

# Gardens of Victoria and Vancouver Island

*including the Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society – Spring Show*

Monday April 20<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

From small oasis in the wilderness to expansive gardens of international renown, demonstration gardens to heritage properties, and native plant gardens to formal English-style gardens — Vancouver Island is truly a gardener's paradise!

Victoria – otherwise known as the "City of Gardens" – is home to a number of spectacular gardens that range from formal to heritage, exotic to west coast, and multi-themed to mostly rhododendron.



A trip to Vancouver Island would not be complete if you did not witness the raw beauty of the Pacific Rim National Park. Therefore we are travelling north and west from Victoria to experience this part of the Island – Tofino. Here we will tour the Pacific Rim National park, plus private gardens. Also included is a tour of the Roy Henry Vickers Gallery – one of Canada's foremost First Nations Artist.

## ITINERARY

**Day One** –Our group flight departs in the a.m. from Toronto/Ottawa, arriving in Victoria early afternoon. After checking into our hotel (Hilton Doubletree Downtown) we start of discovery of Victoria with a walking tour of downtown. The remainder of the day is free, with lots of dining options at our doorstep.

**Day Two** –Today we tour the city of Victoria plus visit private gardens, arranged by Joan of Victoria Garden Tours. Late afternoon and evening is free to possibly take a water taxi around the harbor. Dinner on your own.

**Day Three** –We head north of Victoria to experience the beautiful Butchart Gardens. Here we will be treated to an in depth garden tour plus “High Tea”. En route back to Victoria, we will stop at the Gardens of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, for a guided tour. Remainder of the day is free.

**Day Four** – Today we stay in Victoria, first visiting the Government House and its remarkable gardens and then we head to Abkhazi Gardens for “High Tea” in their quaint Tea House and an afternoon of strolling amongst this world-class garden. Today might we could also head to Beacon Hill Park and see the “running” of the goats – it will bring out the inner child in us.

**Day Five** – Today we travel west to Sooke Harbour, where we will tour their private gardens and enjoy a lovely lunch, at this oceanfront location. Heading back to Victoria, we will stop in at the Hatley Castle & Gardens for a guided tour. We will also discover the University of Victoria's Finnerty Gardens – located within minutes of our hotel. Late in the afternoon we will visit the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Spring Show – a major horticultural even in Victoria!!!

**Day Six** –We depart Victoria for the west coast of the Island but not before we tour the Point Ellice House and Gardens. Once en route again, we stop in Parksville for lunch. We then continue to Tofino, where we will spend two nights at the Best Western TinWis Resort.

**Day Seven** –After a hearty buffet breakfast, we will visit private gardens in the area, and then a tour at the Tofino Botanical Gardens. The afternoon will be spent first visiting the gallery of Canadian Native artist, Roy Henry Vickers before we head south for a stroll along the beach at the Pacific Rim – Long Beach area. OR you can just enjoy the afternoon at the resort, relaxing.

**Day Eight**-After breakfast, we depart Tofino – heading back to Victoria, with a stop at the Rollin Art Centre. Then, on to Parksville where we will visit the Miler Gardens. We will then check into our hotel and enjoy our Farewell dinner.

**Day Nine** – As we are only minutes from the airport, we will be served coffee/tea and muffins before heading to the airport for our departure for Toronto/Ottawa

***Please note that itinerary is subject to change***

## Tour Highlights:

### Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society



VIRAGS is a club of plant lovers living near Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, who visit, study, photograph, draw, and grow alpine plants, bog dwellers, and woodlanders, whether native or exotic.

*We have the wonderful opportunity to attend the Annual Spring Show of VIRAGS.*

- **HATLEY PARK -**

Experience, discover, and enjoy the majesty of Hatley Castle, gardens, and estate. Escape into a tranquil paradise as you immerse yourself in the beauty of the many heritage gardens, walk their spectacular trails, or enjoy a visit to the castle museum and gift shop.



- **THE GARDENS AT HORTICULTURAL CENTRE OF THE PACIFIC (HCP)**



Named one of the 10 best gardens in Canada by the Ottawa Citizen, this 43-hectare site includes a nature conservancy and demonstration gardens.

Highlights include magnificent rhododendrons, and a collection of bonsai in the serene Takata Japanese Garden.

- **FINNERTY GARDENS**

One of Canada's best collections of rhododendrons is on display in the Finnerty Gardens. This 6.5-acre garden contains over 4,000 different trees and shrubs with more than 1,500 rhododendron and azalea plants, including 200-plus collected rhododendron species and a spectacular range of companion plants. Three ponds provide habitat for birds and plants such as the towering timber bamboo.





- **SOOKE HARBOUR HOUSE**

Come and lose yourself amid more than 230 herbs, edible flowers, vegetables, and a mosaic of wild and cultivated salad greens buffeted by mellifluous ocean breezes.

- **TOFINO BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Feel like a child again in one of the most whimsical and inspirational botanical gardens you'll ever visit. Discover and learn about the plants and people of Clayoquot Sound, amuse yourself with chicken watching (sightings guaranteed!) and alligator spotting, and taste the food grown in the kitchen garden for Darwin's Cafe. Featuring sculpture and natural history, the trails, huts, and boardwalks on this 12-acre site provide accessible exploration and fun for all ages.



- **ROLLIN ART CENTRE**

The Rollin Art Centre houses a Fine Arts Gallery, a gift shop that showcases work from over 85 local artists, and amazing gardens. The gardens are a show piece for the community that include a traditional Japanese garden which was a gift from Abashiri, Japan (Port Alberni's sister city), a Native garden showcasing indigenous plants, and a children's garden complete with a bridge and sundial.

- **POINT ELLICE HOUSE AND GARDENS**

This original, privileged Victorian home on the Gorge waterway in Victoria, British Columbia built in 1861, holds one of North America's largest collections of Victoriana. The gardens contain some of the original heritage roses and is considered the oldest and finest Victorian garden in its original settings.



- **ABKHAZI GARDEN**

Abkhazi Garden offers an escape from the rush of modern life. Created in 1946 by Prince and Princess Abkhazi, it is a heritage garden famous for its majestic trees, rhododendrons and dramatic vistas. The garden is located only minutes from downtown Victoria yet it is an exquisite and pristine oasis filled with beauty.



- **GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND GARDENS**



A multitude of flowers and plants in themed gardens at Government House (the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor of BC). Gardens range from cottage to English country, herb, rose and rhododendrons.

- **THE BUTCHART GARDENS**

Spectacular beauty in all seasons at this National Historic Site still owned by the Butchart family. With over one million visitors each year, this garden ranks as the top garden in Canada.



- **CRYSTAL COVE (TOFINO)**



Scattered throughout the site are log cabins on the beach and RV sites nestled in the trees. Our gardens, an infusion of classical English Cottage Garden and Pacific North West Coast Naturals, weave through all and meander down to the beach.

- **MILNER GARDENS & WOODLAND**



There's nowhere else quite like Milner – a beautiful public retreat where a historic estate and wild garden are buffered from the rest of the world by one of the last remaining stands of old growth Coastal Douglas Fir; a community oasis that rejuvenates the soul while educating about and inspiring care for the natural world.

### **YOUR TOUR PACKAGE Costs:**

**\$ 3,199.** Per person/double occupancy + HST ( \$ 3,614.87) includes Air from Toronto  
Single occupancy \$ 4,199. + HST (\$ 4,744.87) includes air from Toronto

➤ For Ottawa departures – please add \$ 100. For air cost

➤ **Deposit of \$ 800. upon booking** – Balance due March 15th

➤ **Deadline: February 10<sup>th</sup> - 20 is needed to guarantee this tour !**

### **Includes: AIR – HOTEL – TOURS - TRANSPORTION**

- ✓ Airfare and taxes
- ✓ 5 nights at the Doubletree Hilton – Downtown Victoria (or similar)
- ✓ 2 nights at the Best Western Tin Wis Resort, Tofino
- ✓ 1 night at the Travelodge Airport Victoria
- ✓ Airport transfers plus motor coach transportation during entire stay in Victoria
- ✓ **Admission to the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society Spring Show**
- ✓ Butchart Gardens –admission+ special Horticultural tour + Afternoon tea
- ✓ Tours to the various gardens listed on the “Tour Highlights”
- ✓ Pacific Rim National Park visit– Roy Henry Vickers Art Gallery
- ✓ Private garden tours
- ✓ Includes: 7 breakfasts; one lunch; two dinners; two “High Teas”
- ✓ Services of an HNA Travels Tour Director
- ✓ **JOAN of Victoria Garden Tours will join us**-she knows everyone & everything about Victoria!

**LAND ONLY** cost \$ 2,499. Per person/double occupancy + HST \$ 2,823.87  
\$ 3,499. Per person/single occupacny + HST \$ 3,953.87

**To Book:** please call Margaret at: **613-843-9900**

or E-mail: [hnatravels@gmail.com](mailto:hnatravels@gmail.com)

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INSURANCE is always recommended,  
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### **TOUR AND EVENT PLANNERS**

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