



TITANIC MARKS 95TH ANNIVERSARY IN VICTORIA BC

Articles / Attractions

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On April 14, 2007 - 95 years to the day the Titanic struck the iceberg that sent it to the ocean floor - the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, BC will launch a six-month presentation of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition until October 14, 2007.

This travelling exhibition features more than 280 artifacts recovered from Titanic's undersea resting place in a series of galleries that trace the life of the

"unsinkable" ship - from its design and construction through to its discovery, recovery and conservation. As visitors climb the gangplank, boarding passes in hand, they become immersed in the passenger experience.

Authentically recreated first- and third-class corridors and cabins, outdoor café and boiler room are appointed with artifacts recovered from the shipwreck site 3,800 m (12,500 ft.) below the surface of the North Atlantic Ocean. The Royal BC Museum is the first venue in Western Canada to present this assembly of artifacts collected by RMS Titanic Inc., the only company in the world authorized to recover artifacts from the Titanic wreck site.

"Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition isn't just about the sinking of the Titanic," says RBCM CEO Pauline Rafferty. "It reflects the impact this historic event continues to have on all of us almost a century later. And it tells the stories, and honours the memories, of the people who lived through – and lost their lives during – this tragic incident."

Titanic Facts and Royal BC Museum Special Programming

TITANIC: Building the Legend

Design

The Ship was designed by Thomas Andrews for the White Star Line. Construction began on March 31, 1909 and lasted two years.

Size

Titanic was the largest Ship built prior to 1912 and the largest moving object built by man.

Length:

882 feet and 9 inches (nearly four city blocks long)

Width:

92 feet and 6 inches

Height:

11 stories high

Weight:
46,328 tons

Speed:
23 to 24 knots (28 to 29 miles per hour)

Capacity:
Equipped to carry a total of 3,547 passengers

Lifeboats
14 main boats, 2 emergency boats and 4 collapsibles (total capacity was 1,178)

Mechanics
The Titanic had three propellers that weighed 98 tons. Titanic had four funnels, three of which were exhaust vents for the boilers that ran the engines. The fourth funnel was added to balance out the ship and make it look grander.

Hull
The ship was built from 2,000 1-inch thick steel plates held together by more than 3 million rivets. The hull weighed 26,000 tons.

Staircase
The Grand Staircase featured a contemporary Louis XIV balustrade that was paneled in oak and included a wrought-iron and glass skylight.

Ship Decor
The style of the décor included Louis XIV, Empire Italian Renaissance, Georgian, Regence, Queen Ann, and Old Dutch. It took ten months to decorate the Titanic.

Titanic Fact Sheet

- It cost \$7.5 million to build Titanic and carried a \$5 million insurance policy. It would cost about \$400 million to build Titanic today.
- If the ship's bow had crashed straight into the iceberg, the Titanic and most of its passengers would have survived.
- Even if all 20 lifeboats had been filled to capacity, there would only have been room in them for 1,178 people.
- At first most of the passengers did not believe the Titanic was really sinking, hence the low number of 19 aboard the first lifeboat, even though it could carry 65.
- Lookout Archie Jewell had told his mate George Symons, "You can smell the ice before you get to it." The minerals in icebergs that have broken off from glaciers in Greenland give off a distinctive odor as the icebergs melt on their journey south.
- The Titanic was one of the first ships in distress to send out an "SOS" signal; the radio officer used "SOS" after using the traditional code of "CQD" followed by the ship's call letters.
- At the time of Titanic's destruction, the temperature of the water was only 28°F (-2°C). Most of those struggling in the water in their life jackets would have succumbed to hypothermia, while others may have had heart attacks.
- Although several passengers and crew members on the life boats wanted to return to the ship, the majority protested out of fear that the hundreds in the water would swamp the boats.
- Initial headlines of the Titanic disaster claimed all passengers survived and the ship was

being towed to land.

- The White Star Line was not blamed for the Titanic's sinking because the Board of Trade feared that this would result in lawsuits that would hurt the line's profits, damage the reputation of British shipping, and cause thousands of customers to switch to German or French liners.
- No skeletons remain at the wreck site. Any bodies carried to the seabed with the wreck were eaten by fish and crustaceans.

Voyage Timeline

April 2nd, 1912, 8:00 pm: Titanic leaves Belfast, where it was built, for Southampton.

April 10th, 1912, 12:00 pm: Titanic starts maiden voyage, leaving Southampton and ventures to Cherbourg, France, and Queenstown, Ireland.

April 11th, 1912, 1:30 pm: Titanic raises anchor for the last time and leaves Queenstown.

April 14th, 1912, Morning: Lifeboat drills were neglected after church services, although the crew has to complete the procedure.

April 14th, 1912, 10:55 pm: Carpathia, completely surrounded by ice, stops for the evening and warns the Titanic of the impending danger.

April 14th, 1912, 11:40 pm: Frederick Fleet sights an iceberg.

- First Officer Murdoch gives the "hard a-starboard" order while having the engines stopped and reversed.
- The Ship, traveling at approximately 21 knots (26 mph), turned slightly to the left, avoiding a head-on collision. Below the water the iceberg punctures the hull.
- Five, possibly six of the Titanic's watertight compartments flood.
- Captain Smith assesses the damage and orders his telegraph operators to send the distress signal, "CDQ," after estimating the ship will remain afloat for two hours.

April 15th, 1912, 12:00 am: Captain Smith gives the order to uncover the lifeboats and evacuate the women and children.

April 15th, 1912, 12:45 am: First lifeboat leaves the Ship with only 19 aboard, although it could carry 65.

April 15th, 1912, 1:15 am: Titanic's bow begins sinking as the last of the lifeboats are lowered into the water. An estimated 1,500 people were left stranded on the sinking boat.

April 15th, 1912, 2:20 am: Titanic sinks.

Special Titanic Public Programming:

- Social context of the Edwardian era as it is played out onboard the ocean liner;
- The scientific aspects of the tragedy as it relates to the human experience.

SPECIAL TITANIC PROGRAMMING:

1. Gallery animation stations



Throughout the galleries are demonstration stations staffed by trained interpreters and junior docents (aged 11 – 14), who use props, reproductions and hands-on demonstrations to enhance visitors' understanding of all things Titanic.

Travel Back in Time to the late-Edwardian Era

Learn about the activities – and differences in shipboard life – of 1st, 2nd and 3rd class travellers; explore the contents of an elegant steamer trunk or humble suitcase; smell perfumes of the era (Edwardian Bouquet for women or Special #127 for men); lounge in a replica deck chair or slip on a replica life jacket to prepare for the impact ahead.

Titanic Dimensions

Focus on the features that made this grand ship so unique – its size, its swimming pool, its engines and why it was considered unsinkable.

Conserving Titanic Artifacts

Find out what happens to artifacts after they are recovered from the ocean floor; learn about techniques employed to ensure the treasures suffer no further damage.

The Sinking

Discover the series of mistakes and misfortunes – from substandard materials and outdated regulations, to human error – that combined to cause the sinking of the Titanic and the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

Fun and Games

Docents demonstrate Edwardian-era pastimes – including children's toys and games – to illustrate how passengers spent their time aboard Titanic.

April 14 to October 14, 2007

2. Titanic-themed theatre program:

Actors in period costume portraying characters central to the Titanic story roam through the galleries, answering questions and entertaining, informing and interacting with visitors.

Characters include:

- Captain Edward Smith of RMS Titanic – White Star Line's most prized captain;
- Thomas Andrews, shipbuilder in charge of the plans for RMS Titanic;
- John Jacob Astor IV, the richest man to sink on the Titanic;
- Margaret Tobin Brown, American socialite, philanthropist and activist better known as "the Unsinkable Molly Brown;"
- Lady Duff-Gordon, iconic fashion designer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries;
- Violet Jessop, an Irish stewardess with the White Star Line who survived the sinking of the

Titanic and her sister ship, the Britannic, four years later.

3. Titanic voices:



Recorded from original transcripts by professional storytellers, these first-hand accounts and oral histories bring to life the forebodings, experiences and contradictory opinions of the Titanic disaster.

Recovery and Conservation

Expeditions to recover Titanic artifacts have been a collaborative effort between RMS Titanic, Inc.; The French Oceanographic Institute; and the Moscow-based P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology. These expeditions have been conducted at the Titanic's wreck site, located 963 miles northeast of New York and 453 miles southeast of the Newfoundland coastline, during the summers of 1987, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, and 2004.

Nautilie and MIR submersibles are used for the recovery; these machines are equipped with mechanical arms capable of scooping, grasping, and recovering the artifacts, which are then either collected in sampling baskets, or placed in lifting baskets. The crew compartment of each submersible accommodates three people – a pilot, a co-pilot, and an observer – who each have a one-foot-thick plastic porthole between themselves and the depths. Both submersibles have the capabilities of operating and deploying a Remote-Controlled Vehicle of a 110-foot tether which is then flown inside the wreck to record images. It takes over two and a half hours to reach the Titanic wreck site. Each dive lasts about twelve to fifteen hours with an additional two hours to ascend to the surface.

Each recovered artifact must then undergo conservation. Conservators follow a strict and careful process to remove rust and salt deposits from each one.

The conservation treatment begins once the artifact is exposed to the air, undergoing an immediate stabilization process. Once removed from the water, the artifact is cleaned with a soft brush and placed in a foam-lined tube of water. It then goes to the conservation laboratory, where contaminating surface salts are bleached out. Metal objects are placed in a desalination bath and undergo the first steps of electrolysis, a process that removes negative ions and salt from the artifact. Electrolysis is now being used to remove salts from paper, leather, and wood as well. These materials also receive treatments of chemical agents and fungicides that remove rust and fungus from them.

Artifacts made of wood and leather then begin to dry and receive injections of a water-soluble wax which fills artifact capillaries previously filled by water and debris. Artifacts made of paper are freeze-dried to remove all the water, then treated to protect against mold. At this point conservation for exhibition is complete. All recovered artifacts are carefully maintained in an environment of controlled temperature and humidity, as well as no sunlight.

Resources for Educators

We invite you to explore Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition Teacher's Guide
<http://www.prxi.com/tguides/titanictg-bc.pdf>

The Royal BC Museum is the first venue in Western Canada to present this assembly of artifacts collected by RMS Titanic Inc., the only company in the world authorized to recover artifacts from the Titanic wreck site. RMS Titanic Inc., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Premier Exhibitions Inc.

For tickets and more information visit: www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

FIRST CLASS FARE AT THE FAIRMONT EMPRESS

Lovingly restored to her turn-of-the-century beauty and poised to celebrate her 100th anniversary in 2008, The Fairmont Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC will showcase a Dine and Discover Package in celebration of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing at the Royal BC Museum April 14 - October 14, 2007. The package includes one-night accommodation in a Fairmont room, two tickets to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, a Titanic-themed chocolate amenity and a \$50.00 CDN food and beverage credit. Rates begin at \$289.00 CDN/\$249.00 U.S. Starting in April and running throughout the Titanic exhibition, guests can also savor a unique and opulent selection of Titanic-inspired courses featured on the daily fresh sheet of the Empress Dining Room. Recipes and menus which were served on-board the Titanic are offered with the Chef's modern twist. Also, the Willow Stream Spa at The Fairmont Empress is offering the Titanic - Power of the Sea Thalasso Kur spa treatment designed to harness the power of the sea and its healing properties. Guests will experience the rejuvenating effects of the sea with a body wrap rich in minerals, an acupressure facial massage and scalp massage, sea salt bath and Marine Firming Creme application. The 90-minute treatment is \$209.00 CDN/\$180.00 U.S.

For more information visit www.fairmont.com/empress.

HOTEL GRAND PACIFIC OFFERS TITANIC TIMES TWO

The Hotel Grand Pacific in Victoria, BC will offer two Titanic-themed packages to suit both couples and families in honour of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing at the Royal BC Museum April 14 - October 14, 2007. The RMS Titanic Package includes one night in a deluxe "stateroom" including Titanic-inspired Edwardian cocktails for two in the Pacific lounge and two tickets to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition. Guests will be treated to aesthetically-recreated amenities in their room to make them feel like First Class passengers. Rates for the RMS Titanic Package begin at \$189.00 CDN/\$163.00 U.S. based on double occupancy. Designed for families, the Unsinkable Pajama Party includes two nights in a deluxe guestroom for two adults and two children, goody bags with a Titanic book for the kids, a free in-room kids' movie or two Nintendo sessions, bedtime cookies and milk for the kids and free admission for the whole family to the Royal BC Museum, Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition and the National Geographic IMAX Theatre. Rates for the Unsinkable Pajama Party begin at \$435.00 CDN/\$375.00 U.S. For more information visit www.hotelgrandpacific.com.

VICTORIA HOTELS HONOUR TITANIC

During the presentation of the Royal BC Museum's Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing in Victoria, BC from April 14 - October 14, 2007, many Victoria hotels are offering a range of specially-priced Titanic-themed packages and culinary adventures that will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the timeless elegance, style and taste of this bygone era. Abigail Hotel's First Class Titanic Experience package offers guests an elegant European-style room, a chocolate ship in their room designed specially for the exhibition and two tickets to the exhibit with guaranteed entrance times. In addition, the hotel will feature a selection of hors d'oeuvres chosen from the menus of Titanic's First-Class dining room and a

specialty Titanic-era aperitif. Guests are also able to borrow DVD copies of two Titanic classics: the 1958 historical drama, "A Night to Remember" and the 2003 documentary, "Ghosts of the Abyss." Rates begin at \$299.00 CDN/\$255.00 U.S. based on double occupancy. For more information visit www.abigailshotel.com. The Magnolia Hotel & Spa's Titanic package includes one night accommodation for two, a European-style breakfast and a complimentary copy of "A Night to Remember" - the quintessential Titanic tale by Walter Lord. Rates begin at \$199.00 CDN/\$172.00 U.S. based on double occupancy.
For more information visit www.magnoliahotel.com.

TITANIC S-"ALES" INTO SPINNAKERS

An age-old legend that 20,000 bottles of beer were lost at sea when the Titanic sank has inspired Spinnakers Gastro Brew Pub & Guesthouses in Victoria, BC to brew a ceremonial Titanic Stout as well as two other special craft beers - The Unsinkable Molly Brown Ale and a pale ale forebodingly named Iceberg - to mark the opening of Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing at the Royal BC Museum April 14 - October 14, 2007. Spinnakers will also offer a Titanic-themed package including a one-night stay in Spinnakers' 1884 Heritage House, two tickets to Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, a deluxe breakfast basket delivered in the morning, a beer and chocolate pairing in the pub/restaurant and hand-made truffles, O' de Vie water and two complimentary Titanic-themed beers in the room upon arrival. Rates begin at \$179.00 CDN/\$155.00 U.S. based on double occupancy. For more information visit www.spinnakers.com.

VICTORIA PUB SALUTES TITANIC'S IRISH

In conjunction with Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, BC, April 14 - October 14, 2007, the Irish Times Pub will pay tribute to the Irish who built the famous ship and the many Irish souls who were lost. The Irish Times Pub will feature a special Titanic-inspired lunch and dinner menu selection reminiscent of the Third-Class dining fare offered onboard the ship allowing visitors to dine like most of the Irish aboard the Titanic. From its historic location on the corner of Government Street and Bastion Square in downtown Victoria, the Irish Times Pub features Irish food and drink that is both traditional and contemporary, showcasing Irish pub food as one would find in Ireland today. The Irish Times Pub also showcases authentic, live Irish music seven nights a week.
For more information visit www.irishtimespub.ca.

VICTORIA HARBOUR FERRIES FOLLOW TITANIC TALES

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition showing at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, BC, April 14 - October 14, 2007 has led the Victoria Harbour Ferry Company to adapt its guided tour of the Gorge Waterway to feature Titanic-era historical sites and lore from Victoria's illustrious marine and shipbuilding history. The Gorge Tour is 55 minutes and adult fares are \$20.00 CDN/\$17.00 U.S. Victoria's Inner Harbour is world-renowned for its beauty, bustling traffic and unique waterways and the jaunty little Victoria Harbour Ferries that provide transportation around the area are equally renowned for their friendly skippers and fun, informative tours. Visitors are encouraged to hop aboard one of the 12-passenger ferries from any of the major waterfront stops around the harbour to see Victoria from a unique vantage point.
For more information visit www.victoriaharbourferry.com.
All images courtesy of RMS Titanic Inc.

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