



## NEW ZEALAND (NORTH & SOUTH ISLANDS) | Public & Private Gardens, Nature, Culture, & the Pacific Ocean

15 DAYS from \$6,730 | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **MID-OCT–MID-DEC**

*WITH its rich volcanic soil and temperate climate, New Zealand boasts a botanic diversity that's matched by the Kiwis' passion for gardening. Discover a bower of beauty as you travel from the sub-tropical north to the sub-alpine south island, visiting ten acclaimed gardens, many deemed nationally or internationally "significant" by the New Zealand Gardens Trust. In a land of superlatives, the collections at Ohinetahi, Ayrliès, and Hamilton Gardens stand out, but so do the national parks, wineries, and Maori cultural sites you'll celebrate in "the Land of the Long White Cloud."*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Delve into "The Story of Gardens" through five award-winning collections at Hamilton Gardens.
- Discover New Zealand's "Garden City" and its 150-year-old crown jewel, Christchurch Botanical Gardens.
- Revel in the mirror-like beauty of Milford Sound in Fiordlands National Park on an overnight cruise.
- Walk among the treetops and the undergrowth along the Natural Trail and Canopy Walkway at Otari-Wilton Bush Native Botanic Garden.
- Explore Maori culture in the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Specialist guide
- Private transportation
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offsetting





INDIAN CHAR BAGH GARDEN IN HAMILTON GARDENS

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### Day 1 | **Auckland**

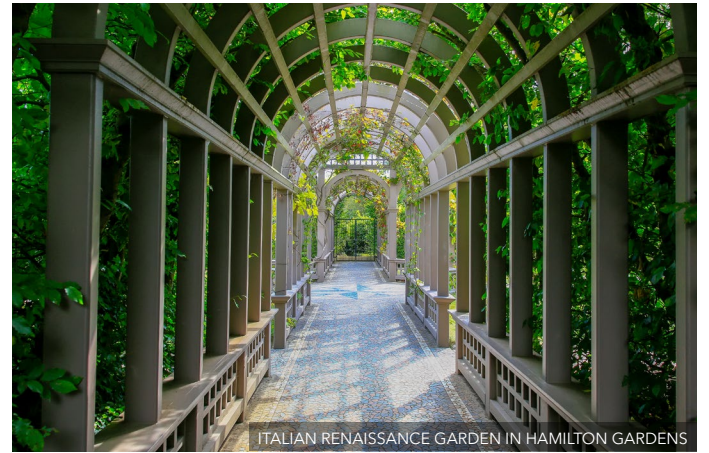
Upon arrival at the Auckland International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your guide and driver, and transferred to your hotel. Early check-in has been arranged for your comfort. You will have the day to relax and then join your fellow travelers this evening for your Welcome Dinner at your hotel. *Overnight at Grand Millennium Hotel (D)*

### Day 2 | **Auckland**

Start your day by traveling west of the city to visit the stunning Totara Waters Garden – a 2-acre subtropical garden set on the upper Waitemata harbor. Development began in 1999 by Peter & Jocelyn Coyle, who oversaw extensive plantings of rare and unusual species. You will then visit Beverley McConnell’s 12-acre country garden known as Ayrilies, one of the most celebrated gardens in New Zealand. Maple woodlands complement large ponds connected by a tumbling stream and edged in hostas and irises. There are collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and masses of old roses, as well as vines that twine through trees and over pergolas. Wandering paths lead to some surprises, and garden seats take advantage of delightful vistas with distant views of the sea. This evening enjoy dinner at the orbit restaurant overlooking Auckland. *Overnight at Grand Millennium (BD)*

### Day 3 | **Rotorua**

After breakfast and checking out of your hotel, you will travel through the rich Waikato countryside to Hamilton Gardens. The unique theme of Hamilton Gardens is ‘The Story of Gardens,’ which is explored through a series of five garden collections. Enjoy viewing the roses, as well as *Camellia* spp., *Clivia* spp., *Xeronema* spp., *Niphidium* spp., and *Darmera* spp., to name a just a few. Hamilton Gardens was awarded the prestigious ‘International Garden Tourism Award’ at the International Garden Tourism Network (IGTN) conference in France in October 2014. From



ITALIAN RENAISSANCE GARDEN IN HAMILTON GARDENS

Hamilton continue to Rotorua, the “Geothermal Capital of New Zealand.” Visit Te Puia to view the bubbling mud pools, gushing geysers, colored hot springs, and a visit to the Kiwi House. Your Maori cultural evening starts with a traditional Maori welcome followed by a wonderful performance, where you’ll learn about the Maori stories of long ago, and finishing with dinner cooked in an earth oven; a unique experience and very tasty. *Overnight at Sudima Hotel (BD)*

### Day 4 | **New Plymouth**

This morning you will meet your local guide and travel to the Whirinaki Forest, with its unique podocarp forest. The forest is dominated by towering species such as *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, *Podocarpus totara*, and *Prumnopitys taxifolia*. There are frost flats, riverbeds and forest clearings, wetland vegetation, and sub-alpine shrub land on the high ridge. Your guide will take you through the valley, telling the stories of the forest and pointing out the unique vegetation. You will then travel over The Forgotten Highway to the West Coast of the North Island. The area is dominated by the perfect cone of Mount Taranaki, with New Plymouth being the largest city in the region and known for its wonderful gardens. After arrival and check-in at your hotel, you will have the evening at leisure. *Overnight at Novotel (B)*

## Day 5 | **New Plymouth**

Today take in a city tour of New Plymouth, featuring the gardens and beaches of this unique town. Enjoy visits to the following gardens; Pukekura Park with its many displays, the Historical Tupare Grounds and Gardens, and the world renowned Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, where you will see the rhododendron and bush gardens, grass walks, mountain streams, and glass houses. Lunch will be in the garden café, where you will meet up with local volunteers who work with the trust. Once you return to your hotel, you will have the remainder of the late afternoon and evening at leisure. *Overnight at Novotel (BL)*

## Day 6 | **Wellington**

This morning you will depart New Plymouth and travel to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. En route, visit the amazing structure known as the Te Rewa Rewa Bridge for a photo stop, before continuing south to Wellington. Also en route, you'll visit Otari-Wilton Bush Native Botanic Garden. This unique plant sanctuary of forest reserve and botanic garden covers over 100 hectares and contains many threatened species. Some of Wellington's oldest trees are here, including an 800-year-old rimu, *Dacrydium cupressinum*. Walk along the magical treetop Canopy Walkway, 18 meters above the forest floor, or get down in the undergrowth on the Nature Trail. Later you will be treated to the twilight tour of Zealandia, a fully fenced urban eco sanctuary where 18 species of native wildlife have been introduced back into the area – six of which were absent from the mainland for over 100 years. Join your guide at the Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary as it transforms from daylight to twilight during this special escorted walk. An experienced guide will lead your group into the sanctuary after closing time so you can witness the sights and sounds of the valley at dusk. See birds returning to the sanctuary to settle into their nests, the sight of the evening sky and the changing sounds of birds from day to night. Look for unique species such as weta, glow worms, tuatara, and more. *Overnight at West Plaza Hotel (B)*

## Day 7 | **Blenheim**

Today you will take the Interislander Ferry from the North to the South Island. Travel over Cook Strait and into Marlborough Sounds to Picton Gateway to the South Island. Lunch today is at Allan Scott Winery in the heart of Marlborough Wine country where you will have a taste of the wines before enjoying a lunch of local produce. You will then be given a guided tour of the vineyard to see the gardens before arriving at your boutique hotel for two nights. *Overnight at Chateau Marlborough Hotel (BLD)*

## Day 8 | **Blenheim**

This morning visit Barewood, a classic potager garden where interesting color combinations using unusual herbaceous plants and shrubs can be seen in the different areas throughout the garden. You will see *Malus* spp., *Wisteria* spp., *Clematis* spp., *Viburnum* spp., *Philadelphus* spp., *Deutzia* spp., *Sambucus* spp.,

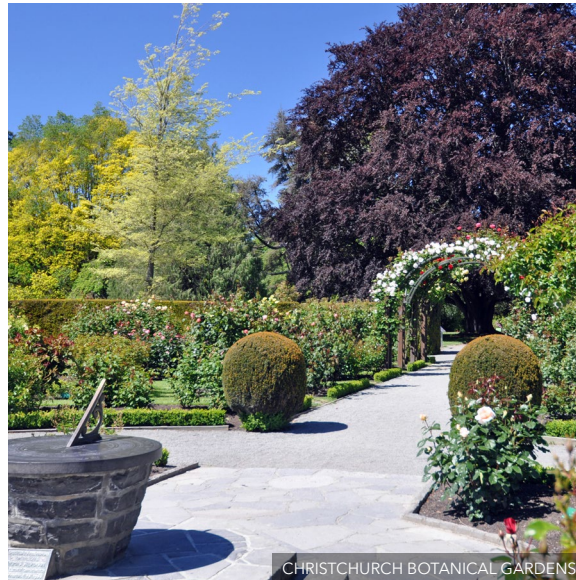
as well as *Rosa* and *Iris* spp. After visiting the garden, you will visit Grove Mill, a carbon zero winery whose philosophy is to produce premium wine with minimal environmental impact, and houses an art gallery exhibiting leading New Zealand artists and sculptors. Enjoy a night at leisure to explore Blenheim on your own. *Overnight at Chateau Marlborough Hotel (B)*

## Day 9 | **Christchurch**

After breakfast, depart for Christchurch; upon arrival visit Mona Vale Estate, a 5.5-hectare garden with landscaped lawns, gently rolling down to the Avon River. From there, visit the Christchurch Botanical Gardens, established in 1863, and a showcase of exotic and indigenous plants. Six specialist houses contain collections of tropical and temperate plants, cool greenhouse flowering plants, cacti, succulents, ferns and alpine plants. There are a variety of gardens which include the rose, rock, water, azalea, woodland, and fragrant gardens. After checking into the hotel, return to the gardens for dinner at the famous Curators Restaurant. *Overnight at The Ridges Latimer (BD)*

## Day 10 | **Christchurch**

This morning travel out to Governor's Bay, to one of New Zealand's most celebrated and internationally known gardens, Ohinetahi. The coastal setting and mountainous backdrop attracted architect Sir Miles Warren, who designed the garden along with some family members. Ohinetahi shows clearly how architecture in the form of imaginative garden structures and well-chosen plants can enhance a beautiful natural environment. From there you will travel on to French Farm Winery, situated on the banks of the Te Waimangu stream. Established by artist Nancy Tichborne, the garden contains dramatic herbaceous borders forming a natural colorful



amphitheater full of tulips, *Iris* spp., daylilies, and *Dahlia* spp., depending on the season. Your last stop on the peninsula is Fishermans Bay Garden. Fishermans Bay Garden provides an opportunity to visit an idyllic garden of natives and exotics while enjoying outstanding views of the Pacific coastline and the sounds of native birds, seals, and penguins in the bay below. *Overnight at The Ridges Latimer (B)*

## Day 11 | **Queenstown**

After checking out of your hotel this morning you will begin your journey from Christchurch to Queenstown, which takes you through the McKenzie country, passing beautiful Lake Tekapo and Lake Pukaki. You will have fantastic views of Aoraki Mount Cook (weather permitting of course) and then onto Cromwell, situated on the banks of Lake Dunstan. The original town of Cromwell was flooded to create the Clyde Dam hydroelectricity plant. Some of the historic buildings were moved to the new town and can now be visited. The whole area is known for its fabulous fruit and latterly wine. Today you will visit two wineries and have lunch at one of them. This afternoon, continue your travels to Queenstown, and take a tour of historical Arrowtown before

arriving at your centrally located hotel. Tonight you are free to explore the town, with dinner on own. *Overnight at Scenic Suites Hotel (BL)*

## Day 12 | **Queenstown**

This morning you will join the Dart River Safari, which is a unique combination of exciting shallow water jet boating, breathtaking scenery, and Maori heritage, while exploring the world renowned park. You will travel to the head of Lake Wakatipu on the pristine Dart River in the spectacular Mount Aspiring National Park. Included is a wilderness walk where your knowledgeable guide will give an informative commentary about the native beech forest, the unique flora and fauna, as well as fascinating stories about the Maori and colonial history of the area. *Overnight at Scenic Suites Hotel (B)*



## Day 13 | **Milford Sound**

Another magical day awaits you as you travel into Fiordland National Park to Milford Sound. You will stop at Lake Te Anau before traveling through the Homer Tunnel, an engineering feat of its time. Your home tonight is the Milford Mariner, and after settling in you will cruise the length of Milford Sound, marveling at the towering cliffs, the beech trees hanging precariously to the side of the cliffs, and the amazing wildlife. You will settle into Harrison's Cove where there is time to take the tender craft to explore the coastline for penguins and nesting birds. Enjoy a sumptuous dinner, followed by a lecture on the area by the nature guide where you will learn more about the local flora and fauna. *Overnight aboard Milford Mariner. (BD)*

## Day 14 | **Queenstown**

Enjoy a wonderful morning exploring another arm of Milford Sound, then say a fond farewell to the crew on the Mariner and have a leisurely drive back to Queenstown. After checking into your hotel, you will have the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This afternoon take the gondola to the top of Bob's Peak, followed by a buffet dinner with amazing views of this gorgeous natural area. *Overnight at Scenic Suites Hotel (BD)*

## Day 15 | **Depart**

This morning you will be transferred to the Queenstown airport for your flights back to your home city.



## LAND PRICING

**\$6,730** double occupancy, based on 18 participants (plus 1 complimentary from Los Angeles, single occupancy). *Single supplement: \$1350.*

**Cost includes:** Accommodations, meals as indicated, specialist local guides, transportation, gratuities for guide & driver, activities per itinerary.

**Cost does not include:** International airfare, visa fee, items of personal nature, optional activities.

*Price valid until Dec. 2018.*

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure. Travel/ trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*

## MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. Whether you are seeking a tried-and-true experience or a garden expedition customized to your needs, Holbrook is adept at combining your specific interest in gardens with a multitude of cultural, environmental, or adventure-based activities.

