

Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness: A Tour of New Zealand

January 9 to 31, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness: A Tour of New Zealand

With Richard Lyon, R.L.A. and

Paul W. Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Director, Morris Arboretum

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Imagine... the trip of a lifetime. Under balmy skies you will visit some of nature's most spectacular scenery, interspersed with wonderful examples of New Zealand culture showcasing its gardens, architecture, artistic creations, fine cuisine and wine. Learn the history and culture of a land from those who love and care for it.

Imagine... a carefully designed itinerary developed with passion, just as a great piece of music or a celebrated garden. The concepts of sequence, contrast, surprise, rhythm, repetitions, theme and variations apply equally to music, gardens and to travel.

Garden Adventures, Ltd.

For nearly 20 years, Garden Adventures, Ltd. has been designing and leading tours to New Zealand. In January, 2016, we are proud to join forces for the seventh time to offer this opportunity to experience the mystery, beauty and hospitality of New Zealand. With Richard Lyon, R.L.A., and Paul Meyer who is returning for his third visit to New Zealand, you are invited to escape winter while you explore, learn and relax in the gardens and natural wonders of this extraordinary destination. This trip is offered exclusively to Morris Arboretum members and Penn alumni. For further information, please see our website: www.morrisarboretum.org or call or e-mail Michelle Wexler, Associate Director of Development at (215) 247-5777, ext.131 or wexlm@upenn.edu. You may also call or e-mail Richard Lyon at (610) 637-8592 or rlyon@wallacelandscape.com.





Itinerary

Saturday, January 9—Depart Los Angeles

Depart Los Angeles on Air New Zealand for the overnight flight to New Zealand. We recommend those with east coast connections arrive a day early to spend the night in L.A. and relax prior to departure.



Sunday, January 10—Cross International Dateline

Cross the International Dateline. We lose a day but don't worry. It will return as we cross the Dateline on our way home.

Monday, January 11—Auckland

(Breakfast-B, Dinner-D)

Welcome to New Zealand! We arrive in Auckland in early morning. After collecting baggage and clearing customs we check into our hotel, where we are pre-registered for early arrival. The rest of the morning is free for you to unpack, rest and experience your first impressions of New Zealand.



Our afternoon begins with a visit to the Auckland War Memorial Museum where we will enjoy a Maori cultural performance followed by a visit to "Totara Waters" a subtropical garden set on the shores of the Waitemata Harbor. This stunning garden features a variety of palms, bromeliads and cycads. It reflects the passion of the gardeners and the advantages of the gentle climate. Heading inland, we enjoy a relaxing visit to "Woodbridge", a five-acre country stroll garden. It features a whimsical potager, bog gardens, and colorful plant combinations. Follow its sinuous hedges to view spectacular vistas. Our day ends with a welcoming dinner in Woodbridge Garden as you get to know your fellow travelers. An early night will allow us to adjust to New Zealand time.



Itinerary (*continued*)

Tuesday, January 12—Waiheke Island (B, Lunch-L)

A short ferry ride takes us to Waiheke Island. This island's microclimate produces some of New Zealand's finest red wines. After a wine tour and al fresco lunch at Cable Bay Vineyards, our next stop is "Connell's Bay", a breathtaking property developed by John and Jo Gow. Their vision of uniting art with nature is apparent in the sweeps of native trees that form special spaces for site-specific New Zealand sculpture. We end the day with a ferry ride back to Auckland with time to enjoy waterfront dining and shopping.



Wednesday, January 13—Hamilton and Hobbiton (B, L, D)

Catch up on your sleep or explore Auckland's vibrant waterfront this morning. We make a leisurely late morning start for our visit to Hamilton Gardens where we will enjoy lunch followed by a guided tour. Hamilton Gardens is a fascinating collection of themed gardens including the Chinese Scholars Garden; American Modernist Garden; English Flower Garden; Italian Renaissance Garden and many more. After the tour you are free to explore this wonderland of garden creativity. The fantasy continues with a late afternoon guided visit to Hobbiton, the movie set for the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Explore Middle Earth, walk the gentle slopes of the shire and meet at the Green Dragon Inn for a dinner that would do a Hobbit proud.



Thursday, January 14—Tiritiri Matangi and Kawau Island (B, L, D)

Returning to the waters of the Hauraki Gulf, we travel north by ferry to the island of Tiritiri. An open bird sanctuary, this will be your first opportunity to appreciate New Zealand's rare bird ecology and the passionate volunteers who make it possible. After a guided bird walk at Tiritiri, we board a private ferry for lunch enroute to Kawau Island and Mansion House Bay. On Kawau an important chapter of New Zealand history is preserved in Mansion House, the home of one of the early and most influential governors, Sir George Grey. After a guided tour we board the ferry to Sandspit for Omaio Gardens. These fascinating gardens have been named for the Maori word for Peace and Plenty. Enjoy the peace and plenty of Omaio as we dine in lush garden surroundings.



Itinerary (*continued*)

Friday, January 15—South Island and Queenstown (B, L)

Leaving the North Island this morning, a short flight has us landing in Queenstown on the South Island. The islands of New Zealand are dramatically different in geology, climate and to some extent culture. Today we begin to experience these dramatic differences. Queenstown is a spectacular alpine resort nestled in the Southern Alps on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. After enjoying the food and wine of the central Otago Plain at a local vineyard, a short bus ride takes us to the site where modern day Bungee Jumping was pioneered. En route back to Queenstown we visit the garden of Janet Blair—a testimony to one woman's creative talent and hard work. We then drive on to our lakeside hotel within an easy walk of the town and the botanic gardens.



Saturday, January 16—Queenstown (B)

Today is a free day in Queenstown offering the opportunity of exploration, excitement or relaxation. Ride a jet boat up the Dart River into Mt. Aspiring National Park, true Lord of the Rings country. Catch a steamship across Lake Wakatipu or ride the gondola to see stunning alpine views. White-water rafting, hiking, golf, shopping or bus tours are a few of the many possibilities available to you for a great day spent at your own pace.



Sunday, January 17—Doubtful Sound (B, D)

This morning we head to Fjordland National Park in Southland, where we catch a ferry ride across Lake Manapouri. This lake is considered to be New Zealand's most beautiful, carved by glaciers and surrounded by immense and ancient temperate rainforests. After our ferry ride we board a specially-built coach to cross over Wilmont Pass which will bring us close to immense tree ferns, tree fuchsia, tree daisy and the incredible natural habitat that has adapted to over 20 feet of rainfall per year. We then board our well-appointed yacht, with private cabins, to begin our cruise of Doubtful Sound with its towering peaks, cascading waterfalls and abundant wildlife. After dropping anchor for the night, we enjoy dinner and breakfast on board.





Itinerary (*continued*)

Monday January 18—To Stewart Island (B, L, D)

Returning by Ferry, we board our coach to travel to Invercargill, one of the southernmost cities in the world. Traces of Scottish speech and streets named for Scottish rivers remind us that this city was once a Scottish settlement of whalers and fishermen. After a picnic lunch enroute, our next stop is Bluff and our Ferry to Stewart Island. The Island lies far south in the “Roaring Forties”. The weather is often unpredictable, but the climate is surprisingly temperate. 85% of the island is National Parkland, and the island only has 390 human inhabitants as well as 20,000 kiwi birds. We settle in at the South Sea Hotel, the social hub of the island and, over dinner, we begin to sample a slower, simpler lifestyle attuned to the natural world of bush, beach, beer and ocean.

This evening we dine in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of a New Zealand Pub. After dinner we have a unique opportunity to see nocturnal kiwi fossicking for food in the bush and along the beach. The Southern Cross lights up a starlit sky and only the great Southern Ocean separates us from Antarctica.



Tuesday, January 19—Stewart Island/Ulva Island (B, L, D)

Today we experience the best land and sea birding in New Zealand. We begin by visiting Ulva Island. Largely unmodified the island offers excellent habitat and food for native birds, which makes it ideal for bird watching. Lunch is served aboard our launch as we explore the rich coastal waters surrounding the island where albatross and penguins are often seen. After the days bird watching you are free to explore the island on your own. Diner will once again be served at the pub with the evening free to relax or further explore the island.





Itinerary (*continued*)

Wednesday, January 20— To Dunedin (B, L)

Leaving Stewart Island by Ferry, we return to the mainland passing through the fertile, rural farmland of Southland. Our first stop is "Maple Glen", the home, farm and gardens of the Davison family. Landscaping on a grand scale, Muriel has transformed the farm surrounding the homestead into parkland. Enroute to Dunedin we enjoy lunch at Gore. Late afternoon has us arriving in Dunedin. Once New Zealand's largest city, it boasts a rich Scottish heritage and a treasure trove of Victorian and Edwardian Architecture. From our downtown hotel you are free to explore this vibrant university city for the evening.



Thursday, January 21— In Dunedin (B)

Today we explore Dunedin, its magnificent harbor and the rugged Otago Peninsula. Close to the heart of the city, the Dunedin Botanic Garden is New Zealand's oldest botanic garden. A Victorian style pleasure garden, it is internationally recognized for its excellent botanic collections. To visit Historic Olverton House is to experience the historic and aesthetic delights of early New Zealand when gold and wool ruled and Dunedin was the economic powerhouse of the country. The afternoon is yours to enjoy Dunedin's rich urban lifestyle from our downtown hotel.

Friday, January 22—To Mt. Cook (B, L, D)

An early start takes us north as we follow the Pacific Coast. Our first stop is a visit to the gardens and quarry of the Wilson family, where we are treated to a tour of the quarry and morning tea in Wilson's garden. Next we visit historic Oamaru, a fascinating picture of the prosperous 1880's when lamb and wool ruled the economy. As we travel inland, following the Waitiki River, we sample the elegant wines of the famous Ostler winery during a leisurely lunch with the vineyard owners. As we continue on to Mt. Cook we climb to higher altitudes and a unique landscape unfolds. Our lodging at the historic Hermitage Hotel is located at the base of the soaring peaks of Mount Cook, the highest peak in New Zealand. Dinner will be served in the famous Panorama Room with breathtaking views all around.





Itinerary (*continued*)

Saturday, January 23—Mt. Cook (B)

Today offers many opportunities to explore the alpine terrain on foot, cruise and alpine lake or take a helicopter ride to explore from above. From our hotel, trails lead out through the national park to the foot of the glaciers tumbling down from the Southern Alps. Visit the Hilary Center, a tribute to Sir Edmund Hilary, our most famous Kiwi explorer. Choose from a selection of adventures and activities or curl up with a good book and enjoy the stunning views from your room.



Sunday, January 24—To Akaora (B, L)

Leaving Mount Cook, we descend to the Canterbury Plains, New Zealand's largest expanse of flat land—rich in European history and farming traditions. We visit two homes to enjoy lunch and afternoon tea while learning the area's colonial past and its connections to the wonderful gardens surrounding these historic homesteads and farms. We have the opportunity to learn about the business of farming, New Zealand's largest commercial endeavor, as we visit with two young couples who are carrying on the farming tradition in this rural setting. This evening we arrive at Akaora, a quaint seaside hamlet with a rich French legacy, where you are free to explore and enjoy the local cuisine.



Monday, January 25—Akaroa (B, D)

This morning is free to enjoy Akaroa Harbor. Surrounding bays and spectacular coastline offer an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty, water sports and wildlife of New Zealand. Akaroa town is full of cafes, shops and artisans studios for those who enjoy a more cosmopolitan experience. After lunch we leave town and head to the end of Banks Peninsula to sample the hospitality and dramatic gardens of Fisherman's Bay Garden for a tour and afternoon tea. This evening we meet Josie Martin, a vivacious and colorful sculptor, painter and mosaic artist. Her unique home and gardens showcase an ambitious collection of her work. In this wonderful setting we enjoy dinner and an unforgettable evening of relaxation and fun as the sun sets over the surrounding hills.





Itinerary (*continued*)

Tuesday, January 26—To Christchurch (B, L)

Departing Akaroa we pause for morning tea at “Ohinetahi”, the gardens of Sir Miles Warren. This historic home and gardens were destroyed in the 2010 earthquake, but have been completely rebuilt. They are now, in the words of Sir Miles, “better than ever”. A short drive takes us to the Christchurch Botanic Garden where we enjoy lunch at the Curators Cottage. After lunch choose either a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens or a walking tour of downtown Christchurch with an opportunity to learn about the remarkable rebuilding of the city after a catastrophic earthquake five years ago. The evening is free for you to explore this beautiful city and enjoy its dynamic revitalization as it looks to the future.



Wednesday January 27—To Blenheim (B, L, D)

Leaving Christchurch we travel through stunning scenery across the Canterbury Plains and North on the Pacific Highway to the small coastal Hamlet of Kaikoura. Rich in sea life and Maori history, Kaikoura offers the opportunity to understand the rich heritage of the Maori people and to interact with them.

Leaving the coast we head inland to the Marlborough wine region. Marlborough, is known as the culinary capital of New Zealand. With over 100 vineyards, it produces New Zealand's well-known white wines, including the internationally respected Sauvignon Blancs.

The deep clean waters of Marlborough Sound produce much of New Zealand's delicious seafood. Arriving at our hotel, set amongst the vineyards of Blenheim, we conclude our day at a boutique winery where we sample the local cuisine and wines.





Itinerary (*continued*)

Thursday January 28—To Wellington (B, L)

The Marlborough region is known for its white wine production and abundant gardens. Our first stop, "Hortensia", is the expression of a passionate gardener's vision with its bold textures and plant combinations. A complete contrast in styles, our next garden is "Upton Oaks" where a light luncheon is served. "Upton Oaks" is a colonial garden designed and maintained with incredible attention to detail. Late this afternoon we depart on the interisland ferry through the protected waters of Marlborough Sound to arrive as dusk falls and lights glimmer throughout Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.



Friday, January 29— Wellington (B, L)

Our day begins with a tour of Government House grounds. The gardens surrounding the home of New Zealand's Governor General were extensively re-designed in 1990 to include many of New Zealand native species. After our tour of we depart for "Springfield", the home of Ruth Petty, who is recognized as New Zealand's top caterer where we will pause to enjoy a garden lunch. After lunch we depart for the coastal village of Waikanae and the gardens of Julian and Liz Matthews. This historically significant garden has been in the Matthews family for generations. Julian and his Canadian born wife will share the horticultural history of his family. Our last garden of the day is the home of one of New Zealand's leading landscape architects. He and his wife have created surprising floating gardens surrounding their contemporary home. After a very full day we return to our hotel and a free evening to sample the international restaurant scene in Wellington.





Itinerary (*continued*)

Saturday January 30— Wellington (B, D)

Today you are free to explore New Zealand's lively capital city. Wellington has a wealth of fascinating sights and experiences. Enjoy the striking and at times whimsical architecture of the city as you take a leisurely walk along Oriental Bay. Ride the historic Cable Car for stunning views from the lookout over the city and Te Whanganui-a-Tara Harbor and easy access to many of Wellington's top attractions such as the Cable Car Museum, Botanic Garden, and Carter Observatory & Planetarium. Art galleries and farmer's markets abound. A short walk takes you to Te Papa Tongarewa Museum for a demonstration of the cultural heritage of New Zealand. This evening gather for a farewell dinner to celebrate a Garden Adventure shared with new friends.



Sunday, January 31—To Los Angeles (B)

The morning is free for you to explore, shop and pack. Wellington offers many opportunities to keep busy until it is time to catch an afternoon flight back to Auckland and the evening flight to Los Angeles. We hope you have enjoyed this sampling of New Zealand gardens, wine, and wilderness. We hope you will return to see more of this most beautiful, safe and hospitable of countries.



Cost and Booking Details

Tour Pricing

Tour price without airfare: \$9620.00 (approximate)

Tour Price including airfare to and from LA: \$12,220 (approximate)

- Price is based on double occupancy.
- Single Supplement: \$2200 (approximate)
- Cost based on 20 participants. Tour maximum is 22.
- Changes in US currency may affect tour price at time of final invoice

Current tour price is based on the exchange rate of \$1NZ=\$0.80US.

Final pricing 90 days prior to departure.

This tour may operate if number of participants falls below 20, but this may result in a price adjustment.

Price Includes:

- Price with airfare is coach class Los Angeles to Auckland
- All internal flights within New Zealand as per itinerary, coach class
- All taxes including departure tax
- All accommodations (double occupancy) for 21 nights
- Breakfasts, lunches and dinners as per itinerary
- Inter-island ferry service
- All cruises, activities and admissions as listed
- Exclusive itinerary, gardens, public landscapes, national parks and wineries with New Zealand landscape architect, Richard Lyon
- The entire tour is accompanied by Richard Lyon and Paul Meyer
- A \$500 donation to the Morris Arboretum is included

Price does not include:

- Transportation costs to L.A.
- Meals not listed on the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature—laundry, cocktails, etc.



Cost and Booking Details (*continued*)

Flight Information:

All flights international and domestic NZ flights are with Air New Zealand.

Please contact Richard Lyon at (610) 637-8592 for information on international flight upgrades (premium zeconomy, business class) and connecting domestic flights within the U.S.

Hotel Details

- Stamford Plaza, Auckland, January 11-14
 - Novotel Lakeside, Queenstown, January 15-16
 - Fiordland Navigator, Doubtful Sound, January 17
 - South Seas Hotel, Stewart Island, January 18-19
 - Southern Cross Hotel, Dunedin, January 20-21
 - Hermitage, Mt. Cook January 22-23
 - Akaroa Village Inn, Akaroa, January 24-25
 - Rydges Hotel, Christchurch, January 26
 - Marlborough Vitners Inn, Blenheim, January 27
 - Amora Hotel, Wellington, January 28-30
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Trip Booking and Contact Information

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