

3

COFFEE SHOP CRAWL

Neighbourhoods are what make cities livable. They're smaller, more intimate and manageable parts of the whole often with their own singular attractiveness. San Francisco and Portland to our south are classic examples of neighbourhood cities. In fact, Victoria is sometimes referred to as "Little Portland." During this short ride (it's just shy of 20 kilometres) you'll pass through all the established neighbourhoods that create what we call Victoria — Fairfield, Fernwood, James Bay, Vic West and Oak Bay. (Although Oak Bay is a municipality in its own right, many regard it as a natural extension of the city.) As you can see from the route's description, I've chosen to point out most of the coffee shops/cafes/ bakeries along the way (thus the ride's title.) You can stop at all, some, one or none at all. For those who don't drink coffee, think of the

ride as a neighbourhood tour (or "noodle" as I like to call my leisurely-paced rides).

I envision the route to be a way for riders to get to know parts of the city they might not otherwise visit. Although I've put the start and finish of the ride on the edge of downtown, you can begin (and finish) at any point of the route, especially if you live in one of the neighbourhoods.

(Note: I've attempted to be current with business names, however, they can change over time or even cease to exist.)

General description A circle ride that passes through all the city's established neighbourhoods. Most, if not all of the coffee shops "enroute" are noted plus three bakeries.

Location Victoria's four main neighbourhoods: Fairfield, Fernwood, James Bay and Vic. West plus Oak Bay.



Off again — after coffee.

Length 20 kilometres

Level Easy

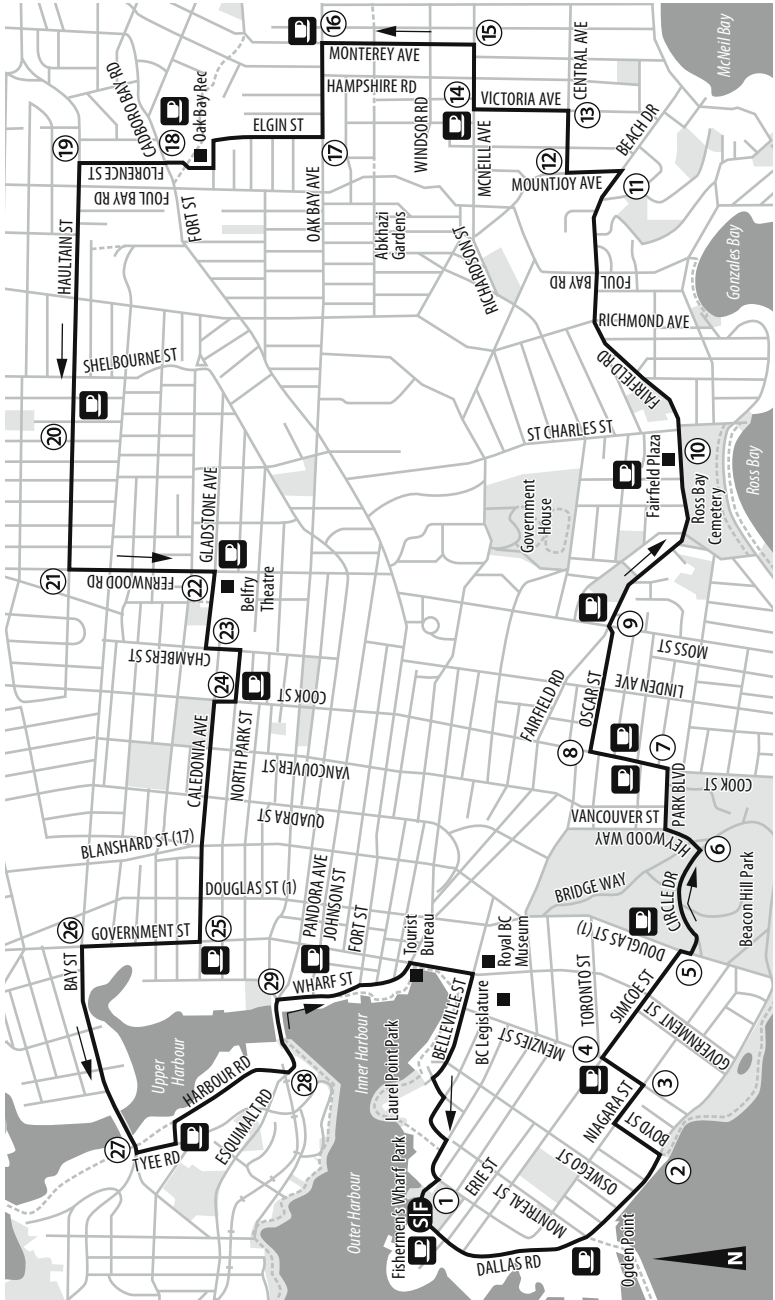
Start Fishermen's Wharf off St. Lawrence Street

Highlights All the coffee you can drink. All the baked goodies you can consume (on your own dime, that is). Some of the best urban landscape in North America.

THE RIDE

- ① With Fishermen's Wharf behind you, ride up Dallas Road on the **L** of the Shoal Point condominium building and turn **R** onto the continuation of Dallas.
- ② (1.5 km) Turn **L** onto Boyd Street and then **R** onto Niagara Street.
- ③ (1.9 km) Turn **L** onto Menzies Street. You're now entering the heart of James Bay. The James Bay Coffee Company and Discovery Coffee are located here.
- ④ (2.1 km) At the four-way stop turn **R** onto the one-way Simcoe Street. (The last house on the **L** before Douglas Street is Emily Carr's "House of All Sorts" which she built in 1913.)

- ⑤ (2.7 km) Cross Douglas Street and bear **L** to enter Beacon Hill Park on Circle Drive. (The Beacon Drive In is one block to your **R** on Douglas.)
- ⑥ (3.2 km) Pass the Children's Farm on your **R** and then turn **L** onto Heywood Way. After the cricket pitch turn **R** onto Park Boulevard.
- ⑦ (3.7 km) Turn **L** onto Cook Street. In less than 100 metres you're in Cook Street Village. On your **L** are Serious Coffee and Starbucks. On your **R** are the Moka House and Bubby's Kitchen.
- ⑧ (4.0 km) Turn **R** onto Oscar Street.
- ⑨ (4.6 km) As Oscar dead ends at Moss Street take the path to Fairfield Road and turn **R**. (From May to October, the Moss Street Market installs itself across the road in Sir James Douglas School yard.) Continue on Fairfield going east.
- ⑩ (5.5 km) Pass Fairfield Plaza on your **L** and Ross Bay Cemetery on your **R**. You now ride up to and cross Foul Bay Road where Fairfield Road becomes Beach Drive.
- ⑪ (6.9 km) Turn **L** onto Mountjoy Avenue. You're now in Oak Bay.
- ⑫ (7.1 km) Turn **R** onto Central Avenue.
- ⑬ (7.4 km) At the stop sign turn **L** onto Victoria Avenue.
- ⑭ (7.8 km) Turn **R** onto McNeill Avenue. Across the street, at the corner of Roslyn Road, is the Demi-tasse Café.
- ⑮ (8.1 km) Turn **L** onto Monterey Avenue.
- ⑯ (8.8 km) At the traffic light turn **L** onto Oak Bay Avenue. This is Oak Bay Village. On the corner of Monterey and Oak Bay Avenue is Ottavio's. On your **R** as you head west are the Oak Bay Bistro and Starbucks.
- ⑰ (9.2 km) Turn **R** at the next light onto Elgin Road. As the road turns **R** to enter the public works yard you take the paved path on the **L** that leads to Goldsmith Street. Turn **L** onto Goldsmith and then **R** onto Bee Street riding past the Oak Bay Recreation Centre.
- ⑱ (10.1 km) Cross Cadboro Bay Road at the light onto Florence Street.



- ⑲ (10.4 km) Turn **L** onto Haultain Street. Stay on Haultain crossing, on bike lanes, Richmond Road and Shelbourne Street.
- ⑳ (11.8 km) Pass through Haultain Corners with the Koffi café on the **L**.
- ㉑ (12.1 km) Turn **L** onto Fernwood Road at four-way stop.
- ㉒ (12.8 km) Turn **R** onto the plaza in front of the Belfry Theatre. This is the centre of Fernwood. You'll find a collection of stores, a coffee shop, a pub, an art gallery and a restaurant. (Another restaurant is opposite the pub on Gladstone Avenue.)
- ㉓ (13.1 km) Continue through the plaza on Gladstone and turn **L** onto Chambers Street. After two blocks turn **R** onto North Park Street opposite the community garden. The Parsonage Café is on your **L** just before Cook Street.
- ㉔ (13.5 km) Turn **R** onto Cook and get ready to turn **L** onto Caledonia Avenue at the light. Keep on Caledonia past the police station and the Memorial Centre and, as the street becomes Chatham Street, cross Blanchard and Douglas streets.
- ㉕ (14.7 km) Turn **R** onto Government Street. (Cascadia Bakery is close to this corner to your **L**.)
- ㉖ (15.1 km) At the next light, turn **L** onto Bay Street.
- ㉗ (16.3 km) After crossing the Bay Street Bridge turn **L** onto Tyee Road and **L** again onto Harbour Road. As you round the bend, on your **R** is the fol epi bakery and Caffé Fantastico. Continue on Harbour to its junction with Esquimalt Road.
- ㉘ (17.1 km) Turn **L** onto Esquimalt Road and cross the Johnson Street Bridge. Over the bridge turn **R** onto Wharf Street. Pass Bastion Square on your **L**. You'll find a number of cafes and restaurants here and along Wharf.
- ㉙ (17.6 km) At the Tourist Bureau turn **R** onto Government Street. At its junction with Belleville turn **R** and follow the twisting road back to St. Lawrence and the entrance to Fishermen's Wharf. The Moka House coffee shop is on the ground level of Shoal Point.