

Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2019

AIBC Architectural Walking Tours are Back Featuring New “After Hours” Addition

Architectural Walking Tours begin July 6 and run until the Labour Day weekend, with additional evening tours offered for those who want to explore Victoria’s unique architecture after work hours

Did you know that the restoration of the Parliament Buildings in Victoria took more than ten years to complete, and included revitalizing much of the original woodwork, stained glass and plaster?

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia’s (AIBC) Architectural Walking Tours offer an opportunity to learn about Vancouver’s built environment and how architects shaped the city. Participants can explore three neighbourhoods with experienced AIBC guides throughout weekends in July and August, beginning July 6. New this year, the AIBC is offering “After Hours” tours, which will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. every second Thursday.



Photo Credit: Dllu/Wikimedia

“With the addition of the evening walking tours, we hope people will experience the built environment in a way they never have before,” says Mark Vernon, CEO, Architectural Institute of British Columbia. “The tours are an engaging and social way for the public to learn about the architectural history of Vancouver and Victoria. As the provincial regulator of the profession, this is an excellent opportunity to share the role regulated architects play in influencing the cities where we work, play, live, or visit,” says Vernon.

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 1880s 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 per person and run throughout July and August. Tours are available Saturdays and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Victoria, with After Hours tours taking place every second Thursday from 6–8 p.m. Space is limited, so the public is invited to visit aibc.ca/tours/victoria 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 body with the mandate to regulate the profession of architecture in the interest of the public through a responsive framework. Established in 1920 by provincial statute through the *Architects Act*, the Institute establishes standards for entry into the profession of architecture, ensures compliance and provides services to support registrants in maintaining credentials and overall professionalism. For more information about the AIBC, please visit aibc.ca.