



Welcome to The Butchart Gardens'

Family Discovery Walk



The Gardens has a long family history, so walk along with us and discover our beautiful gardens.

At the "Start Here" sign, follow the pathway to the Peace Doves statue. This statue was an anniversary gift to Ian Ross from his wife, Ann-Lee. Ian Ross was given The Gardens on his 21st birthday by his grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Butchart. He looked after The Gardens for over 50 years! Mr. Ross' daughter, Robin-Lee Clarke, looks after The Gardens now. Behind the doves is the Begonia Bower where Mr. Butchart once had pigeons and doves. Draw a picture of a dove.

Draw a picture of a dove

Behind you is the family home of the Butcharts. It is where they lived until 1939. Benvenuto, Italian for "welcome," is the name the Butcharts gave their estate. In 1946 it became the Benvenuto Tea House and is now The Dining Room Restaurant where you can still have afternoon tea or a wonderful meal.

Turn left at the "Up steps to the Sunken Garden" sign. This garden was once a limestone quarry. Limestone is used to make Portland cement, which was the Butchart's business for many years and the reason they moved to this site from Owen Sound, Ontario. Walk through a small temperate rain forest to the Sunken Garden Lookout. Mrs. Butchart was a visionary well ahead of her time. She wanted to put some beauty into the abandoned quarry and was responsible for creating the beauty you see. Can you see the tall chimney stack to the right? There used to be three stacks as you can see on the information plaque behind you. These stacks were part of the kilns used in cement making. If you were 1 meter tall the chimney would be 54 times taller than you. Draw a picture of yourself beside the chimney.

Draw a picture of yourself beside the chimney

Walk down the stairs into the Sunken Garden. Find our National Historic Site plaque; how many years has The Butchart Gardens been here? Do some arithmetic to find out. _____

Follow your map and make your way to The Ross Fountain. Ian Ross installed this fountain in 1964 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of The Butchart Gardens. This fountain is in part of the quarry that Mrs. Butchart did not reclaim. Mr. Ross added his touch of creativity with the fountain.

Draw a picture of your favourite Carousel animal

Proceed up the sloped path out of The Sunken Garden. Right across from the "Soda Fountain," look right at the tall Lombardy poplar trees. Mrs. Butchart planted them in 1910 to block the view of the cement factory from her house and garden. This path was the original road to the cement factory.

Stop and visit our Rose Carousel. Annabelle, a bronze carousel horse, stands proudly waiting to welcome you to the carousel. Once inside, take a ride on one of the 36 beautifully hand carved and brightly painted animals and 2 chariots from every corner of the globe. Draw a picture of your favourite carousel animal.

Draw a picture of your favourite totem animal

The totem poles were carved on site by local First Nations carvers in 2004 as part of our 100 year Anniversary. Read the sign and write the name of each carver and the First Nation band he belongs to. Write down the names of the animals and birds you see on the totems. Draw a picture of your favourite totem animal.



Can you find the small building with ivy on it? This is the Organ Pavilion. The Organ Pavilion was a barn for cows and horses, but now, after the fireworks in July and August, someone plays the organ. If you look carefully, you will find an information plaque that tells you all about the organ. Robin's brother, Christopher, who was a very talented pyrotechnician and gifted musician, started the firework displays. You will see his picture on the plaque.

Take the side path past the Organ Pavilion to see the very large tree growing there (look for the one with a small sign below it). It is a *Sequoia sempervirens*, the Latin name for Coast Redwood Cedar. It is 36 meters (118 feet) tall and has a circumference of 556 centimeters (219 inches). How old is the tree? Did you figure it out? Many trees in the Sequoia family grow to be over 3000 years old, so our tree is young! _____

Keep going into the Rose Garden and take the time to smell the roses, if they are blooming! This area was the family vegetable garden and it was developed and planted in 1929. This garden has more than 250 varieties of roses and over 2500 rose plants. Find the gazing ball and draw a picture of it.

At the entrance to the Japanese Garden, you will walk through a Torii gate. Torii gates traditionally stand at the entrance to Shinto shrines. This garden was started in 1906 and was the first garden Mrs. Butchart created. How many years ago was that? The Japanese Garden is the main entranceway to Benvenuto when people arrive by water. _____

While you are walking look for the "moon window" with no glass. It is called a moon window because of its shape. Through the moon window, you can see Butchart Cove; this Cove was the family's recreation area for boating and swimming. Did you find the Boar Scarer? Here is a hint: you can hear it! It is made of wood called bamboo; there is bamboo growing in many places in the Japanese Garden. Draw a picture of a bamboo plant.

Walk up the stairs or take the path to the right to the Star Pond. Mr. Butchart kept his ducks in the Star Pond. How many points are on the Star Pond? _____

Walk through the Leylandii hedge and you will be in the Italian Garden. You are now at the back of Mr. & Mrs. Butchart's house. The Italian Garden used to be the tennis court until 1926 when it was changed into The Italian Garden. What part of the house do you think used to be a bowling alley? Draw a picture of it.

Do you see the statue of Mercury? Mercury was the Greek messenger of the gods. Mr. & Mrs. Butchart bought Mercury when they were in Italy in 1927. How many sets of wings can you find on Mercury? _____

Walk into the tunnel and stop and look up. You cannot see it but in 1913 Mr. & Mrs. Butchart put an indoor swimming pool in a room above you and it's still there! As you come out of the tunnel, you will find Tacca. Tacca is a statue of a boar and you can read more about him on the information plaque beside him. Make sure you rub his nose for good luck! Draw a picture of Tacca.

Have your picture taken on the small donkey or pony in the Piazza. "Piazza" is the Italian word for an open square in a city.

Make your way back to our Visitor Information Centre, return your pencil and request a Discovery Walk bookmark to use for all your reading. The Visitor Centre is also a good place to ask for more information if you need it.

Our family is still operating this wonderful garden and it is a pleasure to share it with your family! Thanks for visiting us, come back again soon!



Draw a picture of the gazing ball

Draw a picture of a bamboo plant

Draw a picture of the bowling alley

Draw a picture of Tacca

