

Ma Petite Garden Tours presents
Down Under- Australia's Flora and Fauna

October 14th- October 28th, 2020

Please note our departure from Seattle will be **October 12th** as with the travel time and crossing the international date line, we lose 2 days.

Day 1- Wednesday, October 14th

LD

Welcome to **Sydney**! After immigration formalities, we'll be met by our driver and tour manager for a **city and beaches tour** taking in the major sights including the **Eastern Suburbs** and the **historic Rocks** area. After lunch and a stroll on beautiful **Bondi Beach**, we'll check into our hotel and enjoy some free time to relax or explore Sydney before regrouping for dinner.



Overnight Sydney

Day 2- Thursday, October 15th

BL



After breakfast, we'll travel west to the **Blue Mountains** known for its dramatic scenery and natural beauty. Our first stop is **Bebeah at Mt. Wilson**. This garden is a rare example of a formal country estate and one of the first in Australia- dating back to 1880. We then visit the charming town of **Leura** and the **Everglades Historic House and Gardens**,

a National Trust garden designed in the 1930's complete with European design, winding pathways and stunning Art Deco home. Lunch will be in the area with local garden club members joining us- a great time to share our love of gardening! After lunch, we continue to **Katoomba** for a **Scenic World Experience** in the heart of the Blue Mountains National Park and enjoy panoramic, breathtaking views of the region.

Overnight Sydney

Day 3 -Friday, October 16th

BL

This morning there will be a specialist guided visit to the **Sydney Botanic Garden**. We'll stroll through the gardens and learn about Australia's indigenous heritage, the European settlement and native flora. After a guided tour of the iconic **Sydney Opera House**, we'll enjoy a **scenic lunch cruise** on spectacular Sydney Harbour. There will be free time this afternoon and evening to further explore the city.

Overnight Sydney

Day 4- Saturday, October 17th

BLD

Today we leave Sydney and travel southwest to the Southern Highlands- an area home to some of Australia's best-known gardens. Our first visit is to **Red Cow Farm** at Sutton Forest. This garden has 20 unique garden rooms including a bog garden, monastery garden and kitchen garden. Travel on to **Bendooley Estate**



where they'll be time to wander the gardens, browse the Book Barn, enjoy lunch and taste the wines. Our next visit is the **Chinoiserie Garden** at Mittagong with its extensive peony collection anticipated to be in full bloom on our arrival! Our final garden visit today is **Milton Park Garden** at Bowral-a garden of historic significance which includes about 10,000 trees, rare plant varieties and an avenue of giant elms.

Overnight Southern Highlands

Day 5- Sunday, October 18th

BLD

We travel on to Canberra today, but first stop is a private garden with some spectacular views. The garden owner is also a carer of **Australian native wildlife**, so there will be an opportunity to meet some very special animals. Next stop is at the beautiful historic **village of Berrima**- known as the best example of a Georgian village on the mainland. There'll be time to wander and shop before lunch at the **Poachers Pantry** in Gunning. After lunch, we continue west to a local sheep farm for an **entertaining sheepdog demonstration**. On arrival into **Canberra**, there'll be an **orientation tour of the city** with some free time before our dinner at the hotel.

Overnight Canberra

Day 6- Monday, October 19th

BL

Today we explore Canberra and tour the **Australian National Botanic Gardens**-



the largest living collection of native Australian flora. We'll visit a private garden and the **National Arboretum**- one of the world's largest living collections of rare, endangered and significant trees. Later, we'll join an **Aboriginal cultural tour** focusing on bush tucker (native foods used by the Aboriginal inhabitants).

Overnight Canberra

Day 7- Tuesday, October 20th

BD

This morning we transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Launceston, **Tasmania**. Upon our arrival, we'll spend the remainder of the day in the nearby Longford region. We'll tour the **Woolmers Estate**- a UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as **Brickendon Homestead and Gardens** with its delightful borders and 180-year-old trees. We'll have the opportunity to dine with some members of the Longford Garden Club this evening to share gardening woes and triumphs!

Overnight Launceston

Day 8- Wednesday, October 21st

BL

We spend today further exploring the Longford and Mole Creek regions. **Panshangar Estate** is an historic house and English style garden that has been owned by the same family for 100 years. A National Trust property, the grounds have riverside woodlands of silver birch, elm, pine and oak. Our next garden visit is **Old Wesley Dale** at Mole Creek. A series of "Arts and Crafts" garden rooms with distinct personalities still provide a connection back to the surrounding historic buildings. This afternoon, we'll have a guided tour of the **Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary** and see some unique animals including the Tasmanian Devils, quolls, wombats, kangaroos and possums.



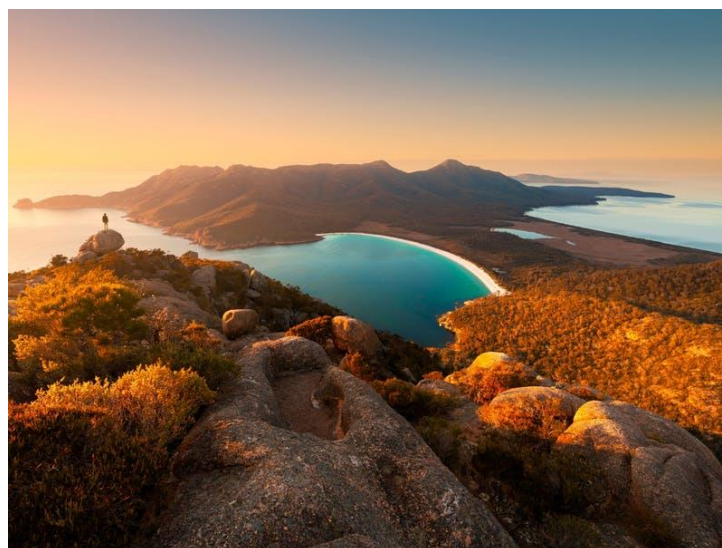
Overnight Launceston

Day 9- Thursday, October 22nd

BLD

Today we journey south along the picturesque east coast to **Hobart**. We'll visit **Coles Bay**, the breathtaking **Freycinet National Park** and **Wineglass Bay** with ample photo opportunities along the way. Did someone mention wine? We'll stop at the **Bangor Wine and Oyster Shed** to enjoy a glass or two of wine and some freshly shucked oysters (optional, of course). Upon arrival in **Hobart**, a brief **city tour** before checking into our hotel.

Overnight Hobart



Day 10- Friday, October 23rd

BL

This morning we travel just south of Hobart to **Inverawe Native Gardens at Margate**. Inverawe is a pioneering garden setting the scene for Australia's gardens of the future- ones suited to its hot, dry climate and focusing on protecting Australia's fragile landscape. We will then have **lunch and a tasting at a local winery** before returning to Hobart for a tour of the **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens**. Included will be a visit to the **Sub Antarctic Plant House**- there is no other plant collection like this in the world!



Overnight Hobart

Day 11- Saturday, October 24th

B



Today is a **full free day** to relax or explore Hobart on your own. There are lots of optional day trips available including a wilderness cruise exploring the rock formations and stunning beauty of the Tasmanian coast line.

Overnight Hobart

Day 12- Sunday, October 25th

BLD

This morning we depart Tasmania for **Melbourne**. Upon arrival, there will be a **highlights city tour** including lunch followed by a guided tour of the **Royal Botanic Gardens** and its 31 different plant collections ranging from large tree to colorful perennials.

Overnight Melbourne

Day 13- Monday, October 26th

BL

Today we explore the area of **Mornington Peninsula**. We'll visit **Cruden Farm at Langwarren**- a truly beautiful garden developed over 45 years with its lemon scented gum drive, picking garden and ornamental lake. We then travel on to **Heronswood at Dromana**- an historic property and formal garden. It's also home to the Diggers Club that includes a nursery, restaurant and garden shop. We'll have lunch in the restaurant there before visiting **the Australian Garden at Cranbourne**. This garden is noted for displays of Australian flora, landscapes, art and architecture.

Overnight Melbourne



Day 14- Tuesday, October 27th

BLD

We spend the day in the nearby **Dandenong Ranges**. We'll visit **Cloudhill Gardens** at Olinda consisting of 20 beautiful rooms threaded through glorious old European beech, magnolias, maples and a collection of Himalayan tree rhododendrons. We'll have lunch and a tasting at one of the well-known **wineries of the region** followed by a very special garden visit. **William Ricketts Sanctuary Garden** was created as a space for quiet reflection and replenishing the spirit. There are over 90 different sculptures carved into the rocks and tree trunks depicting aboriginal people engaging with the earth in a pure forest setting.

Overnight Melbourne

Day 15- Wednesday, October 28th

B

Today we transfer to the Melbourne International Airport for our homeward flight or on to Wellington to explore New Zealand.

B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Please note that the 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 as specified.

Inclusions:

- 14 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels centrally located where available
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- local guides per itinerary
- all taxes
- local tour manager and Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

Land costs:

Tour is **priced in Australian dollars (AUD)** and final payment will reflect the actual cost.

Price is based on double occupancy with a minimum of 20 participants and a maximum of 25.

AUD 8215 per person- based on today's rate of exchange (January 7th, 2020):
USD 5650

Single supplement: **AUD 2220**...based on today's ROE: **USD 1525**

Airfare:

TBD

Includes international and domestic (flights to and from Tasmania) and all taxes and fees.

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A \$1500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is non-refundable.

Final payment is due **TBD** and is non-refundable.

A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make **checks payable to Direct Travel** (formerly Travel Leaders), state on the check Australia tour in the memo and along with your reservation form, mail to the address below:

Direct Travel
Attn: Dee Montpetit
5611 196th ST SW
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended. Please contact me directly for pricing as it is based on the final itinerary cost and participant's age. Note that with most policies, you must include with your deposit or within 2 weeks of deposit if you would like pre-existing coverage.

Documentation:

You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months' validity from the return date to enter Australia. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

An electronic visa or ETA (AUD20) is also required and can be obtained online at the following link: <https://www.eta.homeaffairs.gov.au/ETAS3/etas>

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**

Australia Garden Tour Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Passport Information:

Passenger One: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passenger Two: _____

Legal name as it appears: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Special requests:

Single or requesting share: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____

Seat requests: _____

Frequent flyer number: _____