

GARDEN DISCOVERIES 2015

Great Ocean Road courtesy of Victoria

Gardens of the Great Ocean Road

MELBOURNE TO MT GAMBIER

with Julie Kinney
16–25 October 2015 (10 days)


Renaissance
Tours

Gardens of the Great Ocean Road

MELBOURNE TO MT GAMBIER



TOUR LEADER

Julie Kinney

A restless Julie headed off to do the rite of passage of many Australians. On her travel adventures she decided to study at Cordon Bleu School of Cookery in London and prolong the time in the UK. This led to meeting her farmer husband whom she returned home to Western Australia with and eventually they made the Margaret River region home.

Gardening had become a passion so studying horticulture seemed logical which led to being a selector and national committee member for the Open Garden Scheme enabling access to gardens across the country and ultimately showing others around both at home and overseas.

Julie as a guide loves nothing more than showcasing excellence wherever she is and ensuring everyone has a great experience.

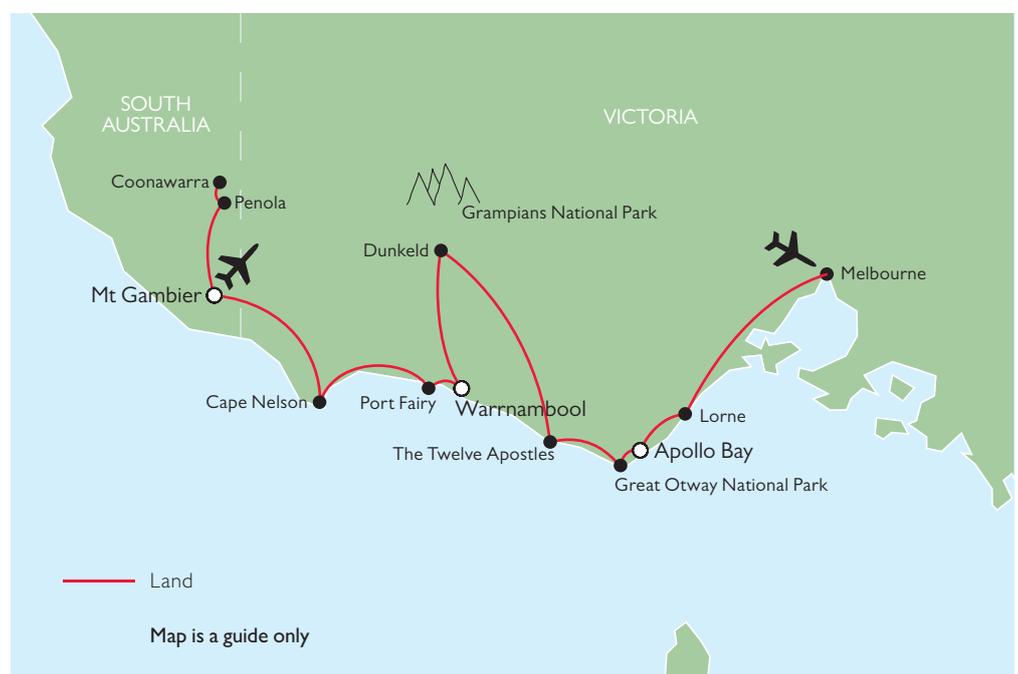
Take a journey along Australia's Great Ocean Road with 'garden detours' along the way, to the Western Districts and Limestone Coast. On the way, explore a spectacular selection of private gardens, historic towns and grand country homesteads, whilst enjoying some of Australia's most iconic views and landscapes.

Timed for the spring roses, the diversity of the gardens will astound you, ranging from cottage, herb and parterre gardens to rambling historic homestead gardens and Edna Walling-designed heritage landscapes as well as William Guilfoyle influences. Wonderful views abound, including the Otway Ranges and the Twelve Apostles, to the Grampians and Discovery Bay – and in the company of Julie Kinney, Margaret River's Gourmet Gardener, you can also expect of good food, wine, hospitality and company.

Note: At the time of brochure printing (January 2015) most, but not all garden visits are confirmed. Private owners in particular; are reluctant to commit more than 2–3 months prior. Therefore, whilst we undertake to operate the tour as published, there may be some changes to the itinerary.

At a glance...

- Spectacular views of the rugged coastline and the Iconic Twelve Apostles along the 'Great Ocean Road'
- Meet 14 private garden owners as they showcase their gardens and narrate their story
- Visit the historic homesteads and gardens of Narrapumelap, Chatsworth House, and Yallum Park
- Exclusive tour of Meningoort Homestead and lunch hosted by fifth generation owners, Beverley and Stuart MacArthur, and view sites painted by the artist Eugene von Guerard
- Indulge in food and wine of the Coonawarra wine region, located on the SA Limestone Coast



Itinerary

Fri 16 Oct 2015 Melbourne CBD – Apollo Bay

Meet Julie and fellow travellers at the **Ian Potter Centre – NGV Australia, Russell Court entrance at 13.00** (Russell Court is an extension of Russell Street at the rear of Federation Square).

This afternoon travel south-east to Apollo Bay along the 'Great Ocean Road', regarded as one of the world's most scenic coastal drives. The road was built by returned soldiers between 1919 and 1932 and dedicated to soldiers killed during World War I. The road is the world's largest war memorial.

Travel the winding road through forested areas, dairy farming countryside and temperate rainforest with stunning coastal views of beaches, rocky cliffs and escarpments (150km 2h).

Enjoy a stop at the picturesque seaside town of Lorne located on Louttit Bay, before continuing to Apollo Bay (50km 1h).

Dinner at an acclaimed local restaurant. **D**

Sat 17 Oct Apollo Bay

Begin the morning with a visit to the colourful community market of Apollo Bay, located on the foreshore, prior to journeying into the hinterland of the Otway Ranges.

Visit the Otway Herb Farm, a cottage garden and nursery with magnificent views of the valley. Meander through the ornamental garden which comprises of rare and unusual plants collected from around the world, including a variety of culinary herbs from Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean as well as medicinal herbs, insect repellents and fragrant plants.

Continue to the 'Otway Fly Treetop Walk' for lunch and treetop walk. A one hour walk (approx. 2km) through cool temperate rainforest, which features a 600m long and 25m high steel structured treetop canopy walkway which takes you right into the treetops, providing a unique and close view of the flora and fauna.

Return to the hotel late afternoon. **B** continental in room, **L**

Sun 18 Oct Apollo Bay – Warrnambool

Early start today, travel through the Great Otway National Park to Warrnambool.

Begin with a visit to the iconic Twelve Apostles (named in the 1950's), the limestone stacks were originally called the 'Sow and Piglets', with Mutton Bird Island being the 'sow' and the other stacks her 'piglets'. Today there are only eight pillars remaining and they are forever changing as the waves of the Southern Ocean constantly pound the cliffs.

Continue to Loch Ard Gorge named after the clipper ship *Loch Ard*, which ran aground on nearby Muttonbird Island on 1 June 1878, approaching the end of a three-month journey from England to Melbourne.

After a short stop at the Timboon Railway Shed Distillery, continue to the historic Meningoort Homestead which has been in the MacArthur family for 175 years.

Enjoy a lunch and tour hosted by the owners Beverley and Stuart MacArthur. Begin with a champagne welcome and introduction to the garden from the verandah, looking down the spectacular drive to Mt Leura and Sugarloaf. After lunch, embark on an exclusive tour and talk about the history and interior of the homestead; walk through the extensive gardens and historic bluestone outbuildings, including working racing stables, coach stables, rabbitier's cottage and shearing shed.

Meningoort Homestead and the surrounding area was a favourite location of the artist Eugene von Guerard. See sites that he painted.

Continue to Warrnambool, situated on what is known as the Shipwreck Coast, due to the large number of water vessels that ran aground in the 1800s and early 1900s from ferocious weather conditions and the rocky coastline. **B** continental in room, **L**



Mon 19 Oct

Warrnambool

Today, travel north of Warrnambool to Glenthompson at the foot of the majestic Grampians. Visit the private garden 'Toora West', an elegant understated garden, designed to incorporate the majestic backdrop of the open grazing land to the rugged rocky mountains.

A short stop at the booming little town of Dunkeld, situated at the foot of Mount Sturgeon, at the southern tip of the Grampians and the Great Dividing Range.

The second garden 'Boortkoi' is a heritage property on the banks of the Hopkins River. The garden was designed by Edna Walling in 1937 and features several distinct areas, including a rose garden, semi-circular stone retaining walls and a natural garden.

After lunch visit the elegant Chatsworth House with meticulously maintained landscaped gardens comprising of English classics, rare exotics and native species. **B L**

Tue 20 Oct

Warrnambool

Travel to Mortlake situated at the foot of Mount Shadwell, known for its bluestone buildings, with several fine examples dating back to the 1850s.

Continue to the heritage listed 'Terrinallum Woolshed and Quarters' located at Darlington, noted for its early bluestone shearers' quarters with shingles under the iron roof.

Lunch at the historic homestead of 'Narrapumelap', followed by a tour of this impressive Neo-French Gothic Mansion (built in 1873) and wonderful restored gardens.

Dinner at a local restaurant. **B L D**

Wed 21 Oct

Warrnambool – Mt Gambier

Depart Warrnambool for the delightful colonial village of Port Fairy. Partake in a guided walk of the town with maritime and local historians, Martin and Angela Syme. Pass a number of houses and cottages, dating from 1843 (and probably earlier) to current day, and walk down the wide streets with several containing spectacular Norfolk Island Pines as avenue.



Following lunch (own expense) travel to the eastern end of Discovery Bay home to Victoria's highest coastal cliffs and Cape Nelson lighthouse. Continue via Nelson and thru Discovery Bay coastal park to Mt Gambier (160km / 3h).

Dinner at our hotel. **B D**

Thu 22 Oct

Mt Gambier

Begin this morning with an orientation tour (coach and foot) of Mt Gambier by local guide.

Visit the cave gardens in the middle of town, the Umpherston sink hole, and drive around the Blue Lake which occupies one of the craters of the extinct volcano, after which the city has been named. Walk through the town past Centenary tower, old St Paul's nun convent and Cobb and Co's old stables.

Travel to Penola, known as the central location in the life of Mary MacKillop, (now Saint Mary MacKillop, who was canonised on 17 October 2010). Time at leisure for lunch and to self-explore the local sites, such as the Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre or the State Heritage sites of Petticoat Lane and the original stone schoolhouse developed in the 1800s.

After lunch (own expense) visit two private gardens. 'Trevelan' situated in Monbulla, a beautiful garden approximately 1ha in size, with many traditional exotic plants and trees. Continue with 'Stordalen Place', a glorious garden with garden rooms full of roses and perennials and many welded sculptures created by the owner.

Tonight, dinner is at a local restaurant followed by the sound and light show at caves garden. **B D**

Fri 23 Oct

Mt Gambier

Today, begin the exploration of gardens and wineries of the famous Coonawarra wine region, situated on South Australia's Limestone Coast.

First, visit the Camawald Cottage garden, a country garden with exquisite displays of heritage and species roses, spreading exotic trees, dappled shade and a tranquil lake.



Enjoy lunch and wine tasting at St Marys Vineyard. Walk around the extensive gardens, displaying a great blend of colour and texture in plants, wonderful sandstone walls and sculptural features.

After lunch, stop at the Coonawarra Centenary Sculpture Park to view the red gum and limestone sculpture known as the Terra Rossa Tree Wall along with three bronze busts. The first bust is of John Riddoch, the founder of Coonawarra; the second is of David Wynn the revitaliser of Coonawarra; and the third is Bill Redman, the sustainer of Coonawarra.

Return to the hotel via Yallum Park, said to be the best preserved Victorian House in Australia in its original condition. Enjoy a guided tour of the house showcasing the original William Morris wallpapers, stained glass windows, and Italian marble mantle pieces. **B L**

Sat 24 Oct

Mt Gambier

Following a morning at leisure in Mt Gambier, we are hosted by the local garden club and will visit three members' gardens.

Enjoy a picnic lunch at the McKees garden, which is often the venue for local weddings.

After lunch, visit the remaining two gardens, including the romantic Burchell garden of approximately 0.5ha, developed around an old dairy and cattle yards. This garden has been opened for the Open Garden Scheme as well as specialist rose groups.

Return to the hotel and celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a farewell dinner. **B, L, D** picnic, **D**

Sun 25 Oct

Depart Mt Gambier

Prior to departure this morning, delight in a tour of 'The Barn' gardens, 2ha of lush landscaped gardens and historic ornamental trees, which have been featured in the Australian Open Garden Scheme and in many magazines. Following this, we have just two more gardens to see with lunch in the final one, the tranquil Aberfoyle Garden. Enjoy a light lunch followed by a stroll around the Iha gardens. A rose collectors dream as well as many varieties of shrubs and a vegetable garden, all staged around spacious lawns.

Depart for Mt Gambier airport arriving at approx. 15.30 for the afternoon flights on REX to Adelaide (arrives 18.20) or Melbourne (arrives 18.15).

Tour arrangements conclude at Adelaide / Melbourne airport. **B L**



Cave garden, Mt Gambier Cave, courtesy of mountgambiertourism.com.au



Blue Lake, Mt Gambier



Umpherston Cave, courtesy of mountgambiertourism.com.au



Apollo Bay



St Mary's Winery gardens



Camawald Cottage gardens and lake

Tour prices

Per person, twin share	AUD 4,950
Single supplement*	AUD 850
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	01 September 2015

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code GDI502

Fitness level Moderate

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Flights and/or Melbourne accommodation, please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in 4-star hotels with private facilities and daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Wines with welcome and farewell meals
- Comprehensive sightseeing and garden visits including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Melbourne CBD pick up – Ian Potter Centre-NGV Australia, Russell Crt entrance at 13.00
- Flight Mt Gambier to Adelaide or Melbourne
- Air-conditioned, transportation throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- Transfers on arrival/departure at Melbourne Airport
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry etc.
- Travel insurance (recommended)
- Flights to/from Melbourne (please contact Renaissance Tours for any assistance)

Your hotels★★★★

Apollo Bay – Sandpiper Motel

Warrnambool – Lady Bay Resort

Mt Gambier – The Barn

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Yallum Park, Courtesy of the South Australian Tourism



Vineyards of the Limestone Coast, Coonawarra © Adam Bruzzone courtesy of South Australian Tourism



Boortkoi Garden

R
Renaissance
Tours

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