

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2014

# Spring Has Sprung In Vancouver



Think pink: dramatic skies highlight spring cherry blossoms in Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver

Every year, once the bite of winter eases, something truly breathtaking materializes: the blossoming of 40,000 cherry trees spread across metro Vancouver in parks, city streets and even whole neighbourhoods. With spring just around the corner, the city will be showcasing this spectacular burst of frothy, pink blossoms which signal renewal and a new beginning. Spring has truly sprung!

If you're thinking of taking some pictures, here are some "insider" locations (downtown Vancouver) for the best photo ops of cherry blossoms (which are at their optimum in the month of April):

1. Grosvenor Plaza (Alberni & Thurlow Streets) just in front of The [Urban Tea Merchant](#)

2. **Stanley Park** (at the Japanese Memorial near the **Aquarium**)

3. **Burrard SkyTrain Station** (at Burrard & Melville Streets; behind the Hyatt Hotel)

4. And of course, around the corner from the Auberge Vancouver Hotel, just outside in the courtyard don't miss a magnificent grouping of flowering cherry trees!

If you are wanting to partake in some of the annual **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** events, here are a few suggestions:

**Cherry Jam Downtown:** A free event which includes an outdoor concert featuring kabuki dance and taiko drums as well as Japanese culinary demos.

**Sakura Days Japan Fair** at The **VanDusen Gardens:** A two day event celebrating the cultural arts and traditions of Japan which includes sake and food sampling, tea ceremonies, haiku readings, ikebana (flower arranging) as well as other Japanese arts and crafts.

**Sakura Illumination Tour:** For a night time view of the blossoms, take a tour of this night time light show installation starting at **Granville Island's** Sutcliffe Park. (behind False Creek Community Centre)

**Bike the Blossoms:** If you are feeling more energetic, join Velapalooza for some free family-friendly fun! You'll be riding at a leisurely pace, stopping for lunch at the food trucks near Kensington Community Centre and then finishing the tour at Trout Lake where there will be performances, music and interactive games.

Photo Credit: Yokee Li