



Sunstate Speciality Tour “Canberra's Floriade”





Floriade first began when Peter Sutton and his colleague, landscape designer Chris De Bruine, developed a proposal for a grand floral display to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary and Canberra's 75th birthday.

The inaugural Floriade blossomed in 1988 with a stunning floral display of exotic bulbs and annuals, which grow beautifully in Canberra's climate. The community embraced the event, making it such a success that it became an annual celebration of spring in Australia. Since its beginnings, Floriade has been held alongside iconic Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra's Commonwealth Park, the heart of the nation's capital.

Each year, more than one million blooms combine to create a stunning backdrop to a month-long festival filled with music, cultural celebrations, horticultural workshops, artistic displays, entertainment and recreational activities. Floriade runs from mid-September to mid-October and attracts more than 480,000 attendees each year.

Itinerary

DAY 1 – DEPART BRISBANE - PORT MACQUARIE

Boarding our touring coach from Brisbane, we travel south down the coast to Crown Hotel, Grafton for lunch. Our afternoon takes us through Coffs Harbour to Port Macquarie where we stay the evening.

Hotel: HW Boutique, Port Macquarie

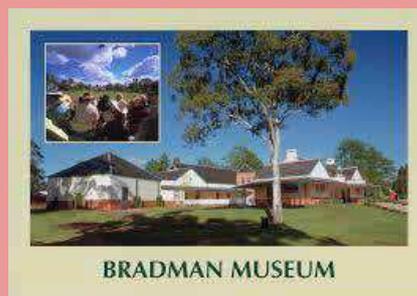
Included Meals: Lunch and Dinner

DAY 2 – PORT MACQUARIE - BOWRAL

This morning we leave Port Macquarie, take a break along the way, then continue on arriving at Mooney Mooney for lunch. Travelling through Sydney's western suburbs we head up in to the Southern Highlands.

Hotel: Peppers Craigieburn

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



DAY 3 – BOWRAL SIGHTSEEING

Today we visit Corbett Gardens displaying a huge array of tulips, as well as other bright and vibrant springtime bulbs, followed by a guided tour of the Bradman Museum. Enjoy a casual lunch before our afternoon takes us to Fitzroy Falls, situated at the head of the escarpment leading down to the tranquil Kangaroo Valley.

Hotel: Peppers Craigieburn

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 4 – BOWRAL - CANBERRA

Leaving Bowral we make our way via Goulburn's Big Merino, before arriving at Tulip Top Gardens offering 10 acres of magnificent tulips and other spring flowers creating a spectacular display. Hundreds of blossom trees nestle between the flowers and provide a magic pathway to the cascading waterfall and watercourse. Our afternoon takes us to Cockington Green Gardens showcasing a delightful and fascinating display of meticulously crafted miniature buildings set within beautifully landscaped gardens. Continuing south, this afternoon we arrive at Canberra.

Hotel: Mercure Canberra

Included Meals: Breakfast,
Lunch and Dinner



DAY 5 – CANBERRA TOURING

We start our day at Commonwealth Park to visit Canberra's icon event Floriade. Showcasing one million flowers in bloom throughout springtime, it is the biggest spring time festival in Australia. Next we take a tour drive through the National Arboretum to explore the forests of endangered and symbolic trees from Australia and around the world. Lunch is a picnic that can be enjoyed in one of the many areas of the Arboretum. We re-group to visit the War Memorial, touring through the Hall of Memory, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Pool of Reflection and the Roll of Honour, finishing with a moving closing ceremony.

Hotel: Mercure Canberra

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6 – CANBERRA TOURING

This morning we take a tour of Old Parliament House, experience an atmosphere steeped in history, revisit dramatic events and enjoy the 1920s architecture and fine design. We then board Southern Cross Cruises to cruise on Lake Burley Griffin with full commentary while cruising. This afternoon we take a drive up to Mt Ainslie lookout offering magnificent views over Canberra.

Hotel: Mercure Canberra

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



DAY 7 – CANBERRA - BLUE MOUNTAINS

Departing Canberra we journey north passing through Yass to Cowra, where we break for lunch at the Cowra Japanese Gardens. After lunch you can enjoy a self-guided tour that will introduce you to the symbolic nature of the gardens. The Cowra Japanese Garden covers 5 hectares – the largest in the southern hemisphere. It was built because of Cowra’s special significance to the Japanese. Departing Cowra we make our way to Bathurst and take an exhilarating lap of Mount Panorama. We continue our scenic drive to the Blue Mountains where we bed down for the night.

Hotel: Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 8 – BLUE MOUNTAINS - HUNTER VALLEY

This morning, before we farewell the Blue Mountains, we enjoy a visit to Everglades Historic House and Garden, one of Australia’s foremost heritage gardens. This beautiful treasure from the 1930’s encompasses 12.5 acres of European-style gardens mixed with native Australian bush. The gardens sit over the Jamison Valley giving amazing views of the valley below. Leaving the Blue Mountains behind, we make our way to the Hunter Valley arriving at the magnificent Hunter Valley Gardens for a guided train tour and commentary through parts of the 25 hectare of International Garden. Note: Steep stairs, hills and uneven ground at Everglades

Hotel: Mercure, Hunter Valley

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



DAY 9 – HUNTER VALLEY – ARMIDALE

Leaving the resort after checkout, allowing some free time, we travel through the Hunter wine growing region as we make our way to Scone, breaking for lunch before travelling to Tamworth, visiting the Big Golden Guitar. Our afternoon takes us on to Armidale.

Hotel: Quality Hotel Powerhouse, Armidale

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 10 – ARMIDALE - BRISBANE

Discover the Celtic heritage of Glen Innes visiting the Standing Stones, a famous national monument to Australia’s Celtic pioneers, and recognised by the Celtic Council of Australia as the national gathering point for Celtic descendants and clans. Next we cross the border back into Queensland and make our way past the grape growing districts of Ballandean, breaking for lunch at the Happy Valley Resort’s - Granite Belt Brewery Restaurant. Return to Roma St, Brisbane, approximately 4.30pm.

Included Meals: Breakfast and Lunch



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