



EC Vancouver: Homestay

DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMMODATION

Students choose Homestay for a first-hand experience of Canadian culture, where they can practise their English language skills with native English speakers in a comfortable and natural environment. All homestays are different and unique, some Canadians live in apartments or condos and others live in the suburbs in family homes. Some homestay providers are single and live alone, others are married couples or large families

Students are responsible for their own laundry and laundry supplies such as detergent etc. However, homestays are required to give students access to the laundry facilities and show them how to use the machines. Hosts must provide and wash students' towels and linens. If students request internet access, they must pay a supplement to EC Vancouver to use the internet and then hosts will provide students with the access code for the internet.

Students studying in EC Vancouver have the option of choosing a single room or a twin room. Each room has a bed (with linen and towels provided by the host family), a desk, a lamp and a cupboard. All rooms must also have a window at eye level.

Students have the option of using a shared bathroom or a private bathroom. Students who opt for a shared bathroom usually share the bathroom either with one other student or with the rest of the homestay members. Students who pay for a private bathroom are guaranteed the sole use of a private bathroom within the homestay however it is not guaranteed that the bathroom is ensuite. It is the responsibility of the homestay host to clean the bathroom once per week. All bathrooms must be equipped with a toilet, sink and shower/bath.

DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL AREA

Vancouver is a beautiful and vibrant city on the West coast of Canada with stunning beaches, large parks and surrounded by large mountains. Vancouver is a very diverse and multi-cultural city with many different neighbourhoods such as Downtown, Gastown, Chinatown and Granville Island, to name a few.

ACCOMMODATION INCLUDES

Bed linen provided
Free Wifi facilities as of 2014 (price to be included in accommodation rates)

TYPE OF ROOMS

Single or Twin room, shared or private bathroom (a twin room has to be booked by two friends or a couple)

BOARD STATUS

Half Board (breakfast & dinner)

PHONE NUMBER

604-683-1199

EMERGENCY NUMBER

604-773-0488

AVAILABLE

Year round

ACCOMMODATION ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DAY

Arrival/Departure is booked Saturday to Saturday however some students arrive on a Friday and leave on a Sunday. If the homestay cannot accept the student for the extra night, students are usually directed to stay in a hotel or residence. It is the homestay's responsibility to be at home to greet the student when he/she arrives from the airport. Courses start every Monday with the exception of bank holidays.

HOST FAMILY LOCATIONS

All EC Vancouver host families are placed conveniently either on a bus or Skytrain line in Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby or New Westminister. Average journey time to and from school is 40-50 minutes.

DIRECTION NOTES

Before students arrive in Vancouver, they get a family profile with all the host family's details (home address, email address, contact numbers etc.). They are also provided with a Google map link and this shows them where their homestay is. Homestays show the students which bus/train to get to and from school and also to downtown or anywhere else they may want to go.

JOURNEY TO SCHOOL

All our homestays live within 60 minutes from EC Vancouver, which is conveniently located in downtown Vancouver. The nearest subway station is Granville Station. It is common for students to travel between 40-50 minutes from their homestay to school using different modes of transport such as the bus or the Skytrain (Vancouver's train system). Hosts are expected to show students how to get to and from their house on their first day. We also encourage hosts to provide their students with a map from their house to the school with the following listed: Homestay address; telephone number; Closest main intersection to the home; The number of the bus or train that they must take. For students staying 4 weeks, a monthly ticket (which gives students access to all bus/skytrain routes and is unlimited) will cost them \$91. For a single journey, which lets you travel for up to 90minutes, it will cost you \$2, 75 for 1 zone and \$4, 00 for 2 zones. (These prices are valid for 2013, and are subject to change in 2014)

CANCELLATION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

If a student cancels their homestay before they arrive at EC, we will do our best to find a replacement. If we are not able to advise homestays of the cancellation prior to the Thursday before the student is scheduled to arrive, then EC Vancouver will pay a compensation fee to the homestay.

AIRPORT PICK-UP

Students who request airport pick up are advised to wait for their transfer in the arrivals hall at YVR airport Vancouver. Before arrival, they are given our 24hour emergency mobile number and also the number of the transfer service we use. If students have missed their flights or connecting flights are delayed, we encourage students to ring either number and notify us so we can contact the transfer service. We always advise homestays when their students have paid for this service.

NOTES

- Homestays are always made aware of any allergies that students may have such as pet allergies, food allergies or any dietary requirements.
- If students request a homestay without pets then EC Vancouver will not place that student in a family that has pets.
- Homestay families are encouraged to give students keys to their home and to also show students how to use any alarm systems they may have.