

CECA Convention

Companion Tour Day – Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Victoria, British Columbia

Hello. My husband and I moved from Calgary to Victoria about 11 years ago when he joined Richmond Elevator, one of the CECA hosts for 2026 and organizers of the Companion Tour Day. As a local resident I wanted to tell you a little bit about the day that Richmond Elevator has planned for you.

Victoria has a very interesting history. Once the Lekwungen People's homeland, the population started to boom in the 1800s as people flocked here to get supplies and services before heading off to the Gold Rushes. It seemed strange to me that they wouldn't go to Vancouver to do so – but this was long before the railway had made it that far.

On the morning of June 17th we will meet at our hotel and take a 1 ½ hour leisurely, fun and informative WALKING HISTORY TOUR of downtown Victoria – which, as you may know, hugs the Inner Harbour. The 1 ½ - 2 km route is accessible, but there are some gently sloped streets. Our guides will be from “Discover the Past Walking Tours”, a family-owned business founded by our local pre-eminent historian John Adams in 1999. He and his son Chris, a history enthusiast and a teacher, lead a team of exceptional storytellers. [Guided Walking Tours Victoria BC | Discover the Past Walking Tours](#)

We will end our walking tour at the Victoria Visitor's Center in the heart of downtown. From there we'll take a staircase down to the causeway where we can freshen-up. (A small 2-man elevator is available for those who prefer not to take the stairs.)

Once we're ready, and just a few steps away, we will board a VICTORIA HARBOUR FERRY. These covered boats (referred to as “pickle boats”) take about 12 people each so we will be using more than one for our group. On the 45-minute tour you will see iconic landmarks, historical waterfront sites, wildlife habitats, unique float homes – and, of course, breath-taking views. [Harbour Ferry | Victoria, BC](#)

Victoria is a “working”, international port of entry for seaplanes, ferries and recreational vessels, and home to the Victoria Cruise Ship Terminal. Cruise ship season is between April and October and in 2024 we saw 316 cruise ships and almost 1 million passengers. As we do not go out onto the open ocean on our tour you will not be able to see the Cruise Ship Terminal, but it is only a 25 minute walk from the hotel. You might be interested to know that we can take 3 large cruise ships all at once: a site to behold at night.

After the ferry ride (and another chance to freshen-up) we will take a 3-block walk along the causeway to the PENDRAY INN & TEA HOUSE for a traditional “Afternoon Tea” lunch. There are both stairs and a ramp to get from the causeway back up to street level.

The historic Pendray Inn and Tea House was built in the 19th century as a family home for William & Amelia Pendray. It offers a window into the Victorian era with lovely views, a peaceful atmosphere, period furnishings and stained glass windows - all lovingly restored and in a garden setting. [Pendray Tea House | Victorian-style Cuisine, Downtown Victoria BC](#)

We should be finished lunch by 2:30. After lunch you are free to go your own way. You might want to catch a “pedicab” back to the hotel which is about a 15 minute walk from the Tea House. Keep in mind that the CECA Gala Dinner is on that evening. Cocktails start at 5:30 – but dinner is not served until 7:00 pm.

We certainly hope you will join us on Wednesday, June 17th to see the highlights of Victoria. My husband and I are originally from Montreal but have lived in Burlington, Hamilton, Toronto and Edmonton – as well as Calgary. We feel like we hit the jackpot when we moved to Victoria, “The Garden City”.

Gillian Ber