

Glorious Gardens of New Zealand's South Island



20 Day Escorted Tour from 15 November to 4 December

Join Lynne Walker, on a personal tour to New Zealand to visit her favourite gardens. Visiting the best of the South Island's gardens ranging from grand and historic gardens to special private gardens not normally open to the public, Lynne will introduce you to her fabulous selection of private and well-known gardens and some passionate gardeners as well. See spectacular and dramatic scenery, castles and wineries, visit artisans and galleries and, along the way, enjoy delicious regional food and wine.

Tour Highlights

- The grandeur and history of some of NZ's oldest gardens, including gardens of national and international significance
- The garden city of Christchurch and the historic French settlement of Akaroa
- Gardens and wineries in the Marlborough region
- Overnight stays in unique accommodation
- Luxuriant woodland gardens tucked under the Southern Alps
- The dramatic scenery of Mackenzie Country and Mount Cook
- Lunch at Riverstone Kitchen and Fleurs Place – two of the best restaurants in NZ
- Special access to private gardens
- The heritage university city of Dunedin, Larnach Castle and a flourishing South Sea Island garden
- The turquoise lakes of Wanaka and Queenstown



TOUR LEADER: Lynne Walker



New Zealand born, Lynne Walker has been a passionate gardener all her life, making gardens wherever she has lived around the world. Formerly Coordinator for Australia's Open Garden Scheme, Northern New South Wales, Lynne has continued her love of gardening as a freelance writer with Country Style, NZ House and Garden and other magazines and is an active member of the Australian Garden History Society and Guyra Garden Club. Lynne and her husband, Richard Bird, run a sheep and cattle farm near Armidale, NSW.

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart Australia

Meet your Tour Leader, Lynne Walker at Sydney International Airport and depart for Christchurch, gateway to the South Island. Arrive mid-afternoon with time to freshen up before a Welcome Dinner and overview of the program. This is a city in the process of rebuilding itself and we will be staying beside one of its most enduring and unchanged features - the gently winding Avon River lined with grassy banks of poplars and weeping willows.

Overnight: Chateau on the Park

Sat 15 Nov

Meals: In-flight & D

Day 2 Christchurch

After breakfast depart on an orientation tour of Christchurch, known as 'The Garden City'. We take a guided tour of the world-class Botanic Gardens taking in the flora, fauna and history of the gardens, as well as a trip on the Christchurch Gondola to lunch with spectacular views of the city, mountains, lake and harbour. After lunch visit a private garden of international significance on the shores of Lyttleton Harbour.

Overnight: Chateau on the Park

Sun 16 Nov

Meals: BL

Day 3 Christchurch - Akaroa

Today we leave Christchurch for the Banks Peninsula and the charming early French settlement of Akaroa. En route we'll visit three very memorable and very different gardens. Lunch at a spectacular English-style country garden stylishly designed by its owner, one New Zealand's foremost plantswomen. Later we'll visit a spectacular historic garden for a private guided tour of the gardens which date back 118 years and provide an insight into why and how Victorians grew certain kinds of plants. Afterwards continue to the charming and historic village of Akaroa.

Overnight: Akaroa Village Inn

Mon 17 Nov

Meals: BL



Day 4 Akaroa

After breakfast in a waterfront café we'll spend the day visiting three private gardens all in the same street in Akaroa. Our first garden is a private garden with large lawns, rose garden, pathways, arbours and pond nestled amongst mature native and English trees. The second garden, in contrast, is a historic Akaroa house surrounded by an exuberant and quirky sculpture mosaic garden and gallery, certain to make you smile. Our third garden is a luxuriant cottage garden featuring old roses and lavenders surrounding a picturesque cottage originally built in the 1850's. Return to the harbour for an optional dolphin cruise – highly recommended - and dinner on the waterfront.

Overnight: Akaroa Village Inn

Tues 18 Nov

Meals: BL

Day 5 Akaroa – Hanmer Springs

Our first garden today is an idyllic garden with breathtaking views

Wed 19 Nov

of the Pacific Ocean, where native plants are combined with a diverse array of non-native plants to create a truly New Zealand ambience. Then we travel north west into a stunning alpine garden in the foothills of the Southern Alps with sculptures and a clever use of water. Lunch will be provided by our charming hostess. We then travel north to the historic spa centre of Hanmer Springs to stay at the magnificent Heritage Hotel

Overnight: Heritage Hotel, Hanmer Springs Meals: BLD

Day 6 Hanmer Springs - Renwick

Morning free to relax and enjoy Hanmer Springs (great shopping with fine NZ products). Leave after lunch for the drive north to Renwick near Blenheim in the wine region of Marlborough. The journey takes us via Springs Junction and Murchison with an afternoon tea stop at Lake Rotoiti. Dinner after booking in at our hotel in the heart of the vineyards.

Overnight: Marlborough Vintners Hotel, Renwick Meals: BD

Thu 20 Nov

Day 7 Renwick

The three gardens today are all very different and are located in the Renwick Valley, home of some of NZ's most famous wineries. The first garden is Hortensia, a specialist garden where masses of colour co-ordinated flowers in hazy pastels of blue and yellow are planted along the banks of a spectacular stream. Close by is another romantic garden, this time much more formal with an exquisite 17th century-style knot garden with box hedged colour-themed beds as well as a productive vegetable garden with espaliered fruit trees on brick walls and a small olive grove. Lunch at one of Marlborough's top outdoor vineyard restaurants and later visit another remarkable garden informally created on several levels and planted with great skill and ingenuity by its owner.

Overnight: Marlborough Vintners Hotel, Renwick Meals: BL

Fri 21 Nov

Day 8 Renwick - Kaikoura

Another day visiting gorgeous gardens as we travel south to Kaikoura – one inland and one coastal. "For plant connoisseurs this is a garden made in heaven overflowing with unusual and special plants. Here you will find the very best of herbaceous perennials and shrubs". So says NZ Garden Writer Judith Petheram, of our first garden today. After time for lunch at the spectacular seaside café, The Store at Kekerungu, visit a remarkable coastal garden that's been planned on classical French lines. Features include a high brick wall enclosing a canal garden leading to a formal box-edged rose garden. All this along with magnificent coastal views. Continue on to Kaikoura.

Overnight: Anchor Inn, Kaikoura

Meals: B

Sat 22 Nov

Day 9 Kaikoura - Windwhistle

Today is a day of roses and history commencing with a visit to a hillside garden paradise with the largest collection of old roses in New Zealand, owned by one of NZ's foremost rose authorities. Then visit the property of one of the most famous Canterbury families; a garden renowned for its trees and rhododendrons as well as its many historic outbuildings which give an insight into the lives of early settlers in the 19th century. After lunch travel to one of the South Island's oldest homes and gardens formerly the home of one of New Zealand's significant democratic reformers and still in his family. The garden has magnificent ancient trees and the extensive woodland underneath has mass planting of bulbs, perennials and herbaceous plants.

Overnight: Terrace Downs Resort, Windwhistle Meals: BLD

Sun 23 Nov

Itinerary

Day 10 Windwhistle - Ashburton

Leaving Windwhistle travel to the base of the Southern Alps, to a beautiful garden featuring a haha, rhododendrons, dogwoods, lush perennial borders, sweeping lawns and an exceptional tree and shrub collection. Stop for lunch at another outstanding country farm garden en route and at Ashburton visit one of the most renowned gardens in New Zealand, planned from the start unlike most gardens.

Overnight: Mainstay Hotel, Ashburton

Mon 24 Nov

Meals: BLD

Day 14 Oamaru - Dunedin

Today we head south to Dunedin visiting a hilltop garden with spectacular plantings overlooking the Waianakarua river valley. After a lunch stop at famous Fleur's Place, a rustic portside café continue to Dunedin where a late afternoon Monarch Harbour Cruise is planned to see the best of the Otago Peninsula's wildlife – albatross, penguins and ocean birds. Later check in to Larnach Castle, our home for the night. Larnach Castle has a garden of international significance and the owner, a dedicated plantswoman, and longtime member of the Dendrology Society has created a haven for garden types from all over the world, including a spectacular South Seas garden. Dinner in the castle.

Overnight: Larnach Castle

Fri 28 Nov

Meals: BLD

Day 15 Dunedin

After a scenic tour of Dunedin, tour historic Olveston, a grand Jacobean-style home that showcases the exquisite skills of 19th century craftsmen and displays the priceless treasures and artifacts collected by the Theomin family. Later visit the stunning Dunedin Botanic Gardens which have just celebrated their 150th anniversary. Lunch will be available at the distinctive kiosk restaurant.

Overnight: Mercure Dunedin

Sat 29 Nov

Meals: BL

Day 16 Dunedin - Wanaka

Depart and visit a large country garden with hundreds of heritage roses on the outskirts of Dunedin. Afterwards travel west through the dramatic Lord of The Rings type landscape to the lakeside township of Wanaka with a lunch stop along the way. Evening free for dinner

Overnight: Edgewater Resort

Sun 30 Nov

Meals: BL

Day 11 Ashburton – Mount Cook

Today, before heading westwards to Mount Cook visit two of the more significant historic stations in coastal South Canterbury. The first one has been in the same family for generations and celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Original farm buildings and an old wooden church are complemented by seven hectares of sweeping lawns, old trees, woodland planting, boxed borders adding colour and interest and a small hand-dug lake. Continue to another historic house and garden nearby for lunch and a stroll. Afterwards travel through Mackenzie Country to Mount Cook with a stop at the Church of Good Shepherd on the shores of Lake Tekapo. Built as a memorial to the pioneers of the Mackenzie Country, the Church of the Good Shepherd is an enduring landmark amongst the natural beauty of the lake and mountains.

Overnight: The Hermitage, Mt Cook

Tue 25 Nov

Meals: BLD

Day 12 Aoraki Mount Cook

Today is a completely garden-free day to relax. Outdoor activities include a Glacier Explorers Boat Tour to the Tasman Glacier – highly recommended - or gentle walks around the resort. Worth a visit is the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre; a fascinating museum and display of the great mountaineer and humanitarian.

Overnight: The Hermitage, Mt Cook

Wed 26 Nov

Meals: B

Day 13 Mount Cook - Oamaru

Leaving Mount Cook we head east to Oamaru visiting a specialist alpine garden en route. Stop for a special lunch at Riverstone Kitchen where the slogan is 'buy local, think seasonal and eat well' and afterwards inspect the extensive kitchen gardens tended by the chef's energetic mother Dot. Continue to Oamaru, former home of author Janet Frame. Architecturally rich, Oamaru's heritage can be seen in many public buildings in the town centre. Oamaru is also home to a wonderful collection of artisans, including master trug maker Bill Blair, located in the Victorian precinct adjacent to the harbour.

Overnight: Hotel Byrdone, Oamaru

Thu 27 Nov

Meals: BLD

Day 17 Wanaka – Tarras - Wanaka

Visit the small farming settlement of Tarras and see some delightful family- owned private gardens including a large cottage garden plus a stunning modern garden high on a hillside and finally lunch in the lovely garden of a high country station which has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. Return to Wanaka free time before dinner in a restaurant by Lake Wanaka.

Overnight: Edgewater Resort

Mon 1 Dec

Meals: BL

Day 18 Wanaka - Queenstown

Depart for Queenstown and travel via two stunning high country farm gardens on the shores of Lake Wanaka. Lunch stop at the rustic Cardrona Pub, one of the oldest hotels in the country, then continue on to Queenstown with its magnificent backdrop of the snow-capped Southern Alps. Free afternoon to relax, shop or take a trip on the historic steamship - TSS Earnslaw, affectionately known as the 'Lady of the Lake'.

Overnight: Novotel, Queenstown

Tue 2 Dec

Meals: BD

Day 19 Queenstown

Our last day includes a visit to a lavender farm and a stroll through Arrowtown's old 1860s gold-mining village for lunch. Conclude the tour with a visit to an extraordinary and imaginative private garden where much thought has gone into ensuring seasonal colour reflects the surrounding mountainous landscape. Farewell Dinner this evening.

Overnight: Novotel, Queenstown

Wed 3 Dec

Meals: BD

Day 20 Queenstown - Sydney

Depart Queenstown for the return flight to Australia.

Thurs 4 Dec



Tour Costs: (Per Person)

Twin share/double room AUD 7,995

Single Supplement Add AUD 2,285

Prices include airline taxes

Upgrades to business class air travel can be arranged at an additional cost

Bookings and Deposits

To confirm your place on this program please complete the booking form and send with your deposit to Quadrant Australia.

Exchange Rates

Prices quoted in Australian dollars with AUD \$1.00 = NZ \$ 1.07

Minimum Numbers

The minimum number of passengers for this tour is 15

What's Included

- International flights from Sydney to Christchurch and return from Queenstown
- 19 nights accommodation in comfortable accommodation
- All meals indicated in itinerary and shown as BLD (B=Breakfast/L=Lunch/D=Dinner)
- All entrance fees to gardens and sightseeing as per itinerary
- All land travel in the private use of a modern comfortable coach
- Tips and gratuities for guides and drivers
- Detailed tour book with full itinerary.

What's Not Included:

- Meals not specified in the itinerary and all items of a personal nature, such as laundry, phone calls and alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance, cancellation fees, passport fees and visa charges
- Tips or gratuities – other than those for drivers and guides.
- Optional excursions



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BOOKING CONDITIONS

IMPORTANT NOTES: Please read the booking conditions below. Payment of deposit indicates acceptance of the booking conditions detailed in the brochure.

PRICE AND FLUCTUATION: This tour has been costed on a set exchange rate. Due to the unstable nature of the Australian dollar, regrettably currency surcharges may be necessary. Major variations may result in a surcharge being applied or a refund given if applicable.

All prices quoted are subject to change without notice having regard to unforeseen circumstances, foreign exchange fluctuations and variations in airline operating costs including but not limited to, say, an escalation of fuel prices.

MINIMUM NUMBERS: The tour will proceed with minimum number (as indicated) of full paying passengers. In the event that the required numbers are not reached – the tour may still proceed however, per passenger prices may change.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE: The exchange rate used to price this tour has been disclosed above. In the event of deviation from this rate, Quadrant Australia reserves the right to increase prices or make refunds according to the impact the fluctuation has had on land content prices in the country or countries to be visited. NB: If minimum numbers are not reached with full paying Quadrant passengers – any possible refund for favourable exchange fluctuations may be foregone to ensure the tour still proceeds as planned.

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSIT : To confirm your place on this program please book as early as possible. A reservation can only be confirmed with a deposit of **\$2,000 per person**. To reserve your place please complete the booking form and forward to Quadrant Australia with your deposit. Confirmation will be provided in writing within 7 working days, together with all necessary receipts and invoices.

FINAL PAYMENT AND AMENDMENTS: Final payment is due **90 Days Prior to Departure**. *Payment can be accepted after this date, however they will be subject to availability of flights, accommodation and other tour inclusions.* An amendment fee of \$50 will be charged for any alterations to your booking, after confirmation has been sent. Any changes made by you after the full payment has been made will incur a minimum of \$100 fee plus any charges imposed by airlines, hotels and operators, and will be subject to availability of the requested changes.

ACCOMMODATION: Tour prices include accommodation throughout on a twin share basis (unless otherwise specified). For passengers travelling alone, it may be necessary to pay a single supplement, however in some special circumstances we may be able to assist with sharing arrangements. Agreements are solely between the passengers concerned, and the company accepts no responsibility for compatibility. Single rooms may be smaller than twin bedded rooms.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

VISAS: Australian passport holders may require a visa to enter the countries visited on the tour. As arrival documents are Government to Government requirement, Quadrant Australia is NOT able to complete these documents on your behalf. Quadrant Australia will assist wherever and whenever possible. Visa assistance is available through Visalink who can be contacted via the Quadrant Australia website. Should you be travelling to other countries, please check on visa requirements.

PASSPORTS: Passengers will require a current passport with 6 months validity beyond the date of return.

USA ESTA: Persons travelling to, or via, the USA, are reminded of their obligation to comply with US entry and transit requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel insurance is highly recommended for this program and Quadrant Australia can arrange this for you. Should we supply travel insurance information and application forms, you must ensure you read and understand the insurance details. Once we have received your completed insurance application and Medical Appraisal Form (where necessary), we will accept your information in good faith. Please note we act as agent for the principal insurance provider or broker. Quadrant Australia cannot provide recommendations. Documentation will not be released until proof of insurance is provided or declined, in writing.

CANCELLATIONS: Any cancellations must be made in writing by email, post or fax to Quadrant Australia.

Cancellations received up to 90 days prior to departure will incur a fee of \$750 plus any unrecoverable costs incurred which include, any non-refundable costs incurred on the passenger's behalf by Quadrant Australia. Cancellations after 90 days are subject to the following fees and charges:

- From 90—45 days to departure –\$1500 and no refunds will be guaranteed (refund policies and fees subject to supplier contracts)
- From 45—30 days \$2500 and no refunds will be guaranteed (refund policies and fees subject to supplier contracts)
- Within 30 days no refunds will be given.

Please consider travel insurance when paying your deposit.

UNUSED SERVICES: It is our policy to follow the itinerary as written, however sometimes due to circumstances outside our control, or in the best interests of the group, the itinerary may vary slightly. No refunds will be given for any unused portions of the tour in respect of transfers, accommodation, meals, sightseeing tours or any other services included in the tour price but not utilised by the tour member.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY: The transportation firms concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft or conveyances. The passengers' contract in use by the carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company or firms and the purchaser of these tours. Any airline does not by virtue of its endorsement of a program represent itself, either as contracting with any purchaser, or as having any other legal relationship with any such purchaser.

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Also for any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents, and that neither the firm nor its servants, agents or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expense or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of any of the foregoing causes. Participants should be aware that programs such as this visit rural and research properties, parks and conservation areas and occasionally stay in home hosted farm stays, safari camps and on houseboats. In addition our programs may also utilise services and accommodation provided on river and other cruise/water based vessels. Such visits carry inherent potential risks, including but not limited to health risks and injuries from livestock and other animals, equipment as well as trails, roads and tracks. Participants accept such risks as inherent to such programs. As there can be moderate walking requirements to experience the activities of this program, there is an expectation that participants will have an adequate level of mobility.

Unused services cannot be refunded or exchanged. The Firm reserves the right to cancel the tour and/or modify the itineraries in any way it thinks desirable and further reserves the right to decline to accept any person on any tour and may substitute hotels where necessary.