

Walk around downtown Salmon Arm

If you go to York Minster in York, England you can rent a recording machine that gives you a guided tour around the great gothic cathedral that was completed in 1472.

What does this have to do with the Shuswap? Nothing really, but this guide, which is much lower tech and comes only in English will have to serve.

So if you're reading this out loud to your friends and family, try to put some creative emphasis as though you're the guide to this wonderful city which is much younger than York Minister and not nearly as gothic.

Salmon Arm is the gem, and the economic hub, of the Shuswap. Surrounded by Shuswap Lake, rich farmland, forested highlands and mountains it's easy to see why it is the favourite destination spot from generation to generation.

The downtown itself is a vibrant mix of restaurants, coffee shops, artisan shops and galleries, specialty stores and boutiques that offer items you just can't find anywhere else. The town is compact and walkable. You can see buildings that were built in the early 1900s and new stores that have everything from hot pies out of the oven, donairs and pet spas.

A good spot to start your walking tour is the Visitor Centre at 20 Hudson Street N.E. Located in Salmon Arm's old courthouse, the friendly staff can answer just about any kind of question on the area. On Hudson Street, among other things, you'll find the art gallery, stores with crafts, imported culinary specialty foods and treats, ice cream and a nice cup of tea, baby clothing, a gallery, natural bath products, a pet spa and a drug store. You'll pass right by Lakeshore News which has a newspaper stand outside the office. Grab a paper. It is free and will have listed local events and the movie shows and times.

Hudson crosses over Alexander, which is Salmon Arm's only one-way street. Many of the banks in the city are on this street. You will find clothing stores, pies, lattes, flowers, books, restaurants and the



Salmar Classic Theatre which has a 3D projector. If you're here during New York's opera season you can enjoy live broadcast performances from the Met as well.

Going down the block to Lakeshore Drive you can find a locally owned grocery store, the government liquor store, art shops, women's clothing, shoes, a funky African store, natural products for babies, music, soup and soap.

Salmon Arm has a nice ratio of spas and hairdressers so you can usually walk in and get an appointment.

This is only a smattering of what you'll find downtown Salmon Arm. There are all kinds of restaurants where you can get a taste of foods from around the world. If you need something fast or if you want to sit down to a fancy lunch, it's all available in the compact city centre.

On Ross Street there's an outdoor stage which very often has musicians and bands playing. A laundromat and a second hand bookstore are also on this street.

The city centre is flanked by parks and the lake giving it a nice sandwiched in feeling. Enjoy your stroll around town.



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