

October Fun

By Naga Mounika Pinnamaneni

I had the most incredible time in Vancouver this October! The city is like a melting pot of different cultures, and I got to experience Navaratri, a Hindu festival that's all about good triumphing over evil. In Surrey, I saw mesmerizing dance performances, people in stunning traditional attire, and oh boy, the Indian cuisine was just delicious! It was a time when the whole Indian community in the city came together to celebrate their heritage, and I even joined in the Garba and Dandiya Raas dances – what a vibrant and rhythmic spectacle, and everyone was invited to join in the fun!

But that's not all! The fall foliage in Vancouver may not be as dramatic as in New England, but it's still a sight to behold. I visited Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, and the Capilano Suspension Bridge Park, and the leaves were ablaze with oranges, yellows, and reds. Taking a leisurely stroll through these parks was like stepping into a painting, and I couldn't resist snapping pictures of all those picturesque moments.

And let's talk about pumpkin spice! Vancouverites go crazy for it. Local cafes offered a whole array of pumpkin-spiced treats, from lattes to pastries. I grabbed a pumpkin spice latte, found a cozy spot by a window, and as the raindrops fell outside, the warm spices inside just made the whole experience perfect. It was like welcoming the season with open arms.

Halloween was an absolute thrill in Vancouver. As the month went on, the city transformed into a spooky wonderland. Neighborhoods became eerie, haunted houses popped up everywhere, and there were so many events that got my heart racing. I even ventured to the Haunted Village at the Burnaby Village Museum – talk about a spine-tingling journey through time! And of course, I donned my best costume and joined the Halloween spirit by going to themed parties and visiting haunted houses all around the city.

Of course, October wouldn't be complete without a visit to a pumpkin patch. Several farms in Greater Vancouver opened their doors for pumpkin picking and tons of fall activities. I hopped on hayrides, got lost in corn mazes, and had a blast with my family and friends. I found the perfect pumpkin for carving my Halloween masterpiece.

October in Vancouver was truly a dream come true. It's a month that combines the beauty of fall, cultural celebrations like Navaratri, and thrilling Halloween festivities. Whether I was dancing at Navaratri events or sipping a pumpkin spice latte while admiring the fall foliage, Vancouver just knows how to offer the best of both worlds. It's a unique and unforgettable destination, especially in the heart of autumn. So, I put on my favorite fall sweater, grabbed an umbrella, and immersed myself in the enchanting magic of October in this incredible city!