WELCOME TO YVR

LAND, SEA AND SKY

The roadways of travel, and the theme behind YVR's award-winning architecture and art collection. Every aspect of the airport's design reflects British Columbia's natural beauty and distinctive cultural heritage. YVR's spectacular display of art celebrates the artistic achievements of British Columbians and Canadians.

During your visit today, you'll stop at several of YVR's significant pieces of artwork. As you move through the terminal, keep an eye out for the many ways in which the theme of Land, Sea and Sky is woven into the design of the airport.

Many pieces in YVR's collection are found in areas beyond security screening points. Be sure to look for them the next time you are flying from YVR.



SPIRIT OF HAIDA GWAII: THE JADE CANOE

Installed in 1996, this bronze casting with a jade green patina is the most famous piece in YVR's art collection. Sculpted by world-renowned Haida artist Bill Reid, this fascinating collection of characters attracts millions of visitors each year. "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 40-metre by 10-metre wall forms a dramatic and appropriate backdrop for the Spirit of Haida Gwaii: The Jade Canoe.



AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

Look skyward to see where air traffic controllers work and get the best view of the airport! At 19 storeys high, YVR's air traffic control tower is the second highest control tower in Canada. NAV CANADA manages the safe movement of aircraft on the ground and in the air from this tower, which was built in 1996 and designed to withstand a powerful earthquake. It is not open to the public.



From here you can see how Land, Sea and Sky are woven

into YVR's architecture. All the vertical pillars in the terminal are shaped to reflect the trees of B.C.'s coast, and the lights above were inspired by log booms seen in B.C.'s waters. The colour palette of the airport is also inspired by the theme of Land. Sea and Sky.



MUSQUEAM WELCOME FIGURE

Carved by ?əyxwatələq (Musqueam artist Brent Sparrow) and erected in 2022, the welcome figure in Chester Johnson Park offers a traditional Musqueam welcome to the millions of travellers and visitors arriving in the airport and in Musqueam territory.

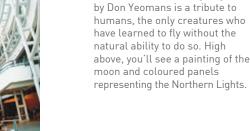


CHESTER JOHNSON PARK

This outdoor space offers a calm respite from the action of the airport. Nestled in the shadow of the Control Tower (7), the park features the Musqueam Welcome Figure (1) and the Green Wall (6). In the park you'll also find a pet relief area, benches and a tree-lined pathway.







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CLAYOQUOT WELCOME FIGURES

Carved in the Clayoquot tradition, these 3.3-metre statues provide a dramatic West Coast welcome to arriving passengers. In coastal villages, figures like these with their arms raised would be temporarily positioned on the beach to welcome quests to special events.



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 through a number of initiatives that reduce waste, energy and emissions. This wall is a symbol of our commitment to sustainability.

MUSQUEAM GATHERING PLACE AND CANOE

Opened in 2023, this 450 square foot centre in the Domestic Arrivals area on Level 2 is open to the public. Visit to learn more about Musqueam history, stories and geography. You'll also find information about the journey to transform a 600-year-old red cedar log into a 30-foot ocean-going canoe, which lives beside the gathering place in a dedicated cradle.







SUPERNATURAL WORLD

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

THEMED ARCHITECTURE





Accessibility is an important part of our airport design. To make the terminal more accessible to wheelchair users, our washrooms have gently curved entryways rather than doors, and check-in and information desks have universal counters. Our specialized public address system reduces noise pollution and assists hearing aid users, and our flooring is designed to help people with vision loss.

GRAHAM CLARKE ATRIUM

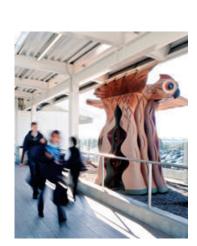
The Atrium's floor tiles represent the rivers of B.C., and a waterfall tumbles behind the escalator. The totem "Celebrating Flight"





PUBLIC OBSERVATION AREA

For unobstructed views of the airfield, visit the Public Observation Area. Its floor-to-ceiling windows, information panels and telescopes provide the perfect spot for watching aircraft arrive and depart.





CEDAR CONNECTION

This red cedar Musqueam sculpture by Susan A. Point depicts an owl and a human face within a tree stump. According to Salish tradition, the owl is the keeper of wisdom and a messenger within the story of life. The face represents Musqueam storyteller Dominic Point. The piece can be found on Level 4 as you walk the bridge to the Canada Line station

