

**NRC Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics
Dominion Astrophysical Observatory**

INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

NRC Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics

5071 West Saanich Road

Victoria BC, V9E 2E7

General Information:

Phone: 250-363-0001

Fax: 250-363-0045

NRC: Victoria Office Building Main Entrance



Victoria is on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, but the city of Vancouver is not on the Island. Travel to Victoria must be done either by air or sea, typically via Vancouver or Seattle.

Please check the Citizenship and Immigration Canada web site at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/> to see if you need a visa to enter Canada.

By Air

- a. **Victoria International Airport** <http://www.victoriaairport.com/> This airport serves moderate and large passenger aircraft for southern Vancouver Island. Connections to Victoria are usually made via Vancouver or Seattle. International visitors arriving via Vancouver will clear customs and immigration in Vancouver, while those arriving from Seattle will go through them in Victoria.

The airport is a 30 minute drive to downtown Victoria. Taxis or the YYJ Airport Shuttle are available after exiting the arrivals doors at the Airport. Taxi fares from airport to downtown are usually ~CDN\$60 one-way. The YYJ Airport Shuttle is only CDN\$25 one-way. It services all of Victoria's downtown hotels and leaves at 30-60 minute intervals. YYJ Airport Shuttle reservations can be made online at: <http://yyjairportshuttle.com/>

- b. **Downtown Harbour** An alternative way to arrive or depart Victoria is via floatplane or helicopter.

Floatplanes take off and land in the Inner Harbour several times a day and connect to downtown Vancouver, Seattle and to Vancouver International Airport.

Kenmore Air <http://www.kenmoreair.com/>

Harbour Air <http://www.harbour-air.com/>

There is a scheduled helicopter service <http://m.helijet.com/> Floatplane terminals and heliport are nearer to downtown than the Airport. A disadvantage is that connections in Vancouver or Seattle to floatplanes to and from Victoria may be difficult to arrange and will be cancelled in bad weather conditions. See your travel agent for more information.

By Sea

- a. **From the BC Mainland:** BC Ferries has regular sailings between the Tsawwassen ferry terminal south of Vancouver and the Swartz Bay ferry terminal, a 40-minute drive from Victoria, taking vehicles, cyclists and foot passengers. For more information, see: <http://www.bcferries.com/>
- b. **From the U.S. Mainland:** ferries can be taken between Victoria and Seattle:
 - Seattle (passenger only): <http://www.victoriaclipper.com>
 - Anacortes: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>
 - Port Angeles: <http://www.cohoferry.com>

Vehicle ferries are available between Victoria and Port Angeles. Most ferries permit reservations and some require them.

Getting to NRC - Victoria

NRC Herzberg is located on the Saanich Peninsula, about a 25-minute drive from downtown Victoria, approximately 15 minutes from the Airport and 20 minutes from the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal. Taxi fares from downtown to NRC Herzberg are approximately \$35-40 CAD.

Though Victoria has a comfortable bus system (<http://www.busonline.ca/regions/vic/>), and there is public transit service to the Observatory, there are minimal trips up West Saanich Road daily. Be sure to consult the bus schedule for Route 83 if this is your transportation of choice. <http://www.bctransit.com/regions/vic/schedules/schedule.cfm?p=thumb.txt&route=83%3A0&day=1&>

Car Rental

Many visitors find it most convenient to rent a car for their stay. There is parking available in any of the on-site parking lots, free of charge. Victoria International Airport is serviced by the major car rental companies listed below, most of which have downtown locations as well.

Budget	1-800-668-9833	www.budgetvictoria.com
National	1-800-227-7368	www.nationalcar.com
Avis	1-800-879-2847	www.avis.com
Hertz	1-800-263-0600	www.hertz.com

Driving Directions to NRC Victoria

By Road, from the Victoria International Airport

1. Follow the signs from the Airport to HIGHWAY 17 (VICTORIA)¹
2. Turn RIGHT onto HIGHWAY 17
3. Continue on HIGHWAY 17 for 15 km and take the ROYAL OAK DR EXIT
4. Turn RIGHT at the lights onto ROYAL OAK DR
5. Continue on ROYAL OAK DR and turn RIGHT at the 2nd set of lights onto WEST SAANICH RD
6. Continue on WEST SAANICH RD for 3 km
7. Turn RIGHT onto OBSERVATORY RD (large NRC-HAA sign) and continue 2 km up the hill to the main office

¹Note: Roundabouts - Additional Information to travellers:

When departing Victoria International Airport towards Highway 17 (Pat Bay Highway) you will need to navigate a traffic roundabout. The “modern” roundabout has come into favor recently as an effective means of controlling traffic at intersections. Roundabouts more effectively minimize delay and have a better safety performance than stop controlled intersections when it comes to high severity collisions.

First encounter with a roundabout?

1. When entering, yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
2. Signal when preparing to exit.

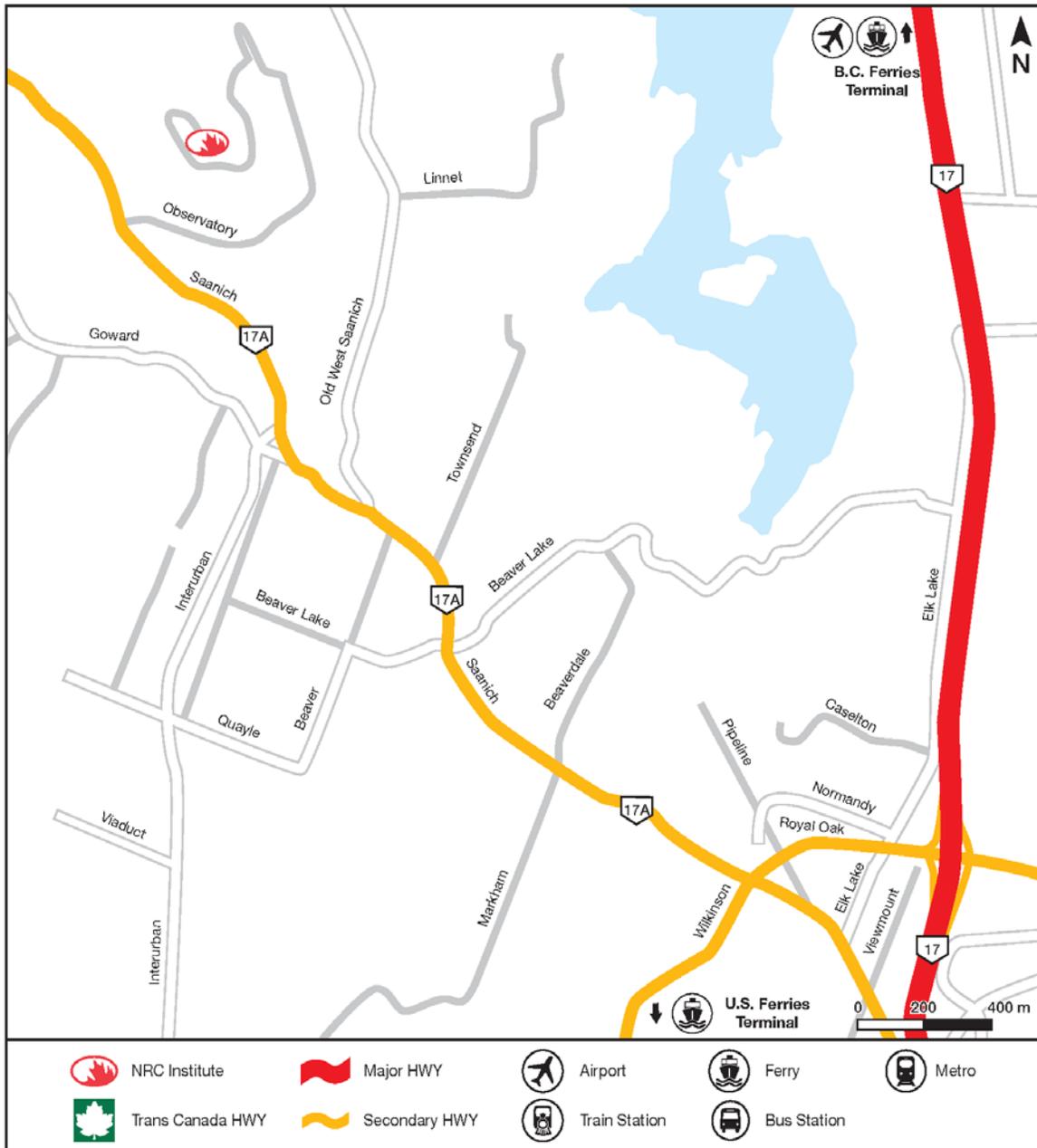
By Road, from the BC Ferries Terminal

1. Follow the signs from the Ferry Terminal to HIGHWAY 17 (VICTORIA)
2. Continue on HIGHWAY 17 for 20 km and take the ROYAL OAK DR EXIT
3. Turn RIGHT at the lights onto ROYAL OAK DR
4. Continue on ROYAL OAK DR and turn RIGHT at the 2nd set of lights onto WEST SAANICH RD
5. Continue on WEST SAANICH RD for 3 km
6. Turn RIGHT onto OBSERVATORY RD (large NRC-HAA sign) and continue 2 km up the hill to the main office

By Road, from Downtown VICTORIA and U.S. Ferries from SEATTLE and PORT ANGELES, WA

1. Follow BLANSHARD ST NORTH until it turns into HIGHWAY 17 (VICTORIA)
2. Continue on HIGHWAY 17 for 10 km and take the ROYAL OAK DR EXIT
3. Turn LEFT at the lights onto ROYAL OAK DR
4. Continue on ROYAL OAK DR and turn RIGHT at the 2nd set of lights onto WEST SAANICH RD
5. Continue on WEST SAANICH RD for 3 km
6. Turn RIGHT onto OBSERVATORY RD (large NRC-HAA sign) and continue 2 km up the hill to the main office





Victoria Area Hotels:

While there are reasonable hotels located within a 5-10 min drive to NRC Herzberg, many visitors prefer to stay in the downtown area in order to fully experience one of the world's loveliest cities. Large travel web sites, such as www.expedia.com or www.travelocity.ca carry a full listing of Victoria area hotels. If you prefer to stay closer to NRC, search for locations near the 'Dominion Astrophysical Observatory'.

Tourist Information

Victoria is a very popular tourist destination. Please see the following websites for more information about Victoria, Vancouver Island, or British Columbia:

- <http://www.attractionsvictoria.com/>
- <http://www.victoria.ca/common/index.shtml>
- <http://www.vancouverisland.travel/>
- <http://www.britishcolumbia.com/>
- Events: <http://downtownvictoria.ca/events>