LAND, SEA AND SKY

Land, Sea and Sky are the roadways of travel. Land, Sea and Sky is also the theme behind YVR’s award-winning architecture and art collection. Every aspect of the airport’s design reflects British Columbia’s spectacular natural beauty and distinctive cultural heritage. YVR’s spectacular display of art celebrates the artistic movements of British Columbia and Canada.

During your visit today, see if you can spot how the Land, Sea and Sky theme is woven into the design of the airport. You’ll stop at several of YVR’s significant pieces of artwork. Many pieces in YVR’s art collection are found in areas beyond security screening points. Be sure to look for them the next time you are flying from YVR.

TRAVELLING SCULPTURE SHOW/SERIES III

This interactive sculpture is comprised of 10 stones from around the world, each representing a recognizable travel bag or carrying case – a silent yet engaging commentary on the weight of the baggage we carry.

The sculpture, by artist Paul Segger, is made of marble granite, sedalite, and bronze.

THE SPIRIT OF Haida Gwaii: THE JADE CANOES

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 artist, Bill Reid, this fascinating collection of characters appears where millions of visitors stop to take their photographs each fall.

‘Haida Gwaii’ means ‘Islands of the People,’ while The Jade Canoe represents all living beings of the world. A storyboard here provides more information.

THE GREAT WAVE WALL

Made up of thousands of glass pieces representing the ocean, Lutz Haufschild’s 60-metre by 10-metre wall forms a dramatic and appropriate backdrop for The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoes.

CLAYOQUOT WELCOME FIGURES

Carved in the Clayoquot tradition, figures stand 3.3-metres tall and welcome guests to special events. These figures are inspired by log booms seen in the ocean and provide a dramatic West Coast welcome to arriving passengers.

CHESTER JOHNSON PARK

Chester Johnson Park is an outdoor space that offers a calm respite from the action of the airport. Nestled in the shadow of the Control Tower, the park features the three ‘Ksan Totems, carved by Earl Muldoe and Walter Harris from the Skeena River Valley in Northwestern British Columbia.

In the park you’ll also find a small pond, benches, and a tree-lined pathway to explore.

GREEN WALL

YVR’s Green Wall is a giant living tapestry made up of 27,391 individual plants. YVR is working hard to minimize its environmental footprint and we have a number of initiatives to reduce waste, energy and emissions. This wall is a symbol of our commitment to sustainability.

ACCESSIBILITY @ YVR

We design our airport to be accessible. For example, our washrooms have doorless entries and our check-in and information desks have universal counters that make them accessible to people who use wheelchairs. We have a specialized public address system to reduce noise pollution and assist hearing aid users and flooring designed to help people with visual loss. Can you spot other accessibility features in the terminal?

PUBLIC OBSERVATION AREA

There is so much to see at the Public Observation Area. The floor-to-ceiling windows have unobstructed views of the airfield so you can watch aircraft arrive and depart. You’ll find information panels and telescopes at the airfield, a model of YVR’s Sea Island home, and a touch-screen kiosk where you can test your knowledge of YVR and the places we connect to around the world.

YVR ROUTES MAP

Stop by our giant Routes Map to see how YVR connects B.C. to the world. There are sixty-eight airlines that serve YVR, connecting people and businesses non-stop to more than 120 destinations in Canada, the U.S., and around the world.

The destination furthest from YVR is Sydney, Australia – it takes 15 hours to get there. The closest is Nanaimo on Vancouver Island – a short 10-minute hop.

Where would you go?

YVR CHARITY SHOW (SERIES II)

The sculpture, by artist Paul Segger, is made of marble granite, sedalite, and bronze.

THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD

A collection of carvings known as Supernatural World, by Dempsey Bob, Bob Davidson, and Richard Hunt, celebrate creations from the Pacific Northwest Coast. First Nations people say that the realms of the land are inhabited by spirits of nature, as well as spirit powers that move between realms, transforming themselves at will. This installation features Killer Whale, Thunderbird, Bear, Human, Raven, and Eagle.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

Look skywards to see where air traffic controllers work to keep the best view of the airport! Built in 1996, YVR’s air traffic control tower is 19 storeys high and managed by NAV CANADA. It is the highest air traffic control tower in Canada and designed to withstand a powerful earthquake. The safe movement of aircraft on the ground and in the air is managed from this tower. The tower is not open to the public.

THEMEd ARCHITECTURE

From island to sea to sky, the Land, Sea and Sky theme is woven into our architecture. For example, all the vertical pillars in the terminals are shaped to reflect the trees of B.C.’s coast, and the lights above your head are inspired by log booms seen in B.C.’s waters. The colour palette of the airport also reflects the Land, Sea and Sky theme. Can you spot any other ways the theme is used?

GRAHAM CLARKE ATRIUM

Here you can experience the Land, Sea and Sky theme. The floor tiles symbolize the rivers of B.C., while a waterfall tumbles behind the elevator. The totem Celebrating Flight by Don Yeomans is a tribute to humans – the only creatures who have learned to fly without the natural ability to do so. Look up high to see a carving of the moon and coloured panels representing the Northern Lights.

SUPERBIRD

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GRAND FIGURE TOWER

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The sculpture, by artist Paul Segger, is made of marble granite, sedalite, and bronze.

WELCOME TO YVR

LAND, SEA AND SKY

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