

Under the Haint Blue Sky: The Lost Alley

Come live Vancouver's Black history with a local guide — an experience packed with hidden stories and insights you won't forget.

Guided by Roy Dilbert, Founder of The Snow Rhinos Foundation BC



Vancouver once had a thriving Black community, and you should know about it. This walking tour is a visionary exploration of cultural heritage, humankind, and forward thinking through the lens of the former Black residents of Strathcona. You will engage with comprehensive research, lived experience, and interactive imagery drawn from British Columbia's archives while discovering locally cherished historical sites and reflecting on our shared humanity.

 **Where:** Pacific Central Station, 1150 Station Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 4C7

 **Duration:** Approximately
1.5 hours

 **How to Book:** Please
contact haintblue@icloud.com
for availability and inquiries.



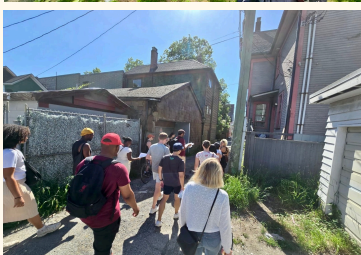
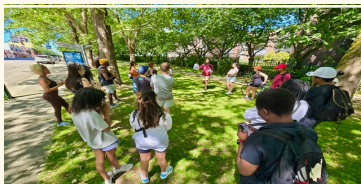
 **Cost:** Private, group, and
academic discourse tours are
available.

Prices vary based on group
size.

Lower-income pricing is
available upon request.

Free group tours are offered
for a good cause.

Corporate and team-building
bookings are also available.



 *This walking tour acknowledges that it takes place on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, whose enduring presence continues to shape Vancouver's living history.*



Tour Curriculum & Experience Guide

The journey begins at Vancouver's **Pacific Central Station**, a stunning city landmark beside the former **Union Station**, now the future site of St. Paul's Hospital. From here, we make our way toward **Hogan's Alley**, framed by sweeping mountain views, rail lines, and the city skyline.

Along the way, we trace the roots of **British Columbia's first Black migration**, beginning in the mid-1800s, uncovering stories of resilience, culture, and community. Guests will walk through the heart of **Strathcona**, exploring cherished landmarks, new developments, and the few surviving traces of the Alley's once-vibrant Black neighborhood, culminating at the **Jimi Hendrix Shrine**, a local monument to legacy and sound. At the start of the tour, participants receive a **QR code** linking to extensive historical materials, archival images, newspaper articles, and primary documents compiled through dedicated research, allowing each guest to follow the history as it unfolds.

Objectives and Intent

Across British Columbia, young Black adults continue to face alarming rates of overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, foster care, homelessness, school suspensions, and police stops.

This walking tour places the history of Black people in this province within the context of these present-day realities. It seeks to raise awareness, inspire dialogue, and call for collective reflection on how history shapes the inequities we see today. Together, we explore pathways toward understanding, justice, and our shared humanity.



Learning Objectives

- To educate participants about British Columbia's rich and often overlooked Black history
- To honour the legacy of Hogan's Alley and its former Black residents
- To foster community, empathy, and togetherness among all participants
- To evoke critical thinking about racism and its damaging effects on individuals and society
- To empower everyone with knowledge that connects us through a shared and collective history
- To promote healing from the injustices of the past through awareness and dialogue
- To encourage forward thinking toward an inclusive future that guarantees equity and opportunity for all

Key Themes

This walking tour weaves together the interconnected stories of **culture, resilience, and resistance** that define Vancouver's Black history. Through the lens of Hogan's Alley, participants explore how identity, community, and belonging intersect with urban development, displacement, and migration.

Central to the tour are themes of **colonialism and segregation**, the **transatlantic slave trade**, and the enduring effects of **anti-Blackness** across generations. We examine the **cultural influence** of Black people through food, music, and art, and highlight the **role of community institutions** such as the church in preserving dignity and unity.



Guests will engage with the complex realities of **urban renewal in the 1970s**, **systemic injustice**, and the **civil rights activism** that emerged in response. The tour also considers the **psychological and generational impacts of oppression**, the **importance of representation**, and the ongoing **struggle for equity and belonging**.

Ultimately, these themes invite participants to reflect on **community resilience**, **shared humanity**, and the possibilities of **reimagining a future rooted in justice and inclusion**.



Learning Outcomes

By the end of the tour, participants will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the historical presence and contributions of Black communities in Vancouver and across British Columbia
- Recognize the connections between historical displacement and contemporary social inequities
- Develop a critical awareness of how urban planning, migration, and policy have shaped racialized experiences in Canada
- Be able to identify key figures, events, and institutions that influenced civil rights and cultural identity in Vancouver
- Reflect on the role of community resilience in overcoming systemic barriers
- Engage in meaningful dialogue about justice, belonging, and the collective responsibility to build inclusive futures



Meet Roy Dilbert: he is a passionate storyteller dedicated to preserving and sharing the untold history of Vancouver's Black community. After moving to British Columbia over 14 years ago, Roy was struck by the absence of a visible Black cultural presence in the city. That curiosity led him to uncover the story of **Hogan's Alley**, Vancouver's

once-thriving Black neighborhood that was systemically erased in the name of urban renewal. Originally from **Roatán, Honduras**, Roy represents the wider Black diaspora that has migrated to British Columbia seeking belonging and opportunity. He holds a **Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a Pre-Law minor** from the **University of New Orleans**, where he developed a strong foundation in justice, equity, and social systems that continue to shape his work today.

Blending his background in the performing arts with over seven years of experience in the hospitality industry, Roy brings warmth, creativity, and a five-star guest experience to every tour. He is a forward thinker and dedicated researcher, constantly enriching his work through new discoveries and deeper study. His mission is to educate, inspire, and connect guests to the resilience and brilliance of the Black diaspora while celebrating the beauty of British Columbia and the shared humanity that unites us all.

When he is not guiding tours, Roy can be found exploring BC's natural wonders, surfing, skiing, cycling, or camping under the stars.



What Guests Are Saying

“I took my kids (both under 12) and they enjoyed it as well. I look forward to more opportunities for expanded tours and culturally connected activities. This was not particularly hilly so it was mostly accessible.” - **Kwame, UBC Vancouver**

“Roy is the absolute best!!! Our group had such an enjoyable and memorable experience. Roy brought the history and stories to life in such a thoughtful and engaging way. I highly recommend it for anyone looking for a meaningful, immersive tour!” - **Holly, Kickback Toronto**

“The Black History walk through Hogan’s Alley was one of the most meaningful experiences I had during my visit to Vancouver. Whether you're a local or visiting, I would highly recommend checking it out. My guide, Roy, was phenomenal. Roy's knowledge and passion were evident from the very start. As we walked the streets where Hogan’s Alley once thrived, Roy brought the community’s past to life by sharing stories of the people, the culture, the music, and the deep

sense of community that once filled the area. This was truly an unforgettable and powerful experience. I learned a lot and left inspired to learn more.” - **Ndidi, New York City**

“I greatly enjoyed this tour! The information and stories shared are unique and enriching for both visitors and locals alike. As an academic myself, I appreciated that Roy has sourced the tour's content from the Archives. I would not have been able to learn about the history of this community (& of migration to and within Vancouver at large) if I were merely walking the neighborhood around on my own.” - **Kristin, New York City**

“What a great way to walk back in time and ask a knowledgeable person about past events that are still affecting communities today.” - **Tavaras, BC Provincial Health Services Authority**

“Roy was amazingly personable, knowledgeable and very proud of this tour and it was amazing to be able to share this with him. I definitely recommend this for anyone visiting the city or even locals!” - **Keith, EA Sports, Vancouver**

“I’ve been to Vancouver several times but never learned so much about Black history and culture. So much food for thought and I’m still thinking about several of the insights. It was just me so it ended up being a personal tour, of sorts and I appreciated the care and Roy did a great job. A great tour for those looking for some history and culture.” - **Burt, Portland, Oregon**

“It was an amazing experience. I live in Vancouver and I had never discovered this tour or the neighborhood. It provided me with a sense of pride, comfort, and inspiration. The guide, Roy, was also amazing. I highly recommend the tour. He does an excellent job creating a beautiful experience for you.” - **Ilia, Air Canada, Vancouver**

With Gratitude

Thank you for taking the time to explore this curriculum and the stories it holds. May this journey inspire reflection, connection, and a deeper appreciation for the shared history that continues to shape our collective future. Looking forward to welcoming you on this journey through time and community soon.



For availability and inquiries, please contact haintblue@icloud.com

“When you learn, teach. When you get, give.”

— *Dr. Maya Angelou*