



FIELD TRIPS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome to the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden! We are looking forward to working with your group. We hope this document will answer a few of your questions about what to expect when you bring your group to us.

GETTING TO THE GARDEN

Where can we park? Where can the school bus park?

The closest public parkade is located at 180 Keefer Street. Metered street parking is available throughout Chinatown.

There is free, 2 hr bus parking on Keefer Street, just behind the Garden.

What about public transport?

The #19 and #22 bus from Downtown Vancouver stop at Pender Street near Carrall Street.

The nearest skytrain is Stadium/Chinatown station. After exiting the station, go down the steps to Keefer street and continue 3 blocks until you see the white walls of our Garden.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM STARTS

What do we do when we arrive?

The entrance to our Garden is located in a large courtyard. We ask students to wait there while the lead teacher checks in at Visitor Services.

If the large black doors are closed, we are not open yet! Staff will be ready to greet you when the doors open, or will come to find in the courtyard.

What should we wear? Can we store our backpacks?

We are sorry that we do not have cloakrooms or lockers to store student belongings.

Please remind your group to dress appropriately for the weather. A portion of every program will be delivered outside. Our walkways are covered so visitors are sheltered but most rooms are not heated.

Is the Garden fully accessible?

Yes, the halls and walkways in the Garden are wheelchair friendly. Our accessible entrance is located at the Eight Treasures Shop and our staff will show you how to access the Garden this way.

What about younger siblings? Can we bring in strollers?

Compact strollers are allowed inside the Garden. You are also welcome to park your stroller at Visitor Services.

Please note our traditional pond is not protected by a guard rail.

What rules should my students know about?

Our Garden is modeled after the Ming Dynasty scholars' garden-homes in China. Our visitors experience the living world and also a number of delicate objects and decorations that would be found in a typical Chinese Scholar's home.

For this reason, **we ask teachers to remind their students to be on their best 'museum behaviour'!** Our space is small and there will be likely other members of the public visiting at the same time.

Please do not allow students to touch our koi fish or other wildlife, or climb any of the rocks.

Like most museums, our Garden has a strict **no food or drink** policy for all visitors. Hot Chinese tea is available for adult chaperones and for students with the teacher's permission.

We reserve the right to "sit out" or remove students due to disruptive, aggressive or dangerous behaviour.

What do you expect of the teachers/adult chaperones?

We ask that there is at least one teacher and/or accompanying adult with the group at all times in the Garden. This is for safety reasons: our facilitators will be engaged with your group and may not spot a child who has wandered away or is acting in a dangerous manner.

We ask that adults allow the students to make the most out of this unique learning opportunity by modelling good 'museum behaviour' themselves! We understand that the Garden is a fascinating place for all ages and our facilitators are happy to answer questions from accompanying adults at an appropriate point during the program.

Thanks for your cooperation!

PAYMENT

How can we pay?

We charge per participant on the day of the program. There are various options for payment:

- By cash, cheque, MasterCard or Visa at the Front Desk on arrival
- By invoice to your institution
- By pre-authorized credit card (please ask for a form to be sent to you in advance of your visit).

Please note we ask for a **minimum of 10 people** to get our Group Rate. If your numbers fall below 10 on the day, we will still charge for 10 people at the group rate quoted on the Booking Confirmation.

How many adults/chaperones get in for free?

- Pre-K to Grade 7 school groups: one teacher/adult per 5 students admitted free.
- Secondary and post-secondary school groups: one teacher per 10 students.
- Adult/Senior groups: bus drivers and group escorts are admitted free.

Extra chaperones are charged at the group rate quoted on the Booking Confirmation.

My group numbers have changed since we made the booking - what shall I do?

If the numbers change a little on the day, it is not a problem. If, however, you anticipate a large change in numbers please let us know as soon as possible. This is to make sure we have the correct number of facilitators booked to work with your group.

For Dragon Boating programs, Dragon Boat BC ask for a final number of students 4 days before the program. This is for safety reasons and to ensure the correct number of boats and leaders are booked.

LUNCHTIME!

Can we eat lunch or have a snack in the Garden?

Sadly, no. We do not allow any food or drink inside the Garden. There are no vending machines or lunchroom facilities.

We recommend having students eat outside if they need a pre-program snack.

What do you suggest for lunch arrangements?

Groups are welcome to eat in the courtyard outside our entrance, or in the Dr Sun Yat Sen Public Park next door to our Garden.

When the weather is bad, we recommend eating in the food court on the second floor of International Village mall, 2 blocks away on Keefer street. It is a large area with seating.

Please ask us for Chinatown lunch options if your group is interested in eating in a nearby restaurant or cafe.



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If you have any other questions not covered here, please don't hesitate to contact our Education Coordinator: education@vancouverchinesegarden.com

We look forward to your visit!