

GARDENS

Three Day Sample Itinerary

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

Day One

Start your morning at **Government House**, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. The grounds embrace 36 acres, including formal gardens and a rare Garry oak ecosystem. The on-site Cary Castle Mews and Tea Room offer visitors a unique place to enjoy a cup of tea and explore the history of this National Historic Site.

www.ltgov.bc.ca/



Next take a stroll through **Abkhazi Garden** and discover the epic love story between a prince and commoner that stretched decades, continents and war. Finally, united in 1946, Prince and Princess Abkhazi began to build a beautiful garden together which is a stunning example of West Coast design. Today you will find a dynamic and evolving garden with glaciated rocky slopes, magnificent Garry Oaks and gorgeous vistas! Stay for lunch or afternoon tea in the original home, a simple but elegant space where everyone feels like a personal guest of the Abkhazis. www.conservancy.bc.ca/abkhazi



Day Two

A visit to Victoria wouldn't be complete without a visit to **The Butchart Gardens**. Fifty-five acres of floral finery await you as you stroll along meandering paths and expansive lawns at The Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site of Canada. Initiated in 1904 by Robert and Jennie Butchart in an effort to beautify a worked-out quarry, the endeavour became a family commitment to horticulture and hospitality, spanning over 100 years and delighting visitors from all over the world. From the exquisite Sunken Garden



to the charming Italian Garden, this colourful show place still maintains the gracious traditions of the past, in one of the loveliest corners of the world.

www.butchartgardens.com

Located a five minute drive away from The Butchart Gardens is **The Victoria Butterfly Gardens**. The Gardens were designed and built specifically to showcase the life cycles and free flight of tropical butterflies and moths. Visitors can enjoy the rare, unique and up close experience of exotic butterflies, tropical ducks, stunning flamingos and other rare tropical birds, and Koi swimming in the stream and pond. Other features of interest are the carnivorous plant section, foods of the world area and one of the largest collections of orchids on Vancouver Island. The carefully planned combination of trees, bushes, vines and creepers is a visual delight in all seasons.

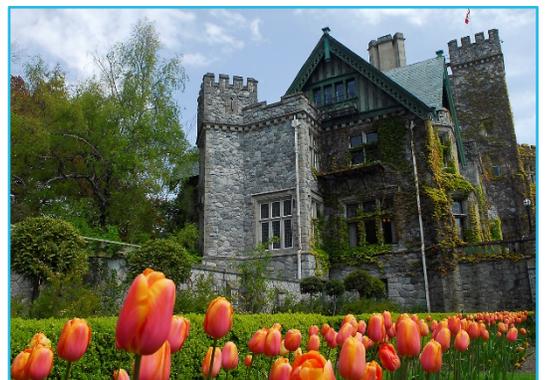
www.butterflygardens.com

On your way to or from The Butchart Gardens, enjoy a stop at the **Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific**. With over nine acres of gardens on a 103-acre site in Saanich, these lovely gardens are set in a conservation park with nature trails, wetlands and bird watching sites. Tour the Winter Garden, Japanese style Takata Garden, Zen Garden, rhododendron garden, heather garden and trial dahlia garden. hcp.ca

Day Three

On your third day be sure to visit **Hatley Park**, one of Canada's largest and most diverse National Historic Sites. At the centre is a magnificent castle built in 1908 by former British Columbia Premier and coal baron, James Dunsmuir. Authentic and beautifully preserved, this 565 acre Edwardian estate is nestled on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, just 25 minutes from downtown Victoria at 2005 Sooke Road. Echoes from the past will link you to present day adventure as you enjoy daily tours of Hatley Castle, visit the museum, gift shop, or stroll through the Japanese, Italian and Rose Gardens.

www.hatleypark.ca



When you arrive back in downtown Victoria be sure to stroll through **Beacon Hill Park**. This 178-acre public park is a showpiece of Victoria's long gardening tradition. Beacon Hill Park boasts large remnants of the fragile native Garry Oak ecosystem, which is especially glorious in the spring when the huge drifts of wildflowers such as the blue Camas are in bloom. In addition to these natural areas, much of the park is beautifully landscaped with many of the original trees, five man-made lakes, a medieval stone bridge, and original fountains and woodland streams. You will also find a delightful spring rockery designed and maintained by the Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society, deep herbaceous borders and colourful, formal annual display plantings. In addition, park facilities include trails, a petting animal farm and wading pool, water fountains, picnic areas, monuments, sports fields and playgrounds, a band pavilion, and cultural features including what was once the world's tallest totem pole.



Contact Us

For more information on this and other itinerary suggestions, contact the Travel Trade team at Destination Greater Victoria.

Suite 200 – 737 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1L6 Canada

Email: traveltrade@tourismvictoria.com | www.tourismvictoria.com/travel-trade