



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Canadian Summer Splendor: The Magical Gardens of Québec

with AHS Hosts Holly and Osamu Shimizu

July 14–20, 2026





Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to join AHS for Canadian Summer Splendor: The Magical Gardens of Québec. This special journey offers not only the chance to explore some of Canada's most enchanting landscapes, but also to experience the deep connections between culture, history, and horticulture that make Québec truly unique.

From the cobblestone streets of Old Québec in the heart of Québec City to the cosmopolitan energy of Montréal, this travel program will immerse you in the timeless artistry of gardens shaped by Old World traditions and adapted to the northern climate. Along the way, enjoy exclusive access to extraordinary private gardens and meet passionate gardeners whose creativity and stewardship continue to shape these remarkable places.

I am especially delighted that AHS Board member Holly Shimizu and her husband, Osamu, will be your AHS Hosts on this journey. Holly's leadership and expertise in public horticulture, together with Osamu's artistry and garden design vision, will bring added depth and meaning to the experience. With a lifelong devotion to gardens and experience shaping landscapes across the globe, they are the ideal expert hosts for this exploration of Québec's horticultural legacy.

Our journey is complemented by exceptional accommodations. In Québec City, we will stay at the stylish Monsieur Jean, a boutique hotel set within the historic Old City, where contemporary design meets old-world charm. In Montréal, our home will be the five-star Le Mount Stephen Hotel, a landmark that gracefully blends Belle Époque architecture with modern luxury. Both hotels will provide a delightful stay and a sense of place that enriches the spirit of your travels.

At AHS, we connect people with plants and gardening in ways that inspire curiosity, creativity, and care for the natural world. This trip embodies that mission, bringing together fellow garden enthusiasts to learn, share, and celebrate the enduring beauty and cultural importance of gardens.

I hope you will join us for this unforgettable exploration of Québec's magical summer gardens. Space is limited and our travel programs often sell out, so we recommend making your reservation early.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne".

Suzanne B. Laporte
President & CEO

When you travel with the AHS, you make a difference.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.

AHS Hosts Holly and Osamu Shimizu

Holly and Osamu Shimizu are a renowned horticultural couple whose shared passion for gardening has inspired and beautified landscapes worldwide.

Holly, a member of the American Horticultural Society Board of Directors and retired Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden, is a globally acclaimed horticulturist. Recognized for her ten-year tenure as a host on the popular Victory Garden television show on PBS, she has worked in gardens throughout the world and has garnered numerous accolades, including The Scott Medal & Award from The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, the Thomas Roland Medal for outstanding contributions to horticultural education from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Professional Award for an Outstanding Public Garden Director from the American Horticultural Society. Holly's dedication to nurturing an appreciation for plants is reflected in her writings for numerous publications and her role as an international flower show judge.



Osamu grew up in Japan where he studied and worked in both historic and contemporary Japanese gardens. He worked in Europe for over ten years helping with garden designs, mapping, and garden improvements. In 1982 he started his own garden design/build company, Shimizu Landscape Design. His portfolio showcases an array of gardens, with a significant emphasis on Japanese aesthetics and a fusion of eastern and western influences.

Hotel Accommodations



Monsieur Jean, l'Hôtel Particulier, Québec

Located in the heart of Old Québec, Monsieur Jean, l'Hôtel Particulier offers a unique blend of artistic flair and refined elegance, just steps from historic landmarks, boutique shops, and fine dining. This stylish hotel invites guests into a thoughtfully curated space where whimsical design meets modern comfort. With its inviting public areas, charming café, and distinctive ambiance, Monsieur Jean captures the spirit of Québec City—sophisticated, creative, and full of character.



Le Mount Stephen, Montréal

Situated in Montréal's prestigious Golden Square Mile, Le Mount Stephen is at the heart of the city's finest shopping, dining, and cultural institutions, and offers unparalleled access to Montréal's vibrant urban life. Housed in a restored 19th-century mansion with a sleek modern extension, this landmark hotel exudes timeless sophistication and refined style. Inside, every detail reflects a commitment to comfort and excellence, from the stately common areas to the tranquil spa and upscale dining spaces.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Welcome to Québec – Birthplace of New France

Arrivals in Québec City: Join group transports from Jean Lesage International Airport (YQB) to Monsieur Jean, our stylish boutique hotel ideally located in the Old City.

Gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome briefing before stepping back in time on a guided walking tour of Québec's Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the historic heart of French America. Explore Place Royale, Notre-Dame des Victoires (1688), and the charming Petit Champlain District, with its narrow streets and preserved colonial buildings. The old city thrums with the sights and sounds of the early French settlers who brought their language, culture and cuisine to this new land.

Tonight, we'll enjoy a welcome dinner together in one of Québec's oldest restaurants and savor the best of la cuisine Québécois.

Monsieur Jean (Included meals: Dinner)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

City Botanical Treasures & Île D'Orléans

A full breakfast is included every morning in the hotel restaurant.

We begin our horticultural journey at the Roger Van den Hende Botanical Garden, a living laboratory dedicated to understanding the diversity and adaptability of plants to Québec's challenging climate. Our expert guide will lead us through some of the garden's 4,000 species and explain how early settlers incorporated non-native species into the local landscapes, shaping a diverse horticultural legacy.

Later this morning, we'll visit the Monastère des Augustines, founded in 1639 – North America's first hospital. As traders, the French established alliances with the indigenous peoples of the region. This is reflected in the monastery's delightful medicinal garden, where native plants and remedies were integrated into the traditional French medicine chest - an early example of adaptation to a new ecosystem.

After a lunch of seasonal summertime fare, we'll board our private bus and drive northeast along the Lawrence River to the Île d'Orléans, Québec's historic breadbasket. For centuries this lush and fertile island fed the residents of the new colony. Today it is home to the many artisanal family farms that still supply the city. We'll drop in on a vinegar producer, a baker, and makers of Canadian cassis. We'll time it perfectly to arrive at our first private garden - an exclusive visit to the Seigneurie de l'Île d'Orléans, a family-owned treasure, where the fragrant lavender fields will be in full bloom, glorious in the afternoon sun.

Returning this evening to the hotel, enjoy an independent evening and good night's rest.

Monsieur Jean (Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)



Place Royale in Québec's Old City (by DEZALB)



Seigneurie de l'Île d'Orléans
(Québec City Tourism Board)

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière & Musée De Beaux Art

After breakfast, journey to Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière – a historic estate built in 1851 and one of Québec’s most celebrated gardens. Our expert guide will lead us through the manor and its extensive historic gardens, where lilacs, peonies, and century-old trees blend with native species like ostrich ferns and wild orchids, laid out on scenic grounds sloping down to the majestic river below.

Return to Québec City for lunch, then visit the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the area’s top fine arts museum with its dynamic new pavilions and beautifully displayed exhibits of traditional Canadian and Inuit art.

Then delight in a leisurely walk along the Lawrence River, into the Battlefields Park. We’ll take a particularly close look at the Joan d’Arc garden (1938) – a fascinating blend of French design and English flower beds, with grand vistas over the river below. Take your time and enjoy until we meet for dinner together at a restaurant close to our hotel.

Monsieur Jean (Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Private Gardens on the Road to Montréal

After breakfast we say goodbye to Québec City and embark on the road for Montréal. Along the way, we’re invited to explore some of Québec’s delightful but lesser-known private gardens. First is the Jardin de Vos Reves, in Québec’s Appalachian Mountains, a horticultural landscape lovingly cultivated by a husband-and-wife team, featuring ornamental, native, and edible species designed around the five elements. In July, it should be resplendent with lilies.

We’ll stop for lunch at a nearby manor, then travel on to the Glen Villa Art Garden, a 750-acre private landscape that seamlessly integrates sculpture, gardens and landscape into a deeply personal and thoughtful design. Rarely open to the public, the creator will lead us through her favorite elements.

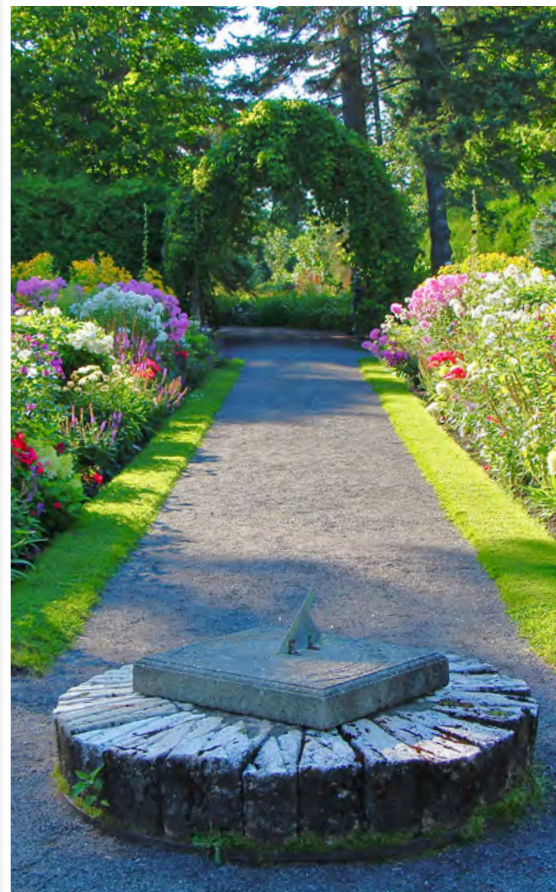
We’ll arrive in Montréal in the late afternoon. Before settling into our hotel, we’ll climb the hill that is the source of the city’s name—Mont-Royal—to explore the Frederick Law Olmstead-designed Park that crowns it, with lovely rose gardens and spectacular views over the city’s glittering skyline. Descending into downtown, check into the marvelous five-star Le Mount Stephen Hotel – a Montréal classic. Dinner tonight is independent.

Le Mount Stephen Hotel (Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)

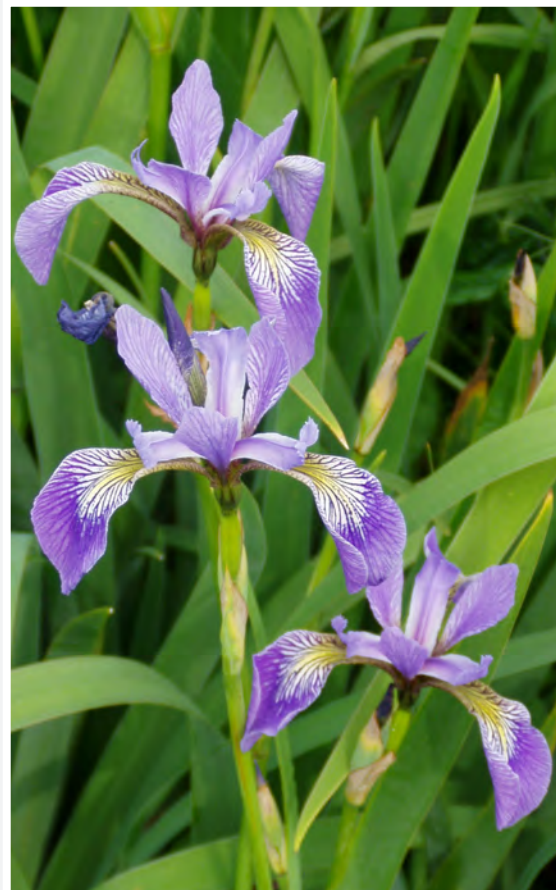
SATURDAY, JULY 18

Welcome to Montréal

Montréal, founded in 1642, grew from a French fur trading post into a vibrant metropolis where European and North American cultures converge. Beyond its rich history and diverse traditions, the city’s horticultural legacy—from its iconic park to its world-renowned Botanical Garden—has long shaped its cultural identity and urban landscape.



Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière (by Thomas1313)



Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*), the floral emblem of Québec (by Danielle Langlois)

We will begin today with a guided walk through Vieux-Montréal, where the city began. From the Place d'Armes and Notre-Dame Basilica (stopping to marvel at the grandiose interior), we'll stroll down the Rue Saint-Paul and Place Jacques-Cartier.

We'll end our tour at Chateau Ramezay, a rare example of French colonial architecture built in 1705 for the former governor of Montréal. Of particular interest to us is the Governor's Garden which reflects how French settlers transplanted European gardening traditions to New France but had to adapt them to Québec's shorter growing season and harsh winters. In this carefully recreated 18th-century garden, the layout follows the formal French style—with symmetrical beds and ornamental design—but features hardy medicinal herbs, cold-tolerant vegetables, and resilient fruit trees rather than the more delicate European species.

After a refined city lunch of French-inspired cuisine, we're invited to a private viewing of Jardins et des Lys, a home and garden over a century in the making. Our host will lead us through a poetic blend of architectural and horticultural artistry woven into rugged terrain.

Dinner this evening is independent.

Le Mount Stephen Hotel (Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch)

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Jardin Botanique de Montréal

After breakfast, discover one of the world's most prestigious horticultural landmarks: le Jardin Botanique de Montréal. Opened in 1931 and spanning over 75 hectares, it's recognized internationally for the breadth and quality of its plant collections and research programs.

Explore the various specialized gardens within this vast complex, guided by the specialists who care for them: the Chinese Garden - a traditional Chinese landscape of symbolic plants, water features, and bridges, creatively designed to flourish in Québec's climate; the Japanese Garden - a serene retreat of bonsai, koi ponds, and stone pathways, illustrating how Japanese horticultural artistry can thrive through Québec's seasonal shifts; the First Nations Garden - a living tribute to Indigenous knowledge, featuring native plants historically used for food, medicine, and ceremony; and the Alpine Garden - a display of hardy, high-altitude species, revealing how plants adapt to extreme conditions similar to those in Québec's colder regions.

Enjoy an independent lunch at one of the many restaurants and cafes within the Gardens, and either stay to explore in more depth, or head back to the hotel for an independent afternoon.

We'll conclude our Canadian journey with a festive farewell dinner, raising a glass to Québec's captivating cities and beautiful gardens.

Le Mount Stephen Hotel (Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner)

MONDAY, JULY 20

Departures

Enjoy a final breakfast and check out. We will arrange group transport to Montréal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL)

(Included meals: Breakfast)



Rue Saint Paul in Vieux-Montréal (by Eneko Bidegain)



Chinese Garden at Le Jardin Botanique de Montréal (by Amaury Laporte)

AHS TRAVEL

This custom AHS Travel program has been created uniquely for AHS members and is offered in collaboration with International Seminar Design, Inc. Please note: We reserve some flexibility in the itinerary for additional garden opportunities that may become available closer to the date.

TOUR COST:

Land Package.....	\$7,895
Single Supplement	\$1,295

Land Package is per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 12 paying participants.

Rooms at all hotels are standard category. Upgraded rooms are available upon request at an additional cost.

Please note there are a limited number of 2-bed rooms available and the only option for a second bed at the Monsieur Jean in Quebec City is a Murphy bed. Requests will be honored based on availability and understanding of this limitation.

AHS TRAVEL ACTIVITY LEVEL DESCRIPTION: AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk for a minimum of two miles each day.

HEALTH: At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by ISDI Travel, local staff, and local laws. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,000 per registrant is required to reserve space on the tour, of which \$500 is nonrefundable for ISDI's registration and planning fee unless the tour is cancelled due to low enrollment. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Final balance will be invoiced and is due on March 13, 2026, and must be paid by check or wire/ACH transfer to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations are accepted after this date on a space-available basis.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to ISDI and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by ISDI. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before March 13, 2026: full refund minus the \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between March 14 and May 29, 2026: full refund minus \$3,900 per person cancellation fee (includes the registration and planning fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after May 30, 2026: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by ISDI or the American Horticultural Society due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

FLIGHTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by ISDI. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed. ISDI will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email unless specifically requested otherwise.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS:

3 nights at the Monsieur Jean in Quebec City, 3 nights at Le Mount Stephen in Montréal; breakfast daily at the hotels, 4 lunches, 3 dinners (water, soft drinks, coffee, tea included with all meals; 2 glasses of wine or beer included with dinners); ground transportation by private motor coach; group transfers on arrival at Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport (YQB) on 07/14/26; group transfer on departure to Montréal–Trudeau International Airport (YUL) on 07/20/26; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert local guide; personal listening devices for duration of the tour; handling of 2 pieces of luggage per person at hotels; gratuities for guides, drivers, and restaurant staff at included group meals; bottled water on motor coach; service charges and taxes.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portage; individual airport transfers for those not using the scheduled group transfers; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be provided upon receipt of your registration. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel. Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact travel@ahsgardening.org or 703-768-8801.

Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.



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Registration Information

July 14–20, 2026

TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL:

International Seminar Design, Inc. at 202-244-1448 ext. 1
or

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

International Seminar Design, Inc., 5614 Connecticut Ave NW, #295, Washington, DC 20015
or by email at info@isditravel.com

Name - Participant 1

Name - Participant 2

Address

City

State

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address - Participant 1

E-mail Address - Participant 2

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

☐ Double Occupancy

☐ I have a roommate who is registering separately. I plan to share a room with _____.

☐ We prefer separate beds. I acknowledge the second bed at our Québec City hotel will be a Murphy bed.

☐ Single Occupancy (\$1,295 single supplement)

☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found.

DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person):

_____ # of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Check (make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on card

CVV Security Code

By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions outlined above.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAMS:

Please contact travel@ahsgardening.org or 703-768-8801.

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