

QUEBEC GARDEN TOUR

Sunday July 15th to Friday July 20th, 2018

Six days/Five nights **Featuring:**

Reford Gardens – home of the Himalayan Blue Poppy

- *Domaine Joly de Lotbiniere;*
- *Parc Marie Victorin;*
- *La Jardin de la Pocatiere*
- *Jean d’Arc Garden, QC*
- *Roger Van den Hende Botanical Gardens*
- *Jardin Michael Corbeil*
- **Plus, amazing Private Gardens!**



Tour Itinerary:

Day 1 – After departing the GTA, we start our journey travelling east with a midday stop at a beautiful Ontario private garden. Our first night’s accommodation is at the # 1 hotel (out of 14) in Levi, QC, the Quality Inn – just outside Quebec City. After our welcome dinner (included), we relax get acquainted with our fellow travelers.

DAY 2 – Our day starts with a tour of the perennial favourite – Domaine Joly de Lotbiniere (on the banks of the St. Lawrence).

Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière:

www.domainejoly.com set in a breathtaking location; we are guided through acres of gardens alongside the St. Lawrence River. This immense, romantic, 19th century park is recognized as one of the most beautiful gardens in North America. Fans of history, nature, the outdoors, and horticulture will find a thousand and one things to discover on this charming site: an interpretation centre; an art gallery; gardens with more than 2200 varieties of plants – most are identified!

At Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière, time stands still as guests relive the end of the 19th century and life at the Maple House manor of Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière. **You will be amazed at the grandeur of this setting and outstanding gardens!**

After our buffet lunch (included) we start the journey to Rimouski. En route we will stop and visit La Jardin de la Pocatiere. Some of us will get energetic and hike the “mountain” for a panoramic view of the St. Lawrence.

La Jardin de la Pocatiere is a public botanical garden whose southern exposure creates an ideal microclimate for over 500 labelled plants. This enchanting place is home to special plant collections, themed gardens, ponds, waterfalls and picnic areas. Several scenic lookouts and a park pavilion offer panoramic views of the two-hectare (five-acre) hillside garden.

We then continue to our next night's lodging in Rimouski – Hotel Rimouski. Dinner is included. After dinner, a stroll on Rimouski's boardwalk is always inviting.

DAY 3 – Early in the morning we arrive at Reford Gardens for a full day of viewing. With Alexander Reford as our guide, we will be amazed at the garden created by his Great-Grandmother. Also included is time to stroll through the International Garden Festival exhibits, where you have an opportunity to vote for your favourite. Lunch (included) will be served at the historic Estevan Lodge.

Reford Gardens : *and the Blue Himalayan Poppies*

www.jardinsmetis.com **Reford Gardens** (Les Jardins de Métis) is recognized as one of Canada's outstanding gardens. A national historic site, they were created by a passionate gardener and plant lover, Elsie Reford, between 1926 and 1958. Visitors to this verdant domain of more than 200 acres can admire the splendours of some 3,000 species and varieties of native and exotic plants displayed in fifteen gardens. Sculptures by contemporary artists punctuate the visit and integrate harmoniously with historic gardens.

One of the highlights of any visit is Estevan Lodge, the 1887 37-room house built by Lord Mount Stephen as a fishing retreat. Celebrating its 125th anniversary last year, it welcomes visitors to its dining rooms, temporary exhibitions and museum. The museum explores the story of the summers spent by Elsie Reford and her family enjoying salmon-fishing and gardening. The Garden Shop offers a selection of garden books, seeds, gardening items and gifts; the Gift Shop offers a wide range of products made by local artisans.

SPECIAL TO THIS TOUR: *We get the privilege of going behind the scenes at the Reford Garden Blue Poppy Glade to see these marvels of the plant world. Although native to Tibet and extremely difficult to grow, Elsie Reford started them from seed in the 1930s and her garden is internationally recognized due to this plant phenomena. We will meet her Great-Grandson, Alexander Reford, under whose current direction these gardens continue to be a must-see for any plant lover.*

After lunch, we make our way back to Quebec City – checking into the Hotel Clarendon – ideally located in Old Quebec City on a cobblestone street lined with restaurants.

DAY 4 – Our day starts with a tour of Quebec City including the Jean d'Arc garden.

One of the prettiest gardens in all of Quebec City, the **Jean d'Arc Garden** is the jewel of the Battlefields Park/the Plains of Abraham! Created in 1938 by landscape architect Louis Perron, the garden has its own special style: rectangular and with greenhouses among the oldest still active in Québec, they supply the garden with over 45,000 annuals, biennials and perennials. Under the charm of **Quebec** City, a couple of Americans, including the sculptress herself Anna Hyatt Huntington, donated the **Joan of Arc** statue "A tribute to the patriotism and courage of the heroes of 1759-1760".

After lunch you can tour the Roger-Van den Hende Botanical Gardens

www.jardin.ulaval.ca The City of Quebec botanical garden was founded by the man after whom it is named: Roger-Van den Hende. Though a teaching garden in the early years, it is now a public garden with water features, a rose garden, an ericacetus, a pergola, a composting site, a herbacetus, an annual evaluation site, tree and floral screen and modern sculptures. The garden serves as a practical laboratory for students and researchers at Universite Laval and has a public education vocation. It features nearly 4000 species and cultivars arranged by botanical family, with a unique collection of plants native to Quebec and ornamental plants introduced from Europe, America and Asia.

OR you can spend this day as free time to discover this fabulous city.

DAY 5 – We depart Quebec City and travel towards the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Today we have the chance to explore the Parc Marie Victorin.

At **Parc Marie Victorin**, nature comes alive through amazing giant 3-D mosaicultures, 6 fantastic gardens and a tropical greenhouse teeming of exotic birds. Explore their new fantastic garden where a gigantic representation of Brother Marie Victorin (founder of the Montreal Botanical Gardens) is on guard, with its 16 feet in height. Sample edible flowers and vegetables grown on site with MarieCapucine.

After lunch (included) we will then continue to the southern part of the Eastern Townships and be treated to some of the **fabulous private gardens in the area**. Our last night will be at the beautiful Estrimont Suite & Spa – with dinner included.

Day 6 – We begin our journey home, but not before stopping at the Jardin de Michel Corbeil – a huge greenhouse facility in the Montreal area which boasts a fabulous display garden.

Michel Corbeil Nursery and display garden have been created by one of Quebec's primary wholesale growers of perennials. This garden features a woodland garden, a low-maintenance garden and much more. We tour the garden as well as the greenhouses with over 3000 varieties of perennials and small shrubs. **You can see it plus buy it!**

We will arrive in the GTA in the early evening.

Please note that itinerary is subject to change.

Note Regarding Quatre Vents:

Some say that it is Canada's most exclusive garden - Quatre Vents (Frank Cabot's Charlevoix area private garden) is only open 4 days per year, with limited admission. We have toured it in 2014 and 2015 but our visit in 2016 was denied. In 2017 we were given a special day (fabulous opportunity) but unfortunately, we do not have access to Quatre Vents this year. Due to the hugely popular movie "The Gardener" which details the work of Frank Cabot, they have been over-whelmed with requests. Possibly in 2019 we will again offer this tour. If you would like to tour the garden from the comfort of your chair, please go to this link and enjoy! <http://www.etpanorama.com/QuatreVents/VR/index.html>

Your package includes:

- Return motor coach transportation
- Five nights' accommodation (including baggage handling):
 - 1 night at the Quality Inn, Levis, QC
 - 1 night at Hotel Rimouski, Rimouski
 - 2 nights at Hotel Clarendon, Old Quebec City
 - 1 night at Estrimont Suite & Spa, Magog
- Tours/admission to attractions listed in Itinerary
- Meals: 3 breakfasts; 3 lunches; 3 dinners
- Services of Margaret Dailey-Plouffe, HNA Travels Tour Director

Cost: \$ 1,299. per person/double occupancy + HST (single \$ 1,799 + HST)

Non-refundable deposit of \$ 500. is due upon booking; Balance due by May 15th

PICK-UP INFORMATION: This tour originates in the GTA. Please call the office for exact departure information.

Travelling more than 80 km from a scheduled pick-up? We will share the cost of your hotel night prior to departure – yes, we will arrange your accommodation at a departure location and pay 50% of your hotel night, prior to departure (max. allowance is \$ 50 per room). Please contact the office for more information.

READY TO BOOK? Simply call us and you are on your way

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OR e-mail: hnatravels@gmail.com

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219086 Ontario Inc. 55 Holitman Drive, Ottawa, K2J 2K1

TICO #50017223

1-877-672-3030 416-746-7199 613-843-9900

hnatravels@gmail.com

www.hnatravels.com

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