



Join Claire Bickle and Travelrite International for the
**Garden Exploration of the Dandenong Ranges,
Mornington Peninsula, Daylesford and Melbourne**
for the **Melbourne International
Flower and Garden Show**

16 to 26 March 2026



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL



**Visiting Three Diggers
Foundation Gardens**

Claire is a qualified horticulturist and an enthusiastic educator, presenter, designer and broadcaster. With over 30 years' experience within various areas of the horticultural industry, Claire's passion for all styles of gardens, plant species and nature has equated to a love of eclectic gardening. This is reflected on her two-acre property, which is being showcased on *Gardening Australia* in the second half of 2025. By day Claire runs her own business delivering gardening and sustainability workshops and she can also be found writing for some of Australia's most popular gardening and sustainability magazines. She has also contributed to a variety of ABC and Earth Garden publications, been a presenter on the TV show 'Blooming in Brisbane', is a regular presenter on ABC Brisbane radio and in recent history a garden tour leader to various locations within Australia.

DAY 1 Monday 16 March, 2026

Dandenong Ranges

Please arrive at Melbourne Airport and be ready to depart by 1.00pm. We will be met by our private coach and be driven through the picturesque countryside to visit Blue Lotus Garden. We will see 5.7 hectares of lakes and waterways covered in thousands of stunning lotus, waterlilies and other exotic flowers. We continue to our hotel, where we will enjoy a welcome dinner this evening for tour members to get to know one another. Claire Bickle will outline the activities and program for the tour.

DAY 2 Tuesday 17 March, 2026

Dandenong Ranges

We travel to the nearby Dandenong Ranges to visit two stunning gardens. First, we visit Cloudehill, our first Diggers Foundation Garden. A maze of stone walls and jewel-like garden rooms are set within woodlands of historic cool climate trees. We will have an included lunch here as the food is as good as the gorgeous views. In the afternoon, we travel to the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden. In 2013, Phillip Johnson and Wes Fleming's Trailfinders 'Australian Garden' exhibit became the first ever Australian entry to win Best Garden at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show. This 'Australian Garden' has been re-created on over 7,000 square metres of previously unused space for locals and visitors to enjoy in the Dandenong Ranges.



DAY 3 Wednesday 18 March, 2026

Mornington Peninsula

Today we travel to the Mornington Peninsula to visit some of the best gardens in Australia. Our first visit is to The Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne. Claire will take us on an exploration of the spectacular landscape which has a dramatic red sand garden, rock pool waterways, eucalypt walk and exhibition gardens all featuring Australian plants. We continue with a visit to Heronswood Gardens, home of the Diggers Club and our second Diggers Foundation garden. In 2011, the Blazey's gifted ownership of the Diggers Club to the Diggers Foundation, which strives to conserve historic gardens, buildings and protect heirloom seeds. We will have lunch at the Heronswood Cafe, where the vegetables and fruits served include heirloom selections picked straight from the gardens. This is followed by a tour of the gardens and a stroll through Diggers nursery and gift shop to browse their large range of heirloom vegetables, flowers, and fruit plants for sale.

Day 4 Thursday 19 March, 2026

Mornington Peninsula

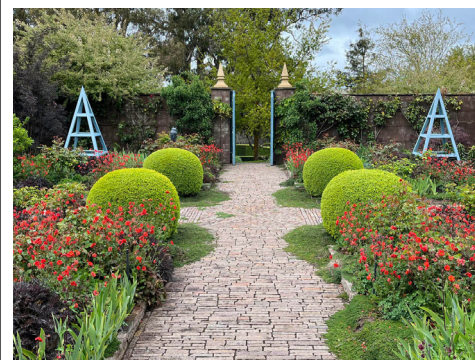
Our first visit today is to Dame Elisabeth Murdoch's garden of Cruden Farm. The star attraction is the main driveway, which features over 100 established lemon scented gum trees. In truth, there are many gardens to enjoy, each one different in style, plantings, and mood. Each area was carefully planned by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and Michael Morrison.

To this day Michael is still implementing Dame Elisabeth's long-term plans for various areas across the garden. The Picking Garden truly reflects the changing seasons at Cruden Farm and during spring, summer and autumn is alive with thousands of blooms and glorious colour. The Walled Garden, originally designed by influential Australian landscape designer Edna Walling, has undergone changes since it was first planted out in the early 1930s. This afternoon's visit is to Karkalla, the .8 hectare private garden of celebrated landscape designer Fiona Brockhoff. Fiona specializes in naturalistic landscapes that incorporate low maintenance drought tolerant plants both native and exotic. There will be many useful ideas for us to take home from her gorgeous garden.

DAY 5 Friday 20 March, 2026

Daylesford

We travel to Daylesford for our three nights stay today. Our first garden visit is to Stonefields, Paul Bangay's spectacular garden developed using knowledge gained during twenty years designing gardens all around the world. This garden is one of the many highlights of our tour and includes stone paths that meander through garden rooms that open out to a spectacular country view. We continue our journey with a visit to the peaceful garden, St Erth, our third Diggers Foundation garden. We will see beds full of hardy perennials and incredible edibles grown with Diggers heirloom seeds. This evening Claire will meet those wishing to dine with the group.



DAY 6 Saturday 21 March, 2026

Daylesford

Our first visit this morning is to Lambley, the wonderful garden of acclaimed plantsman David Glenn. Situated around an old farmhouse in the hot dry windswept plains of the Central Victorian Goldfields, it features a wide range of colourful, frost and drought hardy plants and is a vibrant showcase of Glenn's clever design abilities. The extensive organic veggie garden includes trial gardens for vegetables and flowers. In the afternoon we visit the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Founded in 1858, it covers an area of 40 hectares divided into three distinct zones with a central area preserving the 'Gardenesque' style of the Victorian pleasure garden. Located on the western shore of picturesque Lake Wendouree, is the conservatory, a highlight of the gardens that will be full of spectacular tuberous begonias.

DAY 7 Sunday 22 March, 2026

Daylesford

Today we travel to visit Marilyn's Wildflowers near Bendigo. It is a 4-hectare property with 2 hectares of Australian wildflowers used for floristry. It is in a garden style borrowing the natural landscape of the surrounding Box Ironbark Forest. The backbone of the garden is local native plants with many stunning grafted wildflowers from W.A. including Qualup Bells, Verticordias, Darwinias and Boronias. There is also a vegetable garden and orchard and a small nursery. After free time for lunch, we visit Simon Rickard's garden. Fighting the urge to become a mere collector, Simon has attempted to wrestle his eclectic botanical tastes into a coherent, composed garden. Full of exuberant colour, flowers, foliage plants, and exotic rarities from around the world, Simon's garden aims to challenge and inspire visitors. We return to our hotel late afternoon.



DAY 8 Monday 23 March, 2026

Melbourne

This morning we will travel to Macedon to visit several gardens. Our first tour is at Duneira Estate. This unusual and remarkable 15.4-hectare property and garden was purchased in the 1870s by Suetonius Officer and are considered to be of 'outstanding cultural significance' by the National Trust of Australia; several of the trees are listed on the Register of Significant Trees of Victoria. We walk across the road to visit Shepherd's Bush. At 870 metres above sea level, Shepherd's Bush is a 1.5 hectare garden and is the highest residence on the mountain. The garden showcases many cold climate plants including rhododendrons, maples, conifers, viburnums and dogwoods. We continue to our hotel in Melbourne for check in. Claire and the tour manager will meet those wishing to have dinner together in the lobby.

DAY 9 Tuesday 24 March, 2026

Melbourne

This morning we travel to visit the house and garden of Rippon Lea. Now owned by the National Trust the house was completed in 1868 for Frederick Sargood. He moved in with his wife and nine surviving children and seventeen staff. Sargood was a keen gardener with a particular interest in orchids and ferns. During our visit we walk through the arched, cast-iron lattice

work to enter the wonderful 19th century fernery, which contains rare and native ferns. We continue to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens which covers 36 hectares. We will visit Guilfoyle's Volcano. Built in 1876 as a water storage for the gardens, it was recently restored as part of a landscape development project. It has commanding views of the city and showcases low water use plants. Boardwalks and a viewing platform give visitors an opportunity to explore this remarkable feature of Melbourne Botanic Gardens. The remainder of the afternoon is free for sightseeing or shopping.

DAY 10 Wednesday 25 March, 2026

Melbourne

Today we visit the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, the biggest and best show of its type in the Southern Hemisphere and ranked in the top five flower shows in the world. Floral displays fill the world heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens. Around the building are landscape displays created by some of Australia's most talented landscape designers. Claire will give those interested a tour of the display gardens – pointing out elements used by the designers that we can incorporate in our own backyards. While keen gardeners will want to spend all day at the show, others may also take time to visit the adjacent Melbourne Museum. This evening, we will have dinner at a nearby restaurant to say goodbye to Claire and other tour members.

DAY 11 Thursday 26 March, 2026

Departure

The morning is free for individual activities. We travel to the airport at noon for flights home and the tour concludes. Please ensure your flight departs after 3.00pm.

Tour Price

Twin-share per person: \$ 5,790* Single supplement: \$ 1,450 *Includes GST

Included in the tour price:

- Travel in first-class chartered coaches
- 2 nights in Healesville and the Mornington Peninsula, 3 nights in Daylesford and Melbourne on a bed and breakfast basis in centrally located three or four-star accommodation
- Welcome and farewell dinners and two lunches
- Entrances to gardens, sightseeing tours and attractions as detailed in itinerary
- Tour management by Travelrite International Pty. Ltd
- Leadership by Claire Bickle

Not included in the tour price:

- Flights – contact our travel consultant for a good value flight quote
- Travel insurance
- Meals unless specified in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general expenses unless specified in the itinerary
- Additional travel arrangements not in the detailed itinerary. These will be quoted for separately.

General information and booking conditions

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd, (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour operator.

TOUR COSTS: A non-refundable deposit of \$750 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 62 days before departure of the Garden Tour. A 1.5% administration fee will be charged on payment by credit card.

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS: Cancellations within 62 days of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Cancellation outside 62 days from departure will result in a cancellation fee of \$750 per person.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS AND CONDITIONS: The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost. Travelrite reserves the right to change advertised entrances if necessary for the smooth operation of the tour.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilized after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will require a valid photo ID.

BAGGAGE: All passengers can bring 1 large suitcase, no more than 23kg.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International acts only as agents in making arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the Tour. As

a result we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, flood, fire, civil disturbance, terrorism, acts of God, acts of Government or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. The contract shall be construed in the accordance with the laws of State of Victoria and any legal action is required to be taken in the State of Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard.

Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by sending full names and addresses of intending tour members with a non-refundable deposit of \$750 for the Garden Tour.

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Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343

Telephone: (03) 8803 6868

Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: About Travelrite International: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 40 years and operating in Victoria for more than 43 years. It has an ATAS accredited offices at Balwyn, which is also accredited with IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association – ATIA.



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