



# Natural Landscapes and Gardens of New Zealand's South Island – March 2022

4 MAR – 20 MAR 2022

Code: 22258

Tour Leaders **Stephen Ryan, Craig Lidgerwood**

Physical Ratings 

Horticulturalist Stephen Ryan visits an extraordinary variety of private gardens and natural landscapes including Milford Sound, The Catlins and the spectacular Mackenzie Region.

## Overview

- Led by horticulturalist [Stephen Ryan](#) this tour visits an extraordinary variety of public and private gardens and spectacular natural landscapes of New Zealand's South Island. Stephen will be assisted by [Craig Lidgerwood](#).
- Explore the beautiful Marlborough Region, famous for its traditional gardens and viticulture. Enjoy the hospitality of the garden owners at Huguette Michel's Hortensia and Carolyn Ferraby's Barewood Gardens.
- Visit 5 gardens classified as Gardens of International Significance: Sir Miles Warren's private garden, [Ohinetahi](#) (Christchurch), [Flaxmere Garden](#) (North Canterbury), [Trotts Garden](#) (Ashburton), [Larnach Castle Gardens](#) (Dunedin) and the [Dunedin Botanic Garden](#).
- By special appointment view Broadfields NZ Landscape Garden designed by Robert Watson in Christchurch, [Maple Glen Gardens](#) in Eastern Southland, and the spectacular gardens of [Clachanburn Station](#) in Central Otago.
- 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.
- Travel through the Fiordland National Park encompassing mountain, lake, fiord and rainforest environments.
- Enjoy a relaxing cruise of Milford Sound, described by Rudyard Kipling as the '8th wonder of the world'.
- Explore [The Catlins](#) featuring spectacular coastal scenery, dense temperate rainforest and many endangered species of birds and mammals. At Curio Bay visit one of the most extensive and 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.
- Visit [Riverstone Kitchen](#), named Supreme Winner in the Cuisine New Zealand Restaurant of the Year Awards in 2010, and explore its vegetable gardens and orchard.
- Visit the spectacular [Mackenzie Region](#) ringed by snow-capped mountains and featuring turquoise-blue lakes. The region has been recognised as an [International Dark Sky Reserve](#), the largest in the world; 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) • Greymouth (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)

## Leaders



### Stephen Ryan

Horticulturalist, nurseryman, collector, prolific writer and award-winning broadcaster. Stephen brings his profound knowledge to ASA garden tours in France, Morocco, Madagascar, Spain, Chile, New Zealand and Western Australia.

Stephen Ryan is the newly appointed Patron for the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV). He is also the President of the Mt Macedon Horticultural Society, one of the oldest gardening clubs in Victoria.

Stephen Ryan, horticulturalist, author and broadcaster, started working in his father's nursery at the age of ten and at the same time joined the Mt. Macedon Horticultural Society. By the age of 19 he was the president and still is to this day. After completing a Gardening and Turf Management apprenticeship, and achieving an *Award of Merit* as the top Victorian apprentice he subsequently was awarded two scholarships, one in the United Kingdom and the other in New Zealand. On Stephen's return to Australia he ran his family nursery until he started his own nationally recognised nursery Dicksonia Rare Plants a few years later in 1980 and has been a passionate plant collector ever since.

Having started with writing articles for magazines and newspapers, Stephen's media presence has developed to the stage where he does a regular radio slot with Melbourne's 3CR station. In 2002 Stephen was awarded a *Radio Laurel* by the Horticultural Media Association for his segments on ABC Radio 774 3LO. Stephen has often appeared on a variety of television programs, however he is best known for his role for three years as host on ABC Television's *Gardening Australia*.

Stephen lectures and holds seminars both in Australia as well as overseas which have included a lecture that was translated into Spanish as he spoke to an audience in Argentina. As a plant hunter and traveller he has travelled to many places in the world such as Namibia, India, Oregon, England, Ireland, South Africa, Peru, New Guinea and France as well as the aforementioned Argentina. He has also led tours into Madagascar and North West France.

He has published three books on rare plants that have received rave reviews and his manual contains over 2000 plant entries of rare plants available in temperate Australia. He also contributed to the two large tomes produced in Australia *Botanica* and more recently *Flora*. Stephen's garden and nursery hold three national plant collections, *Cornus*, *Sambucus* and *Acanthus*, for the Garden Plants Conservation Association of Australia. In 2001 the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria recognised Stephen with a John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal for "Distinguished Service to Horticulture". Since departing *Gardening Australia*, Stephen is now writing for a New Zealand magazine *Weekend Gardener*, and has started writing another book, which will be on the development of his own garden, '*Tugurium*'.

Stephen first joined ASA as a lecturer in 2009. Below is a link to the new program 'The Horti-Culturalists':

<https://youtu.be/DJtB5ilbVZc>

The following link gives a little gardening background on Stephen Ryan:

ABC Gardening Australia 'My Garden Path - Stephen Ryan'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrU\\_6KcZBc4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrU_6KcZBc4)

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### Craig Lidgerwood

Accomplished Botanical artist who exhibits widely, Craig leads garden tours with Stephen Ryan, whose 'Dicksonia Rare Plants Manual' he illustrated. Together they lead garden tours to France, Spain, Morocco and Madagascar.

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 1980s 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 program, *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 traveller, trekking in Eastern Nepal, Kilimanjaro, the Andes and the Inca Trail, Darjeeling and Sikkim. Craig has also spent three months walking in southwest France, the French Pyrénées and Corsica.

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## Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens which we plan to visit. At the time of publication (March 2021) 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 2022.

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 4 March, Arrive Christchurch

- Airport transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight
- Christchurch Botanic Gardens
- Welcome Dinner

Meeting Point: [Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square](#) at 52 Cathedral Square, Christchurch Central City. Check-in time is 2.00pm.

Please meet your group leaders in the foyer of the hotel at 4pm where the program will commence 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 5 March, Christchurch – Allandale – Rolleston – Christchurch

- Ohinetahi Gardens, Lyttelton
- Broadfields NZ Landscape Garden
- Robyn Kilty's garden and cottage

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).

Next, we return to Christchurch to meet Robyn Kilty. We will start the visit with her own cottage and garden. She started restoring this place in 1993, and designed the garden to reflect the traditional symmetry of these worker's cottages. Unfortunately, the design had to be revisited after the earthquakes, and Robyn then introduced beds with flowers and some grasses in the 'prairie style' inspired by Piet Oudolf's ideas.

Robyn will then take us on a short walking tour through the narrow streetscapes and cottages of this historic Englefield area, explaining the history of this early part of Christchurch as it links with the city and the Avon River. We will see the Red Zone, an area largely affected by the earthquakes and deemed infeasible to rebuild on, finishing our tour at the Heritage Rose Garden in nearby Beverley Park. (Overnight Christchurch) BL

### Blenheim – 2 nights

Day 3: Sunday 6 March, Christchurch – Hawarden – Kaikoura – Blenheim

- Flaxmere Garden, Hawarden
- Kaikoura Peninsula guided walk

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 Kaikoura. The Kaikoura Peninsula is known for its cliff-top views of the sea, mountains, marine wildlife, and historic sites. The peninsula has been settled by Maori for approximately 1000 years and by Europeans since the 1800s when whaling operations began. It is situated in a tectonically active region bounded by the Marlborough Fault System. The track goes along by the Lyell Creek where many native birds nest and feed. It continues onto the beach where we will see the sea bed lifted from the earthquake of 2016. We will hear about Maori pa (a village or defensive settlement) and war sites as well as the history of the first European arrivals. A quick hop will bring us to Point Kean where we might encounter some seals. We will finish by a stop at the Kaikoura Lookout before continuing our journey to Blenheim. (Overnight Blenheim) BLD

#### Day 4: Monday 7 March, Blenheim: Marlborough Region

- Paripuma Garden
- Barewood Garden
- Hortensia Garden
- Bhudevi: garden visit & light evening meal

Today we continue to explore the Marlborough region. We begin with a visit to 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 Ngaios 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.

The second beautiful garden on today's program is Barewood which lies in the Awatere Valley. 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.

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 continuing to Bhudevi for a light evening meal. Bhudevi is an eight hectare property in the heart of Marlborough wine country. The large modern home, surrounded by an organic sauvignon blanc vineyard, features 1.5 hectares of gardens combining a formal garden of geometric design with a meandering water garden planted with New Zealand natives. (Overnight Blenheim) BLD

#### Greymouth – 1 night

#### Day 5: Tuesday 8 March, 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 Greymouth) BLD

### Lake Moeraki – 2 nights

Day 6: Wednesday 9 March, Greymouth – 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 10 March, 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 picnic lunch followed by an afternoon at leisure. (Overnight Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge) BLD

#### Queenstown – 2 nights

#### Day 8: Friday 11 March, Lake Moeraki – Wanaka – Gibbston – Dalefield – Queenstown

- Coe Garden, Lake Wanaka
- Lunch at the Gibbston Valley Winery Restaurant
- Birchwood Garden, Dalefield

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 John and Kate Coe’s garden, surrounded by Lake Wanaka’s snow-capped mountains. The garden was created from a paddock over a 30 year period. For the first ten years they operated the local plant nursery which allowed them to travel around the South Island finding plants that

were unusual and interesting. The emphasis is on perennials, for which the nursery was noted. The continental climate of the area, with cold winters and hot summers, calls for a degree of careful plant selection. The garden is framed by spectacular mountain which adds a feeling of continuity to the many garden view corridors.

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.

We then continue to Birchwood, a beautifully peaceful Queenstown garden set against a magnificent mountainous backdrop, which is classified as a Garden of National Significance. It was designed by renowned Australian garden designer Paul Bangay and is an excellent example of his signature style. The garden features a serene green, white and mauve colour palette and is set out as a series of rooms, each with their own character, that grow less formal as you move away from the house. Mass-planting of hundreds of white 'Sally Holmes' roses, catmint, lavender and 'Snow Hill' hydrangeas is spectacular but deliberately simple, to avoid competing with the landscape and views of Coronet Peak, The Remarkables, Cecil Peak and Cardrona.

In the late afternoon we continue our journey south to Queenstown which sits on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, set against the dramatic Southern Alps. (Overnight Queenstown) BL

#### Day 9: Saturday 12 March, Queenstown – Lake Dunstan – Arrowtown – Lake Hayes – Queenstown

- Jo Wakelin's Garden, Lake Dunstan
- Arrowtown historic village
- Chantecler Gardens, Lake Hayes

This morning 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.

Following lunch in Arrowtown and time to explore this historic gold mining town, we explore Chantecler, described as 'a garden for all seasons'. Nestled in the heart of the Wakitipu Basin, and surrounded by majestic snow covered mountains, this 40 acre property includes 12 acres of mature gardens including an English garden, a large Asian garden, the NZ native garden, as well as a large vegetable patch and orchard. Chantecler's gardens are complimented by mature Redwood, Oak, Beech, Ash, Rowan, Maple, Willow, Birch and many other trees including exotic Conifer. The driveway is lined with Liquid Amber which displays amazing colours in Autumn. (Overnight Queenstown) B

#### Te Anau – 1 night

#### Day 10: Sunday 13 March, 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 14 March, Te Anau – Wyndham – Invercargill

- Kepler Track walk, Te Anau
- Maple Glen Gardens, Wyndham

We start the day with a gentle morning walk around the shore of Lake Te Anau. The track begins after crossing the bridge over the River Waiau known as Kepler Control Gates. The gates regulate water flows between lakes Te Anau and Manapouri. Once over the control gates you enter Fiordland National Park and find yourself walking on the Kepler Track. It follows the lake shore through mountain and red beech forest, with kamahi, scattered rimu, miro, and yellow-flowering kowhai. The track passes an attractive grove of hard tree ferns and crown ferns before reaching Dock Bay.

After the walk 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 15 March, Invercargill – The Catlins – Dunedin

- Waipapa Point Lighthouse
- Curio Bay Fossilised Forest
- McLean 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 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. Our visit is timed for late-morning when, 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 McLean Falls where we take an easy 40-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 16 March, 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 17 March, Dunedin – Puketoi – Ranfurly – Oamaru

- Dunedin Botanic Garden: Guided Horticultural Tour
- Clachanburn Station, Puketoi
- Ranfurly
- Moeraki Boulders (time-permitting)

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 Clachanburn Station located 164km north of Dunedin on the dry rough plain of Maniototo in Central Otago. This 4.5 acre rambling country garden, developed by Jane Falconer, is recognised as a NZ Garden of National Significance. The garden developed around the stream which flows through the heart of the property, and the original plantings of the 1930s. Lawns and borders roll gracefully away from the house to two large ponds with rugged hills to one side and the distant mountains beyond. An arching natural stone bridge, and a boat shed on the lower pond are special features. Central Otago enjoys brilliant autumn colours. The gardens feature many deciduous trees – maples, rowans, poplars and willows. Shrubs that colour well include many viburnums, cornus and spireas.

After lunch and a tour of these beautiful gardens we continue our journey to Oamaru, making a brief stop at Ranfurly well known for its 1930's simple modernist art deco architecture. Time-permitting we also view the unusually large and spherical Moeraki Boulders which lie along a stretch of Koekohe Beach on the wave-cut Otago coast. (Overnight Oamaru) BL

### Lake Tekapo – 2 nights

Day 15: Friday 18 March, Oamaru – Riverstone – Lake Tekapo

- Riverstone Kitchen: Guided tour of the vegetable gardens
- 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 (*subject to confirmation in 2022*)

This morning we visit 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.

This afternoon 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 19 March, The Mackenzie Region

- Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Visitor Centre
- Nature walk with local park ranger
- 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 a local ranger will guide us on one of the walking tracks that leads to alpine tarns with spectacular views, perfect for avid photographers. Tonight we celebrate the end of our tour with a final farewell meal at the hotel. (Overnight Lake Tekapo) BLD

#### Depart Christchurch

#### Day 17: Sunday 20 March, Lake Tekapo – Ashburton – Christchurch Airport

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

This morning we depart Lake Tekapo and travel to Ashburton where we visit the award winning garden of Alan and Catherine Trott. It is 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

Awarded the prestigious Award of Garden Excellence, this garden also has a very fine collection of plants. With over 50 species of magnolia, 70 different maples and hundreds of different shrubs and woodland species, there is always something in flower. 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. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure.

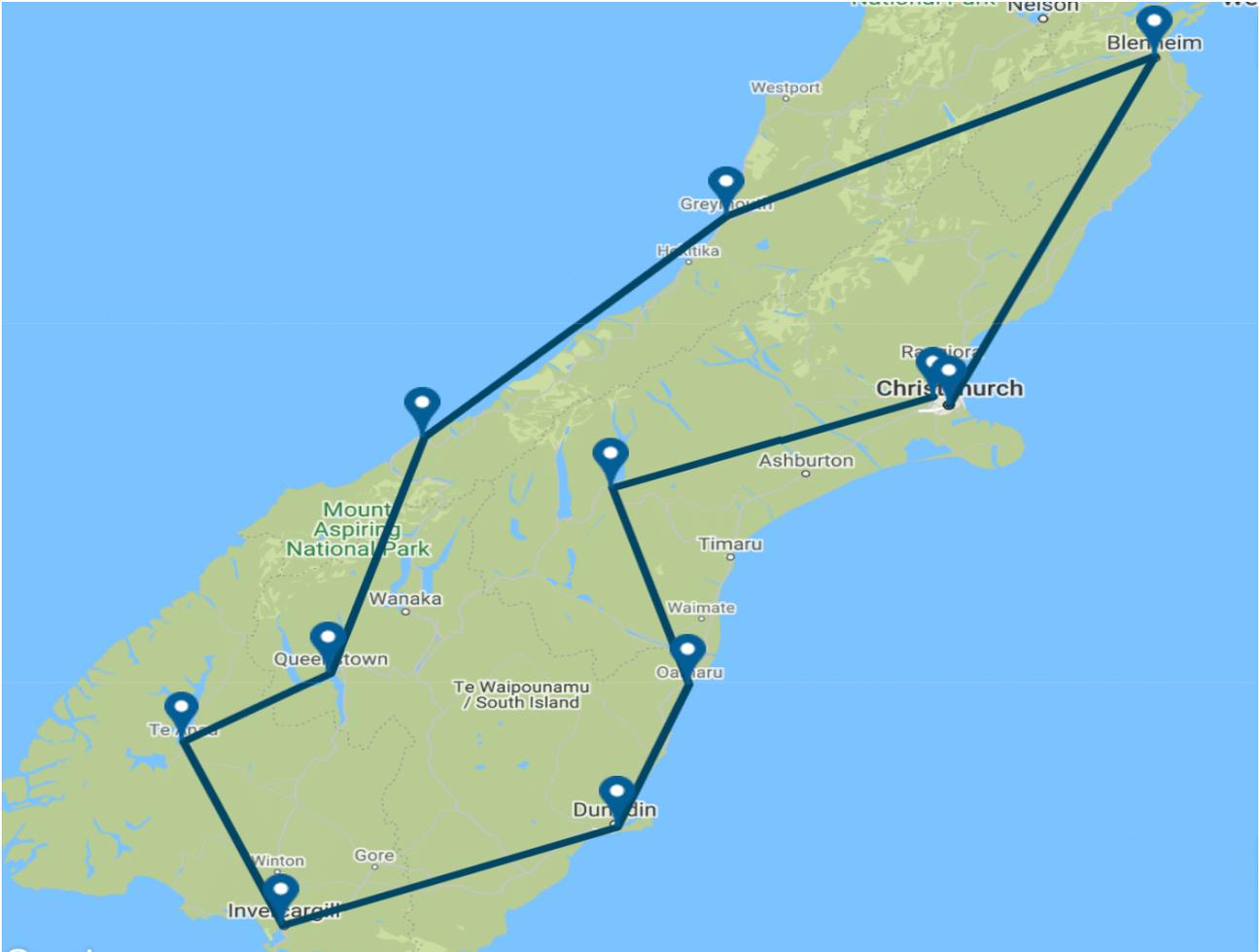
- Christchurch (2 nights): 4-star Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square Hotel – a contemporary hotel located in the city centre, offering rooms with city views. [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)
- Blenheim (2 nights): 4-star Blenheim Palms Motel – a modern motel located in the heart of Blenheim, just meters away from restaurants, bars and cafés. [www.blenheimpalmsmotel.co.nz](http://www.blenheimpalmsmotel.co.nz)
- Greymouth (1 night): 3-star Kingsgate Hotel – a modern hotel located in the city centre. [www.millenniumhotels.co.nz](http://www.millenniumhotels.co.nz)
- Lake Moeraki (2 nights): 4-star Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodge – New Zealand’s premier boutique nature lodge, located alongside the Moeraki River, surrounded by the ancient rainforests of Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area. The lodge offers secluded rooms with private facilities and the ‘Riverside Restaurant’ enjoys peaceful views of the river. [www.wildernesslodge.co.nz](http://www.wildernesslodge.co.nz)
- 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 centre. [www.millenniumhotels.com](http://www.millenniumhotels.com)
- Te Anau (1 night): 4-star Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas – overlooking the spectacular Lake Te Anau and the Fiordland ranges. [www.distinctionhotelsteanau.co.nz](http://www.distinctionhotelsteanau.co.nz)
- Invercargill (1 night): 4-star Ascot Park Hotel – located 5km from the city centre, offering onsite restaurant and bar. [www.ascotparkhotel.co.nz](http://www.ascotparkhotel.co.nz)
- Dunedin (2 nights): 4-star The Victoria Hotel – located in the heart of the city, within a short walk of The Octagon, theatres and shops. [www.victoriahoteldunedin.com](http://www.victoriahoteldunedin.com)
- Oamaru (1 night): 3-star The Brydone Hotel – situated on Thames Street in the centre of Oamaru. [www.brydonehotel.co.nz](http://www.brydonehotel.co.nz)
- 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. [www.peppers.co.nz/bluewater](http://www.peppers.co.nz/bluewater)

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.

## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement

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

### 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
- Bottled water for all daily excursions
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach and cruise as outlined in the tour itinerary
- Airport transfer at the end of the tour if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- 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
- Airport-hotel transfers on arrival
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



## Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags 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 flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags 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 17-day tour involves:

- A moderate amount of walking mainly during outdoor site visits, often up and down hills and/or flights of stairs, and uneven terrain along rainforest and lowland forest tracks and across streams and rivers (eg Lake Moeraki). You therefore need to be a good walker and be prepared to walk into forested and uneven terrain and surfaces (incl. tracks, boardwalks, bridges and streams).
- 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).
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.
- Coach travelling is often on minor roads with some travel along steep and winding mountain roads.

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 Terms and Conditions section given below.

### Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive 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](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

## Booking Conditions

### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

### 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.



# 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\$100.00 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\$400.00 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 \$500.00 AUD is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

### OR

- Cancel your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD\$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

## 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

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Name of Traveller 1 

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Name of Traveller 2 

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I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ 

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 (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 

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Expiry Date 

---

Security Code (CVC) 

---

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

---

Cardholders Name 

---

Cardholders Billing Address 

---

Postcode 

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State 

---

Country 

---

Phone 

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Email 

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Cardholders Signature 

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