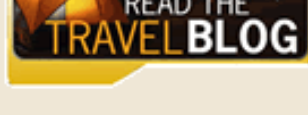
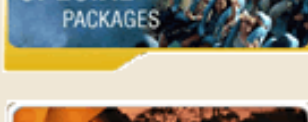




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The Travel Tip Box

Do you absolutely hate driving in strange places? Are you navigationally challenged? If like so many others you just can't seem to find where you're going, quit wasting time. Invest in a portable GPS even if your car has one. You can take a portable GPS anywhere and never be lost again. A GPS helps stave off panic, because you're literally never lost whether you fail to take the right turn or not. We recommend you purchase one that includes street names in the directions. Sometimes when all it says is "turn right" — and many possible turns exist — you can get confused fast. Recommended GPS units include Garmond and Magellan.

Travel Guiders — Pack Your Bags with Organized Style

Welcome to this edition of *Passages*. The sun in the greater Sacramento area has come out to welcome the new blossoms and brighten our lives. Many people may look at the sunny day and start to feel an "itch" to travel and get out. If you're getting "itching" but now is not a good time to getaway, refocus your energy on planning that great summer adventure. You can never plan too early for a vacation — especially during prime travel time when the kids are out of school and everyone else has hit the road too. If you plan to visit any of the major National Parks now is absolutely the time to make plans and ensure you have your reservations for the resorts, hotels or campgrounds on your wish list. Do consider hiring a travel agent to make your dream vacation a reality and avoid coordination hassles and essentially making yourself the manager of your own time off — that doesn't sound fun at all.



Before we launch into today's great feature story on Western Canada travel adventures, we want to remind you that **Travel Guiders has moved its venue**. Below please find the appropriate information and join us as we discover the hidden secrets and strategies to pack your bags in the most efficient, organized and expedient manner possible — and find out

how to avoid forgetting those essentials like underwear!

March 4, 2010

Travel Guiders

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Raley's Grocers

6845 Douglas Blvd.

(916) 791-8015

Cost: FREE

Open to the general public

You can also join the online community, by clicking on [Meet-Up](#).

P.S., If you really want to read about the hidden travel adventures both regionally, nationally and internationally, don't forget to follow our [blog](#). And the World Less Traveled website contains updates and travel news. So please feel free to check out by [clicking here](#).

Best,
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Great Western Canada Dream Vacations

Want to go to the "foreign" country this summer, but don't want to fly overseas? Stick to the North American continent and visit Western Canada. Many people are unaware of the beauty of Canada's western provinces. While the western side covers many provinces and territories, you might consider narrowing your trip to an ocean-side journey along the coastline and near lush forests. Western Canada is very different than the Eastern side where you have a more Victorian feeling. The Western side harkens more toward European architecture and rustic architecture similar to California Craftsman. Remember, the further north you go the cooler the climate and along the shoreline it rains quite a bit — you're not that far from Seattle, which we all know is damp nearly all year long until about August, which is the driest month of the year.

Vancouver Island



Many Americans confused Victoria the capitol city of British Columbia as Victoria Island when it is Vancouver Island, which is about a four-to-six-hour ferry ride from Seattle. A trip to Vancouver Island is a marvelous ride by Ferry where you get to go through the San Juan Islands on your way to Vancouver. You will be

in for a long ride so be sure to bring snacks or be prepared to purchase something to eat on your ferry. You can elect to drive your car directly onto the ferry or walk on, catch a taxi or rent a car. If you leave very early in the morning from the Seattle area you can easily fall asleep on the ride and wake up to see the sunrise. You will need a passport to enter Canada, so please be sure to bring yours.

If you don't want to drive in the city, follow maps or listen to GPS tell you where to go, simply catch a taxi into the city. It is a typical city and you will find it's a great walking city too. Most of the main attractions are centrally located. It will feel great to walk, but keep in mind the weather can be overcast and rain quite a bit. So, you may not want to stroll the city on a rainy day. Lots of interesting government buildings to see with their European influence and architecture. The domes on many of the government buildings were copper that turned a gorgeous sea-foam green.

Want to stay close to the harbor, a stunning and grand place to stay is the world-famous Fairmont Empress owned by the government, which Americans are not used to. The Fairmont Empress looks like a grand luxury mansion that sits right on the harbor shores with spectacular views of the harbor and city. This four-star hotel costs a reasonable rate between \$110-\$150 American dollars, which is a real steal considering the facilities are first-rate and include Internet, business center, swimming pool and other facilities.

Get up early, stroll the city, and be sure to stop at one of the local cafes. The scones, completely authentic and unique from the ones they sell here in the states, will absolutely light up your taste buds. You haven't tasted a scone unless you have one of these cake-like pleasures. Keep in mind that Canada has a strong French and English influence. So tea time is another important ritual. You will want to taste some of the wonderful tea blends that offer European flavor. Try your English Breakfast Tea with a splash of milk. Tea and scones for breakfast taste amazing together and fill you up for more adventures.

Next up you absolutely must take a taxi, bus or car to visit the world-famous and incredible [Butchart Gardens](#) located in Brentwood Bay 14 miles north of Victoria. No words exist to describe the magnificent gardens where various plant species and flowers vary with the change of the seasons. In spring, you will see an abundance of colorful late winter/early spring flowers, including daffodils, tulips and cherry blossoms. As summer comes on new flowers bloom and the garden becomes its own transitional paradise, always changing and presenting new colors and experiences. It will take several hours to stroll the gardens, and you should consider stopping for high tea in the main house. At the Butchart Gardens, high tea is a genuine English experience where you can eat and enjoy small sandwiches and cakes to your heart's content.



SPRING PRELUDE

Vancouver



Now made famous by the Winter Olympics, Vancouver makes a great Canadian destination — especially if you would like to camp and hike around the area. Vancouver gives you a nice mix of city and forest much like you would experience in Seattle. You can drive right into Vancouver, which is stretched out along the coast line and stop and park.

Families should consider taking an RV tour and camping along one of the many campgrounds found in the greater Vancouver area. You can either drive in and find a campground to your liking — or not risk it and make sure you have a reservation.

You might consider staying at a campground resort where the amenities and activities are centrally located in the campgrounds. One interesting resort located on the shore line is [Willow Tree Resort](#). It offers numerous camp spots to choose from and you can have family members stay in one of several cottages if you need some space in your RV. Family activities include cook-offs, fireside sing-along, swimming, outdoor sports, and plenty of hiking and exploring. This campground is very family-oriented and by no means an upscale resort; but if you're in it to really "get dirty" and stay somewhere by the ocean, do consider it.

If you want to explore more of the city, be aware that you will need to drive. The city is spread out with different enclaves and areas to explore. Some key points of interest include Bloedel Floral Conservatory, another lush indoor garden with over 400 species of plant life and Brockton Point where you can see the colorful and abundant totem poles carved by many of the Nation People. The totem poles are Canada icons and amazing to see in person.

Plan your Canadian vacation now by sending Elisa Taylor an e-mail at etaylor@worldlesstraveled.com. If e-mail Elisa and have her book your vacation between now and March 15, you will be put in a drawing to win a free carry-on travel suitcase.