

Gardens of Victoria & Vancouver Island

Sunday May 24th

Monday June 1st, 2026

Nine days/Eight nights

Victoria – otherwise known as the "City of Gardens" – is a captivating city where historic charm, natural beauty, and modern culture blend effortlessly. With stunning waterfront views and a relaxed atmosphere, it is the perfect place to unwind. Whether strolling through the gardens, exploring charming streets or soaking in the harbour views, Victoria is especially lovely in May.



From a 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 — Victoria is truly a gardener's paradise!

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 begin our eight-day adventure by travelling north and west to experience this part of the Island – Tofino. Here we will tour the Pacific Rim National park, 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 – flying direct/non-stop and arriving in Victoria in the morning. We then board our motor coach for our journey up and across Vancouver Island to the Pacific Rim National Park and our hotel – the Best Western Tin Wis – for two nights. (L,D)

Day Two –After a hearty buffet breakfast, we will then have a tour of Tofino – including a visit to the gallery of Canadian Native artist, Roy Henry Vickers, plus a stroll through private gardens. After lunch we will stop for a visit to the Tofino Botanical Gardens. The rest of the afternoon will be spent first strolling along the beach at the Pacific Rim – Long Beach area, OR you can just enjoy the afternoon at the resort, relaxing. (B)

Day Three-After breakfast, we depart Tofino – heading back to Victoria, with a stop at Cathedral Grove – admiring nature's gentle giants -the Douglas Fir. Then on to Parksville for a lunch stop and then continue to Victoria - checking into our hotel, the Huntingdon Hotel & suites – ideally located in downtown Victoria. Our dinner this evening will be an experience – a Scottish High Tea, at the Pendray Inn & Tea House. (B, D)

Day Four - Today we tour the city of Victoria with our Driver/Guide. Our first stop will be a guided tour of the gardens at Government House, followed by a visit to Lily Maxwell's fabulous private garden. Our afternoon and evening are free to enjoy our waterfront location and to possibly take a water taxi around the harbour. Dinner is on your own. (B)

Day Five – Our day starts with a visit to Craigdarrouh Castle – a very “Victorian” experience. More private gardens will be viewed. After our included lunch, downtown, the remainder of the afternoon will be free to wander, possibly discovering “Chinatown” and some of the best bookstores in Canada – also the best tea shop. Dinner on your own. (B, L)

Day Six – We head north of Victoria to experience the beautiful Butchart Gardens. Here we will be free to wander the gardens and then finish our visit with a “High Tea”. En route back to Victoria, we will stop at the Gardens of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific, for a guided tour. The remainder of the day is free. Dinner is on your own. (B, HT)

Day Seven – Our day begins with a tour of Finnerty Gardens – plus a few private gardens. Afternoon will be free for you to explore Victoria. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

Day Eight– Today we visit the Abkhazi Gardens for a stroll amongst their world-class garden. We then enjoy “High Tea” in their quaint Tea House. Visit to private gardens will also be included. Our day will end in the early afternoon, ample time for you to continue your own discovery of Victoria. Dinner on your own. (B, HT)

Day Nine – After breakfast, we board our coach for the transfer to the airport – bidding Victoria adieu. We arrive in Toronto early evening. (B)

Please note that the itinerary is subject to change.

Tour Highlights:

- **BUTCHART GARDENS**

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



- **TOFINO BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Feel like a child again in one of the most whimsical and inspirational botanical gardens you will ever visit. Discover and learn about the plants and people of Clayoquot Sound, amuse yourself with chicken watching (sightings guaranteed!) and alligator spotting.

- **PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK**

Long Beach is the largest and longest beach on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Long Beach features rocky 'islands' in the mid-tidal zone of the beach that are accessible only at low tide. When the tide is high, these islands are either surrounded by water or thrashed by ocean swells.



- **CATHEDRAL GROVE**

The MacMillan Provincial Park preserves a section of lush old-growth forest unique to Vancouver Island. The 800-year-old giant Douglas Fir, Grand Firs, Western Hemlocks and Western Red Cedar trees filters the sun through the 80-meter-high canopy.

- **CRAIGDARROCH CASTLE**

Completed in 1890, Craigdarroch Castle is a definitively Victorian experience. Discover the opulence and grandeur of this historic Victorian-era mansion, nestled in the heart of Victoria, BC. Built for coal baron Robert Dunsmuir between 1887-1890, Craigdarroch Castle is being meticulously restored.



- **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 an exquisite and pristine oasis filled with beauty.

<https://www.abkhaziteahouse.com>

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



Named one of the ten 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.

<https://hcp.ca>

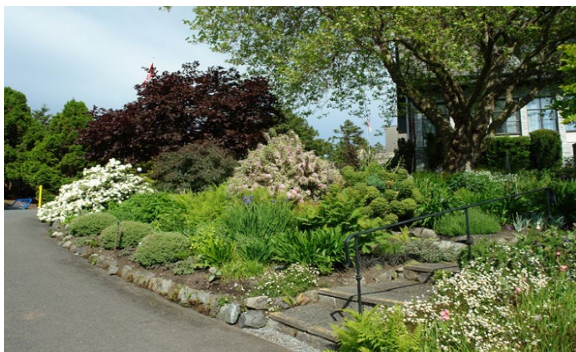
- **FINNERTY GARDENS**

One of Canada's best collections of rhododendrons 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.

<https://www.uvic.ca/finnerty>



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- **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.

<https://ltgov.bc.ca/blog/government-house-blog>

YOUR TOUR PACKAGE COSTS:

\$ 3,969. Per person/double occupancy - + HST (\$515.97) = \$ 4,484.97

Single occupancy: \$ 4,999. = HST (\$649.87) = \$ 5,648.87

Group size is 32 – at least 60% sold out !!!

Non-refundable deposit of \$ 800. Due upon booking; Balance due March 25, 2026

Includes: AIR – HOTEL – TOURS – TRANSPORTION

- ✓ Airfare (direct/non-stop from Toronto) and taxes
- ✓ Two nights at the Best Western Tin Wis Resort, Tofino
- ✓ Six nights at the Huntingdon Hotel & Suites, 330 Quebec Street, Victoria
- ✓ Airport transfers plus motor coach transportation during entire stay in Victoria
- ✓ Butchart Gardens –admission + Afternoon Tea
- ✓ Abkhazi Gardens – admission + Afternoon Tea
- ✓ Tours to the various attractions listed on the “Tour Highlights.”
- ✓ Tours to private gardens
- ✓ Includes: eight breakfasts; three lunches; two Dinners; two “High Teas”
- ✓ Includes mandatory gratuity to Coach Driver
- ✓ Services of an HNA Travels Tour Director – Margaret Dailey-Plouffe

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

or E-mail Margaret at: hnatravels@gmail.com

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