



Natural Landscapes and Gardens of New Zealand's South Island 2025

14 NOV – 30 NOV 2025

Code: 22547

Tour Leaders **Professor Tim Entwisle, Lynda Entwisle**

Physical Ratings 

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

Overview

- Led by [Professor Timothy 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 to Spain in 2019.
- Explore the Marlborough Region, famous for its gardens and viticulture: visit magical [Winterhome Garden](#), [Hortensia](#), [Barewood Gardens](#) 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)

Craig Lidgerwood led this tour with Stephen Ryan in November 2022. Below is a youtube presented by Stephen that provides an outline of several of the gardens that we will return to visit in 2025.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51F_2dyv4mE

Leaders



Professor Tim Entwisle

Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria since March 2013, following 2 years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and 8 years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney.

Tim is a highly respected scientist, scientific communicator and botanic gardens director. He took up the role of Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in March 2013, following two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (London), and eight years 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. He has a broad interest in plants and gardens, including editing and writing for the 4-volume *Flora of Victoria*. In 2014 Tim published *Sprinter and Sprummer: Australia's Changing Seasons*, challenging the use of the traditional four seasons in Australia, and in August 2022 his 'wildly rich memoir' *Evergreen: The Botanical Life of a Plant Punk*.

Tim blogs (*TalkingPlants*), *tweets*, and looks for any opportunity to promote science, plants and gardens. He is a frequent guest on Australian radio and television, and writes opinion pieces for major newspapers. Over the summers of 2014-15 and 2015-16 Tim hosted ABC Radio National's first gardening show, *Talking Plants*, and he contributes regularly to RN's *Blueprint for Living*. He writes for a variety of science, nature and garden magazines – including regular pieces for *Gardening Australia Magazine* and maintains an active social media profile.

Tim first joined ASA in 2017 and has since led two garden tours to Spain. He has travelled extensively through the United Kingdom and Ireland, visiting gardens and meeting horticultural experts and garden owners. He is excited by the opportunity to show ASA travellers some of his favourite places.



Lynda Entwisle

Lynda is a keen gardener, and vice-chair and newsletter editor for the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. She has volunteered at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London, and now Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Lynda was a language teacher for 25 years, and is fluent in French and Spanish.

Lynda initially 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, in her spare time, and from there she went in to secondary teaching for the larger part of her career. She has taught students of all ages, including adult classes and has led student tours to New Caledonia and to France.

During her career she has worked and volunteered in a variety of places, where she has been able to expand her knowledge of the plant world and famous gardens while enjoying any opportunities to practise her language skills. 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. Another role she undertook in London, was that of Art History Coordinator for the Australian Women's Club. The visits to many cultural institutions and exposure to such rich collections stimulated an ongoing interest in Fine Arts.

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. In her spare time, she enjoys taking Botanical Art classes and has recently completed a series of drawings of endangered native orchids for the Orchid Conservation program.

In 2017, she assisted her husband, Professor Tim Entwisle on the gardens of Spain tour and in 2019 chose to attend a Spanish Language course to improve her skills in this language. Now, with greater time to travel, Lynda is looking forward to supporting like-minded travellers as they explore international gardens and cultural sites.



Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens which we plan to visit. At the time of publication (August 2023) 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 14 November, 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 15 November, 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 16 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 17 November, Blenheim: Marlborough Region

- Winterhome Garden, Kekerengu
- Barewood 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 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 returning to Blenheim. (Overnight Blenheim) BL

Hokitika – 1 night

Day 5: Tuesday 18 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 19 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 20 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 21 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 22 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 23 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 24 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 25 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 26 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 27 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 28 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 29 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 30 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. A hotel list will be given to all participants prior to departure.

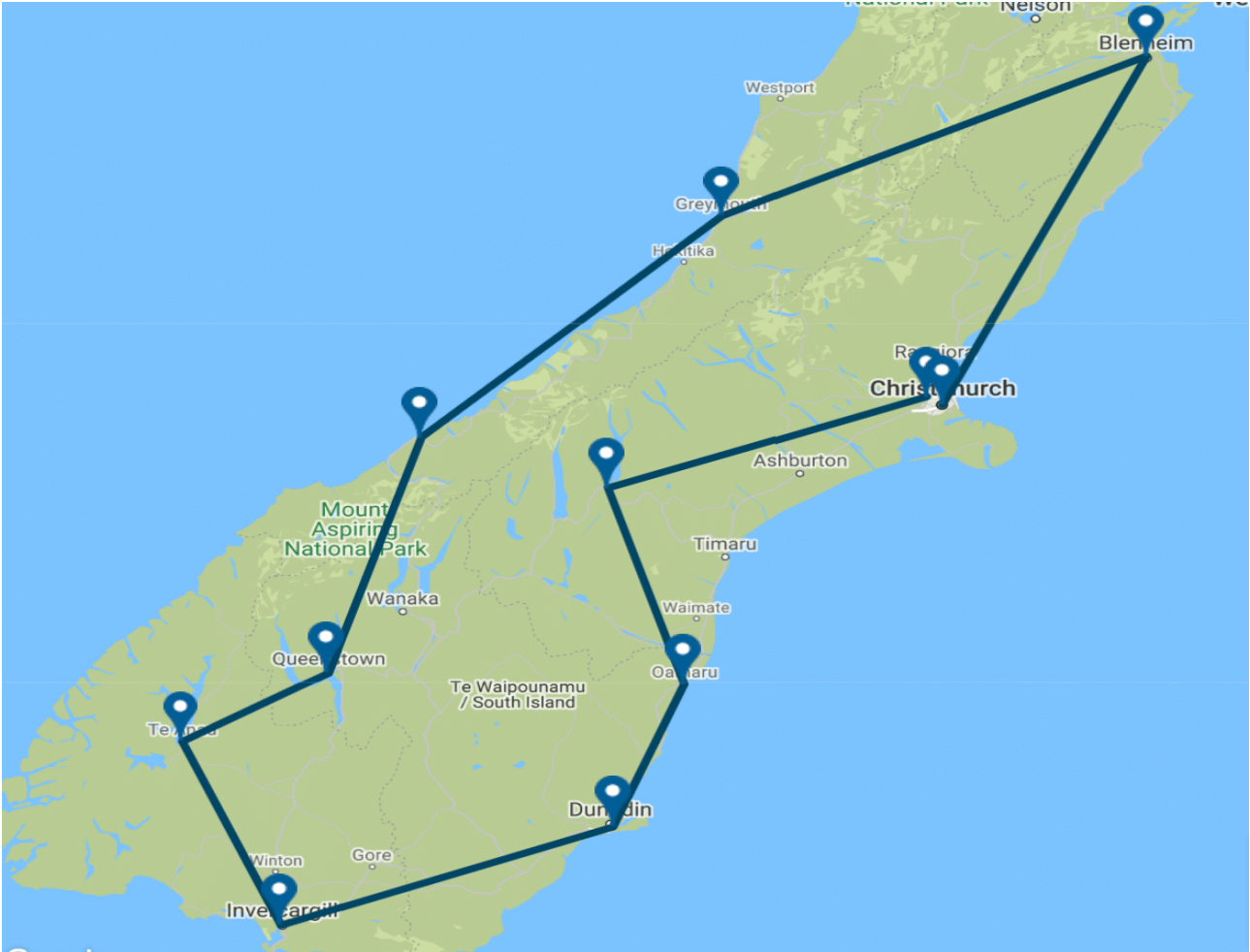
- Christchurch (2 nights): 4-star Novotel Christchurch Cathedral Square Hotel – a contemporary hotel located in the city centre, offering rooms with city views. www.accorhotels.com
- Blenheim (2 nights): 4-star Chateau Marlborough – a boutique hotel located in the heart of Marlborough Wine Country. www.marlboroughnz.co.nz
- Hokitika (1 night): 3-star Beachfront Hotel – a modern hotel located right on the beach. www.beachfronthotel.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
- 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. www.millenniumhotels.com
- 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. www.distinctionhotelsteau.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
- Dunedin (2 nights): 4-star Distinction Dunedin Hotel – housed in Dunedin’s former Chief Post Office, the hotel is located in the heart of the city, within a short walk of The Octagon, theatres and shops. www.distinctionhotels.co.nz
- Oamaru (1 night): 3-star The Brydone Hotel – situated on Thames Street in the centre of Oamaru. 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

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 – early bird special book before 31 October 2024

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



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.

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

Booking Conditions

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).

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 and 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 1km 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



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 _____

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- 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 _____



Intention to Travel Payment

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 _____

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