

OCTOBER 8 THROUGH 18 | 2018

FLORA & FAUNA of SOUTH AFRICA
Gardens • Vineyards • Wildlife



Visiting Gardens
Committee



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OCTOBER 8, 2018 | ARRIVE IN JOHANNESBURG

Otherwise known as the City of Gold, Johannesburg is one of the youngest major cities in the world. It is a mélange of African cultures and possibly the most cosmopolitan city on the continent – the largest city in South Africa, and the economic powerhouse of Africa.



Upon your arrival at the OR Tambo International Airport you will be met at the door of the aircraft and assisted with clearing Customs, collecting your luggage, and meeting up with your driver for the transfer to the Saxon Hotel.

You will have the remainder of the day to relax at The Saxon, an exclusive boutique hotel and spa situated on six acres of gardens on a tree-lined avenue in the peaceful suburb of Sandhurst. That evening join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

OCTOBER 9 | JOHANNESBURG

After breakfast at the resort, depart at noon for a private visit to the Magaliesberg Rock Garden. Artists Geoffrey and Wendy Armstrong spend their summers working on their beautiful garden, a landscape that's also the ultimate African garden. Walk into a work of art, a vast canvas, a sculpture, made up of many smaller compositions; frame upon frame unfolds as you go. These gardeners have used a powerful mix of rock, concrete, and wood as well as plants to create their dream-like masterpiece. Apart from the originally donated exotics, the plants are almost 100% indigenous.





Later that afternoon we visit River Lodge Farm, home to South Africa's best-known gardener, Keith Kirsten. At the foot of the Magaliesberg mountains in a secluded riverside garden, this former sheep farm has been transformed by Keith into a tranquil refuge. Enjoy a leisurely walk around the garden with Keith as our guide, as he points out various plants of interest and informs us about the history of South African gardens in general.

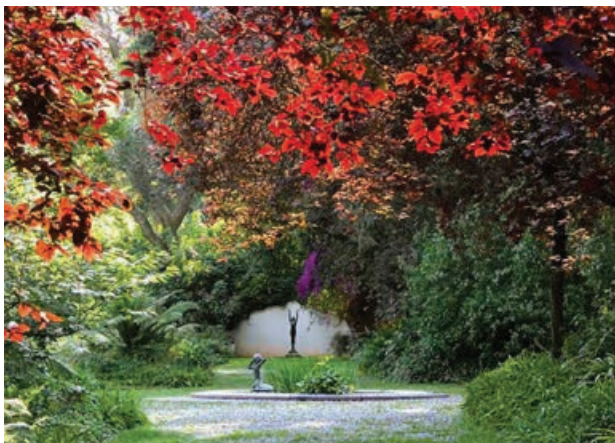
Due to the travel distance between the hotel and these gardens there will not be enough time to return to the hotel. Once you depart Saxon, you will have lunch, visit the Rock Garden and then go straight to Keith's for the afternoon program followed by dinner.

Drinks will be served by the river with a performance by the Imilonji KaNtu Choral Society. Dinner tonight will be at the Barn at River Lodge Farm, where you will have the chance to sample some traditional South African specialties and farm fresh produce.

OCTOBER 10 | JOHANNESBURG / CAPE TOWN

After breakfast at the resort, depart for Brenthurst Gardens, part of the residence of the Oppenheimer family, a famous mining dynasty. Sprawling over sixteen hectares, and with indigenous plants and trees making up 70 percent of the greenery, the gardens comprise a variety of woodland, formal, informal and wild areas, which have been allowed to flourish for more than a century and are listed among the great gardens of the world. Their history dating back to the turn of the 20th century, these are the only gardens in Johannesburg from that era that have survived with the setting intact. The gardens are still the responsibility of the Oppenheimer family and are tended by a team of 45 gardeners who use 100 percent organic methods. After our tour we will remain at Brenthurst Gardens for lunch.

Mid-afternoon we board our flight for Cape Town (approx. 2 hours by air).





Affectionately known as The Mother City, Cape Town is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Nestled against iconic Table Mountain and surrounded by beautiful beaches and the Atlantic Ocean, Cape Town offers visitors a host of outdoor adventure and leisure activities.

Upon arrival, transfer to The Cape Grace, set on a private quay between Cape Town's working harbor, a serene yacht marina, and the bustling Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. The luxurious rooms are incredibly spacious and offer guests a host of amenities.

Dinner at your leisure.

OCTOBER 11 | CAPE TOWN

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, then start our exploration of the city at Table Mountain, 3,563 feet above sea level at its highest point, and one of the oldest mountains in the world. We will ride the thrilling cable car to the mountain's top. The ride provides 360-degree views of Table Bay, Robben Island, Signal Hill and the City Bowl. At the top, you can explore two miles of trails and take in the unrivaled panoramic views.

After lunch at Cellars Hohenorts, we will drive to the beautiful Kirstenbosch Gardens, our afternoon attraction. Established in 1913 to conserve and display the extraordinarily rich and diverse flora and fauna of Southern Africa, in 2004 the Cape Floristic Region, including Kirstenbosch, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The gardens are home to over 7,000 types of plants, including many rare and threatened species, as well as a great variety of birdlife. Pathways and rolling lawns make for easy walking and exploring.



This evening's dinner is at Il Leone. Boasting a walk-in wine cellar, private dining room and bar, Il Leone offers a sophisticated atmosphere, best quality ingredients cooked to perfection, good wine, and friendly, informative staff.

OCTOBER 12 | CAPE TOWN

After breakfast at the hotel, we will explore Cape Point along the Atlantic coastline to the Cape of Good Hope. From the quaint fishing village of Hout Bay, we drive through the twists and turns of Chapman's Peak road. Enjoy the magnificent 180-degree views of the ocean and coastline below, as well as the breathtaking mountains. This narrow finger of land with beautiful valleys, bays, and beaches is surrounded by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. We will stop at Boulders Beach, a sheltered beach made up of inlets between granite boulders to watch the entertaining antics of a free-roaming colony of African penguins.



Lunch at Beau Constantia Chef's Warehouse will follow. Choose from the seasonal and produce-driven menu that changes regularly and enjoy one of the best views in Cape Town.

Our next stop is at Stellenberg Gardens. Follow the route from the deep well in the middle of the werf and through the White Garden to the spacious main lawns for a breathtaking view of the imposing front façade. Continue on to the Herb Garden, the Shady Walkway, the Medieval Vegetable Garden, the Paradise Garden, and the White Parterre. On the western side you will find the Pool Garden, the Walled Garden, the Vine Walk, the Garden of Reflection, the Lime Walk, the Wild Garden, the Stream Garden, and the Nursery.



This evening we dine at Harbour House V&A Waterfront overlooking bustling Victoria Basin, whose elegant setting offers international cuisine with Mediterranean elements.

OCTOBER 13 | WINELANDS

Following breakfast at the hotel, we travel by motorcoach to The Cape Winelands, an exquisite area of dramatic mountains and fertile valleys dotted with vineyards, orchards, and classic Cape Dutch homesteads. Our home for the next three days will be secluded and luxurious Leeu House & Le Quartier Francais in the vibrant village of Franschhoek.

Our first visit in the Winelands is at eight-acre Babylonstoren Gardens, where we will be treated to a private tour. Every one of more than 300 varieties of plants in the garden is edible and is grown as organically as possible; fruit and vegetables are harvested year-round for use in the on-site restaurant, Babel. The garden is divided into fifteen clusters including areas designated to vegetables, berries, bees, indigenous plants, ducks, and chickens – and includes a prickly pear maze. The walled insect hotel is home to bees and other insects of all shapes and sizes and offers all sorts of suites, each with a bed of bark, straw, or bamboo.



Babylonstoren's Healing Garden displays nature's medicine chest – an ongoing discovery of old and new herbs tried and tested over centuries by cultures around the world. Originally collected from the wild, the plants here include a range of beautiful, powerful, aromatic, rare, and even dangerous species. The layout of the garden follows the form of the human body with herbs to heal head, heart, lungs, digestive system, organs, skin, bones, and feet. The trees planted in this garden are some of the 'giants' in African healing traditions. After our tour, we will remain on the grounds for lunch at Babel.

After lunch at Babylonstoren, we will return to the hotel about 2:30pm to explore the town of Franschhoek before dinner at 7:30pm

Tonight's dinner will feature the small plates menu of Marigold, inspired by the aromatic and spicy cuisine of northern India.



OCTOBER 14 | WINELANDS

Enjoy breakfast at your lodging before departing for iMibala, a school providing primary education for underprivileged children in the Helderberg area through the ‘Sponsor a Child’ program. Our tour is led by the head of the school, who will provide insight into the lives of these young students.

Next we visit a private garden which has never been opened to the public. This fifteen-acre garden surrounds a historic Cape Dutch house built in 1699. It is uniquely Cape with vines, fruit trees, and a kitchen garden much as would have been planted by the original farmers.



We will lunch at Camphors at Vergelegen, which takes its name from the giant camphor trees, planted in 1700, situated in front of the historic homestead. The restaurant overlooks expansive lawns and beautiful trees, creating an ambiance never to be forgotten. The menu reflects a modern take on classic international and local dishes designed to complement Vergelegen’s award-winning wines. After lunch, we tour the Vergelegen gardens and grounds in the historic core of the Estate. A layered historicism approach, reflecting the best from the historic periods of the past 300 years, was adopted in the gardens and a theme of generous and intimate garden areas developed, contrasting the simple with the bold and the formal with the informal. We will have the opportunity to meander through seventeen unique gardens.

Then onward to the private gardens of Somerset West. A 50-acre country estate lying in a fertile valley under the Hottentots Holland Mountains, Somerset West’s rich heritage dates to the earliest days of European settlement on the cape. The gardens have retained the charm of their late 19th-century origins. Many of the stately trees date to the nineteenth century, notably the avenue of oaks whose topmost boughs form a vast canopy over the driveway to the house.

East meets West at Dutch East Restaurant in Franschhoek, where will dine this evening. The menu is influenced first and foremost by South Africa but also encompasses all things Eastern.

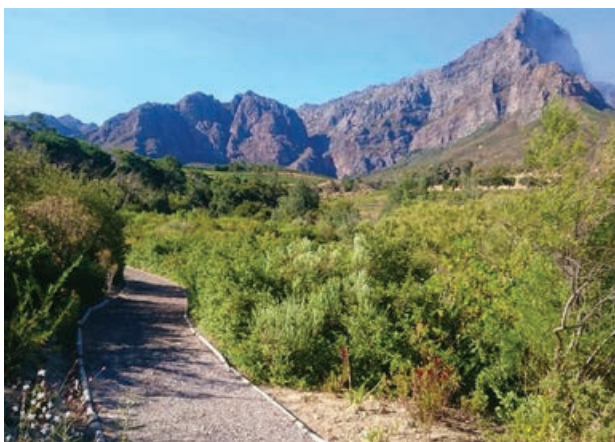
OCTOBER 15 | WINELANDS / LEEU HOUSE & LE QUARTIER FRANCAIS

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at your hotel, then depart for the Dylan Lewis Sculpture Garden – a place of expansive vistas and the sounds of nature, with tranquil groves, hidden paths, and lush indigenous vegetation. The project began serendipitously in 2009 when Lewis hired an excavator on a whim and began shaping the contours of what would become the seven-hectare sculpture garden. Today he continues to explore themes integral to his work in this serene landscape on the slopes of the Stellenbosch Mountain looking out over vineyards towards the ocean. Meander through the gardens with Dr. Ian McCullum, who will read his poetry complementing each sculpture in the garden. After our tour, we will remain at Dylan Lewis for lunch.



No trip to this part of the world is complete without a visit to a working winery and a wine tasting. We will drive to Delaire Graff Estate, where you will partake in a tasting of some of South Africa's finest wines with welcoming sommeliers and wine tutors. There's plenty to taste – from illustrious reds and whites to sparkling wine and delightful rosé, crafted from vine to bottle by the expert hands of winemaker Morné Vrey. Discover the Wine Lounge to enjoy these award-winning wines in their most opulent setting.

Our next winery, L'Ormarins Fynbos Gardens, encompasses both low-lying land and moderate-to-steep slopes. The vineyards are mainly planted on the slopes of the Groot Drakenstein mountains where granite soils produce robust, expressive wines.



La Rive Garden, where we conclude our day of touring, is a perfect marriage of colonial English and traditional Afrikaans / Dutch heritage. The sounds of water from various features around the grounds will transport you to a tranquil hideaway just off Franschhoek's Main Road. Venture into an enchanted, lush garden that could very well be the one from Frances Hodgson Burnett's 'The Secret Garden.' With numerous paths leading to various alcoves, benches and lawns, you'll find many places to explore in this magnificent garden paradise. We end our visit to La Rive with cocktails and canapés.

OCTOBER 16 | GREATER KRUGER

An early breakfast at your hotel will be followed by a drive to the Cape Town International Airport for our flight to Nelspruit and from there to Singita Lebombo Lodge in Kruger National Park (2 hrs 35 minutes flight to Nelspruit, 45 minute chartered flight from Nelspruit to Satara airstrip, 45 minute ride to Singita Lebombo Lodge).

World-renowned Kruger National Park offers a wildlife experience that ranks with the very best in Africa. Established in 1898 to protect the wildlife of the South African Lowveld, this national park is nearly 7,722 square miles and is unrivaled in its diverse wildlife and vegetation.

One of the major perks of a game-rich private concession such as Singita Lebombo is that you'll experience less traffic to game viewing sites, as well as the opportunity to track animals off-road. Straddling four separate eco-systems, there are elephant, lion, cheetah, leopard, hippos, endangered black rhino, wild dogs, hornbills, fish eagles, giraffes, warthog, and antelope aplenty. Contrasting with this primal backdrop is the sheer luxury of Singita Lebombo's lodge and glass-enclosed villas overlooking the N'wanetsi River.



Two daily game drives are part of the fully inclusive tariff, and your skilled ranger and tracker do their best to find animals for you to admire. Expect a wakeup call around 5:30am and gather for tea or coffee and rusks before heading out at first light. Stop halfway through the morning game drive for hot drinks and snacks, and return around 9am for breakfast. During the day you can relax at the pool, take a guided bush walk, or enjoy a spa treatment at the lodge. Explore the lovely curio shop and gallery, try your hand at archery, go mountain biking, work out at the gym, or visit a nearby community. Lunch is served midday and high tea in the late afternoon. As darkness descends it's time to return to the safety of the Landrover and let the tracker scan the landscape for nocturnal animals. Return to the lodge at around 7pm, where there is time to freshen up before dinner.



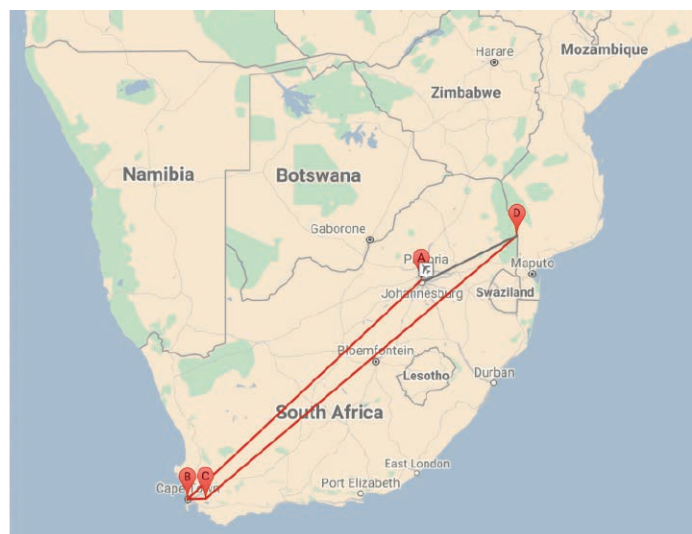
OCTOBER 17 | GREATER KRUGER

SINGITA LEBOMBO BUSH DINNER AND WINE TASTING: From the wooden deck at Singita Lebombo, you will notice the unusual rock formations on the horizon. This dramatic rhyolite and granophyre ridge is a favorite spot for bush dinners, providing an unforgettable dining experience under the stars. The evening game drive will start as usual in the late afternoon, as your field guide and tracker take you on a winding journey through the 13,350-hectare concession while the sun begins to set. You are likely to spot any number of wildlife – perhaps a leopard sprawled on a leadwood branch, a herd of elephants bathing in the river or even one of the famously large prides of lion, on the hunt for their meal. After your sunset cocktail stop in the bush and a short night drive, you will make your way to this area for a sumptuous meal, served in the bush.

OCTOBER 18 | DEPARTURE DAY

Today we leave Singita Lebombo Lodge to begin our journey to Johannesburg via a charter flight at 12:30pm.

Upon arrival at the Federal Air Lounge at the OR Tambo International Airport at 3pm, you will be met by an airport representative, transferred to the international departures terminal, and assisted with connecting to your international departure flight. Your international flight should be scheduled no earlier than 6pm.



IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

Rate: \$15,915 per person, double occupancy
Single Supplement is an additional \$8000

Note concerning the rate: Although the Rate is expressed in Dollars, the expenses of our tour operator, Roar Africa, are in South African Rand (ZAR). Therefore, in the event of a significant fluctuation (defined as a fluctuation of greater than 5%) in the exchange rate at the time of the Final Payment, the amount of the Final Payment will be adjusted upwards or downwards as appropriate.

Included in the tour price: 8 nights accommodations at three five-star hotels; 2 nights accommodation in the Kruger National Park at Lebombo Lodge with exclusive use of the Lebombo Lodge inclusive of all meals and beverages including wines, spirits (but excluding French champagne), twice daily open Land Rover safaris, walking safaris, mountain biking safaris (accompanied by experienced guides and trackers), archery, return road transfers between Satara airstrip and the lodges, laundry service. The trip includes all breakfasts, 10 lunches and 8 dinners; 1 drinks receptions; 1 tea ; wine tastings; internal flights; seamless private ground transportation to and from airports; group transportation by private motorcoach; guides; entrances to gardens and museums; portage at the hotels; gratuities in restaurants and for guides and bus drivers; all tips for guides and drivers on safari, gifts to the garden hosts; and the services of Roar Africa, including gratuities.

Not included in the tour price: International airfares into and out of Africa; excess baggage charges; personal items at the hotels (such as beverages, laundry, room service, housekeeping gratuities, spa treatments and communication fees); one meal indicated as independent and alcoholic beverages that are not included with group meals; and emergency medical insurance and trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

GCA Charitable Contribution: In addition to the tour fee, it is suggested that each participant make a tax-deductible contribution to The Garden Club of America in the amount of **\$300 per person**. This contribution should not be made until participants are billed for the Final Payment. These trip gifts are an important source of revenue for GCA.

Travel Plans: We need to know your arrival and departure times as soon as you have your reservations. However, please do not make your travel reservations until you have been confirmed as a tour participant. Once made, please send a copy of these arrangements to Lindsay Garrett: lindsaygarr@aol.com Lindsay will send your flight information to Roar Africa.

Deposit: A Deposit of \$6200 per person must be accompanied by signed Application and Terms and Conditions forms for each participant. Please make all checks payable to **The Garden Club of America** and include "Visiting Gardens South Africa 2018" on the memo line.

Final Payment: \$9715 per person for a shared room (plus an additional \$8000 for a single supplement) is due **March 1, 2018**. A reminder will be sent out on **February 15, 2018**.

Reconciliation (as described in above "Note concerning the Rate"): Visiting Gardens will calculate the Reconciliation, reflecting increases or decreases in the exchange rate, and send out a bill or refund, as appropriate, on or before February 15. If there is a Reconciliation bill, it will be due with final payment on March 1, 2018.

Cancellation Policy: Although there is no guarantee, your full payment, minus the \$500 nonrefundable portion of the Deposit, will be refunded if GCA Visiting Gardens can easily fill your cancelled space before September 8, 2018. The effective date of cancellation will be upon receipt of your written notification by email to Betty Snellings: bettysnellings@gmail.com.

Emergency Medical Insurance: For your personal safety, GCA VG requires that each participant purchase emergency medical insurance. You may find that in certain circumstances you can purchase this insurance only as part of the travel insurance recommended below and that some insurance plans require you to enroll within a limited time (usually 10-21 days) after your initial deposit to exclude pre-existing medical conditions. You should submit an application for this insurance as soon as you have been confirmed as a trip participant. The official date of your acceptance on this trip will be October 10, 2017 when your deposit check will be deposited into the VG bank account.

Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance: GCA VG also strongly recommends that each participant purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance coverage. This insurance provides reimbursement of non-refundable, unused, prepaid travel arrangements and additional transportation costs if you are forced to cancel or interrupt your trip due to unforeseen injury, sickness or death to yourself, a traveling companion, immediate family member or business partner. Roar Africa is willing to assist you with both trip cancellation and medical insurance.

Please mail the Deposit and Final Payment checks as follows:

- The Deposit and Final Payment checks should be made payable to The Garden Club of America (“Visiting Gardens South Africa 2018” in the memo line)
- A suggested charitable donation of \$300 per participant, made payable by separate check to The Garden Club of America and send with your Final Payment
- Mail all checks to: Betty Snellings, Visiting Gardens Chairman, 96 Round Lake Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL ANY CHECKS DIRECTLY TO GCA

Depending on available space, tour participants are accepted by USPS on a first come, first served basis by postmark date on the Deposit’s mailing envelope.

Signed Application and Terms and Conditions forms MUST accompany the Deposit.

No faxes, email or phone reservations are accepted.

The trip will be limited to no more than 30 GCA members and their spouses or immediate family members who share accommodations with the GCA member.

TOUR CONTACTS:

Betty Snellings, Visiting Gardens Chairman and Registrar

96 Round Lake Road

Ridgefield, CT 06877

betty Snellings@gmail.com

Lindsay Garrett, Trip Coordinator

lindsgarr@aol.com

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**(Please keep a copy for your records)
Each applicant must fill out and sign**

The undersigned clearly understands that The Garden Club of America (GCA) as a sponsor of the tour is in no way responsible, and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever, for this tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the GCA, its members, or companies and persons with which the GCA may contract. The undersigned has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the accompanying Itinerary, the Important Tour Information, and the registration materials for the tour and is aware that the trip and its activities could involve the risk of personal injury and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation on the tour, the undersigned voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury and property damage or loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assignees do hereby release and hold harmless the GCA from any and all claims, including claims of illness, bodily injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to the tour. The undersigned has read carefully this agreement and will abide by the conditions set by GCA Visiting Gardens as described in the accompanying Important Tour Information and registration materials and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. GCA has contracted with Roar Africa to provide services in connection with this tour, and the provisions of that contract, a copy of which is available upon request, are incorporated herein and made a part of these Terms and Conditions.

The GCA, its members, and its cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide transportation, and hotel, guide and other travel related services, but the GCA and Roar Africa do not assume responsibility, directly or indirectly, for any loss, damage, accident, expense, delay or injury to property or person in connection with such services. The undersigned agrees not to hold the GCA, its members, employees, agents or representatives liable for any loss or injury, expense, or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act or omission of any person or firm which is to or does not provide goods or services in connection with the tour or any available option. The GCA and its cooperating agents shall not be liable for circumstances, delays and/or expenses arising as a result of: Acts of God; weather; detention; annoyance; quarantine; strikes; theft; pilferage; war; force majeure; military, political or terrorist actions; civil disturbances; government restrictions or regulations; failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled; and/or discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control.

The undersigned agrees not to sue the GCA, its members, or its participating agents. On payment of the deposit, the undersigned agrees to be bound by the provisions contained in the Important Tour Information and the Terms and Conditions as herein stated. The GCA reserves the right to decline or accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time before departure or during the tour.

The undersigned certifies that he/she has not been treated for nor is aware of, any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/her or other members of the tour.

The undersigned has read and agrees to the Important Tour Information and these Terms and Conditions for the program, especially noting the policy on cancellation, and has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of the GCA as a basis for executing this release.

The Agreement shall be construed in accordance with, and this Agreement and all matters arising out of or relating in any way whatsoever to this Agreement (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) shall be governed by, the laws of the State of New York.

Name (please print)

Legal Signature

Date

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APPLICATION FORM

Please complete and sign one application for each traveler.

Name _____

Name for nametag _____

Street _____

City _____ State & zip code _____

Birthdate _____ Email _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

GCA Club _____ Zone _____

I will share accommodations with _____

Medical information

Allergies _____

Food restrictions _____

Medications _____

Emergency contact (name, relationship, address, home and cell phones) _____

You should be able to walk approximately 10,000 steps per day.

I attest that I am in good physical condition and should have no problem with walking long distances on uneven surfaces, including cobblestones, and the other physical requirements of this trip.

Signature _____ Date _____

Sign and mail this Application Form, the Terms and Conditions Form, and your deposit (check written to "The Garden Club of America") to:

Betty Snellings, Visiting Gardens Chairman and Trip Registrar
96 Round Lake Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Please make copies of these completed forms for your personal records.