

GARDENS GALORE - VANCOUVER ISLAND SEPTEMBER 11 - 17, 2023

Start: Monday September 11, 2023 End: Sunday September 17, 2023



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Discover Our Tours, LLC

MON Trip Summary

SEP
11

Vancouver Island, located in British Columbia, Canada is known for its stunning natural beauty and rich biodiversity. The island's temperate climate and abundant rainfall create ideal conditions for a wide variety of plant life making it a haven for garden enthusiasts. You will explore famous gardens with stunning displays of flowers, to tranquil private gardens, and ancient rainforests. Along the way, you will learn about the history and culture of the region, including the indigenous plants and techniques used in the developing the gardens. With it's natural beauty, rich culture, and diverse gardens, a garden tour of Vancouver Island is a must-visit destination for Master Gardeners and garden enthusiasts alike.

Pricing for this tour is based on 20 guests using a 56 passenger bus, allowing ample room for luggage and personal space.

What's Included:

Airport Transfer to Hotel From Victoria International Airport (YYJ)

Airport Transfer from Hotel To Victoria International Airport (YYJ)

Transportation for the tour is provided. (Any transporation required outside of the tour is at the responsibility of the guest.)

Entrance Fees to sights identified on itinerary.

Accomodations 3.5 - 5 hotels for the duration of the tour are included and based on double occupancy. (the cost of additional rooms required due to medical issues are not included.) All hotels are non-smoking and any destinations visited are considered non-smoking unless designated otherwise.

Meals included:

- **Six Breakfasts**
- **Four Midday Meals**
- **Two Dinners**

Tour Guide & Host for 5 days.

Joining you on your week-long journey on Vancouver Island, is Master Gardener Jeff de Jong, a highly skilled Horticulturist residing in Victoria. Alongside the University of Victoria, Jeff has designed a Landscape Design course and has been teaching for over two decades. He has vast experience in gardening, having taught in the Master Gardener Program and has been invited to speak at numerous Garden Clubs across Canada and the USA. Jeff is also an avid Garden Tour host and has taken gardening groups around the world, including recent tours in the Netherlands and the UK.

He is passionate about the diverse gardening opportunities in the Pacific Northwest and is often occupied in his own garden, which has been featured in several magazines.

What's Not Included:

- **Airfare to or from Victoria**
- **Applicable Taxes**
- **Alcoholic Beverages**
- **Side Trip Transportation** (unless specified)
- **Travel Insurance**
- **Additional Hotel Rooms**
- **Incidental Expenses**

**Pricing is based on a maximum group size of 20 guests,
and a minimum group size of 18 guests.**

FULL PAYMENT is required by July 30, 2023

Total cost: \$6,290.00 USD

For Single Occupancy Please Add: \$1,300.00 USD

Monday, September 11, 2023

- Airport Transfer In to Hotel From Victoria International Airport (YYJ)
- Welcome Reception: Meet, Mix, & Mingle
- Check in: Inn at Laurel Point (2 Nights)
 - Room & taxes included

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

- Breakfast at Inn at Laurel Point
- Victoria Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
- Afternoon Tea at Butchart Gardens
- Discover Butchart Gardens (guided tours not allowed in Butchart Gardens)
- Accommodations at Inn at Laurel Point
- *Dinner where you choose in Victoria

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

- Breakfast at Inn at Laurel Point
- Mid - Island Gardens tour (head up island)
- Sightseeing stop Malahat Skywalk overlooking the Finlayson Arm
- Visit Westholm Tea Company and Farm
- Lunch at a Local Farm to Table Eatery (mid-island)
- Check in: Qualicum Beach Inn (2 Nights)
 - Room & taxes
- Dinner - at a local eatery

Thursday, September 14, 2023

- Breakfast - at a local eatery
- Spend time in the Rainforest Cathedral Grove
- Lunch - at a local eatery
- Unique Visit and Lunch at the Country Market
- Accommodations at Qualicum Beach Inn
- *Dinner - where you choose in Qualicum

Friday, September 15, 2023

- Breakfast - at a local eatery
- Explore Milner Gardens and Woodland
- Lunch - at a mid-island local eatery
- Check in: The Magnolia Hotel & Spa (2 Nights)
 - Room & taxes
- *Dinner where you choose in Victoria

Saturday, September 16, 2023

- Breakfast - at The Magnolia Hotel & Spa
- Surprise - Private Garden tours
- *Lunch where you choose in Victoria
- Discover Abkhazi Garden
- Visit the Ceremonial Home of all British Columbians
- Accommodations at Magnolia Hotel & Spa
- Farewell Dinner

Sunday, September 17, 2023

- Breakfast at Magnolia Hotel and Spa
- Airport Transfer Out from Hotel To Victoria International Airport (YYJ)

*The above proposed itinerary is a 'draft' only. No reservations for rooms, transportation or experiences have been made. The above pricing and itinerary are subject to change based on availability. The above pricing is based on the current exchange rate of .74 U.S. Dollars to 1.0 Canadian Dollars and is subject to fluctuations in that exchange rate.

Guest

CONTACT

Airport Transfer

PICK-UP

9:00 AM

Mon Sep 11, 2023

Victoria International
Airport

DROP-OFF

6:00 PM

Mon Sep 11, 2023

Hotel

BOOKING DETAILS

Included - Airport Transfer

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS

Inn at Laurel Point
680 Montreal Street
Victoria, British Columbia, V8V
1Z8, Canada
Phone: +1 250-386-8721
[Website](#)

CHECK-IN

4:00 PM
Mon Sep 11, 2023

CHECK-OUT

11:00 AM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Inn at Laurel Point - downtown hotel in Victoria.

Included: Room, taxes, baggage and breakfast (including juice, pop, coffee & tea).

Alcohol excluded.

★ Welcome Reception

About

Mix & Mingle

START

7:00 PM
Mon Sep 11, 2023

FINISH

TUE ★ Victoria

SEP
12

About

Horticulture Centre of The Pacific
505 Quayle Road
Victoria, British Columbia, V9E 2J7,
Canada
[Website](#)

START

10:00 AM
Tue Sep 12, 2023
Hotel

FINISH

12:00 PM
Tue Sep 12, 2023
Hotel

BOOKING DETAILS

A visit to this local treasure will set the foundation for your week long journey on Vancouver Island. This location conducts research on sustainable horticulture practices, with a focus on developing environmentally friendly and socially responsible methods for growing plants and managing landscapes. Through its research and educational programs, they are working to promote sustainable horticulture practices and to inspire a love of gardening and nature in people of all ages.

Situated on 103 acres of land and features a wide range of gardens, including a Japanese garden, a formal rose garden, a vegetable garden, a Mediterranean garden, and a herb garden.

They also operates a plant nursery, which offers a variety of plants for sale, including native plants, shrubs, and trees. The plant nursery is staffed by knowledgeable horticulturists who can provide advice and assistance on selecting the right plants for a particular garden or landscape.

LUNCH

RESTAURANT NAME

Afternoon Tea

800 Benvenuto Avenue
Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, V8M 1J8, Canada
Phone: +1 250-652-4422
[Website](#)

START

12:30 PM

Tue Sep 12, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Indulge in an unforgettable experience with afternoon tea at Butchart Gardens. Immerse yourself in the beauty of the gardens while savoring a selection of teas, sandwiches, scones, and pastries in the charming ambiance of The Dining Room. With exceptional service and a stunning garden setting, afternoon tea at Butchart Gardens is the perfect way to treat yourself to this quintessentially British tradition in one of the most picturesque locations in the world.

Lunch included - meal, coffee, tea, juice, pop & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

★ Historical

About

Butchart Gardens

Benvenuto Avenue
Brentwood Bay, British Columbia,
V8M 1J8, Canada
Phone: +1 250-652-4422
[Website](#)

START

2:00 PM

Tue Sep 12, 2023

FINISH

5:00 PM

Tue Sep 12, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Butchart Gardens is one of the world's premier floral show gardens, offering visitors a delightful display of stunning floral arrangements and breathtaking landscapes. From the intimate Japanese Garden to the grand Sunken Garden, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

With over 900 varieties of plants, including colorful annuals, delicate perennials, and majestic trees, you'll be amazed by the beauty and diversity of the flora on display. Experience the magic of Butchart Gardens with free time to meander and enjoy at your own pace. (No guiding allowed in Butchart Gardens)

DINNER

RESTAURANT NAME

On their own

START

Tue Sep 12, 2023
Victoria

WED Headed up Island SEP 13

About

Mid - Island gardens

START

8:30 AM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

Today, we adventure out of Victoria enroute to the mid-island where you will spend a couple of days visiting forests, beaches and gardens. Sit back, relax and take in some spectacular, breathtaking views of the ocean and surrounding mountains all the while being embraced by mother nature.

High Above

About

Malahat SkyWalk
901 Trans-Canada Highway
Malahat, British Columbia, V0R
2L0, Canada
Phone: +1 833-625-2428
[Website](#)

START

9:30 AM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

FINISH

11:00 AM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Along the journey, we'll stop to stretch our legs and take in a sky-scraping view in the middle of nowhere. Stroll among giants along a 2,000 ft elevated walkway through a west coast forest of Arbutus and Douglas Firs. Then ascend the striking 10-story spiral tower to take in the stunning 360-degree view of islands, fjords, forests and mountains.

★ Tea Farm

About

Westholme Tea Company
8350 Richards Trail
Duncan, British Columbia, V9L
6B2, Canada
Phone: +1 250-748-3811
[Website](#)

START

11:30 AM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

FINISH

12:30 PM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

As you make your way through the Cowichan Valley, meaning "warm land" in the local indigenous language, you won't want to miss a visit to a truly exceptional estate. Here, sustainable farming practices are at the forefront, and the importance of biodiversity in maintaining healthy ecosystems is woven into every aspect of the operation. Not only is it an idyllic retreat, but it's also a unique opportunity to gain insight into how we can live in harmony with the natural world. The lush, peaceful surroundings offer a refreshing break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring beauty of Vancouver Island.

For thousands of years, the tradition of tea has been closely tied to place. At Westholme, they believe that pure tea remains the most authentic, flavourful expression of the weather, the soil, the slope, and the history of where it was grown.

Margit and Victor planted their first tea bushes in 2010, adding to their business of importing fine organic teas, blending original recipe teas and tisanes, and creating hand-made ceramics to accompany each unique flavour.

After a decade of passionate work, they have become the first (and only) Commercial Organic Tea Grower in Canada.

To honour the history and geography of the land on which they work, the Westholme Tea Company was named after the valley where the tea garden is planted on Vancouver Island, and where Victor and Margit have grown tea culture in Canada for nearly a decade.

🍴 LUNCH

RESTAURANT NAME

at a Local Farm to Table Eatery
Oak Street
Chemainus, British Columbia, V0R 1K1, Canada
Phone: +1 250-324-0222
[Website](#)

START

1:15 PM
Wed Sep 13, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Lunch included - meal, coffee, tea, juice, pop & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS

Qualicum Beach Inn

Island Highway West
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia,
V9K 1G8, Canada
Phone: +1 250-752-6914

[Website](#)

CHECK-IN

3:00 PM

Wed Sep 13, 2023

CHECK-OUT

12:00 PM

Fri Sep 15, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Hotel in Qualicum Beach area.

Room, taxes, breakfast (separate eatery)

★ Dinner

About

Mid-island local eatery

START

7:00 PM

Wed Sep 13, 2023

Qualicum Beach

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

Included: meal, coffee, tea, juice, pop & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

THU SEP 14



BREAKFAST

RESTAURANT NAME

Local eatery

Primrose Street
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, V9K 1S7, Canada
Phone: +1 250-594-4477

[Website](#)

START

8:00 AM

Thu Sep 14, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Breakfast included - meal, coffee, tea, juice, pop & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

★ Rainforest

About

Cathedral Grove
British Columbia 4
British Columbia, V0R 1G0,
Canada
[Website](#)

START

9:00 AM
Thu Sep 14, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

Nestled in the heart of Vancouver Island, a serene and enchanting forest awaits you. Towering trees, some of which are over 800-years old, reach towards the sky, providing a sense of awe-inspiring wonder. As you stroll through the woods, you'll be struck by the tranquility and peacefulness of the surroundings, with the gentle rustling of leaves and birdsong filling the air. The forest is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, making it a nature lover's paradise. With its rich biodiversity, ancient trees, and peaceful atmosphere, this natural wonder is truly a sight to behold.

★ Unique Visit

About

Country Market & Lunch
Phone: +1 250-248-6272
[Website](#)

START

12:30 PM
Thu Sep 14, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

Lunch included - excluding alcohol.

Incidentals at guests expense.

Located in a picturesque community on Vancouver Island, you'll discover a vibrant marketplace that will delight your senses. Stroll through the market and explore the diverse selection of vendors offering locally sourced produce, baked goods, and handmade crafts. Once you've worked up an appetite, head to a nearby restaurant to savor the flavors of the region. The cozy eatery offers an innovative menu that highlights the bounty of the surrounding area with fresh, seasonal ingredients. You'll be transported by the delightful culinary experience and the charming ambiance of the community.

★ Dinner

About

On their own

START

Thu Sep 14, 2023
Qualicum Beach

FINISH

FRI SEP 15



BREAKFAST

RESTAURANT NAME

Local eatery
Primrose Street
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, V9K 1S7, Canada
Phone: +1 250-594-4477
[Website](#)

START

8:30 AM
Fri Sep 15, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Breakfast included - meal, coffee, tea, juice, pop & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

★ Gardens

About

Milner Gardens & Woodland
Island Highway West
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia,
V9K 1G1, Canada
Phone: +1 250-752-6153
[Website](#)

START

9:30 AM
Fri Sep 15, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

Tucked away in a peaceful and scenic area of Vancouver Island, you'll discover a stunning garden and woodland retreat that is a nature lover's paradise. The lush gardens offer an array of vibrant colors and fragrant scents that are sure to delight your senses. The tranquil woodlands provide a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, with winding paths that lead you through towering trees and beside babbling streams. Along the way, you'll discover an abundance of wildlife and a diverse array of plant life that flourishes in this unique ecosystem. It's the perfect place to disconnect from the world and immerse yourself in the natural beauty of the region.

LUNCH

RESTAURANT NAME

Mid-island local eatery
Resort Drive
British Columbia, Canada
[Website](#)

START

12:00 PM
Fri Sep 15, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Lunch included - meal, coffee, tea, juice, pop & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

Check-In

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Magnolia Hotel & Spa
623 Courtney Street
Victoria, British Columbia, V8W
1B8, Canada
Phone: +1 250-381-0999
[Website](#)

CHECK-IN

3:00 PM
Fri Sep 15, 2023

CHECK-OUT

12:00 PM
Sun Sep 17, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Included: Room, taxes and breakfast (at hotel).

Nestled in the heart of Victoria, British Columbia, you'll find a luxurious boutique hotel that is the epitome of elegance and sophistication. The hotel's stylish decor and attention to detail create a warm and inviting atmosphere that will make you feel right at home. The spacious rooms are beautifully appointed with modern amenities and offer stunning views of the city. You can indulge in a range of personalized services and amenities, including an on-site spa and fitness center, as well as exceptional dining options that feature locally sourced ingredients. The hotel's prime location provides easy access to Victoria's many attractions, from historic landmarks to trendy shopping districts. Whether you're here for business or pleasure, this hotel is the perfect place to relax and unwind in style.

★ Dinner

About

START

FINISH

On their own

Fri Sep 15, 2023
Victoria

SAT SEP 16



BREAKFAST

RESTAURANT NAME

START

At hotel
Phone: +1 250-940-4090
[Website](#)

8:00 AM
Sat Sep 16, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

Breakfast included - meal, coffee, tea, juice & taxes.

Alcohol excluded.

★ Surprise

About

START

FINISH

Private Gardens

9:00 AM
Sat Sep 16, 2023

BOOKING DETAILS

There are many hidden gems in the City of Gardens. You'll visit at least one on your tour and it's a stunning private garden that is a must-visit destination for any nature enthusiast. Nestled within the city limits, this peaceful oasis is a true delight for the senses. As you explore the lush gardens, you'll discover an array of vibrant flora and fauna, from blooming flowers to chirping birds. The garden's serene atmosphere provides the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the tranquility of nature. The personalized attention to detail and careful curation of the garden create a unique and memorable experience that will leave a lasting impression.

11:30 AM

Lunch on their own

Lunch - not included

★ Activity

About

Abkhazi Garden

1964 Fairfield Road
Victoria, British Columbia, V8S
1H2, Canada
Phone: +1 778-265-6466
[Website](#)

START

1:30 PM

Sat Sep 16, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

A visit to a heritage garden that was originally created by a Prince and Princess. They were both avid gardeners, and they worked tirelessly to cultivate a stunning collection of rare and exotic plants from around the world. The garden was designed to be a harmonious blend of European and Asian influences, featuring elements such as Japanese maples, Garry oaks, and rhododendrons. The garden was acquired by the Land Conservancy of BC, which opened the garden to the public in 2000. Today, the garden is maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers, who work to preserve the garden's unique character and beauty.

★ Ceremonial Home

About

of all British Columbians

Rockland Avenue
Victoria, British Columbia, V8S
1V9, Canada
Phone: +1 250-387-2080
[Website](#)

START

3:00 PM

Sat Sep 16, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

The gardens at Government House feature a breathtaking array of flora and fauna, including a diverse collection of native and exotic plant species that are carefully curated to create a harmonious and tranquil atmosphere. Visitors can wander along winding paths that meander through manicured lawns and vibrant flower beds, or sit and relax in quiet corners while enjoying the natural beauty of the surroundings. The gardens are dotted with sculptures and other works of art, adding to the beauty and cultural richness of the space. Whether you're a nature lover, history buff, or simply seeking a peaceful retreat, these gardens offer a unique and unforgettable experience that is not to be missed.

★ Dinner

About

Farewell Dinner

START

7:00 PM

Sat Sep 16, 2023

FINISH

BOOKING DETAILS

Farewell dinner - included - meal, pop, juice, coffee, tea & taxes.

Alcohol not included.

SUN
SEP
17

Guest

CONTACT

Airport Transfer

PICK-UP

9:00 AM

Sun Sep 17, 2023

Hotel

DROP-OFF

5:00 PM

Sun Sep 17, 2023

Victoria International
Airport

BOOKING DETAILS

Included - Airport Transfer.