

11 Day | Hunter Valley, Tulip Time, Floriade & Mayfield Garden Spring Festivals

28 September – 08 October 2020

## SPRINGS FESTIVALS WITH CARPETS OF COLOUR

Rejoice in the season of renewal and delight in the uplifting colours of Spring!



**CT TRAVEL**  
*Coolum Tours & Travel*

Travel the countryside during the most colourful time of the year! Lay your eyes upon the magical celebration of Spring the Hunter Valley Spring Festival along with Tulip Time in the Southern Highlands. Be enchanted by the countless colours dotted throughout Floriade and explore the private gardens of Mayfield. Come along and together we will experience the rejuvenation of Spring!

### DAY 1: (LD) BRISBANE TO COFFS HARBOUR

Monday 28 September 2020

Greeting our fellow travellers, soon to be friends, we begin our holiday to discover the uplifting colours of Spring! Chatting amongst ourselves, we head for **Ballina**. Stopping at the fascinating **Thursday Plantation**, we enjoy lunch before discovering the numerous healing properties associated with tea tree oil, native only to Australia. Travelling on we arrive into **Coffs Harbour** for our overnight stay.

1 nights | **Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour**  
Breakfast at hotel | lunch at Thursday Plantation

### DAY 2: (BD) COFFS HARBOUR TO THE HUNTER VALLEY

Tuesday 29 September 2020

Continuing our travels, we make our way to Port Macquarie and enjoy a stunning coastal drive through Camden Haven. Take in the stunning view from **North Brother Mountain** before passing through Laurieton and onto **Forster** for our lunch break. Afterwards we head into the **Hunter Valley** and arrive at our hotel in time to settle before dinner.

1 night | **Potters Hotel, Brewery & Resort, Hunter Valley**  
Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch

**DAY 3: (BLD) HUNTER VALLEY TO THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS****Wednesday 30 September 2020**

This morning we head to the **Hunter Valley Gardens** to enjoy the **Spring Festival of Flowers**. Nestled at the foothills of the Brokenback Ranges, we will find over 25 hectares of spectacular international display gardens. Sensational sights, colours and fragrances dominate the stunning feature gardens and we can explore them all. We'll join a **train ride** around the gardens as well as partake in the **Mad Hatters Tea Party** held in the Garden Terrace café. Departing the Hunter Valley, we then head to **Mittagong**. Arriving at our hotel, we refresh before dinner.

**1 night | Mittagong Springs, Mittagong**

Breakfast and dinner at the resort | lunch at Hunter Valley Gardens

**DAY 4: (BD) TULIP TIME FESTIVAL!****Thursday 1 October 2020**

This morning we make our way into the Southern Highlands, home to some of the most beautiful gardens in the State. Our first visit is to the **Chinoiserie Gardens** where you'll hear the story of the gardens and discover that the many rare and unusual plants bring much pleasure to those who visit. Next, we find nestled at the base of Mount Gibraltar the pretty little village of **Bowral**. Unearth the centerpiece of the annual **Tulip Time Festival**, the **Corbett Gardens**. Delighted in a spectacular display of tulips and colourful springtime bulbs before continuing on. Nearing Canberra, we stop at **Cockington Green**, a one 12<sup>th</sup> scale reproduction of buildings and gardens of a historic English village. Wandering around you'll find thatched cottages, a tiny church, the village green, castles and even Stonehenge. Completing our visit, we head to our accommodation, settle in for the next 3 nights.

**3 nights | Rydges Capital Hill, Canberra**

Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 5: (BD) FLORIADE!****Friday 2 October 2020**

Taking the opportunity to get a spectacular look of Canberra, we venture up **Mt Ainslie lookout**, where we will find the views across Lake Burley Griffin breathtaking. Then it's off to celebrate the most colourful time of year, Spring! Experience **Floriade** and feel nature's joy of renewal as you wander through the displays of more than a million blossoming bulbs and annuals. Revel in an array of inspiring flowerbeds and horticultural exhibitions before heading to the **National Museum of Australia**. This architectural landmark is inspired by the idea of a jigsaw puzzle, reflecting the many intertwined stories that make up Australia's history. While inside, we wander at our own pace, uncovering the museum's dedication in bringing to life Australia's journey. This afternoon we'll pay tribute at the **Australian War Memorial**. Here you may like to join a public tour or wander at your own pass through this reflective and uplifting monument. Honoring the sacrifices made by the women and men who served in war, we stay for the moving **Last Post Ceremony** before returning to our hotel.

Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 6: (BD) ROUND AND ABOUT CANBERRA****Saturday 3 October 2020**

This morning we get to know Canberra a little better as we take in the sights. Drive along **Embassy Row** finding the embassies and high commissions of countries from around the world. Look out for the spectacular traditional design of the Chinese embassy and the modified Georgian style of the United States embassy. Next, at Capital Hill, the focal point of Canberra is where we are introduced to the meeting place of the nation, **Parliament House**. Listening to your guide as they lead you through this political power house, you are enlightened to daily life of democracy. We then experience Canberra the best way possible by gliding across **Lake Burley Griffin** in the stylish comfort of the **MV Southern Cross Cruise**. Soak up the stunning views and relax as the lake's picturesque shoreline effortlessly streams by before returning to dry land and back to our hotel with time to relax before enjoying dinner.

Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 7: (BLD) CANBERRA TO OBERON****Sunday 4 October 2020**

Packing our bags this morning, we depart Canberra and visit **Tulip Top Garden**. Behold the glorious display of tulips nestled between hundreds of trees as you walk along the path to the cascading waterfall with classical music wafting in the background. Take the popular pathway past the rosemary field framed by the stunning trees to the high viewing platform for the perfect photo opportunity. Journeying onwards we head for **Cowra**. At the **Japanese Gardens** we enjoy a **light lunch** followed by time to explore the gardens. The garden itself is designed to represent the landscape of Japan and features a stream cascading in waterfalls into two large ponds. The last leg of our day takes us to our hotel in **Oberon**.

**2 night | The Big Trout Motor Inn, Oberon**  
Breakfast and dinner at hotel | Lunch -Japanese Garden Cafe

**DAY 8: (BD) MAYFIELD GARDEN SPRING FESTIVAL!****Monday 5 October 2020**

We enjoy a relaxed morning before the day's treat - **Mayfield Garden Spring Festival**. One of the largest privately own cool climate gardens in the world, today we are allowed full access into their private garden. Take the complimentary shuttle bus with multiple stops along the way and explore extensive grounds at your own pace. Be captivated by the breathtaking beauty and detailed landscape design, purchase lunch at the café and experience the colours of Spring. Later, we will regroup and return to our hotel after an amazing day.

Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 9: (BLD) OBERON TO TAMWORTH****Tuesday 6 October 2020**

Thanking our hosts, we set out again and head to charming town of Mudgee, with its heritage streetscapes lined with boutique shops. Stopping at **Mudgee Honey Haven** we enjoy lunch before experiencing some local honey and mead and a chance to purchase one of our favourites. Afterwards we travel to **Tamworth** arriving at our hotel before dinner.

**1 night | Ibis Styles Tamworth Towers, Tamworth**  
Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at Mudgee Honey Haven

**DAY 10: (BLD) TAMWORTH TO TENTERFIELD****Wednesday 7 October 2020**

Travelling to **Armidale** we discover the imposing **Saumarez Homestead**. Enjoying **lunch** here, we then let our guide lead the way as they highlight the homesteads history, elegant furnishings and the significance of the surrounding gardens. Thanking our guide, we then continue on to **Tenterfield**, where we settle in for the evening.

**1 night | Best Western Henry Parkes Motor Inn, Tenterfield**  
Breakfast and dinner at hotel | lunch at Saumarez Homestead

**DAY 11: (B) HOMEWARD BOUND****Thursday 8 October 2020**

This morning marks the last day of our very colourful holiday and we make the most of it. Heading **Stanthorpe**, we find tucked into a region that boasts mountains and open skies, **Aloomba Lavender**. Enjoy morning tea before wandering the gardens, lined with tufts of lavender bushes, while listening to our host as they unveil the production and uses of this versatile plant. Leaving this beautiful part of the world we make the final journey home. Sit back and reflect on the special moments we have experienced together this Spring. From the immersive colours of renewal to charming villages and our Nation's Capital. You'll now arrive home eager to share your many memories with friends and family.

Breakfast at hotel | morning tea Aloomba Lavender | lunch

## Tour Inclusions

- 10 night's motel accommodation
- 10 cooked motel breakfasts
- 10 motel dinners (2 course)
- 7 included lunches
  
- **Visiting 10 magnificent gardens**
  - Ballina | Thursday Plantation light lunch incl. tea and coffee
  - Hunter Valley | **Hunter Valley Gardens** Spring Festival of Flowers Package - entry, train tour and Mad Hatter's Tea Party
  - Southern Highlands | **Chinoiserie Gardens** entry and talk/tour of the garden
  - Southern Highlands | **Corbett Gardens** - Tulip Time Festival
  - Canberra | **Cockington Green Gardens** entry
  - Canberra | Guided Canberra sightseeing
  - Canberra | **Floriade Festival**
  - Canberra | Parliament House Visitor Services Officer led Discovery Tour
  - Canberra | Southern Cross Cruises sightseeing cruise
  - Canberra | **Tulip Top Gardens** entry to Tulip Festival and morning tea
  - Cowra | **Cowra Japanese Garden** and Cultural Centre entry and light lunch incl. tea and coffee
  - Cowra | Cowra Japanese Garden and Cultural Centre golf buggy hire
  - Oberon | **Mayfield Garden** entry to gardens during Spring Festival
  - Mudgee | Mudgee Honey Haven light lunch incl. tea and coffee
  - Armidale | **Saumarez Homestead** guided house, **garden tour** and light lunch incl. tea and coffee
  - Stanthorpe | **Aloomba Lavender** entry to **gardens** and talk and morning tea

## Accommodation

- Coffs Harbour | Opal Cove Resort
- Hunter Valley | Potters Hotel, Brewery and Resort
- Southern Highlands | Springs Mittagong
- Canberra | Rydges Capital Hill (3 nights)
- Oberon | The Big Trout Motor Inn (2 nights)
- Tamworth | Ibis Styles Tamworth Towers
- Tenterfield | Best Western Henry Parkes Motor Inn

*The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, CT Travel reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure alterations do not adversely affect the operation of the tour. CT Travel will not be held responsible for weather-based cancellations or those closures made at a venue's discretion.*

**PO Box 629**  
**Coolum Beach**  
**QLD 4573**  
**ABN 31871210455**



[www.cttravel.com.au](http://www.cttravel.com.au)  
[tours@cttravel.com.au](mailto:tours@cttravel.com.au)  
**07 53911648**  
**0409 278 971**