

Gardens of Pasadena and Santa Barbara

Berkshire Botanical Garden

March 16-22, 2018

Friday, March 16 Los Angeles-Pasadena

An airport transfer will be provided for those arriving LAX by 3:00pm. We travel by private motorcoach from LAX to Pasadena and check into Langham Huntington, a classic, luxury hotel with the grandeur of a bygone era. Situated amongst 23 acres of lush gardens, nestled at the base of the majestic San Gabriel Mountains, the hotel amenities include an outdoor pool, spa, and fitness center.

Join your escorts and the other guests for a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening.

Dinner

Saturday, March 17 Pasadena

After a leisurely breakfast we will have a tour by one of the top horticulturalists at Huntington Garden. Henry Huntington and William Hertrich, developed the various plant collections that comprise the foundation of the Botanical Gardens. They molded a working ranch into a botanical collection of rare and exotic plants. They imported plants from many parts of the world to experiment with their



cultivation in Southern California. The vast collection now includes California, Australian, Japanese, Chinese, and Palm gardens, a Conservatory, and one of the largest succulent collections in the world. We will have free time after the tour to explore the gardens on our own. Lunch at the garden is included.

Later we will visit a private garden before returning to the hotel. Evening at leisure. **Breakfast, Lunch**



Sunday, March 18 Pasadena-Santa Barbara

We depart Pasadena after breakfast on our private motorcoach for the exquisite Getty Center in Brentwood. The Getty Center features several gardens, fountains, and landscaping for public enjoyment, including a cactus garden, shaded hideaways, and spectacular views of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Pacific Ocean, and Los Angeles. The fine sculpture gardens are home to works by artists including Miró and Moore. Robert Irwin's Central Garden is an evolving work of art, with tree-lined walkways that lead visitors through extraordinary sights, sounds, and scents with more than 500 varieties of plant material. We will enjoy a picnic lunch on the terrace and free time to explore the art collection. It includes pre-20th-century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, and decorative arts; 19th- and 20th-century American, European, and Asian photographs; and contemporary and modern sculpture.



This afternoon we head north to Santa Barbara. After checking into our hotel, the Kimpton Canary, we will meet on the rooftop patio for drinks and to watch the sunset and enjoy the stunning views of Santa Barbara. This luxurious property has a rooftop pool, nightly hosted wine hour and farm to table cuisine in its highly rated Finch and Fork restaurant.

Breakfast, Lunch, Wine reception

Monday, March 19 Santa Barbara-Montecito

This morning we will have a walking tour of Santa Barbara including the courthouse, the Mission and the Rose garden.

In the afternoon we will have a special private opening of Lotusland Botanic Garden in Montecito. Our docents will lead us in small groups through this delightful enclave with rare and exotic botanicals in an idyllic setting in the foothills of Santa Barbara.

Lotusland is a globally reknowned (and locally treasured) 37-acre estate and home

to more than 3,000 different plants from around the world. The gardens were created by Madame Ganna Walska, who owned the property from 1941 until her death in 1984.

The fascinating life and career of Madame Ganna Walska culminated with 43 years of designing unusual display gardens with exotic plants. In her writings she described herself as “an enemy of the average” – truly a woman of unique accomplishments, philosophies and imagination. Lotusland is home to several extraordinary collections including rare cycads, cacti, palms and euphorbias. Additional gardens feature ferns, aloes, lotuses, water lilies, bromeliads and cactus garden with more than 300 species.

After our tour we will enjoy wine on the terrace. Later we return to Santa Barbara with the evening at leisure. **Breakfast, Wine reception**



Tuesday, March 20 Santa Barbara-Montecito



This morning we will visit an impressive estate, Casa del Herrero, or the “House of the Blacksmith,” . We will be transported back to Montecito in the 1920s and 1930s – the heyday of the original owner George Fox Steedman. Designed by George Washington Smith, the Casa is one of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in

America. It is included on the National Register of Historic Places.

We will visit the house and the Moorish-style gardens created by Ralph Stevens, Lockwood de Forest, and Francis T. Underhill. After the tour we will have free time in Santa Barbara.



Late afternoon we'll take a "foodie stroll" through the Tuesday Farmer's Market and then enjoy an evening of market cuisine and local wine with Chef Brandon Cogan at the celebrated Wine Cask Restaurant. Our three-course dinner will be paired with local wines. The chef will use ingredients purchased at the market and tell us about each dish.

Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, March 21 Santa Barbara-Montecito

This morning we will tour private gardens including George Schoellkopf's. George is a good friend of Berkshire Botanical Garden, the president of Hollister House Garden in Washington, CT, and a trustee of Lotusland.

Our California Coastal Cuisine farewell lunch today will be at Belmond El Encanto. The property sits high in the hills amid lush gardens with views across the town and ocean with seven acres of gloriously landscaped gardens offering sweeping views of Santa Barbara and the Pacific Ocean.



We will return to the hotel mid afternoon with free time for last minute shopping or a chance to relax and enjoy the hotel amenities. **Breakfast, Lunch**

Thursday, March 22 Morning transfer to LAX for those with flights after 12:30pm or later. **Breakfast**

The price of \$2998 person based on double occupancy includes:

6 nights accommodation: 2 nights the Langham Huntington- 4 nights the Canary

Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Transportation by deluxe motor coach as per the itinerary

Private opening at Lotusland

Entrances to the public gardens and gifts for the private garden owners

Porterage at the hotels

Escorted by Greg Graves

Tax deductible donation of \$300 per person to Berkshire Botanical Garden

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