

Gardens of the Pacific Northwest

March 15 - 21, 2011

Presented by

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum continues its 2011 lineup of tours with a delightful tour across our northern border to Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia. We'll spend three nights in each of these delightful cities, touring gardens and exploring the many attractions of these beautiful spots while enjoying the early spring afforded by their mild climate. Victoria is famous for Butchart Gardens, fifty-five acres of wonderful floral display offering spectacular views as you stroll along its meandering paths and expansive lawns. A former quarry site, the gardens were opened to the public in 1915 and have been a Victoria landmark ever since. The Gardens were designated in 2004 as a National Historic Site of Canada.

But that's not all there is to discover on Vancouver Island, as we'll spend time touring Abkhazi Garden, described as one of Canada's most significant garden



creations, begun in 1946 by Prince and Princess Abkhazi, and worked on for over 40 years. The garden, an exquisite heritage home and garden, is blessed with dramatic glaciated rocky slopes, magnificent native Garry oaks, gorgeous vistas, and it is a stunning example of West Coast design. The garden flows around the rock, taking advantage of deeper pockets of soil for conifers, Japanese maples and rhododendrons which over the last 50 years have grown to an impressive maturity. The rhododendrons here are spectacular!

In Vancouver, there are plenty of gardens to explore also. Van Dusen Botanical Garden, in the heart of the city, is a truly stunning set of gardens which was opened to the public in 1975. The 55 acre garden contains forty small and specialized gardens, all of different themes, amounting to over 7,000 different kinds of plants. There is also an Elizabethan maze, bordered by over 1,000 pyramid-shaped cedars, as well as a variety of sculptures in the garden, a collection of 22 sculptures, ranging from totem poles to busts, modern art and a fountain

One of Peter's recommendations for us in Vancouver is the combination of the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, the Nitobe Japanese Garden, and the Museum of Anthropology, all in proximity to one another. The UBC Botanical Garden offers seven major gardens, and several other smaller gardens for your exploration. Included in the major gardens is the Nitobe Botanical Garden, a traditional Japanese Tea and Stroll garden and considered to be one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in North America and among the top five Japanese gardens outside of Japan.

But we're not just going to visit gardens on this trip. We'll take the time to tour both cities, give you free time to enjoy the delights of each.

So, mark your calendar for March, and make sure that you join Peter Olin and your fellow gardeners on this tour to the great Pacific Northwest.

MEMBER'S TOUR PRICE: \$2,595*

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy.

**Note: Non-members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum add \$100 to the tour cost.*

TOUR ITINERARY

Tuesday, March 15

Twin Cities/Vancouver

Depart on morning flight from Minneapolis to Vancouver. Upon arrival Vancouver, we clear immigration and customs, and are met at the airport by our guide who will direct us to our waiting coach for transfer to the Vancouver ferry terminal. Arriving at the ferry terminal, we pick up our luggage and walk onto the ferry for the crossing from the city of Vancouver to Vancouver Island, where the city of Victoria is located. Lunch is available either at the ferry terminal or on board the ferry as we cross to Victoria. When we reach Victoria Harbor, we are transferred to our hotel on the waterfront, the Inn at Laurel Point. After check in at the hotel, the balance of the day is free. The Laurel Point Inn has a wonderful restaurant with the best view of the Vancouver skyline, highly recommended for dinner tonight (on your own).

Wednesday, March 16

Abkhazi and Butchart Gardens

Our tour today begins with a visit to Abkhazi Gardens. We'll spend an hour or so visiting this unique garden and viewing their spectacular collection of rhododendrons before taking tea and scones in the tea house at the garden.



Following this respite, we continue on to the Glendale Gardens and Woodland, the largest winter woodland garden in Canada. The garden is affiliated with Pacific Horticultural

College, and here you will find 30 demonstration gardens, which are cared for and studied by the students at the college. After this visit, we transfer to Butchart Gardens, perhaps the best known garden in the Pacific Northwest, if not Canada. Lunch is included on the grounds of the garden, and following lunch there is time to explore the garden before returning to our hotel for dinner (on own) and overnight.

B L

Thursday, March 17

Garden visits

We have private gardens scheduled for you to visit this morning in the Victoria area, and following these visits, we will go to the Government House, where we visit the National Gardens and the Government Gardens, and enjoy lunch in the Government House. This is where the Queen sleeps when visiting Victoria. After our visit here, we return to our hotel on the waterfront for dinner (on your own) and overnight.

B L

Friday, March 18

Ferry to

Vancouver/touring

This morning we depart Victoria and take the ferry back to Vancouver. Upon arrival in Vancouver, we check in at our hotel. Following lunch (on own), we begin our

afternoon with a tour of Vancouver and Stanley Park. In the evening we return to our hotel for dinner (on own) and overnight.

B

Saturday, March 19

Vancouver

Gardens

Our touring today begins after breakfast at Queen Elizabeth Park. The Park's commanding location makes it the home base of a diverse number of attractions including one of Canada's best arboreta, the Bloedel Floral Conservatory, exquisite quarry gardens and a top notch restaurant. As early as October 1949, the quarries' surrounding slopes were begun as an Arboretum, with the long-term goal of displaying every tree species native to Canada, at least those that would prosper in Vancouver's climate. In addition, there is the Bloedel Floral Conservatory, along with other fine gardens and sculptures located throughout the park. We have lunch at the *Seasons in the Park* restaurant, located on the grounds. In the afternoon, we travel to Van Dusen Gardens, in the heart of Vancouver, with its floral themed gardens, Elizabethan maze, sculptures and fountains. We return to our hotel afterwards for dinner (on own) and overnight.

B L

Sunday, March 20

UBC Botanical Gardens

Today we spend the day visiting the complex containing the University of British Columbia Botanic Garden, the nearby Nitobe Japanese Garden and the Museum of Anthropology. We will have lunch included today as we tour all of these wonderful sites – and we finish off our garden tour of Vancouver with a visit to the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden in the afternoon. This is the only full-sized classical Chinese garden outside China. It employs the ancient techniques of the Ming Dynasty, condensing the serenity of the mountain, streams, valleys and hills into an urban sanctuary. Every niche and arch of the garden is meticulously laid out. Each plant, rock and piece of architecture is selected for its symbolic meaning and mood, truly a place of tranquility. Return to our hotel in the late afternoon for dinner on own and overnight.

B L

Monday, March 21.

After breakfast this morning, we check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our flights home.

B

B – Breakfast L – Lunch



Hotel Information

The Inn at Laurel Point – Victoria, B.C.

Positioned near the entrance to Victoria's Inner Harbor, the peninsula at Laurel Point, where the hotel is located, is a natural welcoming spot. The Inn at Laurel Point features over 200 rooms, many with fabulous harbor views. It is only a short seaside walk away from downtown Victoria.

Amenities at the Inn at Laurel Point include complimentary in-room coffee and tea, complimentary wireless internet, complimentary local and toll-free calls, access to movies and music on demand, robes and luxurious bath toiletries from Aveda. The hotel has a glass-enclosed indoor swimming pool available for guests, as well as a fitness center.

The Aura Waterfront Restaurant and Patio offers fine dining with the greatest view in Victoria, and first-class cuisine. The hotel began as a restaurant in 1938, and now is a 66-seat waterfront dining venue with a lounge bar and adjacent 58-seat patio overlooking the picture-perfect Inner Harbor.

The grounds of this lovely hotel contain an authentic, hand tended Japanese garden, overlooking the harbor as well.

Breakfast is included in our stay at the Inn at Laurel Point daily.

The Sandman Hotel Vancouver City Centre

Located in the heart of the theatre district, the Sandman Hotel Vancouver City Centre features 302 guest rooms, including a designated corporate tower. This contemporary downtown Vancouver hotel with atrium pool is in the entertainment district, one block from BC Place and Rogers Arena, and four blocks from historic Gastown, and only two blocks from Yaletown, a refurbished warehouse district that is now home to numerous restaurants, shops, and art galleries.

Located in two towers, the Sandman Hotel's 302 soundproofed guestrooms include TVs in wooden armoires, video games, complimentary wireless Internet access, and desks with ergonomic chairs. Room amenities include complimentary in-room coffee and tea maker, hairdryers, iron and ironing boards.

The Hotel is also home to the Shark Club Bar & Grill, one of the city's hottest nightspots, with numerous big-screen TVs, pool tables, and a dance floor.

This outstanding value includes the following:

- Round trip air transportation from Minneapolis
- 6 nights hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily plus four lunches as indicated
- Sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Pre-departure information
- A tax-deductible donation to the Arboretum
- Hosted by Peter Olin

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposit due with booking: \$500 per person

Final payment due: January 31, 2011

Member's Tour Cost:

\$2,595 per person, double occupancy

\$595 additional, single supplement

Note: Non-members of the Arboretum add \$100

In order to qualify for the member's price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. For information on becoming a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, please contact the Arboretum membership office at 952-443-1440.

Cancellation Policy:

Prior to December 1	No penalty
Dec. 1 – Jan. 15	\$500 per person
Jan. 16 – Jan. 31	\$1,000 per person
Feb. 1 or later	No Refund

Cancellations must be received in writing and are effective upon receipt in our office. Trip cancellation insurance is available and is strongly recommended. Ask for details.



Victoria – One of Canada's most beautiful cities

To book this tour, contact Jim Glad at Glad To Travel -- 612-724-1915, e-mail:gladtotravel@earthlink.net-- or Peter Olin at the Arboretum -- phone 952-443-1412, e-mail: olinx002@umn.edu.



Legislative Building in Victoria



Vancouver Skyline



Gastown—Vancouver



Van Dusen Garden - Vancouver



Nitobe Japanese Garden



Rhododendrons at Stanley Park Garden