Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island Garden Getaway
Explore the Horticulture of Canada’s Atlantic Provinces

“Join me on this fascinating garden tour of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. We’ll visit the oldest Victorian-style garden in North America, the enchanting Tangled Garden and the impressive Veseys Seeds. This Canadian horticultural exploration is not to be missed!”

— Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture
Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, Wisconsin

DAY 1—HALIFAX
Welcome to Halifax, Nova Scotia…Start your trip with a delightful welcome reception with your Discoveries Director and fellow travelers.
Welcome Reception

DAY 2—HALIFAX PUBLIC GARDENS/CITY TOUR/DALHOUSIE AGRICULTURAL CAMPUS
This morning, visit the Halifax Public Gardens. Meet a member of the “friends of the Public Gardens” for a guided tour of the oldest Victorian style gardens in North America. View the beautiful flowers, trees, water fountains and band stand. Afterwards, we continue exploring Halifax, including the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and Fairview Lawn Cemetery, the resting place to 121 victims of the Titanic. Continue this afternoon to Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus. Discover a living laboratory where trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and farm crops are displayed and interpreted in both functional and natural settings as part of the landscape horticulture program at the University. After our visit, we travel onto Cape Breton Island, en- route finding excellent photo opportunities by the Canso Straight and Porcupine Mountain. B, D

DAY 3—CABOT TRAIL/BIT OF SCOTLAND/PARK WILDLIFE
Bring your camera for the Cabot Trail, among the world’s most scenic drives. The route begins in the Margaree Valley, famed for salmon fishing. Traveling along the shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, notice the area’s Acadian culture and heritage. On the way, we stop to see the traditional fine hooked tapestries at Flora’s Gift Shop. Continuing just past Cheticamp, you’ll visit Cape Breton Highlands National Park to witness colorful tapestries of woodlands, tundra, and bogs. Be on the lookout for moose, black bear, and bald eagles, too! Later, if you’d like, enjoy an entertaining narrated cruise on Bras d’Or Lakes or stroll the charming streets of Baddeck. B, L

Option—Sail the Bras d’Or Lakes Enjoy an entertaining narrated cruise on Bras d’Or Lakes, observing majestic Bald Eagles overhead, Alexander Graham Bell’s mansion Beinn Bhreagh, and the beautiful Baddeck shoreline. Price: $40 per person.

DAY 4—ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL/CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI
At the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site, explore the life and inspiration that drove this pioneer of invention, as well as deaf education. Later, enjoy a tasty lunch in Antigonish before heading to Caribou to catch the ferry to Prince Edward Island. Crossing the Northumberland Strait, we will see the famous red soil of Canada’s smallest province come into view. Settle in for two nights in Charlottetown, the “Birthplace of Confederation”. B, L

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DAY 5—PEI NATIONAL PARK/ANNE OF GREEN GABLES HOME
Following breakfast, we visit Vesey’s Seeds. Established in 1939, Vesey Seeds has become a well-known supplier of seeds for flower and vegetable gardens. Upon arrival staff will take us on a tour of the trail beds explaining the varieties of flowers and vegetables as well as their mail order business. Then, we travel to Cavendish and the beloved site of the Anne of Green Gables National Historic Site. Next up, we’ll savor a delicious lobster lunch at Fisherman’s Wharf Restaurant, followed by a talk with a local fisherman who will discuss the fishing industry on the Island. Later meet Bruce McNaughton, owner of PEI Preserves, to learn about his life and business. Returning to Charlottetown, we see highlights of the city with time for exploring on your own. B, L

DAY 6—CONFEDERATION BRIDGE/HOPEWELL ROCKS
This morning, travel to the community of Borden-Carlton for a photo stop near the Confederation Bridge and Gateway Village. After crossing over the bridge to New Brunswick, we visit one of Canada’s most stunning natural wonders – Hopewell Rocks. Located on the Bay of Fundy, Hopewell Rocks experiences the highest tides in the world -- on average 39 feet. At low tide, visitors have a chance to walk on the ocean floor and learn about the site from park interpreters, and then enjoy lunch at the Interpretation Centre before we return to Halifax. B, L

DAY 7—TANGLED GARDENS/GRAND PRE WINERY/PEGGY’S COVE
Both a garden of delight and a working farm, Tangled Garden produces fresh herbs and fruits for the jellies, liqueurs, vinegars, and cordials made on site. Covering four acres of sculpted land, classic garden-rooms hedged in box, yew, and beech encounter a dry stream bed planted with statuesque grasses and rambunctious perennials. A hillside labyrinth offers sweeping views of the Minas Basin. Next, we visit the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens, where the gardens on the campus of Acadia University showcase native plants from the nine habitats within the Eastern region of Canada. A formal Walled Garden and classic Herbaceous Bank are also featured. After lunch, enjoy a wine tasting session at one of Nova Scotia’s best wineries, Grand Pre Wines. The rugged fishing community of Peggy’s Cove is set on a narrow, coastal inlet characterized by wave-worn granite boulders and crashing surf. This charming little village is perhaps Canada’s most photographed site. A Nova Scotia icon, the lighthouse still serves as a beacon to fishermen. Enjoy dinner here as you watch the sun set. B, D

DAY 8—FAREWELL
Head home with fond memories of your time in three truly stunning Canadian provinces. B