

and south 285 miles by 75, twice as big as Massachusetts. Its principal city is Victoria. It is separated from the United States by the Straits of Juan de Fuca and from the city of Vancouver and the Canadian mainland by the Strait of Georgia, Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait.

Vancouver on the mainland is Canada's urban jewel. Skyscrapers, trees and ships' masts are tightly juxtaposed against a background of mountains. It has 1,175,200 people; dozens of elegant new buildings and splendid complexes of shrubbery, shops and offices; hundreds of restaurants, many of them excellent; and the largest and most natural North American Chinatown outside San Francisco. The shining new downtown is within walking distance of Stanley Park, the magnificent 1,000-acre peninsula of towering trees and rolling hills that curves to face the crystal towers across Vancouver Harbour. The Park has fresh greenery all year round, totem poles and a zoo, and its aquarium is probably the best in the hemisphere. It features a performing acrobatic team of killer whale and dolphin.

The rest of the Georgia Strait area is just as dazzling. By rising early in Vancouver, the visitor can go by bus to Horseshoe Bay north of the city, then by ferry across the Strait to Vancouver Island and the city of Nanaimo, then down the island by bus to Victoria, and be back via ferry in Vancouver by nine o'clock at night. The bus ride from Nanaimo south gives the visitor some idea of the island's tree-covered, hilly immensity. One wishing to explore more fully can take a bus to Bamfield on the west coast and hike for six or eight days to Port Renfrew to the south. The trail hasn't changed since it was originally cut to allow shipwrecked sailors to get to civilization. Hikers must move in parties of no less than three and should be in very good shape.

Victoria, the seat of the provincial government, is an elegant, old-fashioned English city. The Empress Hotel may be the grandest nineteenth-century hotel still operating in the Western Hemisphere. Looming above the harbour like a massive grey fortress, it serves high and low teas in the afternoon, has a conservatory attached to one side, a bar called the Bengal Room that



The Lions Gate Bridge connects Vancouver's Stanley Park to the North Shore.

could have been transported from the India of the Viceroy, and scores of lobby shops that sell, among other things, woolens, china, tartans and cashew nuts.

The Upper Coast

Above Vancouver and Vancouver Island is a lacework of offshore islands, waterways, and wavy coastal land that stretches to the edge of Alaska and the bottom of the Yukon. The most conspicuous feature is Queen Charlotte Island which extends northward from the 52nd parallel to the 54th. The island and the coastal harbours have been the sites of flourishing Indian settlements for thousands of years. Today Indians own and man a substantial number of the ships in the province's modern fishing fleets. At the top of the coast is the port and railway terminal of Prince Rupert.

The Northern Interior

Much of the top two-thirds of British Columbia is covered with trees. It is a wild, mountainous country, beautiful and untouched, with a livable climate (no colder than New England) but few people.

The Fraser and the Cariboo

East of the coastal mountains the land rises to the Cariboo range, 3,500 to 5,500 feet high.



Apple picking at Kelowna, B.C.



Queen Charlotte Island salmon fisherman.