



DEFECTING
— TEMPORARILY —

TO

VANCOUVER ISLAND

OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE NORTH PROVIDES URBAN AND RURAL DELIGHTS BY *NADIA RAZA*

Chances are, in the past year you've probably thought it, maybe even said it: Let's defect to Canada.

For many, our neighbor to the north symbolizes an idealized other. In this case, due to different forms of land management and protection, the grass literally is greener.

In search of a memorable early-summer vacation that spoke to our cosmopolitan and nature-loving sensibilities, my partner and I headed north to explore Vancouver Island. Our goal was to experience the city of Victoria and the island in nine days.

Our route to Victoria was surprisingly easy. From Eugene, we traveled to Port Townsend for two days. After

exploring the quintessential hikes at Hurricane Ridge and the Hoh Rainforest, we took a 40-minute ferry ride to Victoria. On the upper deck we sat in the sun with fellow tourists and spotted a few orcas in the distance.

In Victoria, we found the iconic landmarks of old-world colonial grandeur: the Parliament Buildings and the Empress Hotel. Nestled between these vestiges of the past

