

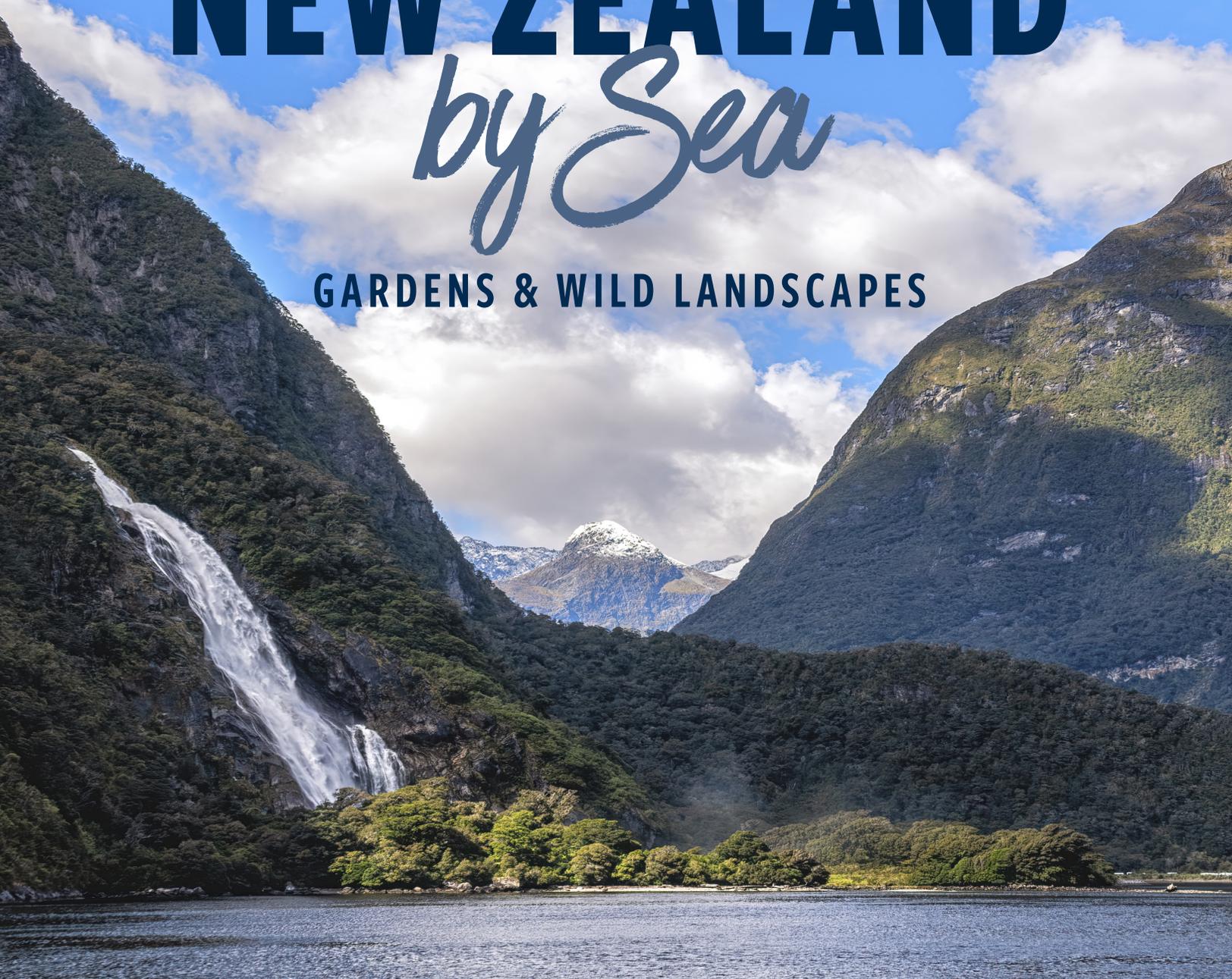


AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

NEW ZEALAND

by Sea

GARDENS & WILD LANDSCAPES



QUEENSTOWN TO AUCKLAND
ABOARD THE 140-PASSENGER *HERITAGE ADVENTURER*

FEBRUARY 25–MARCH 10, 2027

Dear Friends,

I am excited to invite you on a remarkable program exploring New Zealand by sea, featuring AHS Hosts Holly and Osamu Shimizu and an outstanding lineup of expert speakers from like-minded educational organizations. Discover New Zealand during one of its most engaging seasons. Late summer to early autumn brings warm weather, clear skies, and a relaxed pace that are perfect for appreciating the country's landscapes and gardens.

The program begins with an overnight stay in Queenstown, where mountain vistas and a vibrant outdoor culture set the tone for the days ahead. From there, board the Kiwi-owned and operated *Heritage Adventurer* for a nine-night voyage from Fiordland National Park to Auckland. The ship's expedition design and Zodiac landing craft enable close exploration of remote coastlines and sheltered waterways across New Zealand's two main islands, the North and South, along with the ecologically rich and seldom-visited Stewart Island.

Throughout the journey, excursions present New Zealand's horticulture in context, pairing celebrated gardens with the landscapes that shape them. Guests visit nationally recognized botanic and designed gardens in Wellington—including the native plant collections of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush—Christchurch, Dunedin, and Queenstown, while also exploring living ecosystems. Landings and guided walks reveal native forests and bird habitats, glacial fiords, and geothermal regions. Māori perspectives on land stewardship and traditional plant use further connect cultivated spaces to their natural origins. Expert lectures and informal discussions deepen understanding of both the garden tradition and the extraordinary environments from which it grows.

Optional extensions in Queenstown and Auckland, including the Bay of Islands, provide further opportunities to experience New Zealand's unique gardens and scenic landscapes. Because space is limited, I encourage you to reserve your spot early.

Warmest regards,



Suzanne B. Laporte
President & CEO



Champagne Pool in Rotorua

Highlights

- Explore **Milford, Doubtful, and Dusky Sounds**—Fiordland National Park's most iconic, unspoiled, and storied landscapes—over two full days
- Access remote **Stewart and Ulva Islands** for guided walks through Te Wharawhara sanctuary and a warm welcome in the village of Oban
- Discover **New Zealand's horticultural riches**, including Ōtari-Wilton's Bush in Wellington, New Zealand's only public botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants
- Observe some of the **world's rarest wildlife in their natural settings**, including the Royal Albatross
- Choose from **excursions tailored to all interests** in Wellington, Dunedin, and Christchurch
- Marvel at sheer cliffs punctuated by crashing waterfalls, and native species on **naturalist-led Zodiac expeditions**
- Go ashore in beautiful **Marlborough Sound** for a walk on the **Queen Charlotte Track**, one of New Zealand's 10 Great Walks
- Experience a **private Māori welcome ceremony**, including tribal dances, and see bubbling thermal mud pools near Rotorua



Kiwi—National bird of New Zealand



New Zealand silver fern

AHS HOSTS



HOLLY AND OSAMU SHIMIZU are a renowned horticultural couple whose shared passion for gardening has inspired and beautified landscapes worldwide. Holly, a member of the American Horticultural Society Board of Directors and retired Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden, is a globally acclaimed horticulturist. Recognized for her ten-year tenure as a host on the popular Victory Garden television show on PBS, she has worked in gardens throughout the world and has garnered numerous accolades, including The Scott Medal & Award from The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, the Thomas Roland Medal for outstanding contributions to

horticultural education from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the Professional Award for an Outstanding Public Garden Director from the American Horticultural Society. Holly's dedication to nurturing an appreciation for plants is reflected in her writings for numerous publications and her role as an international flower show judge. Osamu grew up in Japan where he studied and worked in both historic and contemporary Japanese gardens. He worked in Europe for over ten years helping with garden designs, mapping, and garden improvements. In 1982 he started his own garden design/build company, Shimizu Landscape Design. His portfolio showcases an array of gardens, with a significant emphasis on Japanese aesthetics and a fusion of eastern and western influences.

WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH AHS, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.



Taiaroa Head in Dunedin

ITINERARY



Thursday–Saturday, February 25–27

HOME / QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Queenstown, located on New Zealand's South Island. Lose one day crossing the international date line, arriving on February 27. Transfer to the Millennium Hotel Queenstown and take some time to unwind. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome orientation and a relaxed reception.

Millennium Hotel Queenstown (R)

Sunday, February 28

BLUFF / EMBARKATION

Travel by motorcoach for the approximately three-and-a-half-hour drive to Bluff, stopping en route for lunch before embarking the *Heritage Adventurer*. Gather on deck for cocktails before sailing toward Fiordland National Park, a world of emerald cliffs, ancient beech forests, and velvety green mosses nourished by one of the wettest climates on Earth. In the evening gather for the captain's welcome reception and dinner.

Heritage Adventurer (B,L,R,D)

Monday, March 1

FJORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

Begin your exploration of Fiordland National Park with a full day of Zodiac excursions and guided walks in the remote Doubtful and Dusky Sounds. Experience dramatic scenery of towering cliffs draped in rain-fed native forest, where tree ferns, mosses, and lichens flourish alongside cascading waterfalls. Lecture #1 offers insights into the region's natural and cultural history. Meals are served on board.

Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 2

FJORDLAND NATIONAL PARK

Continue your journey through Fiordland with a focus on the iconic Milford Sound. Cruise its glacial waters beneath the soaring Mitre Peak, where steep walls are cloaked in moisture-loving vegetation shaped by constant rainfall, and enjoy opportunities for photography. Lecture #2 provides further context on the area's unique ecology and history. Meals are served on board.

Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)

Wednesday, March 3

STEWART ISLAND

Spend the day exploring seldom-visited Stewart and Ulva Islands by Zodiac, a paradise for birdwatchers. Enjoy guided walks through Ulva Island's Te Wharawhara Sanctuary with local naturalists and explore the 400-person village of Oban on Stewart Island. The late afternoon is spent at sea, accompanied by Lecture #3. Meals are served onboard.

Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)

Thursday, March 4

DUNEDIN

In Dunedin, choose to visit the Tuhura Otago Museum's Southern Land/Southern people gallery, the city's Botanic Garden, a nationally recognized six-star Garden of International Significance with over 6,800 plant species, or observe Royal Albatrosses in their natural habitat at Taiaroa Head. Your day will end back on the ship with Lecture #4. Meals are served on board.

Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)



Māori warrior carving



Christchurch Botanical Garden

Friday, March 5

LYTTLETON / CHRISTCHURCH

Anchor in Lyttleton and travel by motor coach into Christchurch to experience the city's revitalized central district—including the innovative Cardboard Cathedral. Or choose to visit Ohinetani Gardens, another six-star Garden of International Significance, renowned for its "living gallery" of over two dozen modern sculptures by New Zealand artists. There will be time today to explore more of this culturally rich city and get lunch at your own pace. The day will end back on the ship with Lecture #5.
Heritage Adventurer (B,D)

Saturday, March 6

MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

The morning begins with Lecture #6, followed by a Zodiac excursion to Ship Cove. Choose from a variety of hike options along New Zealand's renowned Queen Charlotte Track, keeping an eye out for rare native birds. Arrive in Wellington in the early evening. Guests may opt for

a post-dinner Twilight Tour at Zealandia to observe nocturnal wildlife, at additional cost, or enjoy an evening exploring the city's vibrant nightlife. Meals are served on board.
Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)

Sunday, March 7

WELLINGTON

Take part in a guided walking tour of Wellington, along with optional visits to the celebrated Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum or Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, New Zealand's only public botanic garden dedicated solely to native plants. Meals are served on board.
Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)

Monday, March 8

AT SEA

Spend the day at leisure on board, enjoying the ship's amenities and participating in the educational program with Lectures #7 and #8. Meals are served on board.
Heritage Adventurer (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 9

TAURANGA (ROTORUA)

Disembark in Tauranga and drive to Rotorua, the cultural heartland of the Māori people. Meet local tribal leaders, visit geothermal mud pools, and enjoy a traditional hangi lunch. Return to the ship for the Captain's Farewell reception and dinner. Meals are served on board.
Heritage Adventurer (B,L,R,D)

Wednesday, March 10

AUCKLAND / HOME

Disembark in Auckland and transfer to the airport for your flights home or choose to extend your stay in the city for further exploration. (B)



Queen Charlotte Track



Royal Albatross



Observation Deck



Superior Cabin



Heritage Suite

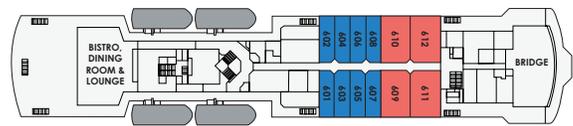
HERITAGE ADVENTURER

Originally built as the *MS Hanseatic*, one of the most acclaimed expedition ships of its era, the *Heritage Adventurer* now welcomes just 140 guests, ensuring uncommon space, comfort, and advantages such as faster disembarkations and reduced single supplements. Owned and operated by Heritage Expeditions, a Kiwi-owned pioneer in remote travel since 1985, the *Heritage Adventurer* boasts a fleet of 14 Zodiacs that maximizes time ashore or on the water. The ship's 90 well-appointed cabins offer separate living and sleeping areas, king or twin beds, ample storage, a writing desk, and modern ensuite bathrooms. Public spaces include two panoramic lounges, a 360-degree Observation Deck, and both a gourmet restaurant and an indoor and outdoor bistro. Amenities span a heated saltwater pool, a glass-enclosed hot tub, a sauna, a steam room, a gym, and a spa.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	DECK 3 STANDARD CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; two portholes	\$10,990	\$13,490
2	DECK 4 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$12,990	\$15,490
3	DECK 5 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$13,990	\$16,490
4	DECK 6 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$14,990	—
5	DECK 6 HERITAGE SUITE 475 sq ft; king bed; double window	\$19,990	—

DECK 6



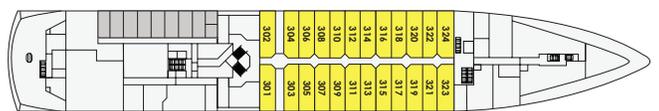
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



Central Otago



Waitangi Treaty Grounds—Bay of Islands

FEBRUARY 23–27, 2027

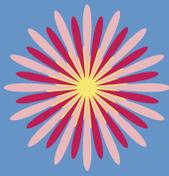
OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR / EXTENSION TO QUEENSTOWN

Fly into Queenstown two days early for the opportunity to explore the dramatic landscapes of Central Otago. Experience Queenstown's Gardens and take in the views from atop Bob's Peak on a guided tour of town, taste wines from the world's southernmost winemaking region, and experience a jet boat ride through a national park before the main program commences.
Millenium Hotel Queenstown (2B, 2L, R)

MARCH 10–12, 2027

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR / EXTENSION TO BAY OF ISLANDS

Embark on a scenic drive north from Auckland, with stops at Omaio Garden and the Hundertwasser Art Centre. Arrive at the charming coastal town of Paihia, your base for two nights. Explore the enchanting Bay of Islands on a picturesque boat cruise and take a private tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a place of great historical and cultural significance.
Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2B, 2L, D)



GENERAL INFORMATION

AHS SOJOURNS

AHS TRAVEL

This custom trip is offered in collaboration with Criterion Travel and is part of the AHS Sojourns travel program collection. For more information, visit ahsgardening.org/travel.

AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk up to three miles each day.

PROGRAM LENGTH, CAPACITY

14 days roundtrip from the U.S. This program welcomes up to 128 participants, including participants from the American Horticultural Society, and co-sponsoring organizations such as Cornell's Adult University, Commonwealth Club World Affairs, Harvard Alumni Travel, Williams Alumni Travel Study, and Yale Alumni Academy.

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

One hotel night and ten nights aboard *Heritage Adventurer* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eleven breakfasts, nine lunches, ten dinners and three receptions • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners • Filtered water for water bottles on motorcoaches • WIFI • Professional tour managers throughout the program

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.

FLIGHTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by Criterion Travel. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants. When it is time to make flight arrangements, the AHS's flight and travel services provider, Cranky Concierge, provides optional flight and travel arrangement services for a seamless travel experience, including proactive flight monitoring and travel disruption assistance: www.crankyconciierge.com/ahsgardening. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Shore excursions range from a half-day to all day, with the balance of the time spent onboard cruising to the next destination. Many days will begin with a lecture from one of our expert hosts, or we may hold a lecture at the end of an afternoon of touring, prior to dinner. Travel on land will be by air-conditioned motorcoaches, with most drives no more than an hour each way. There is one longer bus ride of about three and a half hours when traveling from Queenstown to Bluff to embark the ship, with a stop en route. During the cruise there will be excursions by Zodiacs, which require the ability to step from the ship to the Zodiac and back again in open water (the ship's crew will be there to assist you). Walking tours can be as long as two hours, covering one to two miles, and will range from walks in town to a few nature walks over uneven, sometimes muddy trails with inclines and declines. In many locations, you will be able to choose between a shorter or a longer, more strenuous option. This promises to be a memorable journey, but as with all travel, a flexible attitude, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to explore new areas will enhance your enjoyment of this program. You do not have to participate in all scheduled activities, except when traveling to the next destination. We are sure you will be pleased with the exciting educational program provided, but we want you to be aware of the pace and activity level.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, please email Criterion Travel at res@critteriontravel.com or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400. Balance of payment is due October 28, 2026. After October 28, 2026, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Upon receipt of registration, Criterion Travel will send registrant a Terms and Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to Criterion Travel before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the October 28, 2026 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds

will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. If a staff member is unable to participate, no refund will be made, but Criterion Travel will make every effort to find a replacement with similar qualifications. NOTE: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not included in the tour cost, but we strongly recommend that all participants purchase a travel protection plan. Be sure to review your options carefully and choose a policy that best suits your needs. Coverage should include trip cancellation or interruption, medical expenses (including COVID-19), emergency evacuation or repatriation, lost or delayed baggage, and other unexpected travel-related expenses. One provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For details on the plan available to AHS travelers, visit ahsgardening.org/travel-information/. This link also includes information about optional flight and travel arrangement services.

HEALTH

At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. All participants should be in good health and able to keep up with an active group of travelers without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

ITINERARY CHANGES

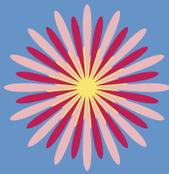
The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation will be the responsibility of the participant.

AHS PROGRAM CONTENT

The AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to take photographs, videos, and audio ("Program Content") during the travel program for editorial, promotional, and commercial use by the AHS or authorized third parties. By making a reservation on an AHS Travel program, the participant agrees to allow his/her likeness to be used by AHS or AHS-authorized third parties without compensation to the participant. AHS reserves the right to crop, alter, or combine the Program Content with other images, text, or media at its sole discretion and to use the Program Content in any medium or format, including but not limited to print, digital, or online media. This authorization grants AHS and/or authorized third parties the right to use the photographs, videos, and audio worldwide and in perpetuity, without further consent or compensation. Participants who prefer that their voice and/or image not be used must notify AHS in writing prior to the beginning of the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call: (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089. California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40



RESERVATION FORM

NAME Participant 1

NAME Participant 2

PREFERRED NAME (FOR NAME TAG) Participant 1

PREFERRED NAME (FOR NAME TAG) Participant 2

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS Participant 1

E-MAIL ADDRESS Participant 2

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed):

Please indicate your cabin category preferences: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference: One Bed Two Beds

Double Occupancy. I will share a room with _____

Single Occupancy. I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found

TOUR DOCUMENTS:

Criterion Travel will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email to the email address listed above.

If you wish to receive hardcopy versions of the tour documents by post as well, please check this box.

Paper documents will not be sent to your home address unless box is checked.

DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person): _____ #of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

VISA MC AMEX CHECK (make payable to Criterion Travel)

CARD #

EXP. DATE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

CVV SECURITY CODE

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN. *By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges he/she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions above.*

SIGNATURE / DATE Participant 1

SIGNATURE / DATE Participant 2

TO REGISTER BY PHONE, CALL:

Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Criterion Travel , 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005
or by email at res@critteriontravel.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
AHS TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM

Please contact (703) 768-8801. Information is also available
at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.



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HORTICULTURAL
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Kōwhai blossom



Milford Sound

Milford



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Cyathea medullaris Fiddlehead