canada, as well as a Lamborghini outlet, a \$2 Japanese bargain shop, authentic herb and tea shops and a store that specializes in luxury toilets.

Next, take a tour of Thragu Monastery to get a taste of a day in the life of a local Buddhist monk.

Spend the evening at an Asian night market. The International Summer Night Market, open May through September, offers more than 200 vendors serving Asian street foods like Hong Kong-style bubble waffles, stinky tofu, beef skewers, barbecued squid and a Chinese version of cotton candy called dragon's beard.



GO
Richmond

SEE

Kuan Yin Temple of the International Buddhist Society
(604) 274-2822
www.buddhisttemple.ca

Rufus Lin Gallery of Japanese Art
(604) 303-6330
www.rufuslingallery.com/e-index.html

Thragu Monastery
(778) 297-6010
<http://thragumonastery.org>

DO

International Summer Night Market
(877) 278-8008
www.summernightmarket.com

SHOP

Aberdeen Centre
(604) 270-1234
www.aberdeencentre.com/en/

EAT

Blue Canoe Waterfront Restaurant
(604) 275-7811
www.bluecanoerestaurant.com

Shanghai River Restaurant
(604) 233-8885

Tapenade Bistro
(604) 275-5188
www.tapenade.ca

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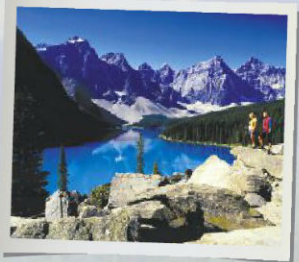
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(888) 297-5673
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Nebraska's Platte River Valley is the great gathering place for sandhill cranes



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Winter 2014
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