

NEW
ZEALAND



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with University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Led by Director Sarah Reichard

November 1-16, 2015



Famous for its incredible landscapes and natural beauty, New Zealand's geographic isolation over millions of years has resulted in unique native flora: roughly 80% of the country's trees, ferns, and flowering plants are endemic. This remarkable plant life combines with unusual fauna and a vibrant cultural history to create the magical, welcoming atmosphere for which New Zealand is known. During this 16-day program, you're invited to explore the country's must-see botanical treasures and view impressive specialty collections. Travel among colorful lakes, green valleys, glaciers, and mountains while enjoying activities and visits to sites of natural and cultural importance for an in-depth journey into the "Land of the Long White Cloud."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Pukeiti Rhododendron Park
- Pukekura Park
- Tupare Gardens
- Ayrli's Garden
- Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Wintergardens
- Tiritiri Matangi Island Wildlife Sanctuary
- Larnach Castle & Gardens
- Dunedin Botanic Garden
- Orokonui Ecosanctuary
- Christchurch Botanic Gardens
- Taunton Gardens
- Fishermans Bay Garden
- Ohinetahi Homestead & Formal Garden

PLUS!

- Explore New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, including the Auckland Domain, Auckland Museum, and Viaduct Harbour.
- Attend a Maori cultural performance and visit the workshop of Maori carver Caine Tauwhare, whose work can also be found in Washington Park Arboretum.
- Look for native birds like the Takahe, Kaka, Saddleback, and Bellbird, plus learn about Yellow-eyed Penguins at Penguin Place and tour the Royal Albatross Centre in Dunedin.
- Learn about the importance of flax to both the Maori and to early European settlers during a trip to Pa Harakeke (Home of Flax).
- Discover the natural beauty of New Zealand's landscapes, from Lake Pukaki and Lake Tekapo to Mackenzie Country, Mount Cook, and Tasman Glacier.

ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 1 - DEPART THE U.S.

Depart the U.S. and fly to Auckland, New Zealand.

NOVEMBER 2 - EN ROUTE

You will cross the international date line while in flight.

NOVEMBER 3 - NEW PLYMOUTH

Upon arrival in Auckland this morning, transfer to the domestic airport to connect with your flight to New Plymouth. Your driver and local guide will meet you and drive to Pukeiti, New Zealand's premier rhododendron garden, set in magnificent rainforest on the lower slopes of Mount Taranaki. Enjoy more than 10,000 rhododendrons and azaleas in a setting of lush native bush, alive with birds and full of ferns and mountain streams. After lunch in the garden café, travel to New Plymouth and your seafront hotel. The afternoon is at leisure. Tonight dinner is at your hotel, where your local guide will join you and talk about the Taranaki area and the development of the parks. *Overnight at Waterfront Hotel. (LD)*

NOVEMBER 4 - NEW PLYMOUTH

This morning walk through Pukekura Park with your guide. Established in 1876, the garden has a diverse range of landscapes, from dense remnant tawa/mahoe/pukatea forest to broad lawns with annual bedding displays and themed garden plantings. After lunch visit Tupare (Garland of Flowers). This unique garden was transformed from scrubland to a horticulture wonder of its time and is complemented by an arts and crafts era Chapman-Taylor home. You have time to enjoy both the garden and the house before transferring back to your hotel. Dinner tonight is at your leisure. *Overnight at Waterfront Hotel. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 5 - AUCKLAND

This morning travel back to Auckland, where your first visit is to Ayrilies Garden, one of the best-known gardens in New Zealand. Bev McConnell is well-known throughout New Zealand, and her garden has followers from all over the world. Forty years ago this was bare land, and now the gardens are reaching maturity. Trees and shrubs form a changing backdrop for roses, perennials, bulbs, and grasses, while plants native to New Zealand are a strong component. Below the garden there is a large wetland area linking the garden to the waters of the Hauraki Gulf. After your visit, Bev McConnell will join you for a leisurely lunch at a restaurant near the garden. This afternoon check into your hotel located on the Viaduct. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant with views across the harbour. *Overnight at The Sebel Suites. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 6 - AUCKLAND

After a buffet breakfast this morning travel to the Auckland Botanic Gardens, established in 1973. Though young in years, the garden is already a showcase for Pacific and other spectacular flora. Two collections set this botanic garden apart: palms, including native nikau, cycads, and related

subtropical plants; and in the nearby Gondwana Arboretum, there are descendants of the plants that once lived on that ancient southern continent. There is time for you to enjoy lunch at Café Miko before departing to the Auckland Domain, a 185-acre park surrounding the cone of an extinct volcano in the heart of the city. After exploring the Auckland Museum and enjoying a Maori cultural performance, visit the Wintergardens. These were established after World War I and are a protected heritage site. There are two display glasshouses—one heated and showing off lush tropical and heat-loving plants, while the other displays temperate plants changing with the seasons. Dinner is at your leisure. *Overnight at The Sebel Suites. (B)*

NOVEMBER 7 - AUCKLAND

Tiritiri Matangi Island is a wildlife sanctuary and one of New Zealand's most important and exciting conservation projects. Over the course of 120 years of farming, this island was stripped of 94% of its native bush, but between 1984 and 1994 volunteers planted between 250,000 and 300,000 trees. It is now 60% forested, with the rest left as grassland to help birds such as the Takahe survive. It is a 70-minute ferry ride from Auckland, and upon arrival you will be met by a DOC (Department of Conservation) ranger who will escort you on a two-hour walk around the island. Later there is free time for you to explore before taking the ferry back to Auckland. *Overnight at The Sebel Suites. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 8 - DUNEDIN

This morning you will be transferred to the airport to connect with your flight to Dunedin. Upon arrival take a tour of the city. Enjoy some free time to explore and get lunch before continuing to Larnach Castle, which is over a century old and has a large garden surrounding it. 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. In 1967 avid gardener Margaret Barker bought the property and set about to develop the gardens as they are today. Tonight have dinner in the castle. *Overnight at Larnach Castle & Gardens. (BD)*

NOVEMBER 9 - DUNEDIN

The Royal Albatross Centre sits on the Taiaroa Head of Otago Peninsula overlooking Dunedin. Take a guided tour to learn about the Northern Royal Albatross and witness the social and family life of the breeding colony. From here is it a short drive to Penguin Place, where you have the opportunity to see the Hoiho (Yellow-eyed Penguin) in its natural surroundings and at close range. After lunch, visit the Dunedin Botanic Garden. This botanic garden is the oldest in New Zealand and has a wide range of horticultural and botanical collections including roses, the herbaceous and perennial borders, a rock garden, New Zealand native plants, and the Rhododendron Dell, with more than 3,000 rhododendrons covering almost 10 acres. An important aspect of the New Zealand Native Plant Collection is the cultivation of rare and endangered native plant species. This evening dinner is at your leisure. *Overnight at Larnach Castle & Gardens. (BL)*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at 877-907-5360 or email schmidt@holbrooktravel.com

NOVEMBER 10 - DUNEDIN

Today travel out of Dunedin on the Orokonui Express to visit the Orokonui Ecosanctuary. A 5.4-mile pest-proof fence surrounds the 750 acres of protected habitat, and inside the fence are a number of endangered species and plants. Your guide will take you through the park, pointing out some of the endangered birds such as the Kaka, Saddleback, and Bellbird. There is a café here for you to enjoy some lunch. Later visit Pa Harakeke (Home of Flax), where you can walk amongst the many different varieties of flax and learn about its importance to both the Maori and to the first European settlers in New Zealand. *Overnight at Larnach Castle & Gardens. (BD)*

NOVEMBER 11 - MOUNT COOK

After climbing the steepest street in the Southern Hemisphere (some say the world), travel north along the coast via the Moeraki Boulders, turning inland just south of Oamaru. The different colored lakes, the mountains, and the vast plains make this journey memorable. Stop first at Lake Pukaki for a view of Aoraki/Mount Cook before traveling beside this lake to your hotel at the base of the mountain. This afternoon you are free to take one of the many walks available in the area, or you may wish to join the Glacier Explorers and journey to the base of the Tasman Glacier. Dinner at the hotel tonight. *Overnight at The Hermitage. (BD)*



NOVEMBER 12 - CHRISTCHURCH

This morning visit Lake Tekapo and the Church of the Good Shepherd, located on the shores of the lake. From here travel through the stunning Mackenzie Country, stopping in the town of Geraldine to taste some locally made cheese before arriving at Christchurch. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Novotel. (BD)*

NOVEMBER 13 - CHRISTCHURCH

From a solitary oak planted in 1863, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens have flourished. Through depression, war, and now earthquakes the gardens remain a jewel in the center of Christchurch, a permanent monument to the beauty of the natural world and a symbol of growth and renewal. After the fatal magnitude 6.3 earthquake on February 22, 2011, many people took refuge in the open spaces in the botanic gardens. The gardens are as beautiful as ever, although grounds and irrigation systems were damaged. Lakes drained as impermeable bases were cracked. Garden

paths were also damaged. Staff have worked hard to bring the gardens back to what they were, and although several buildings are still damaged the gardens are just as memorable and serene as ever. Your local guide will show you the best of these gardens, which feature one of the finest collections of exotic and native plants in New Zealand. Lunch today is at the Curator's House, situated in the botanic gardens and one of Christchurch locals' favorite restaurants. The rest of the day is at leisure; perhaps visit "Quake City" to learn more about the earthquake, or visit the Re: START mall, created from the need to breathe new life into the Christchurch central city following the earthquake. *Overnight at Hotel Novotel. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 14 - CHRISTCHURCH

Your first stop today is Taunton Gardens, established in 1973 and owned by well-known garden specialist Barry Sligh. From here, travel to Akaroa, the only "French" town in New Zealand, and stop for a light lunch. Afterwards visit Fishermans Bay Garden, where you can see an amazing array of New Zealand native plants intermingled with non-natives. The garden is a tranquil haven amongst the ruggedness of Banks Peninsula. *Overnight at Hotel Novotel. (BL)*

NOVEMBER 15 - CHRISTCHURCH

This morning visit another garden of national significance, Ohinetahi, where the formal garden is considered to be one of the finest in New Zealand. This afternoon visit the workshop of Maori carver Caine Tauwhare. Spend time with him as he explains about his craft and later see some of his work. Tonight attend a farewell dinner at one of Christchurch's best restaurants. *Overnight at Hotel Novotel. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 16 - FAREWELL!

This morning you will be transferred to the Christchurch International Airport for your flights home via Auckland. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$7,695 (minimum 10 participants)

Plus \$400 per person tax-deductible donation (to be paid separately to UWBG). Cost does not include international airfare from Seattle or flights within New Zealand, estimated at \$2,300 total. Gratuities not included.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy; single supplement is available for \$2,000. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form are due to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable until July 29, 2015 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than July 29, 2015; cancellations received after this date are not refundable. The donation should be mailed and made out to UWBG (Box 354115, Seattle WA 98195) no later than July 29, 2015. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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