

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is Canada's second-busiest airport, and was voted best airport in North America by Skytrax in 2010. Experience for yourself YVR's renowned Northwest Coast First Nations art collection as well as our award-winning architecture and facilities.

Here is an airport walking tour that starts and ends at YVR-Airport Canada Line station. The tour highlights key features at YVR, accessible to the public every day of the year. Take time to enjoy these elements that make YVR truly unique.

Canada Line – a great place to start

Ride the Canada Line train to YVR-Airport station, just 25 minutes from downtown Vancouver or 18 minutes from central Richmond. Vancouver Airport Authority invested \$300M in the airport portion of the Canada Line to provide passengers, employees and the public with quick, easy and sustainable transportation to and from YVR. As you walk from the station to the Domestic Terminal look for this sculpture:

Cedar Connection by Susan A. Point



- This 10-foot high, 10-foot long and 11-foot wide red cedar Musqueam sculpture depicts an owl and a human face within a tree stump.
- According to traditional Salish culture, the owl is the keeper of wisdom and a messenger within the story of life, with the face representing Musqueam storyteller Dominic Point.

Link Building and Domestic Terminal

As you enter the terminal building, you are now in the area that connects the domestic and international terminals, known as the Link Building. Be sure to look up and down, there is lots to see in this airy space.

Public Observation Area, Domestic Terminal, Level 4

From the Link Building, visit the Customer Information desk to pick up a terminal map, then make your way towards the Domestic Terminal food court and visit a great community space, our public observation area. Free for everyone to access and a great place to meet for lunch or spend time just watching aircraft arrive and depart.



- The Public Observation Area features floor-to-ceiling windows with unobstructed views of the airfield.
- Ceiling-suspended panels inspired by cloud formations, draw the public into 500 square-metre space filled with interactive exhibits and telescopes for a close-up look at aircraft.
- Test your knowledge of YVR at the touch-screen kiosks or see the runways light up on the model of YVR's Sea Island home.

Supernatural World by Dempsey Bob, Robert Davidson & Richard Hunt, Domestic Terminal Level 1

Discover a different world within the airport. Located just below domestic arrivals, you can experience a collection of supernatural creatures from the Pacific Northwest coast.



- Supernatural World represents Land, Sea and Sky, According to the Pacific Northwest Aboriginal peoples, the realms of the land are inhabited by creatures of nature, but they are also home to spirit powers that can move between realms, transforming themselves at will.
- The sculptures offer us a glimpse of these supernatural worlds. The Killer Whale, chief of all ocean people, is preyed upon by the legendary Thunderbird. Sharing the land are the Bear and the Human, each reflecting the other's image in a pair of enormous masks. Soaring overhead are the Raven and the Eagle.

International Terminal

Make your way through to the International terminal – follow the signs or ask a Green Coat volunteer for directions. A short walk will take you past international airline check-in until you arrive at the most valuable piece in YVR's art collection, The Spirit of Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoe.

The Spirit of Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoe by Bill Reid, International Terminal, Level 3



- Installed in 1996, this is the most famous piece in YVR's art collection; it is a bronze casting with a jade green patina.
- Sculpted by world-renowned Haida artist, [Bill Reid](#), this fascinating collection of characters is where millions of visitors stop to take their photographs each year.
- 'Haida Gwaii' means 'Islands of the People,' while The Jade Canoe represents all living beings of the world.
- The storyboard here provides information about the piece. It can also be seen on the back of the Canadian \$20 bill.

Look behind The Jade Canoe to the wall of ocean waves in the distance.

The Great Wave Wall by Lutz Haufschild, International Terminal, Departures Level 3



- Made up of thousands of glass pieces representing the ocean, the 40-metre by 10-metre wall forms a dramatic and appropriate backdrop for The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoe.

Walk down one level to international arrivals to check out the welcome figures that greet arriving passengers.

Clayoquot Welcome Figures, by Joe David, International Terminal, Arrivals Level 2



- Carved in the Clayoquot tradition, figures like these were temporarily positioned on the beach in front of villages, with arms raised, to welcome guests to special events.
- These figures stand 3.3 metres tall and provide a dramatic West Coast welcome to arriving passengers.

International Terminal (outside)

Exit the terminal from the arrivals level and walk towards the parkade, even outside the terminal, there are features to enjoy. Across the first set of streets is Chester Johnson park, named after a YVR pioneer. This seemingly small park outside international arrivals area houses a tranquil seating area, totems, a pond and a tree-lined path to stretch your legs before or after a long flight.

Three 'Ksan Totem Poles, by Earl Muldoe and Walter Harris, Chester Johnson Park, International Arrivals Level 2



- Three red-cedar totem poles, carved from old growth red cedar, come from the native centre of 'Ksan in the Skeena River Valley in northwestern British Columbia.
- On each pole, spiritual and supernatural beings portray stories associated with the cultural heritage of the carvers.
- Part of the Museum of Vancouver's permanent collection, these totems have been placed here by Vancouver Airport Authority

From the park, look up - way up! As you head back to the Canada Line station, stop for a moment to view the living wall.

Green Wall, YVR-Airport Canada Line Station, North Wall



- The Green Wall is the largest living wall in North America, measuring 17 metres high and 11 metres wide.
- The wall is made up of 28,249 individual plants, the wall is a giant living tapestry that connects YVR-Airport Station to Chester Johnson Park below.

YVR's Thematic Design – Land, Sea, Sky

Land, Sea and Sky are the roadways of travel and are the themes for YVR's architectural design. The airport's unique sense of place comes from the celebration of British Columbia's distinctive cultural heritage and spectacular natural beauty. Every aspect of the airport's aesthetic development has been founded upon this commitment. The colour palette from which the materials and finishes of the airport were selected is drawn from a painting of British Columbia's forest, mountains and sea by famed Canadian Group of Seven artist, Lawren Harris.