

Butchart Gardens

Any time of year is beautiful at Canada's Butchart Gardens – snow-covered evergreens in winter, masses of tulips in spring, roses and annuals in summer, and gorgeous fall colors in autumn. October is a wonderful time to visit this garden. The days are still warm, crowds have thinned out considerably, and fall colors are at their peak. Japanese maples in flaming red and russet colors, copper beech trees and dahlias and chrysanthemums in bright colors are just a few of the sights waiting for you.



The main attraction at Butchart Gardens is the sunken garden. In the late 1800s, the sunken garden was a limestone quarry pit. Robert Butchart used the limestone to make Portland cement. Once the limestone was depleted, his wife came up with the idea of turning the ugly pit into a beautiful garden. Tons of top soil were brought in by horse and cart, and plant by plant, tree by tree, the old quarry was transformed into a place of beauty. Wouldn't it be great if all depleted mines were treated this way?

Butchart Gardens is located on Vancouver Island, just north of Victoria. Ferries are a quick and easy way to get there from Vancouver, B.C. or the Olympic peninsula in Washington state. Visit the [Butchart Gardens website](#) for more information on transportation and lodging.

These pictures were taken in October 2004. They do not accurately depict the full range of beauty and diversity – that can only be gained by being there.

