

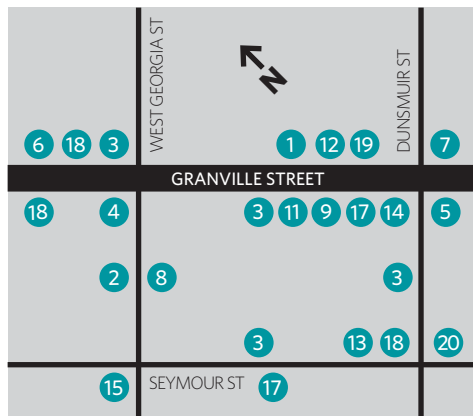


CITY CENTRE

You could spend an entire day exploring where Granville, Dunsmuir, Seymour and West Georgia streets converge, at the heart of downtown Vancouver

GO UNDERGROUND

With Vancouver real estate exorbitantly expensive, perhaps it's no surprise that shopping malls **1** Pacific Centre (page 20) and **2** Vancouver Centre (page 20) are mainly hidden away underground. Also underneath the centre of the city are stations for the public-transit **3** SkyTrain (page E6) lines: the brand new Canada Line, which goes to the airport, as well as the older Expo Line and Millennium Line. Together, these three link Vancouver to Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster and Surrey.



ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Get everything from prescriptions, groceries and magazines to greeting cards, designer fragrances and home appliances at **4** London Drugs (page 24), which has electronics, a photo-finishing department and a post office tucked away downstairs. The two-level **5** Shoppers Drug-mart (page 24) also carries more than the usual pharmacy fare, with its giant beauty department stocking brands such as Lancôme, Clinique, Clarins, Dior and Benefit. Other convenient shopping meccas include department stores **6** Sears (page 24), **7** Holt Renfrew (page 26) and



All buses and SkyTrains stop at or near City Centre. The area is ideal for walking, and it's always easy to find a cab.

PHOTOS (L, OPPOSITE TOP, AND OPPOSITE BOTTOM) BY K.K. LAW; COFFEE CUP © RYASICKY/STOCKPHOTO



8 The Bay (page 23), which features giant murals of Olympic athletes outside and an Olympic Superstore inside. Show your spirit with 2010 Winter Games clothing, pins, plush mascot toys and a pair of the iconic red mittens. These fleece-lined knitted mittens have been flying off store shelves for months, and their popularity shows no signs of waning.

PASSION FOR FASHION

Fashionistas find designer demin at **9** Parasuco (page 27), custom couture at **10** Manuel Mendoza (page 27) and fancy footwear at **11** Sterling Shoes (page 29). Those who love runway styles at discount prices head to **12** H&M (page 26). The popular Swedish retailer is known for teaming up with fashion luminaries such as Stella McCartney, Viktor & Rolf, Karl Lagerfeld and Jimmy Choo, bringing designer labels to the masses.



(Opposite top) Jeans from H&M. (Opposite bottom) Murals of Olympic athletes on the exterior of The Bay. (L) The Shore Club restaurant. (Below) Coffee to go. (Bottom) Popular shopping destination Holt Renfrew

EAT UP

Satisfy steak and seafood cravings at celebrity hotspot **13** Gotham Steakhouse and Cocktail Bar (page 94) or **14** The Shore Club (page 99), a spacious room with a sweeping stairway and a dramatic open kitchen. If you're jonesing for something simpler—such as a big, juicy, messy burger—visit **15** White Spot (page 86), a Vancouver institution for 82 years. Fun fact: founder Nat Bailey coined the term “carhop” and invented the world's first carhop tray. Worried about all those calories? Work up a sweat in the three-storey **16** Steve Nash Sports Club (page 30) or dance the night away at **17** Au Bar (page 70).

GET BUZZED

Coffee connoisseurs are spoiled for choice, with several **18** Starbucks (page 87) locations in the immediate area, as well as **19** Blenz (page 86) and **20** Tim Hortons (page 87). Mr. Horton played hockey for 24 seasons in the NHL, mainly with the Toronto Maple Leafs, but now his name is synonymous with java and deep-fried goodies. Timbits—bite-sized doughnuts in a cornucopia of flavours—are dangerous to New Year's resolutions involving low-calorie diets. **w**

