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EXPERT EXPAT VANCOUVER, CANADA

BY BELINDA JACKSON

SEE

Stanley Park is a 400-hectare, densely forested public park on the tip of the peninsula of downtown and is surrounded by the water of Vancouver Harbour. Hire a bike and cycle along the Vancouver Sea Wall, which is a 10-kilometre walkway around the park. If you keep your eyes peeled, you could spot sea otters, bald eagles and plenty of racoons as you pedal. Halfway around, Prospect Point Bar & Grill is a great spot for a refreshing drink with incredible ocean and mountain views. In the park, there is a cannon that dates from 1816 and it sounds every night at 9pm – be careful if you’re nearby, it is loud!
See prospectpoint.com

DO

Vancouver is a very walkable city: the sentiment “there’s no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing” rings true here, so bring the right clothing and get out there and embrace the spirit of the Pacific Northwest. In the summer, you can walk a plethora of trails and in the winter hit the slopes for a spot of skiing. There is a beautiful hike on Cypress Mountain to the Bowen Lookout. On a clear day, the view is truly spectacular across Howe Sound, towards Bowen Island.

EAT

The Vancouver food scene is vast and mouth-watering. There are myriad bustling boutique restaurants across the city, which cater to every palate and preference. The fresh, local seafood is

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delicious and is showcased well at Minami, which is quite rightly famous for its aburi oshi sushi.

See minamirestaurant.com

DRINK

My favourite local drink is a Caesar, Canada’s reinvention of a bloody mary. It has the vodka, tomato juice, hot sauce and Worcester sauce, but the special ingredient is clam juice. It was invented in 1969, so this year is the 50th anniversary of the drink. It really is something every visitor to Canada should try. I love the caesar at Carderos – it’s a really great spot for brunch on a Sunday.

See vancouverdine.com

AVOID

Don’t just stay around the downtown shops; make the most of your time and go and see the beauty of the area and the Canadian Rockies. I love Canmore, an authentic mountain town 20 minutes from Banff.

Know an expat who’s in the know? Contact belinda.jackson@fairfaxmedia.com.au

THE EXPAT

KAREN HARDIE

Originally from Sydney, Karen Hardie was working for Canadian luxury train company Rocky Mountaineer in the US, before moving to its headquarters in Vancouver.
See rockymountaineer.com



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