



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Step into another world with sheltered pavilions, graceful bridges, reflective pools and enchanting landscapes of one of the only authentic Chinese gardens outside of Asia.

Initiated by the local Chinese community to celebrate Australia's 1988 Bicentenary, the Chinese Garden is the result of a close friendship and cooperation between the sister cities of Sydney and Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, China.



Garden highlights



The Garden was designed and built by Chinese landscape architects and gardeners, and is governed by the Taoist principles of 'Yin-Yang' and the five opposite elements – earth, fire, water, metal and wood. These principles also stress the importance of Qi, the central force of life and energy.

Yin-Yang plays such a vital role that just one missing element would disrupt the garden's harmony and balance. However when combined perfectly, the five elements form a fluid and nurturing environment.

Everything you see in the Chinese Garden has been hand-picked and meticulously placed to capture the five elements and the energy of Qi. Read on for some of the garden's unique highlights.

1 Main entrance

Guarding the entrance to the Garden are two Foo-dogs (Chinese lions), which have been carved from rare Chinese granite. Always in pairs, the female with her cub guards to the left, while the male, with a ball of chi (energy), guards the right. A hybrid of dog, lion and dragon, they represent loyalty, strength, and prosperity.

3 Penjing Courtyard

Courtyard: Three dramatic rock sculptures made from a rare Ying Rock, a mountain limestone from southern Guangdong, feature in the courtyard.

Penjing: Meaning 'tray scenery', penjing is the Chinese art of creating a miniature landscape. Penjing can range from single trees to detailed scenes reminiscent of paintings. The oldest tree in this courtyard is dated from 1932.

Penjing reference

- 1 Corky Bark Chinese Elm (c. 1981) *Ulmus parvifolia*
- 2 Port Jackson Fig (c. 1970) *Ficus rubiginosa*
- 3 African Lilac Cap (c. 1985) *Enhretia rigida*
- 4 Chinese 'Sand Flake' Rock
- 5 Chinese Banyan Fig (c. 1975) *Ficus Retusa*
- 6 Chinese Elm (c. 1978) *Ulmus parvifolia*
- 7 Chinese Banyan Fig (c. 1932) *Ficus retusa*
- 8 Japanese Elm (c. 1977) *Ulmus parvifolia seiju*
- 9 Chinese Elm (c. 1991) *Ulmus parvifolia*
- 10 Port Jackson Fig (c. 1975) *Ficus rubiginosa*
- 11 Swane's Golden Cypress (c. 1988) *Cupressus sempervirens*
- 12 Japanese Honeysuckle (c. 1974) *Lonicera japonica*
- 13 Cyprus Cedar (c. 1991) *Cedrus brevifolia*
- 14 Hollywood Juniper (c. 1990) *Juniperus squamata*
- 15 American Hornbeam (c. 1985) *Carpinus caroliniana*
- 16 Korean Box (c. 1963) *Buxus microphylla kingsville koreana*

5 Dragon Wall

This magnificent wall is a gift from Guangdong. It features two coloured dragons: the gold-brown represents Guangdong and the blue represents NSW. The Pearl of Prosperity – carried by a wave between the dragons – symbolises the bond between the two states.

7 Water Pavilion of Lotus Fragrance

Enjoy panoramic views across the Lake of Brightness to distant pavilions and watch golden carp swim amidst the reflections on the still water. In summer, the magical fragrance of the flowering lotus (a symbol of purity and perfection) drifts across the lake.

10 Pavilions Among Bamboo and Rock

Featuring a traditional circular moongate, this intimate courtyard is a garden within a garden. Walls of bamboo and a running stream create the atmosphere of a secret garden offering glimpses of the nearby lake and waterfall.

12 The Seven Sages in Bamboo Forest

This peaceful grove of black bamboo evokes the Taoist retreat of a celebrated group of third century Chinese scholars and poets. Bamboo is a symbol of old age and humility, and is one of the 'Three Friends of Winter', along with the pine and flowering plum.

17 Twin Pavilion

With its unique double roof, this elegant pavilion was a gift from the people of Guangdong to the people of NSW and symbolises friendship and cooperation between the two states. The waratah, floral emblem of NSW and red silk cotton tree, floral emblem of Guangdong are depicted on the wood carvings.

18 The Gurr

Situated at the Garden's highest point is a beautiful hexagonal, two-storey building – the Pavilion of Clear View, known as the Gurr. The golden roof tiles and intricate wood carvings are gifts from Guangdong. The ornate lamp signifies prosperity.

22 The Rock Forest

Based on an ancient Chinese poem, the Rock Forest tells the story of the Dancing Maiden Ashima and the Landlord. There are several variations to this tragic love story, but it always culminates in the drowning of the beautiful Ashima, whose spirit is transformed into a beautiful 'dancing rock'.

i Dragon Rock

Dramatic rock forms rise from the Lake of Brightness symbolising mythical creatures. Dragons – seen throughout the Garden – occupy a very important place in Chinese mythology. They are seen as benevolent guardians and are associated with good fortune.



25 The Teahouse

Relax and contemplate the beauty of the Garden from the traditional Teahouse. With its classic architectural features, the Teahouse is the perfect spot to enjoy an authentic range of Chinese tea, dumplings, pastries and steamed buns. Other light meals and beverages are also available from the café-style menu.



9 Imperial costume hire

Slip into a traditional ornate silk gown based on designs from the Ming and Ching dynasties and be transformed into an emperor, princess or warrior. Costumes are available to fit adults and children. The costume hire shop is open daily from 12 noon to 5pm (closed during wet weather).

Price: Adults \$10, Children \$5

Garden tour

- 1 Main Entrance
Hall of Clear Shade
- 2 Commemorative Pavilion
- 3 Courtyard of Welcoming Fragrance
Penjing Exhibition
- 4 Hall of Longevity
- 5 Dragon Wall
- 6 Lenient Jade Pavilion
- 7 Water Pavilion of Lotus Fragrance
- 8 Round Pavilion
- 9 Chamber of Clear Rhythm
Imperial costume hire
- 10 Pavilions among Bamboo and Rock
- 11 Reading Brook Pavilion
- 12 The Seven Sages
in Bamboo Forest
- 13 Wandering Gallery
- 14 Dragon Tower
- 15 Waterfall
- 16 Rinsing Jade Pavilion
- 17 Twin Pavilion
- 18 The Gurr (Clear View Pavilion)
- 19 Cascading Brook
- 20 Sleeping Boy Buddha
- 21 Mountain Gate
- 22 Rock Forest and the Tale of
'Ashima & the Landlord'
- 23 Peace Boat Pavilion
- 24 Blue Room
- 24a Teahouse outdoor dining area
- 25 Teahouse Pavilion
- 26 Teahouse Annex – Jade Carriage
- 27 Aquatic Pavilion
- i Dragon Rock
- ii Tortoise Rock
- iii Phoenix Rock
- iv Unicorn Rock



Botanical highlights

- Spring**
- 1 Chinese Tree Peony *Paeonia*
- 2 Azalea *Rhododendron indicum*
'splendens'
- 3 Red Silk Cotton Tree *Bombax ceiba*
- 4 Port Wine Magnolia *Michelia figo*
- 5 Pomegranate *Punica granatum*
- Summer**
- 6 Lotus *Nelumbo nucifera*
- 7 Orange Jasmine *Murraya paniculata*
- 8 Osmanthus *Osmanthus fragrans*
- 9 Gardenia *Gardenia augusta* 'Florida'
- 10 Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica*
- 11 Frangipani *Plumeria acutifolia*
- Autumn**
- 12 Prince Of Orange *Ixora Chineseis*
- 13 Camellia *Camellia Sasanqua*
- 14 Persimmon *Diospyros kaki*
- 15 Buddhist Pine *Podocarpus elatus*
- Winter**
- 16 Waratah *Telopea speciosissima*
- 17 Hong Kong Rose *Rhodoleia championii*
- 18 Flowering Apricot *Prunus Mume*
- 19 Cherry Plum *Prunus cerasifera*
'Nigra'
- 20 Black Pine *Pinus thunbergii*