

Township of  
**ESQUIMALT**



# ESQUIMALT

THE PLACE TO BE



Esquimalt, BC, Canada

PHOTO: Rose Creative Co.

# Why Visit Esquimalt

Esquimalt is a community rich in history, natural beauty, and vibrant local life, located just minutes from downtown Victoria. The community is located within the traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>sepsəm (Kosapsam) Nation & Songhees Nation, who have called these lands home since time immemorial.

Esquimalt is an ideal destination for those seeking a mix of outdoor activities, community gatherings, and culinary experiences. You can take in breathtaking, unobstructed views of the Olympic Mountains at Saxe Point Park or 360-degree vistas from High Rock Park. Let your dog explore four off-leash community parks or your children play at one of several playgrounds or cool off at the splash pad.

This community boasts an eclectic selection of restaurants, cafes, and pubs, offering everything from specialty coffee roasted in Esquimalt to award-winning dishes made with local ingredients. With a strong connection to its naval and harbour history and a host of annual gatherings like the Esquimalt Farmers Market and Buccaneer Days, Esquimalt is the place to be.



WHY ESQUIMALT - THE PLACE TO BE

## Esquimalt's Location: CLOSE, CONNECTED, COASTAL



### REGIONAL TRAVEL AT A GLANCE

**Victoria → Esquimalt:** 5-7 minutes by car or transit

**Nanaimo → Victoria/Esquimalt:** ~1.5 hours by car

**BC Ferries:** Regular service between Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island

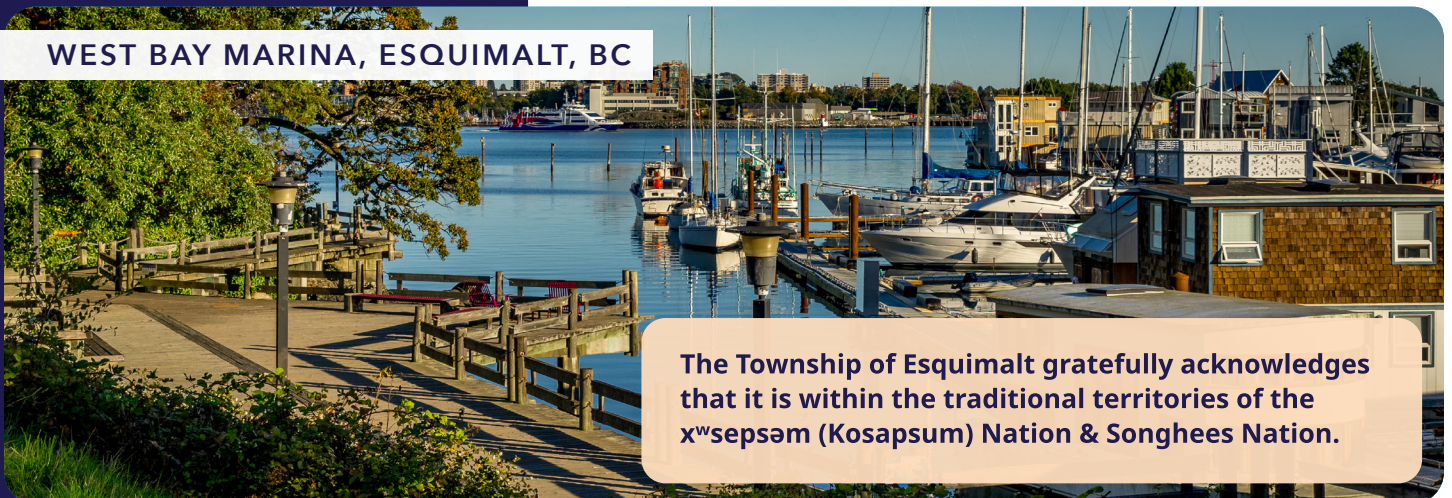
**Washington State ferries:** Clipper (Seattle) + Coho (Port Angeles)

**Air access:** Victoria International Airport + harbour planes (Harbour Air, Kenmore Air and Seair)

#### Island travel:

Well-connected via bus, rideshare, bike networks, and major roadways

### WEST BAY MARINA, ESQUIMALT, BC



The Township of Esquimalt gratefully acknowledges that it is within the traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>sepsəm (Kosapsam) Nation & Songhees Nation.

PHOTO: Deb Price Photography

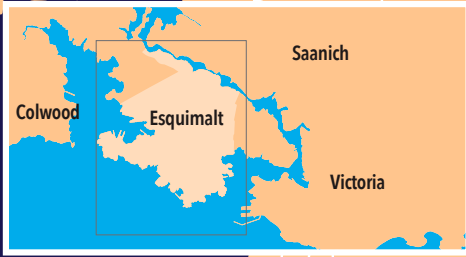


**EXPLORE  
THE BEAUTY  
OF NEARBY  
BEACHES AND  
OCEANFRONT  
PARKS**



**SAXE POINT PARK, ESQUIMALT, BC**

PHOTO: Rose Creative Co.



**PARKS**

- 1. Captain Jacobson
- 2. Esquimalt Gorge
- 3. Highrock
- 4. Macaulay Point
- 5. Memorial
- 6. Saxe Point

**GREENWAYS**

- 7. Phil Ross
- 8. Rockcrest
- 9. Wurtele

**RECREATION FACILITIES**

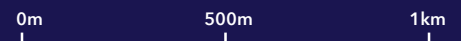
- 21. Bullen Park - Archie Browning Sports Centre, Bullen Field, Esquimalt Teen Centre, Lacrosse Box, Recreation Centre
- 22. Brodeur Field
- 23. Lampson Park

**WATERWAYS/BEACH ACCESS**

- 10. Arm
- 11. Dellwood
- 12. Denniston
- 13. Forshaw
- 14. Foster
- 15. Glen Vale
- 16. Kinver
- 17. McNaughton
- 18. Nelson
- 19. Sturdee
- 20. Songhees Walkway

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- 24. Buxton Green
- 25. CFB Esquimalt/Dockyard
- 26. Rosemead House
- 27. Fleming Beach - Boat Ramp/Float Docks
- 28. Gorge Bridge - Victoria Harbour Ferry Stop
- 29. Gorge Vale Golf Course
- 30. Lampson Street School
- 31. Municipal Hall/Public Library
- 32. Naval and Military Museum
- 33. St. Paul's Church
- 34. Town Square
- 35. West Bay Marina - Victoria Harbour Ferry Stop
- 36. Veteran's Cemetery - NHS
- 37. Salish Sea RV Park and Marina

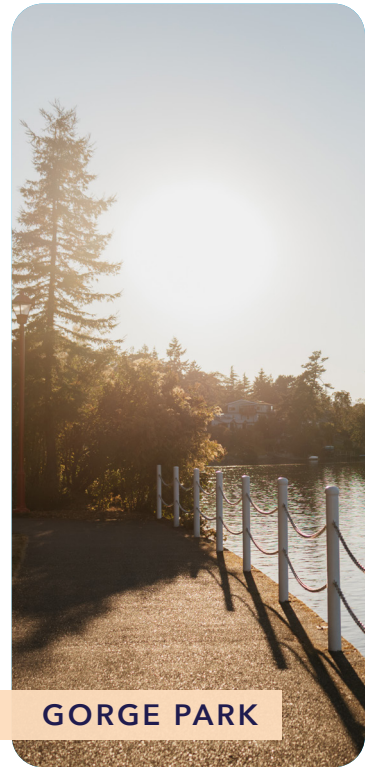




WHY ESQUIMALT - THE PLACE TO BE

# Outdoor Activities | Beaches, Parks, and Trails

Esquimalt offers a mix of parks, trails, oceanside walkways, playgrounds, and urban pathways that make exploring the outdoors easy and accessible for everyone. From oceanfront meadows that lead to rugged beaches to natural rock climbing spaces beside picnic spots, the eclectic mix of outdoor spaces will meet your needs.



GORGE PARK

PHOTO: Rose Creative Co.

## TRAILS & VIEWPOINTS

### 1 Saxe Point Park 🐾☀️

Enjoy unobstructed views of the Olympic Mountains across the Salish Sea from this oceanfront space featuring gardens, wooded trails, picnic spaces, and a wedding lawn.

### 4 Esquimalt Gorge Park 🐾

Featuring the new Japanese-inspired Gorge Park Pavilion, this park offers access to the Gorge Waterway, playgrounds, waterside trails, and picnic areas.

### 7 High Rock Park 🐾☀️

This park rises to 72 m above sea-level and offers 360 degree views of Esquimalt and neighbouring communities. High Rock Park features natural landscapes including glaciated granite outcroppings.

### 2 Macaulay Point Park 🐾☀️

Including Fleming Beach and Buxton Green, Macaulay Point Park is popular with rock climbers, bird watchers, dog-lovers, and historians. The park contains the remnants of military ramparts and bunkers.

### 5 Esquimalt Adventure Park

The Esquimalt Adventure Park includes two children's playgrounds, a large (seasonal) splash pad, and outdoor active park with fitness equipment. This park includes a changeroom, ample seating, and picnic spaces.

### 8 Memorial Park

Established in 1924 to commemorate the soldiers who fought in the First World War, Memorial Park serves as a gathering space for locals, and includes playgrounds, shaded areas, and ample seating.

### 3 Songhees Walkway ☀️

Explore the harbourfront walkway that connects Esquimalt with Victoria, following the northern shore of Victoria's Inner Harbour.

### 6 Captain Jacobson Park 🐾

Adjacent to the historic home of Captain Jacobson, this park offers views of West Bay Marina and Victoria's Inner Harbour.

### 9 Anderson Park

Small in size, Anderson Park offers a West Coast inspired children's playground area with a picnic table and benches.

## DOG-FRIENDLY 🐾

Esquimalt has five parks with leash optional areas for dogs. It is important to maintain control over your dog at all times, leash them when entering and exiting leash optional areas, and pick up their waste. Dogs are not permitted in school grounds, lacrosse boxes, sports fields, playgrounds, skate parks, and gardens. Please obey all signage. Leash optional parks include:

- Saxe Point Park
- High Rock Park
- Macaulay Point Park
- Esquimalt Gorge Park
- Captain Jacobson Park

## SUNSET SPOTS ☀️

Look to the west for stunning year-round sunsets over the Sooke Hills and Salish Sea. Turn your gaze east to see the hues of twilight over downtown Victoria. These spots provide perfect locations for sunset appreciation:

- Songhees Walkway
- Macaulay Point Park
- Saxe Point Park
- High Rock Park



WHY ESQUIMALT - THE PLACE TO BE

# Explore, Dine, Shop, & Unwind

Esquimalt offers a vibrant mix of locally owned businesses that reflect the character, creativity, and everyday life of the community. From welcoming cafés and neighbourhood pubs to wellness studios, specialty retail, professional services, makers, and personal services, there is plenty to discover whether you are visiting for the day or settling in for a longer stay.

Spend time exploring small shops, creative studios, and essential services woven throughout Esquimalt's neighbourhoods. Book a treatment at a spa or wellness clinic, browse local makers and specialty retailers, meet friends for coffee or a meal, or enjoy the convenience of businesses that support daily life, work, and play.

To discover the full range of businesses in Esquimalt, including dining, shopping, services, wellness, and professional offerings, visit the business directory at: [WhyEsquimalt.ca/business-directory](https://www.WhyEsquimalt.ca/business-directory)



ROSEMEAD HOUSE



**ESQUIMALT ROASTING COMPANY**

PHOTO: Rose Creative Co.



## SHOP LOCAL

Discover locally owned shops offering essentials and unique finds. From neighbourhood grocers to gift shops, specialty retailers, and markets highlighting Island-made goods, Esquimalt's small business community reflects the creativity and character of the Township.



## EAT & DRINK

Whether you're grabbing a morning coffee, enjoying a family meal, or meeting friends for a drink, Esquimalt offers a diverse mix of cafés, global flavours, pubs, bakeries, and craft beverages. Many spots use local ingredients and offer a warm, community-minded experience.



## WELLNESS & PERSONAL CARE

Stay active, recharge, or treat yourself. Spas, salons, fitness studios, healthcare practitioners, and wellness providers offer everything from massage and skincare to physiotherapy, yoga, and personal training, all within a walkable community setting.



## LIVE & PLAY

Recreation is woven into daily life. Find community programs, sports facilities, playgrounds, arts activities, and events that welcome residents and visitors alike. From drop-in classes to family-friendly recreation centres, Esquimalt makes it easy to stay active and connected.



## STAY & GATHER

Esquimalt offers a welcoming place to stay with the newly renovated, award-winning Rosemead House—a boutique-style hotel featuring refined rooms, an award-winning on-site restaurant, spa amenities, and easy access to the waterfront. Community gathering spaces are found throughout Esquimalt, including venues connected to local events and seasonal markets such as the Esquimalt Farmers Market, which provide flexible, community-oriented places to meet, celebrate, and connect.



## CREATE & EXPERIENCE

Explore Esquimalt's creative side through local art spaces, makers, cultural programs, studios, and community arts initiatives. These spaces support learning, creativity, and cultural expression across all ages.



## WORK & SERVICES

From professional services and offices to financial, legal, and technical support, Esquimalt is home to a wide range of businesses that support work, life, and local enterprise within a compact, easy-to-access community.



**ESQUIMALT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

PHOTO: Rose Creative Co.



### Looking for something specific?

Explore the full range of local businesses, services, and places to eat, shop, and stay through the online Business Directory at **WhyEsquimalt.ca**





WHY ESQUIMALT - THE PLACE TO BE

# Annual Celebrations & Community Gatherings

Connections are what make a community, and Esquimalt is the place to be throughout the year. With community celebrations, sporting events and activities, and opportunities for community to gather and celebrate, the annual events calendar does not disappoint.



## BUCCANEER DAYS

Buccaneer Days began as a civic celebration in the 1930s, and has been taking place annually ever since. Leaning into its naval and harbour history, everyone is invited to dress (and talk) like a pirate. Held in and around the Archie Browning Sports Centre.

## ESQUIMALT FARMERS MARKET

The Esquimalt Farmers Market is a vibrant community gathering featuring fresh local goods, live music, and food trucks. Held in local parks April-Sept and inside the Rec Centre Sept-Dec, it brings people together to celebrate community creativity, food, and culture.

## RIBFEST

Save your appetite for one of the largest community gatherings in Esquimalt. Held each year in September, Esquimalt Ribfest supports several local charities through entrance donations to the Esquimalt Fire Department.

## ESQUIMALT 5K AND KIDS FUN RUN

Held annually in April, this 5K course takes participants through Macaulay and Saxe Point Parks, providing multiple ocean views along the way. The 1KM Fun Run for kids is also available.



## STORYFEST

Storyfest has been supporting youth literacy programs for more than 20 years, with an annual storytelling event. Hosted with the Greater Victoria-Esquimalt Public Library each September.



## TD VICTORIA JAZZ FEST

Held over two weeks in June, TD Victoria JazzFest has a main stage in Bullen Park in Esquimalt bringing together local and international jazz musicians.

## CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

Kick off the holiday season with the annual light-up event held at Archie Browning Sports Centre and along Esquimalt Road. Featuring musical performances and a visit from Santa, this event is held in early December.

## FREE MUSIC, ARTS, & PARKS

Discover free music, arts, and park events happening in the community year-round.

Scan the QR code to visit the Esquimalt Community Calendar.





WHY ESQUIMALT - THE PLACE TO BE

# Our History

Since time immemorial, the x<sup>w</sup>sepsəm (Kosapsum) Nation & Songhees Nation have called the lands of Esquimalt home. The name Esquimalt is derived from 'Es-who-y-malth', a lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən word that translates to 'place of gradually shoaling waters'. Esquimalt remains home to both Nations today.

With a rich naval history, and home to the Canadian Navy's Pacific Fleet headquarters – CFB Esquimalt – this community has long been shaped by its connection to the ocean.

A settler population primarily used the wide open spaces along the shores of Esquimalt as farmlands, due to its proximity to the growing city of Victoria and the need for additional space. This proximity and the connections between Victoria and CFB Esquimalt supported the construction of numerous homes and new neighbourhoods as the community expanded. Over time, parks and gathering places also took shape, including what is now Gorge Park, home to the restored Japanese gardens that reflect the area's early cultural landscape. This community growth eventually led to the Township of Esquimalt being incorporated in 1912.



PHOTO: Deb Price Photography



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**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE HISTORY OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF  
ESQUIMALT BY VISITING  
THE MUNICIPAL  
ARCHIVES LOCATED AT  
103-1249 ESQUIMALT RD**

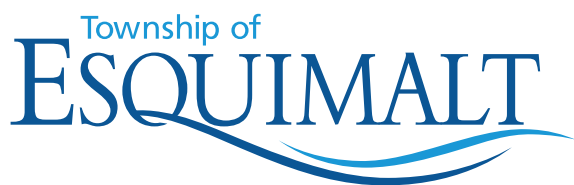
WhyEsquimalt.ca

## Connect

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