



# Natural Landscapes and Gardens of New Zealand's South Island 2026

30 OCT – 15 NOV 2026

Code: 22647

Tour Leaders Professor Tim Entwisle, Lynda Entwisle

Fitness Level 

**Level 1 - Active**

For people with active lives and good mobility

Horticulturalist, Professor Tim Entwisle, visits a variety of private gardens and natural landscapes including Milford Sound, The Catlins & the spectacular Mackenzie Region.

## Overview

Led by [Professor Tim Entwisle](#), former Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, this tour visits an extraordinary variety of public and private gardens and spectacular natural landscapes of New Zealand's South Island. Tim will be assisted by [Lynda Entwisle](#) who first joined ASA as a tour manager in 2019.

- Explore the Marlborough Region, famous for its gardens and viticulture: visit magical [Winterhome Garden](#), Hortensia and the Japanese-inspired Moritaki Garden.
- Visit Gardens of International Significance: [Ohinetahi](#) - Sir Miles Warren's private garden, [Flaxmere Garden](#) and the [Dunedin Botanic Garden](#).
- By special appointment view Broadfields NZ Landscape Garden designed by Robert Watson in Christchurch and [Maple Glen Gardens](#) in Eastern Southland.
- Spend 2 nights at the [Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge](#), in the heart of Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area, where experts lead us through rainforests to view glow-worms, Morepork Owls, fur seals and Fiordland Crested Penguins.
- Journey through Fiordland National Park encompassing mountain, lake, fiord and rainforests, and cruise of Milford Sound, described by Rudyard Kipling as the '8th wonder of the world'.
- Explore [The Catlins](#) featuring spectacular coastal scenery, rainforests, endangered species of birds and mammals, and one of the least disturbed examples of a Jurassic fossil forest in the world.
- While based in Dunedin tour the Otago Peninsula, view the only mainland breeding colony of Royal Albatross in the world.
- Dine at the award-winning [Riverstone Kitchen](#), and explore its vegetable gardens and orchard.
- Visit the spectacular [Mackenzie Region](#) ringed by snow-capped mountains and featuring turquoise-blue lakes. Recognised as an [International Dark Sky Reserve](#), discover the magic of our southern skies during a tour of the University of Canterbury Mt John Observatory.

Overnight Christchurch (2 nights) • Blenheim (2 nights) • Hokitika (1 night) • Lake Moeraki (2 nights) • Queenstown (2 nights) • Te Anau (1 night) • Invercargill (1 night) • Dunedin (2 nights) • Oamaru (1 night) • Lake Tekapo (2 nights)

Below is a youtube presented by Stephen Ryan that provides an outline of several of the gardens that we will visit in 2025.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51F\\_2dyv4mE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51F_2dyv4mE)



## Leaders



### Professor Tim Entwisle

Tim is an author, broadcaster and passionate tour leader. Former director of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, senior executive at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (UK) and director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney, Tim first joined ASA in 2017 and currently leads tours to Spain, Morocco, England and New Zealand.

Tim is a highly respected author, broadcaster, botanist and garden expert, who has held senior roles in three of the world's leading botanic gardens. From 2013 to 2023 Tim was Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, following two years in an executive role with responsibilities for over half of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (London), and eight as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. Tim is an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Botany at The University of Melbourne and has been a Visiting Professor in the School of Biological and Biomedical Science, Durham University. During his 30 years or so working in botanic gardens, Tim has travelled throughout the world visiting botanic and other gardens on all continents; since 2016, he has been President of the International Association of Botanic Gardens.



### Lynda Entwisle

Lynda is a keen gardener, and vice-chair and newsletter editor for the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. Lynda was a language teacher for 25 years, and is fluent in French and Spanish.

Lynda completed a BSc in Botany and worked in research laboratories for a number of years. Her love of Language saw her complete a BA majoring in French & Linguistics, and from there she went in to secondary teaching for the larger part of her career. While living in Kew Gardens, London she volunteered with the Schools & Families Program to assist with school visits and to be a 'Palm House Explainer', which involved engaging visitors with displays in the famous glasshouse at Kew. Lynda is currently an active committee member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society and an enthusiastic volunteer with the award-winning Orchid Conservation Program, based at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.



## Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens which we plan to visit. At the time of publication (June 2024) most visits had been confirmed. While several are accessible to the public, others require special permission from the garden owners which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure in 2025. 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. Participants will receive a final itinerary, together with their tour documents, prior to departure. The tour includes meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

### Christchurch – 2 nights

Day 1: Friday 30 October, Arrive Christchurch

- Tour commences at 4.00pm in the foyer of the Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square Hotel
- Welcome Meeting
- Christchurch Botanic Gardens
- Welcome Dinner

**Meeting Point:** The tour commences at 4.00pm in the foyer of the [Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square Hotel](#).

Following a short welcome meeting we commence the tour with a walk to the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Situated in the historic precinct of the city, the gardens are within walking distance of the museum, library and art gallery. Almost 150 years old and situated along the banks of the Avon River, these delightful gardens with their picturesque design and mature landscape features, are the perfect beginning for our garden tour. Considered the premiere Botanic Gardens of New Zealand, their sweeping lawns and old trees provide the backdrop for many fine plant collections including New Zealand Dahlias, cacti, succulents and orchids. The garden also contains many examples of New Zealand's unique and fascinating flora. After touring the gardens we shall return to our hotel.

Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Christchurch) D

Day 2: Saturday 31 October, Christchurch – Allandale – Rolleston – Christchurch

- Ohinetahi Gardens, Allandale
- Broadfields NZ Landscape Garden

This morning we drive a short distance to Governors Bay to visit the Ohinetahi Gardens of Sir Miles Warren, arguably New Zealand's most famous landscape architect. Ohinetahi is Sir Miles' own garden and is centred upon a lovely restored heritage house, with magnificent views of surrounding volcanic hills and Lyttelton Harbour. A garden was first designed for this site by T.H. Potts in 1865, but this fell into disrepair after he died in 1888. Sir Miles Warren has developed his spectacular Ohinetahi garden over several decades.

We then drive to Broadfields Garden, a NZ Garden of International Significance, designed by Landscape Architect Robert Watson for owner David Hobbs. The 'pancake flat' site for this garden in the middle of the Canterbury plains posed special problems for Robert. His highly original solution incorporates a cricket field leading to a long avenue at the centre of which is a watercourse leading to a round pond. It has allowed the owners to implement a planting scheme featuring an extremely important collection of New Zealand native flora, in stages. Of the plantings, Robert has stated, 'I wanted it to be a garden that reflects the character of Canterbury – it's not trying to be an English garden or an Italian garden or something from anywhere else...' The framework of the garden is created by hedges, allowing for twenty-one discrete garden areas using cross axes from the main lines 'to create a journey through various formal and informal spaces. Although each garden has its own visual focus, the design also takes into account the vastness of the sky in this region.' (see, R. Thodey and G. Hanly, *Landscape, Gardens by New Zealand's Top Designers*, Auckland, Random House, A Godwit Book, 2005, p.58). (Overnight Christchurch) BL

## Blenheim – 2 nights

Day 3: Sunday 1 November, Christchurch – Hawarden – Kekerengu – Blenheim

- Flaxmere Garden, Hawarden
- Ellerton Garden, Kekerengu

We depart Christchurch early this morning and travel north to the Marlborough Region visiting two spectacular gardens along the way. Our first visit is to Flaxmere Garden, a large country garden in North Canterbury. Flaxmere, with its long vistas and cross axis, sits very comfortably in its Southern Alps landscape. A garden that has evolved over the last 40 years, it uses elements of water, stone and timber to present a sense of belonging. A mix of both formal and informal, native and exotic, add to the garden's richness. At times it is hard to establish where the garden finishes and the countryside begins; formal areas merge into woodlands and in turn into countryside. This is a garden that exudes personality, and with its lush plantings providing softening to the stone and timber landscape features, it is bound to please. Following our guided tour by garden owner and creator Penny Zino, we will enjoy a delicious lunch of fresh produce, salads and freshly baked bread.

After lunch we drive north to reach Ellerton Garden in Kekerengu. Located on a hill between the Kaikoura Ranges and the Pacific Ocean, it offers breathtaking views. Established 11 years ago from two hectares of farmland and still a work in progress, Ellerton Garden shows off Mediterranean plantings, a hillside of lavender and intriguing nooks and crannies. We then continue our journey to Blenheim. (Overnight Blenheim) BLD

#### Day 4: Monday 2 November, Blenheim: Marlborough Region

- Winterhome Garden, Kekerengu
- Paripuma Garden
- Hortensia Garden

Today we begin with a visit to 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.

The second beautiful garden on today's program is Paripuma. Landscaper Rosa Davison once dreamt of creating a haven for wildlife on what was a barren and windswept seashore. Created from a bare sandy paddock in 1999, Paripuma is a unique collection of indigenous and some very rare plant species. Using thousands of Ngaio and other sturdy natives, shelter was created for more interesting and some near extinct species. The result sees intertwining walkways and hidden paths juxtaposed with traditional formal lines, blending a strong central vista into the natural lie of the land.

Nearby lies Hortensia, the creation of artist Huguette Michel, whose French origins are expressed in the Impressionist inspiration of this lovely garden. We spend a couple of hours touring this garden before returning to Blenheim. (Overnight Blenheim) BL

#### Hokitika – 1 night

#### Day 5: Tuesday 3 November, Blenheim – Punakaiki – Hokitika

- Moritaki Garden
- Pancake Rocks, Punakaiki

Close to our hotel is Peter and Andrea Forrest's Moritaki Garden, situated at the foot of Withers Hills. 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.

We next drive across the Marlborough Region to Greymouth on the west coast. This is 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 Hokitika) BLD

#### Lake Moeraki – 2 nights

#### Day 6: Wednesday 4 November, Hokitika – Fox Glacier – Lake Moeraki



- Lake Matheson
- 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. Continuing south we arrive in the Glacier Country.

After lunch we enjoy a short walk to Lake Matheson. The lake is nestled in ancient forest and is famous for mirror views of Aoraki/Mount Cook and Mount Tasman. Its excellent reflecting properties are due to the dark brown colour of the water – the result of organic matter leached from the humus of the forest floor. The walk to the Jetty Viewpoint takes you past tall kahikatea and rimu as well as a rich profusion of smaller plant varieties. Lake Matheson was formed when Fox Glacier Te Moeka o Tuawe retreated from its last significant advance about 14,000 years ago. During the last major ice age, the glacier spread across the coastal plains towards the sea, dumping huge piles of rock. The glacier ground a depression which later filled with water, forming the lake.

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 3000m dominate the horizon. This mighty moving river of ice falls 2600 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 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 dine together 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 Morepork owls, as well as the Southern Cross and Milky Way. (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD

#### Day 7: Thursday 5 November, Lake Moeraki

- Guided walk – freshwater life of Lake Moeraki
- Guided walk – rainforest jungle & Fiordland Crested Penguins on Robinson Crusoe Beach

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. Due to restrictions set by the Department of Conservation the group might need to sub-divided. If so, one group will walk in the morning and the other in the afternoon. (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD

### Queenstown – 2 nights

Day 8: Friday 6 November, Lake Moeraki – Glendhu Bay – Lake Dunstan – Queenstown

- Alpha Burn Station, Glendhu Bay
- Jo Wakelin's Garden, Lake Dunstan

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.

Our first visit leads us to Allanah McRae's garden, surrounded by Lake Wanaka's snow-capped mountains. Alpha Burn Station is a working high-country sheep, beef, and deer station of 10000 acres located on the shores of Glendhu Bay Wanaka in a beautiful mountainous setting. The homestead was built in 1911 and is surrounded by a large country garden with a stream and two ponds that are spring-fed. There is also a vegetable and fruit garden that supplies the household with food throughout the year.

In the afternoon we travel to the Central Otago ranges where Jo Wakelin's garden sits in solitude at the foot of the Pisa range near Lake Dunstan. Inspired by a visit to Beth Chatto's pioneering dry garden in the East of England, Jo has designed a garden that can withstand drought and requires little, if any, watering. Today it is considered a test ground for dry-loving plants from many parts of the globe, including New Zealand.

We then continue our journey to Queenstown which sits on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, set against the dramatic Southern Alps, where we will be based for the next two nights. (Overnight Queenstown) BL

Day 9: Saturday 7 November, Queenstown – Gibbston – Arrowtown – Queenstown

- Queenstown Gardens
- Lunch at the Gibbston Valley Winery Restaurant
- Arrowtown historic village

This morning, we take the opportunity to leisurely walk through the beautiful Queenstown Botanic Gardens. Founded in 1866, these gardens serve as a peaceful lakeside retreat, featuring a charming rose garden, ancient trees, and an array of exotic and indigenous plants, along with a spacious pond.

After our morning visit, we travel to Gibbston. Lunch will be enjoyed at Gibbston Valley Winery, one of the most scenic vineyards you will ever see. The South Island's cold winters have produced grapes that, turned mainly into pinot noir, have gained worldwide recognition. The area's cheeses are also noteworthy.



Following lunch, we will visit Arrowtown and explore at leisure this historic gold mining town. Nestled beside the sparkling Arrow River and below magnificent peaks, Arrowtown is a living historic settlement with many well-preserved buildings that were used by the European and Chinese immigrants who settled during the town's gold mining era.

We return to Queenstown mid-afternoon and the rest of the day will be at leisure for you to further explore Queenstown. You may wish to take the opportunity to take a boat journey up and down the lake.  
(Overnight Queenstown) BL

### Te Anau – 1 night

Day 10: Sunday 8 November, Queenstown – Milford Sound – Te Anau

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).

In the afternoon we depart for our cruise of Milford Sound, described by Rudyard Kipling as the '8th wonder of the world'. "This spectacular fjord is home to fur seal colonies, penguins and dolphins and offers a sweeping landscape of jagged snow-capped mountains, shimmering fjords and lakes, and emerald greenery. It is famously known for its towering Mitre Peak, and waterfalls like Stirling and Bowen falls, which plummet down its sheer sides." (Overnight Te Anau) BD

### Invercargill – 1 night

Day 11: Monday 9 November, Te Anau – Lumsden – Wyndham – Invercargill

- Castlemaine Garden, Lumsden
- Maple Glen Gardens, Wyndham

We start the day with a visit to Castlemaine Garden. Sharon and Peter have developed this garden over the last 26 years. A large macrocarpa hedge, providing shelter from strong winds, inspired a protected country garden with a formal touch in places, including an English garden area. Long cold winters and often mild to very dry summers are normal in this area. At 200 metres above sea level and inland, Castlemaine is subject to hard frosts and quite a bit of snow at times. Springtime is always a lovely time in the garden with bulbs, prunus trees, rhododendrons, wisteria, laburnum, alliums, peonies, irises, and the beginning flowering for roses, clematis and other perennials.

We continue south to Maple Glen, a private garden, nursery, aviary, woodland and wetland set in the rolling green countryside of Southland. The garden is home to a large population of native and exotic birds including hand-reared parrots and waterfowl. Established in the early 1970's by Bob and Muriel Davison, this 25-acre garden which developed in a curving glen, includes massive collections of spring bulbs,

perennials, magnolias, dogwoods, rhododendrons and azaleas, exotic trees, maple trees and several lakes. The annual rainfall here is 1,100 mm allowing the European and cool loving plants to thrive. Conifers and other trees were planted for winter interest with an excellent range of spring flowering trees and autumn leaf colouring trees planted for year round colour. Around the ponds and lakes they have planted masses of astilbes, bog primula, daffodils and bluebells.

From Maple Glen we continue to Invercargill, the southernmost city in New Zealand. Victorian, Edwardian and Art Deco heritage buildings give the city a charming old-world character. (Overnight Invercargill) BD

## Dunedin – 2 nights

Day 12: Tuesday 10 November, Invercargill – The Catlins – Dunedin

- Waipapa Point Lighthouse
- Curio Bay Fossilised Forest
- Purakaunui Falls Forest Walk
- Nugget Point Lighthouse

Today is spent exploring The Catlins, a rugged, sparsely populated area, located in the southeastern corner of New Zealand's South Island. The area features spectacular coastal scenery and dense temperate rainforest. It is also harbours many endangered species of birds including the rare yellow-eyed penguins, and numerous marine mammals including New Zealand fur seals and Hooker's sea lions.

We depart Invercargill early this morning and drive approximately 60km to the Waipapa Point Lighthouse. First lit in 1884, this wooden lighthouse was constructed in response to one of New Zealand's worst shipping disasters; the wreck of the passenger steamer Tararua on the rocky reefs off Waipapa Point in 1881. A short walkway leads us to the beach where Hooker's sea lions may often be viewed.

From Waipapa Point we continue our journey around the coast to Curio Bay. During low tide, the fossilised remains of an ancient forest is exposed. This is one of the most extensive and least disturbed examples of a Jurassic fossil forest in the world and stretches about 20 kms from Curio Bay south west to Slope Point. 180 million years ago the Curio Bay area was a broad forested coastal floodplain. During this time, the middle Jurassic period, New Zealand was part of the ancient super-continent known as Gondwana. The forest predominantly consisted of trees forming a low canopy and undergrowth dominated by ferns. Over time, massive sheet floods of volcanic debris are believed to have destroyed the forest. In the millions of years since, the sediments were buried deeply and eventually turned the wood to rock. In some places fern fronds and leaves have been preserved as fossils within the mudstone rocks.

From Curio Bay we make the short drive to Purakaunui Falls where we take an easy 30-minute forest walk to view the most striking of The Catlins' waterfalls.

Further around the coast we visit the Department of Conservation Wildlife Reserve at Nugget Point which has dramatic views of "The Nuggets." These wave-eroded rocks, which are likened to the shape of gold nuggets, can be seen from the viewing platform at the Nugget Point Lighthouse. Along the way to the lighthouse you may see the fur seal colony on the rocks at sea level to the left of the track and also below the lighthouse, or the many seabirds that make The Nuggets their home. (Overnight Dunedin) BL

Day 13: Wednesday 11 November, Dunedin – Otago Peninsula – Dunedin

- Hereweka garden

- Guided tour and lunch at Larnach Castle
- Royal Albatross Centre

This morning we drive to Hereweka garden set in a hidden valley below the prominent feature of Harbour Cone on the picturesque Otago Peninsula. The gently sloping hillside is planted with a wide variety of rhododendrons and many interesting trees and shrubs. Around the house there are wide borders containing perennials, old fashioned roses, lilies and an excellent collection of snowdrops and other bulbs. Hellebores are a particular speciality at Hereweka and a late winter visit is well rewarded though the garden peaks over spring and summer. A fascinating collection of plants with a Gondwana theme including palms, cordylines and tree ferns is well established in a side valley. The garden is partly surrounded by regenerating native bush which includes a stand of mature rimu and pokaka trees, the last such remnant on the Otago Peninsula.

We then drive a short distance to the magnificent Larnach Castle, built in 1871 by William Larnach, a merchant baron and politician. Located at an altitude of three hundred metres overlooking the Otago peninsula, this grand mansion has spectacular views. It is surrounded by one of New Zealand's greatest gardens that boasts a unique collection of plants seldom seen elsewhere. Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey cypress) and a cedar, planted over one hundred years ago to provide shelter, give the garden an air of maturity. We will tour the house, which has an excellent collection of New Zealand antique furniture, and the extensive garden.

In the late afternoon we continue our scenic drive along the Otago Peninsula to the Royal Albatross Centre to visit the only mainland breeding colony of Royal Albatross in the world. We will take a tour of the centre, watch a David Attenborough film and take a guided walk with a ranger around the colony. (Overnight Dunedin) BL

## Oamaru – 1 night

Day 14: Thursday 12 November, Dunedin – Waitaki Bridge – Oamaru

- Dunedin Botanic Garden: Guided Horticultural Tour
- Riverstone Kitchen: Guided tour of the vegetable gardens and lunch

We start the day with a short drive to the Dunedin Botanic Garden. This is New Zealand's oldest public garden and holds the status of six-star Garden of International Significance. Occupying 30.4 hectares at an altitude of 25-28 metres above sea level, the garden features more than 6800 plant species and the song of wild native bellbirds, wood pigeons and tui. It offers formal garden beds on flat land and also more naturalistic plant collections on a sun-facing slope. Native birds can also be seen in the aviary. An important aspect of The New Zealand Native plant collection is the cultivation of rare and endangered native plant species. The garden reflect the Victorian penchant for collecting plants and includes specimens from temperate climates of North Asia, the South, Central and North Americas, Southern Africa, the Himalayas and the Mediterranean.

After exploring Dunedin Botanic Garden, we continue to Riverstone Kitchen and tour its gardens and orchards filled with vegetables, fruits and herbs. Opened in 2006 by chef Bevan Smith and his wife, the restaurant was named Supreme Winner in the Cuisine New Zealand Restaurant of the Year Awards in 2010. The success of Riverstone Kitchen is cultivated by Bevan and Monique's adherence to their simple philosophy: to make good food using ethically produced and locally grown ingredients. All ingredients are sourced either from the castle's gardens or from local farmers and growers. We will also enjoy lunch there.



After lunch we continue our journey to Oamaru, our stop for the night, well known for its 1930's simple modernist art deco architecture. (Overnight Oamaru) BL

### Lake Tekapo – 2 nights

Day 15: Friday 13 November, Oamaru – Lake Pukaki – Lake Tekapo

- Lake Pukaki Lookout
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Tekapo
- Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, Summit Experience with the University of Canterbury Mt John Observatory

This morning we take a scenic drive to the Mackenzie Region, which is situated in the heart of the South Island. Sparsely populated, with amazing wide-open spaces, the region is ringed by snow-capped mountains and features turquoise-blue lakes, fed by meltwater from the surrounding Hooker and Tasman Glaciers. Our journey takes us past Lake Aviemore and Lake Benmore to Lake Pukaki, Mackenzie's largest lake. From the Lake Pukaki Lookout we may view this vast jewel of surreal colour with New Zealand's tallest peak, Aoraki Mount Cook in the background. We also visit the iconic Church of the Good Shepherd on Lake Tekapo, built in 1935 as a memorial to the pioneers of the Mackenzie Country.

The Mackenzie Region has been recognised as an International Dark Sky Reserve, the largest in the world and the only one in the Southern Hemisphere. The region has one of the most pristine night skies in the world. After checking in to our resort hotel we will discover the magic of the night sky at the world-renowned astronomical centre: University of Canterbury Mt John Observatory. Here, talented astrophotographers will share the science and stories of our Southern skies. The Mackenzie region is an alpine environment meaning it is cool at night; please remember to bring a jacket suitable for cold weather! (Overnight Lake Tekapo) BLD

Day 16: Saturday 14 November, The Mackenzie Region

- Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Visitor Centre
- Nature walks: The Kea Point walk & The Tasman Glacier Track
- Farewell Dinner

We spend the day exploring the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, an expanse of untouched, breathtaking, alpine landscape extending over more than 700km in the Mackenzie region. A rugged land of ice and rock, the park includes 19 peaks over 3000 metres including New Zealand's highest mountain, Aoraki/Mount Cook. We begin by visiting the spectacular Visitor Centre where a local ranger will introduce us to the park's natural and human history. There will also be time to view the various interpretation exhibits and artwork collection.

After lunch we'll explore some of the walking tracks that lead to alpine tarns with spectacular views, perfect for avid photographers. Tonight we celebrate the end of our tour with a final farewell meal. (Overnight Lake Tekapo) BLD

### Depart Christchurch

Day 17: Sunday 15 November, Lake Tekapo – Ashburton – Christchurch Airport

- Trott's Garden, Ashburton
- Afternoon transfer to Christchurch Airport

This morning we travel to Ashburton to visit the award-winning garden of Alan and Catherine Trott, one of the most inspiring and extensive private gardens in New Zealand, covering over 2.8 hectares. The Trotts have combined formal herbaceous borders with woodland and water gardens that are quite outstanding. A designed garden from its inception, it leads the visitor through a series of different garden spaces that are carefully revealed. The garden is a blend of intense plantings, sweeping lawns and extensive water areas, which are all well balanced, creating a delightful rhythm to the overall design. The features a fine collection of plants including over 50 species of magnolia, 70 different maples and hundreds of different shrubs and woodland species. Structural elements including a dovecote, boardwalk, gazebo and climbing frames, all add extra highlights to the garden. A chapel built in 1916 and moved to the garden in 1999 is set against a hedged garden. It features an interior of superb native New Zealand timbers. The area of the garden surrounding the old cobbled stables is a specialist nursery.

After a light lunch at Trott's Garden we proceed to Christchurch airport arriving at approximately 2.30pm.  
BL

## Accommodation

ASA has selected 3- to 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All rooms include en suite bathroom.

- Christchurch (2 nights): 4-star [Crowne Plaza Christchurch](#) – a contemporary hotel located in the city centre, offering modern rooms with beautiful views of the city.
- Blenheim (2 nights): 4-star [Chateau Marlborough](#) – a boutique hotel located in the heart of Marlborough Wine Country.
- Hokitika (1 night): 3-star [Beachfront Hotel](#) – a modern hotel located right on the beach.
- Lake Moeraki (2 nights): 4-star [Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge](#) – New Zealand's premier boutique nature lodge, located alongside the Moeraki River, surrounded by ancient rainforests of Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area.
- Queenstown (2 nights): 4-star [Copthorne Hotel and Resort Lakefront Queenstown Lakefront](#) – close to the shores of Lake Wakatipu and 5 minutes' walk from the town.
- Te Anau (1 night): 4-star [Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas](#) – located on the Te Anau lake front, a short stroll from the town centre.
- Invercargill (1 night): 4-star [Ascot Park Hotel](#) – located 5km from the city centre, offering onsite restaurant and bar.
- Dunedin (2 nights): 4-star [Distinction Dunedin Hotel](#) – housed in Dunedin's former Chief Post Office; and within easy walking distance to The Octagon, theatres and shops.
- Oamaru (1 night): 3-star [The Brydone Hotel](#) – located in the city centre.
- Lake Tekapo (2 nights): 4-star [Peppers Bluewater Resort](#) – a modern hotel close to the shores of Lake Tekapo ideally positioned for exploring the Mackenzie region and Southern Alps.

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

### Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double/twin room for single occupancy throughout the tour. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



A map of New Zealand showing a travel route connecting major cities and parks. The route is marked with a thick dark blue line and blue location pins. The route starts in the north at Blenheim, goes to Nelson, then to Greymouth, then to Christchurch. From Christchurch, it goes to Ashburton, then to Timaru, then to Waimate, then to Oamaru, then to Dunedin. From Dunedin, it goes to Invercargill, then to Winton, then to Gore, then to Te Anau. From Te Anau, it goes to Queenstown, then to Wanaka, then to Mount Aspiring National Park, then to a point near Greytown, then to a point near Hokitika, then to a point near Westport, then to a point near Nelson, then to a point near Blenheim. The map also shows other cities like Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru, Waimate, Oamaru, Dunedin, Invercargill, Winton, Gore, Te Anau, Queenstown, Wanaka, and Mount Aspiring National Park. The map is labeled 'Te Waipounamu / South Island'.

## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only – early bird special book before 31 October 2025

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3 and 4-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach and cruise as outlined in the tour itinerary
- Airport transfer at the end of the tour arriving at 2.30pm
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person where available (not all hotels and motels offer this service)
- Lecture and site visit program
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Christchurch, Christchurch-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Arrival Airport transfer in Christchurch
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level 

### Level 1 - Active

For people with active lives and good mobility

You must be able to:

- manage at least five hours of physical activity per day with ease
- walk at a regular pace (some days up to 5-7km) along forest tracks or garden trails often up and down hills on uneven terrain. For the optional walk at Lake Moeraki you need to be a good walker and navigate uneven tracks, boardwalks, bridges and streams.
- keep up with the group at all times.
- cope with extensive coach travel often on minor roads with some travel along steep and winding mountain roads.
- cope with a more demanding tour schedule which regularly 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).
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.



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. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

## Booking Conditions

Making a Tentative Reservation before the tour price has been published

### ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$200.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$800.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$1000.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$200.00 per person deposit, less a \$66.00 service fee (including GST).



# Intention to Travel Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

## Booking before the tour price is available

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD\$200.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD\$800.00 per person applicable for International tours OR AUD\$300.00 per person applicable for Australian tours. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your full deposit is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

### OR

- Cancel your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD\$200.00 per person deposit, less a \$66.00 service fee (including GST).

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour.

ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities *without assistance or support*:-

- walk & stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1 km every 15 - 20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

Payment by (please indicate): ☐ Cheque ☐ Direct Debit (see below) ☐ Credit Card (see below)

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

### By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

### Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ  
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
Swift Code ANZBAU3M  
BSB 013-423  
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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