

The Butchart Gardens is a group of floral display gardens in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada, located near Victoria on Vancouver Island. The gardens receive over a million visitors each year and have been designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

Robert Butchart began manufacturing Portland cement in 1888 near his birthplace of Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada. In 1904 he and his wife Jennie Butchart relocated to Vancouver Island on the west coast of Canada to build a Cement Plant on rich limestone deposits necessary for cement production.

In 1909, as cement production exhausted the limestone deposits, Jennie set about turning it into the Sunken Garden, transferring top soil by horse and cart. Little by little, the quarry blossomed until completion in 1921.

Between 1906 and 1929, the Butcharts expanded The Gardens, designing the Japanese Garden on the seaside. In 1926, they replaced their tennis courts with an Italian garden and in 1929 they replaced their kitchen vegetable garden with a large, fragrant, overflowing rose garden. Samuel Maclure, who was consultant to the Butchart Gardens, reflected the aesthetic of the English Arts and Crafts Movement.

Gifted The Gardens on his 21st birthday in 1939, grandson Ian Ross transformed them until his death 58 years later into today's world-renowned attraction we know today.

Two Totem Poles were carved in Classic Coast Salish style by Master Carvers Charles Elliot of the Tsartlip Nation and Doug La Fortune of Tsawout Band, and dedicated on September 9th, 2004 not only to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Butchart Gardens but also in recognition of the rich cultural heritage provided by Indigenous People.

Ownership of The Gardens remains within the Butchart family; the owner and managing director since 2001 being the Butcharts' great-granddaughter Robin-Lee Clarke.

Today, The Butchart Gardens is a National Historic Site of Canada.

You'll find remnants of the original cement plant and millions of bedding plants in over 900 varieties awaiting you as you wander The Gardens.