



New Zealand Garden Odyssey: A Curated Journey with renowned plantsmen Dan Hinkley & Jack Hobbs January 20 – February 3, 2027



Step into lush coastal gardens filled with rare and extraordinary plants, pause beneath towering ancient trees, and explore landscapes shaped by sea, volcano, and mountain. Travel with **renowned plantsmen Dan Hinkley** and **Jack Hobbs** on an unforgettable journey through New Zealand, one of the world's most botanically captivating destinations.

From the subtropical gardens of Auckland to the alpine splendor of Queenstown, enjoy rare access to private gardens, explore extraordinary public collections, and share this immersive experience with fellow garden enthusiasts who treasure plants, beauty, and discovery.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

- 3 Nights - Auckland
- 3 Nights - New Plymouth
- 3 Nights - Queenstown
- 2 Nights - Dunedin
- 3 Nights - Christchurch



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EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Rare access to exceptional private gardens ♦ The extraordinary themed landscapes of Hamilton Gardens ♦ Magnificent rhododendron collections in Taranaki ♦ Native New Zealand plant gardens and ecological landscapes ♦ Scenic cruise aboard a historic steamship on Lake Wakatipu ♦ A breathtaking excursion to Milford Sound in Fiordland National Park ♦ Historic estates and botanic collections in Dunedin ♦ Contemporary sculpture gardens and innovative landscape design ♦ Coastal gardens on the spectacular Banks Peninsula

IT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ With renowned plantsmen Daniel Hinkley and New Zealand garden guide Jack Hobbs
- ✓ 14 nights in carefully selected 4-star hotels
- ✓ Domestic flight from New Plymouth to Queenstown
- ✓ Private coach transportation throughout the tour
- ✓ Entrance fees to all gardens and sites listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Exclusive access to select private gardens
- ✓ Cruise on Lake Wakatipu aboard the historic *TSS Earnslaw*
- ✓ Excursion to Milford Sound
- ✓ Daily breakfast and selected lunches and multi-course dinners
- ✓ Expert interpretation of plants, garden design and regional landscapes
- ✓ Travel with friends who share your passion for gardening and culture

TRIP FACTS

15 days / 14 Nights (not including international flights)
Trip begins: January 20, 2027 in Auckland, New Zealand
Trip ends: February 3, 2027 in Christchurch, New Zealand
\$8,495 per person double occupancy (land only)
\$2,235 single occupancy supplement



SAVE \$200: Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 ♦ Pay your final balance by \$100



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YOUR GARDEN JOURNEY BEGINS

Meal Key:

B= Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner

Air Travel Days: January 18 & 19 – Depart the USA

When crossing the International Date Line, travelers “lose” a day on the journey to New Zealand but gain it back when returning home. To arrive in time for the tour, depart the United States no later than January 18 to arrive in Auckland on January 20.

Day 1: Wednesday, January 20 – Welcome to Auckland!

Arrive in Auckland, New Zealand’s largest city, where sparkling harbors and volcanic hills create a dramatic natural setting. As most flights from the US arrive early in the morning, we’ll start the day with breakfast and a brief orientation, before traveling to the forested **Waitākere Ranges** to visit the **Arataki Visitor Centre**. From here, enjoy sweeping views across lush rainforest and the rugged coastline before taking a walk beneath towering **kauri trees**, among the largest and oldest trees on Earth. A **welcome lunch** is included. *Overnight Auckland Hilton (B, L)*

Day 2: Thursday, January 21 – Gardens of the Matakana Coast

A scenic drive north brings us to the Matakana region, known for its creative garden culture. We begin at **Omaio Garden**, a remarkable private garden where sculpture and planting combine to create a bold and immersive landscape composition. Later, we explore the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, where contemporary artworks are thoughtfully set among vineyards, wetlands, and regenerating forest. After a day rich in art and nature, we return to the Hilton Auckland for an overnight stay. *Overnight Auckland Hilton (B, L)*



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Discover Hamilton Gardens

Day 3: Friday, January 22 – Auckland’s Great Gardens

Today we visit two of the country’s most significant gardens. At the **Auckland Botanic Gardens**, discover extensive collections of temperate plants, innovative landscape displays, and important native plantings.

Later we explore the magnificent **Ayrlies Garden** and Wetlands, an award-winning private garden combining lush borders, expansive water features, and ecological wetlands. This evening, enjoy dinner on Auckland’s waterfront.

Overnight Auckland Hilton (B, L, D)

Day 4: Saturday, January 23 – South to New Plymouth via Hamilton Gardens

Travel south toward Taranaki with a stop at the extraordinary Hamilton Gardens. Unlike traditional botanical gardens, **Hamilton Gardens** presents a global journey through garden history. Its themed gardens recreate the design traditions of Italy, Persia, Japan, England, and beyond. After our visit and a light lunch, we continue to New Plymouth, gateway to the fertile Taranaki region.

Overnight New Plymouth International hotel (B, L, D)



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Explore Waiangana Gardens

Days 5 & 6: January 24 & 25 – Gardens of Taranaki

Over two relaxed days in New Plymouth, we explore a rich mix of gardens shaped by artistry and place. We begin at Saxton Sanctuary, a tranquil, design-led garden, followed by lunch at the elegant Nice Hotel. In the afternoon, we visit Waiangana Gardens, known for its intimate scale and creative planting.

The next day, choose between the vibrant Pukeiti Rhododendron Garden or the refined Arts and Crafts setting of Tūpare. We then continue to Te Kainga Marire, a beautifully composed native plant garden. If time allows, we end with a stroll through Pukekura Park, a scenic local favorite. Sleep in New Plymouth International hotel
(Breakfast, plus one additional multi course meal daily)

Day 7: Tuesday, January 26 – South to Queenstown: Gateway to the Southern Alps

Fly south to Queenstown, a spectacular alpine town beside Lake Wakatipu. Enjoy a free afternoon to stroll along the lakeshore or browse Queenstown's charming shops and galleries. *Overnight Hilton Queenstown (B, D)*

Day 8: Wednesday, January 27 – Walter Peak Farm Garden & a historic steamship

Board the historic *TSS Earnslaw* steamship for a scenic cruise across Lake Wakatipu. At Walter Peak High Country Farm, explore charming homestead gardens surrounded by dramatic alpine scenery. *Overnight Hilton Queenstown (B, L)*



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Cruise stunning Milford Sound

Day 9: Thursday, January 28 – Stunning Milford Sound

Today we travel by private coach into Fiordland National Park to experience the breathtaking fjord of Milford Sound. This UNESCO-recognized landscape is renowned for its towering cliffs, cascading waterfalls, and lush temperate rainforest. Our excursion includes lunch and a spectacular cruise through the fjord. We return to Queenstown in the early evening. *Overnight Hilton Queenstown (B, L)*

Days 10: Friday, January 29 – Transfer to the town of Dunedin

The journey from Queenstown to Dunedin unfolds as a gentle tapestry of changing landscapes, where alpine grandeur gives way to the warm, open beauty of Central Otago. Leaving the lakes and peaks behind, the road winds through sunlit valleys, vineyard-covered slopes, and rugged gorges carved by the Kawarau River, before softening into rolling farmland and wide pastoral plains. Along the way, the light seems to stretch endlessly across golden hills and quiet countryside, creating a sense of space and calm. As you approach Dunedin, the land grows greener and more coastal, with a subtle, windswept elegance that hints at the sea beyond—an ever-changing journey that is as serene as it is beautiful. *Overnight at the Distinction Dunedin Hotel (B, D)*



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Spend a morning at Larnach Castle Gardens

Day 11: Saturday, January 30 – Larnach Castle Garden & Dunedin Botanic Garden: Delight in a full day of horticultural treasures. Begin at **Larnach Castle Garden**, where sweeping terraces, lush flower borders, and hidden corners reveal vibrant seasonal blooms, fragrant shrubs, and elegant Victorian plantings at every turn. After a leisurely lunch, enjoy a relaxing wander through the **Dunedin Botanic Garden**, where an arboretum, aviary, native flora, and world-renowned camellia collections await discovery. Each path invites discovery, with textures, scents, and colors that will inspire and captivate every garden enthusiast. *Overnight at the Distinction Dunedin Hotel (B, D)*

Day 12: Sunday, January 31 – Gardens and Coastal Wonders en Route to Christchurch: As we journey north toward Christchurch, the landscape unfolds with rolling hills, rugged coastline, and serene farmland. If time allows, we pause near Oamaru to admire the striking **Moeraki Boulders** and the sculpted Waitaki limestone formations, natural wonders that complement New Zealand's cultivated beauty. Continuing on, we visit **Broadfield Garden**, a thoughtfully landscaped haven just south of Christchurch, where native plants, textured foliage, and seasonal blooms showcase the elegance and diversity of New Zealand horticulture. This scenic journey blends coastal charm, geological marvels, and botanical delights, offering a perfect introduction to Christchurch's celebrated gardens.



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Day 13: Monday, February 1 – Gardens Christchurch

Known as New Zealand’s “Garden City”, Christchurch is filled with gems including the celebrated **Ōhinetahi Garden** - sculpture and landscape overlooking Lyttelton Harbour. In the afternoon, spend some time exploring the old city center or stroll through the Christchurch Botanical Gardens. *Overnight Drifter Hotel Christchurch (B, D)*

Day 14: Tuesday, February 2 – Banks Peninsula Gardens

Discover the enchanting gardens of the **Banks Peninsula**, where coastal beauty and artistic expression meet. Wander the dramatic terraces of **Fisherman’s Bay Garden**, a masterful coastal retreat, and be delighted by the playful creativity of **The Giant’s House** in Akaroa, with its whimsical mosaics and sculptural plantings. In the evening, we come together for a **gala farewell dinner**, celebrating the beauty, friendships, and inspiration of our New Zealand garden journey. *Overnight Drifter Hotel Christchurch (B, D)*

Day 15: Wednesday, February 3 – Tour Concludes

Transfer to Christchurch International Airport for flights home. Guests wishing to extend their stay may consider a scenic train journey to Arthur’s Pass National Park in the South Alps. (B)

Meet Your Garden Host & Guide



Dan Hinkley is a teacher, writer, lecturer, consultant, nurseryman, naturalist, and gardener. Above all, he is committed to solid and sustainable horticultural practices, above average garden plants, landscapes of distinction and raising the collective awareness of the diversity of plant life on Earth as well as the magic and mysteries of our natural world.



Jack Hobbs (MNZM) is probably the best-known horticulturist in New Zealand. He was manager of the Auckland Botanic Gardens for 30 years until he retired in 2024. He has co-authored several gardening books and written numerous articles for gardening magazines, is an acclaimed photographer, a popular television and radio presenter, and a successful plant breeder widely acknowledged as the first systematic breeder of New Zealand native plants. He has led numerous garden and wildflower tours around the world and within New Zealand over the past 25 years.



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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, gratuities for ship crew, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and condition

QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS

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