

Victorian Garden Tour March 2018

INCLUDING MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Escorted by Brian Sams



Tour Highlights

- Explore Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley
- Echuca and Murray River lunch cruise
- Melbourne City Tour including Eureka Skydeck
- Visit Old Melbourne Gaol
- Rippon Lee and Como Gardens visit
- Cloudehill Garden in the Dandenongs
- Ned Kelly Walking tour in Beechworth
- Humming garden in Beechworth
- St Erth Garden and time in Daylesford
- Lambley Nursery
- 3 nights in Shepperton
- 4 nights in downtown Melbourne
- Entry into the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show
- Breakfast daily (B), Farewell dinner (D) 1 x Lunch (L)



Booking information

Land price	\$1995 per person twin share Please complete a booking form and pay deposit of \$500 pp to secure place.
Single Supplement	\$595 please advise if you would like to twin share and we will try to find someone!
Airfares	If you would like help in booking airfares please let us know and we will book your flights to coordinate with the itinerary.
Please refer to the full terms and conditions on the back of the booking form.	

Day 1 Sunday 18th March 2018

Fly to Melbourne

Meet at Tullamarine airport at 7.30pm. Those flying from Toowoomba will arrive at 7.15pm. We will then transfer to our centrally located hotel in the Melbourne CBD. ***Mercure Welcome Inn***

Day 2 Monday 19th March Melbourne Exploration (B)

Today we will explore the Victorian capital with a visit to familiar and also some unexpected spots. First stop is the lovely Melbourne Botanical Garden and then we will take a ride to the observation deck at Eureka Skydeck for great views over Melbourne. Some free time for lunch in the Southbank area before heading for visit to the Old Melbourne Gaol. This is where Ned Kelly spent his last hours before hanging. Next stop is the historical Tasma terrace for exploration and shopping or spend time in the adjacent Fitzroy Gardens and conservatory before heading back to our hotel. Free evening or meet us to find a suitable eatery.

Day 3 Tuesday 20th March Melbourne Gardens (B)

Depart to explore a couple of the best gardens in Melbourne, the stately Ripponlea and the lovely Como House. At around lunch time we will have some free time to explore St Kilda in the renowned Acland Street before a photo opportunity outside Luna Park. We will then drive the bay road to Brighton to see the beach and English style beach houses. Next stop is one of Melbourne's best private garden centres, Gardenworld at Keysborough. On the way back to our hotel we will take in some notable landmarks including the MCG.

Day 4 Wednesday 21st March MIFGS day Show (B)

This morning we will catch the tram to the Carlton Exhibition Grounds for a full day at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS). This garden show is now acknowledged as the best garden show in the southern hemisphere with display gardens, floral displays, talks and demonstrations and heaps of shopping. You can make your own way back to the hotel when you are ready with the rest of the day free.

Day 5 Thursday 22nd March Melb. to Shepparton (B)

Today we head to the Dandenong Hills. We will spend some time exploring the village of Sassafras before visiting the beautiful Cloudehill garden for a guided visit. We will have some free time for lunch in Olinda before visiting Sky-high Mt Dandenong which is an English style garden and café complex with lovely views over Melbourne. We will then drive into the Goulburn Valley to Shepparton and our hotel for 3 nights.

Best Western Plus the Carrington Hotel

Day 6 Friday 23rd March Echuca Day (B, L)

We will drive to Echuca this morning for free time to explore this historical town. You may decide to wander the streets or visit the Holden Museum, the Echuca Chocolate Factory or the Farmhouse Cheese emporium. We will then meet at the Murray River Pier to board the Paddlesteamer PS Emmylou. We have an included river cruise and lunch as we sail the mighty Murray. Upon our return we will have a guided tour of the Port of Echuca Discovery Centre. Our next stop is the Great Aussie Beer Shed! This attraction has an impressive collection of farm memorabilia, a Coke collection and a few other surprises. We will then return to Shepparton for an evening at leisure.

Day 7 Saturday 24th March Beechworth Day (B, D)

Today we depart Shepparton to visit Beechworth with a drive through Ned Kelly country. First stop is the Out of Town Nursery and Humming garden. The garden looks lovely. We will then head into town for some free time exploring the historical town centre and a chance to get some lunch. We will meet to have a guided Ned Kelly Walking tour if it is being conducted otherwise we will visit the Gaol, museum, historic guest house and the Beechworth Telegraph. Next stop is Milawa Cheese factory for a cheese tasting before heading back to our hotel. Tonight join us for a farewell dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 8 Sunday 25th March Shepparton to Yarra Valley to Melbourne airport (B)

We leave Shepparton today and will drive south for a morning visit to the famous St Erth Garden (pictured below). This is one of the Diggers gardens and in my view the best. We will have time to explore the gardens and have morning tea or browse the nursery. Next stop is Daylesford for shopping and lunch before driving to one of my favourite Australian gardens and nurseries - Lambley. We will have a tour of the garden and a chance to buy some plants before heading to the Melbourne Airport by about 6pm. The timing is to allow those from Toowoomba to connect with a 7.50pm direct flight to Toowoomba. If you are flying to other cities please book flights departing around 8pm.

