



Where Urban Meets Nature

Plan your next corporate event here.

**MEET IN
NANAIMO
NANAIMO**



The Reconciliation Journey

Acknowledgement of Snuneymuxw First Nation Territory

We acknowledge with gratitude that our work takes place on the territories of the Snuneymuxw, Snaw-naw-as, and Stzuminus people. Tourism Nanaimo is committed to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, including Call 92, by fostering partnerships that support economic reconciliation, and Call 79, by sharing Indigenous histories and living cultures in collaboration with First Nation governments.

When we invite people to Nanaimo, we invite them to join our reconciliation journey. This land holds deep historical and cultural significance for the Snuneymuxw Nation, a vibrant Coast Salish people who have lived here since time immemorial, with villages reaching from the eastern coast of Vancouver Island to the Fraser River and Gulf Islands.

For over 170 years, the Snuneymuxw people have endured oppressive systems aimed at denying their rights, erasing their presence, and undermining their way of life and spirituality. Despite this, they have remained steadfast, prioritizing community, Snawayalth, and their connection to the land.

We honour the Snuneymuxw Nation's enduring connection to this land and are committed to fostering relationships built on respect, collaboration, and mutual growth. Together, we aim to elevate the stories of the Snuneymuxw people, connect with the land and its rich history, and ensure that events hosted here celebrate culture, reconciliation, and education.

Thank you for joining us in this important work.

Welcome to Nanaimo

Welcome to Nanaimo, where authentic connections meet unforgettable gatherings.

Because here, meetings don't just happen; they come alive through community, creativity, and coastal charm.

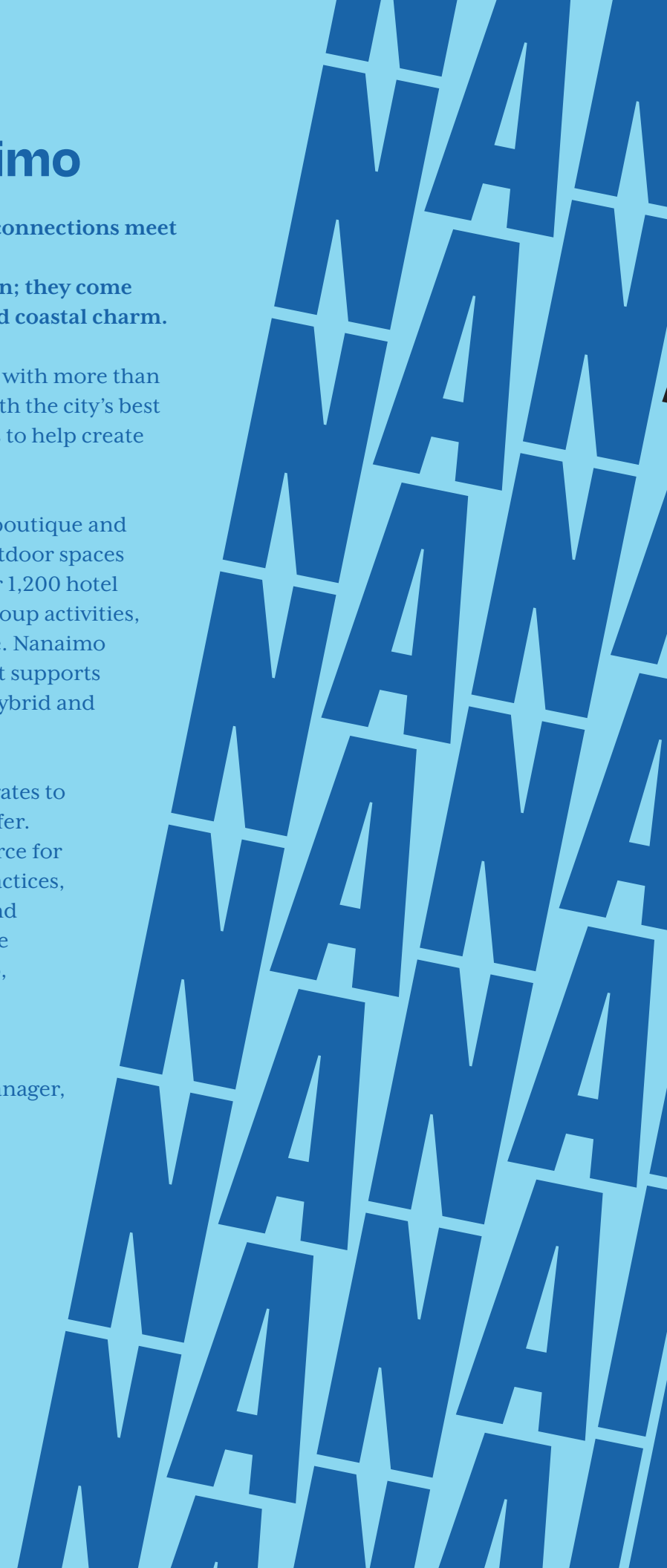
From modern high-tech spaces to venues with more than 38,000 sq ft, we're here to connect you with the city's best hotels, meeting spaces, and local partners to help create that wow factor.

The city is home to diverse venues, from boutique and historical locations to educational and outdoor spaces that showcase the city's culture. With over 1,200 hotel rooms – from budget to boutique – and group activities, your attendees will have plenty to explore. Nanaimo offers an exclusive incentive program that supports everything from citywide tech events to hybrid and open-air space gatherings.

We look forward to welcoming your delegates to Nanaimo and sharing all the city has to offer. Use this meeting planners toolkit as a source for inspiration, a checklist for sustainable practices, and a tool to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into your planning. When you're ready to hold your next event in Nanaimo, let us know!



Gina Bethell
Business Development Manager,
Tourism Nanaimo





About Tourism Nanaimo

Tourism Nanaimo is your connection to a city that's as authentic as it is accessible.

As the official Destination Management Organization for the City of Nanaimo, we bring together the people, places, and partnerships that make this community an exceptional choice for meetings, conferences, and events.

We manage Nanaimo's multi-year Destination Development Strategy and lead the city's Business, Meetings, and Sport Tourism portfolios, ensuring every event benefits from local insight, strategic support, and seamless coordination. From site selection and supplier introductions to destination marketing and visitor services, our team works alongside you to craft experiences that are memorable, meaningful, and grounded in community.

At Tourism Nanaimo, we believe successful events do more than fill rooms, they strengthen connections, showcase culture, and leave a lasting impact on both visitors and residents alike.

Our Values

Tourism Nanaimo's Intentions:

- We will be a strong ally for our residents and partners, particularly the Snuneymuxw First Nation.
- We will be guided by the principles of sustainability, diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as we authentically showcase and encourage people to visit the real, unique Nanaimo.
- We will only support tourism that is for the benefit of our community.

When you choose to host in Nanaimo, you're not just selecting a venue, you're joining a community that believes visitation, whether for business or leisure, should do more than fill rooms. It should leave a positive mark.

Be a Strong Ally

We work in the spirit of collaboration with our residents and the Snuneymuxw First Nation, on whose territory Nanaimo is located. Meeting planners are encouraged to engage local voices, cultural partners, and suppliers who reflect the diversity and identity of this place. Together, we can create events that honour local stories, strengthen relationships, and advance reconciliation in meaningful, visible ways.

Champion Sustainability and Community Benefit

Every event in Nanaimo contributes to a circular visitor economy — one that gives back more than it takes. From sourcing local and low-waste vendors to integrating community legacy projects, we invite organizers to plan with purpose. Tourism Nanaimo's Five-Year Destination Development Strategy, guided by Nanaimo ReImagined (City Plan) and built with local partners, ensures that your event supports responsible growth, environmental care, and shared prosperity.

Embed Inclusion and Accessibility

Tourism Nanaimo is a Rainbow Registered organization through the CGLCC and is committed to ensuring every experience in our city is inclusive and barrier-free. We work with meeting planners to identify accessible venues, inclusive service providers, and diverse representation throughout the event experience. By embedding the principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in every stage of planning, your event not only reflects the province's accessibility and human rights standards, it helps shape a destination where everyone feels they belong.

Build With Us

Our commitment is clear: we will only support visitation that benefits our community.

By working with Tourism Nanaimo, planners become part of that mission, helping us build a destination that values people, place, and purpose equally. Together, we can design events that are not just successful, but meaningful.

Why Nanaimo

Our Business Events team is here to support you every step of the way. Whether you're just starting to plan or finalizing the details, we offer complimentary services to help make your meeting or conference in Nanaimo seamless and successful, including:

- Free, impartial advice about venues, hotels, and third-party planners
- Creative ideas for delegate activities and entertainment
- Travel advice and group discounts on travel across Nanaimo
- Incentives & Concessions
- Information on hybrid and open-air spaces
- Sector-specific information
- Site inspection planning
- Planning a sustainable event
- Assemble bid packages / RFPs

Nanaimo Unlocked Delegate Pass

Here for a conference, sporting event, or just tagging along for the ride? The free Unlocked Pass is your backstage pass to Nanaimo — packed with exclusive deals, local gems, and can't-miss experiences, curated just for visiting delegates and teams. Score discounts, sip craft brews, shop indie boutiques, and soak up the best of the city — all on your schedule. Just check in at participating spots to unlock the deals. No strings, just sweet savings.

Whether in meetings or on the move, you deserve to see the best of the city.

Step 1 - Get Your Pass

This mobile exclusive passport is a collection of curated attractions, retailers, restaurants and more, offering deals and discounts to redeem during your visit.

Step 2 - Receive Text

Your passport will be instantly delivered to your phone via text and email, and is ready to use immediately! There is no app to download. Your pass can be saved to your phone's home screen for easy one-tap access.

Step 3 - Redeem

When visiting a participating business, simply present your phone to the attendant or staff member to redeem available discounts.



Incentive Programs

It pays to host your event in Nanaimo

Tourism Nanaimo Conference Incentive:

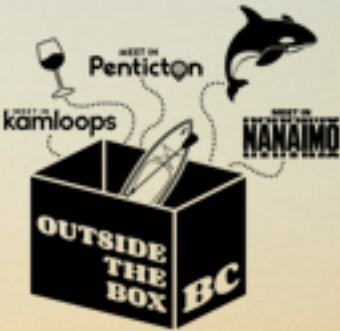
Book and host your meeting or conference in Nanaimo and actualize 400+ room nights and receive up to \$10,000 credit to the groups master account

*New bookings only, credit will be based on total room nights consumed, not contracted. Please contact gina@tourismnanaimo.com

Outside the Box BC

Outside the Box BC (OTBBC) is a collective of three DMOs (Tourism Nanaimo, Tourism Kamloops & Meet in Penticton) in BC who aim to bring meetings and conferences to all three Destinations. Submit one RFP, which will be delivered to all three destinations, and an RFP response will slide into your inbox. As part of the incentive program, qualified planners who book a meeting or conference in all 3 of our destinations within 5 years will receive \$10.00 back per room night actualized. This is a planner incentive, so it does not have to be the same program in each destination, but it can be!

Learn more at outsidetheboxbc.ca or email info@outsidetheboxbc.ca



The Nanaimo Journey

Getting to Nanaimo

AIR TRAVEL

Nanaimo Regional Airport

As your island gateway, the Nanaimo Regional Airport (YCD) is conveniently located between the hubs of the Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo. It offers easy access to and from Central Vancouver Island by taxi, bus shuttle, and car rentals in Nanaimo. ycd.ca

Harbour Air

Fly from island time to city life and vice versa in just 30 minutes with flights between Nanaimo and downtown Vancouver. harbourair.com

SeaAir

Seair Seaplanes operates the world's largest fleet of factory-new Cessna 208 Caravan turboprop floatplanes, which offer a modern, quiet, and fast connection between Vancouver (YVR and downtown) and Nanaimo's waterfront. seairseaplanes.com

Helijet

In just 18 minutes, Helijet's familiar 12-passenger, twin-engine, two-pilot Sikorsky helicopters will whisk passengers on a scenic journey between the two downtown harbours, Vancouver - Nanaimo | Nanaimo - Vancouver. helijet.com



FERRIES

BC Ferries

The largest ferry operators in the world, moving more than 60,000 customers and 23,000 vehicles throughout coastal BC every day. With 25 routes throughout the west coast, BC Ferries runs daily sailings to and from Nanaimo's two main ports and the mainland. bcferries.com

Hullo Ferry

Fast, convenient ferry travel between downtown Vancouver and Nanaimo in just 70 minutes. Foot-passenger travel is about to get a 'hull' of a lot better. hullo.com



Getting Around Nanaimo

Whether your delegates are heading to a conference session, exploring the waterfront, or heading out for dinner, Nanaimo offers a range of transportation options to fit all needs and budgets.

Wilson's Transportation

Wilson specializes in many transportation services ideal for airport pickups, venue shuttles, tours, and special events, from conferences and conventions to sporting events and weddings. Fleet includes charter buses, minibuses, and coaches for large group transfers. wilsonstransportation.com

Nanaimo Airporter

Nanaimo Airporter services include 24/7 door-to-door service at Departure Bay, Gabriola, Duke Point Ferry terminals, the Nanaimo airport and additional destinations upon request. Executive vans and shuttles are ideal for VIPs, airport transfers, and small group excursions. nanaimoairporter.com

Rideshare Services

Uride, Uber, and Modo are all available in Nanaimo. Memberships and account set-up may be required in advance.

Taxi Companies

AC Taxi Nanaimo and Yellow Cab Nanaimo are our recommended providers.

Car Rentals

Budget Car & Truck Rental – Nanaimo

Car, SUV, and van rentals for flexible group transportation. Locations near downtown and at the Nanaimo Airport.

Public Transit

RDN Transit

Efficient and affordable city-wide transit, perfect for delegates on a budget or eco-conscious travellers.

rdn.bc.ca/public-transit

Other

Evo Scooters & E-Bike Rentals

App-based, easy-to-use electric scooters and bikes are available to rent downtown at multiple pick-up/drop-off hubs. Great for short trips between hotels, venues, and waterfront attractions.

*Note that Evo cars are generally not available in Nanaimo.

Conference Venues

Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)

An award-winning event venue located in Nanaimo's vibrant downtown. 38,000 sq ft of versatile meeting space hosting groups of up to 1,300. On-site catering and AV services. Located directly next to the brand new Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. [Learn more](#)

[VICC Meeting Package](#)

Meeting Spaces

Coast Bastion Hotel & Conference Centre

Perched on the scenic waterfront, this hotel conference centre offers harbour and ocean views and meeting space for up to 200 people. On-site catering and AV services. [Learn more](#)

[Coast Bastion Meeting Package](#)

The Grand Hotel Nanaimo

The Grand Hotel Nanaimo offers elegant and versatile meeting spaces in a tranquil north-end setting, just minutes from downtown. Its main ballroom accommodates up to guests, with additional rooms available for more intimate gatherings. [Learn more](#)

Best Western Dorchester Hotel

The Best Western Dorchester Hotel in downtown Nanaimo is a charming and convenient meeting spot for up to 100 people. It blends historic character with modern amenities. Overlooking the harbour, with flexible meeting space, on-site catering, and a welcoming West Coast vibe, it's ideal for small to mid-sized gatherings in the city's heart. [Learn more](#)

[Best Western Meeting Package](#)

[Best Western Meeting Guide](#)

Vancouver Island University

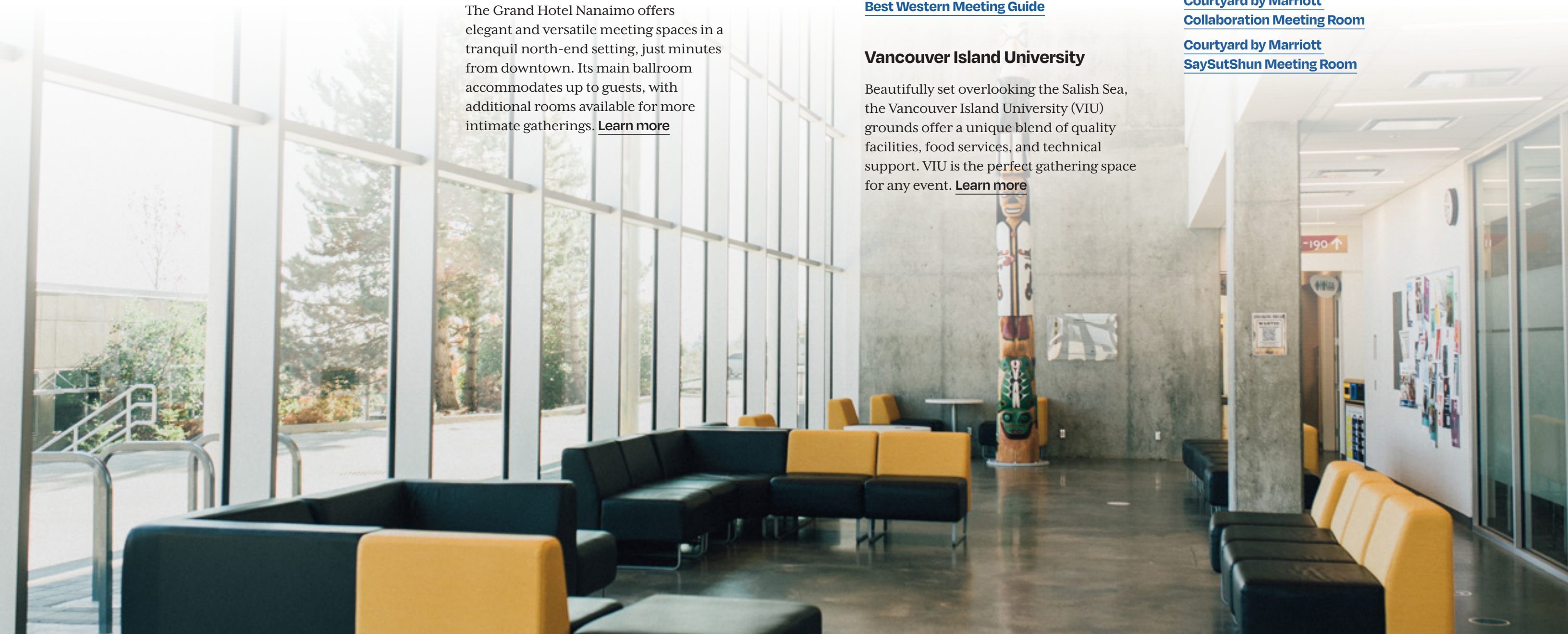
Beautifully set overlooking the Salish Sea, the Vancouver Island University (VIU) grounds offer a unique blend of quality facilities, food services, and technical support. VIU is the perfect gathering space for any event. [Learn more](#)

Courtyard by Marriott Nanaimo

The Courtyard by Marriott Nanaimo offers modern, flexible meeting spaces in the heart of downtown, directly across from the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Its main meeting room accommodates up to 50 guests, and additional spaces are available for smaller gatherings. With built-in A/V, catering options, and tech-friendly amenities, it's an ideal venue for corporate meetings, workshops, and retreats. [Learn more](#)

[Courtyard by Marriott Collaboration Meeting Room](#)

[Courtyard by Marriott SaySutShun Meeting Room](#)



Hotels and Accommodations

Hotel Name	Location	# of Rooms
Best Western Dorchester Hotel	Downtown Nanaimo - walking distance to Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)	70
Best Western Northgate Inn	North Nanaimo	72
Bethlehem Retreat Centre	Westwood Lake	37
Coast Bastion Hotel	Downtown Nanaimo - walking distance to Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)	179
Courtyard by Marriott (Snuneymeux Nation owned)	Downtown Nanaimo - walking distance to Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)	172
Days Inn by Wyndham Nanaimo Harborview	South Nanaimo	78
Quality Inn	Downtown Nanaimo - walking distance to Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC)	45
Inn on Long Lake	Central Nanaimo	62
Painted Turtle Guesthouse	Downtown Nanaimo	20
Ramada By Wyndham	Downtown Nanaimo	64
The Grand Hotel Nanaimo	North Nanaimo	72
Vancouver Island University Student Residences		220

Planning Your Meeting or Event in Nanaimo

Let’s Get Planning – The Nanaimo Way!

Whether you’re envisioning a multi-day conference, a team-building getaway, or a one-of-a-kind gathering with coastal charm, planning your event in Nanaimo starts with a conversation. From your first brainstorming session to the final round of applause, our team is here to make it smooth, memorable, and uniquely Nanaimo. Here’s how we help bring your event to life:

Steps to start planning

1. Set up an exploratory meeting with Gina Bethell
2. Receive a proposal from Gina on appropriate hotels, venues, and destination logistics
3. Schedule a site visit and venue inspection (if relevant)
4. Hold dates and block hotel rooms
5. Determine venues and develop agreements
6. Build out your event program and logistics
7. Coordinate transportation and delegate experience
8. Engage local suppliers and Indigenous partners
9. Promote your event
10. Finalize event details and run of show
11. Host your event – and wow your attendees!

Keynote & Speaker Suggestions

For keynote and speaker recommendations, please contact us at gina@tourismnanaimo.com.



Snuneymuxw First Nation

Contacts & Protocols

It is important to start your event well. We recommend working with the Snuneymuxw First Nation to either include them in your opening ceremonies or ensure your land acknowledgement honours the language, traditions, and spirit of the Nation. Tourism Nanaimo is available to help facilitate this relationship.

Official contacts at Snuneymuxw First Nation

Andrew Sutherland, Director of Communication
Snuneymuxw First Nation
andrews@snuneymuxw.ca
Tel: 250-740-2300

Ay Lelum House of Design (Family of the artwork in the Courtyard by Marriott)
Aunalee & Sophia Good
info@aylelum.com

Qwam Qwam Stuwixwulh Dance Group
Jen Wyse
jpw_paw@icloud.com

Elder Lolly Good (Spiritual Welcomings and Land Acknowledgement)
250-667-3083
Please text Lolly, as she will not pick up unknown numbers.
She asks that you text with information, and then she will jump on a call.





City Event Permitting

The City of Nanaimo offers a variety of indoor and outdoor venues—from community centres and arenas to parks and waterfront spaces.

- **Indoor Special Event Application Form**
for large indoor events
- **Outdoor Special Event Application Form**
for parks, plazas, beaches, etc.—requires at least 2 weeks' notice
- **Facility Rental Application**
for smaller gatherings like birthday parties, meetings, workshops
- **Special Events on City Streets Form**
for parades, street festivals, road closures

You'll also need proper permits for liquor—refer to BC's provincial guide [here](#).

Visit the [City's main rental portal](#) to explore venues and submit forms.

For planning support or questions, contact Parks & Rec at 250-756-5200 or email parksandrecreation@nanaimo.ca.

Annual Event Calendar

There is always something happening in Nanaimo! Whether you have a taste for live music, sports, theatre, or just general community initiatives, find out more on the Tourism Nanaimo Calendar.

Vendor Directory

Catering

Livewire Catering

Locally owned for over 14 years, Livewire offers everything from simple meal delivery to full-service dining, rentals, and bartending.

Website: livewirecatering.ca

Address: Nanaimo Curling Club at 106 Wall Street, Nanaimo

Phone: 1-250-713-3249

Email: snksmith@shaw.ca

Smoking George's BBQ

Proudly part of the ISLAND GOOD family, Smoking George's BBQ serves fresh, locally-sourced BBQ crafted with 30 years of culinary passion.

Website: smokinggeorgesbbq.com

Address: 4131 Mostar Rd. #5, Nanaimo

Phone: 1-250-585-2258

Email: lea@smokinggeorgesbbq.com

Spice of Life

Serving hundreds of Nanaimo events, Spice of Life provides professional staff, full-service catering, and flexible packages to make planning stress-free.

Website: spiceoflifecatering.ca

Address: 7025 Blackjack Drive, Lantzville, Nanaimo

Phone: 1-250-390-3137

Email: mail@spiceoflifecatering.ca

HeavenScent Catering

Since 2000, HeavenScent has offered diverse menus, skilled staff, and seamless event support to ensure your special occasion is joyful and worry-free.

Website: heavenscentcatering.ca/menus

Address: 630 Fifth St, Nanaimo

Phone: 1-250-729-6754

Email: heavenscentcatering@shaw.ca

Bees Knees Cafe & Catering

With a focus on fresh, locally-sourced ingredients, Bees Knees prepares delicious meals from scratch and offers many gluten-free options.

Website: beeskneescafe.ca

Address: 104 - 525 Third Street, Nanaimo

Phone: 1-250-591-5250

Email: beesknees1355@gmail.com

Group Dining

Modern Cafe

A fashionable all-day lounge that blends comfort and sophistication, Modern Cafe serves chef-driven dishes with fresh, seasonal, local ingredients. Healthy yet indulgent, nourishing and satisfying.

Website: moderncafenainaimo.com

Phone: 1-250-754-5022

Melange Restaurant

Melange celebrates local farmers, brewers, bakers, and gelato makers with fresh, flavorful dishes that support Nanaimo's economy. They create a fun, positive environment by serving healthy food and sourcing as many ingredients as possible locally.

Website: melangenainaimo.ca

Phone: 1-250-740-0163

Minnoz Restaurant & Lounge

Enjoy elegant, casual dining at the Coast Bastion Hotel in downtown Nanaimo. From homemade breakfasts to enticing appetizers, the menu and friendly service are sure to satisfy.

Website: minnoz.com

Phone: 1-250-824-0167



Food Truck Scene

Looking to add something fun, flavourful, and uniquely local to your event? Nanaimo's vibrant food truck scene is perfect for receptions, networking nights, lunch breaks, or outdoor venue activations. Whether you're hosting an informal welcome social or planning a post-conference gathering with west coast vibes, food trucks bring the flavour—and the fun.

Tasty Options to Consider:

- **Tacomania** – Authentic tacos with gluten-free and vegan options
- **Donairnutz** – Hearty donairs + mini donuts = crowd-pleaser combo
- **Sweet & Dandy Cotton Candy** – Fun, whimsical flavours perfect for dessert tables
- **Tipsy Avocado** – Mexican street food with loads of personality
- **JLA Caribbean Cuisine** – Bold, island-inspired flavours
- **Harbour City Donuts** – Over-the-top creations perfect for a sweet break
- **Van Isle Pouterie** – Classic and creative takes on a Canadian favourite
- **Sip & Sliders** – Gourmet burgers and milkshakes, great for casual outdoor dining

Need help booking? We work with trusted local vendors and can connect you with food trucks that align with your event style and dietary needs.

For the most up-to-date list of food trucks and their schedules, check out [Tourism Nanaimo's guide to local food trucks](#) or browse the [City of Nanaimo's Food Truck Calendar](#) to see where they're serving throughout the city.

Group Dining continued

Longwood Brewpub

With a wide range of satisfying crowd-pleasers and refined selections, the menu delivers more than average pub fare. On tap, a combination of award-winning brews and exciting seasonal creations. No matter what your pleasure, local ingredients ensure you get nothing but fresh West Coast flavour.

Website: longwoodbrewpub.com

Phone: 1-250-729-8225

Nanaimo Golf Club

With panoramic views of the course, the state-of-the-art Clubhouse hosts everything from weddings to corporate events. Versatile dining and event spaces are welcome members, non-members, and private groups alike

Website: nanaimogolfclub.ca/dining_events/dining

Phone: 1-250-758-2451 ext.726

Event Rentals

Triple T Party Rentals

Triple T Party Rentals has been servicing the event market for over 30 years. Triple T believes every event, regardless of size or occasion, is important and special.

Website: tripletparty.com

Phone: 250-758-4788

**Preference is to call in for inquiries.*

Black & White Event Rentals

Creating special moments throughout Vancouver Island for over 30 years. Everything you may need for a successful, worry-free gathering anywhere on Vancouver Island.

Website: bwparty.com

Phone: 778-433-1282

Email: info@bwparty.com

Event Planners

VI Conference & Events

Zoie Jansen and the VI Events team specialize in seamless registration services, offering expertise and innovative solutions for conferences, meetings, and special events.

Website: vievents.ca

Email: zoie@vievents.ca

Lewis & Sears Marketing & Event Management Inc

Premier event management specializing in impeccable detail and exceptional results. As veterans in hospitality and tourism, Susan Lewis and Wendy Sears have staged major events and promotions for over 30 years.

Website: lewissears.com

Susan Lewis: susan@lewissears.com / 250-240-5943

Wendy Sears: wendy@lewissears.com / 250-228-4452

Anu Mayer, Bastion Management Inc.

Anu Mayer believes every event, regardless of size or occasion, is important and special.

Email: anu.mayer@bastionm.ca

Phone: 1-250-616-1240

Signage & Printing

For Conference Materials, Banners, Wayfinding & More

When hosting an event in Nanaimo, here are local suppliers who can support your signage and print needs, from name badges and agendas to large-format wayfinding and branded banners:

Elite Image

A full-service printing, design, and signage company, Elite Image delivers high-quality banners, brochures, agendas, and directional signage tailored to your event.

Website: eliteimage.ca

Phone: 250-591-0175

Email: info@eliteimage.ca

The Sign Zone

Offering creative design and professional installation, The Sign Zone specializes in branded banners, wayfinding signage, and custom displays for events of all sizes.

Website: thesignzone.ca

Phone: 250-758-1113

Email: info@thesignzone.ca

Sign AGE Nanaimo

Locally owned and operated, Sign AGE is known for creating custom event signage, vehicle decals, wall wraps, and trade show displays that stand out with eye-catching visuals.

Website: signagecanada.ca

Phone: 250-756-7977

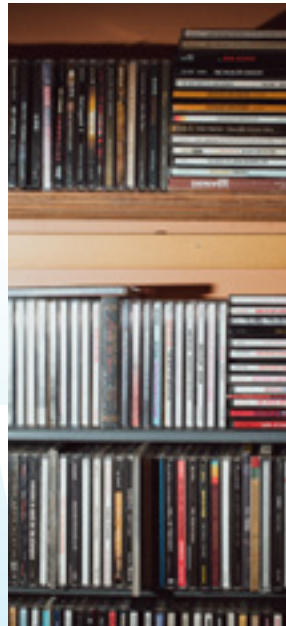
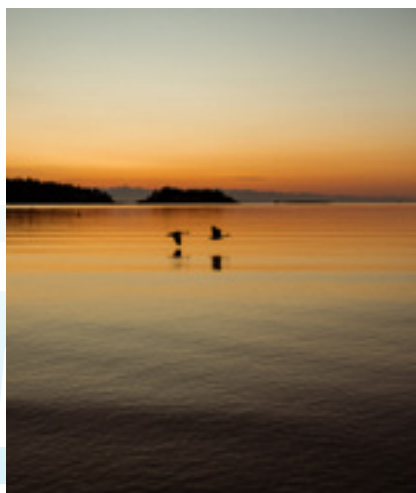
Staples Nanaimo Print & Marketing Centre

From business cards and flyers to large-format posters, Staples provides quick and convenient print solutions with online ordering and in-store pickup.

Website: staples.ca

Phone: 250-751-7771





Event Technology and AV Services

SW Audio Visuals

With expert project managers, technicians, and designers, SW delivers large screens, immersive sound, innovative lighting, and advanced staging for seamless event production.

Website: sw-online.com

Phone: 1-800-909-7928

Email: info@sw-online.com

Showtime Services

An award-winning BC company since 1991, Showtime provides friendly, reliable service and partners with SW Event Technology to deliver events on time and on budget.

Website: showtimedisplay.com

Phone: 1-800-721-0029

Email: quote@showtimedisplay.com

Photographers & Videographers

Dirk Heydemann Photography

Website: haphotography.com

Phone: 1-250-729-5444

Email: heydemannphoto@shaw.ca

Lightwork Photography

Website: lightworkphoto.ca

Phone: 1-250-713-4720

Email: rainer@lightworkphoto.ca

BlackBird Creative Photography

Website: blackbirdcreative.ca

Email: jess@blackbirdcreative.ca

Concept Photography

Website: conceptphoto.ca

Phone: 1-250-741-4209

Email: lance@conceptphoto.ca

Sean Fenzi Photography

Website: seanfenzl.com

Phone: 1-250-618-4772

Email: sean@seanfenzl.com

Arrowsmith Media

Website: arrowsmithmedia.com

Phone: 1-250-797-6420

Email: doug@arrowsmithmedia.com

Kelly Adam Video & Photography

Website: kellyadam.ca/work

Phone: 1-250-667-3526

Email: kellyadamphotography@gmail.com

Kandid Productions

Website: kandidvideoproductions.com

Phone: 1-250-896-8232

Musicians & Entertainment

From the Earth

Alternative-Island Folk Duo with uplifting harmonies, catchy ballads, and a wider variety of original and unique cover material. From the Earth brings their stories, experiences, and passions to their music and performances.

Website: fromtheearthmusic.com

Email: fromtheearthevents@gmail.com

Wellington Jazz Program

The award-winning jazz academy at Wellington Secondary School

Phone: 1-250-758-9191

Neighbours Band

Four talented musicians who have played rock, country, and blues cover tunes for the last 23 years.

Website: neighboursband.ca

Phone: 1-250-739-3625

Email: neighboursband.ca@gmail.com

Tina Jones Music

A unique blend of Jazz and folk, played on the banjo in the clawhammer style with the addition of some of Western Canada's finest jazz musicians.

Website: tinajonesmusic.com

Email: tina@tinajonesmusic.com

RSM Productions - DJ Services

Music varies from old to new, with thousands of titles. The DJs create a great atmosphere with your guests.

Website: rsmproductions.com/services/dj-services

Kwik Pics Photobooth

Photo Booth services are focused on providing the best photo booth services with the highest level of customer satisfaction. From open-air photobooths to traditional photobooths, there is a variety of offerings to choose from

Website: kwikpics.ca/about-kwik-pics-photobooth

Phone: 1-250-244-8409

Email: info@kwikpics.ca

Funkanometry Dance Duo

Funkanometry is a dynamic Hip Hop and Popping dance duo from Nanaimo, first scouted for NBC's World of Dance in 2019. The boys continue enchanting audiences with their live performances, captivating crowds at corporate and special events.

Website: funkanometry.com

Craig the Magician

Craig the Magician brings laughs across Vancouver Island. Making memories and entertaining all ages in his unique show of magic and comedy

Website: craigthemagician.com/contact

Phone: 1-250-268-3065

Email: info@craigthemagician.com



Sustainable Events

On Vancouver Island, Synergy Enterprises is a leader in even carbon management and sustainable event planning. It can support you in planning, implementing, and measuring the impact of your event and the success of your sustainability tactics if it is a key deliverable of your event.

If you are just getting started with hosting more sustainable events, this section will include a few tips on where to take those first steps.

Guidelines for zero-waste and low-impact events

A zero-waste event doesn't mean eliminating all waste. The goal is to create a system that reduces the overall waste generated, prioritizes reuse, and ensures that any remaining waste is recycled, composted, donated, or otherwise diverted from landfills.

Even without professional guidance, there are some key actions you can take to make your event more sustainable:

1. Prioritize local

- a. Using local vendors helps contribute to economic and community sustainability. Tourism Nanaimo can support any questions about local vendors

2. Eliminate single-use items

- a. Opt for water refill stations rather than bottles, and use proper cutlery rather than plastic when possible.

3. Avoid print materials in favour of digital materials. If print cannot be avoided, try to use local printers and recycled paper.

4. Work with your venue to ensure recycling bins are plentiful

- 5. For giveaways and prizes, **consider reusable items** like branded water bottles, totes, or a curated welcome piece (hoodie, socks, something that is unlikely to wind up in the garbage)

6. Opt for lanyards that can be returned/ reused

7. Rent decorations and supplies rather than purchase them

Carbon Offsets

Carbon offsetting is the process of compensating for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as CO₂, from activities such as travel, energy use, or manufacturing, by funding projects that reduce or remove an equivalent amount of emissions elsewhere.

While the goal should always be to reduce as much as possible, carbon offsetting can be a meaningful way to leave a destination better than when you arrived.

You can calculate and purchase carbon offset credits through **Carbonzero**, which allows you to direct your support to a project of your choosing. The **Great Beat Forest Carbon Project** is a popular option with a direct impact on British Columbia.

How to Plan Regenerative Tourism Experiences

Regenerative tourism goes beyond sustainable tourism by not just minimizing harm but actively restoring ecosystems, reviving cultures, and benefiting local communities. It asks: "How can this trip leave the place better than we found it?"

Some key principles of regenerative tourism include:

- Place-based: Designed around the unique history, ecology, and people of a place
- Co-created: Planned with locals, not just for tourists
- Restorative: Heals Ecosystems, cultures, and communities
- Educative: Inspires travelers to become stewards and change-makers
- Equitable: Distributes power and profits fairly

Ways that you can engage in regenerative tourism with your meeting or event in Nanaimo include:

- Donate leftover food or event materials through local redistribution networks. (Risebridge Society, FoodShare Nanaimo, Salvation Army)
- Offset your event's carbon footprint by supporting local environmental projects. (See tips above for carbon offsetting)
- Offer an "opt-in" donation option during event registration for a local cause.
- Collaborate with a local artist or youth group to create an installation or performance during your event.
- Host a volunteer opportunity as a pre-conference or breakout session (beach cleanup, community garden work, youth mentoring).
- Feature local social enterprises in delegate bags, speaker gifts, or catering.
- Cultural tours on Satsutshun Island

Local Experiences & Entertainment

Arts & Culture Scene

Nanaimo, one of BC’s oldest cities, holds a history rooted in over 3,000 years of Snuneymuxw First Nation heritage. Here, arts and culture aren’t expressions — they’re the city’s heartbeat. With bold contrasts and creativity that doesn’t ask permission, the scene invites you in. Local talent shares the stage with global acts at jazz, blues, and fringe festivals. Live music spills from venues. What you’ll find here is uncontrived, diverse, and deeply engaging.

Come and be part of our living, breathing cultural landscape at:

- Nanaimo Art Gallery
- Nanaimo Museum
- Port Theatre
- Vancouver Island Military Museum
- Old City Quarter
- Downtown Waterfront



Wellness Experiences

Wellness at Your Meeting

In Nanaimo, wellness isn’t a trend, it’s how we live. Adding it to your meeting or event helps

keep energy up and focus sharp. Whether it’s quiet time between sessions or a group reset outside, it’s easy to build into your program.

Ideas to Get You Started:

- **Guided yoga**, stretch breaks, or mindfulness sessions
- **Nature walks** along the Harbourfront Walkway or nearby parks
- **Mental health rooms** or quiet recharge spaces
- **Island Sauna** – a wood-fired Scandinavian sauna experience near downtown
- **Zen Revolution** – a private spin class or breath-focused movement at this stylish downtown studio
- **Pop-up yoga** in the park, waterfront, or even inside the Vancouver Island Conference Centre
- **Balanced agendas** with learning, movement, fresh air, and downtime

Group Outdoor Experiences

Wildplay Element Parks

Located on 17 scenic acres along the Nanaimo River, WildPlay Element Park offers ziplining, tree-top courses, a 40-ft jump, bungee, and axe throwing for those who prefer to stay grounded.

Group rates and customizable packages available.

Saysutshun Island

Just a short passenger ferry ride from downtown Nanaimo (seasonal service), Saysutshun Island offers



a unique opportunity for conference groups to experience the rich cultural history of the Snuneymuxw First Nation in a setting that inspires reflection and connection.

Ideal for delegate outings, team-building, or off-site activities, the island features guided cultural tours, scenic beaches, and over 22km of walking and cycling trails. Groups can also enjoy kayak and bike rentals, picnic areas, and optional catering through local partners.

Let your attendees step away from the meeting room and into the story of this spiritual, historic place—an unforgettable way to connect with the land and local culture.

Team Building on the Water with Island Römer Adventures

Take your group off the beaten path and on the water with guided kayak tours that blend exploration with connection with Island Römer Adventures. Suitable for all levels, it’s a group activity that naturally encourages teamwork and shared memories. Ideal for delegates, incentive groups, or off-site wellness and team bonding activities.

Spot wildlife, navigate the coastline, or simply share the adventure.

Group Whale Watching with Vancouver Island Whale Watch

Departing from Departure Bay, Vancouver Island Whale Watch is BC’s most sustainable whale watching operator. Choose an open-air zodiac or semi-covered vessel and explore the Salish Sea with expert guides who know the whales by name.

An unforgettable off-site experience that’s an ideal addition to any conference program looking to blend education, sustainability, and west coast wonder.

2SLGBTQIA+ Travel

Whether you’re a proud member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community or an ally seeking connection, you’ll find a place to celebrate yourself in Nanaimo.

Nanaimo Pride Week is a burst of colour, music, and love every June, but our city doesn’t stop celebrating there. Locally owned businesses and inclusive spaces welcome everyone. The local 2SLGBTQ+ community is vibrant and visible, with eclectic drag shows and social events year-round.

Explore Nanaimo’s indie retail scene for unique products and services crafted by passionate community members. Whether shopping for a gift or soaking up local culture, there’s something for you. Enjoy a latte, stroll across the rainbow crosswalks, or dance at inclusive live music venues. We’ve rolled out the rainbow welcome mat. So, pack your bags, grab your friends, and prepare for an adventure you’ll never forget. Nanaimo is waiting for you!

[Explore our gender inclusive washroom map](#)

We look forward to hosting you!

Got an event in mind? Let's play host—Nanaimo style.
Reach out to our Meetings & Events crew!

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MEET IN
NANAIMO