

Dining

Victoria has a wide selection of restaurants and cafes. From casual to sidewalk bistro cafes, Asian and European cuisines, trendy little joints and much more, we've compiled a small list to get you started:

Chinese: Don Mee

538 Fisgard / (250) 383-1032 / DonMee.com

Pretty upscale, but superior quality food. Their daily dim sum is delicious, a lot of fun, and a super value.

J&J Wonton Noodle House

1012 Fort Street / (250) 383-0680 / jjnoodlehouse.com

Licensed to serve alcohol. Touted as Victoria's best Chinese food- Expect a crowd on weekends.

Wah Lai Yuen

560 Fisgard Street / (250) 381-5355

It doesn't get much more authentic than this little Chinese eatery. Very large servings and extremely good value. Double happiness!

Hope Key

1313 Douglas Street / (250) 382-6048

For the best, and possibly cheapest, noodle boxes in town. Just past the 7 Eleven on Douglas St. It's the place that has the bubble tea. Tell Brenda you're from the hostel and she will make sure your box is overly full!

Vietnamese:

Pho Vy

772 Fort Street / (250) 385-5516

Some of the best Pho in town!

Vietnam Garden

1515 Cook Street / (250) 384-3033

Some of the best Pho in town!

Vietnam Village

1715 Government Street / (250) 995-1530

Some of the best Pho in town!

Pho Hoa

765 Fort Street / (250) 477-2356

Pretty good Vietnamese Noodle Bar. On Saturdays you can get noodle soup until three in the morning. Oh Yeah.

Japanese:

Azuma Sushi

615 Yates Street / (250) 382-8768 / AzumaSushi.com

These guys just underwent a major renovation and expansion too. Check it out!

Tamami Sushi

509 Fisgard Street / (250) 382-3529 / TamamiSushi.com

A great Japanese food place in the heart of Chinatown! Check it out!

Japanese Village

734 Broughton Street / (250) 382-5165 / JapaneseVillage.bc.ca

Great steak and sushi made for you while the chefs juggle knives and do sleight of hand.

Kaz Sushi

1619 Store Street / (250) 386-9121

Reasonable prices and very high quality, plus it's a nice cozy location right on Store St.

Thai: Siam

512 Fort Street / (250) 383-9911

Delicious food, huge menu, and great prices.

Sook Jai Thai

839 Fort Street / (250) 383-9945

One of the better Thai Restaurants in the city.

Baan Thai

1117 Blanshard Street / (250) 383-0050

Highly recommended by several Ocean Islanders.

East Indian:

Da Tandoor

1010 Fort Street / (250) 384-6333

The best Indian food in town, expect to wait a little while for your order though.

Maharaja

637 Johnson Street / (250) 388-5450

If you actually catch this place when it's open (and they don't seem to follow any schedule, not even their own posted hours) and if you don't mind the hit-and-miss service, they offer a decent Indian buffet for pretty cheap. And you can sit in there and watch funny Indian music videos on TV.

Spice Jammer

852 Fort Street / (250) 480-1055

We've heard great things about this place.

Carribbean:

The Reef

533 Yates Street / (250) 388-5375 / thereefrestaurant.com

Curries, rotini, jerk anything and fish, it's kinda like a short vacation to the tropics, bamboo bar and everything!

Jamaican Jerk House

607 Pandora Avenue / (250) 383-5344

Amazing food and great people. Friday nights start with an all-you-can-eat jerk chicken buffet, followed by a live reggae band. Fully licensed and they make their own (booze free) ginger beer.

Greek:

San Remo's

2704 Quadra Street / (250) 384-5255

Great Greek food, a little pricey.

Eugene's

1280 Broad Street / (250) 381-5456

If you like good Greek food, you'll like Eugene's. Souvlaki, gyros, spanakopita and they're licensed! Not badly priced either and they do take-out.

Mexican:

Hernandez

735 Yates Street, located inside the Arcade.

Great, cheap mexican (their tacos are excellent!) Bring cash, it's all they accept.

Delicado's

1911b Oak Bay Avenue / (250) 595-9984

799 Fort Street / (250) 381-3354

Delicious, healthy mexican food. Huge portions, reasonably-priced.

La Fiesta

1001 Douglas Street / (250) 383-6622

Can you say "SALSA BAR"? A personal favourite, it's fast, pretty cheap and close to town. We recommend the chimichange, (it's like a deep-fried burrito)

Local Favorites/Other:

Ferris' Oyster Bar & Grill

536 Yates Street / (250) 260-1824 / Ferrisoysterbar.com

Ferris' is a classic default for dates, birthday parties, quiet dinners because of its enormous fusion-style menu and great courtyard patio to enjoy your food and drinks on.

Pagliari's

1011 Broad Street / (250) 386-1662

Delicious Italian cuisine in an unforgettable Victoria-meets-New York atmosphere. Very popular, be prepared to wait.

Lady Marmalade

608 Johnson Street / (250) 381-2872 / LadyMarmalade.ca

For modern and hippy-friendly food. Open for breakfast and lunch every day and they do dinner on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Try their French Toast, it's amazing!

Rebar Modern Food

50 Bastion Square / (250) 361-9223 / RebarModernFood.com

Healthy, pricy, mostly vegetarian food. Great juices.

Blue Fox Café

#101-919 Fort Street / (250) 380-1683

This is a local favorite, known for it's great food and large portions. It gets especially busy during the weekends for breakfast, expect long lines then.

Local Favorites/Other continued:

Mo:Le

554 Pandora Avenue / (250) 385-6653 / MoleRestaurant.ca
Mo:Le is fine dining for the Raw Food, Vegan and Vegetarian. Pricy, but healthy and original, it's worth a visit.

Italian Food Imports

1114 Blanshard Street / (250) 385-7923
Great sandwiches and paninis. Their \$5.25 pasta lunch specials are absolutely fantastic. Avoid going there around 12pm because you will be lining up on the sidewalk. Oh and check out their selection of cheese!

John's Place

723 Pandora Avenue / (250) 386-1662
Just down the street from Ocean Island, John has created a welcoming and casual place for fabulous breakfasts any time of the day or night. They have more than breakfasts, but they serve one of the best in the city. Their warm baskets of bread are non-stop and delicious. Affordable and licensed.

Floyd's Diner

866 Yates Street / (250) 381-5114
This funky restaurant is only 3 blocks away and their all-day breakfasts and bottomless soups are absolutely amazing (I recommend the Flapjack Cadillac!). With writing on all of their walls this place has got one of the coolest atmospheres in town. They're always busy so if you don't want to wait check out their second location in the Super 8 Hotel on Douglas Street (2915 Douglas). It's a bit of a walk but it's less busy.

Fine Dining:

Brasserie L'école:

1715 Government St. / (250) 475-6260 / www.Lecole.ca
Award winning French cuisine. Voted best restaurant in the city and always voted one of the three best on the island.

The Wild Saffron:

506 Pandora Ave / (250) 361-3310 / SwansHotel.com/bistro.php
4 diamond rated restaurant, known as a dining experience and miraculously, affordable.

Vista 18:

740 Burdett Avenue / (250) 382-9258 / Vista18.com
This swanky place offers panoramic views from its location on the 18th floor of a hotel, full breakfast, lunch and dinner menus and live Jazz.

Coffeehouses/Cafes:

Mirage Coffee

1122 Blanshard Street / (250) 384-4980
One of the cooler coffee shops downtown. From the decor to the way they get you a fresh water once you're done your coffee, it's just classy.

Coffeehouses/Cafes continued:

Cafe Mela

784 Humboldt Street / (250) 383-0288
Old World / Vienna style cafe. This is the place to go for high tea if the high tea at the Empress Hotel doesn't suit your budget. And it's just as good! They also have good sandwiches and great organic coffee and cappuccino.

La Dolce Vita

160-911 Yates Street / (250) 386-7733
Known for their amazing espresso. Fantastic coffee and some cafe-style food.

Serious Coffee

623 Yates Street / (250) 386-7115
Great coffee and teas, fairly good selection of fairly good quality pastries, free wireless and LAN internet access!

Solstice Café

529 Pandora Avenue / (250) 475-0477 / SolsticeCafe.ca
The best hot chocolate in town, local live music and delicious local goodies make this place unique.

Demitasse

1320 Blanshard Street / (250) 386-4442
Only a block from OI is an artsy cafe with excellent coffee and a stunning breakfast and lunch menu to boot! Their spinach salads are amazing, although they're a bit pricey!

Bean Around The World

533 Fisgard Street / (250) 386-7115
The area's hippest, most intimidating, polite and reserved intellectuals are here in their full glory, getting high on caffeine. Their coffee rules and their soups are fantastic.

Fat Phege's Fudge Factory

134-560 Johnson Street (in Market Square) / 1.866.383.3435
Fudge is Love... Their slogan is absolutely true. But they have more than just fudge! Like mini fried doughnuts, nougat, chocolate, candied apples and the list goes on! Got a sweet tooth? This will fix it up just fine until your dentist gets a look at it!

Quick and Cheap:

Brickyard Pizza

702 Yates / (250) 995-2722
You can order by the slice or order an entire Thick as Brick pizza. And they're licensed too!

Ghetto Slice (dollar slice, etc.)

There are quite a few dollar pizza shops on Douglas St., from the 1300 block on up.

The Joint Pizzeria & Deli

1219 Wharf Street / (250) 389-2226
Damn fine. Your choice of organic whole wheat crust or organic white crust, vegan.

Fish and Chips:

Fairfield Fish & Chips

1277 Fairfield Road / (250) 380-6880
This lovely tiny little place is a true family business and a recognizable Victoria landmark. Get your fish and chips to go and walk or drive down to Dallas Road to enjoy the great food and watch the sun set over the ocean. Not into fish? It's worth going there just for the chips and the tartar sauce and their deluxe hamburgers are a big hit!

Red Fish Blue Fish

1006 Wharf Street / (250) 298-6877 / www.redfish-bluefish.com
An environmentally proactive waterfront gourmet chippy and seafood taqueria, located at the foot of Broughton Street on the pier below Wharf Street.

Barb's Place

310 Lawrence Street / (250) 384-6515
Seasonal fish and chips joint at the Fisherman's Wharf, right on the water. It's a little overpriced and you can expect long line-ups when the weather's good but the location is magnificent.

Vegan:

Green Cuisine

617 Johnson Street / (250) 380-9293
Located in lovely Market Square. Filling, hearty, healthy pricy (but worth it) pay by weight.

Lotus Pond

617 Johnson Street / (250) 380-9293
Their 2:30 lunch buffet is pretty much the best lunch special going in the city. The decoration is simple, the food is delicious.

Fusion/West Coast:

Noodle Box

626 Fisgard / (250) 384-1314 / www.thenoodlebox.net
Official food of OI's front desk staff. With two nearby locations, this place serves up tasty food, healthy portions etc in sweet portable boxes.

The Mint

1414 Douglas Street / (250) 386-6468
Just a block away from OI is one of the trendiest restaurants in the city. It's also a great place to enjoy some nice DJ-powered or live music while you enjoy a good meal, and they're open super-late!

The Superior

106 Superior Street / (250) 380-9515
Everything about this place is totally rad. The food is great, the decor is out of this world, hold on I'm going to try to actually describe it: as classy as it is quirky, as pricey as it is funky... good music.