

Wattletree Garden Tours

Canada and Alaska

2023



Classic gardens, Alaskan Wilderness and Canadian Beauty...

Vancouver, Rocky Mountains incl. Rocky Mountaineer, stunning gardens of Victoria & 11 day Alaska cruise/tour including Denali National Park.



Join Brian Sams
Wattletree Garden Tours
(07) 46 968033
Email: briansams@live.com.au
www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au





Our 28 day tour is planned to really enjoy the beauty of Canada and Alaska in some detail. We start with a direct flight to Vancouver for an overnight stay before boarding the iconic 2 day Rocky Mountaineer train to Banff. We will then spend the next week or so exploring the Rocky Mountains before returning to Vancouver to explore the city and its lovely gardens. Next is 3 nights on Vancouver Island to see some of our favorite gardens including Butchart. The next phase of our travels is a Holland American line 11 day Triple Denali cruise/tour - so expect great scenery, great food and wildlife. A 7 day inside passage cruise is followed with the incredible train journey from Whittier to Denali National Park for 3 nights. We will tour the national park and have enough time to relax and enjoy. We will then take the coach to Anchorage for a night before flying home.

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops, consultation, leading garden based tours and presenting weekly gardening news for WIN TV and gardening talkback on Radio MMM. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006. Why? He loves it!

Day 1 Sunday August 6 Travel from Australia to Vancouver (D)

Today we travel across the international date line and arrive in Vancouver on the same day! We will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel where we have booked rooms to ensure early check in. Welcome dinner is in the hotel.

Rosedale on Robson Hotel, Vancouver – 1+ nights

Day 2 Monday August 7 Board Rocky Mountaineer to Kamloops (B, L)

This morning we will be met and transferred to the Rocky Mountaineer Rail Station for the rail journey to Kamloops in Silverleaf Service. Lunch will be served onboard the train. The journey offers a spectacular range of scenery travelling between the glacier and snow-capped peaks of the Canadian Rockies, over mountain passes and through remarkable tunnels, along rocky lakeshores and across the ranchlands of the interior. We will be well looked after on board! In Kamloops we will be transferred to our overnight accommodation supplied by Rocky Mountaineer.

Day 3 Tuesday August 8 Kamloops to Banff (B, L)

This morning we will be collected from the hotel to board Rocky Mountaineer for the rail journey to Banff in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Breakfast and lunch will be served onboard the train. Upon arrival we will transfer to our hotel.

Mount Royal Hotel, Banff – 2 nights

Day 4 Wednesday August 9 Banff and Lake Louise (B, D)

Enjoy a sightseeing tour which includes the highlights of Banff and areas such as Hoodoos, Bow Falls, Surprise Corner, Lake Minnewanka, Tunnel Drive, a Gondola ride up Sulphur Mountain, Lake Louise, Moraine Lake and Johnston Canyon. **Day 5**

Thursday August 10 Banff to Jasper (B)

Depart Banff for Jasper via the Icefields Parkway where we will stop at the Columbia Icefield. The Icefield is a true "continental divide," for its meltwater feeds the Arctic, Atlantic & Pacific oceans. We will board the Brewster's Ice Age Adventure tour onto the icy slopes of the Athabasca Glacier in a specially designed Snow coach where we have the option of stepping out onto the ice. Next enjoy the visitors centre & walk on the Glacier Skywalk a 500 metre interpretive boardwalk & glass floored observation platform for great views over the Sunwapta Valley. Dinner is at the hotel.

Lobstick Lodge, Jasper – 2 nights

Day 6 Friday August 11 Jasper (B, D)

Today enjoy a sightseeing tour of Jasper and its surrounds with a short tour of the town before heading across the Athabasca River to Maligne Lake. A stop at Maligne Canyon offers staggering views of the river thundering through a series of magnificent waterfalls in a gorge 10,000 years in the making. Continue onto the pinnacle of the tour, breathtaking Maligne Lake! Enjoy a 90-minute interpretive cruise travelling 14 km down the lake through Sampson Narrows and onto Spirit Island. At Spirit Island the boat lands to allow for a short walk to the viewpoint overlooking the mountain ringed southern shores of Maligne Lake. Return to the hotel, remainder of the day at leisure with dinner in the hotel.

Day 7 Saturday August 12 Jasper to Sun Peaks (B, D)

This morning we will depart Jasper to drive to the alpine resort of Sun Peaks. Look out for blue herons, bald eagles, and hummingbirds as well as wildflowers like the Arctic Lupin, Dwarf Dogwood, Fireweed and Larkspur. Dinner this evening is at the Powder Hounds Restaurant.

Sun Peaks Lodge, Sun Peaks - 1 night





Day 8 Sunday August 13 Sun Peaks to Kelowna (B)

Today we will continue our travels through the Rocky Mountains towards the Pacific Coast. The journey travels via a summit pass of 1244 metres through some of the most beautiful landscapes in the province. Witness incredible feats of engineering travelling through the Great Bear snow shed (285 metres long) and cross the Dry Gulch Bridge (175 metres high). Upon arrival into Kelowna we will head to a local winery for a tour and tasting before checking into the hotel for an overnight stay.

Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre, Kelowna – 1 night

Day 9 Monday August 14 Kelowna to Vancouver (B)

This morning we will travel towards the Pacific Coast via the broad fertile Fraser Valley. The journey descends a summit pass of 1244 metres through some of the most beautiful landscapes in the province. Witness incredible feats of engineering travelling through the Great Bear snow shed (285 metres long) and cross the Dry Gulch Bridge (175 metres high). Along the way we will stop at a few of the roadside stalls selling cherries, apples, apricots, pears, peaches, grapes, and plums. Later arrive in Vancouver to our hotel.

Rosedale on Robson Hotel, Vancouver – 3 nights

Day 10 Tuesday August 15 Vancouver (B)

Enjoy a city tour of Vancouver. Highlights include: Canada Place, Lions Gate Bridge, Prospect Point, Stanley Park, Chinatown and English Bay. Next will be a visit to Dr Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden which is a great representation of a traditional Chinese garden. We will then have some time in Stanley Park to explore the totem poles, rose garden and sea wall. We will incorporate a lunch stop on Granville Island where you will find too many options!

Day 11 Wednesday August 16 Vancouver (B)

First stop will be Grouse Mountain to take the famous Grouse Mountain Skyride journey to the Peak. Grouse Mountain it is famous for fabulous views over Vancouver, the Pacific Ocean, Gulf Islands and surrounding mountains. Admission also includes the Theatre in the Sky, World Famous Lumberjack show, Tribute to the Forest Walking Tours and Grouse Mountain's Refuge for Endangered Wildlife. After lunch continue to the Nitobe Memorial Gardens which are a traditional Japanese stroll garden with an authentic tea house. Our last stop is the Van Dusen Botanical Garden which in our view is one of the most beautiful gardens in Canada.

Day 12 Thursday August 17 Vancouver to Victoria (B, D)

This morning we depart for Victoria via Ferry through the scenic Gulf Islands. It is a lovely ride. We will then stop at the Abkhazi Gardens, one of my favourites, and Government House Gardens. Dinner will be at the Steamship Grill & Bar.

Quality Inn Downtown Inner Harbour, Victoria – 3 nights

Day 13 Friday August 18 (B) Victoria sightseeing (B)

Enjoy a half day sightseeing tour to Craigdarroch Castle and Hatley Park Historic Site. The Castle is a National Historic Site and a beautiful piece of Victoria's history with a lovely garden. Continue onto Hatley Park Estate and enjoy a guided walking tour that will take you on a 1-hour journey to share the significant history of the site and the various evolutions through time. Upon arriving back in downtown Victoria we will do a short orientation tour of this picturesque town.

Day 14 Saturday August 19 Victoria (B, L) Butchart Gardens Day (B, L)

Today we will have plenty of time to enjoy the world famous Butchart Gardens. The garden has many different areas with different garden styles to explore and is kept in top condition. We are sure you will love it. Lunch today will be included in the garden.

Day 15 Sunday August 20 Victoria to our cruise on board MS Noordam (B, L, D)

This morning depart Victoria by Ferry to cross back through the Gulf Islands to Vancouver. This afternoon we will board the MS Noordam to sail north on our Alaska cruise. Be on deck as we leave the rather stunning cruise ship terminal.

Detailed cruise itinerary is on our website tour page.

Day 16 Monday August 21 Scenic Cruising The Inside Passage (Cruising day) (B, L, D)

Alaska's Inside Passage is a protected network of waterways that wind through glacier-cut fjords and lush temperate rain forests along the rugged coast of Southeast Alaska. The Inside passage is one of the greatest cruising routes in the world.





Day 17 Tuesday August 22 Ketchikan (B, L, D)

Ketchikan has long been an important hub of the salmon-fishing and -packing industries. It is also one of the best spots to explore the cultural sights of Native Alaskan nations like the Tlingit, Haida & Tsimshian.

Day 18 Wednesday August 23 Juneau (B, L, D)

Juneau, may well be the most remote, most beautiful and strangest state capital in the United States. Surrounded by water, forest and mountain sights, visitors seeking things to do in Juneau indoors and outdoors can hike a glacier, eat fresh-caught fish on a seaside patio and tour a grand capitol building all in one day. But the real highlight of a visit to Juneau is tracking down some wildlife. Most sightseeing and whale-watching tours head north to Auke Bay. If you prefer land mammals, catch a floatplane to a wildlife reserve such as Chichagof or Admiralty Island to see bears.

Day 19 Thursday August 24 Skagway (B, L, D)

Skagway served as the main gateway to the goldfields so was a booming frontier town with many saloons, trading posts and brothels. The town was prosperous and grew quickly until the gold rush suddenly stopped. Today it relies on tourism to see the history of the town and beautiful scenery and wildlife. There are some interesting day trips you may decide to do including a train journey to White Pass that is quite spectacular. Full details on board.

Day 20 Friday August 25 Glacier Bay cruising (B, L, D)

A truly spectacular day of cruising in Glacier Bay with a Park Service Ranger providing narration. Expect calving glaciers, heaps of whales, lots of birdlife and hopefully some bears feeding on the edge of the water. You are up close and personal with the environment on this day even though still on board.

Day 21 Saturday August 26 College Fjord cruising (B, L, D)

More glaciers today with a full day to relax and enjoy the passing scenery or take in one or a number of the organised activities and events offered on board. We will see Glaciers. Glaciers have shaped many Alaska lakes, rivers and valleys one centimetre at a time. Our chances of watching ice thunder into the water is high, as the Prince William Sound is one of the most active areas for calving. Out of all Alaska fjords, College Fjord is the most famous. The Harriman Expedition of 1899 with John Muir and other notable scientists traversed the College Fjord aboard the George W. Elder, funded by Ivy League colleges. All of the glaciers were named for various schools. As we travel into College Fjord, the glaciers on the left are named for women's colleges and those on the right are named for men's colleges. The names are Amherst, Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Harvard, Smith, Vassar, and Yale. Harvard Glacier is huge - 2.3km across.

Day 22 Sunday August 27 Whittier - Denali National Park (B)

Today we disembark the cruise with a little time in Whittier before boarding the McKinley Explorer - a luxurious domed carriage train to journey to Denali National Park. On arrival we will be transferred to our Lodge style accommodation - this is supplied by Holland America Lines with details to be provided closer to travel dates. I have stayed with them before and it will be good! Meal packages are available for purchase for our time in Denali.

Day 23 Monday 28 - Denali National Park Tundra Wilderness Tour (B)

This full day guided tour ventures into the heart of the National Park to see wildlife and then beautiful scenery including Mount Denali (North Americas highest peak).

Day 24 Tuesday August 29 - Denali National Park Free Day (B)

Free day in Denali to relax and explore. No doubt there will be a range of optional excursions you may decide to undertake. Last time I was here I played golf on the Tundra...

Day 25 Wednesday August 30 Denali National Park - Anchorage (B)

Today we board a coach for the very scenic drive to Anchorage. Anchorage is a lively place and capital of the local area. The city plants thousands of flowers to celebrate the arrival of warmer months and days that last up to 19 hours. Anchorage has lots of moose, known for being a bit rambunctious (and should be steered clear of!) Anchorage is a city where you can see the northern lights but usually only in the colder months.

Day 26 Thursday August 31 Anchorage and start the journey home (B and in flight)

We will have some free time to explore Anchorage before transferring to the airport for our trip home. Flight times and transfer times to be advised. Tour ends in Anchorage.

Day 27 Friday September 1 in flight (meals in flight) cross the international date line

Day 28 Saturday September 2 arrive home



Tour Highlights and Inclusions

- Tour Vancouver, Victoria and the Rocky Mountains
- Great hotels
- 2 day Rocky Mountaineer Train journey
- Denali National Park and scenic McKinley Explorer train journeys
- Holland America Lines 11 day Cruise/Tour cruise taking in the famous Inside Passage and then Denali National park. Oceanview cabins included.
- Many meals - 24 x Breakfast, 9 x lunch and 12 x dinner
- Local tour leader on tour with all activities included
- Exclusive use of air conditioned coach
- All tipping included except on board cruise/tour

Lovely scenery, Beautiful gardens, Wild Wildlife!



Pricing details

Main tour	
Land tour price including fully guided tour, all transport, meals as indicated, accommodation, cruise in Oceanview room and entry to all sites indicated per person twin share	\$14995
Tour deposit—deductible from final tour price	\$ 1000
Upgrade to Gold class on Rocky Mountaineer - per person twin share	\$ 900
Air fare - prices not yet available. Will book best price and connections at time of booking.	
Single supplement - land and cruise in Oceanview	\$ 5765

Alaska cruise upgrade (twin share per person).
Please note that Oceanview suites are included in the main tour price.

Veranda suite pp	+\$800
Inside cabin—deduct from main tour price pp	- \$740
Single use cabins other than Oceanview - price on application	

Important dates

1. Deposit – Payable asap to secure a place as seats are limited, please complete booking form and send together with a copy of your passport.
2. Final payment 100 days before departure

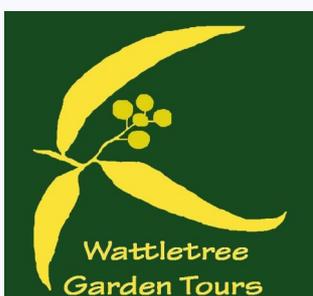
The tour prices includes:

- Beautiful hotel accommodation. Hotels subject to change but will be of the same or higher standard as those listed.
- Exclusive coach travel and Rocky Mountain train
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portorage on main tour
- Holland America Lines 11 day triple Denali cruise tour—7 day inside passage cruise and 4 nights in Alaska on land with activities
- Entry to all sightseeing as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English speaking guide and accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers in Canada (for whole group only - other arrangements to be made as required at cost)

The tour price excludes:

- Airfares
- All items not stated as included
- Gratuities on board the cruise/tour
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au

Wattletree Garden Tours
Brian Sams
Phone: (07) 46 968033
Mobile: 0415 707 312
briansams@live.com.au