



ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walk This Way – AIBC Architectural Walking Tours Begin on Canada Day

Get a unique glimpse into Victoria's past and present, featuring three local neighbourhoods



Victoria, B.C. — Did you know the Vernon Block in Victoria's historic Old Town was built with actual samples of terracotta and brick products from Charles Vernon's pottery company? Learn more fun facts about the architecture of B.C.'s capital city on the Architectural Institute of British Columbia's (AIBC) Architectural Walking Tours. Starting on Canada Day, tours will run on Saturdays and Sundays throughout July and August. Participants can explore three key Victoria neighbourhoods with expert guides and gain insight into some of Victoria's most iconic buildings.

"Educational, entertaining and suitable for all ages, the AIBC Architectural Walking Tours are an engaging way to experience the unique architecture of B.C.'s capital city by foot. Whether you're a tourist or a local, you'll see a side of the city never seen before," says Mark Vernon, CEO, Architectural Institute of B.C.

Victoria tours include Canada's oldest Chinatown, historical Fort Victoria and James Bay—the childhood home of famed Canadian artist Emily Carr. Architectural Walking Tour participants will experience:

1. **Chinatown:** Explore public plazas and back alleys from Yates Street to Waddington Alley and Johnson Street, the heart of Old town. Inspect surrounding examples of 1880's architecture, Market Square and Fan Tan Alley.
2. **Fort Victoria:** Learn about the development of Victoria, from a small Hudson's Bay company fur-trading fort to the provincial capital it is today. Follow the outline of the fort walls along Government Street, and learn about the architectural conservation and re-use strategies employed over time.
3. **James Bay:** Discover James Bay, Canada's oldest residential neighbourhood on the West Coast and learn about the historic homes of some of Victoria's most influential

residents. Explore houses built in architectural styles from Queen Anne to Arts & Crafts, many of which have been designated as Provincial Heritage Sites.

Architectural Walking Tours are \$10 and run throughout July and August. Tours are available on weekends at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Victoria. Space is limited, so the public is invited to visit aibc.ca/tours, email tours@aibc.ca or call 1.800.667.0753 (toll free in B.C.) to book a tour today!

Tours begin outside the Tourism Victoria Visitor Centre at 812 Wharf Street. Participants are asked to arrive 15 minutes before departure time. A distance of 3 kilometres (2 miles) is covered over a period of 1.5 to 2 hours.

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Social Media Messages

- AIBC Architectural Walking Tours start Canada Day! Explore 3 key #Victoria neighbourhoods with @AIBCCConnected: aibc.ca/tours
- Learn about Chinatown, Fort Victoria or James Bay with @AIBCCConnected's Architectural Walking Tours! aibc.ca/tours #YYJ #ExploreBC

Photos, Interviews, Media Passes and Backgrounder Available

- For a complimentary media tour, contact Communications Specialist Elizabeth Woff
- [High-resolution photos](#)
- [Backgrounder](#)

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About the AIBC

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) is an independent, professional self-governing body established in 1920 by provincial statute (the *Architects Act*) with the mandate to regulate the profession of architecture on behalf of the public.