

Please follow the black & white arrows and number signs. Parts of the tour are not wheelchair accessible. This tour will take approx. 40 minutes or longer, depending on your walking pace.

Weeping trees occur in nature, but most weeping trees are cultivars, having been bred for their pendulous branches that can cascade to the ground.

To begin the tour, leave the Visitor Centre and turn left toward the small wooden footbridge over the stream. 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 redcedar recycled from a wooden walkway removed for the construction of the Visitor Centre, completed in 2012.

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**. Stop at the **2 – weeping giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Pendulum')** with its interpretive sign. At the intersection, take the path to the right and walk through the **Black Garden** where plants with nearly black flowers, foliage or fruit are contrasted by various shades of lime and gold foliage. Before you reach the lakes at the end of the Black Garden, turn and go back to the intersection. Follow the curved stone wall to the right and climb the steps into the **Formal Rose Garden**. This landscape style with a pattern of formal beds and paths in an embroidery-like design is called 'parterres de broderie' after the late 17th century gardens at Versailles. These modern varieties of **floribunda**, **grandiflora** and **hybrid tea roses** have been chosen for their resistance to disease and pests, (no pesticides or herbicides are used anywhere in the Garden) and can withstand the Pacific Northwest's cool, wet spring weather. The busts of David Douglas and Carl Linnaeus are tributes to these two plant explorers and also to Linnaeus as the father of modern botanical nomenclature.

Pass through the stone arch to the **3 – Heritage Roses**, generally considered to be roses introduced before 1900. They have resulted from centuries of cultivation. 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 including: **rugosa roses**, hardy perpetual bloomers with rugose (corrugated) leaves; **pimpinellifolia roses**, early bloomers with creamy-white flowers including the **burnet rose**, native to Europe and northwest Africa; **alba roses**, grown in Europe since 100 CE (Common Era) and among the most ancient of all cultivated plants, shade tolerant with white or pink flowers. If time allows, you might like to explore more of the Heritage Rose beds and then return to this point.

Continue on the path towards the next junction. On your right is a **4 – bed of perennials** with interesting and contrasting foliage forms and colours - **penstemons**, **heucheras**, **geraniums** and more. At the far end of the bed look behind the wooden direction sign to see the white bark of three **Himalayan white birches**, which frame the garden's largest **5 – mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)** which may still be in bloom. At this 3-way junction, turn around to see the tree-lined **Laburnum Walk**. In early June this may still be magnificent with the bright yellow racemes of the **golden chain trees, (*Laburnum x watereri* 'Vossii')**; all parts of these trees are poisonous. The contrast with the **ornamental onions (*Allium hollandicum* 'Purple Sensation')** below is beautiful. If you wish to enter the Laburnum Walk please do so, then return to this point.

Continue to the next intersection. Enjoy the perennial garden on your left. Notice the difference between the two displays on either side of the path. On one side there is a traditional perennial border backed by a **yew hedge (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata')**; on the other side the plants are displayed in island beds set in front of a low stone wall providing a landscaped vista – note the lovely bright yellow-green colour of the **golden false acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Frisia')** trees above. There are seats where you may wish to rest before returning along the path to your entrance to the perennial garden.

Back at the four-way intersection, turn left. Slightly up the hill, on your right, are four splendid mature **6 – Douglas-firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)** and beneath them an interpretive sign. Immediately behind you are the perfect umbrella shapes of three small **7 – Snow Fountains weeping cherry trees (*Prunus* 'Snofozam')**. These will have lovely orange, gold and red leaves in the fall. Continue past the Haiku stone and the David C. Lam Cherry Grove with its weeping Higan cherry trees on either side of the path, 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 **8 – 'Observing Your Society'**. Carved by the now-renowned 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.

Enter the small, bark-mulched path to the right. A few feet ahead are the **9 - Himalayan blue poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*)**. Native to southeastern Tibet, this species was introduced to cultivation in 1924 by British plant explorer Frank Kingdon Ward. With the blue poppies are the **giant Himalayan lilies (*Cardiocrinum giganteum*)**. 'Cardio' refers to this plant's distinctive heart-shaped leaves. While not difficult to grow, a seed can take seven years to develop into a flowering plant.

Return to the sculpture and back to the paved path at the drinking fountain and look for the information sign that explains the history of VanDusen Botanical Garden. Continue up the path to the four-way junction. On the far right corner you will see the **10 - ornamental rhubarb (*Rheum palmatum*)**. This is a cousin of the edible garden rhubarb, but this ornamental variety is harmful if eaten. Turn right, then continue down to the next intersection and turn left.

Proceed up the path to the next 4-way intersection; on the far right corner is the highly unusual **11 - weeping maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba* 'Pendula')**, unusual because instead of hanging downwards the branches grow out horizontally. There is an excellent interpretive sign about ginkgos. Take the path to the left, following the stream up to the waterfall. You may see **Japanese water iris** and **Japanese fringed iris (*Iris ensata* and *I. japonica*)** still in flower along the stream.

The waterfall was designed and built by Bill Livingstone in the 1970's, using the disused Municipality of Point Grey Reservoir (built in 1912) to provide the height. All the other water features - lakes, ponds and connecting stream routes in the garden - are also man-made. Nearby, the graceful **12 - weeping katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Morioka Weeping')** grows vigorously and requires regular pruning. Its shape mimics the action of the waterfall.

Continue on up the main path until you see on your left **13 - candelabra primroses (*Primula wilsonii*)** which enjoy the damp shade. Immediately behind you, on the other side of the path from these primulas is

14 - *Magnolia wilsonii*, a tree whose white flowers may still be in bloom early in June. Notice that the magnolia and the primulas are both named 'wilsonii' which honours the important collector of Chinese plants, Ernest Henry Wilson (1876-1930) who introduced nearly 2,000 Asian plants to the west; some sixty bear his name. Continue up the path to the next intersection. If you wish to explore the **Fern Dell**, go across this intersection and down rough stone steps to find a small pond and an interpretation panel on ferns. From either the Fern Dell or the unpaved path, continue to the left to join the main paved path and continue left, past the stone entrance to the **Meditation Garden**, then turn right at the traditionally-painted **Korean Pavilion**, and proceed down the **Rhododendron Walk** where you may find some late-blooming rhododendrons.

Mid-way down the Walk on your left is the Garden's main collection of **hydrangeas**. When you reach the intersection at the bottom of the Walk, continue to follow the curving path past the Minotaur sculpture. Here seasonal displays on both sides of the path feature colourful, exotic plants and annuals. On your right is a large **15 - Borne weeping beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Bornyensis')**. "Sylvatica" indicates a woodland plant. This unusual beech cultivar was selected in Borne, in the Rhône-Alpes region of France, and introduced to the French nursery trade in about 1870. It has been available in North America since at least 1895. Turn right after the **Alpine Trough Gardens** and continue beside the glasshouse. You will see ahead the **16 - weeping blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula')**, one of the true cedars, native to the Atlas Mountains in northern Africa (Morocco, Algeria & Tunisia). A dramatic landscape tree, it is prized for its graceful flowing nature and beautiful silvery blue-green needles. To the left is the **White Garden**, surrounded by hedging to give the sense of a garden room. Here you will find white blooms including the **17 - mock orange (*Philadelphus x purpureomaculatus* 'Belle Étoile')** in the far right corner. The Latin name suggests that you should find a purple blotch in the centre of each of its large fragrant blooms.

You may return to the Visitor Centre past the **Phyllis Bentall Garden**, with its formal pool and water lilies. 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.