

Wattletree Garden Tours
New Zealand
South Island in Spring
November 2022



*Travel the length of the South Island starting in Nelson
travelling to Dunedin via Blenheim, Christchurch, Arthurs Pass,
Queenstown, and Milford Sound!*

Beautiful gardens, spectacular scenery and good company.



Join Brian Sams
& Wattletree Garden Tours
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Tour highlights

- Professional local tour company
- Many meals
- City sightseeing
- Milford Sound
- Larnach Castle
- Hortensia House
- Arthurs Pass scenic Rail
- Maple Glen Garden
- Quality Hotels
- Kaiteriteri Bay cruise
- Ohinetahi Garden
- Private tour with plenty of space

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops, consultation, leading garden based tours and presenting weekly gardening news for WIN TV. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006. Why? He loves it!

Day 1 Tuesday 15 November – Australia to New Zealand (D and meals in flight)

This morning we fly on our included Air New Zealand flight NZ200 departing Brisbane at 8am. We will travel to Nelson via Christchurch and should arrive at around 5.10pm and then transfer to our hotel. All flight times subject to confirmation. After check in we will have a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Accommodation: Nelson Hotel or similar, Nelson – 2 nights

Day 2 Wednesday 16 November – Day tour to Kaiteriteri (B, L)

This morning travel by coach to Kaiteriteri. Enjoy a morning cruise in style and comfort from Kaiteriteri to Totaranui and return. Stay onboard as we call into popular beaches along the coast, pausing for photographs at famous Split Apple Rock and viewing sea birds and seals at Tonga and Adele Islands. Light picnic lunch included. Rest of the day will be at leisure.

Day 3 Thursday 17 November – Nelson to Blenheim (B, L)

Depart Nelson and drive through farmlands, pine plantations then the Rai Valley to the vineyards surrounding Blenheim in the Marlborough Wine Country. On arrival explore Huguette Michel-Fleurie's Monet inspired hydrangea garden at Hortensia House. The Marlborough district is the top wine producing area in New Zealand with its wines winning awards around the world. This afternoon we will visit a local winery for wine tastings and a scrumptious lunch. This afternoon visit Bhudevi Garden which includes an outdoor sculpture garden, a native garden, a secluded rock and fern garden, and an elevated garden with views overlooking the vineyards.

Accommodation: Chateau Marlborough or similar, Blenheim – 1 night

Day 4 Friday 18 November – Nelson to Christchurch (B, D)

Depart Blenheim and travel along a thin ledge of land pinned between the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean and the rugged ranges to Kaikoura for a lunch stop (own cost). Continue across the farmlands of the North Canterbury Plains to reach Christchurch. Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Accommodation: Distinction Hotel or similar – 4 nights

Day 5 Saturday 19 November – Christchurch to Banks Peninsula (B)

This morning visit Ohinetahi, the famous private garden of Sir Miles Warren located on Banks Peninsula. Then visit the beautiful unspoilt old French whaling depot of Akaroa on Banks Peninsula. Akaroa was settled by the French in an early attempt to colonise New Zealand and still retains a good deal of French character in its street names, boutique shops and cafes. Here you will have time to wander the shops and purchase lunch (own cost). After lunch board the modern catamaran, Black Cat and enjoy a 2 hour narrated cruise of the splendid Akaroa Harbour. We hope to see rare New Zealand Hector's dolphins, fur seals, penguins and many other kinds of sea birds. Later we will visit the Giants House, an historic Akaroa house with terraced gardens.

Day 6 Sunday 20 November – Christchurch sightseeing (B)

This morning we will undertake a sightseeing tour of Christchurch City, including the "Cardboard Cathedral", Victoria Square and the Bridge of Remembrance. View the site of the Christchurch Cathedral which has been in ruins in the city centre since the February 2011 earthquake and a tour of the wonderful 21 hectare Christchurch Botanic Garden. This afternoon visit Mona Vale garden featuring rose and iris gardens, woodland plantings along the river and colour-themed borders. More recently, magnolias, many Ericaceae, herbaceous perennials and beds of annuals have been added. This evening is at leisure.



Day 7 Monday 21 November – Christchurch area garden day (B)

Our first visit is to Broadfield Garden which aims for excellence in design, planting and maintenance using natives both formally and informally as are New Zealand raised varieties of Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Camellias, Cherry Cornus, Maples, Peony Perennials, Daffodils, Lily, and Roses. The Acton/Rakaia Garden is 2.4ha with wide lawn paths linking each area together with rhododendrons, camellias, thousands of annuals, perennials and roses. There is a huge boardwalk linking all the ponds together which are surrounded with New Zealand natives. We will have time for lunch in Ashburton (own cost) before visiting Winchmore Gardens. This is an English style 1.8ha country garden with many exotic trees. A number of more cultivated gardens areas surround the home. Sounds lovely. This evening is at leisure.

Day 8 Tuesday 22 November – Christchurch to Franz Josef via Tranz Alpine railway (B, D)

We depart Christchurch and traverse the Southern Alps aboard the famous Tranz-Alpine rail journey to Arthurs Pass. We will journey over the Canterbury Plains, followed by the spectacular gorges and river valleys of the Waimakariri River. Once we have crossed into the Southern Alps we will be met at the Village of Arthurs Pass by our coach to continue our journey to the West Coast. We will stop in Hokitika to visit the Greenstone and Glass Blowing factories. Continue towards the Westland National Park, the home of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers before arriving for dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef or similar (1 night)

Day 9 Wednesday 23 November – Franz Josef to Queenstown (B, D)

This morning if you would like to experience a snow landing on the Glacier, there is time available for an optional scenic flight (at additional cost approx. NZ\$280pp). The scenic flight travels towards the southern end of the South Island's West Coast Road in a real wilderness experience. For those who do not take the scenic flight, and subject to weather you may like to do a self-guided walk to the bottom of the glacier – it's 5.4km return walk. The path takes you over a shingle and rock riverbed and is a relatively easy walk. After we depart Franz Josef we have a beautiful drive via Haast, the Westland National Park and the upper reaches of Lake Wanaka. When we reach Queenstown we will have dinner in the hotel.

Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel & Resort Lakefront Queenstown or similar (3 nights)

Day 10 Thursday 24 November – Queenstown (B)

This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of Queenstown before travelling to Arrowtown - a community with a colourful history. Many of the original sycamore trees, planted by gold-diggers, and stone houses still stand. In its heyday Arrowtown was a frontier city. Now there are many beautiful and interesting walks around the historic area, but you can also visit some of the great art galleries, boutiques or cafes that are now on the main street. The afternoon is at your leisure – you may wish to experience a thrilling ride on a jetboat, cruise the lake on the vintage steamer, join a winery tour to some of the most southern vineyards in the world, 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). Tonight is free for you to explore.

Day 11 Friday 25 November – Queenstown to Milford Sound and return (B, L, D)

Today depart Queenstown for an unforgettable full-day journey to Milford Sound. Located within the World Heritage Fiordland National Park, this region is rich with dense rainforest, lakes and waterfalls cascading from rugged mountain peaks. Journey through the Southern Alps via the Homer Tunnel, a 1.2km tunnel drilled through a solid mountain of rock. Upon arrival at Milford Sound, board a comfortable vessel for a spectacular cruise where you will see the wonders of Mitre Peak, glacier scarred rock walls that rise 1,200m vertically from the sea, and waterfalls that tumble from hanging valleys and crash into the fiord far below. Picnic box lunch included. Dinner is in our hotel.

Day 12 Saturday 26 November – Queenstown to Dunedin (B)

Depart Queenstown and travel across the rolling farmland of Southland and Otago. We will visit the beautiful Maple Glen - a private garden, nursery, aviary, woodland and wetland set in the rolling green countryside of Southland. This was one of my favourite gardens when I last visited this part of the world. The garden features mass plantings of cold hardy perennials along with many hundreds of Rhododendrons and Mollis Azaleas. Later continue the interesting drive to Dunedin, a city established by settlers from the Presbyterian Church of Scotland in the 1840's and is proud of its Scottish heritage.

Accommodation: Victoria Hotel Dunedin (2 nights)

Day 13 Sunday 27 November – Dunedin day (B, L, D)

First visit today is Larnach Castle where we will have a guided tour of the lovely gardens and gain an understanding of the history of the settlement. Then explore Glenfalloch Garden - 30 acres of historic garden begun in 1871 and filled with splendid plantings. Stroll amongst the beautiful seasonal displays and enjoy the lush surrounds – native ferns, exotic imports and indigenous New Zealand trees. Lunch today is at Glenfalloch Restaurant. We will then head back into Dunedin to visit the well cared for Dunedin Botanical Garden. Our farewell dinner tonight is in a local restaurant.

Day 14 Monday 28 November – Dunedin to Auckland to Australia (B and meals in flight)

Farewell from New Zealand, this morning we will be transferred from the hotel to Dunedin Airport for our 11.15am flight connecting to our Australian flights via Auckland. Flight times to be confirmed

Quality matters!

- ⇒ Good well located hotels
- ⇒ Experienced tour guide and specialist New Zealand tour operator
- ⇒ The food will showcase some of the country's culture and cuisine.
- ⇒ We will have enough time to experience each region
- ⇒ We always seem to have a wonderful, friendly & fun group to travel with!



Pricing Details

Full tour price including all land and air—please note this price is a 2021 price and subject to slight change	\$7995.00
Tour deposit—deductible from final tour price	\$500.00
Single supplement - if you wish to twin share please let us know and we will put you in contact with others who are keen to share.	\$1880.00

Important dates

1. Deposit – Payable asap to secure a place as seats are limited, please complete booking form.
2. Final payment 60 days before departure

The tour prices includes:

- All airfares on a full service airline (Air New Zealand)
- Beautiful hotel accommodation
- Internal exclusive coach travel
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portage
- Entry to all sightseeing, national parks and gardens as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) - 23 in total
- English speaking guides and accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (but subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers (for whole group only—other arrangements to be made as required)

The tour price excludes:

- All items not stated as included
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers. Please discuss if you need help to organize.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



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