



WALKING

## WE ARE OCEAN VANCOUVER - WALKING TOUR

By WE ARE OCEAN Vancouver

10KM | 12,500 - 15,000 STEPS  
2-3.5 HOURS

### ABOUT THE TOUR

This walking tour is based on the educational program WE ARE OCEAN VANCOUVER. Led by T'uy't'ananat Cease Wyss and Olivier Salvas, the online program focuses on Indigenous knowledge of the ecosystems that affect Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam First Nations land. In a series of four YouTube videos, students learn about Indigenous plant and marine life, the impacts of colonization, and ideas for decolonization activities that support ocean health. All parents, teachers and students are invited to participate for free. Learn more (link to WAOV page VB website)

Today you'll embark on a journey through Stanley Park from an Indigenous perspective. We hope you'll take a brief stop at each point of interest to learn some history of the land and explore the direct relationship between the ocean and the forest. Activities for children are included throughout to expand on the learning opportunities.

### ROUTE STOPS

- 1 LOST LAGOON TRAILS
- 2 LOST LAGOON JUBILEE FOUNTAIN
- 3 THIRD BEACH
- 4 SIWASH ROCK
- 5 SECOND BEACH
- 6 A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER | YUE MINJUN
- 7 217.5 ARC x 13 | BERNAR VENET
- 8 ENGAGEMENT | DENNIS OPPENHEIM
- 9 ENGLISH BAY





## #1 - LOST LAGOON TRAILS

Take a video to capture as many ecosystem features as possible. Can you find elements that come from the ocean (for example, seashells)? How about including some amazingly tall cedar trees in your video?



## #2 - LOST LAGOON JUBILEE FOUNTAIN

Did you know that Lost Lagoon has a strong history with Indigenous people? You are standing on the edge of where the ancestors of T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss lived from 1860 to the 1920s. What was once a tidal pool and true saltwater marsh was cut off from the ocean when the Stanley Park causeway was built in 1928.

Activity: Create a TikTok video or an Instagram reel to showcase the plant life and animals in Lost Lagoon. Share it with us using the hashtag #VanBiennale.

Activity: Google what is a riparian zone?

### **WATCH THE VIDEO**

<https://youtu.be/VplUEfae8Ms>



### #3 - THIRD BEACH

Explore the beach and its environment and try to find as many rocks as you can and share them with us! You can opt for small rocks on the sand or in the water or find big rocks! You can also choose to create a piece of land art using Third Beach rocks!



### #4 - SIWASH ROCK

In Indigenous belief systems, rocks are ancestors. Legend has it that Siwash Rock was transformed by great mythical creatures.

**Activity:** Take a few minutes to watch the video clip to hear the mythical story about how a man became the giant Siwash Rock.

#### **WATCH THE VIDEO**

[https://youtu.be/-AlecV\\_vPto](https://youtu.be/-AlecV_vPto)



## #5 - SECOND BEACH

Are there things contributing to ocean pollution that we don't notice? Count the number of tankers you can see. What else can you see that impacts the natural environment?

**Activity:** Take a few moments to watch the video clip and think about ways we can repair ocean health.

### WATCH THE VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/i3xivJO4iXU>



## #6 - A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER - YUE MINJUN

### *A-maze-ing Laughter*

Yue Minjun

2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

*A-maze-ing Laughter* was the most beloved sculpture of the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition, captivating throngs of visitors and inspiring endless playful interaction. This artwork is a legacy of the Vancouver Biennale and was presented as a gift to the people of Vancouver, thanks to a generous donation from Chip and Shannon Wilson. It has quickly become an iconic cultural beacon in the city and will continue to inspire and engage the imagination of future generations of residents and visitors from its home in Morton Park.

Having been nominated in the Canadian Institute of Planners' "Great Places in Canada Contest" in 2013, it was the only work of art in the nation to receive a nomination. This beloved installation helped the West End neighbourhood win the 2015 "Great Place in Canada - Great Neighbourhood" Award.

In *A-maze-ing Laughter* Beijing-based artist Yue Minjun depicts his own iconic laughing image, with gaping grins and closed eyes in a state of hysterical laughter, elements that contribute to the artist's signature trademark. The longer one looks at the 14 cast-bronze figures, the more the contradiction of the silent, frozen form of sculpture becomes obvious.



**#8 - 217.5 ARC X 13 | Bernar Venet**



**#7 - ARC 217.5 x 13 - BERNAR VENET**

**217.5 Arc x 13**  
**Bernar Venet**  
**2009 - 2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition**

Bernar Venet's monumental work *217.5 Arc x 13* is part of his *Arc* series of sculptures that illustrate the beauty, balance, and malleability of raw steel.

The name of this artwork is a precise description of its mathematical composition. All of the beams in the sculpture are nested and curved to the same angle providing a sense of balance and grace. Venet employs mathematical manipulations of this industrial material to explore the interconnected relationships amongst nature, humanity, and the universe. The repetitive thirteen curves give a resting yet rhythmic sense of movement and fluidity. The raw red-brown rust colour of the unpainted surfaces of the corten steel, an authentic surface upon which Venet insists, facilitates an interaction with the natural elements. This sculpture was acquired by the Vancouver Biennale Legacy Foundation in 2007.

"Increasing levels of abstraction and complexity frighten those for whom art is a means to attain a comfortable expression of calm, luxury, and delight." – Bernar Venet

**Activity:** Same Place: Two Perspectives:

Recreate the photos of the stormtrooper facing both the ocean and the city.

*Artwork by Olivier Salvat, photos by Rory McLeod*



## #9 - ENGAGEMENT | Dennis Oppenheim

**Engagement**  
**Dennis Oppenheim**  
**2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition**

*Engagement* is one of three versions that artist Dennis Oppenheim produced referencing the traditional engagement rings. In a “Pop Art” form where everyday domestic objects are taken out of their domestic environment and re-conceptualized as monumental sculptures, this version of *Engagement* rises nearly 30 feet. Where one would expect to find diamonds, there are two translucent houses of plexiglass and aluminum, which are illuminated and precariously tilted away from each other.

As a commentary on the precarious balances in marriage, that of the romantic, traditional, economic and the illusions inherent in the institution, the meaning of *Engagement* is intentionally open-ended. Oppenheim often declined to interpret or explain his work, leaving the interpretation to the viewer.

Having constructed several large-scale sculptural works throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Oppenheim (1938-2011) remains one of the world’s most influential and respected artists. His work was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Vancouver Biennale in 2007. The initial installation of this artwork in 2005 coincided with same-sex marriage debates taking place in Canada. This work is a Legacy Artwork of the 2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale.



## #10 - ENGLISH BAY

Spread the word about Ocean Health by taking action to fight climate change.

Some ideas:

- Organize and document a small shore cleanup
- Make a video highlighting pollutants and polluters (such as ocean tankers).

## #11 - FINISH

How can you help? There are several ways in which people of all ages, including students, can help restore, preserve and advocate for ocean health.

- Organize a shoreline cleanup with your friends, family, and classmates.
- Learn how to remove invasive species from your area. Get friends to join you.
- Plant an Indigenous garden in your community.
- Become an advocate for the environment. Use your social media platforms to champion ocean health and efforts to fight climate change.

## LEARN MORE

WE ARE OCEAN VANCOUVER

<https://www.vancouverbiennale.com/learn/programs/we-are-ocean-vancouver/>

Vancouver Biennale Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheVancouverBiennale/featured>