

A GUIDE TO MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS IN NANAIMO

Stretched along the central east coast of Vancouver Island, on the Traditional Territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, is the city of Nanaimo, the heartbeat of the Island. Here, we set the pace of “Island time” with ferry horns, sea lion barks and the quiet roar of float planes passing above. With a population of approximately 92,000 we offer all the amenities of a city alongside the island charm.



NANAIMO'S WHITE-GLOVE SERVICE

Nanaimo stakeholders across sectors are committed to creating an unforgettable event experience for you and your organization. We can assist you with pre-event support such as event bid support, official letters of support, on-site visitor servicing and post event reports.

Tourism Nanaimo

✉ meetings@tourismnanaimo.com

Nanaimo Visitor Centre

✉ info@tourismnanaimo.com
☎ 1-250-751-1556

Nanaimo Hospitality Association

Dan Brady
✉ danbrady@shaw.ca
☎ 1-250-753-2241

Vancouver Island Conference Centre

Sales and Events Team
✉ meetings@viconference.com
☎ 1-250-244-4050

CONFERENCE HOSTING FACILITIES

Vancouver Island Conference Centre

Chuck Loewen, General Manager
✉ gm@viconference.com ☎ 1-250-244-4061
🌐 www.viconference.com



- 38,000 ft² of versatile meeting space in downtown Nanaimo.
- Full-service conference facility with culinary team on site dedicated to locally sourced and inspired cuisine
- Contemporary design, floor-to-ceiling windows, and ultra-smart technology
- In-house preferred A/V provider specializing in hybrid conferences and global broadcasting capabilities
- On-site parking facilities and fully wheelchair accessible

Coast Bastion Hotel

Dave McQuinn, General Manager
✉ d.mcquinn@coasthotels.com ☎ 1-250-753-6601
🌐 www.coasthotels.com/coast-bastion-hotel



- 13,000 ft² of meeting and event spaces
- Most event spaces have natural light and ocean views
- Full-service culinary team on site
- State of the art technical equipment
- Fully wheelchair accessible event spaces, parking and hotel rooms

Best Western Dorchester Hotel

Julie Park, General Manager
✉ gm@dorchesternanaimo.com ☎ 1-800-661-2449
🌐 www.dorchesternanaimo.com



- 6,000 ft² of meeting and event space
- Capacity to accommodate groups of up to 150 guests
- Small to medium sized board rooms available
- Catering on site

The Grand Hotel Nanaimo

Susie Sirri, Operations
✉ susie.sirri@thegrandhotelnanaimo.ca ☎ 1-250-758-3000
🌐 www.thegrandhotelnanaimo.ca



- 4,000 ft² of event hosting space
- Outdoor garden event space
- Fine dining restaurant and whiskey bar on site
- Parking facilities on site



ALTERNATIVE EVENT SPACES

Vancouver Island University Campus

VIU offers a variety of different facilities including small classrooms all the way up to lecture theatres. The Conference and Event Services team can assist in coordinating housing, A/V, and food service needs.

Bethlehem Centre

The stunning lakefront setting is ideal for retreats, meetings and small conferences, and maintains the values of inclusiveness, positive spirit, healing and peace.

Nanaimo Museum

The Nanaimo Museum gallery provides space for pre-conference receptions, opening ceremonies, and much more. A perfect ice breaker location to learn about the history of Nanaimo and network with your friends and colleagues.

The Port Theatre

As Nanaimo's premier performing arts venue across from the waterfront walkway, the Port Theatre can provide a unique setting for Lobby concerts, tradeshows or reception events.

Nanaimo Golf Club

Overlooking the 18-hole championship golf course and Departure Bay, the Nanaimo Golf Club brings together the best in scenery, amenities, food and service.

ACCOMMODATION

Nanaimo has more than 1,260 rooms available through 27 different operators ranging from well-known hotel brands to independently owned properties. Nanaimo offers accommodation options for every price range.

Coast Bastion Hotel

Located in the heart of downtown Nanaimo, the Coast Bastion Hotel offers recently renovated accommodations, bright and modern rooms with many offering ocean views. Minnoz Restaurant and Lounge, a business and fitness centre, Studio 31 Salon and conference and banquet facilities all on site.

ROOMS: 170

Best Western Dorchester

Only steps away from Nanaimo's beautiful waterfront walkway, this heritage boutique hotel is designed for both business and leisure travellers. The hotel also features a business and fitness centre, spacious rooftop guest patio, and onsite restaurants.

ROOMS: 70

The Grand Hotel Nanaimo

The Grand Hotel features boutique rooms located in Nanaimo's north end. Onsite facilities include the Grand Cru Restaurant, offering West Coast fusion cuisine and is home to Nanaimo's only Whisk(e)y Bar with a selection of over 150 whiskies.

ROOMS: 70

The Inn on Long Lake

Situated in North Nanaimo, the newly renovated Inn is a short drive to downtown. The lobby reflects Indigenous west coast culture and every room features a prime lake view.

ROOMS: 62

PRE AND POST-CONVENTION ADVENTURES

The city not only boasts ample outdoor adventures, it is also home to world-class artists, performers, cultural heritage, with an ever-growing culinary and craft beverage scene.

Saysutshun, Newcastle Island Provincial Park • Accessible only by foot passenger ferry, the island offers a unique natural, historical, and cultural experience for visitors. Guided cultural group tours as well as traditional Salmon BBQ's can be booked in advance.

Boutique Shopping • Quaint, eclectic and filled with undeniable charm, downtown Nanaimo and the Old City Quarter is a playground of local restaurants, bakeries, clothing boutiques, gift shops, art galleries, and specialty stores.

Nanaimo's Harbourfront Walkway • The shining jewel of downtown Nanaimo. Enjoy a stroll along the fully accessible walk way watching out for resident wildlife like seals, otters, herons, or grabbing lunch on the docks.

The Nanaimo Bar Trail • Features over 35 businesses serving visitors their creative interpretations of the famous treat. From the classic dessert bar, to martinis, ice cream and even pedicures, there is something sweet for everyone.

Craft Beverages and Culinary Tours • Foodie getaways, craft beer tours and artisan distillery experiences are offered all year round. Our operators are happy to accommodate requests for custom experiences.

Dinghy Dock Pub • Canada's only floating pub. A short 10 minute ferry ride gets guests to Protection Island where they can enjoy drinks and food while sitting on the water overlooking Nanaimo.

HOW TO GET HERE

Whether travelling by ferry, car, plane or helicopter, the journey to Nanaimo is a beautiful one!

BC Ferries

Nanaimo can be reached by two of BC Ferries' main routes from the lower mainland, each can accommodate vehicle traffic including busses and large transport vehicles.



Tsawwassen (South of YVR) to Duke Point
2 hours



Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) to Departure Bay
1 hour and 40 minutes

Fly to Nanaimo

With regular scheduled flights from Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto, the Nanaimo Airport (YCD) provides easy access to Vancouver Island. In addition, Nanaimo is serviced by three float plane carriers and HeliJet to connect Nanaimo to YVR, Vancouver Harbour and the Sunshine Coast on scheduled and chartered flights.

Easily Accessible by Car



1 hour and 45 minutes
North of Victoria



1 hour and 35 minutes
South of Campbell River

