

AHDB/BPPC pot plant and cut flower study tour to Ontario, Canada, 1-8 October 2017

Summary

The objectives of the study tour are to focus on the production and marketing of various pot plant and cut flowers crops produced by a range of different sized nursery businesses in the province of Ontario, Canada. Alongside the nursery visits, the study tour programme will also focus on the potential and flexibility of plastic growing structures with retractable roofs (courtesy of Cravo), explore cutting edge developments in mechanisation, automation and biological pest control at the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and provide an appreciation of the Canadian protected crops industry via attendance at the 2017 Canadian Greenhouse Conference and Tradeshow. The week long study tour programme will be intensive, but ultimately rewarding, as a result of the various elements covered.

Itinerary (as at 1 June 2017)

Sunday 1 October 2017

Departure from London Heathrow airport, via an Air Canada flight, at 15:00 arriving in Toronto Pearson International airport at 17:40. Collect mini vans* from airport car rental and transfer to a local hotel on the outskirts of Toronto. To ensure flexibility, mini vans (or other) will be available to take attendees to the various nurseries and venues listed in the programme, the appropriate vehicle should be boarded to visit either pot plant nurseries or cut flower nurseries. (* Vehicle type dependent upon attendance numbers).

Monday 2 October 2017

Travel south east around Lake Ontario to visit local pot plant and cut flower growers in the morning. After lunch, travel onto St Catharines for hotel and optional visit to Niagara Falls (please note, entrance to the latter is not included in the study tour costs quoted).

Tuesday 3 October 2017

Meet [Cravo](#) representatives at [Homestead Growers](#), Niagara to view the structures used in the production of calla lilies and chrysanthemums. Visit to a further pot plant and cut flower nursery. After lunch, travel to the [Vineland Research and Innovation Centre](#), Lincoln to visit the process control/automation engineering and biological pest control departments. Overnight stay in local hotel.

Wednesday 4 October 2017

Full day visit to the [Canadian Greenhouse Conference and Tradeshow](#), Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls. The 2017 agenda for this event has yet to be confirmed (it is a two day event), but the 2015 and 2016 programmes can be viewed on the website. (The conference and tradeshow costs are included in the study tour costs quoted). Overnight stay at local hotel.

Thursday 5 October 2017

Full day of nursery visits to either pot plant or cut flower nurseries in locality. Overnight stay at local hotel.

Friday 6 October 2017

Full day of nursery visits to either pot plant or cut flower nurseries in locality. Hotel accommodation in Toronto city centre.

The exact itinerary of nursery visits is yet to be finalised, but the aim is to visit 3-4 businesses per day on the 5 and 6 October, along with those listed on the other days. We are currently in discussion with the following nurseries listed below. Website links to each business is provided for further detail.

Potential pot plant nurseries	Potential cut flower nurseries
Aldershot Greenhouses Business producing gerbera, hellebores, poinsettia and roses.	Bayview Flowers Business producing both cut flowers and pot plants, cut flower crops include gerbera and peony.
Bradford Greenhouses Business producing garden mums, hydrangea, lily and poinsettia.	Creek Valley Gardens Business producing antirrhinum, aster, cabbage, peony and sedum.
CosMic Plants Business specialising in phalaenopsis orchids.	Dutch Mill Gardens Business producing, cabbage, celosia, dahlia and sunflower.
European Planters Business producing cyclamen, ferns, hydrangea and poinsettia.	Kralt Greenhouses Business producing chrysanthemum and lily.
Horbachs Greenhouse Business producing cyclamen, ferns, pelargonium and poinsettia.	Lindy's Flowers A specialist rose producer.
Jeffery's Greenhouse Business producing chrysanthemum, cyclamen and poinsettia.	Maple Crest Farms Business producing antirrhinum and lisianthus.
Meyers Fruit Farm/Flowers Business producing begonia, chrysanthemum, hydrangea, lily, poinsettia, zygo cactus.	Peninsula Flowers Business producing chrysanthemum, peony, stocks, sunflowers, sweet william etc.
Orchid Greens Business specialising in phalaenopsis orchids.	Rosa Flora Business producing antirrhinum, gerbera, lisianthus, lily etc.
P. Ravensbergen and Sons Business producing begonia, chrysanthemum, hibiscus and poinsettia.	Spring Valley Gardens Business producing tulips.
Spring Valley Gardens Business producing azalea, chrysanthemum, hydrangea, poinsettia etc.	Sun Valley Floral Farms Business producing lily, peony, rosehips etc.
Westbrook Greenhouses Business producing African violet, cyclamen, hydrangea, poinsettia etc.	Van Geest Bros Business producing chrysanthemum and gerbera.

Saturday 7 October 2017

Free day time in Toronto, the capital of the province of Ontario. Toronto is a major Canadian city along Lake Ontario's north western shore. It's a dynamic metropolis with a core of soaring skyscrapers, all dwarfed by the iconic CN Tower. Toronto also has many green spaces, from the orderly oval of Queen's Park to the 160 ha High Park and its trails, sports facilities and zoo. Travel around the city is not provided within the study tour costs. Transfer from the city centre back to the airport is included in the cost of the study tour. Return journey via Air Canada flight at 20.40 from Toronto Pearson International airport to London Heathrow airport, arriving at 08.35 on Sunday 8 October.

Cost

The current **approximate cost** of the study tour is **£1,300 per person based on two people sharing a room, with an additional single supplement of £350 per person**. A deposit of £500 per person will be required upon booking, with the full balance payable by 1 August 2017. Any bookings made after this date (subject to available space) will require payment of the full balance.

Insurance is compulsory for the study tour, The Independent Traveller (IT) can provide cover specific to Canada, but other companies also offer such insurance deals. Details of the insurance acquired will be requested as part of the final booking process and will need to be provided to both IT and AHDB. An [electronic travel authorisation, eTA](#), gained before travel will be required to enter Canada (the cost of the eTA (\$7 CAD) is not included in the study tour cost quoted). Full details will be provided by The Independent Traveller.

The above cost includes the following:

1. Round trip airfares as required by the itinerary.
2. Current taxes and fuel surcharges included. IT reserve the right to adjust the taxes in the unlikely event of any significant change in the airline taxes.
3. Provision of suitable internal transport (depending upon group size).
4. Accommodation in 3 star or better hotels. As is normal in Canada rooms are provided on a room only basis, unless specified.
5. Entry to the Canadian Greenhouse Conference and Tradeshow for Wednesday 4 October 2017.
6. The trip is fully protected by ATOL and the cost includes an ATOL fee of £2.50 per head, which is paid on your behalf into the government backed insurance package scheme.
7. Assistance in obtaining an eTA, which will be required for people to travel on this trip.

Not included:

1. Items of a personal nature.
2. Meals and drinks other than those specified.
3. Personal travel insurance. This is mandatory for all participants and as part of the booking process attendees will have to provide details of an insurer offering a suitable level of cover. (IT have an insurance programme available, but all attendees are at liberty to purchase insurance from wherever they wish).
- (4. If appropriate, gratuities to the tour driver, but this is entirely optional), vehicle type(s) and the need for a tour driver to be confirmed depending upon study tour numbers.

How to book

Please contact Tracey or Malcolm at IT either by telephone on 01509 618810, to make a booking, or by phone or e-mail (holidays@uni-travel.co.uk) for any further information prior to making a booking. A non-refundable deposit of £500 per person is required at the time of booking and a copy of the terms and conditions of IT will be made available for your information. IT will forward a booking form for completion, which needs to be returned to IT, the form includes a requirement to provide an emergency contact number which will be shared with AHDB. (Attendees will be provided with an invoice for the tour which in most cases should be an eligible expense to off-set against tax).

Legal information

The tour is operated on behalf of AHDB by the Independent Traveller which is part of the Uni-Travel group. The company have operated similar trips for AHDB and other Agri related organisations for close to 40 years. The company ATOL number is 4660 and the ABTA number is 96395. These provide attendees with complete financial security, in addition the company also hold an IATA full licence. All study tour monies will pass through IT to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the law.