



Self-Guided Garden Tour

The Gardens of the World is privately owned and operated by the Hogan Family Foundation. The Gardens became a reality when Ed and Lynn Hogan, founders of Pleasant Holidays, decided to build a striking monument to commemorate the various cultures of the world. Their motivation was to give back to the community in which they live and have conducted their highly successful travel business. It was dedicated to the citizens of the Conejo Valley on December 9, 2001.

The Gardens exist not only as a cultural contribution to the community, but as an educational tool. Volunteer docents lead guided tours and assist with school tours throughout the year. The Gardens also provide a venue for local charitable organizations to hold fundraising activities.

The 4.5 acre cultural landmark features 5 different gardens representing England, France, Italy, Japan and the unique California Mission Courtyard. Please take the pathway that leads around the Gardens to enjoy the amazing variety of plants, flowers and water features.

Bandstand

Located in the center of the Gardens is the traditional American Bandstand. The history of bandstands can be traced back to the latter half of the eighteenth century in which many were built in the town centers and served as a gathering place for the general public.



Bandstands often served as podiums for politicians to give speeches and gather voters. They also provided entertainment for the townspeople with free concerts and band music. So it is with the Garden's Bandstand, where Sunday afternoons you will often find children playing on the grassy amphitheater while their parents enjoy picnics and musical performances.



Japanese Garden

The delicate balance and harmony of the Asian culture has been beautifully captured in this peaceful setting surrounding an authentic Japanese Pagoda. Set in the midst of a Koi pond, encircled by bamboo and bridges, the Japanese Garden is a wonderful place to pause and savor a tranquil moment. Here are some interesting facts about our Japanese Garden.

- The water basin or "tsukubai" to the right of the entry was placed low to the ground so guests, no matter their social status, are forced to bend into a humbling position in order to purify themselves.
- A large flat stone or "kutsunugi" at the entrance to the Pagoda is used to place sandals on prior to entering. It is customary to point the sandals back toward the garden so they are ready to go.
- The rock formations in the pond represent a turtle and a crane, symbols of longevity.
- The rock encircled with the straw rope or "shim-nawa" designates a dwelling place of gods and a place for meditation.
- Dragon's Gate waterfall is named for the fable that if a Koi can swim to the top of the waterfall, it will turn into a dragon.

Mission Courtyard

The early history of the state of California and its famous mission trail can be experienced in the authentic Mission Courtyard. Many of the California Missions were founded by Father Junipero Serra, whose statue can be found in the grassy area in front of the Courtyard. The first mission was built in 1769 with the others strategically planned, one days walk apart, up the coast from San Diego.



The courtyards traditionally were walled gardens with four straight paths leading to a center fountain. They were used as outdoor workplaces where livestock were housed, bricks made and hides were tanned. The fountain traditionally had three different levels so that chickens could drink from the bottom, horses from the middle, and people from the top.

The Garden's Mission Courtyard features murals of the 21 remaining missions painted by local artists Bridget Duffy and Mark Fenton.

Animal prints in the hand made floor tiles are symbols of good luck. See if you can find the ones in our courtyard.



French Garden

Classical French gardens consist of beautifully clipped parterres and mazes of structured boxwood hedges. Numerous magnificent water features are also common to gardens found in France today. The recurrent theme is the beauty of symmetry.

In our French Garden you will find two types of parterres, one in the shape of a butterfly or "papillon" at the entrance to the garden and one in the shape of the sun. The French Fountain in the Gardens of the World is a replica of one found at Versailles.

English Perennial & Rose Gardens

The gardens of England are renowned for their beauty and perennial plantings of different heights, shapes and colors. In the perennial gardens, trees and shrubs are used to construct a balanced view in the midst of an explosion of color. While the English Country Garden looks deliberately casual, it is actually carefully planted for fragrance, color and texture. While visiting the garden look for the very soft grey leaves of the "Lamb's Ear" also known as "Blankets of Fairies".



The English Rose Garden features over 400 rose bushes of varying types and colors. There are two types of roses in this garden, bush and climber. Roses have a long and colorful history as symbols of love, beauty, war and politics. According to fossil evidence, roses are 35 million years old. Cultivated in Europe and China for thousands of years, the segregation of roses in separate gardens started in the 19th century.



Italian Garden

Take a stroll under a romantic grape arbor and enjoy our distinctive cypress trees, indigenous to the famed gardens

of Italy. Running through the garden is a "chain" fountain inspired by historic Italian architecture.

Traditionally, Italian gardens have few flowers and are usually built on terraced hillsides with fountains. The plants, often in a manicured topiary, are primarily evergreen for texture and shape. The Romans made their gardens an extension of a house rather than just an external feature.

Resource Center

The offices of the Gardens of the World can be found in the Resource Center. This building is also used as a venue for local artists to exhibit their art work. *Restrooms are located in the Resource Center.*