

Spring Break 2026 — Trip Options from Vancouver

Mid-March, ~5-7 days, budget-friendly but memorable



Option 1: Mexico City

RECOMMENDED

Why it's great: Insane value for money. World-class food, history, nightlife, and culture — all for a fraction of what you'd pay anywhere in North America. The exchange rate (~1 CAD = 13-14 MXN) makes everything feel like a cheat code. March weather is perfect: sunny, mid-20s°C.

Flights from YVR

~\$340-450 CAD round trip (Flair, Aeromexico, or connecting via LAX). Book early — spring break inflates prices.



Budget Breakdown (5 nights)

Flights	~\$400
Hostel/Airbnb	~\$25-40/night → \$150
Food	~\$15-25/day → \$100
Activities	~\$80
Transit (Metro is \$0.30 CAD/ride)	~\$20
Total	~\$750-850 CAD

Top Things to Do

- **Museo Nacional de Antropología** — one of the best museums on the planet (free on Sundays)

- **Street tacos in Roma/Condesa** — \$1-2 CAD tacos that will ruin tacos for you forever
- **Teotihuacán pyramids** — day trip, climb the Pyramid of the Sun
- **Chapultepec Park & Castle** — massive park, castle with city views
- **Lucha Libre wrestling** — \$10 tickets, absolute chaos, unforgettable
- **Xochimilco floating gardens** — rent a trajinera boat with friends
- **Nightlife in Condesa/Roma** — craft cocktail bars, mezcalerías, rooftop vibes

Option 2: San Francisco / California Coast

Why it's great: Iconic city, easy direct flights, no passport drama. Great weather in March, amazing food scene, and the road-trip potential down to Big Sur or up to wine country is .

Flights from YVR

~\$250-350 CAD round trip (lots of direct options — Alaska, WestJet, Air Canada).

Budget Breakdown (4-5 nights)

Flights	~\$300
Hostel (HI SF Fisherman's Wharf)	~\$50-65/night → \$275
Food	~\$30-40/day → \$175
Activities	~\$80
Transit (BART/Muni)	~\$40
Total	~\$870-1,000 CAD

Top Things to Do

- Walk/bike the **Golden Gate Bridge**
- Explore **Chinatown** (oldest in North America) & North Beach
- **Mission District** murals + the best burritos in existence
- Day trip to **Muir Woods** (giant redwoods, free shuttle)

- **Alcatraz** (book NOW — it sells out weeks ahead)
- Thrift shopping in **Haight-Ashbury**
- Catch sunset at **Lands End** or Baker Beach

Downside: SF is pricier for food/lodging than Mexico. Still very doable on a budget with hostels.



Option 3: PNW Road Trip (Seattle → Portland)

Why it's great: No flights needed! Bus or carpool down I-5. Two amazing cities with incredible food, coffee, music, and nature — all within a few hours of home. Super chill vibes, easy logistics.

🚌 Getting There

BoltBus/FlixBus Vancouver → Seattle is ~\$25-40 CAD one way (3.5 hrs). Seattle → Portland is another ~\$20-30 (3.5 hrs).

💰 Budget Breakdown (5 nights)

Bus tickets	~\$100
Hostels	~\$45-55/night → \$250
Food	~\$30/day → \$150
Activities	~\$60
Total	~\$560-700 CAD

🎯 Top Things to Do

- **Seattle:** Pike Place Market, Capitol Hill nightlife, Museum of Pop Culture, Kerry Park sunset, cheap dim sum in the International District
- **Portland:** Powell's Books (world's largest bookstore), food cart pods (\$8-12 meals), Alberta Arts District, Japanese Garden, brewery/distillery crawl
- **Nature:** Hike Rattlesnake Ledge (Seattle), Multnomah Falls (Portland), or Columbia River Gorge day trip

Downside: Weather is a coin flip in March — could be gorgeous, could be grey and drizzly. Pack layers.

Option 4: Los Angeles

Why it's great: Sunshine guaranteed, beaches, incredible diversity of neighborhoods, and the food scene is arguably the best in North America. Venice Beach, Griffith Observatory, hiking... plenty of free/cheap stuff.

Flights from YVR

~\$200-320 CAD round trip (very competitive route — Flair, Swoop, WestJet, Air Canada).

Budget Breakdown (5 nights)

Flights	~\$280
Hostel	~\$45-60/night → \$275
Food	~\$25-35/day → \$150
Activities	~\$60
Transit/Uber	~\$80
Total	~\$845-950 CAD

Top Things to Do

- **Griffith Observatory** — free entry, insane views, Hollywood Sign hike
- **Venice Beach / Santa Monica** — boardwalk, Muscle Beach, sunset
- **Koreatown** — some of the best Korean food outside Korea, cheap eats everywhere
- **The Getty Museum** — free admission, world-class art, incredible architecture
- **Grand Central Market** — downtown food hall, incredible variety
- **Runyon Canyon** — classic LA hike with city views

Downside: LA is sprawling — transit exists but isn't great. Budget for occasional Ubers.

🏆 The Verdict

Mexico City wins. Best bang for buck by a mile — your dollar goes 3-4x further than anywhere in the US/Canada. Most unique experience, perfect March weather, and the food alone is worth the trip.

Runner-up: The PNW road trip if you want low-stress, no-passport, cheapest overall option.

💡 Pro Tips

- 📲 Set Google Flights alerts for YVR → MEX **now** — prices spike as March approaches
- 🏠 Hostels in Roma/Condesa (CDMX) are social, safe, and ~\$20-30 CAD/night
- 💳 Get a no-FX-fee credit card if you don't have one (Scotiabank Passport Visa, Neo, or Wise card)
- 📱 Buy an eSIM (Airalo) for data instead of roaming — ~\$5-10 for a week in Mexico