

Ma Petite Garden Tours presents
Simply Magnificent New Zealand
October 28th - November 10th, 2020

Day 1- Wednesday, October 28th

D

Welcome to New Zealand's vibrant capital city, **Wellington**! Located on the far south end of the North Island, Wellington is surrounded by bush-clad hills and a beautiful natural harbour. Once we've cleared customs and immigration, we'll be met by our driver/guide and transferred to our hotel. After an early dinner, we'll experience an exciting night walk through **Zealandia**, the world's first fully fenced urban ecosanctuary. We'll explore by torchlight on a guided tour in search of some of the more distinctive sights and sounds of New Zealand's native forest.

Overnight Wellington

Day 2- Thursday, October 29th

BL

This morning we start with a **guided historical walking tour** of the city followed by a visit to **Te Papa- New Zealand's national museum**. We'll take an in-depth journey into **Te Papa's taonga** (Maori treasures), hear stories and get insight into their unique culture. We then travel by **cable car** up to the top of Mt. Victoria to



Overnight Wellington

explore **Wellington's Botanic Gardens**.

There are over 26 hectares (about 64 acres) of unsurpassed views, exotic forests, native bush and colourful floral displays. After lunch in the garden café, we travel on to **Otari/Wilton's Bush**, New Zealand's only native botanic garden devoted solely to the cultivation and preservation of indigenous plants.

Day 3- Friday, October 30th

BD

This morning we take the **Interislander Ferry** and cross Cook Strait to Picton in the South Island. The scenery is especially beautiful passing through the magnificent Marlborough Sounds. After arriving in Picton, we'll have a short ride to **Blenheim** located in the Marlborough region. Famous for its beauty and Sauvignon Blanc, we'll sample these award-winning wines at some of the **region's top wineries**.

Overnight Blenheim



Day 4- Saturday, October 31st

BL

Today we travel along the spectacular eastern seaboard and through the Marlborough countryside to visit some of the most sensational gardens in New Zealand. **Welton House**, **Upton Oaks** and **Bhudevi** are just a few of the award-winning gardens located in the area (gardens pending confirmation). We'll also enjoy lunch and a tasting at **Herzog Winery**.

Overnight Blenheim

Day 5- Sunday, November 1st

BLD

This morning we depart Blenheim and travel south to Hammer Springs. We'll visit the three distinctly unique gardens of **Paripuma**, **Barewood Garden** and **Winterhome Garden** en route. Paripuma is a 5-star New Zealand native garden with sweeping views of the east coast. We'll enjoy morning tea with our host before visiting Barewood Garden, a colourful, fragrant garden. Winterhome is a classical 10-acre formal garden surrounded by pohutukawa (the New Zealand Christmas tree) known for its beautiful red flowers.

Overnight Hammer Springs

Day 6- Monday, November 2nd

BD

This morning we leave the alpine village of Hammer Springs behind and visit the renowned **Flaxmere Garden**, a North Canterbury high country garden at the base of the Southern Alps. We then continue to **Lake Tekapo** in the heart of MacKenzie country. This region located in the central part of the South Island has some of New Zealand's highest peaks providing a stunning backdrop. This evening we'll have a once in a lifetime star gazing experience at the **Dark Sky Project**. The area is known for its low light pollution and excellent night time sky viewing.



Overnight Lake Tekapo

Day 7- Tuesday, November 3rd

BD

We continue our journey today to **Te Anau**- the gateway to the world-famous Fjordland National Park. Driving south through the **tussock of Mackenzie Country** and **Lake Pukaki**, the barren terrain of the **Lindis Pass** and the picturesque Otago countryside, there'll be time to visit one of the many fruit stalls along the way and ample photo opportunities. Optional tour to the **Glowworm Caves** this evening.

Overnight Te Anau

Day 8- Wednesday, November 4th

BLD

This morning we'll have some free time to enjoy the lake and township before



another incredible picturesque drive to our overnight cruise on **Doubtful Sound**. We'll cross Lake Manapouri and board a coach across Wilmot Pass through dense rainforest to Deep Cove where the **Fjordland Navigator** awaits. Doubtful Sound is home to some of the most beautiful scenery in the world and nature guides will provide commentary to ensure that we miss nothing!

Overnight in one of Doubtful Sound's hidden arms

Day 9- Thursday, November 5th

BD

This morning we return to Manapouri and travel across the rural Southland landscape to **Dunedin**, known as the Edinburgh of the South. We'll enjoy a late afternoon visit to the **Dunedin Botanic Gardens**, the city's crowning glory.

Overnight Dunedin



Day 10- Friday, November 6th

B

Our first full day in Dunedin is free to relax and explore this charming coastal city on your own.

Overnight Dunedin

Day 11- Saturday, November 7th

BD

We'll enjoy a leisurely morning before travelling to the picturesque Otago Peninsula. After a tour of the woodland **Glenfollach Gardens**, we'll visit the award-winning **Larnach Castle** and meet with the gardener for a hosted tour. Later in the afternoon, we'll make our way to the **Royal Albatross Centre**, home to the world's only mainland breeding colony of Royal Albatross. After dinner at the centre, we view the delightful **Blue Penguins** as they return home to their cliff-side burrows after a day at sea- a truly unforgettable experience!



Overnight Dunedin

Day 12- Sunday, November 8th

BLD

This morning we leave Dunedin and travel north, visiting the **Orokonui Ecosanctuary** to enjoy the sights and sounds of a centuries old forest. We'll discover some of the world's most fascinating and rare wildlife along with some iconic New Zealand trees. We continue towards Queenstown stopping at the rambling private country garden of **Clachanburn** for a tour and lunch with our host. The afternoon will find us traveling through horticultural regions growing cherries and apricots and other stone fruits before our arrival in one of the most beautiful spots in the world- Queenstown.

Overnight Queenstown

Day 13- Monday, November 9th

BD

Today we visit a 5-star New Zealand Trust garden- **Chantecler**. This private, garden is a blaze of colour in spring and sure to delight us.

The remainder of the day is free to explore **Queenstown** for some last-minute shopping, a trip up the gondola to Bob's Peak for stunning views, hike or relax before our farewell dinner on board the **TSS Earnslaw**. This historic steamship will take us across the lake to Walter Peak Station for a sumptuous BBQ dinner followed by an entertaining farm demonstration. A celebratory and delightful ending to our New Zealand journey!

Overnight Queenstown



Day 14- Tuesday, November 10th

B

We depart Queenstown airport for our flight home or optional extension to the North Island.

Optional 3-night extension to Auckland and the North Island:

Day 15- Tuesday, November 10th

D

Welcome to **Auckland**- the City of Sails! This harbourside city is known for its world-class restaurants, bush-clad mountain ranges and diverse neighbourhoods. We'll be met at the airport by our driver/guide then enjoy a guided **tour of the city** before a visit to the peaceful city sanctuary of **Eden Garden**. This unique garden on 5 ½ acres was lovingly created in a decommissioned quarry mine.

Overnight Auckland

Day 16- Wednesday, November 11th

BL

This morning we have a guided visit of the **Auckland Botanic Gardens**.

This 156-acre garden has focused on creating unique landscapes with a distinctive South Pacific flair. Afterwards, we'll visit a **local garden centre**, meet the store manager and have lunch in the café. Our afternoon finds us enjoying a hosted visit to **Ayrlies Garden and Wetlands**. This quintessential New Zealand country garden is one of its best-known gardens, characterised by sweeping lawns with ponds and waterways throughout.

Overnight Auckland



Day 17- Thursday, November 12th

BD

This morning we travel across the Auckland Harbour Bridge heading just north of Auckland to visit 2 distinct gardens. The first is the private and predominantly native garden of **Omaio**- the Maori word meaning peace and tranquillity. Later, we'll have a guided tour of **Totara Waters Garden**- another coastal garden filled with bromeliads, cabbage trees and other subtropical plants. Our farewell dinner will be in the **Orbit Restaurant** at the top of the **Skytower**- Auckland's tallest building and best views!

Overnight Auckland

Day 18- Friday, November 13th

B

Today we transfer to the Auckland airport for our journey home.

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:

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

Land Costs:

Tour is **priced in New Zealand dollars (NZD)** 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.

NZD 7900 per person-based on today's rate of exchange (January 6th, 2020):
USD 5269

Optional 3-night extension: **TBD** as this is based on number of participants.
Please advise if you are interested.

Single supplement: **NZD 2700-** based on today's ROE **USD \$1800.**

Airfare:

If traveling to New Zealand only without extension: **USD 1495** including all taxes and fees.

If traveling to both Australia and New Zealand or with extension: TBD

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) 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 New Zealand. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you of the required documentation.

An ETA visa is now required for entry into New Zealand but can be easily obtained online via the following link:

<https://nzeta.immigration.govt.nz/>

The ETA visa is NZD 12 and there is a tourism/conservation tax for all visitors of NZD 35. These can be paid at the same time.

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**

New Zealand 2020 Reservation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Include optional 3-night extension to Auckland: _____

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: _____