Natural Landscapes and Gardens of New Zealand
11 - 29 November 2014

TOUR CODE 21433
TOUR PRICE (Land Content Only)
$8690.00 (early bird-special) or $8890.00

PHYSICAL ENDURANCE LEVEL ★★★
TOUR LECTURER Stephen Ryan
TOUR MANAGER Craig Lidgerwood
Revised itinerary 5 March 2014
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Join Stephen Ryan and Craig Lidgerwood on this diverse and fascinating exploration of New Zealand’s glorious natural landscapes and gardens.

NORTH ISLAND

- Encounter 1000 year old kauri trees in an untouched area of rainforest in the Waitakere National Park and walk through the glade of gnarled, centuries-old pohutukawas trees at Karekare Beach.
- Meet landscape architect Trish Bartleet and view one of her residential projects outside Auckland.
- Visit private gardens in the Auckland area including Liz Morrow’s 18-acre coastal garden Omaio, Mincher, Woodbridge and Ayrlies Gardens.
- Explore Mt Egmont National Park with an expert guide - a unique environment created by the volcano Taranaki.
- Explore with its curator the internationally renowned rhododendron garden, Pukeiti, the intimate private garden of Guy and Jenny Oakley and Pukekura Park.

SOUTH ISLAND

- Explore the beautiful Marlborough Region, famous for its traditional gardens and viticulture. Enjoy the hospitality of the garden owners at the MacFadden’s magical Winterhome, Huguette Michel’s Mortensa and Carolyn Fersby’s Barewood Garden.
- Relax with a glass of local wine and a tasting platter at the Allan Scott Winery, lunch at La Veranda restaurant, and take morning tea at Upton Oaks Garden.
- Travel the rugged west coast and visit Fox Glacier and Mount Cook on the journey south through Westland National Park.
- Spend 2 nights at the Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge, in the heart of Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area where local experts will take you through the rainforest into the habitats of glow-worms, Morepork Owls, fur seals and Fiordland Crested Penguins.
- Meet Philip Blakely and Paddy Baxter, two of New Zealand’s award-winning landscape architects who will show us some of their most recent work including the Routeburn Track, Millbrook Resort and Blanket Bay Lodge.
- Travel through the Fiordland NP encompassing mountain, lake, fiord and rainforest environments.
- Conclude with a relaxing overnight cruise aboard the Milford Mariner and explore the full length of Milford Sound!

ABOUT THE TOUR

Join Stephen Ryan, horticulturalist, author and broadcaster, on a tour of New Zealand’s extraordinary variety of gardens: public and private, panoramic and intimate, formal, semi-tropical and native. For 80 million years New Zealand was geographically isolated from the rest of the world. This explains the uniqueness of islands’ indigenous flora which developed in isolation from the ancient flora of Gondwanaland (the great continent from which New Zealand, Australia, Africa, South America and the sub-continent, etc. emerged) or from the few species that somehow arrived across the oceans from elsewhere. This unique development on the North Island was influenced, in part, by volcanic activity, which produced rich soils. The islands’ unique mountain topography (the south island is dominated by an alpine spine), its distinctive temperate climate, its rich soils and endemic vegetation, have molded the identity of both its Maori and European populations, expressed, in part, in how New Zealanders have gardened their new homeland. These unique features have, for example, confronted gardeners with interesting choices such as whether or not to perpetuate European gardening traditions, to reject them completely, or to create fascinating syntheses between inherited forms and inventions borne of interactions between European memory and an unfamiliar environment.

On this tour we trace New Zealand’s diverse gardening traditions that were shaped by its exceptional environment, and fine examples of the country’s unique flora, at notable gardens. These include Mincher, Woodbridge and Ayrlies Garden near Auckland, and, in the Marlborough region, the magical Winterhome and Barewood gardens. In New Plymouth we visit Pukeiti, considered New Zealand’s premier rhododendron garden set in a 320-hectare rainforest property on the volcanic slopes of Mount Taranaki. Enhancing our program is the opportunity to meet with some of New Zealand’s leading landscape architects who will introduce us to their gardens, including Robert Watson in Christchurch and Trish Bartleet in Auckland. On the Takatu peninsula to the north of Auckland, Executive Officer of the New Zealand Gardens Trust, Liz Morrow, will join us at her 18-acre coastal garden Omaio, a Maori name meaning ‘place of peace and tranquility’. In Auckland we will visit the residence of Ron Sang, the garden of which was designed by Ted Smyth, one of New Zealand’s most eminent landscape architects. Philip Blakely of Blakely Wallace Associates will accompany the group on visits to some of his company’s latest projects in the Queenstown area.

We shall also explore New Zealand’s awesome wilderness along the beautiful Tasman Coast, enjoy an overnight cruise on Milford Sound, and pass the magnificent Fox Glacier in Westland’s National Park. A special feature of the tour is our 2-night stay at Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge, where local specialists will introduce native forest plants and the Fiordland Crested Penguins. The tour also visits historic towns like Queenstown, important museums, and some of New Zealand’s best wineries where we shall savour the country’s new pinots!
TOUR MANAGER

Craig's working life began in the arts but moved to the travel industry 24 years ago. He has since travelled extensively, recording, photographing and drawing plants in their natural habitat.

In the late 1980's Craig studied drawing and watercolour at the Council of Adult Education, Melbourne, and art classes in the Macedon Ranges. From 2006 to 2011 Craig attended botanic art classes with renowned artist Anita Barley and attended various botanic art workshops through the Mt Macedon Horticultural Society with established botanic artists.

In 2008 he illustrated Stephen Ryan’s book, the Dicksonia Rare Plants Manual and in 2010 Craig and his artwork were featured on ABC television’s Sunday arts programme, Art Nation.

Exhibitions include The Art of Botanical Illustration 2010 & 2012, Melbourne Botanic Gardens; Botanica 2012 & 2013, Sydney Botanic Gardens, Capturing Flora: 300 years of Australian botanical art, a major retrospective at the Ballarat Art Gallery (2012), and also in 2012 Craig’s first solo exhibition, An Inquisitive Eye: the Botanical Art of Craig Lidgerwood was held at the Sofitel Hotel, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Craig’s passion for travel has seen him visit parts of Eastern Europe, South America, South and Eastern Africa, Madagascar, India, North Western USA, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Craig is an adventurous traveler, trekking in Eastern Nepal, Kilimandjaro, the Andes and the Inca Trail, Darjeeling and Sikkim. Craig has also spent three months walking in southwest France and the French Pyrénées.


GUEST LECTURERS/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Guest Lecturer: Auckland

Trish Bartleef is one of the most original and confident landscape designers in Auckland. She has worked on various projects over the years in tandem with different architects, and has a reputation for creating edgy gardens that challenge convention. From her background working in art and fashion and from her interest in design, Trish became fascinated by how plants can be used to create combinations of patterns and textures that lead to a visual reaction. Her gardens display a New Zealand identity and she uses a lot of natives in her designs, highlighting their form and texture through an innovative use of materials and structural planting with distinctive contrasting combinations. Trish is also passionate about travel, which offers her a great source of inspiration. A favourite is the Chaumont Garden Festival in France’s Loire Valley, which is synonymous with showcasing groundbreaking trends.

Guest Lecturers: Queenstown

Philip Blakely an award-winning landscape architect and partner at Blakely Wallace Associates based in Arrowtown, 20 km from Queenstown. On winning two gold awards at the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Resene Pride of Place Landscape Awards, Philip said of his team “One of our key strengths is to plan and design developments so that they relate to their site and context, yet are visually appealing and highly functional.”

Paddy Baxter established Baxter Design Group with Jeff Brown in 1998. He is now co-director with Brooke Mitchell. BDG is involved with many high profile projects throughout the region with an extensive portfolio covering urban and rural landscape master-planning, resort development, public streetscape and parks, rural subdivision, residential design and landscape assessment. Paddy Baxter has received several awards during the course of his career including major NZILA awards for the Queenstown Village Green, Millbrook Resort and a National Award for Blanket Bay Lodge.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Tour members will receive prior to departure practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers see: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Essential items: Comfortable walking shoes/boots, waterproof jacket, woollen sweater/fleece jacket, sunscreen/sunglasses, insect repellent, overnight bag required for the Milford Sound Cruise.
PHYSICAL ENDURANCE LEVEL

3 STAR ★☆☆

The number of stars (indicated next to each tour code) is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One star (★) is given to the least taxing tours, six to the most. Stars are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 19-day tour involves:

• A moderate amount of walking mainly during outdoor site visits, often up and down hills (incl. steep inclines in Mt Egmont National Park) and/or flights of stairs, and uneven terrain along rainforest and lowland forest tracks (eg Lake Moeraki)

• The daily schedule often involves an early-morning departure (between 8.00-8.30am and on some days at 7.00am), concluding in the late afternoon (between 5.30-6.30pm)

Other considerations:

• 3 to 4-star hotels with six hotel changes and one overnight cruise at Milford Sound

• Extensive coach travel and long driving distances, which on some days are in excess of 300km (eg. Auckland to New Plymouth on Day 5, Blenheim to Greymouth on Day 11, Greymouth to Lake Moeraki on Day 12; return drive Queenstown to Milford Sound on Days 17 & 18)

• 1 internal flight from Wellington to Blenheim; 1 overnight cruise in Milford Sound

• Coach travelling is often on minor roads. There is also some travel along steep and winding mountain roads (on days we travel along the west coast of the South Island, Milford Sound, Queenstown, Mt Egmont National Park)

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA’s directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the Booking Conditions on the last page of this tour itinerary.

ACCOMMODATION

All hotels are rated 3- or 4-star and are conveniently situated in the city centre. A special feature of this tour is our overnight cruise on board the Milford Mariner at Milford Sound and our stay at the Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge set in the untouched rainforest and spectacular beaches of the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. Further information on hotels will be provided in the ‘Tour Hotel List’ given to tour members prior to their departure. A summary of accommodation is given below:

• Copthorne Hotel, Auckland (4 nights) modern 4-star hotel located on the waterfront with views over Waitemata Harbour, and within easy walking distance of many shops, restaurants and bars. www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthorneharbourcity/

• Waterfront Hotel, New Plymouth (3 nights) New Plymouth’s newest and only hotel on the waterfront, located just a stroll away from the central business and shopping district. www.waterfront.co.nz

• Copthorne Hotel Marlborough, Blenheim (3 nights) boutique hotel located within an easy five minute walk from Blenheim’s town centre, in the heart of Marlborough’s supreme wine region, surrounded by the stunning Marlborough Sounds; www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/copthornemarlborough

• Kingsgate Hotel, Greymouth (1 night) a modern 3 star hotel located in the city centre. www.millenniumhotels.co.nz/kingsgategreymouth/index.html

• Wilderness Lodge, Lake Moeraki (2 nights) this wilderness lodge landscaped in a lakeside clearing surrounded by 1000 year old rainforest trees offers secluded rooms with private facilities, and features the ‘Riverside Restaurant’ with peaceful views of the nearby river. www.wildernesslodge.co.nz/lakemoeraki

• Novotel Lakeside, Queenstown (3 nights) modern hotel located right in the centre of town, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu with stunning views across Queenstown Bay to Walter Peak. www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-5308-novotel-queenstown-lakeside/index.shtml

• The Milford Mariner, Milford Sound (1 night) this cruise ship with a capacity of 60 passengers will journey the length of the stunning Milford Sound fiord and anchor for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. The ship offers twin-bedded cabins with en-suite bathrooms. www.realjourneys.co.nz/Main/OvernightCruises

• Novotel Lakeside, Queenstown (1 night) - as above - www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-5308-novotel-queenstown-lakeside/index.shtml

Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided. 

TOUR ITINERARY

The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. The tour price includes breakfast daily, lunches/picnics and evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch/packed picnic and D=dinner meal.

Day 1: Tuesday 11 November, Arrive Auckland

The tour begins in Auckland. Those travelling on the designated flight will be transferred by private coach to the hotel. In the evening we will enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Auckland) D
Day 2: Wednesday 12, Day excursion to the West Coast & Waitakere Ranges Regional Park

- Hynds garden, Piha, with landscape designer Trish Bartleet

This morning we depart by coach for the Arataki Visitor Information Centre, situated within Auckland’s largest regional park, Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. The Centre’s decks offer breathtaking panoramic views extending from the Tasman Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Inside, displays explain the history, flora and fauna of the region, accompanied by some beautifully carved Maori guardian posts.

We next journey to the wild and rugged West Coast. In Piha, landscape designer Trish Bartleet will show us one of her favourite gardens, Hynds Garden. Its contemporary design uses weathered steel and rocks to enhance the landscape and plantings that are predominantly native. The garden is not very large but is intensively planted and the spaces around the house are so designed to extend the illusion of broad boundaries. The house itself has been featured in numerous magazines, having won the New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene New Zealand Awards for Architecture in 2005. It enjoys a spectacular panoramic view over Piha Beach and the Tasman Sea.

After enjoying a ‘kiwi-style’ picnic lunch at Piha, we drive to Karekare to visit a magnificent rugged West Coast beach. You will have a chance to stroll through a glade of centuries-old, gnarled pohutukawa trees and along its unique black, iron, sands and enjoy the fresh ocean breeze. The sea here has marvellous surf, some of the most consistently grand breakers in the world; the sea is seldom calm.

We travel back to Auckland through the Waitakere Ranges and the Cascades Kauri Park, where we pause for another walk through an area of untouched rainforest containing mature 1,000 year-old Kauri trees. Millions of years of physical isolation has led to the evolution of New Zealand’s unique flora and fauna; 70% of its native plants are found nowhere else in the world. Our local guide will explain the native species as we walk amongst the park’s famous Kauri trees and giant tree ferns, observing its distinctive native birds. (Overnight Auckland) BL

Day 3: Thursday 13 November, Auckland – Warkworth – Coatesville – Auckland

- Brick Bay Sculpture Trail
- Omaio Garden
- Woodbridge Gardens
- Mincher Garden

Today we drive an hour north of Auckland to the Tekaku Peninsula, where we visit the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, a 2km route through a remarkable landscape of towering trees and plants, and abundant bird-life, built to showcase up to 30 pieces of contemporary sculpture by established and emerging artists.

Nearby, we visit Omaio Garden, owned by Liz Morrow, the Executive Officer of the New Zealand Garden Trust. ‘Omaio’ is the Maori word for ‘place of peace, quiet and tranquility’. Much of the planting in this garden is native, but it also incorporates other features such as a vegetable garden and an orchard. Liz will introduce her garden and will host our lunch.
On our way back to Auckland we stop at Coatesville where we visit Woodbridge Gardens. These are owned by Christine and Tony Peek who in 1991 began to transform bare 8 acre farmland into a space of plants, trees and flowers. The garden, which incorporates both native and imported flora, as well as water features, is renowned for its glorious vistas and spring plantings which should be at their finest at the time of our visit.

We also visit Mincher, a semi-formal garden established (1995) on the site of market gardens. A white horse chestnut-lined driveway leads to the garden and ponds surrounding a Neo-Georgian family home. Within a framework of mature trees backed by native bush, Angela Spooner has established herbaceous borders, a formal parterre and a shrubbery with topiarised acmenas. Her favourite species include roses, daylilies and three varieties of ilex or holly. They form hedging as well as stand-alone specimens. A silver birch copse is under-planted with bluebells and daffodils. These provide early spring colour, augmented by daffodils around the cottage garden and ornamental cherries in the spring garden.

(Overnight Auckland) BL

Day 4: Friday 14 November, Auckland – Whitford – Epsom – Auckland
• Ayrlies, Whitford
• Auckland Botanic Gardens
• Epsom Residence (Architect Ron Sang’s private residence; garden by Ted Smyth). Subject to Confirmation in 2014

This morning we visit one of New Zealand’s premier gardens, Ayrlies, located just outside Auckland in Whitford. Ayrlies covers nearly 5 hectares, with ponds, waterfalls, spacious lawns, mature trees, beyond which it offers constant glimpses of the sea. Traditional rose and shrubbery borders counterpoint tropical gullies, native outcrops, and arid gardens of succulents, all set amid stonewalls, summerhouses and many restful seating areas.

We return to the city to visit the Auckland Botanic Gardens. These gardens boast over 10,000 plants from around the world – a remarkable number for a garden that only opened to the public in 1982. Since then, the Auckland Botanic Gardens has been the recipient of numerous awards, particularly in the areas of conservation and education. After our visit, there will be time at leisure to allow you eat and appetising light lunch at the Gardens’ excellent Cafe Miko.

We next travel south of Auckland to visit architect Ron Sang’s private residence and garden at Epsom. The extraordinary ultra-modern house that Ron designed for himself is surrounded by a lush garden designed by noted New Zealand landscape architect, Ted Smyth. The house features a startling pool courtyard from which the lush plantings may be viewed through vast sheets of glass. Ron, who has a very fine art collection, has collaborated with Ted, arguably New Zealand’s most internationally renowned garden designer, since 1963. After viewing this powerful combination of fine garden and contemporary house architecture, we return to Auckland. (Overnight Auckland) B
Day 5: Saturday 15 November, Auckland – Hamilton – New Plymouth

- Hamilton Gardens
- Evening lecture: The Geology of New Plymouth

We drive south today, descending from Auckland to the Waikato Plain and thence to Hamilton, a city of with beautiful and extensive Botanical Gardens. After exploring the Chinese Scholars Garden, the Japanese Garden of Contemplation, the Italian Renaissance Garden, the English Flower Garden and more, we continue south to New Plymouth.

On arrival, we shall transfer to our waterfront hotel located at the centre of New Plymouth. This evening we meet our local host, Ross Eden, who will present a lecture on the unique geology of New Plymouth, whose volcano, Mount Taranaki (Mount Egmont) has created a distinctive microclimate, and inspired a number of Maori legends. Ross has over 25 years of mountaineering experience and has a wealth of knowledge on the New Plymouth area, having established over 20 new rock routes on Mt Taranaki and written three guidebooks on climbing within the region. (Overnight New Plymouth) B

Day 6: Sunday 16 November, New Plymouth Area

- Guided walk of Egmont National Park
- Pukekura Park

We spend this morning in the company of Ross Eden who will lead us on a walk along the slopes of Mt Taranaki to observe a progression of plant species and learn about the distinctive vegetation of this stunning natural park. We first drive to the North Egmont Te Wai Whaikato Visitors Centre, located in a historic camp house that housed a local regiment during the 1860 Taranaki Land Wars before being relocated to its present site, 960 metres above sea level. From here we walk along the “Veronica Loop Track” which climbs to approximately 1100 metres before descending again. The vegetation begins at lower altitudes with dwarf kamahi and montane totara that give way to tree daisy and leatherwood as we ascend. Along the track various mosses and ferns grow among turpentine, broom and tutu. We will also see orisia and tutukiwi (hooded orchids) that bloom in late spring.

Note: for those preferring a less strenuous walk, there is the option to follow one of the easier loop walks departing from the Visitor Centre and to enjoy some refreshments at the café while waiting for your fellow group members to return.

In the afternoon we shall visit one of New Zealand’s garden highlights, Pukekura Park, one of the country’s premier botanical gardens, once a treeless, swampy valley in 1876. The visionary Robert Clinton Hughes assured the passing of New Zealand’s Botanical Gardens Bill that enabled the park to be founded. In 1878 the main lake was formed, followed in 1884 by ‘Poets Bridge’, built from the winnings of a horse race. A bandstand (1888) and, to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, a drinking fountain was unveiled (1897). The park was named ‘Pukekura’ in 1907, the name taken from the stream that runs through it. A fernery followed in 1928 and a waterfall in 1970.

Pukekura Park’s Fernery and Display Houses offer stunning and inviting visual experiences all year round they are heated in winter, offering a sumptuous array of colour and texture. We shall visit the garden with the Park’s curator. (Overnight New Plymouth) B
Day 7: Monday 17 November, New Plymouth Area
• Pukeiti
• Oakley Garden, Manaia

The New Plymouth region is dominated both visually and ecologically by Mount Tararaki. The mountain is one of the most symmetrical volcanic cones in the world, rising 2,518 metres out of the surrounding plain, a mere ten-minute drive from the coastline. Mount Egmont National Park, which embraces both Mt Tararaki and the older, heavily eroded sister volcanoes in the nearby Kaitake Range, also features lush temperate rainforests. Over 50 rivers and streams flow down from the mountain and the whole region has an utterly unique botany. It contains a wide variety of vegetation, from sub-tropical semi-coastal forest in the Kaitake ranges to sub-alpine herb fields at an altitude of 1800 metres on the main cone. We shall explore the exceptional challenges and opportunities that this unique has to present garden designers.

The jewel in the region’s crown is Pukeiti, New Zealand’s premier rhododendron garden, where over 10,000 rhododendrons and azaleas bloom within the magnificent rainforest covering the lower slopes of Mount Tararaki. The garden was established to regenerate an area that had once been logged; it was replanted with rimu and other podocarps. It is very large, with many tracks winding through the rainforest. Careful pest control has protected the garden, which now boasts a large number of native birds (eg tui, bellbird, pigeon, fantail, waxeye, cuckoo and whitehead). Mountain streams provide habitat for rare and endangered native fish. Special care has been taken to provide a colourful variety of flowerings throughout the year. In November the garden is alive with colour. Herbaceous plantings, alpines, primulas, hostas and thousands of bulbs dominate the garden until the giant Himalayan lilies flower in December. We shall lunch at Pukeiti’s Gatehouse Café.

After lunch we drive along the coast to Manaia, to the garden of Guy and Jenny Oakley. Jenny’s love of gardening, informed by a formal education in landscape design & horticulture, is expressed palpably in this large family garden. Although only 2km from the coast, this well established shelter provides a haven from the elements, with garden rooms linked by hedge-lined paths. Features include cottage style plantings, early flowering roses, a vegetable potager and stunning hanging baskets. (Overnight New Plymouth) BL

Day 8: Tuesday 18 November, New Plymouth – Wellington – Blenheim
• Puke Ariki Museum, New Plymouth
• Allan Scott Winery, Blenheim

This morning we shall make a short visit to the Puke Ariki museum with its fascinating exhibits displaying the natural history of this region, and how it has shaped the history and culture of the New Plymouth area. This ground-breaking knowledge centre combines a library, museum, research and visitor information centre.

We shall next transfer to New Plymouth Airport to fly to Wellington and transfer to our flight to Blenheim on the South Island. From our base in Blenheim we shall explore the beautiful landscapes of the Marlborough region, at the northeast corner of New Zealand’s South Island. This region is blessed with the more hours of sunshine than any other in New Zealand, and as a result it is here that we find
both magnificent gardens and a vast number of vineyards, for which the area is famous. After disembarking, we shall drive to Allan Scott Winery for a wine tasting and refreshments, before proceeding to our hotel. **(Overnight Blenheim)** B

**Day 9: Wednesday 19 November, Marlborough Region**
- London Hill Garden
- Winterhome Garden
- Barewood Garden

Our first visit today is to London Hill, where Dennis and Barbara Burkhart have established a fine garden since 1998. Overlooking Lake Elterwater, London Hill Gardens enjoys magnificent views of Ben More and Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku. A lookout above the homestead also provides magnificent views. Exposed each year to the full range of climates, the garden reveals how havens can exist in the harshest environments. Here, beds of roses, lavender and catmint have been developed amidst old, well-established trees.

We will also visit the Winterhome garden at Kekerengu. Positioned on a cliff with dramatic views over the Pacific Ocean, Winterhome is renowned for its powerful design combining the classic cross axes with plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials. The garden features a rose garden with formal box edging, an orchard and a canal garden.

After lunch at Winterhome’s The Store café, considered one of the best eateries in the Malborough region, we will drive through the Awatere Valley to Barewood Garden. Owned by Joe and Carolyn Ferraby, this garden surrounds a rambling old homestead. Wisteria and old-fashioned roses frame its wide verandahs and mature trees surround its garden. Colourful mixed borders, a summer house, a formal potager, a pond with carefully tended water plants and sweeping lawns all combine to make this one of the premier gardens of the region. **(Overnight Blenheim)** BL

**Day 10: Thursday 20 November, Marlborough Region**
- Upton Oaks Garden
- Hortensia Garden
- ‘La Verandah’ Restaurant
- Moritaki Garden

Today we continue to explore the Marlborough region. We start our day with a visit to Upton Oaks Garden, a beautifully restored romantic garden outside Blenheim. Upton’s showpiece is a knot garden in the style of the 17th century, where box hedges encase beds filled with colourful flowers.

Hortensia Garden, the next stop on our program, is the creation of artist Huguette Michel, whose French origins are expressed in the Impressionist inspiration of this lovely garden. We then break for lunch at ‘La Verandah’ Restaurant. This fine restaurant, located in a huge Victorian villa, is part of Huguette’s husband George Michel’s wine estate.

Peter and Andrea Forrest’s Moritaki Garden, situated at the foot of Withers Hills, is the third beautiful garden on today’s program. Dedicated solely to New Zealand natives, it nevertheless was designed by a Japanese gardener to express the traditional Japanese design principles of a water garden, in which a waterfall, stream and pond express the place of water in nature. **(Overnight Blenheim)** BL
Day 11: Friday 21 November, Blenheim – Punakaiki – Greymouth

Today we drive across the Marlborough Region to Greymouth on the west coast – one of the most sparsely populated areas of New Zealand. With the Tasman Sea to the west and the Southern Alps to the east, we will drive through a series of beautiful National Parks to the seaside town of Greymouth where we shall spend the night. We drive through the Mount Richmond Forest Park and the Nelson Lakes and Victoria National Parks to the west coast of the island. We follow the ‘Coast Road’, one of the most spectacular coastal drives in the world. One of the scenic stops we make during the day will be at Punakaiki where the famous Pancake Rocks are located. These are limestone formations that began forming 30 million years ago, when lime-rich fragments of dead marine creatures were deposited on the seabed, then overlaid by weaker layers of soft mud and clay. The result is a fascinating rock formation that gives the appearance of vertical stacks of thin rocks. (Overnight Greymouth) BLD

Day 12: Saturday 22 November, Greymouth – Hokitika – Fox Glacier – Lake Moeraki

• Seaforth Garden
• Fox Glacier Lookout
• Evening rainforest walk, Lake Moeraki

As we continue our journey south we encounter classic west coast river- and forest scenery, rushing water, impressive bridges and tiny, picturesque towns. Hokitika was first settled in 1860 after the discovery of gold on the west coast. Composed of lovely old buildings, it still has the feel of a frontier town. The road south from Hokitika travels through farmland that constantly threatens to revert to wilderness; the beauty of the region’s rivers is raw and primeval. Just outside Hokitika we will visit Seaforth Garden. The site of this private garden has a challenging contour which has steps and paths leading through bush to the bottom of the gully where there is a natural creek and 3 ponds. The main plantings are rhododendrons, azaleas, maples, conifers, magnolias, hydrangea and hostas, interspersed with perennials and dahlias. The soil is mostly blue clay over iron pan and very acidic. With a high annual rainfall, the garden is lush all year round.

Continuing south we arrive at Fox Glacier. Fed by four alpine glaciers, Fox Glacier was named after an early New Zealand Prime Minister, William Fox. At 13kms, Fox Glacier is the longest of the awe-inspiring New Zealand West Coast glaciers. At its head, soaring peaks of over 3,000m dominate the horizon. This mighty moving river of ice falls 2,600 metres, on its journey from the base of the Southern Alps to the West Coast. New Zealand’s West Coast glaciers are unique and probably the most accessible glaciers in the world, as they terminate amongst temperate rainforest just 250m above sea level. So special is this mountain environment, that it forms part of the South Westland World Heritage Area.

We continue south to Lake Moeraki (meaning “to sleep or dream by day” in Maori) in the South Westland, where we spend the night at the peaceful lakeside Wilderness Lodge. It is surrounded by untouched rainforest with stunning views of the snow-capped Southern Alps. Owned by teacher Anne Saunders and
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biologist Dr. Gerry McSweeney, the lodge was set up to help protect the rainforests and share this extraordinary natural setting with visitors.

This evening we will be treated to a meal of food from the river, coast and forest and fresh seasonal produce, while enjoying the peaceful view from the lodge’s Riverside Restaurant. The owners will then accompany the group on a short easy after-dinner walk to discover the rainforest at night and see its glow-worms and Māorepōkowls, as well as the night sky. (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD.

Day 13: Sunday 23 November, Lake Moeraki
• Guided walk – freshwater life of Lake Moeraki
• Guided walk – rainforest jungle & Fiordland Crested Penguins on Robinson Crusoe Beach
• Afternoon at leisure

For those who wish, today will begin before breakfast with a short excursion in which a nature guide will introduce to you the freshwater life of Lake Moeraki. You’ll see shrimps, snails, small fish and plankton that are the building blocks of life in the lake. A short walk through the rainforest and you’ll feed a colony of tame giant long finned eels.

After breakfast back at the lodge, there will be a guided walk through the rainforest jungle to the Tasman seacoast, where you’ll encounter Fiordland Crested Penguins on Robinson Crusoe beach. You will pass through a jungle-like temperate rainforest with forest bird life, vines, tree ferns and orchids. You’ll see giant kahikatea, rimu and silver beech. We reach Robinson Crusoe Beach and sit and watch from close up small numbers of Tawaki (Fiordland Crested Penguin) crossing to and from the sea to their rainforest breeding areas and chicks. Note: subject to numbers, there will be a less arduous alternative walk, which is moderately strenuous.

After our morning walk we shall have a reviving lunch of soup of the day, fresh foccacia bread, salads and a selection of meats at the lodge. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD

Day 14: Monday 24 November, Lake Moreaki – Wanaka – Arrowtown – Queenstown
• Stuarts Garden, Wanaka
• Arrowtown with Landscape Architect Philip Blakely

This morning we depart Lake Moreaki for Queenstown. After a short drive along the coast, we arrive at a long one-lane bridge and cross over the Haast River into the settlement of Haast. Haast was once a construction camp for the Ministry of Works and it’s a town with a touch of the Wild West. We then leave the coast and drive past waterfalls and river scenery and climb up the Haast river valley to Haast Pass. The road snakes through the Aspiring National Park, and the vegetation becomes sparser as we travel inland. We shall then skirt the beautiful Wanaka and Hawea lakes to the lakeside town of Wanaka, where we will stop for lunch. We shall also visit Stuarts Garden, developed around the swiftly flowing Bullock Creek which is host to a number of tame trout. The creek edge has been planted with hostas, Japanese and Siberian irises, ferns, peltiphyllum and rodgersias. Rhododendrons flourish in the habitat.
and are at their best in early November. The garden also boasts hellebores, primulas, meconopsis, fritillarias, paeonies and deciduous azaleas and ornamental flowering trees. Woodland walks lead up to a secluded area with a gazebo and a tunnel house with tomatoes in season, special alpines and other treasures planted in troughs outside. Behind a 100 year old cottage, is a potager backed by climbing roses and beside it a blue and white border of old fashioned flowers which complements the blue and white exterior. Another potager shaped like the sun’s rays, nestles in front. A rock garden leads down to a shade house which contains connoisseur plants.

In the afternoon we skirt the Shotover River, Lake Dunstan and the Clutha River to Queenstown. We will stop at historic Arrowtown, a New Zealand gold rush town that faces the challenges of increased tourist visitation, development pressure and a desire to retain an historic character. Philip Blakely, a local Landscape Architect very dedicated to the well-being of Arrowtown, will help you explore this enchanting township this afternoon. Philip has worked in Arrowtown for many years and is well aware of these contrasting pressures. Through his own experiences and a presentation from the local National Trust over afternoon tea, Philip will reveal the philosophies that have directed recent works in the town and then lead a fascinating walking tour that not only highlights the excellent work that has been completed but also reveals something of the harsh conditions in which the gold-miners, especially those from China worked, by leading the group to the historic Chinese settlement at Arrowtown. (Overnight Queenstown) B

Day 15: Tuesday 25 November, Queenstown
- Routeburn Track & Paradise Trust with Landscape Architect, Philip Blakely
- Blanket Bay Lodge with Landscape Architect, Paddy Baxter

Today’s tour with Philip will assist you in understanding something of the location of Queenstown and help you to realise why this has become a place of pilgrimage for walkers, skiers and those who simply love the natural world. Following a drive through breath-taking scenery when Philip will discuss the challenges facing land owners and managers in this area, including the invasion of the land by Gorse and Pines, you will visit the Information Centre at the commencement of the world renowned Routeburn Track. Paths here are well constructed and easy walking and participants won’t have to walk far to enjoy the beauty of the Nothofagus forest with its associated avifauna. Birds here are fearless and you may be surprised to find them pecking at your boots. While binoculars aren’t essential, by having a pair with you you will be rewarded by viewing a wealth of local birds, many of them uncommon elsewhere.

Returning along the Routeburn Road you will re-cross the delta of the Dart River and head further up its valley to Paradise, a nineteenth century property now managed by the Paradise Trust. The scenery here is breath-taking and short walks will open up further scintillating views of snow clad peaks. The name ‘Paradise’ needs to be reserved for very special locations and it could not be more fittingly bestowed than in this case. A picnic lunch gives time to really
appreciate and explore the property, its history and its scenery. We will also be met by our second guest Landscape Architect, Paddy Baxter.

Paddy is renowned in Queenstown for his dynamic approach to Landscape Design. He has worked on many of the most important sites in the queenstown area and revels in sharing his stories about his work with visitors. He is a most engaging host. Your first visit with Paddy will be to the exclusive hotel at Blanket Bay, booked out in its entirety by Bill Gates for Christmas 2012 and located on a prime position overlooking Lake Wakatipu. The hotel developer has recently begun a housing development in the surrounding hills and Paddy is involved as the Landscape Architect so exploration of recent garden work not only allows you to get a sense of New Zealand garden design at its best but also appreciate a new series of views.

Back in Queenstown the evening is at leisure. You might like to enjoy a visit to the Botanic Gardens directly behind your hotel before heading off for dinner (own expense). (Overnight Queenstown) BL

Day 16: Wednesday 26 November, Queenstown
• Millbrook Resort, Hills Golf Course and lunch with Paddy Baxter
• Remarkables Ski Area & Chard Farm Vineyard with Philip Blakely

Millbrook Resort, a few miles to the north-east of Queenstown is a beautifully planned golfing resort with which Paddy Baxter has been involved since its inception. His work here involves both broad scale and small scale, and while the contrast is significant, it proves Paddy’s ability as a designer. Gardens around individual homes are beautifully detailed and planted to compliment the cluster housing of the architecture.

Golf courses abound in this country but the Hills Golf Course is special. Built as a private course with family homes through it, this course has been used for major championships and not only provides for golf but also accommodates a sculpture park. Note especially the roof garden on the club-house that makes it fit so effectively in the landscape.

The rural land between Queenstown and arrowtown has been subject to considerable development pressure but clear planning guidelines have maintained its rural character. Paddy lives here and will explain the key issues to you on your way to lunch at his home. Views here are fabulous but so too the hospitality in a New Zealand family home.

Your last two visits this afternoon are contrasts but remind us of significant aspects of the economy of southern New Zealand. Accommodating skiing in New Zealand’s pristine mountain ranges has required considerable skill. Paddy has been involved in this as an ecologist, restoring the landscapes following the implementation of engineering works involved in water storage, sewerage treatment and construction works. Get ready to be chilled at the high altitudes in The Remarkables Ski Area but it is worth it to see a completely different aspect of a Landscape Architect’s work.

Finally, Chard Farm Vineyard allows you to enjoy a tasting of New Zealand wine in a charming location and with colourful gardens all around you. For younger
participants the opportunity to bungee jump at Kawarau Bridge a short distance away is always available but for the majority the pleasure of a relaxing garden visit with Philip and the opportunity to appreciate the plants that will tolerate the cold winters of this part of the country will hold far greater appeal.

(Overnight Queenstown) BL

Day 17: Thursday 27 November, Queenstown – Te Anau – Milford Sound

• Milford Sound Cruise

This morning we journey along the edge of Lake Wakatipu, through Kingston and Mossburn, to Te Anau, the hub of New Zealand’s fiordland region and the entry point to the Fiordland National Park. Along the way, we shall pass trout fishing rivers and high country scenery, and the small towns of Mossburn and Lumsden. From Te Anau we continue along the Eglington Valley to the Mirror Lakes, before following the “Avenue of the Disappearing Mountain”, past Cascade Creek and Lake Gunn to The Divide. We drive through the Hollyford Valley to the Homer Tunnel, a man-made tunnel cut out of the rock wall, to emerge into the Cleddau Valley, and on to Milford Sound.

This road is one of New Zealand’s most extraordinary. The first part crosses relatively mild farmland, but then we’ll ease into beech forest near the entrance to the Fiordland National Park. The rough-hewn Homer Tunnel brings us into Milford Sound, an amazing twenty-two kilometre long fiord dominated by Mitre Peak (1,692 m). Just after 4.00 pm we depart for our overnight cruise of Milford Sound on board The Milford Mariner, which offers accommodation in private cabins with en-suite bathrooms. On this luxury vessel, we shall cruise the full length of this spectacular fiord to the Tasman Sea before anchoring for the night in sheltered Harrison Cove. As The Fiordland National Park was made a World Heritage Area by the United Nations in 1986, it will not be possible for us to step on land. You may, however, wish to go exploring with the ship’s nature guide in the tender craft and kayaks or simply relax on deck.

(Overnight Cruise on Milford Mariner) BD

Day 18: Friday 28 November, Milford Sound – Te Anau – Queenstown

• Afternoon at leisure in Queenstown
• Farewell dinner at a local Restaurant

We disembark this morning and return to Queenstown, where the remainder of the day is at leisure. You may wish to take the opportunity to visit the beautiful Queenstown Botanic Gardens. In the evening we gather for a farewell dinner at one of Queenstown’s fine local restaurants. (Overnight Queenstown) BD

Day 19: Saturday 29 November, Depart Queenstown

Our tour finishes in Queenstown. Those travelling on the designated flight will be transferred to Queenstown airport for their flight home to Australia.
TOUR PRICE

$8690.00 Land Content Only
(Early-Bird Special: book before 31 March 2014)

$8890.00 Land Content Only

$1850.00 Double (as Single) Supplement

The above prices were revised on 5 March 2014.

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:
• Air New Zealand flight from Wellington to Blenheim (Day 8)
• Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- and 4-star hotels, twin-share cabins on board the Milford Mariner (Milford Sound)
• Breakfast daily, lunches/picnics and evening meals indicated in the itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch/packed picnic & D=evening meal
• Transportation by A/C motorcoach and cruise as outlined in the tour itinerary
• Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on designated flights
• Porterage at hotels
• Lecture and site-visit program
• Tour Handbook
• Entrance fees
• Tips to the coach driver & local guides

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:
• Airfare: Australia-Auckland, Queenstown-Australia
• Beverages with meals
• Personal spending money
• Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on designated flights
• Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
• Travel insurance

TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION FORM and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your deposit of $500.00 per person in cash or cheque (payable to Australians Studying Abroad). It is important that you read the Booking Conditions at this stage, and that you sign the reservation form. If you are booking within 75 days of the tour full payment is required.

Refund of Deposit
Refund of deposit, less $385.00 service fee ($350.00 + $35.00 GST) per person, will be given when cancellation is made before Friday 18 July 2014. Your deposit is non-refundable after this date. For further cancellation conditions please refer to the section entitled ‘BOOKING CONDITIONS’ below.

Travel Insurance
It is a condition of travel that you are covered by some form of international travel insurance. Note, travel insurance may not cover costs incurred due to a pre-existing illness or other conditions. Your insurance can be arranged through ASA. All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program:
• a copy of your travel insurance certificate
• the emergency telephone no. of your insurance company

Passport Details
All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Paying the Balance
Balance of your tour price (full price minus $500) must be paid to Australians Studying Abroad 75 days before you depart. You will receive an invoice from Australians Studying Abroad at this time. Upon receipt of payment we send you a receipt.

Double (as Single) Supplement
Payment of the Single Supplement provides a double room for single occupancy room throughout the tour. The number of single rooms available is extremely limited. People wishing to take the Double (as Single) supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.
**BOOKING CONDITIONS**

**Confirmation of Your Booking**

When we have received your reservation form together with the deposit or full payment for the tour, and assuming there is a place available on the tour, we will send you confirmation of your booking and relevant travel details. It is from this moment that a firm contract exists between you and Australians Studying Abroad Pty Ltd (hereafter called ASA) on the basis of this itinerary, together with ASA's general brochure, and any brochure or itinerary amendments communicated to you, these booking conditions and the travel details sent to you. If a place is not available we will return your payment. ASA does however reserve the right to refuse to accept a booking without necessarily giving a reason.

**What is included in the Tour Price**

A list of what is included (and what is not included) in the price is given in the description of each tour in this brochure, and also in the detailed tour itinerary.

**Changes in Tour Price**

The price of ASA's tours may change with currency fluctuations, airfare increases, or if the group size is under fifteen. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price.

**Cancellation Fees**

Refund of deposit, less $385.00 service fee ($350.00 + $35.00 GST) per person, will be given when cancellation is made before Friday 18 July 2014. Cancellation received after that period will be subject to the following cancellation charges:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Prior</th>
<th>Cancellation Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 July 2014-76 days prior</td>
<td>$500.00 deposit - non refundable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-46 days prior</td>
<td>25% of the Full Tour Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-31 days prior</td>
<td>50% of the Full Tour Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-15 days prior</td>
<td>75% of the Full Tour Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-0 days prior</td>
<td>100% of the Full Tour Price</td>
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We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

**Payment by Credit Card**

Payment by credit card will incur the following card service fees:

- Mastercard, Visa or Bankcard: 1.95%
- American Express: 1.95%
- Diners Club: 2.7%

**Terms & Conditions**

ASA's tours require, on occasion, a substantial amount of physical exertion. The ASA RESERVATION FORM requests disclosure of all relevant medical conditions, physical or mental disabilities or any other related information which may affect the ability to fully participate in the activities forming a tour. The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour, to identify those circumstances where unjustifiable hardship may result to ASA, and to address how ASA may be able to make ‘reasonable accommodation’ to cater for those tour participants, where only a minor modification may be needed.

To assist participants with what should be disclosed, ASA has graded its tours in terms of physical endurance. ASA also provides a detailed itinerary for each tour which describes the activities on a day-by-day basis. As indicated above, the itinerary should be considered as a guide to the educational program rather than as an exact and definitive list of activities. The information provided in your reservation form will be treated in the strictest confidence. If ASA has any concerns based on the information provided by you, we shall contact you to discuss those concerns, and may request further information or clarification of the information previously provided.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA’s directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Furthermore, ASA also reserves the right to reject a participant from further participation on its tours, or cancel the participation on a tour of any client whose behaviour is in the opinion of a representative of the company causing excessive distress, damage or annoyance to anyone or anyone’s property. Our responsibility for that client will cease immediately and no compensation will be paid for any loss.

Australians Studying Abroad Pty Ltd (hereafter called ASA) gives notice that all tickets and coupons are issued through ASA, and all arrangements for transport or hotel accommodation are made by ASA as Agent upon the condition that ASA shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity caused by defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection with, or of any hotel proprietor or servant. The insurance of baggage and the care of personal articles is entirely the responsibility of the tour participant. The tour operator shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to personal property. ASA accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to the delays or changes in motor, air or other services, sickness, weather, strikes, wars, quarantine or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger. The transport companies or firms, shall be exempt from all liability in respect of any detention, delay, loss, damage sickness or injury however and by whomsoever caused and of whatever kind occurring of or to the passenger at any time when the passenger is not on board a carrier or conveyance used or operated by the transport companies or firms. The passage contract in use by the transport companies or firms concerned shall constitute the sole contract between those firms and the passenger. All tickets, coupons and orders are issued subject to these terms and conditions. In the event of it being considered desirable to withdraw all of the arrangements, the net deposits paid will be returned to the members, and upon the tendering of the same, all liability of the organiser in respect thereof shall cease. ASA also reserves the right to modify the itineraries in any way thought desirable. The tour costs are based on fares and tariffs which will apply from date of booking but subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations. Any other IATA or non-IATA carrier may be used apart from the carriers featured in this folder. This brochure is issued on the sole responsibility of the tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of and does not commit the airline mentioned therein or any airlines whose services are used in the course of the tour.