

SELF-GUIDED EMILY CARR



**WALKING
TOUR**

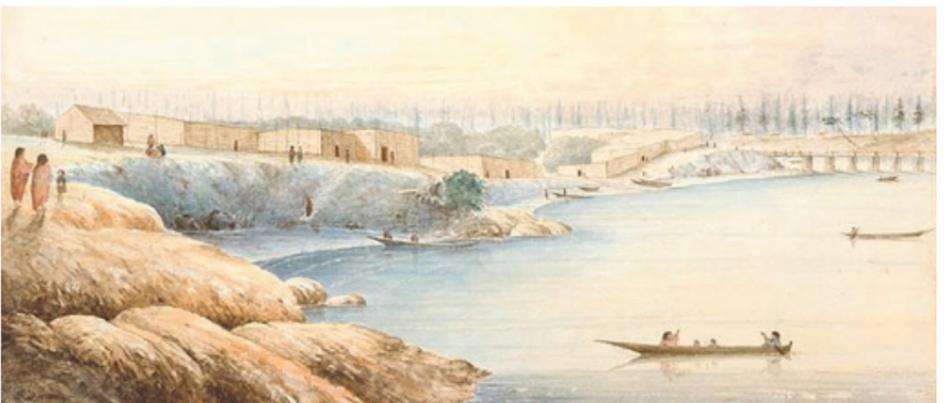
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE Ləkʷəŋən TERRITORIES

This walking tour is located on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen) People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees nations. The ləkʷəŋən People have lived in this area for thousands of years. They chose this land as a trading centre because of the temperate climate, natural harbours, and rich resources. They cared for the land with food cultivation and controlled burnings. Before the arrival of Europeans, p'áləc'əs (Songhees Point), the entrance to Victoria Harbour, was the settlement of the ləkʷəŋən People and an important location because of the spiritual power of the water. Later it would become the site of the Songhees reserve until the nation moved to their current location in 1911.

Between 1850-1854 the ləkʷəŋən People signed several Vancouver Island Treaties (also known as the Douglas Treaties or Fort Victoria Treaties) which gave much of the land to the new white colonial settlers. The legality of these treaties has been disputed for several reasons. The signatures of the Indigenous Chiefs were often marked simply with an "x" and paragraphs of writing were added by the colonizers after they had obtained "signatures".

Fort Victoria, the precursor to the city, was established in the area the ləkʷəŋən People called Camosack, which means "Rush of Water" and xwsəyq'əm (whuseikum) "place of mud." Míqən (Beacon Hill) means "warmed by the sun" and was an important location as an area of recreation to play Coqwialls (a game similar to field hockey) as well as a prime location where camas grew, which the ləkʷəŋən People harvested as an important food source and trading material. The James Bay neighbourhood was established on the land of the Swengwhung tribe of the ləkʷəŋən People.

Today the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations work hard for the preservation and continuation of their culture and language.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA

Concerned about American expansion into the area, the Hudson's Bay Company sent James Douglas to establish a new settlement in an area they had only minimally explored. Fort Victoria, built by the ɫəkʷəŋən people for the white settlers, was established in 1843. Originally called Fort Camosun it was soon renamed after Queen Victoria. The fort did well with salmon fishing, fur trading, and relied on the trading of other supplies and the labour of the Indigenous peoples, but things changed dramatically after gold was discovered in the Fraser Valley in 1858. Victoria became a stopping point where prospectors obtained a license to go mining as well as a convenient place to gather their supplies. Chinese immigrants also came to the city in search of gold and those who wished to stay were forced to settle in their own area of town due to racist policies and beliefs. Today, the Chinatown they established is Canada's oldest and North America's second oldest. Many Japanese and South Asian (the majority being Sikh) immigrants also arrived in the city in the early 20th century. The increase in population led to the City of Victoria being incorporated in 1862 and it was named the capital of British Columbia in 1868.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JAMES BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD

The modern-day neighbourhood of James Bay is named after the body of water, James Bay, which was named after Sir James Douglas, the first Governor of the Colony of British Columbia. The "bay" was a shallow body of water connected to the Inner Harbour covering what is now the land on which the Empress Hotel sits. After Fort Victoria was built, the Hudson's Bay Company established Beckley Farm on the James Bay Peninsula. James Douglas prompted the area for development when he moved the Colonial Administration Buildings outside of downtown to where the current Parliament Buildings now stand. In 1859 he built a bridge to connect James Bay to downtown and then a road from the end of the bridge to his own property, now known as 'Birdcage Walk.' This prompted the area to be further developed after the 1860s. As this area of Victoria is the oldest colonial residential development, the James Bay neighbourhood is known today for its hundreds of heritage houses that still stand.

CARR FAMILY



Item E-09901 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum. Detail from original photograph

Richard Carr was born on July 16, 1818 in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England. In his youth he travelled across North and Central America working various jobs including as a daguerreotype photographer in Mexico. He moved to San Francisco in 1849 due to prospects from the gold rush. In 1855 he met and married Emily Saunders. The couple travelled back to England for the wedding, but returned to California a few years later. In 1863 he, his wife, and their two daughters, Edith and Clara, immigrated to Victoria. In 1869 Richard established a provisions import business on Wharf St. in addition to working as a commission agent. He was a very religious man who also enjoyed the outdoors and art. Richard died in Victoria in 1888.



Item E-06843 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum. Detail from original photograph

Emily Saunders was born on July 3, 1836 in Oxford, England. As a young woman she moved to San Francisco where she met Richard Carr. The couple travelled back to England in 1855 for the wedding where they lived for several years before returning to California. In 1863 she immigrated with her family to Victoria where she had her other four children, Elizabeth, Alice, Emily, and Richard. Emily was an invalid for the last 15 years of her life and died on September 22, 1886.



Item A-07015 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum.

Edith Carr was born on February 5, 1856 in Alviso, Santa Clara County, California and moved with the family to Victoria in 1863. Her family nickname was 'Dede.' She taught Sunday school to the neighbourhood children. After the death of her parents, Edith became the head of the family and cared for her younger siblings. She was a hard-working, caring, and religious woman. She was skilled at painting on china and took home first prize for a competition at the 1904 Victoria Fall Fair. She was also a founder of the YWCA in Victoria and a board member of the Children's Protestant Orphanage. She died on December 11, 1919.

CARR FAMILY



Image A-02037 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum. Detail from original photograph

Clara Louisa Carr was born on May 16, 1857 in Alviso, Santa Clara County, California and moved with the family to Victoria in 1863. Her family nickname was 'Tallie.' She married Major John Nicholles of the Royal Engineers on June 21, 1882. She had four children, Florence Una (b. 1883), John Archer Tyrrell (b. 1884), Annie Muriel Emily (b. 1886), and Emily (b. 1887). Clara and her husband later separated and in 1915 she moved to Vancouver. She died on January 30, 1919.



Image A-02037 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum. Detail from original photograph

Elizabeth Emily Carr was born on November 6, 1867 in Victoria. She was a very religious woman and very active in benevolent church work. For a time she worked as a physiotherapist. Later in her life she helped Edith with the boarders at Carr House. She died in 1936.



Item I-61506 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum.

Alice Mary Carr was born on October 18, 1869 in Victoria. She was a schoolteacher and ran her own private kindergarten. Later she also worked as a nanny. She travelled with Emily across Canada, to several countries in Europe, as well as to Alaska. During World War II she knitted hundreds of clothing items which she donated to the Red Cross. She died in October 1953.



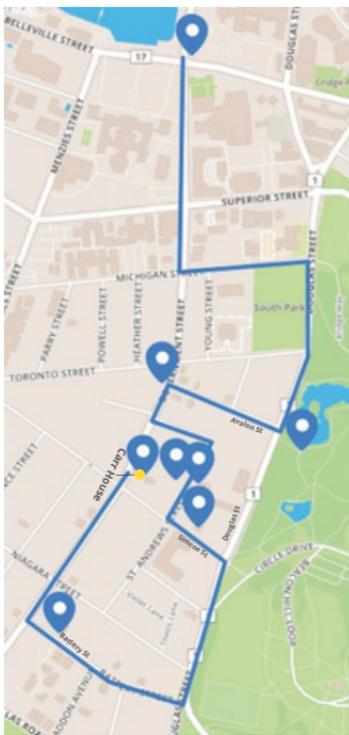
Image A-02037 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum. Detail from original photograph

Emily Carr was born in Victoria on December 13, 1871. Her family nickname was "Millie." After she finished school in Victoria she studied art in San Francisco as well as saved money to travel and study in England and Paris. She is well known for her interest in coastal Indigenous people and villages which were frequently the subjects of her paintings. After a brief move to Vancouver she settled back in Victoria in 1913 and continued to work on her art. In 1927 she exhibited her work to a national audience and met the Group of Seven. She was also a successful author and published 7 books about her life. She died on March 2, 1945.



Image I-60892 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum. Detail from original photograph

Richard Henry Carr was born in Victoria on October 20, 1875. He was a very frail child. People who knew him said he was kind and gentle. He died in Santa Barbara, California shortly before his 24th birthday in 1899.



ROUTE

1. Carr House
2. Alice's School
3. House of All Sorts
4. Edith's House
5. Alice's House
6. James Bay Inn
7. Emily Carr's Bridge
8. Emily Carr Statue
9. Ross Bay Cemetery

Stops 1-8 of this walking tour are a roughly 2.75km walk.

Start in front of Carr House on Government St.



Carr House, August 1891. Image C-03805 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum.

1. CARR HOUSE

207 Government Street

In 1863, Richard Carr purchased 10 acres of land next to Beacon Hill Park on the former Beckley Farm owned by the Hudson's Bay Company and built this house, designed by architects Wright and Sanders, on the property. The original address of the house was 44 Carr Street as Richard donated land to widen the road which therefore, was named after him. He and his wife Emily moved here with their two children Edith and Clara. The couple's younger four surviving children, Elizabeth, Alice, Emily, and Richard, were born in this house.

While Emily was growing up the property had a small farm, large gardens, fruit trees, and woods. The family had cows, several chickens, and a horse. Each child also had their own personal vegetable garden along the side of the house. Through the years the family had several domestic Chinese servants who would have done the cooking as well as taken care of the farm. One such employee is listed on the 1881 census as "Ah Chong."

Together the house and land cost \$5,000. In 1864, Richard sold off one acre of the property to a neighbour as he struggled to balance expenses from the construction of the house and the recent loss of a civil court case. Shortly before he died he had sold all but one acre of the property. When he passed away in 1889, he left the property to Edith who later subdivided the acre in 1911 and the Carr sisters built four houses on the lots they retained.

Both Richard and Emily Sr. lived at this house until their deaths. Edith and Elizabeth moved away briefly from 1913-1914, while retaining ownership. In 1915 they returned to the house and began renting out rooms to supplement their income. They remained here for the rest of their lives until Edith died in 1919 and Elizabeth in 1936. Clara lived at home until she married Major John Nicholles in the parlour of the house in 1882. Alice continued to live here during the years she ran her kindergarten at 620 Battery St. from c. 1898-1907. Richard Jr. lived at home until he moved to California for his health.

Emily lived at the house until she left for art school in San Francisco in 1890. She loved exploring the nature in the backyard of the property. She adopted a pet crow when she was 16 that lived on the porch, as well as entertained a visiting peacock from Beacon Hill Park. In her 20s, Emily ran art classes out of the dining room and the cow barn. Later Emily immortalized the house and her childhood there in *The Book of Small* (1945).

The house was sold by Alice and Emily in 1938 and afterwards had several occupants, but increasingly fell into disrepair. In 1964 it was purchased by Victoria MP David Groos who saved it from demolition. On October 27, 1964 it was recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada. It was then owned for several years by the Emily Carr Foundation who used it to run the Emily Carr Arts Centre, an art gallery and school. It was turned into a museum in 1976 after the Province of BC purchased it and worked on restoring it to its 19th century condition. It received Designated Heritage Status from the City of Victoria in 1980.

Today the house is a creative centre celebrating Emily Carr's work and life by offering encouragement and space for community creativity and innovation.

Facing Carr House, turn right towards Simcoe St. and walk down Government Street for two blocks. Turn left on Battery St. The next house is on the left-hand side.



2. ALICE'S SCHOOL

620 Battery Street

Alice Carr rented this house from approximately 1898-1907 to run a kindergarten while she continued to live at Carr house. She likely left the house in 1910 as the census of that year lists the occupants as Alice and Frederick Garnham. From 1910-1911 Alice travelled with Emily across Canada and then to Europe. She studied French in Paris, the school system in Sweden, and visited Germany and London.

Continue straight on Battery St. for 2 blocks. Turn left on Douglas St. Continue on Douglas St. for 3 blocks. Turn left on Simcoe St. The next house is on the right-hand side.



3. HOUSE OF ALL SORTS

646 Simcoe Street

This house was built on the original cow yard of the Carr property. Originally named Hill House after Beacon Hill Park, Emily later renamed it "House of All Sorts" after liquorice allsorts candy. Due to difficulties with her architect and the increasingly expensive budget, Emily took out a \$5,000 mortgage from her sister Alice. She originally only built four rental apartments in the house, however, by 1918 every inch of the house had been turned into a rental space for boarders with Emily doing the cooking and laundry. She also grew a vegetable garden and raised chickens, rabbits, and sheepdogs to earn extra money. As more space was taken up by boarders, Emily moved into the attic where she painted two Indigenous-style eagles on the roof. She stopped taking boarders by 1926 which allowed her to focus on her painting again. Emily remained in the house until 1936 when her financial situation forced her to move again. Emily later wrote about this time in her life in her book *The House of All Sorts* (1944).

Continue straight. Turn right on St. Andrews Street. The next house is down the road on the right-hand side.



4. EDITH'S HOUSE

231 St. Andrews Street

This house was also built on the original cow yard of the Carr property. Edith and Elizabeth lived here from 1913-1914 on Edith's subdivided lot. Next door on Elizabeth's lot, they grew a vegetable garden. They lived here for just over a year before moving into Alice's house at 218 St. Andrew's Street until the two moved back to Carr house where they became landladies. Edith was involved with several charities in the community including the Protestant Orphanage Home Committee and the Friendly Help Society. She was also the founder of the YWCA chapter of Victoria. Elizabeth was an active member of Victoria's Protestant community and was known for her benevolent church work. For a time she worked as a physiotherapist, using 207 Government St as her clinic.

Directly across the street, the yellow house is the next stop.



5. ALICE'S HOUSE

218 St. Andrews Street

Alice moved to this house, believed to be the original gardener's cottage, on December 26, 1913. From 1914-1922 she was a nanny for the Hennell family, looking after architect Alexander Robert Hennell's children. From 1914-1915 Edith and Elizabeth also lived in the residence. From 1918-1922, and again from 1940-1945 Emily used the house as her artist's studio.

In 1922, Alice moved back to the house and used the bottom floor as a school while living on the top floor. She retired in 1936 due to her failing eyesight. In 1940 Emily moved into the schoolroom and dining room section of the house, which she modified by adding a large floor-to-ceiling window, and used the space as her home and studio. Alice moved into the smaller section of the house. Periodically, Emily moved in and out of the house to various healthcare facilities from 1940-1945. Alice lived here until she died in October 1953.

Continue straight, then around the corner. (Caution: for a portion of this stretch there is no sidewalk.) Turn right on Government St. The hotel is on the left side.



6. JAMES BAY INN

270 Government Street

James Bay Inn, the third oldest hotel in Victoria, opened in 1911 and has been in continuous operation ever since, with a brief interlude during World War II. In 1942 the building was purchased by Mother Cecilia's religious order, The Society of the Love of Jesus, who from 1942-1945 operated St. Mary's Priory Guest House. Emily moved here in 1945 when she became ill and died on March 2, 1945.

Directly across the street is a biking/walking path that connects to Avalon St. Continue straight for 2 blocks. Cross Douglas St. at the crosswalk. Follow the path on the left. Turn right when you reach the water. Continue straight on pathway. The bridge is on the left-side of the next fork.



7. EMILY CARR BRIDGE

Beacon Hill Park

By 1952, Alice had saved \$1,000 which she used to commission her longtime friend architect Alexander Robert Hennell to design a small stone bridge in honour of her sister Emily. The bridge was built in Beacon Hill Park in a spot that Emily loved to visit, especially in her later years. It was dedicated in a public ceremony on February 9, 1953.

Retrace your steps back to Douglas St. including crossing at the crosswalk. Turn right onto Douglas St. Continue straight for 2 blocks. Turn left on Michigan St. Continue straight. Turn right onto Government St. Continue straight for 2 blocks. The statue is on the corner of the Empress Hotel Property.



8. EMILY CARR STATUE

Corner of Government St. and Belleville St.

This statue was erected for Women's History Month on October 13, 2010. It was organized by Peggy McGee and Ann Geddes, and commissioned by the Parks and Recreation Foundation of Victoria. The statue was sculpted by Barbara Patterson who is also known for her statue "Women are Persons!" of the Famous Five on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The Emily Carr statue captures Emily drawing on a sketchpad, accompanied by her monkey Woo and her dog Billie.

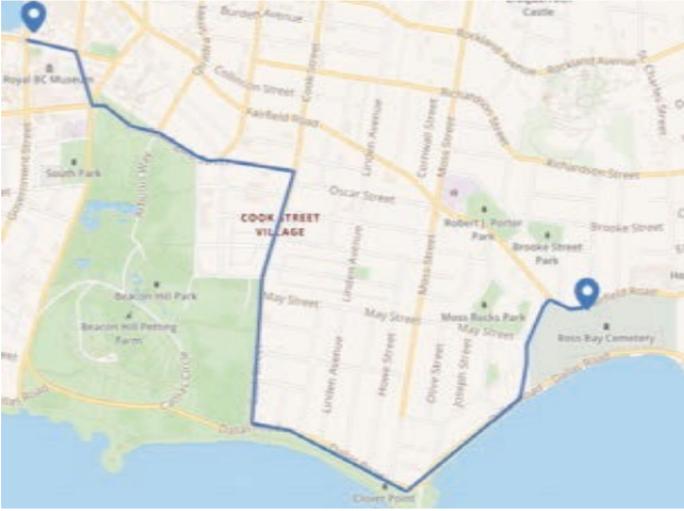
Woo, Emily's Macaque monkey, is undoubtedly her most famous pet. She traded one of her prize sheepdogs for Woo after seeing her in a pet shop on Government St. Woo was known for frequently causing mischief and also travelled with Emily on various painting trips. Billie the dog lived with Emily for 13 years in Victoria and Vancouver, as well as on her many trips to Indigenous villages.

This completes the self-guided Emily Carr Walking Tour. If you wish to visit Emily's grave, follow the directions on the back page. Please note this walk is an additional 45 minutes.



Emily and Woo , 1930. Image I-61505 courtesy of the Royal BC Museum.

Continue straight on Belleville St. for 1 block. Turn right on Douglas St. Continue straight for 1 block. Turn left on Southgate St. Continue straight for 4 blocks. Turn right on Cook St. Continue straight for 9 blocks. Turn left on Dallas Rd. Continue straight for 8 blocks. Turn left on Memorial Crs. Continue straight for 2 blocks. Turn right on Fairfield Rd. Continue straight. Turn right into the cemetery grounds at the second entrance on the right.



Follow the path to the left. Continue straight until you see a small white cemetery marker in the grass on the left hand side. It reads "W-Plot-75-E 15 Block H". (note: it may be hard to spot as it is located between 2 graves- keep your eyes peeled!) Continue straight. The Carr family plot is 5 plots ahead on the right hand-side.



9. CARR FAMILY GRAVE

Ross Bay Cemetery

Emily Carr's grave is the most visited site in the cemetery. She was buried in her family's plot after her death on March 2, 1945. In 1963 the Victoria Historical Society donated a plaque to the site to mark her place of burial. The whole Carr family is buried here with the exception of Clara who is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver. The Emily Carr Arts Centre Society donated the gravestone marker with names of all of the family members in 1981.

Thank you for following this walking tour. We hope you learned a lot about Emily Carr, her family, her life, her neighbourhood, as well as the history of the lək̓ʷəŋən territory and City of Victoria.

This walking tour was created by Charlotte Clar.

All photos courtesy of Charlotte Clar unless otherwise indicated.

Thank you to Carr House, the Parks and Recreation Foundation of Victoria, the Old Cemeteries Society of Victoria, the Songhees Nation, the Royal BC Museum Archives, and Libraries and Archives Canada