

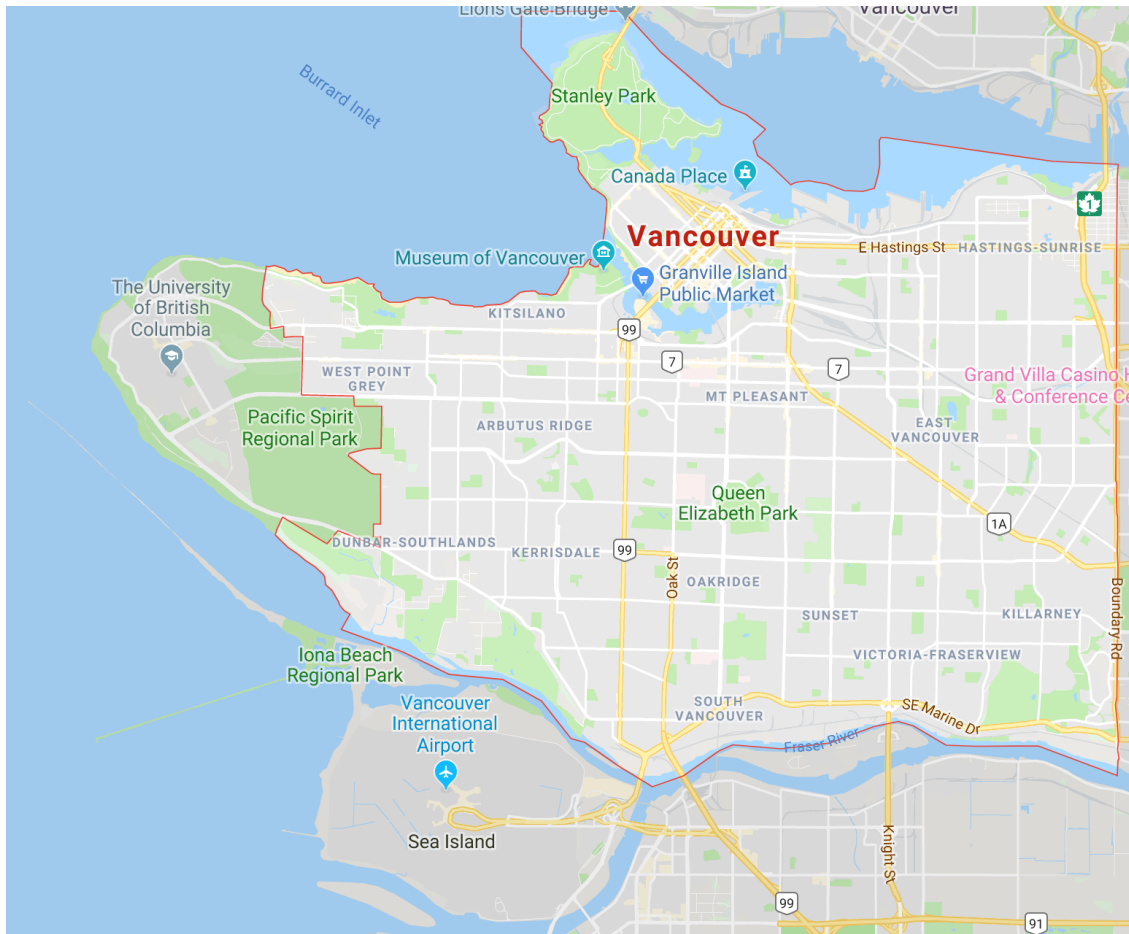
## Things to know about visiting Vancouver

### Where is Vancouver?

Vancouver is situated in Southwestern Canada in the Province of British Columbia and lies on the coast of the Pacific Ocean where it is sheltered from any extreme weather by Vancouver Island.

### The airport to fly into is Vancouver International Airport (YVR)

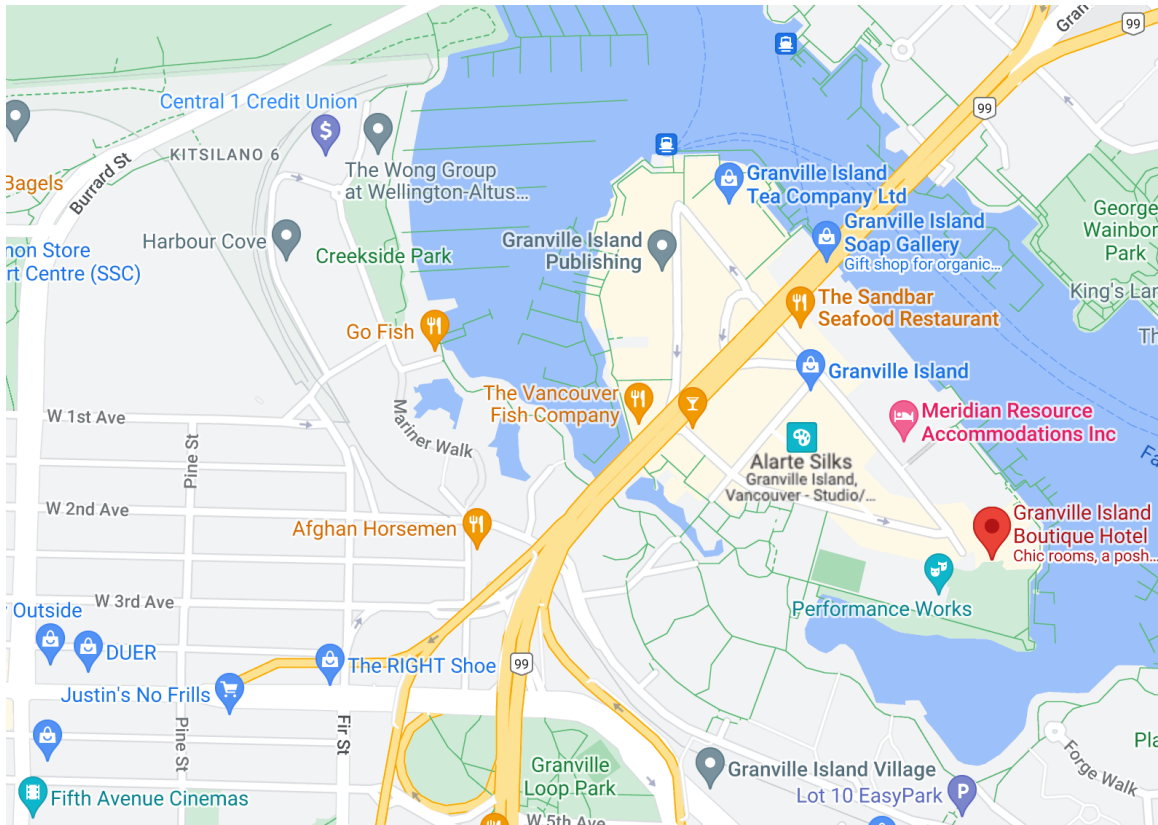
From there, there are 2 main ways to go: take a taxi or take the Skytrain. The taxi will cost \$36 Cdn not including a tip (there is a fixed rate to various areas in Vancouver: no meter is used.) For Skytrain information, check the Translink website: [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca).



### The host is the Granville Island Hotel at Granville Island

Located at 200-1333 Johnston Street on Granville Island. We will be in the Bridge Room.

Parking is free on Granville Island until 11am and there are spots right beside the hotel, but not at the hotel. From 11 am to 6 pm, parking costs \$2/hour weekdays and \$3/hour on weekends.



## Getting around

There are ride-sharing companies in B.C., now:

Uber: <https://www.uber.com/global/en/cities/vancouver/>

Lyft: <https://www.lyft.com/rider/cities/vancouver-bc>

And, there are plenty of taxis and buses.

Yellow Cab – 604-681-1111

Black Top Cabs – 604-731-1111

For bus and Skytrain information check the Translink website: [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca).

There are also Zipcar, Evo and Modo car share programs. There is even a bike-sharing system called Mobi ([www.mobibikes.ca](http://www.mobibikes.ca)). Obviously if you're planning on renting a car, bringing your driver's license is essential, and even if you're not renting a car a driver's license is usually a good form of ID to keep on you if you'd rather not carry your passport around. If you are staying downtown, there are small ferries ([Aquabus and False Creek Ferries](#)) that can bring you across the water to Granville Island. The operating hours for the ferries vary depending on the time of year.

## Passports and Visas

Even our American cousins will need a passport to get into Canada! Also, know that if you have any criminal convictions on your record, even a driving under the influence conviction, you will need a special visa to get into Canada. Please look into this BEFORE you get on the plane, as we have had students turned back at the border or the arriving airport. This web site has more information: [www.ezbordercrossing.com/the-inspection-experience/prior-criminal-offenses/#.WCz2ineZPowok](http://www.ezbordercrossing.com/the-inspection-experience/prior-criminal-offenses/#.WCz2ineZPowok).

If you are coming to Canada by plane, you will need either an eTA (electronic travel authorization) or a visa. Visitors from certain countries will be required to have a visa regardless of which mode of transportation they are using to come to Canada. More information can be found on this government website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/entry-requirements-country.html#visaExempt>

### **What's the weather like in Vancouver?**

Vancouver is renowned as being quite a wet city, though in actual fact out of all the major Canadian cities, it is the second driest (after nearby Victoria)! Compared to the rest of Canada, Vancouver has a very mild climate, year round, and rarely drops below freezing. Snowfall is also quite a rare occurrence in the city. The typical daytime high temperature in the summer is a pleasant 25C (77F) and during the height of summer rain is uncommon, not really starting until around October.

### **The geography of Vancouver**

Known for its amazing scenery, Vancouver is a city which certainly takes advantage of its great location. Sandwiched between the Pacific Ocean and the Coastal Mountain range gives the city a stunning backdrop, whilst on the North Shore just minutes from Downtown Vancouver is the North Shore Mountain range with ski resorts and spectacular views back towards the city and beyond.

### **Time**

Vancouver is in the Pacific Standard Time Zone, which is 8 hours behind GMT. There are times of the year when this reduces to 7 hours because the clocks change for summer far earlier than they do in the UK, for example.

### **Money & Currency**

The currency used in Vancouver is the Canadian Dollar, and credit cards are accepted just about everywhere. Travellers cheques, especially if in Canadian dollars are accepted in most places too. ATM's (Cash Machines) will be available at all banks and you can usually withdraw money from them using either your credit or debit card, if the latter has a Cirrus symbol on it. ATM's in public places usually have a much higher usage fee, so should be avoided if possible.

### **Health**

It's not a nice thought when you're on holiday, but things can go wrong. If you're a non-Canadian resident you must have adequate health insurance cover because although Canada has a very good health service, there are no free services for non-residents and charges can be very high.

### **Travel and Health Insurance**

Both travel and health (medical) insurance are strongly advised for your visit to Vancouver. Often you can buy packages which include both – travel, or trip insurance, obviously covers you for things like cancellation, lost baggage, repatriation and the like (though this will vary with each individual policy), and medical or health insurance covers you for medical care should it be required.

### **Why Should You Buy Travel Health Insurance?**

Because the Canadian healthcare systems are primarily in place for residents, non-residents requiring treatment must pay for the services they receive. These medical services are not cheap and fees can easily add up to thousands of dollars as you are charged for every little thing. Like all insurance covers it's a gamble – do you pay out and find everything is fine, or do you risk not paying out, only to find you then have a bill for thousands of dollars?! We recommend you bite the bullet and arrange health insurance at the time of booking your vacation.

## **Clinics in Vancouver**

There are a number of walk-in clinics that you can use in Vancouver for non-emergency treatment. Here are a couple that are close to the studio.

### **Seymour Health Centre**

1530 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver  
604-738-2151

### **Granville Medical Clinic**

2578 Granville Street, Vancouver  
604-733-4700

### **Maple Medical Clinic**

103 – 2025 West Broadway, Vancouver  
604-730-9769

### **Care Point Medical Centre**

1123 Davie Street, Vancouver  
604-915-9517

### **Yaletown Medical Clinic**

1296 Pacific Boulevard, Vancouver  
604-633-2474

Also, try online **Skip the Waiting Room** web site to see what the wait times are at various walk in clinics: [bc.skipthewaitingroom.com/city/vancouver](http://bc.skipthewaitingroom.com/city/vancouver)

## **Emergency Rooms in Vancouver**

For emergencies and life-threatening illnesses, you should visit an emergency room. If you don't have your own transport or the situation is major, phone 911 for an ambulance. Three emergency rooms in Vancouver can be found at:

### **BC Children's Hospital**

BC Children's Hospital is located in the West Side, at 4480 Oak Street.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
604-875-2134

### **St Paul's Hospital**

St Paul's Hospital is located in the West End, at 1081 Burrard Street.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
604-806-8686

### **Vancouver General Hospital**

The Vancouver General Hospital is located in the West Side, at 855 W 12th Avenue.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
604-875-4995

## Specialized health care

### Physiotherapist:

Katrina Sovio at Alaia Physiotherapy  
310 - 997 Seymour Street, Suite, Vancouver  
604 812 4286  
info@alaia.ca  
www.alaia.ca

Dean Smith or Jen Macpherson at West 4th Physiotherapy  
216 - 2211 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver  
604-730-9478  
info@west4thphysio.com  
[www.west4thphysio.com](http://www.west4thphysio.com)

### Osteopath:

Natalie Bestbier at Focus Integrated Health  
245 - 2184 West Broadway, Vancouver  
604-652-7719  
info@focusintegratedhealth.com  
www.focusintegratedhealth.ca

Sarah Clinton at Vancouver House of Osteopathy  
435 - 2184 West Broadway, Vancouver  
778-989-6787  
[osteo@sarahclinton.ca](mailto:osteo@sarahclinton.ca)  
www.sarahclinton.ca

Ian McCarthy at Jericho Integrated Clinic  
3733 West 10th Ave. (West 10th and Alma St.), Vancouver  
604-368-8799  
<https://jerichohealth.ca>

### Chiropractor:

Dr. Chelsea Berry at Qi Integrated Health  
1764 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver  
604-742-8383  
[info@qiih.ca](mailto:info@qiih.ca)  
www.qiintegratedhealth.com/chiropractic  
www.drchelseaberry.com

### Acupuncture:

Luc Ortelli at Marpole Physiotherapy Clinic  
220 - 8337 Granville Street, Vancouver  
604-263-4414  
[Info@marpolephysio.com](mailto:Info@marpolephysio.com)  
[www.marpolephysio.com](http://www.marpolephysio.com)

Dr. Plum Yi  
407 - 4538 Kingsway, Burnaby  
778-861-3999

### Myofascial treatment:

Mark Finch at Fluent RMT  
3641 West 29<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver  
604-222-9505  
appointments@fluentrmt.ca  
www.fluentrmt.ca

## **Bringing into the country**

### **Food Products**

Canada is very strict on visitors bringing in perishable and food products. Do not attempt to bring with you meat, eggs, dairy products, honey, fresh fruits and vegetables from anywhere else in the world.

### **Plants**

The importation of plants is also prohibited due to the potential for carrying disease.

### **Other Prohibited Items**

Many firearms as well as dangerous goods, mace, pepper spray etc. are prohibited. If you are intending to bring anything like this with you to Vancouver, check the restrictions thoroughly before leaving home.