

Spring Garden

EXPLORATION OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS, CENTRAL NSW AND CANBERRA

2 to 11 November 2026



Deryn Thorpe is a fanatical gardener, passionate about communicating her love of gardening to others. She has been taking people on specialist garden tours for 25 years. She is an award-winning garden journalist, writing for gardening magazines. She co-presents the multi-award winning 'All The Dirt' www.allthedirt.com.au, one of Australia's most popular gardening podcast with more than two million downloads. Deryn has edited garden books and worked as a garden TV presenter and is a presenter on garden radio and a vivacious and popular speaker at festivals and garden clubs. She works in her family revegetation business which plants 2 million trees for landcare in low rainfall areas each summer. She volunteered for six years with Open Gardens Australia and opened her own beautiful, cottage-style garden to the public. Deryn is an Honorary Life Member of the Horticultural Media Association Australia (HMAA) and the Nursery and Garden Industry WA.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Monday 2 November, 2026

Katoomba

Tour members will meet at Sydney Airport early afternoon. Late morning arrival flights will be recommended. Once tour members have all landed, we travel by luxury coach to Katoomba. On the journey we will stop to visit The Everglades which is the grandest example of the work of designer Paul Sorenson. The six-hectare garden, in the midst of the bush, is laid out as a series of terraces, which give breathtaking views of the Jamieson Valley. The alpine garden looks over terraces of azaleas and rhododendrons. This evening, we will enjoy a welcome dinner to meet Deryn Thorpe.

DAY 2 Tuesday 3 November, 2026

Katoomba

This morning, we travel to the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mount Tomah. This 250-hectare garden is home to

a world-class collection of plants from the cooler southern hemisphere. The formal garden has three distinct terraces inspired by traditional European garden design. There is a bog garden, a rock garden and a Gondwana walk featuring plants with origins in Gondwana. Deryn will make sure that you get the most out of this inspiring garden. We travel on to Withycombe at Mt Wilson, one of the original properties of Mt Wilson with a grand house built between 1878 and 1880 by politician and pastoralist George Henry Cox. For the last 25 years it has been owned by landscape designer Barbara Landsberg who has revealed the beauty of the garden and helped make the garden's patchwork of different eras, ideas, and directions more cohesive. She has retained the ancient trees, vast lawn and essence of the site and added rose gardens, vegetable beds and an orchard. This garden was owned for many years by the parents of the author Patrick White who strolled the grounds as a teenager.

DAY 3 Wednesday 4 November, 2026

Katoomba

We return to Mt Wilson today to visit Nooroo. Immortalised on a postage stamp, the highest accolade a garden can receive, this garden is a wonderful treasure. The garden was started by William Hay in 1880 and developed by the Valder family over 75 years. The current owners have maintained the existing formal garden and undertaken extensive work to create a number of new garden rooms. When we visit camellias, magnolias, lilacs, peonies and many other trees and shrubs are in full flower. In the afternoon we visit Hartvale Cottage located in the gorgeous Hartley Valley. The gardens surrounding the cottage contain a Japanese influenced section, cottage gardens filled with a riot of colour, rare plants and gorgeous water features, huge perennial borders, loads of garden ideas and magnificent escarpment and valley views. Deryn will make sure you enjoy the visit.

DAY 4 Thursday 5 November, 2026

Katoomba

Today we first visit Highfields Garden, which incorporates Cloverhill rare plants. During our garden visit we will see many gorgeous rare and perennial border plants in this stunning garden. Many of them have been imported by David Kennedy, the owner, over many years. We continue with a visit to Coryu Japanese Garden, a Japanese inspired garden, which contains the most extensive range of maple varieties from around the world. The magnificent maples are planted around ponds, mini waterfalls, rockeries, stones and handmade bridges creating a gorgeous effect. It is an authentic Japanese stroll garden, which consists of 13 themed gardens, including four zen gardens for contemplation, a mix of traditional and contemporary.



DAY 5 Friday 6 November, 2026**Bathurst**

We first visit Hillandale, a magnificent rambling country garden, which features a fern-lined spring creek, a woodland and a 120-metre-long double herbaceous border. Mature trees on the property are up to one hundred years old. We are in for a treat with a visit to Mayfield Garden this afternoon, one of the world's largest privately owned cool climate gardens, extending well over 160 acres. The garden started in the mid-1990s and has Australia's largest box hedge maze, peaceful lakes, waterfalls, a rose garden, and an intricate water garden. We're visiting when it is at its peak with colourful spring-flowering bulbs, magnolias, daffodils, spirea, and rhododendrons.

DAY 6 Saturday 7 November, 2026**Goulburn**

Today we travel to Crookwell to visit the Crookwell Garden Festival and the Garden Lovers Market, where there will be a chance to purchase a range of rare and unusual plants.



We'll continue with visits to several of the gorgeous, cool climate gardens open for the festival including the Edna Walling designed garden, Markdale. The tour manager will meet those wishing to dine with the group.

DAY 7 Sunday 8 November, 2026**Goulburn**

In the morning we travel to visit Red Cow Farm. Its spectacular colour display will impress any garden enthusiast. Close by the roadside, the 1820's cottage is surrounded by an abundant Cottage Garden of roses and perennials, an outstanding landmark in the historic village of Sutton Forest. We will return to Crookwell as there are so many great gardens open for this festival we will choose a couple more to enjoy this afternoon.

DAY 8 Monday 9 November, 2026**Canberra**

Today we travel to Canberra. On arrival we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of the National Capital of Australia, Canberra. Following an international competition, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin's design plans were decided upon for the Australian capital. Construction was started in 1913 using their plans. After the Second World War, expansion really began. On our tour we will see Parliament House, the War Memorial and more.

DAY 9 Tuesday 10 November, 2026**Canberra**

This morning, we will visit the National Botanic Gardens. The Gardens boast around 75,000 plants from over 6,000 species. That's nearly a third of Australia's known native plant species. Most of the plants are grouped by their geographic origin,



botanical family or the ways they are used by Indigenous Australians. Deryn will point out the most interesting areas to visit. In the afternoon, we visit a highly regarded private garden, with a number of garden rooms, a fountain and pool. In the evening, we will come together for a Farewell Dinner to say goodbye to our group and Deryn.

DAY 10 Wednesday 11 November, 2026**Departure**

In the morning, we have a guided tour of the National Arboretum. Some of the highlights include the Canberra discovery garden, which explores Canberra's unique climate, soils and geology and the National Bonsai and Penjing collection housing the finest miniature trees in Australia. We will travel to the airport late morning. Do not book a flight before 1.30 pm. Some tour members might decide to stay on in Canberra to visit some of the wonderful museums.

Price per person twin-share \$ 5,690 • Single supplement \$ 950

Note: The price for flights will be additional.

Included in the price of the Spring Garden Tour:

- Tour leadership by Deryn Thorpe
- Travel in first-class chartered coach
- Accommodation in three and four-star hotels, on a bed and breakfast basis, taxes and service charges.
- A dinner in Katoomba and Canberra
- Sightseeing tours as listed in the itinerary
- Entry to gardens and attractions as detailed in itinerary
- A Travelrite International tour manager will meet the group on arrival in Sydney

Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance
- Meals unless specified in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general expenses unless specified in the itinerary
- Flights to Sydney and home from Canberra. Please talk to our travel consultant about flights and additional travel arrangements not in the detailed itinerary. These will be quoted separately

**TERMS AND 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 assistance from others.

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

TOUR COSTS: The tour costs are based on general transport and accommodation rates at 28 August 2025. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to price will be made within 60 days of departure.

Deposits and Payments: A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 62 days before departure for the Garden Tour. Cancellations within 60 days of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc.

Minimum Tour Numbers and Conditions: A 1.5% administration fee will be charged on Visa, Mastercard payments and AMEX. Arrangements have been made based on a minimum number of passengers travelling. If less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 62 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare. The tour is based on arrangements, which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilized after the tour has commenced.

Tour Organisation: Travelrite reserves the right to change advertised entrances if necessary for the smooth operation of the tour.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International Pty Ltd is the tour organiser. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with these fly/cruise/stay holidays shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier restaurant company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, or by act of God. Further no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery break-down, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners risk throughout the fly/cruise/stay holiday. The passage contract between the carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of these fly/cruise/stay holidays and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/cruise/stay holiday and/or make such changes in the fly/cruise/stay holidays as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/cruises. This contract shall be construed in accordance of the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any legal action must be undertaken in Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International 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 International your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite International 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 \$500 for the Garden Exploration of the Blue Mountains, Central NSW and Canberra.

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