

# INFORMATION & GUIDE

## WELCOME

Step inside and experience British Columbia. Be moved by the rich history of this wild land shaped by earth, ice, water – and people. Since 1886 the Royal BC Museum has preserved and shared the human and natural histories of this province.

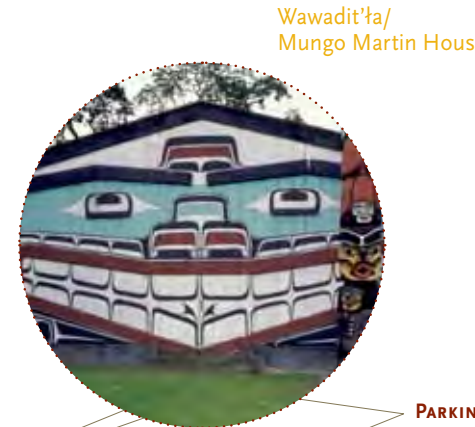
Come on in.  
You're going to find great stories here.



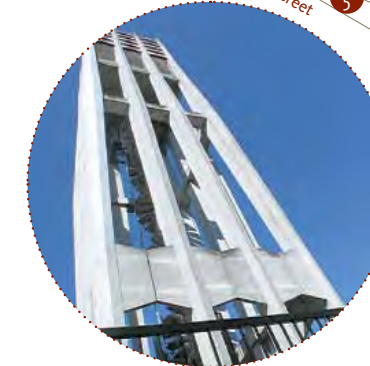
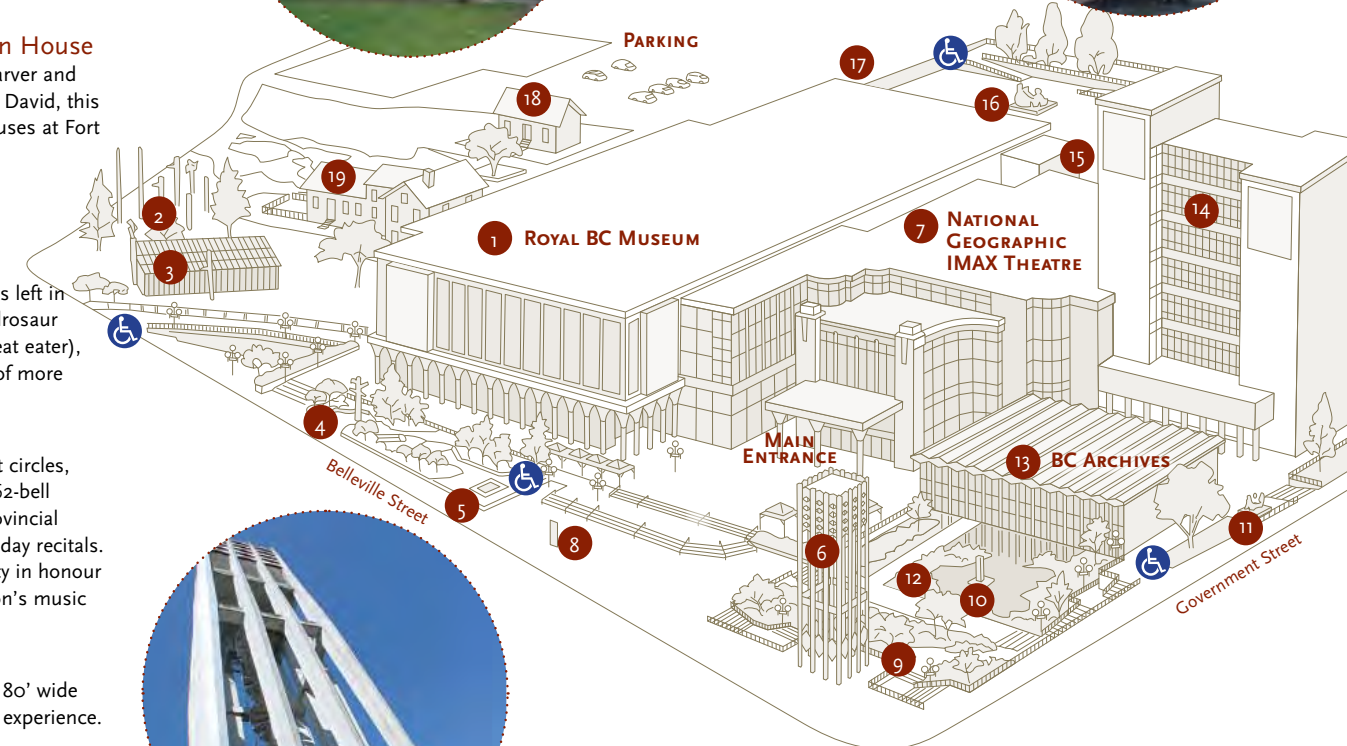
- 8 Spindle Whorl  
Representing a basic tool that was important to the lifestyle of the Lekwungen people, this spindle whorl is one of seven in downtown Victoria that mark places of cultural significance.
- 9 BC Provincial Police Plaque
- 10 Elza Mayhew Sculpture
- 11 Jack Harman Sculpture
- 12 Native Plant Garden  
Wetlands, sand dunes, deserts and rainforests: they're all part of BC – and they're all represented here.
- 13 BC Archives  
Original documents, photos, maps, books and other records, some more than 200 years old. The BC Archives provides public access to BC's history.
- 14 Fannin Building  
Named for our first curator, John Fannin, the tower houses BC's precious collections and is home to our curatorial and collections staff.
- 15 Governor James Douglas Tablet and the Lady Douglas Cherry Tree
- 16 Peter Ochs Sculpture
- 17 Queen Mother's Cornerstone
- 18 St Ann's Schoolhouse  
Built around 1843 in typical Hudson's Bay Company style, the schoolhouse was a convenient living/working arrangement where the Sisters of St Ann held their first classes.
- 19 Helmcken House  
The oldest building in BC still standing on its original site and open to the public, the cabin of Helmcken House was built in 1852 by the Hudson's Bay Company for Dr John Sebastian Helmcken and his wife, Cecilia Douglas. Open seasonally.



Helmcken House



Wawadit'la / Mungo Martin House



Netherlands Carillon

- 1 Royal BC Museum  
Since 1886 the Royal BC Museum has collected, protected and shared the human and natural histories of BC. In 1987, "Royal" status was bestowed upon the British Columbia Provincial Museum.
- 2 Thunderbird Park  
In 1941, Thunderbird Park opened to the public with the first official collection of intricately carved and deeply storied totem poles. Many of the original poles – now preserved in storage – represent First Nations communities across BC.
- 3 Wawadit'la / Mungo Martin House  
Built between 1951 and 1953 by carver and chief Mungo Martin and his son, David, this big house was modelled after houses at Fort Rupert.
- 4 Richard Hunt Pole – Kwakwaka'wakw
- 5 Dinosaur Footprints  
Cast from the original impressions left in BC's Peace River Canyon by a hadrosaur (plant eater) and a carnosaur (meat eater), the prints represent the passage of more than a hundred million years.
- 6 Netherlands Carillon  
Imagine climbing 75 steps in tight circles, then up a 10-step ladder to your 62-bell keyboard. It's exactly what the Provincial Carillonneur does for our live Sunday recitals. A gift from BC's Dutch community in honour of Canada's centennial, the carillon's music delights downtown visitors.
- 7 IMAX Victoria Theatre  
With a screen six storeys tall and 80' wide IMAX provides a truly immersive experience.

### HOURS

The Royal BC Museum is open seven days a week from 10 am to 5 pm. Also open late most Fridays and Saturdays from June through September. The National Geographic IMAX Theatre is open until 7 or 8 pm daily. Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Call or click for current hours.

### BC ARCHIVES

Enjoy BC history right at your fingertips. This is the place to do legal or historical research, or to piece together your family tree. Open Monday to Friday, except statutory holidays.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA'S BEST GIFTS

Want to make a lasting impression? Give the gift of a museum membership or gift card. Pick one up today!

### GET ON BOARD

Help bring BC's fascinating stories to life as a museum volunteer. Pick up an application form at the information desk or call Volunteer Services at 250-387-7902.

### SUPPORT US

A donation to the museum and archives is an investment in British Columbia. You can help protect BC's story today. Call 250-387-3283 or email [donate@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:donate@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca).

### ROYAL BC MUSEUM

On Victoria's Inner Harbour  
675 Belleville Street, Victoria BC V8W 9W2

### STILL WANT MORE?

Call 250-356-7226, or 1-888-447-7977. Drop us a comment card. Check "What's On" – and see what else we do – at

[www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS AND GALLERIES

Displays and activities on the ground floor are free. Upper floor exhibits, galleries and tours are accessible with museum admission. There are escalators and an elevator to get you there.

## AMENITIES

For your convenience and comfort, we offer:

- a **coat and bag check** on the main floor (large items must be checked)
- **strollers** and **baby change areas**
- **wheelchairs, elevators** and **washrooms for the disabled** on every level
- **drinking fountains** on every level
- a **cash machine** near the IMAX theatre
- **pay phones** on the main floor

## GUIDED TOURS

With admission, we offer optional First Peoples, Natural History and Modern History tours.

Want a taste of each gallery? Join the Highlights Tour (1 1/2 hours). Check the sign in the lobby for tour topics and times – or take your own route.

## WHERE TO EAT

Willie's Bakery Museum Café serves up soups, sandwiches, baked goods and specialty coffees. Or enjoy a film-watching snack at the IMAX concession. Please limit your enjoyment of food and drink to the ground floor.

## MUSEUM SHOP

Select from finely crafted items with a distinctly BC flavour, including books – many published by the Royal BC Museum – art, jewellery, music, clothing and toys. Be sure to pick up your copy of the *Exhibit Companion*: brimming with photos and stories about our exhibits.

## IMAX THEATRE

Immerse yourself. Ask about the museum and IMAX combination admission. With wraparound sound and a screen that's six storeys high and 24 metres (81 ft) wide, you'll feel as though you're really there. The last film each day begins at 7 or 8 pm.

## SECURITY DESK

Located on the main level. Our security personnel are ready to help you with lost items, first aid and emergencies.

## WHY ARE SOME EXHIBITS SO DARK?

Our light levels are adjusted to protect valuable artifacts from UV and infrared rays. We strive to maintain the highest possible light levels in all exhibits.

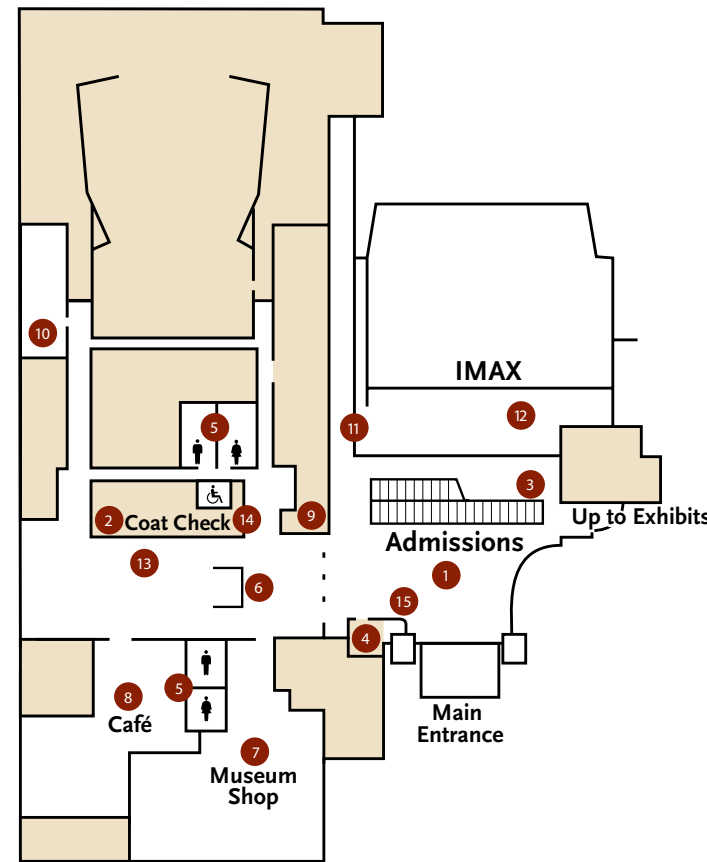
## PHOTOGRAPHY

We welcome you to take photographs for personal use in most of the exhibitions, but we discourage flash photography. Please notice the signs asking you not to take pictures of certain displays. It's tempting to take a photo of the kids next to the Mammoth, but stepping into displays may damage them and will set off alarms. No tripods or monopods, please. Photography and sketching is only for non-commercial purposes.

# 1 GROUND FLOOR

Here's where your exhilarating journey begins. Everything you need to make your visit comfortable is right here. Information desk volunteers and Box Office staff are available to help you plan your visit. Drop your coat and bag at the coat check and head up the escalator or elevator to the museum galleries.

1. Admissions
2. Coat Check
3. Escalator
4. Elevator
5. Washrooms
6. The Big Map
7. Royal Museum Shop
8. Willie's Bakery Museum Café
9. Security Desk – Lost and Found – First aid
10. The Royal BC Museum Foundation
11. IMAX Victoria Theatre Entrance
12. IMAX Snack Bar and Shop
13. Clifford Carl Hall
14. Pay Phones
15. Information Desk



# 2 SECOND FLOOR

– FEATURE EXHIBITION  
– NATURAL HISTORY GALLERY

Ready to embark on an intriguing journey that you'll never forget? Engage your senses in our Natural History Gallery, where you'll experience all that beautiful British Columbia has to offer.

1. Feature Exhibition
2. Natural History Gallery
3. Ice-Age Mammoth
4. Climate Change
5. Coastal Forest
6. Seashore
7. Fraser River Delta
8. Ocean Station
9. Washrooms
10. Escalator
11. Elevator

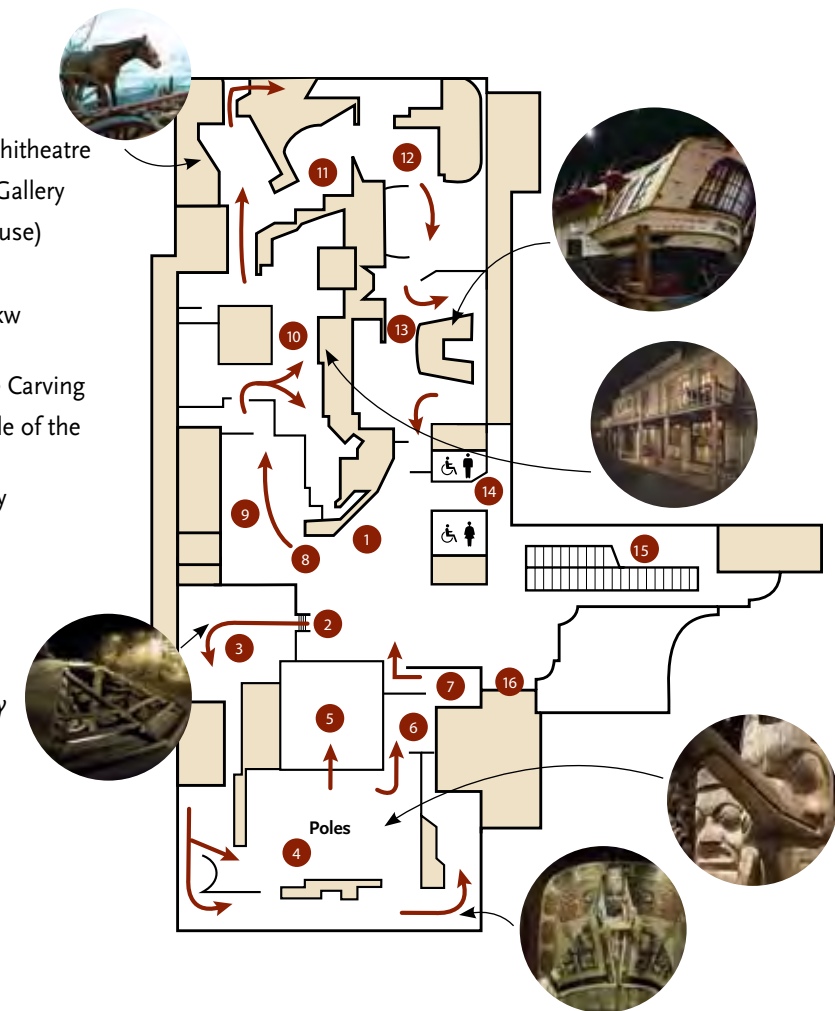


# 3 THIRD FLOOR

– HISTORY GALLERY  
– FIRST PEOPLES GALLERY

Slip back in time as you explore the History and First Peoples galleries. For thousands of years, this wild, alluring landscape has enticed humans to stay. Step this way: we'll introduce you to the different peoples who have called this place their home.

1. Discover Amphitheatre
2. First Peoples Gallery
3. Kekuli (Pit House)
4. Totem Poles
5. Kwakwaka'wakw Big House
6. Haida Argillite Carving
7. Nisga'a, People of the Nass River
8. History Gallery
9. Century Hall
10. Old Town
11. Cannery
12. Water Wheel
13. HMS Discovery
14. Washrooms
15. Escalator
16. Elevator



\* Areas of the Royal BC Museum may be closed for exhibit changes or maintenance. Please check at the information desk or with Box Office for updates. We apologize for any inconvenience.