



Simply Magnificent New Zealand

October 27th- November 5th OR November 13th, 2022

Day 1 Thursday, October 27th

D

ARRIVE AUCKLAND

Kia Ora- Welcome to New Zealand! Arrive at Auckland International Airport where we'll be met by our driver/guide. Enroute to our accommodation ***visit the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens**, a garden of national significance. These gardens contain 10,000 varied plants and incorporate 10 hectares of native bush and wetland. It's a great way to reinvigorate after the long flight. This evening we'll **ride the Sky Tower to the Orbit Restaurant** and enjoy a special welcome dinner with panoramic views across the city and the two harbours that surround it.



*if arriving from Tasmania, will arrive late afternoon

Accommodation: Sky City Hotel, Auckland - 1 night

Day 2 Friday, October 28th

BD

AUCKLAND-HAMILTON

This morning we depart Auckland and travel southeast for a guided visit of Beverley McConnell's 12-acre country garden **Ayrlies**, one of the most celebrated gardens in New Zealand. Maple woodland complements large ponds connected by a tumbling streams and edged in hostas, irises



and other damp-loving plants. Wandering paths lead to some surprises and garden seats take advantage of delightful vistas with distant views of the sea. Enjoy **morning tea** here before travelling south to the city of Hamilton set on the banks of the Waikato River. On arrival we'll visit the internationally recognised award-winning **Hamilton Gardens** for a guided tour through these stunning gardens. The unique theme of Hamilton Gardens is 'the story of gardens' which is explored through a series of five garden

collections featuring garden styles of different countries. We then head back to our hotel for a brief stop to freshen up before tonight's special experience.

Tonight, we take a magical guided tour of the **Hobbiton Movie Set walking through the Shire at dusk.** Our guide escorts us through the 12-acre site,



recounting fascinating stories and anecdotes about the trilogies. The tour concludes at The Green Dragon Inn with a complimentary beverage from their exclusive Hobbit South farthing range and a **banquet feast** fit for a hobbit. Can anyone say *second dinner*?



Accommodation: Novotel Tainui Hotel Hamilton- 1 night

Day 3 Saturday, October 29th

BD

HAMILTON-NEW PLYMOUTH

This morning we travel south through rural towns stopping for a guided tour at the **Waitomo Caves.** We'll learn about the fascinating limestone formations of stalagmites, stalactites and columns that have formed over thousands of years then enjoy a silent boat ride on an underground river into the starry wonderland of the **magnificent Glow-worm Grotto.** Afterwards, we travel down the coastline to New Plymouth overlooked by the stunning Mount Taranaki. There is a wonderful 12.7 km coastal walkway with fantastic views in New Plymouth. It's a great way to work off all the pavlovas we'll be eating!



Accommodation: Autolodge Motor Inn New Plymouth- 3 nights



Stone sculpture celebrating the unity of women along the Coastal Walkway in New Plymouth.

Day 4 Sunday, October 30th

BL

NEW PLYMOUTH

Today is all about the **Taranaki Garden Festival**. There are dozens of private gardens opened only during this 10-day festival and we'll visit some of the highlights. Take time to peruse the website for a taste of all the gardens. <https://www.gardenfestnz.co.nz/gardens/>

A packed lunch is provided today for a picnic in the garden.



Day 5 Monday, October 31st

BL

NEW PLYMOUTH

Today we visit more of the spectacular gardens featured in the festival:

Te Kainga Marire is the only private native garden sanctuary in New Zealand to be rated as a Garden of International Significance. Kainga Marire's (translated 'peaceful encampment') point of difference lies in the natural plant associations that evoke a feeling of the real New Zealand. This native plant paradise was developed in 1972 from clay wasteland.



Tupare is a beautifully restored garden that surrounds a classic arts and crafts era Chapman-Taylor home. Sculpted from a hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River, it is one of the Taranaki region's premier landscaped gardens and features many large mature trees.

Sequoia Steps - a tranquil inner-city hideaway orientated to comfortable outdoor living.



Day 6 Tuesday, November 1st

BD

NEW PLYMOUTH-WELLINGTON

Weather permitting we may be able to enjoy views of Mount Taranaki as we depart New Plymouth and drive through Stratford and Eltham to Hawea following the coastal road to the River City of Wanganui. Continue our journey south through the rural towns of Marton, Bulls and Foxton to the scenic Kapiti Coast road into Wellington City. Wellington – a capital city of natural beauty, heritage architecture, art and culture. On a clear day, the harbour sparkles but the arrival of southern storms can bring amazingly dramatic seas and winds. Arrive at Wellington in the early afternoon and enjoy an orientation tour



before we check into our hotel for an early dinner. After dinner, we join a **night walk through**

Zealandia, the world's first fully fenced urban ecosanctuary. Explore the sanctuary by torchlight as our guide leads us in search of some of the more distinctive sights and sounds of New Zealand's native forest. Learn about the flora and fauna of this very special place.



Accommodation: James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington- 2 nights

Day 7 Wednesday, November 2nd

B

WELLINGTON

Start the day with a **visit to Otari Native Botanic Garden**, New Zealand's only native botanic garden, devoted solely to the cultivation and preservation of indigenous plants. Predominant native trees include mahoe, tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hinau and northern rata. Other features



at Otari include a fernery, a small Alpine Garden, rock garden with adjoining fish pool and a wild garden, all easily accessed by a network of paths and boardwalks. We'll enjoy a lecture by one of the passionate volunteers. Next our driver will transfer us to **Wellington's Botanic gardens to meet a local guide who will take us through the gardens.** There are over 26 hectares of unsurpassed views, unique landscape, exotic forests, native bush and colourful floral displays and gorgeous specialist gardens. Today's morning sightseeing tour ends at the **Kelburn Cable Car**

to travel down to Lambton Quay. Here, we have the choice to transfer back to our hotel or explore the city independently. From Lambton Quay Station we can head straight out onto Wellington's 'Golden Mile'. The 'Golden Mile' offers the best shopping in Wellington's CBD with all the stores you know and love as well as a variety of boutique and high fashion stores to choose from. Or perhaps visit **Te Papa – New Zealand's national museum.** Remainder of day at leisure.

Accommodation: James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, Wellington

Day 8 Thursday, November 3rd

BD

WELLINGTON-PICTON-BLENHEIM

This morning we board the **Interislander Ferry and cross Cook Strait to Picton in the South Island**. The cruise takes us through the magnificent Marlborough Sounds which is especially scenic. In Picton, we board our coach and travel through to Blenheim in the Marlborough district-the top wine producing area in New Zealand.



We visit a few gardens enroute.

- **Hortensia House** is a romantic flower garden. Masses of colour coordinated flowers in hazy pastels, to blue and yellow plantings to match the trim on the Victorian style house. Blue is carried through the garden as a key colour in the bridge and outdoor furniture. Spring Creek, the stream which bisects the garden in a gem of pristine and peaceful water. A “Monet” inspired bridge crosses the stream in front of the house.
- **Woodend Gardens & Vineyard** – enter through a formal gateway and along an extensive curved driveway lined with blue agapanthus that sets a stunning scene for the established gardens. The garden features many different zones all with unique elements and hidden sanctuaries. 40-metre-high eucalyptus (gum) trees planted almost a century ago stand proud in the SW corner. Many other large specimen trees are also established on the property including liquidambar trees, dogwoods, flowering chestnuts, magnolias & gleditsias.



We also **pay a visit to the sumptuous tasting room and cellar at Wither Hills Vineyards**. Wither Hills produces award-winning Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The winery is named after the imposing Wither Hills ranges, which form a dramatic backdrop to the vineyards and enjoy long sunlight hours, cool nights- nourished by the waters of the Wairau River.

Accommodation: Quality Hotel Marlborough, Blenheim- 3 nights

Day 9 Friday, November 4th

BLD

BLenheim/GARDEN MARLBOROUGH FESTIVAL

Today join the **East Coast & Awatere Valley tour**. This always popular tour features a selection of large gardens, diverse in climate but all framed by spectacular scenery, from the rolling Pacific to the rugged Kaikoura ranges. The tour includes the well-known gardens of **Winterhome** and **Paripuma**, each recognised as a 'Garden of National Significance' by the New Zealand Gardens Trust, and **Barewood**, which holds the Trust's coveted 'Garden of International Significance' status. The tour also features **Ellerton**, never seen before at the festival. Lunch is at Kekerengu's famous store, in its spectacular coastal setting.



This evening we **dine at local award-winning restaurant Arbour**. Their innovative tasting dishes showcase local producers and Marlborough stories.

Day 10 Saturday, November 5th

BLD

BLenheim/GARDEN MARLBOROUGH FESTIVAL

Today we tour the **Wairau** area. Bordered on one side by the Richmond Ranges and on the other by the Wither Hills, the Wairau plain is the primary grape-growing area of Marlborough. Today we'll see a range of garden styles, and an equally diverse selection of creative and inspiring gardens, often surrounded by vineyards growing Marlborough's best-known grape varieties. Garden visits include: **Burnlea** featuring a pristine aquifer-fed creek framed by impressive, large trees above a variety of interesting plantings. With its inspiring avenue of Himalayan cedar, an ancient pepper tree, kauri, exotic flowers and shrubs and the intrigue of an old sunken garden, this is a property full of surprises! **Upton Oaks** is a significant and romantic country garden with formal hedging and brick walls defining the different garden rooms. From the much photographed and intricate knot garden and into the abundant herbaceous borders, we can wander through the rustic olive grove leading to the gazebo gardens. **The Watershed**, battling fierce westerly gales and dry clay soils, uses hedges to shelter garden areas encircling the house. This creative country garden features climbing plants, herbaceous borders and semi-woodlands of exotics and natives. **Myersdale**, **Westgrove** and **Longfield** also feature on today's tour.



Dinner tonight is at the exquisite Hans Herzog winery.

Day 11

Sunday, November 6th

B

DEPART BLenheim

After breakfast, we transfer to the Blenheim Airport for our journey home or continue to Christchurch with the optional add on.

OPTIONAL ADD ON

Day 11

Sunday, November 6th

BD

BLenheim-CHRISTCHURCH

Before departing Blenheim, we **visit a local winery** and travel along a thin ledge of land pinned between the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean and the rugged ranges to Kaikoura, where the mountains meet the sea. Continue across the farmlands of the North Canterbury Plains and the



Waipara wine district, where the microclimate of the area makes it ideal for growing grapes. Visit **Flaxmere Garden**, a North Canterbury high country garden sitting beneath the main rib of the Southern Alps. This large 7-acre garden is boldly designed to make the most of alpine views focusing on the surrounding mountain and pastoral environment. Heavy old timbers and stone walls reflect a country atmosphere, and a feeling of peace and romance abides here. Before arriving at Christchurch this afternoon, we visit one of the beautiful wineries of the **Waipara wine district** for a wine tasting.

Accommodation: Distinction Hotel, Christchurch – 1 night

Day 12

Monday, November 7th

B

CHRISTCHURCH/QUEENSTOWN

After breakfast we travel to the Mackenzie Country. Enroute, we **visit the Akaunui Historic House and Gardens**. The Akaunui garden was established over 100 years ago and during the last 15 years major developments have taken place. The garden now covers 6 hectares and includes magnificent old trees (both native and exotic) and a wide variety of recently planted species. The garden complements the imposing century old double storey brick homestead. This afternoon, head inland travelling across the sheep and crop farmlands of the Canterbury Plains then inland through the rural town of Fairlie and Burkes Pass. At Tekapo stop to see the quaint Church of the Good Shepherd with its views from the altar window across the lake to the mountains then travel around glacially formed Lake Pukaki into **Mt Cook National Park**. At the heart of New



Zealand's most spectacular alpine region is Mt Cook, at 3754 metres the highest peak in Australasia. We'll travel through the Mackenzie Basin and the barren terrain of the Lindis Pass, through the Kawarau Gorge before arriving in Queenstown. Surrounded by majestic mountains and set on the shores of crystal-clear Lake Wakatipu, the natural beauty and the unique energy of the Queenstown region create the perfect backdrop for a holiday full of adventure, exploration, or relaxation.

Accommodation: Novotel Lakeside Hotel, Queenstown- 1 night



Day 13

Tuesday, November 8th

BLD

DOUBTFUL SOUND OVERNIGHT



Depart Queenstown this morning travelling around the eastern shores of Lake Wakatipu and across the farmlands of Southland to the settlement of Manapouri on the shores of one of the South Island's most scenic lakes. Before departing Manapouri collect your picnic box lunch then cross Lake Manapouri by Real Journeys launch to West Arm and meet up with the coach, which will transfer you across Wilmot Pass for your first

glimpse of Doubtful Sound then on to Deep Cove. Cruise the fiord on the Fiordland Navigator enjoying the stunning scenery of dense rainforest, steep cliff faces and marine life that inhabits these waters. There is the opportunity to explore the shoreline by tender craft with your nature guide or independently by kayak. Dinner is served aboard as the boat anchors in a sheltered cove for the overnight stay – hear the 'Sound of Silence' when the boat's engines are switched off. This is truly a magical experience!

Accommodation: Fiordland Navigator – 1 night

Day 14

Wednesday, November 9th

B

DOUBTFUL SOUND/QUEENSTOWN

After breakfast the boat returns to Deep Cove. Travel by coach and launch back to Manapouri to meet your coach and driver/guide. Enroute back to Queenstown visit **Gibbston Valley Winery for a 30-minute guided tour of the vineyard and winery**, completing the experience with a tasting in the caves. Travel 76 metres underground into the **Gibbston Valley Wine Cave**. The rocky schist walls within the cave are lined with barrels of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay still reaching their prime. With constant humidity and a temperature of around 14 degrees Celsius, the cave provides a perfect haven for the maturation of these wines as well as providing a unique atmosphere for wine tasting. We continue back to Queenstown for an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Accommodation: Novotel Lakeside Hotel, Queenstown- 2 nights

Day 15

Thursday, November 10th

B

QUEENSTOWN AT LEISURE

Day at leisure to unwind and relax or enjoy the many activities and attractions available in the area. You may wish to drive out to quaint Arrowtown which was a rip-roaring town in the 1860's gold rush, take a scenic flight over the area, enjoy a round of golf or the challenge of white-water rafting. Parasail on the lake, join a winery tour to some of the most southern vineyards in the world, take a guided bush walk or a wildlife tour to the Catlins. Ride the aerial gondola to Bob's Peak for the panoramic view across the lake to the mountains, join a 4WD tour into the home of 'Middle Earth' where much of the filming was done for 'Lord of the Rings' or if you dare - try bungy-jumping (all at extra cost).

Day 16

Friday, November 11th

BD

QUEENSTOWN-DUNEDIN

This morning we leave Queenstown riding through the rugged Kawarau Gorge and then through Cromwell alongside Lake Dunstan. This lake was formed when New Zealand's latest hydro dam was built at Clyde. Alexandra town in the region experiences temperature extremes and is known as the hottest, driest, and coldest town in New Zealand. The area around Roxburgh is famous for its stone fruit orchards especially peaches and apricots grown successfully on the stony river-flats between the mountains and the fast-flowing Clutha River. Travel south to the small country town of Milton then head north across the fertile Taieri Plains to Dunedin. Dunedin is a charming city, rich in Scottish and Maori Heritage with unique character.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Dunedin City, Dunedin- 2 nights



Day 17

Saturday, November 12th

BD

OTAGO PENINSULA

Dunedin is a charming coastal city with a unique quirky character. It is rich in Scottish and Maori Heritage. We'll enjoy an introductory tour of the city today enroute to the breath-taking Otago Peninsula. Enjoy the views of the harbour from the hill suburbs where we will see the University of Otago with its historic blue stone buildings on the banks of the Leith River. See the stunning white sandy beaches of St Clair and St Kilda before travelling down the Otago Peninsula to Taiaroa Heads. **Visit Larnach Castle for lunch and a guided tour of the castle and their magnificent gardens.** The scenery is spectacular and though the garden is subjected to wind and low rainfall it contains a unique collection of plants seldom seen elsewhere. The plantings reflect owner Margaret Barker's interest in New Zealand plants and in their southern hemisphere relations. Larnach Castle Garden has a special historic ambience - it is beautifully landscaped with a disciplined eye reflecting appropriately its association with the castle. **Enjoy guided tours of the Royal Albatross Colony and the Blue Penguins** before returning to the city.



Day 18

Sunday, November 13th

B

DUNEDIN/HOME

After breakfast in the hotel, we transfer to the Dunedin Airport and say farewell to New Zealand.

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.

B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Inclusions:

- 10 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels centrally located
- 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
- 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.

NZD 5200 per person- based on today's rate of exchange (March 17, 2022):

USD 3593

For 15-19 tour participants:

NZD 5600 per person- based on today's ROE (March 17, 2022):

USD 3869

Single supplement: NZD 1026.... based on today's ROE: USD 1026

Airfare: TBD (internal flights and international flights)

Optional Add On:

- additional 7 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels centrally located
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- Doubtful Sound overnight cruise
- local guides per itinerary
- all taxes
- tour manager Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

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

NZD 3600 per person- based on today's rate of exchange (March 17, 2022):

USD 2487

For 15-19 tour participants:

NZD 3950 per person- based on today's ROE (March 17, 2022):

USD 2729

Single supplement: NZD 2300...based on today's ROE: USD 1589

Airfare: TBD (internal flights and international flights)

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 **August 15th** 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** and send along with your reservation form to the address below:

Ma Petite Tours

9614 180th ST SE

Snohomish, WA. 98296

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended. Please contact me directly for pricing as it is based on the final itinerary cost. Note that with most policies, you must include with your deposit or within 2 weeks of deposit if you would like pre-existing coverage. Insurance can be paid by credit card for no additional fee.

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 on the required documentation.

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

COVID:

You must be full vaccinated to travel in our group. Please enclose proof of vaccination with your reservation form and deposit.

New Zealand Reservation Form 2022

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: _____

Optional Add On:

Yes: _____

No: _____