
Please follow the black and white arrows and number signs. Parts of this tour are not wheelchair accessible.

"Won't you come into my garden: I would like my roses to see you."

- Richard Sheridan, 1751-1816

To begin the tour, leave the Visitor Centre and turn left toward the small wooden footbridge over the stream bed. To the left of the bridge is a **1 – weeping Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* 'Pendula')**. Note the twisted form of its trunk and branches, in sharp contrast to the upright form of our native Douglas fir much loved by BC's lumber industry, which you will see later. This bridge, as well as other new structures, was built with western red cedar recycled from a wooden walkway removed for the construction of the new Visitor Centre.

Continue up the slope ahead, past the BC jade drinking fountain on your left, and then take the paved path to the right, observing the variety of **Ornamental Grasses**. Just past the **2 - weeping giant sequoia tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Pendulum')** with its interpretive sign on the corner, turn left. Follow the curved stone wall and climb the steps into the **Formal Rose Garden**. Chosen for their resistance to disease and pests, these are varieties of the modern **floribunda** and **hybrid tea roses** which can withstand the Pacific Northwest's cool wet weather.

Pass through the stone arch to the **3 - Heritage Roses**, generally considered to be roses introduced before 1900, although that date is debated. These roses reflect centuries of breeding that have culminated in the modern hybrid tea roses, which combine the best qualities of the old roses but are more disease and pest-resistant. Not always easy to grow, heritage roses still retain a strong following among gardeners. To the right of the path are the **China Roses**, the oldest of the Heritage Roses, grown in China for over 1000 years and used to introduce repeat flowering in most modern roses. On your left, large oval beds feature nine major groups of heritage roses.

In the centre of the first bed to your left are several large **Rugosa Roses**, extremely hardy perpetual bloomers with deeply veined 'rugose' leaves. Look closely at one of the Grootendorst hybrids – the crimped petals appear as though they were cut with pinking shears. Here you will also see the **burnet rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)**, native to [Europe](#) and northwest [Africa](#). This parent of the **Pimpinellifolia Roses** is an early bloomer with creamy-white flowers. Further in this bed are the **Portland Roses**. In the early 1800s the repeat-flowering, fragrant and compact Portland rose (brought to England by the Duchess of Portland) was the result of a natural cross between a China rose and a hybrid between an autumn damask and gallica rose.

In the adjacent bed behind you are the **Bourbon Roses** introduced in 1824, a natural cross between a Damask rose and a China rose from the French island Ile de Bourbon. At the other end of this bed, across the path from the bench are the **Alba Roses**. Grown in Europe since A.D.100 and among the most ancient of all cultivated plants, Alba roses are shade tolerant and bear white or pink flowers.

Keeping the trees of the **Laburnum Walk** on your right, progress to the next bed, where you will find the June-flowering **4 - Damask Roses**, grown in England since the 13th Century. The twice-blooming Autumn Damask is a more recent introduction. Both are valued commercially for their outstanding perfume. In the same bed are the intensely fragrant **Gallica Roses (*Rosa gallica* and its descendents)**, which have white, pink or red flowers and include the apothecary's rose (*Rosa gallica* var. *officinalis*), used for centuries in perfume, medicine and preserves. Both Alba and Gallica roses flower once per year.

Continue on to the last bed, with the fragrant **5 - Centifolia or Cabbage Roses**. This group was developed by Dutch breeders from four different species, including *Rosa gallica*. The original **cabbage rose (*Rosa* × *centifolia*)** is the source of the mutation that led to the adjacent **Moss Roses**, along with a similar mutation that arose in *Rosa gallica*. Look closely at a moss rose and note the tiny glandular hairs, like fine moss, that cover the sepals at the base of the flower.

In 1867 the **Hybrid Perpetual** (a cross between Portland and Bourbon roses) was crossed with a tea rose to produce the **Hybrid Teas**, the beginning of the modern rose era.

Leave the **Moss** and **Centifolia** rose bed behind you and step across the tree-lined **Laburnum Walk** to follow the curved, scented **6 - Lavender Walk**. At its end is a grouping of small weeping trees with a distinctive, umbrella-like shapes, including three **7 - Camperdown elms (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii')**. In the early 19th Century a contorted branch of a wych elm was discovered growing along the ground at Camperdown House in Scotland. A cutting was taken of this odd mutation and it continues to be

propagated today, usually grafted onto wych elm root stock with its deeply grooved bark. Turn right at the main path and pass beneath the shade of the **weeping beeches (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula')** into the **Perennial Garden**. Stop and enjoy the magnificent warm yellow-green colour of the **golden false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia')** trees growing above the stone wall.

At the four-way intersection, turn left. Ahead on your right are four splendid mature **8 – Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)** and beneath them an interpretive sign. Continue up the path, past the Haiku stone, and the weeping cherry trees in the David C. Lam Cherry Grove, up to the crest of the hill. Here you can see a number of sculptures. Walk across the grass to your left to the marble statue with three faces called **9 - 'Observing Your Society'**. Carved by Canadian Inuit artist **David Ruben Piqtoukun**, it is one of eleven large stone sculptures created on site by a group of international sculptors in 1975, the year the Garden was opened. Since carving this piece at the beginning of his career, Piqtoukun has become a very prestigious artist whose works are in demand around the world.

Enter the small, bark-mulched path to the right. A few feet ahead are the unusual **Himalayan blue poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*)** in front of the **giant Himalayan lilies (*Cardiocrinum giganteum*)**. 'Cardio' refers to this plant's distinctive heart-shaped leaves. The largest species of crinum lily, it grows up to 18 feet in height. While not difficult to grow, a seed takes 7 years to develop into a flowering plant. After flowering the bulb dies, but tiny bulblets that bud off the main bulb will continue to grow and bloom two or three years later.

Retrace your steps and turn left at the statue to rejoin the paved path where an information sign explains the history of VanDusen Botanical Garden. Continue up the path and turn right at the four-way junction. As you walk along you will see on your left **10 - bronzeleaf rogersia (*Rodgersia podophylla* 'Braunlaub')** which may still be displaying its long plumes of ivory-green flowers. Turn left at the next junction towards the waterfall past more **11 - Himalayan blue poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*)** on your right. Native to southeastern Tibet, this species was discovered in 1886 by British plant explorer Frank Kingdon Ward. Himalayan blue poppies prefer fertile, well-drained soil with shade from the midday summer sun. These poppies do not tolerate wet feet in the winter so they are a challenge to grow here on the west coast.

Continue across the intersection and look behind the **weeping maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba* 'Pendula')** on your right for the pretty, pink and orange flowered **12 - China or butterfly rose (*Rosa* × *odorata* 'Mutabilis')**. Named for its profusion of multi-coloured, delicate flowers, it appears as if covered in butterflies when in bloom.

Continue, with the stream on your right, to the waterfall. Like all of VanDusen's water features, the waterfall was designed and built by Bill Livingstone in the 1970s. Near the foot of the waterfall, the graceful **13 - weeping katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Morioka Weeping')** grows vigorously and requires regular pruning.

Continue past the waterfall, along the path, crossing the intersection, until the path eventually curves left and joins the main paved path. Turn left, past the stone entrance to the Meditation Garden and then turn right at the traditionally-painted **Korean Pavilion**, and proceed down the **Rhododendron Walk**, where you may find some late-blooming rhododendrons.

Further down the walk is the Garden's main collection of **Hydrangeas** on your left. When you reach the intersection at the bottom of the walk, continue straight ahead along the curving path past the Minotaur sculpture. Here seasonal displays feature colourful bulbs and annuals. Take a closer look at the plants in the **Alpine Troughs** as you cross the intersection. Adapted to exposed alpine conditions, these plants are typically much smaller than their lower-elevation cousins.

Continue past the **Formal Rose Garden** and turn left at the end of the stone wall into the **Black Garden** where plants with nearly black flowers, foliage or fruit are contrasted by various shades of lime and gold coloured plants. Keep right and stroll beside Livingstone Lake. On a sunny day you may spot turtles basking on the warm rocks that border the lake.

Look across the lake for the best view of the **Visitor Centre's green roof**. There low-growing, low-maintenance **fescues** and **ryegrass** are interspersed with thousands of bulbs, including ***Fritillaria*** and ***Erythronium***. For more information about the Visitor Centre's role in the Garden's commitment to sustainability please visit the Information Desk at the garden entrance.

We hope you enjoyed your tour and will come back to visit us again soon.