

With Victoria's mild climate, gardening is a year round passion which has resulted in an abundant array of gardens world renowned for their beauty and individual charm. Joan Looy, of Victorian Garden Tours, taught at and headed a Victoria Community College department for over twenty years. She then decided to follow her passion for gardening by offering garden tours featuring wonderful private gardens that were only rarely available to visiting garden enthusiasts.

Victorian Garden Tours

<http://www.victoriangardentours.com/index.php>
250-380-2797

Holland

Expo Garden Tours was established in 1988 to provide individual garden enthusiasts an opportunity to visit and explore the world's finest public and private gardens. To enhance the travel experience, knowledgeable tour managers accompany our tours. Local horticulturists, head gardeners and garden owners are often scheduled to join us to offer additional insight and perspective. Art and Gardens of Holland: covering the top private gardens, museums and floating markets in the Netherlands.

Expo Garden Tours

<http://www.expogardentours.com/tour3.htm>
800-448-2685
April 19 - 26, 2008

Santa Fe, New Mexico

At Santa Fe Greenhouses, we have over 500 varieties of plants to explore on our 5-acre oasis including hardy perennials, ornamental grasses, trees and shrubs, ground covers, cacti and succulents. Stroll our peaceful garden paths and charming greenhouses to discover our many unique and interesting plants. Learn what it takes to grow a beautiful and successful waterwise garden.

Santa Fe Greenhouses

www.santafegreenhouses.com
877-811-2700

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Tours available April 15 - October 15
Forty plus acres of formal gardens
Extravagant display of over 500 varieties of roses
Wheelchair accessible Garden paths

The setting for Boerner Botanical Gardens is reminiscent of an English country manor with glacial fieldstone walls and historic, handcrafted limestone statuary. The Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens offers groups of 15 or more an opportunity to view Milwaukee County's "Living" Museum with a one-hour, docent-guided tour at a special group rate of \$7.00 per person.

Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens

www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org
414-525-5650

New York

Founded in 1891, the Garden is one of the world's great collections of plants, the region's leading educational center for gardening and horticulture, and an international center for plant research. The Garden is alive with opportunities for discovery, from an "ecotour" of the world in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory to an innovative indoor/outdoor science museum for kids to 50 exquisite gardens and plant collections, all on a 250-acre National Historic Landmark site in New York City's Bronx borough. Now in its second century, the Garden is growing more ambitiously than ever, in order to build knowledge and apply new technologies to better address today's and tomorrow's challenges. Be sure to include this one on your visit to New York.

New York Botanical Garden

<http://www.nybg.org/>
718-817-8700

Chicago, Illinois

<http://www.boomeropia.com>

The 385-acre Garden features 23 display gardens and three native habitats, uniquely situated on nine islands surrounded by lakes.

Since 1984, Garden curators and scientists have made plant collecting trips to the Republic of Georgia, Russia, South Korea, China, England and Wales, Hungary, Japan, Germany, the lower Piedmont area of the southeastern United States, southern Illinois and local areas to acquire optimal germplasm.

Seeds and plants are accepted only if their provenance is known and documented and only if they have been collected and imported legally. Plants that have the potential for invasiveness, genetic pollution or introducing pests or diseases are carefully screened or evaluated by the Plant Evaluation Program before acceptance.

Chicago Botanic Garden
<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/>
 847-835-5440

Kazakhstan/Tien Shan Mountains

A 13-day holiday in the Tien Shan Mountains of Kazakhstan in search of alpine plants.

Although Kazakhstan is still largely unknown to Westerners, it is the ninth largest country in the world and, since gaining independence from Russia, has become a most exciting new frontier for travel, particularly for botanical and ornithological exploration. The Tien Shan Mountains, our focus of attention on this tour, is the Central Asian extension of the Great Himalaya, and extends along Kazakhstan's southern border all the way to China. We begin our holiday with a flight from London to Almaty. After a day in the city we travel by rail and road to the village of Aksu Dzabagly. By early evening we arrive at our comfortable guesthouse to be welcomed by our hosts. In order to explore the area as widely as possible during the following days, we will have the use of 4WD buses, but will travel primarily on foot (although, for those happy to ride at times, ponies will gladly be provided).

Nature Trek

<http://www.naturetrek.co.uk/wildlife-holidays-in-asia/detailsdb.asp?ID=58>
 01962 733051
 Sat 21st June - Thu 3rd July 2008

Costa Rica

The Robert and Catherine Wilson Botanical Garden is an internationally recognized collection of tropical plants from around the world. Aroids, bromeliads, ferns, gingers, heliconias, marantas and palms are broadly represented on the 10 hectare (30-acre) site. Tropical fruits, trees, shrubs and bamboos also add to the expanse of this valuable plant museum. Over 1,000 genera in more than 200 plant families form the unique collection that is part of the 266 hectare (657-acre) Las Cruces Biological Station. The garden and biological station are extremely rich in native plants and animals, including 320 species of birds, 800 species of butterflies, abundant mammals and an impressive diversity of reptiles and amphibians. Over 5,000 species of plants have been planted and are cultivated throughout the garden, while an additional 2,000 species have been introduced by other means such as animals and birds. The Wilson Garden boasts the second largest collection of palms in the world.

Botanical Garden Excursions, S.A.
<http://www.crbgtours.com/index.html>
 011 506-777-5149

Slovakia

Gardening & Botanical Tour

Visiting Botanical Garden in Bratislava, guided tour.

Botanical Garden of the Comenius University Bratislava was founded in 1942. It serves scientific, educational, cultural and popularising tasks. The area of about 5 hectares comprises a collection of over 5 000 plant species. The exhibits in glasshouses take the ecological needs of species into account.

The tour lasts 5 days.

Discover Slovakia Tours http://www.discoverslovakiatours.com/index.php?page_id=169
 +421-45-5361 156
 Available from 1st April till 31st October