

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 is your entrance?

- Our entrance is at the large red gate on Carrall St, between Keefer St and Pender St.
- If we are closed to the public:
 - please meet at the red gate. It may be locked - if it is a facilitator should be waiting outside. If not they will be there shortly.
- If we are open:
 - please check in with Visitor Services staff.
- **Please do not bring your group into the Garden until you have checked in with a staff member.**

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 at Carrall Street.

Before the program starts

What do we do when we arrive?

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- If we are open:
 - please check in with Visitor Services staff.
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We are running late! What shall we do?

- Please let us know if you are going to be late. **Call 604 662 3207 or email education@vancouverchinesegarden.com.**

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. If possible, **please let us know before your visit if you will require our accessible entrance.**

During the program

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?

- 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 may be 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.**
- 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! Our facilitators are happy to answer questions from accompanying adults at an appropriate point during the program.
- Thanks for your cooperation!

Payment

- We will send an invoice to you or your institution after your visit based on the number of people in your group. It can be paid online. We prefer one payment per group. Please note that coupons or other money off offers are not valid for school group visits.

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.
- 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.

Lunchtime!

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

- We recommend having students eat outside/before they arrive if they need a pre-program snack.
- Like most museums, our Garden has a strict no food or drink policy for all visitors.

What do you suggest for lunch arrangements?

- Groups are welcome to eat in the courtyard outside our entrance.
- When the weather is bad, there is a large food court with seating on the second floor of International Village mall, 2 blocks away on Keefer street.
- Please ask us for Chinatown lunch options if your group is interested in eating in a nearby restaurant or cafe.

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!