

# VANCOUVER ISLAND'S HOTELS AND RESORTS: THE REOPENING

Some of the island's nicest accommodation options are restarting with exceptional offers

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Phase 3 of B.C.'s Restart Plan is great news for everyone. We now can pack our bags, mindful of "respectful travel," which includes being considerate, safe and responsible at all destinations.

As a way to welcome back locals and travellers alike, some Greater Victoria hotels and Vancouver Island resorts are inviting visitors to reconnect with their favourite places, or reconnect with friends and family at new places. You'll likely be amazed at how much there is to explore and discover just round the corner.

Here are some of our favourite places:

## FAIRMONT EMPRESS

The iconic Fairmont Empress rolled out its red carpet last month. Also back: the Willow Stream Spa and, outside on the grounds, thousands of bees in their hives. Take the world-renowned Tea at the Empress outside, maybe to the park or beach, and for the first time, the grand dame has licensed "Lunch on the Lawn" this summer, complete with blanket, pillows, and a picnic basket full of delicious lunch — sip a classic Empress 1908 gin or enjoy a round of champagne. Hats are optional.

Fairmont's new Island Holiday includes special wellness guides to the city, including bike trails, a city-wide scavenger hunt and other adventure-based, fresh-air activities. **Bonus:** Canadian residents' rate starts at \$349. It includes complimentary parking, late 5 p.m. checkout and a free room upgrade. With the late checkout, locals can essentially book a night and stay the weekend!

## HOTEL GRAND PACIFIC

For your peace of mind, because it adheres to "safety first," the Hotel Grand Pacific no longer offers room service. (The hotel is happy to drop clean towels and linens and pick up used.) The friendly staff and family atmosphere are the same, and the Athletic Club is open (except the steam room), with its 25-metre indoor pool, hot tub, kids' splash pool and spacious gym.

The Pacific Restaurant is closed for now, but how about dining on your private balcony surrounded by ocean air and some amazing views? **Bonus:** The Grand Pacific is offering a "Back in Business" package with 20 per cent off the regular rate, complimentary parking and \$10 F&B voucher per person. Or "Reconnect with Victoria" and get a \$75 Visa reward card with booking of two nights or more. Starting at \$309.

## HOTEL RIALTO

This 1911 heritage building has modern and tasteful rooms with beds — deep mattresses, bamboo linens — that guarantee a good sleep. Amenities include in-room espresso, continental breakfast, flatscreen television, wireless internet and full access to Studio 4 Athletics. It's just steps from Chinatown and the Inner Harbour. Next door at Vintage Spirits, insightful staff are eager to help you choose wine from an extensive selection. **Bonus:** a welcome-back package offers two nights at 10 per cent off with the third night free, and complimentary continental breakfast.

## OAK BAY BEACH HOTEL

The Oak Bay Beach Hotel is back with a new restaurant: Faro Handcrafted Pizza offers takeout service and delivery. Maybe enjoy the food by the heated seaside mineral pools — open for hotel and spa guests. The Snug has reopened for takeout and dine-in service for guests and/or reservations only. In addition, its David Foster Theatre has physically distanced events, such as VIP Summer Screening, a series of classic movies and new releases every Tuesday all summer. Guests will have an exclusive experience as all of their spaces allow for a limited number of people.

Start the day with outdoor sunrise yoga, maybe followed by a round at one of the many local golf courses or explore the West Coast hiking or with a picnic at a nearby beach.

**Bonus:** B.C. residents rate starting from \$299.



A family takes the world-renowned Tea at the Empress outside.



Hotel Grand Pacific's renowned Athletic Club is open.



The beds at Victoria's Hotel Rialto guarantee a good night's sleep.



Oak Bay Beach Hotel offers heated seaside mineral pools.



Amenities at retro-chic Hotel Zed include rotary-dial phones and yo-yos.



Kingfisher Oceanside Resort & Spa features sandstone caves.



Wild Renfrew Seaside Cottages is only two hours away from Victoria.

## HOTEL ZED

Fun and funky in-room amenities at Victoria's retro-chic Hotel Zed include rotary-dial phones, free comic books and yo-yos.

There's even a rentable Airstream trailer in the backyard. Guests can reserve the pool and hot tub time to promote social distancing and also allow thorough cleaning after each time slot. Zed has a big grass backyard for picnics and lounging. Exterior corridors and curbside check-in means you can park and go straight to your room.

With only three storeys, take the stairs and avoid elevators. Groceries, supplies or meals can drop off your order at your door.

**Bonus:** Bachelor Pad rooms from \$119.

## OUTSIDE VICTORIA: SOOKEPOINT OCEAN COTTAGE RESORT

Combine fully-equipped luxurious cottages with breathtaking panoramic ocean views from floor-to-ceiling windows, private access to East Sooke Park hiking trails and the Juan de Fuca Provincial Park and you have SookePoint Ocean Cottage Resort. Guests often feel they're in a world of their own — cottages are actually on the edge of the ocean and some look directly down to "Orca Alley." Amenities include full gourmet kitchens in each cottage, and some have deep soaker tubs.

**Bonus:** starting at \$259 (based on double occupancy in a Studio Suite) for July.

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