

3 – 24 October 2012

# *In the Footsteps of Roberto Burle Marx*

*Great Gardens and Designers of South America*

**A Cultural Tour of Chile, Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis,  
Iguazú Falls, Buenos Aires & Colonia del Sacramento**

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An exclusive and limited 22 day tour. Meet leading designers and owners in the best private gardens of Latin America – and so much more!

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Fabulous Extension tours to *Machu Picchu* and the *Atacama Desert*

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*Tacaruna. Petrópolis, Brazil. Roberto Burle Marx garden, Oscar Niemeyer dwelling and Mother Nature.*

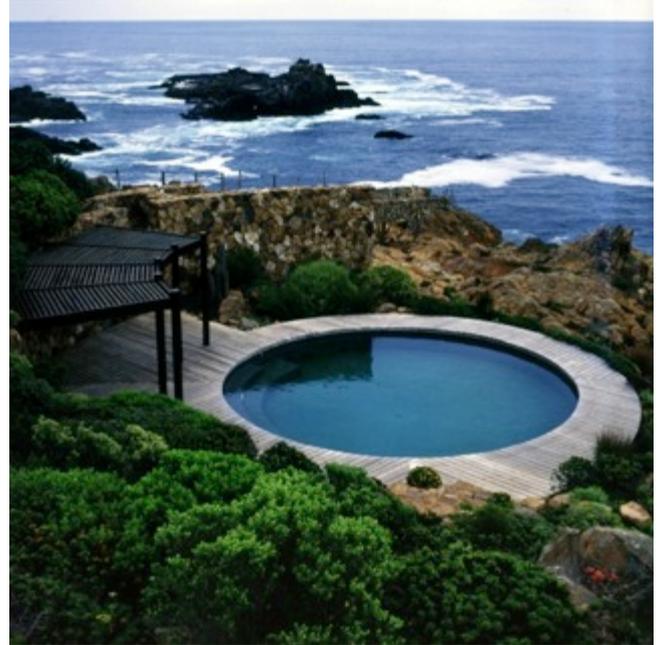
## *In the Footsteps of Roberto Burle Marx*

### *Great Gardens and Designers of South America*

A Cultural Tour of Chile; Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis, Brazil; Iguazú Falls, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay.

3 – 24 October 2010

With Extension Tours to *Machu Picchu*, Peru and the *Atacama Desert* in Chile.



## SUMMARY

THE MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPES, GARDENS and cities of South America provide the central theme for this tour. In Chile, leading designer Juan Grimm guides us to five of his country and city gardens, to hacienda gardens and his own brilliant retreat overlooking the Pacific. We visit the historic bohemian port of *Valparaíso*, the idyllic seaside village of *Zapallar*, the gracious historic *Santa Rita Vineyard Estancia* and glimpse the Chilean soul through writers like *Pablo Neruda* and *Isabelle Allende*.

We journey to Rio de Janeiro to visit the finest gardens designed by *Roberto Burle Marx*, arguably the finest landscape designer of last century who often teamed with brilliant architect *Oscar Niemeyer*. Both were profoundly affected by the power and beauty of Brazil and the voluptuous landforms of Rio de Janeiro.

With samba and tango rhythms in our ears, we visit wonderful gardens inspired by South America's rich flora and learn how Burle Marx transformed landscape design throughout the continent.

We devote five days in magical Rio to the legacy of Burle Marx – and see his vibrant Brazilian flora and brilliant civic designs – like the swirling mosaic promenade along the Copacabana beach. We see how his cubist garden designs were ‘painted with plants’ and visit his unique garden-studio-nursery complex at the *Sítio* (Garden of Wonders). We see historic and modern gardens, a vibrant favela, and the treasured Burle Marx hill station gardens of *Teresópolis* and *Petrópolis*.

We leave sensuous Rio for one of the great natural wonders of the world – the spectacular *Iguazú Falls* amidst beautiful tropical landscapes. In Buenos Aires, ‘*Paris of the South*’, we tour the parks of Palermo, *Puerto Madero* (the rejuvenated port), colourful streets of *San Telmo* and *La Boca* and jostle through antique markets. We see galleries of Latin American art and ponder that national icon, *Eva Peron*, and explore her Museum and Mausoleum in the famed *Recoleta Cemetery*.

Of course, we will enjoy wonderful historic restaurants with Latin American cuisine, truly marvellous wines, best of the galleries, the famed *Teatro Colon* Opera House, the pulsating music of Rio and a night of riveting tango. We travel in luxury coaches and very much enjoy staying in some marvellous 4–5 star hotels.

We have special presentations from *Juan Grimm*, *Isabela Ono*, *Cristina Le Mebaute*, *Rudolf Thomann* and others and we explore themes of art, literature, politics and national identity.

But the really special feature of this tour is that we visit the finest gardens in South America, of which, 18 are privately owned. We talk with key designers and owners and absorb their worlds. It is a thoughtful, provocative and personal tour. These people are our friends and our visits are strictly limited. This tour is unique. We know of no other tour so well priced offering comparable attractions, facilities and access to such wonderful gardens and fascinating South Americans.

Finally, we also have wonderful optional extension tours to the *Atacama Desert* and *Machu Picchu*!

*Warwick and Sue Forge*

# TOUR ITINERARY

This is a brief summary. More detailed information will be supplied prior to departure. Meals included in the tour price are:

B = breakfast; L = lunch and  
D = Dinner for evening meal.

## Day 1: Wed 3 Oct Santiago, Chile

*'this elongated country is like an island, separated on the north from the rest of the continent by the Atacama Desert—the driest in the world.. To the east rises the cordillera of the Andes, a formidable mass of rock and eternal snows, and to the west the abrupt coastline of the Pacific Ocean. Below, to the south, lie the solitudes of Antarctica. This nation of dramatic topography and diverse climates, studded with capricious obstacles and shaken by the sighs of hundreds of volcanoes,.. is unified top to tail by the obstinate sense of nationhood of its inhabitants'.*

— Isabel Allende

We may ponder these words as we learn more about our Chilean friends who have much in common with Australasians.

## Our tour begins

### Day 1: Wed 3 Oct Santiago

Those on the group flight arrive in Santiago, are met and transferred to the hotel. There will be a short orientation walk and Welcome Drinks.

### Day 2: Thur 4 Oct Santiago

Juan Grimm will show us his two new lovely gardens in fashionable Las Condes. In bohemian Bellavista, we lunch at our favourite 'Chocolate Restaurant' and then visit *La Chascona*, former home to Nobel Prize winning poet Pablo Neruda. Then to Cerro San Cristóbal with its great views



of Santiago.



Historic 18<sup>th</sup> C estancia estate

Later, Juan Grimm will provide one of his marvellous presentations on the landscapes and gardens of Chile. BLD

### 3: Fri 5 Oct. Santiago

We visit a very remarkable private 18<sup>th</sup> C estancia complete with chapel, outbuildings and extensive garden rooms (c.1900). Our guide, Dr Rudolf Thomann, takes us on a city tour starting at the *Plaza de Armas*. We lunch at the iconic *Confitería Torres* where photos of Chile's Presidents are displayed save for Augusto Pinochet's. In the evening, we go to the restaurant *El Aperó* with its music, singing and Chilean folk dancers. BLD

### Day 4: Sat 6 Oct, Santiago – Bahia Azul – Zapallar

We drive north to an 'Artist's Garden', then to Juan Grimm's own retreat overlooking the Pacific – brilliantly integrated within the coastal landscape – an iconic Chilean landscape. At *Zapallar* we tour *Punta Pite*, with its modern houses and paths cut through rocky seaside outcrops. We lunch with Chilean food at *Restaurant Sajonia* in Bahia Azul. On the cliffs, we visit a modest but lovely garden with terrific views to the blue Pacific. We stay at *Zapallar*, an idyllic coastal village.

where we retire to *Hotel Isla Seca*, a charming old European-style resort hotel and settle in for a lovely dinner. BLD

### Day 5: Sun 7 Oct Zapallar – Papudo – Quillota – Viña del Mar

We visit another Juan Grimm native coastal garden at *Papudo* – a brilliant modern house and art collection and then dine on local fish at our favourite bayside *Chiringuito* restaurant. Then to another very special private garden of about 10ha in the Quillota valley. Grimm transformed the site with a lake and the dwelling nestles within the garden, exuding an air of supreme calm. We continue to our Sheraton hotel, jutting out dramatically into the Pacific at *Viña del Mar* – a seaside retreat and 'garden city'. BL



Juan Grimm lunching at *Chiringuito*

**Day 6: Mon 8 Oct, Viña del Mar – Valparaíso**

We tour a splendid historic residence, the *Quinta Vergara* en route to Valparaíso – colonial port city – now a bohemian centre for arts and crafts. We take a funicular and view classy old ‘English’ houses, art galleries and artisan shops, lunch at *Turri Restaurant* with its great vista across the port, and then view street art by leading Chilean artists. Finally, we tour Neruda’s *La Sebastiana*, with its idiosyncratic maritime collection. BL



Street art, Valparaíso

**Day 7: Tue 9 Oct Vina del Mar – Casablanca Valley – Santiago**

We pass by national parks en route to Casablanca Valley – a distinctive cool wine region – to the *Emiliana Vineyard* – with its organic and sustainable practices and inventive landscape design. We taste their wines and consider an early return to Santiago for some free time and, perhaps, to visit the *Los Dominicos Handicraft Village* and Church.

In the evening, Dr Rudolf Thomann will provide an absorbing presentation on, *The Natural Wonders of Chile*. B

**Day 8: Wed 10 Oct, Santa Rita Maipo Valley**

We head south to the Maipo Valley and *Santa Rita*, perhaps the most historic and beautiful vineyard estancia in Chile. It has excellent wines and by special arrangement, we tour the forty-hectare parkland leading to the old family mansion (now private hotel). The beautiful gardens, trees and buildings were constructed in the 1880’s. The complex is enhanced by a lovely, modern museum. We enjoy a splendid lunch at Santa Rita and conclude our day back in Santiago with a farewell dinner at the *Santiago German Club* – which was established in 1838 and is a clear reminder of the German influence in Chile. BLD



Rio de Janeiro from Corcovado Mountain

**Day 9: Thur 11 Oct, Santiago – Rio de Janeiro**

We fly into Rio de Janeiro – the world’s most beautiful harbour – and we see how the landscapes influenced Roberto Burle Marx, ‘*it is a country of action and passion, nourished by hopes and dreams. All these characteristics are present in (his work). He lived in Rio de Janeiro, where the landscape is omnipresent... with its huge bay and granite hills in dramatic and voluptuous formations...*’

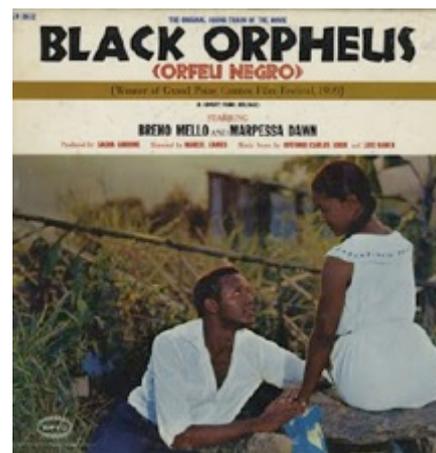
Marta Montero was writing of Burle Marx but the same was true of architect Oscar Niemeyer and many others. Burle Marx with the Flamengo Parque gave us Ipanema, Copacabana and parklands as we know them today – a wonderful conjunction of mountains, sea and beaches which translates to warm, friendly and passionate peoples.

Tonight, Isabela Ono will provide a presentation on the landscapes of Brazil and the legacy of Burle Marx. BD

**Day 10: Fri 12 Oct, Rio de Janeiro**

Isabela leads us to some of Burle Marx’s civic works – Petrobrás Headquarters, BNDS Bldg. and the Tram Centre. We visit the new Cathedral, then lunch at the *Colombo Restaurant* – a gorgeous historic café. Then on to the funicular railway to the giant landmark *Christ the Redeemer Statue*, for breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, surrounding beaches and bays.

Tonight we visit the *Vinicius Bar* to learn something of the composer, playwright and poet *Vinicius de Moraes* -that vital and charismatic figure who contributed to the development of Bossa Nova and co-wrote *Black Orpheus* and *The Girl from Ipanema*. It will be introduced by Brazilian music aficionado Scott Anderson. BL



**Day 11: Sat 13 Oct Rio de Janeiro**

First, to the Institute of Moreira Sales Museum – a superb gallery and building with Burle Marx landscaping and his ceramic frescoes. Then to the *Tijuka National Park*. Deep within this great tropical forest we visit a superb bungalow retreat within a Burle Marx landscape. We lunch at the historic *Os Esquilos* and depart for *Jardim Botânico* (finest botanic gardens in South America) with its mighty avenues of Imperial Palms. BL



The Sitio, 'Garden of Wonders'

**Day 12: Sun 14 Oct Rio de Janeiro**

We visit Burle Marx's *Sítio* (Garden of Wonders) – 40ha of gardens, dwelling, studio, chapel and nursery where he propagated Amazonian plants. We see his paintings, his plants (over 3,500 species) and religious and other collections with the Director Roberio Dias. Returning to Rio we visit Burle Marx's Flamengo Park with its reclaimed embankment Burle Marx and his *Modern Art Museum* (1958) gardens. This afternoon we visit the *Rocinha* favela, one of many which cling to Rio's steep hillsides. Rio's favelas spawned the famous Carnavale and provided the setting for *Black Orpheus*.

An alternative tour would be to visit the superb Niteroi Contemporary Art Museum by Oscar Niemeyer. B

**Day 13 Mon 15 Oct Teresópolis, Petrópolis**

We leave sultry Rio for the cool hill-stations where Rio's elite escape the summer heat. Burle Marx had ample space for his curvilinear designs, lakes and abstract planting schemes in these gardens. We visit several, including *Tarcaruna* – that sublime conjunction of nature, garden and building (by Oscar Niemeyer). We conclude with a stroll around idyllic Petrópolis, former summer capital of the Portuguese Empire. B

**Day 14: Tue 16 Oct Rio de Janeiro**

A free day! But there are heaps of suggestions for you including a twilight drink at Mt Sugarloaf via the cable car looking down back at Rio, with its necklaces of lights twinkling around those magic bays. Tonight we dine at the *Rio Scenarium* in historic Lapa, with its antiques, Brazilian music, song and dance. BD

**Day 15: Wed 17 Oct Rio – Iguazú Falls**

We fly to one of the great wonders of the world, the *Iguazú Falls* – the largest anywhere amidst two national parks of tropical forests on the border of Brazil and Argentina. This is valuable habitat for many rare and endangered species and today we tour the Brazil side of the falls. Tonight we settle in to our rooms at the Sheraton Hotel (Argentina) with our fabulous views of the *Iguazú Falls!* B

**Day 16: Thur 18 October, Iguazú Falls**

We will enjoy walks along the catwalks and cataracts including *The Devil's Throat* – largest of them all with its 82 metre high, 150 metre wide and 700 metre long cataract. The sound is deafening as the water crashes below and the spray and general turmoil provides great mists, rainbows and shrieking birds. The bold will take an Adventure Ride on a boat which goes into and behind one of these mighty falls. B

**Day 17: Fri 19 Oct Iguazú Falls – Buenos Aires**

This morning we are free to enjoy Iguazú before an early afternoon flight to Buenos Aires where we will have an orientation tour if time permits.

Argentina is a vast country with an astonishing range of climates and landforms. From the steamy north-eastern jungles to the desert highland steppes through endless grasslands southwards to windswept *Patagonia* and *Tierra del Fuego* at the southern tip.



Jacarandas blooming in Buenos Aires parks



The amazing Iguazu Falls

However, Buenos Aires is a heady cosmopolitan city with fine European architecture and lifestyles greatly influenced by Italian and Spanish migrants with a penchant for the English. We exchange the Samba for the Tango and Burle Marx for Charles Thays who was responsible for most of the parks of Buenos Aires). We dine this evening at *Cabana Villegas* at *Puerto Madero*, for some typical Argentinian food. BD

**Day 18: Sat 20 Oct, Buenos Aires**

Clara Billoch leads us on one of her exciting tours of designed private gardens in Buenos Aires which will include meeting the colourful designer Cristina Le Mehaute and visiting one of her gardens.



Cristina Le Mehaute's own garden

In the evening, we will enjoy a traditional home cooked Argentinian meal with Clara in her garden *en famille* – enjoying the best beef in the world! BLD

**Day 19: Sun 21 Oct, Buenos Aires**

We tour Buenos Aires, the *'Paris of the South'*, through tree lined avenues and historic buildings (some still bearing cannon damage from the revolution) and stop for coffee at *Café Tortoni* (1858) – haven for artists, politicians and intellectuals.



'I will come again. I will be millions'.  
— Eva Peron ('Evita').  
Indeed, millions did attend her funeral.

Then to the *MALBA* Museum with its new exhibition of Latin American Art 1900-1990. We may choose to visit another of their fine galleries, such as *The Proa* or the new *Faena Arts Centre* at Puerto Madero. Then to *San Telmo's Antique Market* with its lively markets, handicrafts and street tango.

We press on to the *Eva Peron Museum*, plus a twilight visit to her tomb at the amazing *La Recoleta Cemetery*. We will reflect upon the life of Eva Peron who remains embedded within the Argentine consciousness today. BL

**Day 20: Mon 22 Oct**

**\*Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay**

At *Puerto Madero* we catch the catamaran ferry (1 hour) across the *Rio de Plata* to Colonia, Uruguay's oldest port settlement and subject to centuries of warring conflicts between Portugal and Spain.



Colonia del Sacramento

Some say it reminds them of Old Lisbon and it certainly exudes history and charm with its old cobble streets and Spanish/Portuguese architecture. It has been rated, *'one of the most beautiful and understated towns on the whole continent.'* and time seems to stand still as we saunter around this beautiful old colonial port. It is a UNESCO World Heritage City from where we may reflect upon the early colonial struggles of South America. In 1774 Arthur Phillip, then a captain with the Portuguese navy, served in the war against Spain and relieved the garrison at Colonia where he served with distinction for some time.

On our return, some may choose to see the *Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo* who still gather every Monday to grieve and honour, 'the memory of the children who "disappeared" – among an estimated 30,000 – during the junta's reign of terror from the mid-1970s to early '80s'. B

**Day 21: Tue 23 Oct**

This is the last day of a busy tour. It is therefore a free day and we are at leisure. There are many touring possibilities and small groups can be arranged either with or without guides. For example, *San Antonio de Areco*, 'home of Argentina's gauchos', is a 90 min drive into the country. It is a charming historic town with old estancias (horse ranches) with fascinating lunches. There is also the *Villa Maria estancia* with its lovely parklands for a very upmarket (and expensive) meal only 45 mins away. There are wonderful walks you can join, and Sue Forge is only too happy to explore shopping precincts with you. We do enjoy a wonderful exchange rate! Some may choose to tour lovely Palermo or stroll through historic *La Boca* and down to the *Puerto Madero*...

There we may visit the *Parque de la Memoria de Buenos Aires*, (1997) with its continuing sculptural commissions commemorating 30,000 people killed by Argentina's military junta and 'Dirty War' from 1976 to 1983 – a brutal campaign of political repression, terror, kidnapping, torture and murder in Argentina.

Options can be discussed in Buenos Aires.



For our farewell evening together we will treat ourselves to a special evening of tango at the *Gala Tango* over dinner. There is a side to the *Porteno* psyche that is only perceived through this brilliant, sensuous and melancholic dance form. BD

**Day 22: Wed 24 Oct**

This morning you are at leisure. The group flight to Australia departs in the early afternoon. B

# EXTENSION TOURS



Photo courtesy Wonderweb

## \* Machu Picchu, Peru

*Machu Picchu* is the best known icon of the Inca World, and probably, of South America. Not only does it enjoy an extraordinary mountainous setting, but since it was unknown to the Spanish, it has therefore survived as a relatively intact cultural site of world significance. In 2007 it became one of the *New Seven Wonders of the World*.

We will fly to Lima, capital of Peru, and then to Cuzco. We spend two days there acclimatizing to the altitude and experiencing the many layers of history in this former capital of the Inca Empire - largest of the South American empires and in most respects, as sophisticated and organised as those of Europe. They all competed for land, gold, wealth and for the conversion of souls. They all had a nobility, armies, bureaucracy and religion with which to impose their will.

From Cuzco, we plan to take a train to Machu Picchu – like the *Vistadome* with its panoramic windows providing unrivalled views of the Andes.

We fly from Buenos Aires to Lima and plan to spend five days for this extension tour. We are seeking expressions of interest and if you would like to discuss the tour, please contact Warwick Forge promptly please.

## \* Atacama Desert, Chile 1–3 Oct.

Prior to commencement of the main Group Tour, there will be an extension tour to the Atacama Desert. We fly north from Santiago and make our base at the oasis, *San Pedro de Atacama*. This is the world's driest desert which has assisted in preserving many ancient artefacts. The tour includes archeological sites, the Valley of the Moon, ancient Tulo village and a salt lake (*National Reservoir Los Flamencos*) where we join breeding flamingos. These are harsh landscapes, but they certainly throw everything else into high relief and provide intense fascination for visitors.



Breeding flamingos

Recent rains may prompt growth of the wonderful wildflowers. Interested travellers should contact us for details. October weather is good with temperatures from 8° overnight to 25° C.



The Atacama Desert

# GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

## TOUR LEADERS, GUEST LECTURERS AND SPECIALIST GUIDES

Tour Leader **Warwick Forge** is Director of the Australian Landscape Conference, publisher of gardening and related books, had a distinguished career in conservation and was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2000 for his contribution to the built and natural environment. His interest in Latin America was sparked by the brilliant Juan Grimm when he came to Australia for the 2005 Conference.

### Sue Forge

(Co-Tour Leader, spouse and business partner to Warwick) has a major interest in gardens and garden design,

is an accountant, very practical, responsible for tour management and for keeping everyone happy! She is often well informed concerning the arts, regional handicrafts, specialist merchandise and great shopping tours!

Warwick and Sue have been involved with four trips to South America and have brought three Latin American speakers to Australia for their Conferences.

**Juan Grimm** is a brilliant Chilean landscape architect who has designed over 300 gardens in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Peru.

He has a deep appreciation for the Chilean flora and landscapes which he describes as 'the inspiration and starting point of each work.' He is generally regarded as the greatest living garden designer in South America. In 2005 he proved an inspirational speaker at the ALC.

He will introduce tour members to 5-6 of his gardens and provide a special presentation for us.



**Dr Rudolf Thomann** is a biologist with an extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of Chile and a sound general knowledge of the country. He has been involved with eco-tourism throughout Chile, environmental impact assessments, leads special interest groups and spends summers lecturing on Antarctic tourism vessels.

The ladies love him reading Pablo Neruda in Spanish, he solves all our problems without fuss, and our Chile tour would never be the same without him. Dr Thomann will provide a presentation on the natural wonders of Chile.

In Chile we are also assisted by Paz Hormazabel and Malecca Angélica Schade. Both are landscape architects and friends of Juan Grimm.



**Isabela Ono** is a landscape architect and daughter of Haruyoshi Ono, was the business partner of Roberto Burle Marx for almost 30 years.

Isabela will accompany us to the Roberto Burle Marx sites.

**Cristina Le Mehaute and Clara Billoch** are both successful designers and horticulturists in Buenos Aires and will provide a wonderful introduction to the gardens of Buenos Aires. Cristina is recognised as the leading cutting edge designer in Argentina.

**Scott Anderson** will introduce us to Brazilian music, which is his passion. He is Australian but with a



home in Rio, a love of gardens and he joins us for the Brazilian segment.

Information regarding other experts will be available in due course.

## THE TOUR IN BRIEF

On this 22-day tour we will stay in six hotels, take three South American flights and pursue outdoor walks, which may involve uneven terrain, stairs and standing time.

Compared with previous tours, we are providing superior hotel accommodation, a number of new presentations by leading guest experts, and more meals are included. However the Land Content price remains unchanged.

A critical feature of the tour is the fact that nearly all of the gardens are privately owned. We reveal very little about the location and other details of these gardens. This is for reasons of security and privacy, which we must respect, and we ask all participants to do likewise.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Every effort has been made to secure good, safe, 4-5\* hotels in areas with high amenity, shops character, and restaurants.

Single rooms are subject to the single supplement and availability. Single travellers wishing to share a twin room can often be matched if ample notice is provided.

Room upgrades are sometimes available upon request for enhanced views and facilities.

## HOTELS

### CHILE

#### Santiago, Chile (4 nights)

**Atton El Bosque**, a 4-star modern hotel well located in the attractive Providencia district with pool and other facilities.

**Zapallar** (1 night) Hotel Isla Seca, an exceptional 4\* boutique hotel in this resort town & fishing village, [www.hotelislaseca.cl](http://www.hotelislaseca.cl)

**Viña del Mar** (2 nights) Sheraton Miramar Hotel, a modern 5\* hotel jutting out to sea with spectacular Pacific Ocean views.

[www.starwoodhotels.com](http://www.starwoodhotels.com)

## **BRAZIL**

### **Rio de Janeiro (6 nights):**

Sheraton Rio Hotel and Resort, Leblon, 5\* near Ipanema and Copacabana. Rio's only beachfront hotel with fantastic harbour views, three pools, etc. Close to beaches, restaurants and shops.

## **ARGENTINA**

### **Iguazú Falls (2 nights):**

**Sheraton Hotel** A 5\* hotel with all our rooms upgraded to enjoy the fabulous views of the *Iguazú Falls*. Good restaurant and lovely pool. [www.hotelesurion.com](http://www.hotelesurion.com)

### **Buenos Aires (5 nights): Intersur**

**Hotel** A lovely new 4\* hotel well located in elegant Recoleta near the main square, shops and restaurants.

## **TOUR GROUP SIZE**

We keep tour groups to a modest size and the most we have ever had was 25. A specialist designer, local multilingual guide and our two tour leaders normally accompany the group, so that the ratio between travellers and 'guides' is very favourable to travellers.

In addition, there are options for travellers to depart from the tour group as they wish, and a majority of evenings are completely free.

## **TRAVELLER PROFILES**

We generally have a small number with professional interests in gardens and design, many with a general love of gardens and of nature, and some who just seek a general cultural tour to Latin America. They are usually, but not always, middle aged and curious about a range of cultural matters and enjoy most of the things we do – including good cuisine, hospitality and the chance to meet people from varied backgrounds. About half are couples and half singles. We are delighted with the people we meet. It has been great fun and some are now lifelong friends.

## **PHYSICAL CHALLENGES**

This is not a strenuous tour however, people will be expected to travel across various surfaces, stairways, etc. Anyone in reasonable health should not experience difficulties and we have had travellers in their eighties who were perfectly at ease. However, the group must move at the speed of the slowest, and time spent at a location

may be reduced if some people are not able to keep up with reasonable speeds.

Applicants must inform ALC of any medical conditions, which **may** be relevant to their travel experience. ALC requires that Tour Leaders reserve the right to take steps to modify traveller movements where they feel it is a potential health risk or where the travel experience of others is being unduly delayed.

## **SECURITY**

Every effort is made to ensure safe and secure travel at all times. Nevertheless, travellers should be sensible, and aware, and in many public areas, should not display jewellery, expensive cameras, etc. We have never had cause for alarm to date, but we should remain aware at all times and check, prior to walking around at night in some districts. Secure taxi travel is normally easy to arrange and is inexpensive.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Extensive information will be provided well before departure concerning itinerary details, visa requirements, currency issues, arrival and departure taxes, electrical appliances, health, photography, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, entrance taxes, bank hours and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website is helpful: [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au)

## **BACKGROUND READING**

Extensive information will be provided for travellers in due course including a reading list and relevant articles.

## **WEATHER**

Spring travel is usually ideal with average October Celsius temperatures: Santiago: 22°, Rio de Janeiro 28°, (Petrópolis is cooler), Buenos Aires 22.5°.

## **MEALS & ENTRANCE FEES**

### **INSERT FIGURES HERE.**

The tour includes 21 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 9 evening meals, indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal. Hotels are generally located in interesting areas, close to city centres,

with good access to local restaurants and shops.

All **entrance fees** are included (except sites indicated as 'optional').

## **TYPE OF TOURING**

- Moderate coach travel between cities and for day tours
- Use of minivans or jeeps to access some sites (one or two).
- Three internal flights (not included in tour price)

## **VISAS AND VACCINATIONS**

Australian passport holders do not require visas for Chile, Argentina, Uruguay or Peru. However a visa is required for Brazil, and is then valid for 3 months. Upon entering Brazil your visa will specify the period of validity.

Brazilian visas take 20 working days to process. In due course, we will provide visa application details to enable you to apply or alternatively, Acland Travel will help you to prepare the requisite documents and process the visa for you on your behalf for a fee of \$55.00. Visa requirements are subject to change and we will therefore confirm details in due course.

New Zealand and UK passport holders do not require a visa for Brazil. For further visa information visit: [www.visalink.com.au](http://www.visalink.com.au)

A Yellow Fever vaccination will be necessary for Brazil and you may consider other vaccinations. It is generally recommended that you see your physician or travel health clinic 4-8 weeks before departure.

For Visas and Vaccinations, we will confirm details in due course.



Our 2010 tour with Cristina Le Mehaute

Note: All photographs in this document are the property of Warwick and Sue Forge except where indicated.

# TOUR BOOKINGS – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## BOOKINGS AND LEGAL

Bookings must be made on the Reservation Form and sent to ALC Garden Tours (ALC) with the Deposit. You will then receive booking confirmation or otherwise with travel details. You can also make your Second Payment at the same time, which will enable bookings on the three South American flights.

Cheques should be made out to: Acland Travel.

'ALC Garden Tours' (ALC) is a registered business name owned by Bloomings Books Pty Ltd, a company wholly owned by Warwick and Sue Forge. It works in conjunction with Acland Travel Agency who are registered travel agents (Licence No. 32966). This is a legal requirement and your payments are protected via the Government Travel Compensation Fund.

## FLIGHTS

### International Flights to and From South America

The group flight Sydney to Santiago, Chile, departs on 3 October (QF 27 at 10.45 arriving on the same day at 09.55.

The return flight from Buenos Aires departs on 24 Oct (LAN422 at 10.05 to Santiago, then transfers to QF28 departing 13.35 arriving Sydney at 17.50 on 25 Oct. Some participants will vary from these flights for the Extension Tours or for private travel.

We suggest that you consider booking your flights to South America through Acland Travel. This is efficient and secure, and can result in group travel savings from which everyone benefits. As experienced overseas agents, they will also advise on flight routes and the various travel classes available.

To return on a true Qantas flight (rather than a shared LAN flight) you must depart Buenos Aires on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. You may wish to confirm this in due course.

### South American flights

The three South American flights must be booked by our agents in South America. This is critical to help ensure that we are all on correct flights. It is not possible to obtain group bookings for an extended period in advance. Note, later bookings are often more expensive and will then require an additional payment.

Early ticket purchases secures your seats on the correct flights, ensures your group transfers and enables ticket purchases at the most economical prices. **We therefore recommend you forward your Second Payment as soon as possible to enable these bookings promptly.**

For International flight bookings to South America contact: Mr Bruce Young  
Acland Travel  
Suite 1/128 Acland St., St Kilda, Vic. 3182, Australia  
T: (03) 9534 0901 Fax (03) 9534 8679

## LAND CONTENT PRICE

### This includes:

- Accommodation in a twin-share room or single supplement in 4-5 star hotels
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=Dinner (evening)
- Generally, one alcoholic or soft drink is made available for these lunch and dinner meals and you then pay for additional drinks. Details to be confirmed for each venue.
- Three South American Flights: Santiago-Rio de Janeiro; Rio de Janeiro- Iguazú; Iguazú -Buenos Aires.
- Transport via luxury air-conditioned coaches and smaller mini-coaches for 1-2 tours.
- Airport-hotel transfers on group flights
- Hotel portorage
- Lectures and site presentations
- Entrance fees to all sites
- Tips for coach drivers, guides, designers, property owners, restaurants, hotels, etc.

### Exclusions are:

- Airfares: Flights to Santiago, Chile, and return flight from Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on group flights
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg. Note: international flights to and from South America often provide higher allowances and you should confirm the details.
- Travel insurance
- Visas if applicable (Australian passport holders require a Brazil visa).

## RESERVATIONS

Please complete the Reservation Form carefully and send it with your **cheque** for \$600 deposit in favour of Acland Travel. These should be sent to ALC Garden Tours, 21 Isabella Grove, Hawthorn Vic. 3122.

To pay by **credit card** please contact Acland Travel.

Prices are as follows (or as may be varied subsequently in discussion with Acland Travel and ALC):-

## TOUR PRICES

**Land Content & South American flights** **\$11,850**

(This is based on the Land Content price of \$10,500 plus \$1,350 for the South American flights (Santiago - Rio de Janeiro; Rio de Janeiro – Iguazú Falls; Iguazú Falls – Buenos Aires).

### **SAVE \$350!** EARLY BIRD OFFER

**Land Content & South American flights** **\$11,500**

Must be booked by 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

**Single supplement** **\$3,350**

**International Flights** to and from South America can be booked through Acland Travel or independently.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you take out comprehensive cover for Medical, Luggage, Tour Cancellations and other losses. This helps ensure that any problems arising on tour are rapidly expedited. For a brochure, cover and further information (e.g. concerning pre-existing medical conditions), contact Acland Travel. They recommend Aussietravelcover and Suresave. Brochures are available on request. RACV cover is also available independently.

## PASSPORTS

Your passport must be up to date and you must provide us with a copy of your identity page by 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

## TOUR PAYMENTS

1. A **Deposit** of \$600.00 (incl GST) is required to make a reservation for you.
2. A **Second Payment** of \$1,400+ is required by 1<sup>st</sup> April or earlier to enable us to book your three South American flights promptly and fully protect your position.
3. You will be invoiced for the full tour price (less payments paid) at the beginning of June. **This must be paid by 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 to enable confirmation of hotel and other reservations.** Late payments may incur additional costs for you.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

When we receive your reservation and confirm that a place is available, a contract then exists in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this and other documents sent to you. If a place is not available we will return your deposit in full. We confirm that prices are subject to change but that we always endeavour to hold existing prices wherever practicable and that an increase would never exceed more than 10% as a maximum.

## CANCELLATIONS

Your deposit will be refunded less \$385.00 service fee per person if cancelled prior to 15 April, 2012. The deposit is not refundable after that date. Cancellation charges apply to your Tour Price payments as follows when you cancel your tour after the following dates:

Date	Cancellation fee
15 April 2012	\$600 deposit non-refundable
1 July 2012	25% of your tour payments
15 August 2012	75% of your tour payments
15 September 2012	100% of your tour payments

We request that cancellations are in writing please. The date of cancellation is based upon the date when the cancellation is received.

## LIABILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE

It is an express condition of travel for all tour participants that you accept and understand that:-

1. ALC Garden Tours (ALC) in conjunction with Acland Travel Agency in their own capacity and as agents for various tour operators, land agents, airlines, hotels, coach companies, museums etc., (provided they are bona fide), will not be liable for any claim for loss due to accident, delay, personal injury, inadequate or failed accommodation, travel arrangements, baggage or other losses, illness, travel sickness, industrial unrest, military or political disturbances, hijacking, kidnapping, thefts, assaults, volcanic or other geological event, pain and suffering, loss of future earnings or any other injury to person or property of whatever kind.
2. You must take out adequate comprehensive insurance in order to cover potential travel risks. A copy of the insurance certificate is to be provided to ALC.
3. You must provide full disclosure of any relevant medical conditions as requested on the Reservation Form.
4. The Tour Leader has full discretion to request a participant to refrain or modify certain activities if in his/her opinion, such activities are disruptive or may cause discomfort to other persons. He/she shall have full discretion to cancel any person's further involvement in the tour where he/she deems such action warranted.  
ALC's responsibility for that person will then cease immediately and it will not be responsible for any claimed loss or damage. Where a Tour Leader is unavailable through illness or other cause, he/she may appoint a Deputy with power to act.
5. Tour prices are based upon exchange rates and quotations provided at the time of booking. Where circumstances change, ALC may vary the final price, to a maximum of 10%.
6. The tour price is costed for a minimum of 20 people. If that number is not reached, ALC may contact participants and discuss whether the price should be increased or the tour cancelled (in which case the participant will obtain a full refund).

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## FOR GENERAL TOUR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

Mr Warwick Forge  
ALC Garden Tours  
T: (03) 9819 1335 warwick@bloomings.com.au  
www.landscapeconference.com/alctours



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## FOR FLIGHTS TO AND FROM SOUTH AMERICA, VISAS AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

Mr Bruce Young  
Acland Travel Agency  
Suite 1/128 Acland St., St Kilda, Vic. 3182  
T: (03) 9534 0901 Fax (03) 9534 8679  
bruce@aclandtravel.com.au

