

Detroit Garden Center – Garden tour to Canada’s Golden Horseshoe!

Monday June 18th to Friday June 22nd, 2018 – Five days/Four nights

Your itinerary highlights:

Day one-

After we depart Detroit, clear customs and enter Canada, we travel towards London, Ontario where we will have a morning coffee break, in a private garden before arriving at **Whistling Botanical Gardens**, just in time for lunch. After our delicious, catered lunch, Darren (the owner of Whistling Gardens) will guide us through Canada’s newest Botanical Garden.

<http://www.whistlinggardens.ca>

- The gardens span some 20 acres, all connected with easy-to-walk paths to guide you on your adventure. Nearly every inch of soil has been moved in some way to build these gardens. Presently, the gardens are home to over 4,000 different plants including the world’s largest public conifer collection. Many colours and textures heighten the senses. Most gardens are bordered with native plantings and/or a water feature. A man-made babbling brook and cascades can be found in the gardens. Our new pond is over 2 acres and provides a relaxing environment to enjoy the natural ambience. The gardens have increasingly become home to more bird species. At various times of the year, many migratory birds make an extended stay in the gardens. We have also seen a huge increase in the species of butterflies that frequent particularly, the perennial gardens. The formal gardens include original designs as well as inspired designs from renaissance gardens and two gardens that once graced the grounds at the Palace of Versailles. Most formal gardens have statuary, fountains and extensive flower displays that show off their vivid colours all season long. The gardens offer interest all season long, making return visits a must.

We then travel to Hamilton and check into our hotel – our home for the next three nights. The hotel offers complimentary, light, appetizers in the early evening. Dinner will be on your own – there is a large variety of restaurants, just steps from the hotel.

Day Two

We start our day with a complete breakfast and then board our coach for our full day tour of the Royal Botanical Gardens. www.rbg.ca **Royal Botanical Gardens** is located at the western tip of Lake Ontario.

- Four distinct formal gardens are contained with 1,100 hectares of nature reserve, nestled into the slopes of Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve. The ever-changing seasons, blooms, and natural phenomenon make each visit a new experience. The year-round focal point of Royal Botanical Gardens is RBG Centre. Here you will find both indoor and outdoor displays. We will stop by the Mediterranean Garden and explore a living wall in the Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium.

We will then meet our guide for a tour of the Rock Garden -truly a garden for the 21st century, one that embraces sustainable trends in garden design and management while respecting the integrity of its heritage setting. It incorporates a best practices approach to plant selection, design and management, including pollinator-friendly plants, species native to Ontario, and a broad representation of drought-tolerant perennials that provide wide sweeps of colour and texture through the seasons.

The new Rock Garden (which was just transformed in 2014-16) allows RBG to do more with less – less water, less upheaval of the soil, and less human power, plant waste and carbon emissions spent on seasonal change-outs of over 150,000 bulbs and annuals.

After our light lunch (salad/sandwiches/dessert) our guides will lead us to Hendrie Park through an underground tunnel to continue your exploration of the plant world. Hendrie Park has something for everyone. Meandering through its collections, displays and interesting landscape features, the visitor can smell a rose or be challenged



by the thought provoking stories in the medicinal garden. This garden truly illustrates the diversity of both plants and garden design. Discover native plants in a cultivated setting, a new look at vegetable gardening and the see the sky reflected on dark water.

We then have a tour of the Rose Garden which was originally planted in 1967 Due to changing climates, pesticides etc. the rose garden languished in recent years. So, after many months of rejuvenation, the new Rose Garden is ready to be unveiled. It features a spectacular display of roses and companion plants intended to extend seasonal interest and keep diseases at bay. The RBG is proud to present an innovative, sustainable and inspiring experience, the quintessential rose garden for Canada's largest botanical garden.

Later in the afternoon, we journey back to hotel to relax and enjoy dinner, on your own.

Day Three

After breakfast we enjoy a tour of **Dundurn Castle and Kitchen Gardens**.

- Dundurn Castle is a 40-room Italianate-style villa built in the 1830's on Burlington Heights; the former site of a fortified military encampment established by the British in 1813. Once home to Sir Allan Napier MacNab, railway magnate, lawyer and Premier of the United Canadas (1854-1856) and his family, today Dundurn Castle tells the story of the family who lived above stairs and the servants who lived and worked below stairs to support their affluent lifestyle. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall is the museum's Patron and the great, great, great granddaughter of Sir Allan MacNab.

After touring the Castle, we now visit the Kitchen Gardens. Rich, bountiful, and a pleasure to the senses, the kitchen garden at Dundurn, as at any fine Victorian home, provided an abundance of fashionable fruit, flowers, vegetables, and herbs, essential to the kitchen and dining room. William Reid was Sir Allan's gardener for over 25 years. Explore his lovingly restored kitchen garden, where we use 1850's tools and varieties to grow food for Dundurn Castle's historic kitchen. Stop by the garden gate for the sights and scents of the 19th century.

www.hamilton.ca/attractions/hamilton-civic-museums/dundurn-national-historic-site.

We will then enjoy a light lunch and visit various **private gardens** in the area.

Later in the afternoon, we journey back to hotel to relax and enjoy dinner, on your own.

Day Four

After breakfast, our luggage will be loaded in the coach and we will journey to picturesque **Niagara-on-the-Lake**. After a tour of this historic town we will enjoy a luncheon at a local winery and then visit various **private gardens** in the area. We then travel across the border to Buffalo, NY. **Buffalo is home to fabulous "Garden Walk"** – the largest of its kind in North America – over 400 private gardens are open to the public on the last week-end of July. We are choosing the best of these **private gardens** to view this afternoon. Later in the afternoon we then check into the ideally located Embassy Suites. Their "Happy Hour" is a lovely way to end your day – complimentary alcoholic beverages and appetizers are served in the hotel's breakfast room. Dinner is then on your own with lots of choices within walking distance of the hotel.

Day Five

After a scrumptious breakfast, our last day begins with a tour of the **City of Buffalo** followed by lunch, then head back to Canada. No visit to this area of Ontario would be complete if you did not visit the beautiful private country garden of **Beth Powell**.

- **Beth Powell's large country** garden reveals itself through a series of whimsical vignettes. Quirky and original container plantings, a canoe filled with flowerpots and floating in the pond, a seating area that seems plucked from the Tuscany countryside and a rain garden are among this gardens many unique and novel features.

We then head towards to the Detroit border, say au revoir to Canada and arrive in Grosse Pointe/Dearborn around 8 p.m.

YOUR TOUR PACKAGE includes:

- Motor coach transportation – 56 passenger sized coach
- Four nights' accommodation – shared accommodation has two beds – baggage handling included: Three nights in the Hamilton, Ontario area (Hilton Homewood Suites); one night in Buffalo, New York (Hilton Embassy Suites)
- Four Breakfasts and Five lunches included.
- Dinner option: light snacks offered complimentary at each of the hotels
- Tours and admission to all attractions listed in the itinerary
- All taxes and service charges plus gratuities to Coach Driver and Tour Director
- A donation to the Detroit Garden Center
- The Tour Directing services of Margaret Dailey-Plouffe, Managing Director of HNA Travels – Garden Tour Specialists
- **NOTE: a current/valid passport is required**

**COST: \$ 1,200. USD per person – double occupancy (US credit cards accepted)
(single occupancy: \$ 1,500. USD per person)**

To guarantee your booking: \$ 250. Non-refundable deposit due upon booking – balance due April 15th, 2018

Tour organized by: HNA TRAVELS

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