

## Gardens of Golden Gate Park – Group Visit Information

This information sheet is for all groups planning a visit to the SF Botanical Garden. This includes youth groups, school groups, community groups, adult groups, tour groups, and more. Please read through this information sheet before reaching out with additional questions. Thank you!

See below for:

- Free Public Tours
- Private Adult Tours
- Guided Youth Walks/Experiences
- Self-Guided Visits
- College/University Group Tours

### **Free Public Tours**

- SF Botanical Garden

Public tours for groups fewer than 8 are offered free (with admission) at the SF Botanical Garden. Please [visit the event calendar](#) to check availability and register in advance.

- Japanese Tea Garden

Public tours for groups fewer than 8 are offered free (with admission) at the Japanese Tea Garden through the City Guides organization almost daily. Please [visit their website](#) to check public tour availability before arrival.

- Conservatory of Flowers

There are no free public tours available at the Conservatory of Flowers. There is [a 30-minute audio tour](#) available for purchase at the front desk or via the CloudGuide App. Headphones are recommended for this, though not provided.

### **Private Adult Tours**

- SF Botanical Garden and/or Conservatory of Flowers

Private tours must be requested at least 4 weeks in advance – no exceptions.

Tour capacity at the SFBG is 8 to 36 people. Tour capacity at the COF is 8 to 12.

Tours are approximately 1.5 hours in length.

The cost of a private tour at one Garden is \$30/person, which includes admission. If you are planning to schedule a private tour at both the SFBG and the COF, the cost is \$55/person. Gardens of Golden Gate Park Members receive a discounted tour rate. There is a \$50 booking fee that is applicable to the final cost. Payment in full must be received two weeks before the date of the tour.

- Japanese Tea Garden

Private tours of the Japanese Tea Garden are offered through City Guides. Groups with 8 or more attendees must book a private tour. Please [visit their website](#) for more information.

## **Guided Youth Walks/Experiences**

- SF Botanical Garden

We currently have a limited capacity to support guided experiences with school and youth groups. We are prioritizing K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes from San Francisco. Up to two classes can be accommodated at one time. Thank you for understanding – please see [additional resources here](#).

The Children’s Garden has a Multi-Visit Program for SFUSD classes. Please contact Nichole Davis, Youth Program Coordinator, directly about the Multi-Visit Program at [ndavis@gggp.org](mailto:ndavis@gggp.org).

- Japanese Tea Garden

There are currently no guided youth experiences for the Japanese Tea Garden. We highly recommend you prepare an activity for your visit in advance. It is not recommended you visit the Tea House with large groups of students and there are no reservations for the Tea House available.

- Conservatory of Flowers

Please note that we can accommodate a very limited number of school group reservations at this time, for both guided and self-guided experiences. We are prioritizing 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes from San Francisco. With advance reservation, complementary admission is included for all students, teachers, and chaperones. You must inquire about current availability before booking your group visit and do so at least two weeks in advance.

Please note the following guidelines for the Conservatory of Flowers:

- Reservations are available most Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Groups cannot visit on Free Day, which is the first Tuesday of every month.
- Large groups of 13 to 30 students may enter at 10:30am or 11:30am. If your group is larger than 30 students, you may split into two groups of 30 or fewer students, with back-to-back entry times at 10:30am and 11:30am.
- Small groups of up to 12 students may enter between 12:30pm and 3:30pm. If you are a small group that can only visit in the morning, please contact us to discuss availability.
- There is no time limit for your visit; most groups spend 45-60 minutes inside the Conservatory of Flowers.
- A student: adult ratio of 6:1 is required for all visiting groups.
- Before entering the building, groups will be asked to split into smaller groups, with a maximum of 6 students and a minimum of 1 adult per group. Please have your small group arrangements planned before arrival.

Volunteer staffed stations with interpretative education materials may be available, but are not guaranteed. We recommend you prepare an activity for your visit in advance – you can [find a few suggestions here](#).

## **Self-Guided Visits**

### - SF Botanical Garden

The SF Botanical Garden is very flexible and can accommodate most self-guided visits. There is no time limit for your self-guided visit to the Botanical Garden. It is highly recommended you prepare an activity in advance of your visit to focus your group.

The Children's Garden is available for self-exploration during your visit. Please keep in mind it can take between 15-30 minutes to get to the Children's Garden from the Main Gate. Directions to the Children's Garden can be [found here](#). If looking for guidance on how to use the space or activities to do while in the Children's Garden, you can access [our Children's Garden Activity Deck here](#), also [available in Spanish](#).

There are no storage facilities for lunches, backpacks, or supplies. There is no ball-play permitted in the Botanical Garden. We do not allow tree climbing. Please be sure to review the rules of the Botanical Garden before your visit.

### - Japanese Tea Garden

The Japanese Tea Garden is a small space with many water features and is not recommended for groups with more than 30 visitors. Groups may be asked to stagger their entry depending on size and will likely be asked to break into smaller groups of 5-8 each. Each group will be required to have a chaperone.

We do not recommend taking large groups to the Tea House or the gift shop. These locations are difficult to navigate with a large group, but small groups may get through more easily. There are no reservations available for the Tea House. You can view [the Tea House menu here](#).

There are no storage facilities for lunches, backpacks, or supplies. There is no place to sit and eat with large groups in the Japanese Tea Garden. We recommend eating lunch at the Music Concourse, across the street from the entry gate, or at Mother's Meadow, which is a short walk away. Please be sure to review the rules of the Japanese Tea Garden before your visit.

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### **College/University Group Tours**

College and university classes with an instructor may be offered a free tour pending availability. Please be prepared for a self-guided visit.