

World In Motion, World In Touch . . . EXPO '86

Combining the best of all the museums and festivals, carnivals and fairs you've ever visited, Expo '86 offers a smorgasbord of activities to delight all five senses.

Packed into some 170 acres along False Creek near downtown Vancouver, British Columbia (about 450 miles north of Eugene), think of the fair site as a narrow 1½-mile-long international mall with three anchor pavilions: the U.S. at the west end (Yellow zone), China at the east (Purple zone) and the USSR at the center (Pink zone).

If you don't mind walking, use the parking lots under the Cambie Street Bridge and take the nearby pedestrian walkway right to the fair site, near its center. From the walkway you'll have a great look-see of the entire Expo '86 site, spreading nearly equidistant on either side of the bridge and along the False Creek waterfront.

Speaking of trekking, wear your most comfortable walking shoes and consider taking along an extra pair for a mid-day foot break. Most visitors have discovered that foot-power is the way to go at Expo; the Monorail may look inviting, but its inefficient loading and unloading system have caused long waits. Instead, follow Central Boulevard under the Monorail. Later, take the Skytrain over to Canada Place and perhaps a mini-ferry ride up and down False Creek (visit Granville Island if you have the time—it's a wonder of shops, galleries and eateries where you'll rub shoulders with local Canadians).

Dress in Layers

Another suggestion is to dress in layers. Vancouver is a port city and a squall can kick up off the Strait of Georgia in a moment. It will be cool to warm in the morning, warm to hot in the afternoon and cool to cold at night (major events close at 10 pm but nightlife goes on until 1 am). Be prepared for every kind of wet weather and take your own umbrella, unless you want to shell out \$20 for one there. Plastic cover-ups are available, however, and are cheap.

Six color zones divide the Expo site and are helpful for finding attractions and planning meeting points. Each zone's color appears on banners, flags, employee uniforms, ticket booths, fences—even the flowers! You can buy a color-coded pocket map for about \$1.35 at shops near the entry gates. The helpful souvenir guide runs about \$3.50. There are lockers available at the entry gates for fifty cents. At a dozen kiosks throughout the grounds and inside the Expo Centre (Purple zone) and Canada Pavilion (Blue zone) are some 90 IBM touch-screen computer terminals which give entertainment schedules, exhibit in-

by Myrna Oakley

formation and so forth. Information is everywhere and clearly displayed.

Packed into Expo's narrow and rambling 1½ miles are exhibits from 54 nations as well as six theme pavilions and plazas, theaters, amusement rides and international restaurants. To minimize waiting at the three theme pavilions—Ramses II (Yellow), The Roundhouse (Green) and Expo Centre (Purple)—stop first thing and pick up tickets for later entry (expect a 30 minute wait upon entry, however).

Yes, there are many waiting lines at Expo '86—but you'll have roving entertainers and vaudeville acts plus people-watching to help while away the time. Queues aside, it's hard to move quickly through pavilions; you're barred from many until the movie is over. If your time is tight, when the doors open, walk through the theater section and into the exhibition area. Look for a long line that is moving; a short one has just begun to wait.

The "Yellow Zone"

Here's an example of what you'll find in the Yellow Zone at the west end of the Expo site (which is just one of six such activity and pavilion-filled zones) . . . **Air Canada Skyride**, travels from the SE corner of the Yellow Zone to the NE corner of the Green Zone; **British Columbia Television**, daily news broadcasts and tours; **California**, theme is "California, Creating the Future"—theme tower, neon sculpture; **Cariboo Log Chute**, water ride attraction (\$3); **Cote d'Ivoire**, recreation of Abidjan and San Pedro harbours—music, dance; **Cuba**, historic overview and present-day theme achievements; **General Motors**, theatre enclosed in metal clad wedge—exhibits of automotive industry; **Great Hall of Ramses II**, styled after Egyptian stone temples—70 artifacts on exhibit; **Ferry**, docks between the Munich Festhaus and the California Pavilion; **Munich Festhaus**, authentic German beer garden; **Old Salts Shipyard**, boat-building of replica of the *Swift*; **Oregon**, time travel in a special effects tunnel representing 21st century

covered wagon; **RCMP Stables**, near the Kodak Pacific Bowl—open for visits; **Telecom Canada Pavilion**, Circle-Vision 360 Theatre film produced by Walt Disney Productions; **United States**, theme is space—"Why Explore?"; **Washington**, a slide and film show—Travolator moving sidewalk; **Xerox International Theatre**, waterfront lineup of music and dance events.

Some folks say you can do Expo '86 in three days; however, when you consider seeing an equally impressive number of exhibits and attractions in the other five zones—Blue, Green, Pink, Purple and Red—plus walking and waiting time . . . a day in each zone would be the ideal, most agree. Then, there's Vancouver itself—celebrating its 100th birthday—with a plethora of sights and pleasures to see and experience (at the very least, Stanley Park, Grouse Mountain, Granville Island and the Gaslight section).

Food at Expo

How about food at Expo? It's spendy. Some pavilion-based international restaurants are small and crowded; mealtime waits can stretch up to an hour. Make a reservation in person before you're famished, then sightsee in the area while you wait. Most fast-food and larger ethnic restaurants are faster and cheaper. The biggest ones, like the 1,000-person Munich Festhaus, are likeliest to have room.

There are some 60 sit-down eateries in all, plus about 40 food carts. Consider bringing your own snacks (but no liquor, glass containers, coolers, or barbecues are allowed). Anywhere on the waterfront, especially around the U.S. Plaza (Yellow), you'll find views of boats and fewer people. Or try the grassy terraces between Kodak Pacific Bowl and the Mounties' stables (Yellow).

Entertainment

What about nightlife and entertainment? The Blue Zone, featuring the B.C. Pavilion Complex and Plaza of Nations, is the night-owl area. Expo After Hours is in full swing until 1 am. Barges floating in False Creek send off



EXPO '86 is drawing thousands of visitors to its Vancouver, B.C. site.
Photograph by John Parkhurst

showers of glittering fireworks at 10 pm (when most other pavilions close), signalling the start of after-hours entertainment.

Swing, rock, boogie or dance cheek to cheek at Waves, The Flying Club, or 86 Street—three cabarets in the complex which serve full meals and are open daily from noon until 1 am. Daytime menus and entertainment are planned with families in mind.

The Expo Theatre, with its blue and white striped roof (it's a 4000 seat outdoor theater which is open at the sides and back—take sweaters and coats), is the place to see big name entertainers like the Righteous Brothers, Paul Revere and The Raiders, Ray Charles, Joan Rivers, Harry Belafonte, Victor Borge and Johnny Cash.

Although it's difficult to get tickets (averaging \$15) for major performances, for information and reservations, call 280-4444 in Vancouver or 1-800-663-0223 from the states. For those interested in classical events, ask about La Scala's I Lombardi and Requiem Mass (both by Verdi)—due in late August; the Ballet Folklórico de Guadalajara due in September; and the State Orchestra of the USSR in October.

Folklife Theme Weeks/ Special Weeks

Marine Commerce/July 21-Aug. 2
Aviation/Aug. 1-10
Abbotsford International Airshow/Aug. 8-10
Dance/Aug. 11-17
Latin American/Aug. 18-24
Transportation for Recreation/Aug. 18-24
Human Powered Transportation/Aug. 25-31
Cowboys/Sept. 1-7
Communications/Sept. 7-13

In Celebration of Women/Sept. 8-14

Underwater and Offshore

Resources/Sept. 12-21

Modern Rail/Sept. 29-Oct. 5

Expo '86 Information

Expo Info
P.O. Box 1800
Vancouver B.C.,
Canada V6C 3A2
Telephone: (604) 660-3976

Tourism B.C.
Robson Square, 800 Hornby St.
Vancouver B.C.,
Canada V6Z 2C5
Telephone: (604) 660-2300

Greater Vancouver Convention
& Visitors Bureau
1625-1055 W. Georgia St.
P.O. Box 11142, Royal Centre
Vancouver B.C.,
Canada V6E 4C8
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Customs U.S., Blaine-area
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