

# INSIDE VANCOUVER BLOG

Spectacular by Nature ©

Feeds: Posts Comments



## 5 Reasons to Visit Aberdeen Centre: North America's Biggest Asian Mall

April 13, 2010 by Remy Scalza



I know that malls aren't for everyone. But the **Aberdeen Centre** in Richmond merits special mention. **Richmond**, which is only 20 minutes from downtown Vancouver on the new Canada Line, boasts one of the largest Chinese populations in North America. And the Aberdeen Centre, according to some accounts, is the biggest Asian mall outside of Asia (a confusing but impressive distinction).

In last week's Georgia Straight, food critic Stephen Wong wrote **an article about the incredible Chinese food** on offer at the Aberdeen Centre food court. The appeal of Aberdeen, however, goes way beyond food. In no particular order, here are five reasons to check out Aberdeen Centre (just a block from the Aberdeen stop on the Canada Line).

**1) The Daiso Store.** **Daiso** is a discount store that has outlets throughout Japan and other Asian countries. Inside the branch at Aberdeen Centre, you'll find two floors of unique and authentic wares, from Japanese snacks and candies to origami paper and ornate ceramic tea pots and sushi sets. Although prices are still marked in yen, most things in the store sell for \$2.



**2) Look So Real.** Fans of kitsch and the absurd will love the Look So Real store, which sells – get ready – extremely detailed, 3-D replicas of popular foods and dishes. The replicas are used in restaurants that display their menu items in windows and on counters for customers to see. Inside of Look So Real, you'll find life-like hamburgers, bowls of ramen, salads and everything in between. And the creations are truly works of art: I was admiring an assorted sushi platter that looked good enough to eat and retailed for \$229.



**3) The House Special at 8 Juice.** This smoothie shack is located inside the justifiably famous food court at Aberdeen, which serves authentic Chinese fare to discriminating clientele who know their Szechuan from their Hainanese. Among the exotic smoothies made from freshly blended fruits and ingredients is my favorite, the #1 House Special: fresh mango juice with coconut milk, tapioca, fresh mango bits and pomelo (A small is \$3.80).

**4) Ultra-Pricey Ginger.** There are several stores in Aberdeen Centre specializing in dried herbs, meats and spices, all essentials for authentic Chinese cooking. What impressed me most was the extensive selection of ginger, which features prominently in dishes and also has medicinal applications. Prices ranged from a few dollars a pound for common farmed ginger to \$680 a pound for wild ginger collected in the U.S.

**5) The Steamed Pork Buns at Shanghai Shanghai.** Also located in the food court, Shanghai Shanghai seems to specialize exclusively in buns and dumplings. Staff hand roll and cut the dough at the small counter, then fill the buns with a blend of pork and spices. Because everything is made fresh, expect to wait five minutes or so for your order to be prepared (\$3.95 for six juicy buns).



Any other favorites at Aberdeen Centre? Please let me know below.

Remy Scalza

Posted in **dining shopping** | Tagged **Aberdeen Centre richmond** | Leave a Comment

Comments RSS

### Leave a Reply

Name (required)
E-mail (required)
Website

Submit Comment
Notify me of follow-up comments via email.
Subscribe to this site by email

### OUR BLOGGERS

- Inside Vancouver
Dana Lynch
Remy Scalza
Julie Ovenell-Carter
Claudia Laroye
Ehren Seeland
Suzanne
Jean
Kristen

### CATEGORIES

Select Category

### TAGS

2010 annual summer events
annual summer festivals
canada day canada line
chinatown chinese christmas
commercial drive dining diving
family activity fine art food
free free olympic events
Granville Island halloween
hiking LiveCity Downtown
movies multicultural Museum of Vancouver
Olympics
Paralympics photos Queen Elizabeth Park richmond robson square shopping south Granville Stanley Park theatre things to do Top 5 ubc
Vancouver
Vancouver Aquarium Vancouver Art Gallery Vancouver gardens vandusen botanical garden videos West End winter holidays yaletown

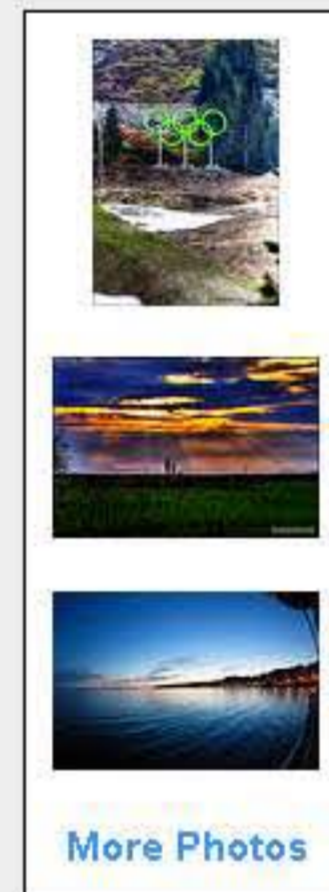
### ARCHIVES

- June 2010
May 2010
April 2010
March 2010
February 2010
January 2010
December 2009
November 2009
October 2009
September 2009
August 2009
July 2009
June 2009
May 2009
April 2009
March 2009

### USEFUL LINKS

Follow us on Twitter
Half-price Event Tickets
Our Facebook fan page
Tourism Vancouver
www.theseboots.travel

### FLICKR PHOTOS



More Photos

### META

Register
Log in
Entries RSS
Comments RSS
WordPress.com

Copyright © 2010 The Greater Vancouver Visitors and Convention Bureau, All Rights Reserved.
Contact Tourism Vancouver