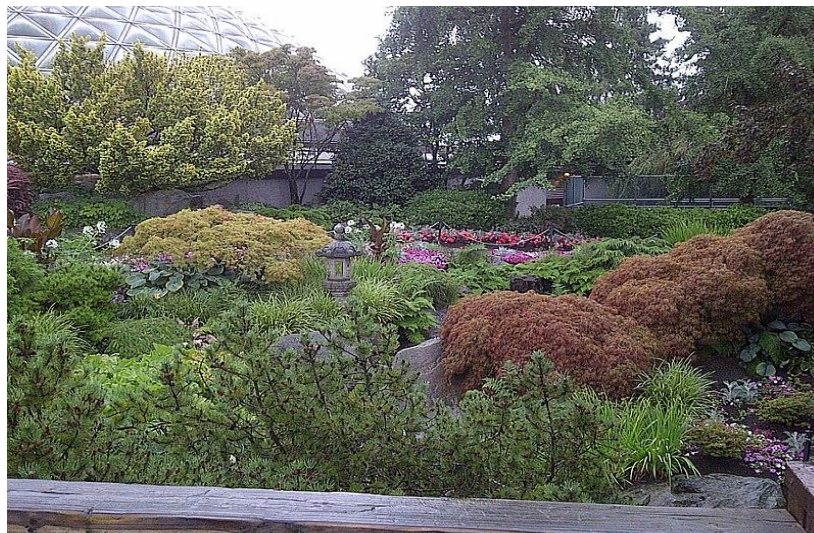


*Pacific Horticulture's
Gardens of Vancouver & Victoria, BC, Canada
June 6-13, 2025*



June 6, Friday: ARRIVAL VANCOUVER - On arrival at Vancouver's International Airport, one afternoon transfer has been included to the hotel. Any guests needing a transfer outside of this can include one for a supplemented fee at the time of final payment. Guests are also welcome to



make their own way by taxi to the hotel. Check in on arrival at the **Fairmont Waterfront Hotel** for a four-night stay. Meet your Sterling Tours LTD Escort and Garden Liaison, with your fellow traveling companions for a welcome reception at our hotel at 6:00pm. Our garden liaison, Doreen Wynja is an acclaimed photographer who has been featured in notable publications, as well as top garden and

landscape magazines and online media including Pacific Horticulture, Fine Gardening, Horticulture Magazine, and Sunset Western Garden Books for over 35 years. At our bubbly Welcome Reception this evening, Doreen will host a presentation of her garden photography, sharing her passion as an avid gardener with tips on how best to photograph any garden. Dinner with wine to follow.

Saturday, June 7: CHINESE GARDENS/ BOTANICAL GARDENS/ LOCAL TOUR:

Today we'll meet in the lobby with our escort and guide. We will be treated to a private tour of the **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden** before it opens to the public. This was the first Classical Chinese Garden built outside of China. Fifty-three Chinese master craftsmen constructed the Garden using traditional methods and materials brought from China – no glue, nails, screws, or power tools were used. The garden design was based on the harmony of four main elements: rock, water, plants, and architecture. Together, these four elements combine to create a breathtaking experience of perfect balance, yin, and yang.



We will continue to **VanDusen Botanical Garden** where we will be greeted by a volunteer at the Gardens and enjoy an escorted tour. The elegant landscape has plant species representing ecosystems ranging from the Himalayas to the Mediterranean, and from Louisiana swamps to the Pacific Northwest. A **Taste of the Gardens lunch** will be included at the neighboring **Shaughnessy Restaurant**.



This afternoon we have an orientation tour of Vancouver including Gastown, Chinatown, and Granville Island with a landscape tour of **Stanley Park**. The park is a national historic site of Canada and a magnificent green oasis amid the heavily built urban landscape. Transfers will be provided back to the hotel. Those who would like a little exercise or refreshment may stay on and return to the hotel at their leisure. **Breakfast, Lunch**

June 8, Sunday: UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLOMBIA / PRIVATE GARDEN: After breakfast we will meet with our driver for a visit to the University of British Columbia. Join a UBC volunteer for a guided tour of the **Nitobe Gardens**, the **Botanical Gardens**, the **Garry Oak Garden** and the **Tree Walk Tour**. Groups larger than 15 will be divided into two smaller groups. Our visit will also a picnic lunch in the Food Garden on campus.



After our visit at the University, we will reconnect with our driver for a visit to the private home garden of Janet Martini. A description of the **Martini Garden**: *"I fell in love with this 1924 bungalow on a deep lot when I saw the "For Sale" sign while dog walking in 2013. I moved 120 plants (divisions and cuttings) from my old place to expand on the beautiful but young garden started by the previous owner. I had the hardscaping done by Stellar Landscaping and splurge on three large trees but have done 99% of the rest of the work myself."* Photo and garden description are from a Vancouver Study Tour by www.thedangergarden.com **Breakfast, Lunch**



June 9, Monday: PRIVATE GARDENS BOWEN ISLAND. Meeting our driver after breakfast to make our way to the ferry for our visit to the small but mighty **Bowen Island**. Our first stop will be to an open deer - resistant garden with loads of wonderful plants to see and lots of things in bloom. The garden comprises two lots overlooking the ocean and bathed in sunshine. A true testament to what can be done without deer fencing. Since one of these lots is currently for sale this may be the last time you can see this gem. We will have an included picnic lunch during this visit.

Our second visit just 10 minutes from the first will be to the Walsh Gardens. The property was part of a homestead parcel that dates to 1908. The current garden has been evolving since 2012, beginning with the clearing of many areas. In 2013, numerous 'newer' trees, mature shrubs, and perennials from the owner's previous garden in West Van were transplanted into the existing framework of older trees and shrubs. Over the years, with the additional specimens added from various sources, the design of the garden was guided by the plant material. Take in the variety of foliage color from deciduous trees, including Japanese maples, Paperbark maples, Vine maples, Dawn Redwood, and Antarctic Beech, among others. The shrubs such as Euonymus alatus and Hibiscus should also provide vibrant colors, along with grasses, a few roses and perennials still in bloom.



Our third garden visit option today is just fifteen minutes from our second stop. It has evolved into two distinct areas, each with its own focus. The seaside area was designed to be drought-tolerant and deer-resistant and has proven to be the most captivating over the years. Even after 23 years, the owners continue to experiment and learn. Currently, it presents a relaxed, somewhat wild appearance, featuring evergreen shrubs like Ceanothus. It's a

haven for bees, which happily forage among the lavender and Teucrium, while the Buddleia still attracts swallowtail butterflies. The north side of the house is fenced and follows a more conventional planting scheme. Here the gardeners have curated a collection of plants that thrive under a canopy of firs: Hebes, Olearias, Camellias, and low-growing ground covers such as Saxifragas and hardy Begonias.

We will weigh up with one another if we would like to see any other gardens before our return ferry or if we would like to spend some time in Snug Cove collecting souvenirs. *Breakfast, Lunch*

June 10, Tuesday: VICTORIA/BUTTERFLY GARDENS/TEA AT BUTCHART. Today please be on the coach ready to depart at **7:15AM**. We will take the ferry and cruise to Victoria. Upon arrival we'll visit the **Victoria Butterfly Gardens**. Here we will enjoy a customized tour built just for us and focusing on climate change, the preservation of rich ecosystems for beneficial insects and animals. The garden team from the Victoria Butterfly Garden will be leading our visit today, enhancing our tour and offering answers to any of topics of interest in the group. This indoor environment is home to thousands of butterflies from around the world, as well as many other insects, varieties of diverse plants, as well as rescued and donated animals. Our visit will include informative talks about the butterflies, their life cycles, the gardens, and the extreme importance of conservation.





After our time in the Butterfly Gardens, we will make our way (by coach, 4min drive) to **Butchart Gardens**. Here we will enjoy a traditional afternoon tea service that includes a selection of teas, finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, and a variety of pastries and cakes. Guests can relax and savor their tea while taking in the beauty of the gardens. After our tea and nibbles, we will have some free time to explore the gardens on our own.

Guests will be provided with a time to reconnect with their driver by their escort to transfer to the **Fairmont Hotel Empress** for check-in. *Breakfast, Lunch.*



June 11, Wednesday: FOOD FORESTRY/ PRIVATE GARDEN. Today we will join our driver



and make our way to Colwood. Our visits today will be to two project sites pertaining to Food Forestry and Edible Landscapes with the designers and garden curators of **Hatchet and Seed**. An aerial photo example of an Eco Sense home and garden in Colwood. Our first site is a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre **suburban permaculture - imported garden** with solar panels, **home orchards**, raised beds, an herb garden, berry patches, pond, and **pollinator garden**.

Our second site is a University Campus **No-Dig Food Garden** and **Indigenous Medicine Garden**. A fresh soup and garden salad lunch will be prepared and included for us today on the tour.

This afternoon includes a special invite only private garden visit. For this couple from Vancouver, seasoned in renovating heritage properties, the sprawling 1908 Samuel Maclure beauty presented an irresistible challenge despite its neglected state. Having restored three heritage homes over the past 25 years, they were well-prepared for the ambitious task of reviving this Lodge. Captivated by its history, solid structure, and seven acres of stunning landscape, they successfully bid for the property "as is, where is" at auction. *Breakfast, Lunch*



June 12, Thursday: PRIVATE GARDENS/ ABKHAZI.

This morning, we will visit two innovative gardens. Our first visit will be to the Summer Cottage Garden of Suzanne and Pat Blumer. Tigara, their Arts and Crafts bungalow was built in 1913, overlooking the Salish Sea in British Columbia. When they purchased the property in 1991, the yard was largely barren except for a few ancient trees and scraggly shrubs scattered about. Over the years, they have transformed the landscape, turning dry grass and weeds into a vibrant oasis. From February to June, the beds and borders burst into constant blooms, creating a spectacle that they can enjoy from their front porch, summer house, and various garden rooms. Spring is undoubtedly the peak season for the garden, though textured structural plants and carefully planned hardscaping, they have ensured there is interest throughout the year.



Our second visit will be to **Lily Maxwells** in South Oak Bay on three quarters of an acre, views of the ocean and a vibrant garden encompassing the grounds of her 1930's home. Lily will provide us with a personal tour. The lush borders, sweeping flower beds and flowering trees being described to us will help us all get to know this quite serious horticulture connoisseur.

Next, we meet our driver and make our way to the **Abkhazi Gardens** for a light Afternoon tea comprised of local products in the Garden restaurant and a tour by a horticulturalist. Prince and Princess Abkhazi began creating Abkhazi Garden in 1946. The garden has dramatic glaciated rocky slopes, magnificent native Garry oaks and gorgeous vistas. The late afternoon is free for sightseeing or shopping. This evening, we will walk to our festive farewell dinner. *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*



Friday, June 13: DEPARTURE. Following breakfast at the hotel, time to check out and say Goodbye to Victoria. Guests will have an included transfer with ferry crossing back to Vancouver, then continue to the Vancouver Airport today. *Breakfast*

LAND COST PER GUEST: Based on a minimum of 16 guests.

\$ 6,190.00 per person for members of Pacific Horticulture

\$ 6,290.00 for non-members.

Single supplement: \$ 1,495.00 per person

A nonrefundable deposit of \$ 800.00 per person is required to secure a reservation, with the balance due 90 days before departure.

Membership for Pacific Horticulture can be signed up or renewed here: <https://pacifichorticulture.org/membership-registration>

THE PRICES INCLUDES:

- 7 nights superior hotel accommodations -- see note * below
- A \$350pp Patronage to Pacific Horticulture
- Porterage of one piece of luggage
- A Garden Laision, photographer, gardeners, curators and professional Escort
- Transportation by private motorcoach, driver gratuity included.
- 7 breakfasts, 6 Lunches, as stated in the itinerary
- Admission fees for all visits stated in itinerary
- Bottled water on the motorcoach

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare
- Meals and drinks not specifically mentioned
- Entrance fees not specifically mentioned
- Room Service
- Excess Baggage Charges & Porterage of more than 1 piece of luggage.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, etc...
- Gratuity for our local guide and driver. This will be collected by your Escort at the end of the tour and presented as a gift of thanks for their services.
- Trip insurance - strongly suggested. We recommend Travel Guard or Allianz.

NOTES:

1. Luggage: Please limit your luggage to one checked bag and one carry-on.
2. Tour schedule: It becomes a liability for Sterling Tours LTD for guests to stray from the tour's daily activities. This will not be permitted. Your guide and escort need you as a guest to participate in the structure of which the tour is presented to operate. In the event a guest becomes ill or an emergency occurs, Sterling Tours LTD., the escort and the guide will accommodate these exceptions required per guest per circumstance. At no other time should a guest be using the set itinerary time to make individual sightseeing arrangements not included in the tour.
3. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The right is reserved to withdraw from any or all tours that should be conditionally warranted, also to decline to accept or retain passengers as members of the tour. Legal proceedings against the Operator may be instituted only in a State or Federal Court within the County of San Diego, County of Riverside, State of California, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in the County of San Diego, County of Riverside, and State of California.

Any legal proceedings against the Operator must commence within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the planner Shannon Cummins nor CEO Michael Lee, Cheryl Hedgpeth Nichols, any escort, guides, nor Pacific Horticulture shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.