

Gardens, Wine, and Wilderness

A Tour of New Zealand

JANUARY 6-28, 2024



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Imagine...the trip of a lifetime. Under balmy skies, you will visit some of nature's most spectacular scenery, interspersed with wonderful examples of New Zealand culture that showcase its gardens, architecture, artistic creations, fine cuisine, and wine. Learn the history and culture of a land from those who love and care for it.

Join us...for a carefully designed itinerary developed with passion, just as a great piece of music or a celebrated garden is crafted. The concepts of sequence, contrast, surprise, rhythm, repetitions, theme, and variations apply equally to music, gardens, and travel.

For more than 20 years, Garden Adventures Ltd. has been designing and leading tours to New Zealand. In January 2024, we are proud to partner for a ninth time to offer this opportunity to experience the mystery, beauty, and hospitality of New Zealand. With New Zealand native and local landscape architect Richard Lyon, RLA and Bill Cullina, *F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania*, you are invited to escape winter while you explore, learn, and relax in the gardens and natural wonders of this extraordinary destination.

This trip is offered exclusively to Morris Arboretum members and Penn alumni. For further information, please contact Alison Thornton, Senior Associate Director of Development at (215) 247-5777 ext. 105 or alisonth@upenn.edu.



ABOUT YOUR TOUR GUIDES



Richard Lyon, RLA ASLA
Garden Adventures Ltd. – Tour Leader

A native of New Zealand, Richard is well known throughout Wilmington, DE, and Southeastern Pennsylvania where he has designed and managed installation of many fine home landscapes. As the founder of Garden Adventures Ltd., Richard has hosted 25 tours of New Zealand.



William Cullina
F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania – Tour Host

Prior to being appointed executive director of the Morris Arboretum in 2019, Bill was the president and CEO of Coastal Maine Botanic Garden. He holds degrees in plant science and psychology, and has been working in public horticulture for 25 years. He has extensive experience in horticultural and forestry research, and commercial nursery production. A well-known author and recognized authority on North American native plants, his books include *Wildflowers; Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines; Understanding Orchids; Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses; and Understanding Perennials*.

Day 1

Saturday, January 6 Depart USA

Overnight flights to New Zealand depart from many cities within the United States. We will be happy to assist you in these bookings.

Day 2

Sunday, January 7 Travel Day

We will cross the International Date Line during the flight to New Zealand. We lose a day, but don't worry, it will return as we cross the date line on our way home.

Day 3

Monday, January 8 Auckland (B,D)

Welcome to New Zealand! We will arrive in Auckland early in the morning. After collecting baggage and clearing customs, a private shuttle will be waiting to transfer you to our hotel, where we are pre-registered for early arrival. The rest of the morning is free to unpack, rest, and experience our first impressions of New Zealand. In the afternoon we will visit Auckland War Memorial Museum to view Māori and Pacific Island exhibits as an introduction to New Zealand's early history. Next, we will visit Totara Waters, a stunning subtropical garden set on the shores of the Waitemata Harbor. This exotic garden features a variety of palms, bromeliads, and cycads. Heading inland, we then complete our day at Mincher, an expansive country garden with diverse planting styles. Here we'll enjoy a welcome dinner and become better acquainted with our fellow travelers.



Day 4

Tuesday, January 9 Waiheke Island (B, L)

A short ferry ride takes us to Waiheke Island, where the microclimate produces some of New Zealand's finest red wines. After a wine tour and al fresco lunch at Mudbrick Vineyards, our next stop is Connells Bay, a breathtaking property developed by John and Jo Grow. Their vision of uniting art with nature is apparent in the sweeps of native trees that form special spaces for site-specific New Zealand sculpture. We end the day with a ferry ride back to Auckland to enjoy waterfront dining and shopping.



Day 5

Wednesday, January 10 Pacific Coast (B, L)

Our first stop will be Wenderholm Regional Park, where we will experience New Zealand's wonderfully unspoiled natural scenery. Next, we go to Omaio, the Māori word for "place of peace and tranquility." This unique venue offers stunning views, diverse native plants, and fascinating gardens. After a leisurely garden luncheon courtesy of our gracious hostess, we will stop for a short stroll through the subtropical Kauri Forest, where we can appreciate the native forest that once covered this land. We'll return to Auckland with time to explore the parks, waterfront, and restaurants of New Zealand's largest city. Another option for your free time is a short ferry ride to Devonport to enjoy its quaint Victorian villas and waterside cafes.

Day 6

Thursday, January 11 South Island (B, L)

There are dramatic differences in geology, climate, and to some extent, culture between the North and South Islands. A short flight from Auckland has us landing in Queenstown in the South Island. Upon arrival, we pick up our luggage and board the coach. As we head into the rugged landscape of Central Otago, we pass abandoned gold fields and lush groves of apricots and grapes. In a private vineyard setting we relax for lunch after tasting the estate olive oils and wines. Returning to Queenstown, we settle into this dramatic alpine resort nestled in the Southern Alps on the shores of Lake Wakatipu.



Day 7

Friday, January 12 Queenstown (B)

Today is your opportunity to explore Queenstown at your own pace. Take an exciting trip by jet boat up the Dart River into Mount Aspiring National Park – authentic “Lord of the Rings” country – or a quiet steamship ride across Lake Wakatipu, or a romantic gondola ride to enjoy stunning alpine views. Other possibilities include white water rafting, hiking, golf, bus tours, bike riding and fly fishing, not to mention abundant shopping and dining options.

Day 8

Saturday, January 13 Doubtful Sound (B, L, D)

This morning, we head to Fiordland National Park in Southland, where we will take a ferry ride across Lake Manapouri. Carved by glaciers and surrounded by ancient temperate rainforests, this lake is stunningly scenic. After our ferry ride, we cross over Wilmont Pass, an incredible natural habitat that receives over 20 feet of rainfall each year. We then board the well-appointed *Fiordland Navigator* yacht for a cruise of serene Doubtful Sound, surrounded by towering peaks, cascading waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. After dropping anchor for the night, we dine on board under the stars.

Day 9

Sunday, January 14 Dunedin (B, L)

Leaving Doubtful Sound, we will return by ferry across Lake Manapouri to board our coach. Passing through the lush farm country of Southland, we will stop for a picnic lunch while enroute to Dunedin. Once New Zealand’s largest city, Dunedin boasts a rich Scottish heritage and sublime examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture. The late afternoon and evening are free for dinner and exploring this thriving University city while enjoying the long days of the southern summer.

Day 10

Monday, January 15 Dunedin (B)

Our day begins with a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens, New Zealand's oldest. This Victorian-style pleasure garden is internationally recognized for its extensive plant collections. Next, we visit Historic Olveston House to experience the historic and aesthetic delights of early New Zealand when gold and wool ruled, and Dunedin was the economic powerhouse of the county. The afternoon is yours to enjoy the city's vibrant urban scene near our downtown hotel, or you may take a tour out onto the rugged Otago Peninsula to sample the South Island's, most accessible diversity of wildlife – yellow-eyed penguins, albatross, seals, and sea lions.

Day 11

Tuesday, January 16 Mount Cook (B, L, D)

Leaving Dunedin, we head north following the Pacific coast to Oamaru. This fascinating coastal town has proudly preserved its Victorian heritage. We have time to shop and explore the historic quadrant or stroll to the delightful botanic gardens. Heading inland, the landscape and climate begin to change dramatically as we begin our journey to Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. First, we stop to enjoy the wines and lunch in the Kurow Valley. As we continue to Mount Cook, a unique landscape unfolds as we begin the climb to higher elevations. Our lodging at the historic Hermitage Hotel is located at the base of the soaring peaks of Mount Cook, the highest in New Zealand. Dinner will be served in the famous Panorama Room with breathtaking views all around.

Day 12

Wednesday, January 17 Mount Cook (B, D)

Today offers many opportunities to explore on your own. A few of your choices are to experience the alpine terrain on foot, cruise an alpine lake, or take a helicopter ride to explore from above. A visit to the Hilary Center, a tribute to Sir Edmund Hilary, New Zealand's most famous kiwi explorer, is also recommended.





Day 13

Thursday, January 18 Christchurch (B, L)

Leaving Mount Cook, we descend to the Canterbury Plains, New Zealand's largest expanse of flat land, rich in European history and farming traditions. Our first stop is the Homestead Gardens of Akaunui, where we will learn about the farm's rich colonial past and explore the wonderful gardens surrounding the house, with lunch to follow. Next, we head into Christchurch, known as the Garden City for its wonderful parks and charming cityscapes. The evening is free to explore on your own.

Day 14

Friday, January 19 Christchurch and Akaroa (B, L)

We begin the day with a visit to Ohinetahi, which features a historic home and spectacular gardens that have been restored over the last several decades by architect Sir Miles Warren and his family. The property is known for its collection of New Zealand art, native plants, venerable trees, and floriferous display beds.

Next, we continue to the town of Akaroa, situated on the Banks Peninsula near Christchurch.

Here we will stop at Fisherman's Bay Garden overlooking the Pacific, where we will enjoy a picnic lunch. The eclectic garden features a wide variety of New Zealand native plants, particularly Hebes. Our third destination in Akaroa is the Giants House, the home and terraced garden of artist Josie Martin. Her self-described "seriously playful" sculptures and mosaics perfectly accent the equally eye-catching plantings throughout the grounds. Upon returning to Christchurch, continue to discover this delightful city at your own pace.



Day 15

Saturday, January 20 Marlborough (B, L, D)

Leaving Christchurch, we again cross the Canterbury Plains before heading inland to enjoy the gardens of Penny Zino. As we explore her large rural garden, Penny will share her stories of farming, raising a family, and her passion for gardening. After lunch we return to the spectacular coastal highway as it hugs the Pacific shoreline. As the landscape changes, we begin to experience the vineyards that have made this region world-famous for the Sauvignon Blancs and Chardonnay it produces. After checking into our hotel, we begin to sample the local food and wine of this region at a nearby restaurant.



Day 16

Sunday, January 21 Marlborough (B, L, D)

Our day begins with a visit to Barewood, a 3-acre garden full of rich plantings surrounding the 100-year-old homestead at its heart. Our hosts, born to the land, share their experiences of transitioning from sheep farming to growing grapes. After enjoying lunch, wandering the gardens, and sampling local wines, we head back to the coast. Our next destination is Paripuma, a stunning garden filled with native plantings and spectacular ocean views. Returning to our hotel, we have time to relax and enjoy dinner in the hotel.

Day 17

Monday, January 22 Wellington (B)

Departing our hotel, a short coach ride has us arriving at the delightful port town of Picton. Here we depart on the inter-island ferry, first passing through the protected waters of Marlborough Sounds and then into Cook Straits. As we sail into Wellington, New Zealand's capital, we begin to experience this wonderful, cosmopolitan city that will be our home for the next three nights.

Day 18

Tuesday, January 23 Wellington (B, L)

Government House, home of New Zealand's Governor General, is our first stop today for a tour of the grounds that were extensively redesigned in 1990 to include many native plant species. We will learn about the historical role of the Governor General and how that has transitioned into today's political landscape. Then we'll head to Wellington's wonderful windswept coastline for lunch while enjoying the dramatic views. Returning to the city, we will go to Te Papa, the museum of New Zealand. Our guided tours there will focus on Māori history and culture. Spend the evening relaxing or exploring Wellington on your own.

Day 19

Wednesday, January 24 Wellington (B)

Today you are free to explore this enchanting city from your harborside hotel. Return to Te Papa to finish your exploration or visit one of the city's many museums. Ride a cable car to the top and stroll down through the botanical gardens, visit Zealandia bird sanctuary or the wild Wellington coastline. Shopping and dining abound close to our hotel or simply stroll by the waterfront of the magnificent harbor and enjoy the city.



Day 20

Thursday, January 25 To Napier (B, L)

Leaving the city, we climb over the Rimutaka Ranges and descend into the Hawkes Bay Region. With a sunny and mild climate, its economy is mostly farming, fruits and wine. We will stop at Gwavas, one of the largest privately-owned collections of woody plants in the southern hemisphere. Lunch at the homestead allows you to experience the history of early settlers when Europeans first farmed this area. Onto Napier, New Zealand's art deco, city which was rebuilt in the 1930s after the city was razed by an earthquake. Starting at the visitors' center, followed by a walking tour of the city, we gather an appreciation for the architecture. We end our tour at our waterfront hotel, and your evening is free to explore this vibrant coastal city.

Day 21

Friday, January 26 Napier (B, D)

Your morning is free to explore the city and waterfront, or simply relax. Serious golfers can get in a game at the world-famous Cape Kidnappers Golf Course. After lunch we will head out to Cape Kidnappers and take a guided tour to the Gannet Sanctuary. Recognized as the world's largest, most accessible nesting colony, the sanctuary provides an opportunity to get within feet of these remarkable birds as they come home to feed their chicks. Enroute back to Napier, we stop at a local winery to sample the finest wines and fresh produce of Hawke's Bay for dinner.

Day 22

Saturday, January 27 Auckland (B, L, D)

Leaving the Pacific Ocean behind, we head inland onto the central volcanic plateau of the North Island. Our first stop is on the shores of Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake and dormant volcanic caldera. Heading inland, we leave the Volcanic Plateau behind as we travel into the rich farmland of the Waikato Valley. Stopping at Hamilton Gardens for lunch we have the opportunity to explore the fascinating collection of theme gardens portraying the history of gardening throughout the world. Heading north, a short drive has us returning to Auckland. Tonight, we gather for a farewell dinner to celebrate adventures shared and new friends made.

Day 23

Sunday, January 28 Auckland to USA (B)

After breakfast you are free to explore the waterfront, relax and catch up on some last-minute gift buying. Later in the afternoon, make your way to Auckland Airport for your overnight return to the USA.



COST AND BOOKING DETAILS

TOUR PRICE: \$12,125 per person (based on 20 participants)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$2,650

Tour price is based on 20 participants at an exchange rate of \$1NZ = \$0.65 US and includes:

- Exclusive visits to private gardens, public landscapes, national parks, cultural centers, and wineries
- Accompaniment with Richard Lyon and Bill Cullina for the full extent of the itinerary in New Zealand
- One internal NZ flight per the itinerary (coach class)
- Breakfasts (21), lunches (13), and dinners (7) per the itinerary
- Inter-island ferry service per the itinerary
- All cruises, activities, and admissions per the itinerary
- A \$1,000 donation to Morris Arboretum
- Taxes and gratuities

Price does not include:

- Airfare to or from Auckland
- Meals not listed on the itinerary
- Items of personal nature – laundry, alcoholic drinks at provided meals, excursions not included in the itinerary, etc.
- Travel insurance

Tour price includes \$1,000 donation to the Morris Arboretum. Includes one domestic NZ flight as per itinerary, DOES NOT INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC US FLIGHTS to or from Auckland. Transfer from airport to hotel on January 8 is included. Individuals responsible for own transport to airport on January 28. Tour may run with less than 20 participants but will incur a price increase. Trip maximum is 24 participants.

While no revisions to this itinerary are anticipated, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Garden Adventures Ltd., and its travel partners reserve the right to make adjustments, with or without notice, that may become necessary.