



North West Horticulture

AHDB/BPOA Seasonal plants study tour to the North Western coast of the USA and Canada 19-27 February 2017

After the successful AHDB/BPOA study tour of the Eastern coast of the USA in 2015 (for a nursery by nursery video summary of the study tour [click here](#), courtesy of Bryants Nurseries), a second week long study tour has now been finalised, this time to the North Western coast of the USA (Washington and Oregon states) and Canada, once again in association with The Independent Traveller. The study tour will feature both bedding and herbaceous plant production and cover a diverse range of businesses supplying both independent garden centres and 'box stores' along with retailers of various sizes. The businesses which will be visited as part of the study tour will be of a scale of production and technical sophistication that UK growers will be able to readily relate to. Visits are planned to all the key nurseries in the area including North West Horticulture, Rainbow Greenhouses Inc., Smith Gardens and Terra Nova, click the programme button below for full details.

The total cost of the study tour is £1,739.00 per person based on two sharing a room, with a single supplement of £525.00 per person. A deposit of £500.00 per person will be required upon booking, with the full balance payable by 16 November 2016. Any bookings made after this date (subject to space) will require payment of the full balance. There will be a monetary discount per person applied, as the cost of the coach will be covered by AHDB Horticulture, this will be issued as a credit note or deducted from the final invoice.

Insurance is mandatory for the study tour, the Independent Traveller can provide specific USA/Canada cover, but other companies also offer such insurance deals. Details of the insurance acquired will be requested as part of the final booking process. An eTA will be required to enter Canada and an ESTA (or possibly visa) will be required to enter the USA.

What is included in the cost:

- Flights with Air Canada in Economy class including all current taxes and charges.
- Seven nights in a hotel on a room only basis in Vancouver, but including breakfast in the other hotels whilst travelling based on two people sharing a twin bedded room.
- Comfortable, full over the road motor coach with on-board toilet.
- Maps and guides to help along the way.

What is not included in the cost:

- Food other than that specified.
- Transport back to Vancouver airport on return. The cost is \$6.00 (approximately £3.50), this is both the best and cheapest way back to the airport from the city.
- Gratuity to the driver.

If you want to join the 2017 study tour or have questions about it, please phone Tracey or Malcolm at the Independent Traveller on 01509 618800. They can answer any queries and go through the necessary booking procedure. For out of hours contact, email holidays@unitravel.co.uk and they will get back in touch when they return to the office.

The study tour is financially protected by the Independent Traveller under ATOL 4660 and ABTA 96395. In the unlikely event of anything untoward happening, any monies paid will be secure. The Independent Traveller also reserves the right to change and/or alter the itinerary if local circumstances necessitate this.



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Study Tour Programme

The objectives of the study tour are to focus on the production of seasonal plants by a range of different sized nursery businesses and the marketing strategies employed by various retailers. The nurseries to be visited as part of the study tour produce a range of different crops including bedding plants, patio plants, herbaceous perennials and young/plug plants. On each site different technologies employed in the production process will also be viewed and discussed. Large box stores and smaller retailer businesses will be visited to examine the various promotional campaigns adopted. As part of the study tour a visit is also planned to Oregon State University to hear about the work being undertaken there and to visit the plant clinic and facilities. The study tour programme will be intensive but ultimately rewarding in the various elements covered.

Sunday 19 February 2017

Departure from London Heathrow airport via an Air Canada flight arriving late afternoon in Vancouver. Flight times (currently) are 14.25 from London Heathrow, arriving in Vancouver at 16.00. Transfer to hotel in immediate locality via the hotel shuttle bus.

Monday 20 February 2017

Early pick up from the hotel by the tour bus. Travel south and cross the border into the USA. Three hours travelling plus allowance for border crossing, stopping for lunch on route. Arrive at North West Horticulture around 12.00. Half day nursery visit. Depart around 15.00 for a further drive of about three hours to hotel in Centralia, Washington state.

North West Horticulture

14113 River Bend Rd, Mt Vernon, WA 98273

<http://www.northwesthort.com/>

North West Horticulture consists of three facilities, two in the state of Washington (Mount Vernon and Mabton) and a third in Watsonville, California. In total the business covers over 200 ha with 15 ha of glasshouses and 20 ha of stock fields. The business produces a wide range of plug plants including perennials, grasses and ground cover species as well as roses (plugs and bare root plants) and sedum tiles for the green roof industry. Product is shipped all over the USA.

Tuesday 21 February 2017

The day commences with a drive of around three hours for two half day visits in the Canby and Aurora area. Overnight stay in the area of Woodburn.

Terra Nova Nurseries

10051 S Macksburg Rd, Canby, OR 97013

www.terranovanurseries.com

Terra Nova Nurseries have introduced over 700 new plant varieties to the ornamentals industry and over 30 of these new introductions have been recognised with awards both nationally and internationally. New plant introductions are distributed world-wide to wholesalers, garden centres, and mail-order companies. It is anticipated that the nursery visit will include both a visit to the micro-propagation laboratories and production facilities.

Smith Gardens Aurora
23150 Boones Ferry Rd NE, Aurora, OR 97002
<http://www.smithgardens.com/facilities/aurora>

The Aurora, Oregon site was opened in 1997 and consists of 10 ha of glasshouses and just over a hectare of field space. In 2013, a 1.5 ha state-of-the-art glasshouse was added from which rain water is collected and recycled. The site is the hub of annual, hanging basket, and planter production and product is marketed all year round from the site. During the summer months perennials and shrubs are also produced and around 450,000 poinsettias in the winter. There are 75 full time employees and up to an extra 140 seasonal workers.

Wednesday 22 February 2017

A drive of just over an hour takes us further south for a half day visit to Oregon University followed by a visit to Blooming Nursery and possibly local retailers in same area. Afterwards, a drive of around two hours north takes us back to the same hotel in Centralia, Washington state.

Oregon State University
1089 Cordley Hall, 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, OR 97331-2903
<http://plant-clinic.bpp.oregonstate.edu/>

At the university we will be given a tour of the research facilities and the plant clinic centre. The plant clinic has been operational since 1954 as part of the OSU Cooperative Extension Service. Clients include individual growers; field representatives of chemical and fertiliser companies and food processors; home gardeners; and employees of State and Federal organizations in Oregon. A number of presentations on recent relevant research will also be made by staff members.

Blooming Nursery
Cornelius, OR 97113
<http://www.bloomingnursery.com/Scripts/default.asp>

Blooming Nursery is a wholesale nursery dedicated to supplying the trade with a wide variety of plant material, including herbaceous perennials, tender perennials, annuals, groundcovers, herbs, ornamental grasses, shrubs and vines. The business offers both finished containers, marketed under the 'Blooming Advantage' name, as well as plugs, potted liners and bare root divisions. Most product goes to independent retail garden centres and the business retail farm operation located about 10 minutes north of the nursery. Propagation occurs in a 0.5 ha state-of-the-art glasshouse before being moved into 2 ha of unheated glasshouses and polythene structures. There are also around 20 ha of field production.

Thursday 23 February 2017

An early start to the day for the four hour drive including crossing the border to Chilliwack for two half day visits in the area, followed potentially by retail site visits. Overnight accommodation in the Chilliwack area.

Nordic Nurseries
29386 Haverman, Aldergrove, BC, Canada

<http://www.nordicplants.com/>

The business specialises in the vegetative propagation of annuals as well as producing finished bedding plants for garden centres from just over 1.5 ha of glasshouses. The business currently produces around seven million rooted cuttings, primarily Proven Winners plant material.

Minter Country Garden Store
10015 Young Road North, Chilliwack, BC, Canada
<http://www.mintergardening.com/cgstore.html>

The production area consists of around 7 ha of Dutch glasshouses, equipped with the latest temperature, irrigation, and fertilisation control technologies. The retail site also includes a florist, café and a range of franchised outlets. The owner, Brian Minter, is a local gardening celebrity and we are hoping he will be available to talk to the group.

Friday 24 February 2017

A full day of local visits in the Chilliwack area followed by a drive to a hotel in downtown Vancouver.

DeVry Greenhouses
49259 Castleman Road, Chilliwack, BC, Canada
<http://www.devrygreenhouses.com/>

The business specialises in the production of bedding plants, herbs and vegetables for various chain stores in Western Canada. The business consists of three production facilities with around 20 ha of glasshouse production space. The business also has a large nursery growing emerald cedars which are sold to arboretums throughout North America.

Rainbow Greenhouses Inc.
43830 South Sumas Road, Chilliwack, BC, Canada
<http://www.rainbow.ca/>

Rainbow Greenhouses Inc. is a wholesale grower and distributor of potted plants and seasonal baskets and planters. The business serves various markets in Western Canada and North Western USA. The company has invested in Agronomics and Visser robotic transplant systems, automated pot fillers, and assembly line planter systems. Echo Basket Systems dominate all of the newer facilities allowing basket work to be completed from the main walkways. The majority of irrigation water is applied via ebb and flood systems and watering booms which are predominately computer controlled.

Saturday 25 February 2017

Free time in Vancouver. Vancouver is a bustling west coast seaport in British Columbia and is among Canada's densest, most ethnically diverse cities. A popular filming location, it's surrounded by mountains and invites outdoor pursuits of all kinds, but also has thriving art, theatre and music scenes. Vancouver Art Gallery is known for its works by regional artists, while the Museum of Anthropology houses pre-eminent First Nations collections. Other attractions include the Capilano Suspension Bridge, Vancouver Aquarium, Vancouver Lookout, Science World, Grouse Mountain and harbour tours.

Sunday 26 February 2017

Free time in Vancouver before catching the train (not included in the cost) back to Vancouver airport for an overnight flight back to London Heathrow. Flight times (currently) are 17.55 from Vancouver arriving in London Heathrow at 11.15 (Monday 27 February 2017).

