

Follow the black and white number and arrow signs for this tour.

Welcome to VanDusen Botanical Garden. As you exit the Visitor Centre you will see a lake, slightly to your left. That lake has been named after Bill Livingstone who designed the Garden's interconnected water features; lakes, streams and rockwork. Roy Forster was responsible for the design and arrangement of the plant collections. Together they created a garden that has been enjoyed and admired by thousands of visitors.

Turn left and head over the wooden bridge. You will notice a statue called "Fisher Hauling in the Net" by Gerhard Juchum. This is one of a number of sculptures found in the garden. Most of the other statues are made from travertine or marble that came from 32 blocks (45,000 kilograms) that a shipping company donated to an art school (the stone had been used as ballast in their ships). The school couldn't use or store that much stone and offered it to the garden. Beside The Fisher you will find lovely examples of **1 - Japanese cutleaf maples: *Acer palmatum* (Dissectum Viride Group)** with green foliage, and ***Acer palmatum* (Dissectum Atropurpureum Group)** with red foliage.

In Japan during The Edo Period (1603 – 1867) at least 250 cultivars were developed. Unfortunately, during the two world wars many of the cultivars vanished due to the need for farmland and firewood. However, they have made a resurgence and currently about 500 named cultivars exist in Japan. Below are some examples of the variety of leaf shapes found in Japanese maple cultivars. As you visit the trees on this tour, take a peak under the leaves to see the complex structure of branches that add interest in the winter months with their graceful branch formations.



Follow the sign directing you up the path. Turn right on the paved path adjacent to the jade fountain. On your left, opposite the grasses is a **2 - lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*)**. Alchemists from long ago valued the dew collected in the leaves and the leaves to make compresses that targeted female ailments.

Continue down the path. Just before the fork in the path, on your left you can see a **3- weeping giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Pendulum')**. Note its whimsical twisting form and weeping branches. Each weeping giant sequoia is unique; no two will ever grow the same. This cultivar can reach up to 12 meters in height.

Take the path to the right and enjoy The Black Garden. In this garden you will find a variety of dark-coloured plants, paired with some green-gold plants for contrast. The gardeners who created this garden show an artistic flare. On the left in the shade you will find **4 -European wild ginger (*Asarum europaeum*)**. Alchemists valued this plant for treating snake bite and as an ingredient in snuff. [Not recommended for modern use.] At the end of the garden you will find a **5 - ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)**. Ponderosa pines can reach a height of 72 meters, the needles can vary from 12 to 28 cm depending on the subspecies. The tree is known for the great quantities of lumber it yields. Growing naturally in the Cascade and other mountain ranges, the wet climate here on the coast is not its natural environment.

Following the signs take a sharp left through the grotto. The grotto is formed from volcanic rock from the eastern end of False Creek. A tunnel is created from a spreading English yew (***Taxus baccata* 'Repandens'**). This creates a lovely cool passage in the summer and a spooky one during darker days. Coming through the tunnel to the grotto you will end up in an area with a moorland theme with heath, heather, birches and Scots pines. To tell the difference between heather and heath look at the leaves. **6 – heath (*Erica* sp.)** have needle-like leaves while heathers (*Calluna* sp.) have flat, scale-like leaves. Both belong to the Erica Family (Ericaceae). Further along the path you will see the **7 -Scottish Shelter** which was built with traditional craftsmanship using brown basalt and slate for the roof. "Crofter" was a term used to describe someone who rented or cultivated a small holding or croft in the Scottish Highlands. Continue on the path towards the small bridge. Just before you turn left on the path ahead you will notice a rather different plant with corkscrew type branches. This plant is called the **8 -Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus***

avellana 'Contorta'). It is named after a vaudevillian comedian who adopted a stick from the plant as a prop for his comedic act.

At the path, follow the sign turning left to the **9 - Perennial Garden**, another great example of the talent of our gardeners. On the left is a classic example of typical Victorian perennial garden. There is a succession of colours in bloom variation, as well as low growing plants placed up front, with taller ones in back. A yew hedge acts as a backdrop for the perennials in front. On the right of the sidewalk is an example of a modern perennial garden with more manageable beds for modern living. Take some time to stroll through this garden and enjoy the wide variety of perennials.

Following the arrows, pass through two weeping beeches that form an arch to the rest of the garden. In this area you will notice a number of different beeches. Follow the signs across the lawn to a small path that goes under a **10 - weeping beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula')**. Take a moment to look at the graceful style and evocative shape of this tree. The weeping beech was introduced in Europe around 1830 and can grow as tall as 25 meters. The dangling branch tips can reach the ground, and the crown will often wider than the tree's height. They can live for over 100 years. Continue up the narrow bark mulch path enjoying the cool, quiet atmosphere created by beeches and rhododendrons.

As you leave the path, directly in front of you is a **11 - Leyland cypress (*x Cupressocyparis leylandii*)**. This is a fast-growing conifer which is often used for screens. This tree is a result of a hybrid cross between the Nootka cypress and the Monterey cypress.

Follow the signs directly in front to the Rhododendron Walk (or Azalea Trail?). As you emerge you will notice, on the opposite side of the path just to the right a **12 - kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)**. This tree is native to East Asia. Like other dogwoods, the fruit is edible. The white petals are actually four spreading bracts (modified or specialized leaves) below the cluster of inconspicuous yellow-green flowers. The tree grows from 8 – 12 meters tall.

Proceed up the path, enjoying the rhododendrons that continue to display magnificent blooms. As you walk along look to your right for an arrow pointing in the direction of a small bark mulch path. Follow the path up the slope turning left. A few steps down the path, on your right is a **Japanese maple 13 – (*Acer palmatum* 'Shindeshôjô')**, with foliage that changes from fuchsia-pink to a brilliant crimson-scarlet to a lovely green with red-orange margins by mid-summer. The transformation of colour has already started. Note the leaf shape.

Continue along this bark mulch path, crossing over the lawn to the bark mulch path that leads through the Japanese Garden. On your left there is a spectacular **14 - golden full moon maple (*Acer shirasawanum* 'Aureum')**. Take a look at the shape of the leaf, noticing the difference between it and the last maple and the surrounding dwarf maples. About half way along the path there is a large tree called the **15 - Chinese Scholar Tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*)** also known as the Japanese pagoda tree. This tree is native to China and is grown for its white flowers, borne in late summer.

Continue up the bark mulch path and join the paved path at the top. Turn right going by the Korean Pavilion. Right beside the Pavilion is a **16 - black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)**. This tree has invasive traits. It spreads aggressively through underground root suckers and is not recommended for many planting sites. It can reach a height of 30 - 50 meters. At this point one might remind themselves that this is a botanical garden and therefore tries to represent as many types of tree as possible both magnificent and not so magnificent.

Continue down the path, following the arrows. At the windmill palm turn right down another bark mulch path. As you emerge from the path you will see a vista of much of the garden. On your right you will see a travertine sculpture. Further down the lawn there are a number of other sculptures. Roy Forester and Bill Livingstone achieved their goal of uniting beauty and knowledge. We have now reached the end of our tour. By following the paved path on your left you will come to the Rose Garden and further down the path, the Visitor Centre.