

EXPERIENCE VANCOUVER

Gardens Galore

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Theme: Botanical and Cultural Gardens

Season: Summer (April to October)

Background:

Vancouver is a very green city with temperate rainforest accessible right in the heart of the city and numerous parks and gardens incorporated throughout the greater Vancouver area. Visitors looking to get away from the noise and energy of the city can quickly escape to a variety of show gardens for some peace, tranquility and colourful, blooming beauty.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Combining public transit with a keen desire to explore on foot, the following itinerary is a garden lover's delight, exploring parks in and around Vancouver.

DAY 1 FINDING INNER-CITY PEACE

Today begins with a short walk from the hotel in the heart of bustling downtown Vancouver, to **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden**. As the first authentic classical Chinese garden ever built outside of China, it is a feast for the senses and the mind and is acclaimed for providing peace, tranquility and a harmonious delight for the nature lover, cultural tourist, and sight-seeing visitor. Within this paradise, visitors may enjoy a cup of complimentary tea and a guided tour.

Using public transit, visitors next make their way to Queen Elizabeth Park and the **Bloedel Floral Conservatory** where they will experience the second largest dome greenhouse in the world. The Conservatory, with more than 500 plants, is open daily, with an emphasis on exotic plants and birds, which fly past as visitors

wander its circular, winding paths. Visitors will also enjoy the fantastic vantage point from here, overlooking downtown Vancouver.

Then it's off to the **VanDusen Botanical Garden** – a spectacular 22 hectare (55 acre) garden in the heart of Vancouver. VanDusen is a botanical garden of international stature boasting over 255,000 plants from around the world. Various plant collections represent ecosystems that range from tropical South Africa, to the Himalayas, to the Canadian Arctic, as well as plants native to our own Pacific Northwest. VanDusen Botanical Garden provides an inspiring and enjoyable environment for visitors of all ages and interests. Visitors feeling a bit peckish or just wanting to rest their weary feet, may enjoy a light meal or afternoon tea in **Shaughnessy Restaurant**, located in the heart of the garden.

Finally, if time permits, visitors should check out the Rose Gardens at the **Stanley Park Pavilion** located at the entrance to Stanley Park. While there, they can check out a unique Vancouver experience at the nearby **Malkin Bowl Theatre Under the Stars**, for a live outdoor theatre or concert production, offered on select evenings throughout the summer.

DAY 2 BOTANICAL WALKS

Today begins with a public transit ride to the University of British Columbia, located approximately 30 minutes southwest of downtown Vancouver on towering cliffs overlooking English Bay. This spectacular location is home to a number of attractions worthy of a visit.

The **Nitobe Memorial Garden** is a traditional Japanese Tea and Stroll garden considered to be one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in North America and among the top five Japanese Gardens outside of Japan. Each tree, stone and shrub has been deliberately placed and is carefully maintained to reflect an idealized conception and symbolic representation of nature.



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DAY 2 CONTINUED

The next stop is the nearby **UBC Botanical Garden**, featuring 70 acres of plants from around the world. Located here is their newest attraction, the **Greenheart Canopy Walkway** - Vancouver's newest eco adventure for all ages and abilities. The walkway spans 308 meters and rises up to 17.5 meters to give visitors an opportunity to experience the unique upper layers of the west coast forest canopy. As guests proceed along the bridge spans from tree platform to tree platform, Greenheart's informative guides will provide insightful knowledge about the coastal forest and the importance of the various tree species, the eagles and nests that are present, the moss, lichen and other unique canopy biology.

If time permits or the weather suddenly turns, make a dash for the renowned **UBC**

Museum of Anthropology - Canada's largest contemporary museum of world arts and cultures and a place of extraordinary architectural beauty, provocative programming and exciting exhibitions.

Nearby is also the **Beaty Biodiversity Museum** where guests can marvel at the wonders of nature and biodiversity through hands-on activities and exhibits. Guests can stand face to face with Canada's largest blue whale skeleton - 85 feet long - and explore the university's rich biological collection of birds, mammals, insects, fish, fossils, plants and more.

HAVE MORE TIME?

CHILLIWACK VALLEY DRIVE (FULL DAY)

Set against a magnificent mountain backdrop is **Minter Gardens** - a 32 acre floral tapestry of colour, sound and fragrance. Visitors can discover charming features around every bend as they stroll through 11 themed gardens, pass by rushing waterfalls, or recapture their youth in the Children's Garden.

VICTORIA (1+ DAYS)

Visitors can take a tour from Vancouver to Victoria and visit **The Butchart Gardens**, a National Historic Site of Canada that welcomes nearly a million people from around the world each year. Established in 1904 when Jennie Butchart started to beautify a worked-out quarry site, the Gardens are still maintained by the family and today comprise several major gardens, covering 55 acres, including

the Sunken Garden, Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, Italian Garden, the Concert Lawn, and the Ross Fountain.

Note, there are more members than currently listed here which provide a range of garden experiences. For a full list, please contact the Travel Trade team at Tourism Vancouver.