

Blue Mountains Tour - updated

with Tim Jackson

27 – 30 April 2020

Help support the fire ravaged Blue Mountains by joining us on a Garden Tour of the rugged, beautiful and brimming with new life Blue Mountains, experience some stunning cool climate gardens as we visit the best of the Leura Garden Festival locations and some additional **private** access gardens. A visit to the Penrith Regional Art Gallery and a tour of the Hawkesbury Ag College working farm. Guided by your host Tim Jackson you will enjoy luxury Murrays coach transportation. This four-day itinerary is inclusive of transport, accommodation, park and garden entries and most meals.

DAY 1 - MONDAY 27 April 2020 (MT, D)

Depart from Foundation & Friends Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney at 9:00am where you will be transported via luxury airconditioned coach as we make our way to our first stop in Wentworth Falls, the beautiful Falls Gallery and Garden complex. We will enjoy the gallery and garden and morning tea. Gallery, garden entry and morning tea included.

Travel to Leura, where free time will allow you to explore and support the local retail strip and The Birches boutique nursery, wander at leisure, lunch at guest expense at one of the many local cafes.

A scenic drive past Katoomba sights will find us at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and Art Gallery, where we can immerse ourselves in the *Sculpture Otherwise* and *Twist n Shout* exhibitions. Gallery entry included.

The group will travel to our accommodation for first two nights, The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba. After check-in, guests are invited to convene for our evening meal in The Grand Dining Room, an opportunity to enjoy beautiful food and the company of your tour companions. Dinner included – beverages at additional cost.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2020 (B, L, D)

Breakfast at The Carrington Hotel is included in your stay, and after breakfast, we board our coach to experience the best of the Leura Festival Gardens.

Our first stop is The Braes Garden, a unique space spanning over 2 hectares, with beautiful watercourses, and hundreds of metres of meticulously restored dry stone ‘walls’. The Braes is home to descendant specimens of the Aleppo Pine from the Lone Pine Ridge at Gallipoli and three first generation Wollemi Pines. An amazing garden that has been truly transformed over the past 25 years.

Entry, guided tour and lunch at the National Trust Everglades House & Gardens and then we will visit our second private garden for the day, Misty Vista, a beautiful garden, with several Japanese features and providing great Mountain views.

We return to our accommodation, The Carrington Hotel, and tonight will wander down the drive for a more relaxed dinner at the Old City Bank Brasserie, located at the bottom of the main hotel driveway. Originally a branch of the City Bank of Sydney the building was originally built & opened in 1912.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 29 April 2020 (B, MT, L, D)

After breakfast, check out of hotel, we will visit Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens at Mount Tomah, where we will be given a garden update and garden tour. This beautiful garden was affected by the recent firestorms, but you will have the opportunity to witness the incredible power of plant regeneration, whilst showing your support to all the staff and volunteers who have been significantly affected by this event. Here we will have time to explore the 28-hectare botanic wonderland located within the UNESCO World Heritage Area and enjoy a short morning tea break. Morning tea included.

We make our way to Bilpin. Experience two beautiful private gardens along with a visit to Wildwood Gardens. A short walk between the three locations to fully immerse ourselves in the grandeur of the area. Garden entry and lunch included – beverages at additional cost.

On to our final night accommodation at the Crowne Plaza Hawkesbury, check-in and relax and then meet at Harvest Restaurant for our evening meal. Harvest is known for its high-quality ingredients with the finest culinary skills.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY 30 April 2020 (B, L)

After breakfast, and check out, we travel to The Secret Garden located in the University of Western Sydney, where we will tour the working farm and gardens.

Board the coach for our visit to Penrith Regional Gallery, the home of the Lewers' Bequest. We will explore the gallery and adjacent gardens and enjoy a light lunch at the Café at Lewers.

After lunch we make our way home to Sydney returning to Royal Botanic Garden by approx. 5pm

Important Note These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary. This itinerary should be a guide and maybe required to be changed due to weather, force majeure or circumstances out of our control. If advertised gardens or restaurants are not available suitable alternatives will be arranged. A reasonable level of fitness is required, passengers will be required to walk between gardens in some locations, and some gardens may have steps, steep or uneven paths.