Melbourne sits on the Yarra River, around the shores of Port Phillip Bay. Lauded for its sense of style and elegance, Melbourne boasts glamorous festivals and events, Australia’s best shopping, a lively passion for eating and drinking, and a flourishing interest in the arts. Restored and preserved nineteenth-century architecture, built following the discovery of gold, provides a heady reminder of a prosperous age, while beautifully tended parks and gardens present a therapeutic respite from the pace of city life.

Tasmania is an island of spectacular coastlines, tall forests, rugged highlands, sunny beaches and wild rivers. There are vibrant cities, sleepy country towns, and picturesque fishing villages. With four distinct seasons and a mild, cool climate, Tasmania is well-suited to gourmet food production. Almost half of Tasmania’s land mass is protected in World Heritage Areas, national parks, and marine and forest reserves. Tasmania’s protected, natural environment and soft, southern light attract artists and crafts makers from around the world, generating a dynamic, creative artistic and cultural scene.

Call Carlson Wagonlit Travel at 763-852-8162 for more information and to register.
About the Tour

Join the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Peter Olin to explore the natural beauty, gardens, history, culture and culinary delights of Melbourne and Tasmania. The adventure starts with four nights in Melbourne. Here you will have time to explore this vibrant city and explore the charming coastal villages while on your way to visit the private and public gardens of the Mornington Peninsula and Mount Macedon. After a short flight to Tasmania, you will spend nine days traversing Tasmania from Launceston in the north to Hobart in the south. During this time, you will explore the flora, fauna, and history of this island that started out as a convict settlement. In the public and private gardens and national parks, you will be amazed by the rare plants and geological features of the island. Tasmania is where the most ancient plant species on Earth are found, including a high proportion of endemic species such as the Huon pine, deciduous beech and pandani. You will visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed convict settlement; visit historical homes and villages and a sculpture garden; stay in a lodge in the Cradle Mountain Sanctuary to explore the natural park and meet the Tasmanian devil; visit the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary to see koalas, kangaroos, and other native species; visit Salamanca Market and the MONA museum (the Museum of Old and New Art) in Hobart plus have free time to explore this vibrant city; and you will have ample opportunities to sample the cuisine of Tasmania and its many wines in addition to enjoying a behind the scenes tour of a distillery (of course, including a sampling). Why not spend spring in Australia rather than fall in Minnesota? You’ll be amazed by the discoveries you make on this once-in-a-lifetime journey!

Land-Only Tour Price

From $5,980* per person

*Price is per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 15 participants. Additional cost for single accommodations quoted upon request. Airfare is additional. Carlson Wagonlit Travel air coordinators can assist you with flight reservations.

Land Package Inclusions

- Four nights accommodations in Melbourne
- Nine nights accommodations in Tasmania
- Porterage at hotels (1 bag per person)
- Full-time professional, local tour guides
- Breakfast daily at group hotels
- Seven group lunches and three group dinners
- Sightseeing, admissions and transfers as noted in the itinerary
- $200 tax-deductible donation to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

NOT INCLUDED:
Round-trip international airfare; airfare within Australia; airline fees for checked, oversized or overweight luggage; additional nights; optional sightseeing activities; gratuities to coach drivers, housekeeping, tour manager or individual garden guides; beverages with meals; meals not indicated in the itinerary; travel insurance; other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary.

Tour Host—Peter Olin
Professor Olin formerly chaired the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Minnesota and is Director Emeritus of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Registration is subject to availability and limited to just 19 travelers! To register, please contact Carlson Wagonlit Travel at 763-852-8162 or one of our leisure offices.

MINNESOTA
- Minneapolis 763-852-8164
- Burnsville 763-852-8161
- Southdale 763-852-8169
- Maplewood 763-852-8163
- Rosedale 763-852-8167
- St. Cloud 763-852-8171

MICHIGAN
- Southland 763-852-8170

TOLL FREE 800-533-0324

Register and deposit now to confirm your space!
Deposit: $1,500 per person due at the time of registration. Please request a registration form for payment and cancellation policies.
Itinerary

Day 1—Monday, October 24, 2016—Depart Home
Depart U.S. for Melbourne, Australia.

Day 2—Tuesday, October 25, 2016—En Route
You will lose a day en route to Australia as you cross the International Date Line.

Day 3—Wednesday, October 26, 2016—Arrive Melbourne
After customs and immigration, you will be met by your tour escort in the arrival hall. Prior to arriving at your hotel, you will enjoy a meal at the Colonial Tramcar restaurant-on-wheels, one of Melbourne’s star attractions. This 1948 tram is outfitted in the luxurious Pullman-style European train décor of the past. Here you will see the sights of Melbourne while eating a delicious, four-course meal featuring fresh local produce. In addition, you will have a full city coach tour so you can get your bearings for the next three days. You will spend the next four nights at the Travelodge Southbank. This hotel is conveniently located near the best Melbourne has to offer. Rooms have all the amenities you expect including a kitchenette with microwave, fridge, tea and coffee making facilities. After checking into your hotel, the remainder of the day and dinner is at leisure.

Day 4—Thursday, October 27, 2016—Mornington Peninsula
This morning we drive 45 minutes from Melbourne's city center to discover the astonishing beauty and diversity of more than 170,000 individual native plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. You will find them displayed in settings that capture the essence of Australia's diverse landscape from the Red Centre to the coastal fringes. It is a place where you can explore the evolving connections between people, plants and landscapes. The Australian Garden is also a place where you can discover inspiration and information about how to use Australian plants in your garden. After your guided tour, you will have free time to explore and eat lunch on your own in the garden café. After lunch, we continue touring the Mornington Peninsula and stop at the Moorooduc Estate, a family-run wine business that has developed an enviable reputation for complex and food-friendly wine. Here we will have a wine tasting before traveling to Cruden Farm (circa 1928) to view one of Australia's most iconic and aesthetically pleasing country gardens. Upon return to Melbourne, you have the evening and dinner on your own.

Day 5—Friday, October 28, 2016—Mount Macedon
Today we visit the public and private gardens of the Mount Macedon area, where well-heeled Melburnians of the 19th century built imposing mansions surrounded by glorious gardens as retreats from the summer heat in the city. You'll find lush forests, rolling farmland, and, naturally, water, in the form of waterfalls, streams and mineral springs in this green region. Our first stop in Mount Macedon will be Forest Glade Gardens. The words "majestic grandeur" best describe the opulent gardens at Forest Glade. This privately-owned, 100-year-old, 14-acre garden
Day 5—Continued
proudly claims to be one of the finest and largest private gardens within Australia. It has four distinct themes: the large English section with its huge, exotic trees and masses of color; the delightful Japanese section complete with bonsai house; the beautiful woodland area, displaying masses of shade-loving plants; and the cool fern gully. The garden includes a stunning bluebell patch and an equally impressive daffodil lawn, which burst into life during spring; a topiary garden; a magnificent laburnum arch; a peony walk highlighted with climbing roses; two aviaries and numerous pergolas, ponds, fountains and statues. Each spring, the garden rises to its peak. The bursting of buds and new leaves are highlighted with masses of tulips, azaleas, rhododendrons and all manner of rare plants.

Our next stop will be the Tieve Tara Gardens, often referred to as the “Jewel of the Mountain” and “a little piece of heaven”. This magical, 7½ acre garden has century-old trees, rolling lawns, two lakes, ducks, geese, songbirds and flowers galore.

Our last stop will be the private garden at Bolobek, considered by many to be the finest in Australia. This garden was designed in the early 1900s and is on the Victorian Heritage Register. We will enjoy a catered lunch at Bolobek Garden. The evening and dinner are at leisure and on your own.

Day 6—Saturday, October 29, 2016—Melbourne
This morning we will visit and have a guided tour of the Royal Melbourne Botanical Garden (RBG). The RBG extends over 93 acres and houses a collection of more than 10,000 species of plants from around the world, including amazing and diverse plant collections such as camellias, rainforest flora, cacti and succulents, roses, Californian species, herbs, perennials, cycads, plants from Southern China and, in the Rare and Threatened Species Collection, plants from south-eastern Australia.

Following this visit, you will return to the hotel and you will have the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore Melbourne on your own. Your guides will help you decide what you would like to do and help with the arrangements, whether they are a hop-on-hop-off tour, walking tours, visits to museums, theater tickets, etc.

Day 7—Sunday, October 30, 2016—Tasmania
This morning we check out of our Melbourne hotel and transfer to the airport for a flight to Launceston, Tasmania. After a visit to the Tasmanian Gourmet Sauce Company to visit the garden and enjoy a barbecue lunch, you’ll travel to the Peppers Cradle Mountain Lodge where you will spend two nights. This is an iconic, unique wilderness experience located at the entrance of the spectacular World Heritage-listed Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair National Park. This park, whose jagged contours epitomize the feel of a wild landscape, features an ancient rainforest. Alpine heath, button grass, and stands of colorful, deciduous beech provide a range of environments to explore. Icy streams cascading out of rugged mountains, stands of ancient pines mirrored in the still waters of glacial lakes, and a wealth of wildlife ensure there is always something to captivate. After your included dinner, you will enjoy an evening “Enchanted Walk”.

B, L, D
Day 8—Monday, October 31, 2016—Cradle Mountain
Today you will enjoy a full-day visit to Cradle Mountain National Park. You’ll be able to take part in a guided walk at Dove Lake. Some of the amazing sights here include Glacier Rock; Ballroom Forest, a cool, temperate rainforest filled with moss-covered myrtle trees; and the park’s iconic boat shed, built in 1940 by the first park ranger. You’ll also have the chance to meet a Tasmanian devil and learn about this fascinating marsupial at the Cradle Wildlife Sanctuary. Breakfast and dinner are included at your hotel, and you’ll have time for lunch on your own.  

Day 9—Tuesday, November 1, 2016—Launceston
Today we travel to Launceston. En route, we visit Old Wesleydale, whose peaceful, English garden abounds with hedges and walls, a productive potager, and lovely vistas drawing from borrowed natural landscapes. We will enjoy a special lunch at Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm. Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm was established in 1984 when the Dornauf family planted 12 acres of raspberry canes. In 1995, they built a café featuring stone and timber, with large windows overlooking lush green lawns running down to a lake filled with water lilies. The garden features native trees and a herb garden overlooking the raspberry canes in the distance.

Upon arrival in Launceston, you will enjoy an introduction to Launceston by coach before traveling to the spectacular Cataract Gorge. Walking trails, beautiful gardens, a suspension bridge, and panoramic lookouts with spectacular views await you at Cataract Gorge, Launceston’s own wilderness, just 15 minutes from the city center. To end our day, we will enjoy scones and tea/coffee at the Cataract Gorge Café.

Our hotel for two nights in the city center of Launceston is the Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston. This premier hotel is located within walking distance of boutiques and quaint shopping malls.

Day 10—Wednesday, November 2, 2016—Wineries
Today’s activities include visits to two estates and two wineries. First we will visit the National Rose Garden at Woolmers Estate, one of the finest collections of historic roses in the southern hemisphere, collected over six generations. We will then explore the extensive parks, English gardens and riverside woodlands of Panshanger Estate.

Next we will visit the Josef Chromy winery to enjoy a delicious lunch. After eleven years of Nazi and Soviet occupation, Josef fled his war-torn Czech village in 1950 as a penniless 19 year old. He escaped across borders guarded by minefields, dogs and soldiers, suffering five months of privation before immigrating to Australia. At the age of 76, after building Blue Ribbon Meat Products into one of Tasmania’s leading brands, he launched Josef Chromy wines, which are heralded throughout the world. Here we will enjoy superb Tasmanian wines paired with fine cuisine featuring fresh local produce.

Our last stop will be of special interest as we stop at the Tamar Ridge Winery to sample some of their cool climate wines. Evening and dinner are at leisure and on your own.
Day 11—Thursday, November 3, 2016—Tasman Peninsula
Today you check out of your hotel and travel the Heritage highway through the ruggedly beautiful Tasman Peninsula. We will have a rest stop at Oatlands historic village, comprising over 150 sandstone, Georgian-style structures. While there, you will have time to visit Callington Mill, one of the few remaining windmills in Australia, where you can enjoy a spot of tea on your own. Our second stop will be for lunch at the Bangor Wine & Oyster Shed. Bangor Wine & Oyster Shed is an award winning cellar, farm gate shop and restaurant brimming with cool-climate Bangor wines, freshly shucked oysters and local produce. As we continue to Port Arthur, we will stop at Eagle Hawk Neck lookout, which will provide stunning views of Pirates Bay. Before checking into our hotel, we will enjoy a tour of Port Arthur, including the Tasmania convict settlement, now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Our hotel for one night will be the Innkeepers Fox and Hounds Inn. This hotel is a traditional Tudor-style property, superbly situated on a beautiful waterfront and in bush surroundings. It is just one minute from the famous Port Arthur tourist attractions. Dinner is on your own.

Day 12—Friday, November 4, 2016—Richmond and Hobart
On the way to Richmond, you will be treated to more stunning coastline views including many interesting geological features such as the Devil’s Kitchen and the Tasman Arch. Upon arrival in the charming village of Richmond, you will have a tour and then have free time for lunch and exploration on your own. As we continue to Hobart, we will have a tour of Tasmania’s History House and Garden. The house has links to much of Tasmania’s early history. Originally known as the Jolly Farmer’s Inn, it was built in stages, with a basement brick structure dating back to 1826. It was built by Simon McCullough, an Irish convict pardoned for his role in apprehending a murderer in 1825. Here you will hear about this history.

Our last stop is the historic Georgian home, Oakwood, and the sculpture gardens of Folko Kooper. Here you will see sculptures placed where they are most at home - in a garden setting, where the works agreeably complement and form pleasant contrasts with grass, foliage and flowers.

Our hotel for the next four nights is the Travelodge in Hobart. This hotel is centrally located, providing easy access to shopping, eateries, and attractions. Dinner will be at leisure on your own.

Day 13—Saturday, November 5, 2016—Hobart
This day is essentially at leisure. In the morning you can join your guide, who will take you to the famous Salamanca Market to explore on your own the sights, sounds, flavors, action and color of Australia’s best outdoor market. With over 300 stalls for food, music and fine Tasmanian arts, crafts and music, you are sure to find much to delight.

After lunch on your own, if you are interested, you will be provided with entrance and ferry tickets so you can enjoy the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) on your own. This is located within the Moorilla winery on the Berriedale peninsula. It is the
Day 13—Continued
largest privately-funded museum in Australia and exhibits antiques and modern and contemporary art. Dinner is on your own.  B

Day 14—Sunday, November 6, 2016—Mt. Field Natl. Park
Today we travel to Mt. Field National Park, which offers a diversity of vegetation ranging from tall swamp gum forests and massive trees at the base of the mountain to alpine vegetation at higher elevations. We will take a leisurely rainforest walk to Russell Falls to view some of the world’s tallest Eucalyptus trees. We travel to Salmon Ponds for lunch. Salmon Ponds is a heritage trout hatchery in a traditional English garden setting where you can feed the trout and experience the history of trout fishing. The garden is a rare example of a 19th-century, English-style, public open space.

On our way to Hobart, we will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of, and tasting at, Redlands Estate, a distillery whose colorful history starts in 1819 with its creator, George Frederick Read, the outcast son of King George IV. Since then, the productive estate has grown hops and apples and operated a dairy and wool farm. The evening and dinner are at leisure.  B, L

Day 15—Monday, November 7, 2016—Mt. Wellington
This morning, enjoy a scenic drive to the alpine wilderness of Mount Wellington, also known as kunanyi. Warm clothing is a must if you summit the Pinnacle observation deck (weather permitting) to enjoy the stunning views over Hobart. Then we travel to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden. This garden features historic plant collections, significant trees, important conservation collections of Tasmanian plants, and the world’s only sub-Antarctic plant house. You can enjoy lunch on your own at the Garden Café. Following lunch, we will visit Weston Farm, located in a unique micro-climate. This family farm specializes in peonies, olive oil, and produce supplied to their café in Hobart. Our last stop will be to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary. Here you will have the opportunity to come closer than ever to the wildlife of Tasmania. As soon as you walk through the old wooden gate, you’ll realize you’ve come to a place where animals are deeply cared for and you become part of an inspiring conservation story. Tonight, we will gather for a farewell dinner to share tales and celebrate the richness of your stay in Melbourne and Tasmania.  B, D

Day 16—Tuesday, November 8, 2016—Travel Home
After breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport for your return flight home. Because you’ll cross the International Date Line once again, you’ll arrive home later the same day.  B

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.

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