



ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Media Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Explore Victoria with AIBC Architectural Walking Tours Starting July 7!

*For locals and tourists alike, the tours provide a unique perspective into Victoria's past and present.*



Did you know that the gas lights found in Trounce Alley are over 125 years old and still in use? Learn more facts about Victoria's built environment and how architects shaped the city on the Architectural Institute of British Columbia's (AIBC) Architectural Walking Tours. Participants can explore three key neighbourhoods with expert AIBC guides throughout July and August, beginning July 7.

“The AIBC is excited to be offering the Architectural Walking Tours again this summer, featuring six Vancouver and three Victoria neighbourhoods. The tours are designed to engage and educate participants about the value of architecture and its integral role within society, in a fun and social setting,” says Mark Vernon, CEO, Architectural Institute of British Columbia.

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 are 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](http://aibc.ca/tours) to book a tour today!

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#### **Photos, Interviews, Media Passes and Backgrounder Available**

- For a complimentary media tour, contact [Elizabeth Woff, AIBC Communications Specialist](#)
- [High-resolution photos](#)
- [Victoria Architectural Walking Tour 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.