

Vancouver and British Columbia

Discover Vancouver and British Columbia with Reed Hoffmann, from September 14 to 22, 2024

This photo workshop is available to all levels of photographers, from the novice wanting to learn the basics to the advanced amateur that wishes to tweak skills. The workshop is offered by Highlight Photo Tours and its owner, René Bastien. We have been offering successful workshops since 2018.

Highlights of the trek

- Unique combination of European, First Nation and Chinese heritage
- Unbelievable seascapes and cityscapes
- Beautiful sunrise and sunset opportunities
- Photo learning with our professional photographer, Reed Hoffmann
- Review sessions with Reed at your request

Our Mentor: Reed Hoffmann



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two with jobs at newspapers in the Midwest, South and Eastern U.S. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career teaching the Nikon School of

Photography, creating and teaching the classes and managing the other instructors through 2018. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. These include successful workshops by Highlight Photo Tours since 2018 (Quebec, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Rockies and Hawaii). Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/> and <https://www.instagram.com/reedhoffmann/>.

Day 1: Saturday September 14

Arrive in Vancouver (airport code YVR) at your leisure.

Hotel: Holiday Inn North Vancouver. We will plan for your transit from the airport to the hotel.

Day 2: Sunday September 15

Our first day in Vancouver will be a busy one! It begins with a sunrise shoot high above the city, offering a view of the harbor and the Lion Gate Bridge. We will then ride the gondola to the top of Grouse Mountain, where we will visit the wildlife refuge, capture paragliders, and take in great views of Vancouver. After that, we will visit Stanley Park; it is an oasis in the middle of the city, with wildlife, gardens, monuments, totems and much more. We will end the day with a sunset shoot at English Bay, and capture car streaks on Lion Gate Bridge.

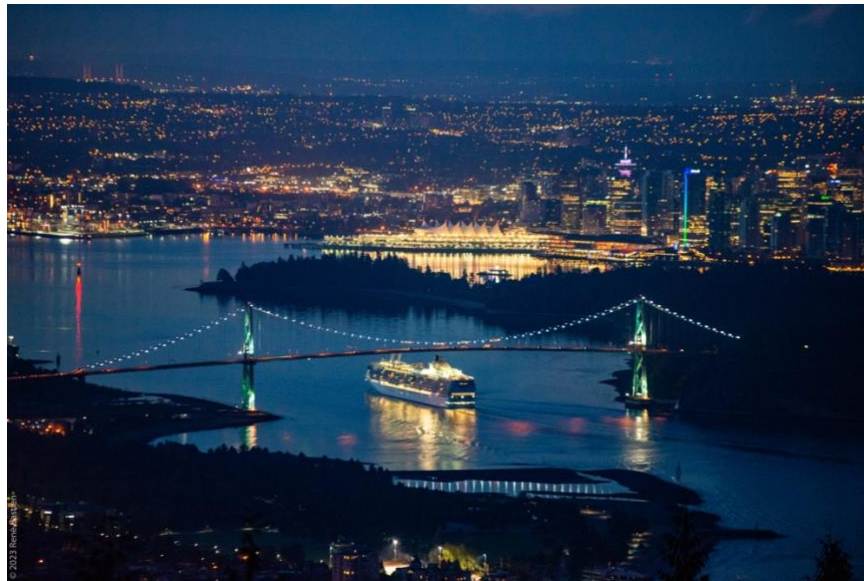


Figure 1 Vancouver and harbor © René Bastien



Figure 2 Sunset, English Bay © René Bastien

Day 3: Monday September 16

This day begins in Vancouver as we discover some of its unique features. We'll walk into Gastown, part of the original settlement. After that we'll visit Sun Yat Sen Gardens, a spectacular traditional Chinese garden. Our next stop will be at the UBC Museum of Anthropology to shoot the exterior totem collection. We will finish the day on Granville Island, where we will find a public market, art exhibits, and an excellent brewery.



Figure 3 Sun Yat Set Gardens © René Bastien



Figure 4 Granville Island marina © René Bastien

Day 4: Tuesday September 17

Today we leave Vancouver and make our way to Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, which is located on Vancouver Island. We will take the ferry to get there and make our way to Butchart Gardens. The gardens are spectacular, set in a repurposed quarry. We will then check into our hotel in Victoria. After that we'll go for a night shoot downtown to capture the lights on the Parliament Building, and perhaps frame and expose to show car head and taillights passing by. We will stay at the Best Western Plus Inner Harbour.



Figure 5 Butchart Gardens © René Bastien



Figure 6 Butchart Gardens © René Bastien

Day 5: Wednesday September 18

This day begins early with a sunrise shoot at Fisgard Lighthouse. We will then head to the Victoria Butterfly Gardens, to live a vibrant jungle experience with amazing butterflies and wildlife. After lunch

we will take the Victoria Harbour Ferry to Fisherman’s Wharf, to capture its colorful houses. We will then visit the Royal BC Museum for their impressive collection of First Nations totems, as well as a collection of paintings from Emily Carr, famous for her portrayals of the local indigenous peoples.



Figure 7 Fisgard Lighthouse © René Bastien

Day 6: Thursday September 19

Today we make our way to the west coast of Vancouver Island, to the town of Ucluelet. We will first visit The Raptors falconry center to photograph the birds there. After that we’ll head to Nanaimo where we will embark on a coastal tour by plane. After lunch, we will head to Ucluelet where we will walk around the harbor. We will stay at the Black Rock Resort, by the sea. Sunsets are quite spectacular from the hotel grounds.



Figure 8 Barn Owl, Raptor Center © René Bastien

Day 7: Friday September 20

This morning we'll go to Ucluelet lighthouse for a sunrise shoot. After that we'll join the Broken Group Island Wildlife cruise, which will give us a chance to photograph marine and coastal wildlife from the boat. After a stroll along the Wild Pacific Trail, in Ucluelet, we'll return to our hotel.

Day 8: Saturday September 21

Today we return to Vancouver as it is the last day of the workshop. We will make our way back to Nanaimo to catch the ferry. After the ferry, we will head to the International Buddhist Temple, in Richmond. We will stay at Sandman Signature by the airport; the hotel offers airport shuttle. That evening we'll have our farewell dinner and say goodbye to all.



Figure 9 International Buddhist Centre, © International Buddhist Society

Day 9: Sunday September 22

Leave at your leisure using the hotel shuttle.

Requirements

The workshop will take place by the Pacific Ocean. The level of activity is expected to be easy to moderate, with many stops to take in the scenery and get those great shots!

Comfortable, quick-dry walking/trekking boots are recommended.

What to expect

The weather changes quickly in British Columbia. Dressing in layers is your best protection against cool weather early in the day and in the evening. It will likely rain (we will spend time in a temperate rainforest), so be ready with waterproof jacket and rain protection for your gear.

Tap water is fine to drink, as in most of North America. Wall power outlets are the same in Canada as in the USA. Cell coverage is good, but it tends to drop outside of main roads. Our hotels have free WIFI.

British Columbia is in the Pacific time zone, so UTC -7.

As a rule, you can pay with Visa and MasterCard at almost every store and restaurant. However, make sure you have some Canadian currency with you, as some of the shops out of the major centers may only accept cash. You can exchange funds at Vancouver airport. ATMs are readily available in the cities.

Photo Gear

Reed will provide you with details as we get closer to our departure.

Contact Information

René's cell phone: 613-276-4763 and email rbastien@highlightphototours.com

Reed's cell phone: 913-568-8444 and email, reed@reedhoffmann.com

Inclusions, exclusions

Included

- All guide and photo instructor services.
- All lodging, double occupancy, from September 14 to 22, 2024 (I will connect those who wish to share a room)
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor.
- All in-country transportation with the group.
- Park fees.
- Water and in-field snacks while in the vehicle.

Excluded

- Flights to/from Vancouver International Airport, Canada.
- Visas if required.
- All hotel incidentals, meals and beverages, including alcoholic beverages.
- Participants are expected to purchase their own travel/health insurance, that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary for them to cancel after payment or to be repatriated for medical issues.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary.
- Gratuities for the hotel staff.

Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.
- Price is US\$4,700, taxes included. Single occupancy extra US\$1,150.
- Payment through PayPal or wire transfer.
- Deposit of US\$1,000 required to reserve your seat.
- The deposit is refundable until 90 days before start of the workshop.
- Balance required on invoicing 90 days before departure. This is not refundable, unless we can find a last-minute replacement for you.
- Minimum of 4 attendees required for the trek to be confirmed.
- Maximum 10 attendees.

Reservations

To reserve seats, please send me an email at rbastien@highlightphototours.com and I will send you a PayPal invoice.



Figure 10 Totem details © Reed Hoffmann



Figure 11 Mailboxes © Reed Hoffmann