

New Zealand's Best of North and South October 25th- November 15th, 2016

Day 1 October 27th

ARRIVE AUCKLAND



Welcome to Auckland, one of the world's most exciting waterside cities and New Zealand's largest and most vibrant. Dubbed the "City of Sails," Auckland features spectacular harbour views, with more yachts and sailboats per capita than any other city in the world. Clear customs and transfer to your hotel (**your rooms have been pre-registered**) for a chance to freshen up and rest. The afternoon is free to explore the city and relax in preparation of your tour. Within walking distance to the hotel is Albert Park situated in the heart of Auckland City. The park has an area of mixed perennial and annual bedding, a floral clock and many significant historic points of interest.

Dinner is included in the hotel restaurant. **LD**

Overnight: Auckland



Day 2 October 28th

AUCKLAND TO PAIHIA

Today you will leave the city behind and travel north over the bridge to visit **Omaio Gardens** in the small coastal area of Warkworth. Omaio is a Maori (indigenous people of New Zealand) name meaning "place of peace, quiet and tranquillity". This is a coastal property of 18 acres on the Takatu peninsula. The garden is a fusion of natives and formality in the carefully clipped specimens, plant shapes and textures. The repetition of the plantings throughout is effective. Established natural trees provide shade where clivia, hydrangeas,

anthropodium, bergenia, ligularia, hostas and ferns flourish. This garden was planted to create calm – the colour palette is soft, tones of green dominate, it is easy on the eye and restful on the soul. After a morning strolling through the vast area of gardens and talking to the owner, we will make our way to the small village of Matakana. Enjoy a coffee (own cost) at one of the great local cafes before continuing your journey north. There are many short nature walks and scenic stops along the way.

Visit the **Kauri Museum** at Matakohē which tells the story of our pioneering settlers through the lens of the Kauri Industry. The museum specializes in the legacy of our Kauri Forests, especially the strong durable timber and the highly prized Kauri Gum. Experience the adventures of our pioneering settlers and appreciate the legacy of our kauri forests. Your journey will continue north travelling through the mighty Waipoua Forest to the small seaside settlement of Omapere. Your hotel is by the quiet water's edge of the harbour. Upon arrival at the hotel there will be refreshments available for an early dinner. **BD**

TWILIGHT ENCOUNTER: This evening you will be met at the hotel by local Maori guide who will brief you on the protocols for your visit to the mighty Waipoua Forest. Stepping into a special world, you will be walking under the same stars that guided the ancestor Kupe from legendary Hawaiiki to New Zealand. On the paths of the forest we meet trees that were already giants before his arrival and that were standing before the birth of Christ. You will experience the affinity that early Maori had with the forest and the deep spiritual respect they hold for the giants still growing there. Learn of the rich bird life and other fauna that inhabit the forest and witness the transitions of life- day turning into the night. Your guides will relate stories and legends of the forest and how Maori used plants for medicinal purposes.



Overnight: *Copthorne Hotel and Resort Hokianga*

Day 3 October 29th OMAPERE TO PAIHIA

Take some time this morning to enjoy the fabulous scenery, take a walk or enjoy the pool. Board your coach and travel to Kerikeri, New Zealand's favourite subtropical town. Visit the **Stone Store**, New Zealand's oldest building. Close to the store is **Wharepuke Garden** which has a collection of generally warm climate plants originating from many different countries, ranging from arid climate succulents to rainforest trees. Meet the passionate owners and discuss their gardening journey. There is an art gallery and café in the gardens. After **lunch** visit **Palmco Gardens**. This established lush subtropical garden features many wonderful specimen palm trees, cycads, tropical tree ferns and species with rich under planting of exotics and native species. Enjoy **afternoon tea** at the café before heading to Paihia for a visit to the **Waitangi Treaty Grounds** which is the location of the first signing of the Treaty of Waitangi between Maori Chiefs and the British Crown in 1840. Your accommodation is across the road from the beach and within walking distance to the township. **BL**

Overnight: *Kingsgate Hotel Autolodge Paihia*



DAY 4 October 30th IN PAIHIA

FULL DAY CAPE REINGA TOUR: A trip to New Zealand is not complete without a journey to the very top of the North Island – **Cape Reinga** (Te Rerenga Wairua). Uncover the wild beauty of this vast and untouched region that is rich in Māori culture and tradition. As you travel north, enjoy a taste of New Zealand's varying and beautiful landscape: the rolling hills of Northland's rural countryside, breath-taking coastal views and native forest. Drive along the sand on Ninety Mile Beach as the waves crash beside the custom-built coach. Feel the sand between your toes as you help your driver guide dig for shellfish (conditions permitting). Your off-road journey continues up Te Paki Stream, stopping at the massive sand dunes where you can experience the thrills and spills of sand-boarding.

Clambering up and surfing down the dunes (if you dare!) is sure to get your heart pumping. Visit the Puketi Kauri Forest and

get up close to ancient and majestic giant kauri trees and native bush. Stroll along an elevated walkway as these graceful giants surround you, and learn about conservation efforts to preserve the forest today. Visit Cape Reinga and hear the stories of this significant site where, according to Māori legend, spirits depart on their journey home to Hawaiki. Enjoy spectacular panoramic views, visit the iconic lighthouse, and see the point where the Tasman Sea and the mighty Pacific Ocean come crashing together. Leave a living legacy by planting a native tree at Cape Reinga (additional cost). During your Cape Reinga tour you'll also experience another Kiwi icon: a lunch of delicious fresh fish and chips at the historic Wagener Museum at Houhora. A vegetarian option is also available. Your return journey will be equally enjoyable as your tour guide shares their local insight, extensive historical knowledge and fantastic sense of humour creating an unforgettable adventure.

Dinner this evening is included in the hotel restaurant. **BD**

Overnight: *Kingsgate Hotel Paihia – or similar*

Day 5 October 31st PAIHIA TO AUCKLAND

Leave the beautiful bay behind and return to Auckland following the coast and stopping off along the way for photos. When you arrive in Auckland you will be transferred to your hotel which is centrally located. Join the main tour for lunch and afternoon tour. **BLD**

MAIN TOUR:

Day 5 October 31st ARRIVE AUCKLAND for those not on pre-tour

Welcome to Auckland, one of the world's most exciting waterside cities and New Zealand's largest and most vibrant. Dubbed the "City of Sails", Auckland features spectacular harbour views with more yachts and sailboats per capita than any other city in the world. Clear customs and transfer to your hotel (**main tour only participants - your rooms have been pre-registered**) for a chance to freshen up and rest for a couple of hours before beginning our exploration of Auckland. After a light lunch at the hotel board your coach for a sightseeing tour of the city including a visit to Auckland's Skytower – the tallest man-made structure in New Zealand.



See panoramic and breathtaking views of the city. You then transfer to the **Auckland Domain** where you will have time to visit the **Wintergardens** to explore on your own, established after World War 1 and is a protected heritage site. The Wintergardens houses rare and spectacular plants in an ever-changing display that can be seen in each of the two barrel vaulted Victorian style glass houses which face out on to an extensive court yard and sunken pool. One house is heated and shows off lush tropical and heat-loving plants while the other displays temperate plants changing with the seasons.

You then transfer to the **Auckland Botanic Gardens**. Auckland Botanic Gardens is home to over 10,000 plants from around the world; spread over 64 hectares in Manurewa, South Auckland. Return to your hotel for dinner and an early night. **LD**
Overnight Auckland

Day 6 November 1st **Auckland**

A further day in this region to enjoy some magnificent private gardens including a **harbour cruise** across to Devonport. Disembark and meet your coach driver and head to **Totara Waters** which is a 2 acre subtropical garden set on the upper Waitemata Harbour. Development began in 1999 by Peter and Jocelyn Coyle, whereby extensive planting of rare and unusual plants have been included in the garden. There are many species of palms, beaucarneas, succulents, cycads, yuccas, cacti, aloes, dracaenas, agaves and bromeliads. Later visit **Twin Lakes** which is a peaceful, all-seasons private garden formed around a five-acre lake with water lilies and exotic waterfowl. The garden features unusual and ornamental borders around the house with areas of mixed planting, rock gardens and a bog garden. **BLD**
Overnight: Auckland



Day 7 November 2nd **Auckland/Hamilton**

After breakfast, visit one of New Zealand's top **Garden Centres** that has branches throughout New Zealand. Meet with management and the team that works there who will show you around one of their centres. This company is very progressive and also supports a local gardening show. There are often workshops available which we will look into closer to the time of travel (additional cost). After enjoying morning tea in the garden centre café you will board your coach and travel south to visit **Ayrlies—a 12-acre private country garden**. Despite the size of this mature garden, repeated plantings of certain species and the use of the same materials throughout, it achieves a harmonious feel. Lunch will be included in a local café owned by a passionate gardener before continuing your journey to Hamilton, New Zealand's largest inland city. Before reaching the city we'll visit the privately owned **Waiwera Nursery** and marvel at their vast array of plants and hear stories of this small but successful business.

This evening you will stay in the heart of Hamilton city. Talk a short walk to have dinner at one of Hamilton's award winning restaurants. **BLD**
Overnight: Hamilton

Day 8 November 3rd



Hamilton

This morning you will travel to Matamata to visit **Daltons** who supply, process and manufacture potting mixes and supply landscape products to the horticultural industry. While you are in the area, visit **Hobbiton Movie Set and Tours** and hear how the gardening team keep the set looking authentic and all of the hard work that goes into it. The tour of

Hobbiton will conclude in the Green Dragon Inn finishing your tour with an ale and some hearty (lunch) Hobbit food. After lunch, depart Hobbiton and return to Hamilton. Dinner is included in a local restaurant. **BLD**

Overnight: Hamilton

Day 9 November 4th

Hamilton/Te Awamutu/Rotorua



Today you will visit the **World Famous Hamilton Gardens** for a behind the scenes look at what it takes to create this amazing treasure. There are themed gardens, kitchen gardens and a huge team that keeps the gardens looking great. You will be able to discuss plant choice, nutrients, spraying regimes and how they constantly come up with

new designs. The **local polytechnic** also has students that come to the gardens to enhance their course structure. We will meet with leaders from the landscaping tutoring team. Enjoy a **picnic lunch** in the Italian Garden overlooking the river as you continue to hear from your hosts about the Hamilton Gardens.

After lunch board a boat and **cruise** down the Waikato River where you will see how the rivers banks are being restored and planted with native plants. Dock at a small wharf in the country where after a short walk your coach will be waiting for you to continue your journey. Your next stop will be in Te Awamutu to visit **Growing Spectrum**, a wholesale plant nursery who supplies premium plants to garden centres throughout New Zealand. Meet with the key people in this business to learn about all of the plants that they provide the industry. Later continue by coach to Rotorua – the Maori cultural and thermal area of New Zealand. Enjoy **dinner** in the hotel restaurant. **BLD**

Overnight Rotorua

Day10 November 5th

Rotorua



A morning for sightseeing in this iconic NZ tourism area-visit **Rainbow Springs** to view an internationally renowned trout hatchery and the kiwi bird conservation house – see the life cycle of this endangered species as it happens – you may see an egg hatching, chicks being

raised and you will see a number of birds scurrying around in their nocturnal house. Enjoy the **Agrodome show** – an entertaining and informative show about New Zealand's sheep industry.

Later visit **Te Puia - Maori Arts and Craft Institute**. Here you will view wood carvers, flax weavers and see the bubbling mud pools, boiling springs and geysers and the silica terraces. There will be free time in town where you can buy your lunch (own expense). This afternoon visit a company that specialises in growing bulk quantities of native plants for vegetation in restoration projects, landscaping and farm plantings. Visit a community restoration project using plants from this nursery. Tonight experience an **authentic Maori village** and enjoy a traditional Maori concert and **hangi** (feast). **BD**
Overnight As above

Day 11 November 6th Rotorua/Dunedin

This morning transfer to the Rotorua airport to connect with your flight to Dunedin. (via Christchurch). Upon arrival you will have lunch in a local restaurant before heading out to the Otago Peninsula to visit **Penguin Place** – a yellow eyed penguin conservation reserve. These penguins are one of the world's most endangered species. You will see a working conservation program and undisturbed penguin activity at close range through a unique system of hides and tunnels. While you are on the peninsula, visit **Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens**. Glenfalloch is Gaelic for 'hidden valley' and enjoys a microclimate that extends the seasons and nurtures growth. Later venture to the **Dunedin Botanic Gardens** where you will have free time to relax and explore as you wish. Following **dinner**, there will also be free time to explore the city. **BLD**



Dunedin



Overnight

Day 12 November 7th Dunedin/Queenstown



This morning you will visit **Larnach Castle** and its beautiful gardens with an exclusive guided tour by the owner of the castle. Later head to Queenstown VIA Ranfurly to visit **Clachanburn Garden**- a rambling 4.5 acre country garden set in the stark beauty of the Maniototo. Clachanburn has been recognized by the New Zealand Gardens Trust and is registered as a garden of National Significance. This historic farm property is now farming Elk Deer. Lunch will be provided in the garden. After lunch continue your journey north and arrive into Queenstown which is on the shores of stunning Lake Wakatipu and is surely one of the most scenic spots in the world. The aptly named Remarkables and Eyre Mountains provide a breathtaking backdrop. Early this evening, take the Skyline Gondola to the Skyline Restaurant for dinner and an incredible view of the city and region. **BLD**

Overnight Queenstown

Day 13 November 8th Queenstown

Since you have done so much driving over the past few days, we believe you will enjoy having the day free to relax, explore and take in the incredible surroundings of Queenstown. Stroll along the waterfront through town and beautiful parkland. Explore the many shops and anyone feeling really energetic could climb up Queenstown Hill (900m)—a comfortable 2-3 hours up and back. There is no shortage of opportunities including lake cruising, scenic flight to Milford Sound, golf, wine tours, and so on! **B**
Overnight as above

Day 14 November 9th Queenstown/Manapouri



After a leisurely morning depart Queenstown and travel to Manapouri to meet **Doubtful Sound Overnight Cruise**. Enjoy lunch on the way. At Manapouri you will take a short cruise across Lake Manapouri then coach across Wilmot Pass on a sub-alpine road through dense rainforest to Deep Cove where your crew and the Fiordland Navigator await. The vessel anchors overnight in one of the Sound's hidden arms. Escape to the peace and tranquility of Doubtful Sound on a

magical overnight cruise. As you cruise through some of the fiord's most stunning scenery, the knowledgeable nature guides will provide commentary ensuring you miss nothing, be it the pod of resident dolphins, fur seals or rare penguins you might encounter. After dropping anchor in a sheltered cove, you can choose to explore the shoreline by kayak or tender boat or to simply relax on board. Enjoy a delicious three course buffet dinner. **BLD**

Overnight Doubtful Sound - Aboard the Fiordland Navigator

Day 15 November 10th Manapouri/Te Anau



Start the day with a hearty cooked breakfast and spend the rest of the morning exploring other parts of the Fiord. You then return to Deep Cove for the trip back to Manapouri where your coach awaits to take you to Te Anau which sits on the shores of Lake Te Anau. This afternoon you have the **option to visit Te Anau Glowworms**. Experience a mysterious underground world of rushing water before drifting in silent darkness beneath the

luminous shimmer of hundreds of glowworms. Your trip begins with a cruise across the lake to meet your guide who will point out the highlights and share their knowledge of the caves and its history. Dinner is included in the hotel restaurant. **BD**

Overnight Te Anau

Day 16 November 11th Te Anau/Wanaka

Head north today and visit the beautiful **Stoneridge Estate** which sits majestically amidst 12 acres of picturesque gardens and vineyards with breathtaking views across Lake Hayes and beyond to Coronet Peak. Enjoy a tour through some of the many restored buildings and stunning gardens on this site. Lunch will be at a winery whose vineyard sweeps down to the shores of Lake Wanaka.

A free evening to stroll around this lakeside town, then dinner in the hotel restaurant. **BLD**
Overnight Lake Wanaka

Day 17 November 12th

Lake Wanaka/Mt Somers



Today begin your return trek northward, passing over the dramatic Lindis Pass that links the Mackenzie Basin with Central Otago on up through Twizel to Lake Tekapo. Prepare to be wowed by the sweeping views across the opalescent turquoise lake with hills and the snowcapped Southern Alps as a backdrop. In the distance, we see Mt Cook National Park—of the 27 NZ mountains over 3050m, 22 are in this park. Stop at the Church of the Good Shepherd built of stone and wood in 1935 on the shore of Lake Tekapo. Enjoy a picnic lunch before continuing through to Mt Somers – the foothills of the Southern Alps and spend the evening with local farming families enjoying dinner and breakfast with your hosts. (Groups of 4-6 per host – very popular) **BLD**

Overnight **Farmstay**

Day 18 November 13th

Canterbury region

After breakfast reassemble and head to **Surrey Hills Garden** to see Sara Griggs' magnificent garden before heading to **Longbeach** - an historic South Canterbury property since 1864. Besides the garden, there is much to see by way of the original farm buildings (most of which survive today) and the restored original cobb cottage. The fine old wooden church at the far end of the garden dates back to 1873 and is still used by the family. Longbeach has a large garden which began in 1864 when shelter belts were planted. Successive generations have continued planting and today there are 16 acres of sweeping lawns. While this is a work in progress the present family is rolling back the undergrowth that had encroached as the years took their toll. The lawns are extensive, setting off the fine house (1938, designed by Heathcote Helmore) and there are some creditable borders planted to add colour and interest. A hand dug lake lies to one side. After an early lunch in the restored schoolhouse at Longbeach, continue your journey into Christchurch. The city was devastated in the 2011 earthquake and is now being rebuilt. See fascinating examples of innovative architecture as they work to re-create the city and bring vibrancy back into the centre.

Dinner is included in the hotel restaurant tonight. **BLD**

Overnight Christchurch



Day 19 November 14th

Christchurch

This morning you will be taken on a guided tour of **Christchurch Botanic gardens** with the River Avon meandering through this beautiful area. Visit a **local garden centre** and talk to the manager about the customers and how plants and trends differ from the North Island. Lunch is included in the newly built Botanic Gardens Café. After lunch, head to **Ohinetahi** at

Governors Bay – an historic stone house with topiaried hedges, formal parterre rose garden, stone walls and a water garden. Continue your travels out to Akaroa, a delightful French settlement set on the waters edge of Akaroa Harbour. Visit **The Giants House** and see sculpture, a mosaic garden and gallery. This quirky and playful garden will brighten your day. Visit Akaroa's own stately home. Built in 1857, **Blythcliffe's** elegant Colonial Regency style is rare in New Zealand. This graceful house is surprisingly set in extensive restful grounds with a croquet lawn, beds of old heritage roses, and native and ornamental trees bordered by the Balguerie Stream. Feed tame eels; watch the antics of the local birds, Kereru, Wax Eyes and Fantails whilst enjoying a cup of tea before returning to Christchurch.

Your **farewell dinner** will be at one of the many great new restaurants in the city. (4 visits today have been allowed and will be decided on closer to departure) **BLD Overnight Christchurch**

Day 20 November 15th

Depart Christchurch

Today you will say goodbye to New Zealand as you make your way by coach to the Christchurch Airport for your return flight home. **B**

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Please note that gardens and visits included in this itinerary are subject to availability. If a visit is not available, a suitable alternative will be found and will be finalized closer to departure. At each visit the group will be hosted unless specified.

Inclusions:

- 19 nights' accommodations with pre-tour or 15 nights' main tour in 3-4 star hotels centrally located.
- Doubtful Sound overnight cruise.
- breakfast daily
- lunches and dinners per itinerary
- 4 star air-conditioned coach with professional driver/guide
- all sight seeing and garden visits entry fees per itinerary
- New Zealand Government Goods and Services Tax (GST) currently 15%
- Tour manager, Dee Montpetit travelling with the group at all times

Costs:

Land based on double occupancy and 20-24 participants:

\$4,995 per person with pre-tour (October 27th arrival)

\$3,995 per person main tour only (October 31st arrival)

Single supplement: \$1,495 including pre tour

Airfare including pre-tour \$2,150 inclusive of all taxes, fuels surcharges and inter-New Zealand flight

Airfare for main tour \$2,195 same inclusions as above

Total including pre-tour: **\$7,145**

Total for main tour only: **\$6,190**

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A \$500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is non-refundable.

Final payment is due July 18th. The cost is non-refundable after August 18th.

A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 3% surcharge will be added for credit card use on the land portion only.

Please make checks payable to Travel Leaders and along with the following reservation form, mail to the address below:

Travel Leaders

Attn: Dee Montpetit

5611 196th St SW

Lynnwood, Wa. 98036

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended and is an additional \$299 per person. This covers cancellation penalties for medical reasons. To insure any pre-existing illness, it must be purchased at time of deposit.

Documentation:

You will need a valid US Passport (with at least 6 months of validity) to enter New Zealand. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

General information:

Please note that the quoted price is based on today's rate of exchange. Although unexpected, if there is a significant fluctuation (either way) an adjustment in the price will be made. We are limiting the number of participants to 25 so reserve your space as quickly as possible. Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation.

For more information, contact:

Dee Montpetit at **425-208-6515** or email: **dee@mapetitegardens.com**

Reservation form for New Zealand Garden Tour 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Passport Information:

Passenger One:

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Passenger Two:

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Ages: _____

(Insurance purposes)

Single requesting share: _____

Special requests:

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____

Other: _____