

PRE-CONFERENCE Tour

Tuesday 14th April - CATLINS

8:30 Leave the Ascot (54 min drive)

9.30 Niagara Falls Cafe, short walk to falls and return to Café for morning tea. (Niagara Falls Café/Restaurant has been part of the landscape since 1893 when a single classroom was erected, the large wooden building was established in 1895.

10.15 Depart for Waikawa Museum(5 min drive), The Museum tells the historical story of the area from the early Whalers, goldmining, fishing, sawmilling, stone quarrying to present day farming. (5 min drive)

11.00 Depart for Cathedral Caves (30 min drive), Cathedral Caves and packed lunch, we will spend around 2 hours here exploring beach, coastline and caves Available times for Cathedral Caves between 11:43 –1:43. Cathedral Caves are a highlight. Located in cliffs at the northern end of pristine Waipati Beach, the two sea-formed passages together measure just on 200 meters - and their impressive height, up to 30 meters.

1.00pm Depart for McClean Falls which (10 min drive) 40 min walk return The 22 m falls are on the Tautuku River in Catlins Conservation Park and are often described as the most spectacular in the region. The walk to the falls, though uphill, is not too steep and very pleasant. It passes through a variety of forest and shrub types: huge tree fuchsia, stands of olearia and podocarp forest.

(we may want to just see how tired people are and whether they want to do another walk and also to date this walk has been closed due to track damage so it may also depend on whether it has been reopened)

2.00pm Depart for Curio Bay and visit the Petrified Forest (40 min drive) Home to a colony of rare Yellow-Eyed Penguins (Hoiho) and a resident pod of rare Hector's Dolphin (Upokohue).180 million year old Jurassic fossil forest The erosion of the sea has exposed tree stumps, logs and other fascinating fossils.

4.00pm Head back to the Ascot hotel (40 min drive)

6.30pm Dinner & Drinks

WED 15TH APRIL - GORE/TAPANUI

Leave Ascot 9:30 (35 min drive)

Southern Roses tour, Southern Roses grow almost 300 different varieties and provide a comprehensive range of bare root and potted roses on the 1ha site. Morning tea amongst the roses.

11:15 Depart for Blue Mountain Nursery Blue Mountain Nursery tour and lunch (52 min drive)

Blue Mountain Nurseries are a wholesale and retail nursery With a passion for plants since 1932, the nursery produces over 7,000 varieties of plants and specializes in the propagation and growing on of hardy trees and shrubs, rhododendrons, azaleas, conifers, climbers, natives & perennials

2.00pm Depart for Hokonui Pioneer Village & Moonshine Museum (35 min drive)

Hokonui Pioneer Village was established in 1977 and was founded by the people of Gore & Eastern Southland to protect the history of the local area.

Hokonui Moonshine Museum, Gore's colourful history of illicit whiskey making & consumption is celebrated in this unique museum.

4.00pm Depart & return to Ascott hotel (50 min drive)

6.30pm Dinner & Drinks

Thursday 16th April

Maple Glen/Invercargill

Leaving Ascot 9:00 (40 min drive)

Maple Glen Gardens tour & morning tea

Maple Glen Gardens, a private garden, nursery, aviary, woodland and wetland set in the rolling green countryside of Southland and is home to a large population of native and exotic birds including hand reared parrots and waterfowl.

12.00 Depart for Transport World & lunch (40 min drive)

Transport World is a wheeled collection that has taken nearly 50 years to amass. Starting out as one man's passion and further developed by his family, it now includes two world class automotive museums which house hundreds of classic cars, vintage trucks and motorcycles.

2.40pm Walk through Queens Park

The pride of Invercargill is Queens Park, a magnificent public park in the heart of the city. The park sprawls across 80 hectares of beautifully kept gardens, wildlife habitats, and sports areas.

3.40 pm Return to Ascot in time for conference registration.