



Heritage Expeditions

Antarctica • Western and South Pacific  
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

EXPEDITION DOSSIER  
15<sup>TH</sup> NOV – 3<sup>RD</sup> DEC 2015



# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF  
NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA  
PLUS THE CHATHAM ISLANDS

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# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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*Listen to the names: Snares, Bounty, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell, Macquarie and Chatham Islands. They are music to the ears of 'Birders'. Apart from the Chathams, these islands are probably more isolated now than they were when they were discovered in the late 1700s and early 1800s and were regularly visited by sealers, whalers and government steamers searching for castaway sailors. It is relatively simple to get to the Chatham Islands but opportunities to visit the others are rare. This expedition, one of a number operated each year by Heritage Expeditions, is the only one to include all of these islands.*

The islands occupy the tempestuous latitudes of the Roaring Forties and the Furious Fifties but they are also known as the Albatross Latitudes and with good reason. Ten of the world's albatross species breed in the region; five of them nowhere else but here! In fact this zone where the air is never still, hosts the most diverse collection of seabirds in the world. More than 40 species breed down here – that is at least 11 percent of the entire world's seabird population.

With the exception of the Chathams, the islands are all designated UNESCO World Heritage sites and are afforded the highest conservation status and protection by the Australian and New Zealand governments, so passage to their shores is not granted lightly. There are also islands that we visit within the Chatham Archipelago with similar status and protection.

This expedition has huge appeal to pelagic enthusiasts, penguin fanatics and those interested in island endemics. You don't have to be a keen birder though to enjoy this voyage. People interested in islands and island ecology, botany, geology and an increasing number of photographers have enjoyed this trip immensely, as have those interested in the history of southern ocean discovery and exploration.

This is one of our 'signature expeditions' which has operated annually for over 20 years, so you will benefit from the knowledge and expertise gained over that time.



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# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Passengers should make their way to the Kelvin Hotel in the central city, where you will stay overnight complimentary. This evening there will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner; an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers on your voyage and some of our expedition team.

### Day 2: Port of Bluff

Take breakfast at your leisure in the hotel restaurant before transferring to the port to embark the *Spirit of Enderby*. You will have the opportunity to settle into your cabin and familiarise yourself with the ship; we will also take the opportunity to conduct a number of safety briefings. You are invited to join the expedition team and captain on the bridge as we set our course to The Snares and our adventure begins.



### Day 3: The Snares – North East Island

The closest Subantarctic Islands to New Zealand, they were appropriately called The Snares as they were once considered a hazard for sailing ships. Comprising of two main islands and a group of five islands called the Western Chain; they are uninhabited and enjoy the highest protection as Nature Reserves. It is claimed by some that these islands are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles together.

We plan to arrive early in the morning and as landings are not permitted we will Zodiac cruise along the sheltered eastern side of the main island if the weather and sea conditions are suitable. In the sheltered bays, we should see the endemic Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbirds. Cape Pigeons, Antarctic Terns, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls are also present in good numbers. There are hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters nesting on The Snares; the actual number is much debated. The Buller's Albatross breed here from early January onwards.

### Day 4: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

The Auckland Islands group was formed by two volcanoes which erupted some 10-25 million years ago. They have subsequently been eroded and dissected by glaciation creating the archipelago as we know it today.

Enderby Island is one of the most beautiful islands in this group and is named for the same distinguished shipping family as our own vessel. This northern most island in the archipelago is an outstanding wildlife and birding location and is relatively easy to land on and walk around. The island was cleared of all introduced animals (pests) in 1994 and both birds and the vegetation,



especially the herbaceous plants, are recovering both in numbers and diversity.

Our plan is to land at Sandy Bay, one of three breeding areas in the Auckland Islands for the Hooker's or New Zealand Sea Lion, a rare member of the seal family. Beachmaster bulls gather on the beach defending their harems from younger (ambitious) males, to mate with the cows shortly after they have given birth of a single pup. Hookers or New Zealand Sea Lion numbers are in a slow decline, for reasons which are not obvious but most probably connected with a nearby squid fishery.

During our day ashore there will be several options, some longer walks, some shorter walks and time to spend just sitting and enjoying the wildlife. The walking is relatively easy, a board walk traverses the island to the dramatic western cliffs from there we follow the coast on the circumnavigation of the island.

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# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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Birds that we are likely to encounter include the following species: Southern Royal Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Auckland Island Shag, Auckland Island Flightless Teal, Auckland Island Banded Dotterel, Auckland Island Tomtit, Bellbird, Pipit, Red-crowned Parakeet, Yellow-eyed Penguin and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. There is also a very good chance of seeing the Subantarctic Snipe. Other more common species we will see include the Goldfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, European Starling, Red-billed Gull and Redpoll. On Derry Castle Reef we will look for migratory waders which could include Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and possibly vagrants.

## Day 5: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

In the south of the archipelago there is a very large sheltered harbour it is rich in human history including shipwrecks, treasure hunters, coastwatchers and of course scientific parties. We plan to arrive early morning from our anchorage at Enderby Island. We enter the harbour through the eastern entrance which is guarded on both sides by dramatic cliffs and rugged tussock covered hills.

Our activities here today are totally weather dependent. We have a number of options. If the weather is OK there will be an opportunity for the more energetic expeditioners to climb to the South West Cape

and visit the Shy Mollymawk colony. Above the colony we occasionally see Gibson's Wandering Albatross breeding. This climb provides magnificent views in all directions, especially over the western entrance to Carnley Harbour, Adams Island and Western Harbour. For those not able to make the climb (it is reasonably difficult) there will be an opportunity to Zodiac cruise along the coast of Adams Island and Western Harbour, with landings in the later.

Other options include the Tagua Bay coastwatchers hut and lookout (the former is derelict) which was occupied during the Second World War. We could visit Epigwatt and the remains of the 'Grafton' which was wrecked here in 1864. All five men aboard survived and lived here for 18 months before sailing their modified dinghy to New Zealand to get help. Two of the survivors wrote books about their ordeal. Their first hand accounts tell us a lot about their time here. Alternatively we may visit the Erlagan clearing where a German Merchant ship cut firewood to fire its boilers after slipping its moorings in Dunedin on the eve of the Second World War. Another potential site is Camp Cove where we can see the remains of the castaway depots established and maintained by the New Zealand government between the 1860s and early 1900s. We depart this afternoon for Macquarie Island.

## Day 6: At Sea

As we make our way south through the Furious Fifties also known as the Albatross latitudes, the birding especially south of the Auckland Islands should be good. We will have a series of informal lectures on the biology and history of the Subantarctic Islands. We will also prepare you for our visit to Macquarie Island.

Species that we may see include the Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross,

Black-browed Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. There should be plenty of prions including Fairy, Fulmar and Antarctic, identifying them is not easy – but we should get some great views.

Other species to be on the lookout for include the Soft-plumaged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and Black-bellied Storm-Petrel.

## Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

The great Australian Antarctic Explorer Sir Douglas Mawson once called Macquarie Island "One of the wonder spots of the world." You are about to discover why as we spend two days exploring this amazing Island. It was one of the first of the Subantarctic Islands to obtain World Heritage Status and that was



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# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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largely due to its unique geology. It is one of the few places on earth where mid-ocean crustal rocks are exposed at the surface due to the collision of the Australian and Pacific Plates.

The island was discovered in 1810 and was soon ravaged by sealers who introduced various animals including rats, mice, cats and rabbits. The native bird population was virtually eliminated and plants destroyed. The Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service which administered the island recently embarked on a very ambitious eradication program which appears to have been successful. The island is now predator free and both the birds and plants are responding. It is amazing to witness the regeneration and the increase in the number of birds.

Macquarie Island is home to four species of penguin, Kings, Royals, Gentoo and Rockhopper. The Royal Penguin occurs nowhere else in the world. During our visit we will



land at two sites (subject of course to weather and sea conditions) and you will get a chance to see, observe and photograph all four species, although the Rockhopper is much harder to capture than the others.

Macquarie also has a large population of Southern Elephant Seals. Pups are born in October and weaned in November when the breeding adults return to sea. The weaners and sub adults lie around on the beaches. The weaners go to sea sometime in January, running the gauntlet of Orcas or Killer Whales who are waiting offshore.

We plan a landing at the Australian Antarctic Research Base at Buckles Bay where you will be able to meet with scientists and base staff. The original base was established in 1947 and the island has been 'manned' since then. It is one of the longest continuously occupied bases in the Subantarctic.

We depart for Campbell Island on the afternoon of the second day.

## Day 9: At Sea

Today is very similar to Day 6 except we are north bound and hopefully running with the prevailing weather which should make it a bit more comfortable. There will be lectures, opportunities for pelagic birding and/or simply relaxing.

## Days 10: Campbell Island – Perseverance Harbour

Today we explore Campbell Island, New Zealand's southernmost Subantarctic territory. Its history is as rich and varied as the other islands we have visited. Discovered in 1810 (by the same sealing captain who discovered Macquarie Island) it too was soon occupied by sealers who introduced rats and cats.

In 1895 the New Zealand government advertised the island



as a pastoral lease. The lease was taken up by an entrepreneurial New Zealand sheep farmer who stocked the island with sheep and cattle. The farming practices, which included burning the scrub, modified the island considerably. The farming lasted until 1934 when it was abandoned. Coastwatchers were stationed on the island during the war, at the end of the war the station was taken over by the New Zealand Metrological service and they maintained a manned weather/research station on the island until 1995.

In the early 1970s the island was fenced in half and stock was removed off the northern half. The impacts of the remaining animals were monitored and they were all eventually removed in 1990. The vegetation recovered quickly and the cats died out naturally. In a very ambitious (and never before attempted on such a large scale) eradication programme the New Zealand Department of Conservation successfully removed the rats. With the island declared predator free, the way was clear to reintroduce the endangered Campbell Island Flightless Teal which had been rediscovered on an offshore island in 1975. Snipe, which were formerly unknown from the island but were discovered on another offshore island, recolonised the islands themselves. The vegetation which the great English botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker described in 1841 as having a "Flora

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# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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display second to none outside the tropics" is flourishing and is nothing short of spectacular.

We will offer a number of options which will enable you to explore the island. There will be extended walks to Northwest Bay and possibly Mt Honey. There will also be an easier walk to the Col Lyall Saddle. All of these options will allow you the opportunity and time to enjoy the Southern Royal Albatross which nest here in large numbers. We also visit areas of the island which contain outstanding examples of the megaherbs for which the island is renown.

Other birds which we will search for include the teal and snipe, although the later is what we would refer to as a 'luck' bird. The endemic shag can be seen on the harbour, but unfortunately the nesting colonies of Rockhopper Penguins, Grey-head, Black-browed and Campbell Island Albatross are outside of the permitted areas and we will have to look for these species at sea.



Other birds we should see include Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Southern Skua, Red-billed Gull, Black-backed Gull, Antarctic Tern, Redpoll, Dunnock and New Zealand Pipit.

## Day 11: At Sea

At sea en route to the Antipodes, it is a day for pelagic birding. Species commonly seen in this area include Wandering Albatross species, Southern Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Campbell Island Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, the Sooty Shearwater and the Little Shearwater. This region of the Southern Ocean is one of the few places where the Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion occur together, providing a good opportunity for comparison. Other species to be on the lookout for include the Soft-plumaged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Black-bellied Storm-Petrel and the Common Diving-Petrel.

## Day 12: Antipodes Islands

The Antipodes group of islands is the most isolated and perhaps the least known of New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands. Sealers lived here in the decades immediately after their discovery in 1806. There are two historic and one recent shipwrecks recorded. Mice are the only introduced animal on the islands but efforts to eradicate them will hopefully see that their days are numbered. The islands are of volcanic origin, but are heavily eroded especially the western shoreline. The largest of the group is Antipodes Island. Landings are not permitted, so if the weather is suitable, we plan to cruise, along the coastline by Zodiac where we have a good chance of seeing



the Antipodes Parakeet, the largest of New Zealand's parakeets. This species has an entirely green head. We will also look for the Reischek's Parakeet, a strong subspecies of the Red-crowned Parakeet found in the Auckland Islands and on the Chatham Islands. We also see the Antipodes subspecies of the New Zealand Pipit. Good views of both Erect-crested and Rockhopper Penguins can be expected along the coast where they often breed in mixed colonies. Antarctic Terns and Kelp Gulls are often seen in good numbers.

## Day 13: Bounty Islands

We arrive at the incongruously named Bounty Islands, the remote northernmost of the five New Zealand Subantarctic groups; they were discovered by Captain Bligh just months before the infamous mutiny. Here inhospitable granite knobs, tips of the submerged Bounty Platform, are lashed by the Southern Ocean. They are home to thousands of Salvin's Albatross, Erect-crested Penguins, Fulmar Prions and the endemic Bounty Island Shag – the world's rarest. We plan to arrive in the early morning and if sea and weather conditions are suitable we will cruise by Zodiac around the granite outposts to take a closer look at the birds which breed there. New Zealand Fur Seals which were almost hunted to extinction in the Subantarctic Islands are present in large numbers.

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# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

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After the cruise we depart for the Chatham Islands. There are opportunities to see a good selection of birdlife as we sail. These should include Wandering Albatross, Northern Royal Albatross, Mottled Petrel, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Broad-billed Prion, White-chinned Petrel and Black-bellied Storm-Petrel as well as Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Other possible sightings include White-capped Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Cape Petrel, Antarctic Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Little Shearwater and Grey-backed Storm-Petrel. We will also start to keep a lookout for the Chatham Island Petrel.

## Day 14: At Sea and Pyramid Rock

As we continue toward the Chatham Archipelago, there are excellent opportunities for pelagic birding today. In particular, we will look out for the Chatham Island Petrel which has been seen on this leg of the voyage before. In the past we have observed the very rare Chatham Island Taiko in this

area. Endemic to the Chatham Islands, the Chatham Island Taiko – also known as the Magenta Petrel – is among New Zealand's most endangered species. It is one of the world's rarest seabirds with a population estimated to number less than 150.

Late this afternoon we will cruise around spectacular Pyramid Rock, a basalt outcrop south of Pitt Island. This is the only breeding place of the Chatham Island Albatross. Landings are not possible (nor practical – a fact you will appreciate when you see it) but great views of nesting birds can be had from the ship. There will also be hundreds of birds following the ship.

This evening we cruise towards our anchorage near Waitangi.

## Day 15: Chatham Islands – Waitangi

The Chatham Archipelago consists of one large island and numerous smaller islands and rocky islets. Only two of the islands are inhabited. They represent New Zealand's eastern most territory. The islands were originally settled by East Polynesians (either directly or via New Zealand as the evidence supports some contact there). In the 1400s the population became isolated and interestingly developed its own distinct culture. The islands were discovered by Europeans in the 1790s. Sealers and settlers followed and then in the 1830s Maoris from New Zealand invaded killing and enslaving many of the indigenous people. The impact of the original settlers, the European and later the Maori people on the native flora and fauna was disastrous. Introduced animals, hunting, fires and land clearing wiped out many species of endemic birds. Fortunately a number survived on the offshore islands in the archipelago.



With a new generation has come a new awareness and a willingness to be part of a concerted conservation effort. A number of private reserves have been established, a lot of replanting has taken place and predators are being controlled.

Today we will visit one of the original private reserves established by a local family on the south coast of the main island where there is a very good chance to see the endemic Chatham Island Pigeon and Warbler. The pigeon was close to extinction until recently, and is now in good numbers. We will travel by local bus to the reserve. The road takes us through developed farmland where we will undoubtedly see numerous introduced species and possibly the Weka. Near our landing in Waitangi there is a good chance of seeing the endemic Chatham Island Shag.

This afternoon we cruise back along the south coast, this is where the only known population of the Taiko breeds and also where they are attempting to establish a new population of the Chatham Island Petrel in a predator free area. We have seen both Taiko and Chatham Island Petrel in this area on previous expeditions.

## Day 16: South East Island and Mangere Islands

Early this morning we arrive at South East Island. This has to be one of the world's greatest nature reserves



# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

and landings are not permitted. However we should obtain good views of the very rare New Zealand Shore Plover and Chatham Island Oystercatcher from the Zodiacs as we cruise along the coast. We should also see the Pitt Island Shag which nests on the island.

This afternoon we will cruise past Mangere and Little Mangere Islands before departing for Dunedin, these islands are situated to the west of Pitt Island. Mangere is known as one of only two sites in the world where Black Robin are found. We will hear the story of how this endemic species was rescued from the brink of extinction in the 1970s when the total population consisted of just six birds.

## Days 17 to 18: At Sea

En route to Dunedin we will cross the Chatham Rise, a large, relatively shallowly submerged part of the Zealandia continent that stretches east from near the South Island of New Zealand. Nutrient-rich waters from the south mix with warm northern waters and there is an overlap between northern pelagic species and birds from southern latitudes, so we can expect great pelagic sightings.

Species we expect to encounter include Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, White-capped Albatross and Salvin's Albatross. Petrel species we should be able to identify are

the Northern Giant Petrel, Cape Petrel, Westland Black Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Great-winged Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, White-faced Storm-Petrel, the Diving-Petrel and Cook's Petrel.

Additional birdlife will include species of shearwater seabirds. These tubenose birds fly with stiff wings and use a 'shearing' flight technique to move across wave fronts with the minimum of active flight. Photographic opportunities can include Flesh-footed Shearwater, Buller's Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. Small petrels on the horizon and close by include Fairy Prion and Broad-billed Prion. There could well be other species, so it is a good time to be out on deck.

## Day 19: Dunedin

We arrive early morning in the historic Otago Inner Harbour. After a breakfast and completing formalities with Customs and Agriculture we disembark and you will board our complimentary transfer to a central city drop off or Dunedin airport.

To allow time for disembarkation procedures we do not recommend booking flights from Dunedin before midday.

**Note: During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Landings at the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand are by permit only as administered by the Government of New Zealand. No landings are permitted at The Snares, Antipodes or Bounties.**

## DATES

**Voyage #1561**  
**15th November to**  
**3rd December 2015**

## PRICES

**Heritage Suite \$15,750 pp**  
Has a large lounge area, a separate bedroom with double bed, a single bed in the lounge and private bathroom. Large forward and side facing windows.

**Mini Suite \$14,700 pp**  
Has a separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or a sofa in the lounge and private bathroom. Large side facing windows.

**Superior Plus \$14,000 pp**  
Has two lower berths and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Superior \$13,000 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Main Deck \$11,500 pp**  
Has two lower berths and washbasin. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

**Main Deck Triple \$10,500 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), one lower berth and washbasin. The nearby toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. This cabin has a porthole.

## ADDITIONAL CHARGES

**Landing Fees \$800 pp**  
(All prices are per person in USD)

## PRICE INCLUDES

Pre/Post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (inc. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions.

## PRICE EXCLUDES

All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. International/domestic flights, visas and travel insurance.



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Heritage Expeditions

Antarctica • Western and South Pacific  
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

EXPEDITION DOSSIER

15<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> DEC 2015



# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND



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# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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*You won't find them mentioned in a travel brochure on your high street; you won't find them in most guidebooks, you probably don't know anyone that has ever been there and they don't even appear on some maps of the South Pacific - these are the 'forgotten islands'. Despite their low profile, they are among the most remarkable wildlife reserves in the Southern Ocean, designated UNESCO World Heritage sites and afforded the highest protection of any nature reserves in New Zealand. Remote, uninhabited and on no regular shipping route, access is further restricted by a strict Management Plan which limits the number of people allowed ashore each year.*

Departing the Port of Bluff (Invercargill) the first of these islands we visit are The Snares. No landings are permitted because the islands are honey-combed with seabird burrows. Of particular interest are the Snares Crested Penguin, a Fernbird and Tomtit all of which are endemic. We should see them all as we enjoy the dramatic coastline and tree daisy forest from our Zodiac cruise.

In the Auckland Islands, the largest of the island groups, we will have the chance to spend the day ashore on Enderby Island, arguably the most amazing Subantarctic Island. Here you can hike through the windswept Rata forests, and along the exposed coastal cliffs. The wildlife is never far away and its lack of fear means close encounters, great for photography and observations. In Carnley Harbour in the south of the Auckland Islands there are a number of fascinating sites, including a Shy Albatross colony, abandoned Coastwatcher's huts, a shipwreck and castaway depots that we can visit. The weather will dictate what we do.

Campbell Island, the southernmost island of this expedition, is an example of what can be achieved in restoring Islands. In recent years sheep, cattle, cats and rats have all been eliminated and the island is rapidly recovering. The great English botanist Sir Joseph Hooker, a friend of Charles Darwin, visited Campbell



© A Breniere



© Heritage Expeditions

Island in the 1840s and described the flowering fields of 'megaherbs' to be "second to none outside of the tropics". We can say the same now, because of the removal of these introduced animals. This island is also the home of the majestic Southern Royal Albatross, the

endemic Campbell Island Flightless Teal and Snipe.

These islands represent a priceless ecosystem. Joining this expedition redefines natural history travel and will leave you wishing you could have spent more time there.

# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Make your way to the Kelvin Hotel, from where we will transfer you to the Port of Bluff. (Reporting times and the departure time of the transfer will be confirmed with your voyage documents). The township of Bluff is situated on the north-eastern side of Bluff Hill, an extinct volcanic cone which forms a knoll at the southern end of the Bluff Peninsula which extends into Foveaux Strait.

The captain and expedition team will be waiting for your arrival at the ship to greet you and show you to your cabin. You will have the opportunity to familiarise yourself on board and there will be formal introductions to the team followed by safety briefings.

Join the captain on the bridge or fellow travellers on deck as we set sail for The Snares Islands. We will sail past Ruapuke Island, formerly a local Maori stronghold supporting a population of over 200 people.



© Heritage Expeditions



© Heritage Expeditions

We will also be able to see Stewart Island. Despite appearing quite small on most maps it is really quite large and has a 700 kilometre coastline. Seabirds that we may encounter at this early point in the voyage include: albatross, petrels, cormorants, gulls and Little Blue Penguins.

### Day 2: The Snares – North East Island

The closest Subantarctic Islands to New Zealand, they were appropriately called The Snares as they were once considered a hazard for sailing ships. Comprising of two main islands and a group of five islands called the Western Chain; they are uninhabited and enjoy the highest protection as Nature Reserves. It is claimed by some that these islands are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles together.

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© S Blanc

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# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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Giant Petrel, Auckland Island Shag, Auckland Island Flightless Teal, Auckland Island Banded Dotterel, Auckland Island Tomtit, Bellbird, Pipit, Red-crowned Parakeet, Yellow-eyed Penguin and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. There is also a very good chance of seeing the Subantarctic Snipe. Other more common species we will see include the Goldfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, European Starling, Red-billed Gull and Redpoll. On Derry Castle Reef we will look for migratory waders which could include Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and possibly vagrants.

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Other options include the Tagua Bay coastwatchers hut and lookout (the former is derelict) which was occupied during the Second World War. We could visit Epigwatt and the remains of the 'Grafton' which was wrecked here in 1864. All five men aboard survived and lived here for 18 months before sailing their modified dinghy to New Zealand to get help. Two of the survivors wrote books about their ordeal. Their firsthand accounts tell us a lot about their time here. Alternatively we may visit the Erlagan clearing where a German Merchant ship cut firewood to fire its boilers after slipping its moorings in Dunedin on the eve of the Second World War. Another potential site is Camp Cove where we can see the remains of the castaway depots established and maintained by the New Zealand government between the 1860s and early 1900s. We depart Carnley Harbour for Campbell Island this afternoon.

## Days 5 to 6: Campbell Island

We have two days to explore Campbell Island, New Zealand's southernmost Subantarctic territory. Its history is as rich and varied as the other islands we have visited. Discovered in 1810, it was soon occupied by sealers who introduced rats and cats.

In 1895 the New Zealand government advertised the island as a pastoral lease. The lease was taken up by an entrepreneurial New Zealand sheep farmer who



stocked the island with sheep and cattle. The farming practices, which included burning the scrub, modified the island considerably. The farming lasted until 1934 when it was abandoned. Coastwatchers were stationed on the island during the war and at the end of the war the station was taken over by the New Zealand Metrological service. They maintained a manned weather/research station there until 1995.

In the early 1970s the island was fenced in half and stock was removed off the northern half. The impacts of the remaining animals were monitored and they were all eventually removed in 1990. The vegetation recovered quickly and the cats died out naturally. In a very ambitious (and never before attempted on such a large scale) eradication programme the New Zealand Department of Conservation successfully removed the rats. With the island declared predator free, the way was clear to reintroduce the endangered Campbell Island Flightless Teal



# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

which had been rediscovered on an offshore island in 1975. Snipe, which were formerly unknown from the island but were discovered on another offshore island, recolonised the islands themselves. The vegetation which the great English botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker described in 1841 as having a "Flora display second to none outside the tropics" is flourishing and is nothing short of spectacular.

We will offer a number of options which will enable you to explore the island. There will be extended walks to Northwest Bay and possibly Mt Honey. There will also be an easier walk to the Col Lyall Saddle. All of these options will allow you the opportunity and time to enjoy the Southern Royal Albatross which nest here in large numbers. We also visit areas of the island which contain outstanding examples of the megaherbs for which the island is renowned.

Other birds we will search for include the teal and snipe, although the latter is what we would refer to as a 'luck' bird. The endemic shag can be seen on the harbour, but unfortunately the nesting colonies of Rockhopper Penguins, Grey Head, Black-browed and Campbell Island Albatross are outside of the permitted areas and we will have to look for these species at sea.

Other birds we should see include Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Southern

Skua, Red-billed Gull, Black-backed Gull, Antarctic Tern, Redpoll, Dunnock and New Zealand Pipit.

## Day 7: At Sea

We are at sea en route to the Port of Bluff. We will take the opportunity to recap the many experiences we have had on this expedition. This is also a good opportunity to download and edit any remaining photos while they are fresh in your mind and you have the experience of our expedition team on board for questions. There will also be some good pelagic birding opportunities.

Tonight we enjoy a farewell and celebratory dinner with new found friends with time to reflect on a wealth of new experiences.

## Day 8: Invercargill

We arrive at the Port of Bluff early in the morning. After breakfast, Customs formalities and a last minute opportunity to bid farewell to your expedition team you disembark and board our complimentary coach transfer to downtown Invercargill or the local airport. Our adventure ends but memories will last long beyond this.

In case of unexpected delays due to weather and/or port operations we ask you not to book any onward travel from Invercargill until after midday today.

**Note: During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Landings at the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand are by permit only as administered by the Government of New Zealand. No landings are permitted at The Snares.**

## DATES

**Voyage #1565**  
**15th to 22nd December 2015**

## PRICES

**Heritage Suite \$6,600 pp**  
Has a large lounge area, a separate bedroom with double bed, a single bed in the lounge and private bathroom. Large forward and side facing windows.

**Mini Suite \$6,400 pp**  
Has a separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or a sofa in the lounge and private bathroom. Large side facing windows.

**Superior Plus \$6,050 pp**  
Has two lower berths and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Superior \$5,500 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Main Deck \$5,000 pp**  
Has two lower berths and washbasin. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

**Main Deck Triple \$4,300 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), one lower berth and washbasin. The nearby toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. This cabin has a porthole.

## ADDITIONAL CHARGES

**Landing Fees \$400 pp**  
**Kayaking Supplement \$550 pp**  
(All prices are per person in USD)

## PRICE INCLUDES

Pre/Post cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions.

## PRICE EXCLUDES

All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. International/domestic flights, visas and travel insurance.



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# Heritage Expeditions

Antarctica • Western and South Pacific  
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

## SUBANTARCTIC SEA KAYAKING

*Kayaking in the Subantarctic islands of NZ and Australia is guaranteed to be an expedition and adventure of discovery. It is remote with unpredictable weather and inspiring landscapes. The island groups have UNESCO World Heritage status with rich biodiversity and abundant wildlife. Our ship acts as a floating base camp for kayak excursions and shore landings. Our excursions are selected for their natural history, wildlife and scenic value. Cruising in our own private group of about 6 to 10 paddlers, we will generally visit the same sites as the Zodiacs but be more independent and perhaps access areas not appropriate for Zodiacs. If the ship's schedule allows, it may be possible to do an extended day trip, taking our lunch with us. The coastline offers a maze of sea kayaking opportunities: from sandy bays to rugged Basalt cliffs against a backdrop of extraordinary floral displays. The coast provides perfect sanctuaries for nesting seabirds, fish and marine mammals. Each day brings new challenges and wondrous experiences to our small band of kayakers.*

Sea kayaking in the Subantarctic islands requires an adventurous attitude as the weather and ocean currents play an important role. To make the most of your trip, it is essential that you TAKE THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR IT.

If you intend to participate in the sea kayaking option on this voyage, please complete and return the Sea Kayaking Booking Form appended to this document as soon as possible. This is necessary to confirm your participation in the sea kayaking option and ensure that you are medically fit to participate. Note that spots are limited and that your experience will be checked.

### QUESTIONS MOST OFTEN ASKED

#### How experienced do you have to be?

You should be an intermediate paddler, active in the outdoors and have an adventurous spirit. THIS SHOULD NOT BE YOUR FIRST SEA KAYAK EXPERIENCE AND YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN AND OUT OF YOUR KAYAK WITH ASSISTANCE. You do not have to be an expert. However, you should have practiced a wet exit and assisted re-entry before the trip. This can easily be practiced in waist deep water at home, with a friend's help or under tuition. You should also recognise

that the weather will influence greatly what we can and cannot do. You need to be proficient putting a spray skirt on yourself. Try to rent a kayak locally before leaving home if you feel you need some additional experience or seek out a local operator for some paddling tuition. We could be paddling in winds, fog or a small amount of current and will not have any opportunity to instruct before our first paddle. We often begin our first paddling session from the shore and after that will be launching directly from the ship. You should be comfortable paddling on seas that could have up to a one metre swell with variable surface conditions, so do practice in a variety of conditions.

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# SUBANTARCTIC SEA KAYAKING

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Even if your experience is limited, we'd encourage you to call us to discuss your suitability. There is often ample time to gain the required experience before you depart. We may be able to recommend a reputable sea kayak operator in your area for some tuition prior to the trip. Your guide will assess your ability on the initial paddle and, if you have insufficient experience, he or she may not allow you to participate in rougher conditions.

## How fit do you need to be?

You should be fit enough to paddle for up to three hours, able to climb up and down a two metre vertical ladder between a tethered zodiac and the deck of the ship. You should be doing some regular exercise as the fitter you are the more you will enjoy the experience. The more paddles you can do before the trip, the better.

## How far will we paddle?

It depends on the weather and ice conditions, but outings can range from 5 to 15 km. On average, we aim to paddle about 8 km per session and at most, we could end up 8 to 10 km from the ship. We would only paddle further if the ship is moving to meet us. We will not be aiming to paddle big distances, but will seek out the most interesting things to view. We carry radios and are in constant contact with the ship.

## How long will we paddle for?

The paddling time will vary, depending on how long the ship spends at each spot and how much the group wants to paddle. Generally, the excursions will be 2 to 4 hours, but we may be out for up to 6 hours. The trips vary in length and we will paddle at every opportunity. We may go out twice in one day as the long daylight allows some beautiful evening paddles. If we are out for more than two hours we will endeavour to get out on shore and stretch our legs.

## Is there a minimum age?

Kayakers should generally be aged 16 or over at the time of the trip. We may consider children aged 14-15 in exceptional circumstances depending on their size and kayaking experience. This is entirely at the discretion of Heritage Expeditions.

## Will there be a guide?

Yes, there will be an experienced kayak guide on the ship who accompanies all the kayak excursions. In addition there will be a Zodiac inflatable rubber boat in radio contact nearby.

## What kind of kayaks do we use?

We generally use plastic double and single kayaks. These are hard shelled, well suited for day trips and launching quickly from the ship. The guide will paddle a single kayak. The use of singles will be at the guide's discretion and influenced by the group numbers and individual abilities.

## How stable are they?

The kayaks are quite stable and for our first paddle we try and start in shallow water along the shore where you can gain a feel for them. If conditions are calm we may start from the ship in deep water. We will always paddle back to the ship in deep water unless conditions are too rough.

## Can they tip over?

Yes – it is possible but unlikely. In the event of a capsize you would self-rescue by righting the kayak, pumping it out, and re-entering it with the guide's help, or maybe using a Zodiac for support. It only takes a few minutes to pump out enough water for the paddler to re-enter. With dry-suits and appropriate clothing underneath we are comfortable in cold water for up to half an hour.



## Can the kayaks sink?

No, the kayaks have separate compartments with bulkheads, so they can float with the cockpit full of water.

## How do we get into the kayaks from the ship?

Down a short ladder off the back of the ship to a Zodiac tied alongside, then into the kayak. Alternatively, if it is rough or too windy, we take the kayaks to shore by Zodiac and enter from there. You should be agile enough to climb a two metre rope ladder with assistance. We recommend you practice before the trip getting into a kayak from a pier, wharf, or deep shoreline where you can't step into the boat from standing on the bottom. Your guide will stabilise the kayak while you get in and out.

## Will there be surf and swell?

We may have surf conditions in these islands but will not be landing in any rough conditions. We could be paddling in some disturbed water, swell, wind chop or currents. We can paddle in up to 15-20 knot winds but if the winds are too strong and we can't find sheltered paddling, we will join the shore party in the Zodiacs.

## Can I carry anything in the kayak?

Yes, you will be supplied with a 20 litre dry-bag for extra clothing, binoculars and anything you want to keep waterproof. You should also carry a water bottle. You are welcome to bring along your own 5-10 litre dry bag for personal things.

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# SUBANTARCTIC SEA KAYAKING

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## Can I bring my camera?

Yes, but we highly recommend a waterproof or disposable camera, or waterproof housing for use in the kayak. Onshore you are welcome to use an SLR camera but will need to provide a waterproof case or bag for it. Pelican cases are highly recommended for good cameras, but a small dry-bag with a t-shirt wrapped around the camera may suffice for smaller cameras. The kayak hatches are not large and will not take a Pelican case larger than the 1400 model. A 1300 model is better suited if your camera and lens combination fit.

## Do we need any special clothing and equipment?

The water temperatures are cold. The islands are influenced by the Antarctic convergence so the waters can range from +2 degrees to 10 degrees centigrade. CHECK the specific details for the trip you choose. We will have dry-suits on board for safety. These are included in the surcharge you pay for kayaking and will be mandatory.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the suits will be inspected when they are dispensed and also when they are returned. The dry suits are expensive and the latex and neoprene seals which keep them dry are fragile and must be treated sensibly and carefully. If the seals are badly damaged we often have to bring the suits back to New Zealand for repair so **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION WHEN YOU ARE SHOWN HOW TO USE YOUR DRY SUIT.** Typically, suits can be damaged by shoving sharp fingernails, watches or rings through the seal. Additional clothing suggestions are given in our kayak clothing and equipment list at the end of this document. All kayaking and safety equipment is supplied. Please pay particular attention to the footwear suggestions.

## How big is the group?

We limit the group size to a maximum of ten kayakers plus your guide.

## What if it gets too windy while we're paddling or if I get tired?

We will be in radio contact with the ship and Zodiacs. If the weather appears to be changing we will head back to the ship or to shore if need be. The ship's captain, expedition leader and kayak guide will all maintain close contact to ensure a safe paddling experience. If someone needs to return to the ship a Zodiac can be called.

## What about paddling through ice?

We are unlikely to encounter ice on these trips.

## How do we get back aboard the ship?

In calm seas we generally unload from the kayaks to a Zodiac that is tied to the back of the ship. We then climb a two metre rope ladder to the deck of the ship where you are assisted on board. In adverse conditions we may load into Zodiacs from shore and transport the kayaks back to the ship.

## Is the wildlife dangerous?

The larger marine wildlife consists of penguins, seals, sea lions and whales. Occasionally we may spot killer whales but, in our experience, they generally steer clear of our kayaking groups. Nesting skuas on land can be aggressive in defending their eggs and chicks so it is wise to give them a wide berth.

## SUBANTARCTIC – KAYAKING CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

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In addition to the general voyage clothing list, we have specific clothing requirements for paddling on the subantarctic islands. Read

both lists carefully and if you have any questions please contact us. Of course, you also need to be prepared for shore excursions by Zodiac.

The air temperatures in summer months can range from 2°C to 16°C. We generally paddle in sheltered areas, but it is best to be prepared for deteriorating conditions at any time. Wind chill while paddling can be cool. The water temperatures can range from 2°C to +9°C. Please read these suggestions carefully.

**Kayaking** All kayaking equipment will be provided: paddles, life jackets, kayaks, dry suits, safety gear and pogies (insulated mitts that attach to your paddle and help keep your hands warm). We supply one 20 litre dry bag for spare clothing while you are paddling. We generally use stable plastic double kayaks. We have a limited number of single kayaks but their use will be restricted to paddlers proficient in their use and are able to self rescue. We will customise the kayaks aboard the ship and familiarise ourselves with them before paddling. The kayaks have bulkheads and waterproof hatches where you can carry spare clothing on our day trips.

**Dry bags** can be used for cameras but salt water is absolutely final in destroying cameras and lenses. If you wish to guarantee your camera will be 100% waterproof we recommend a Pelican case. These have a rubber seal and can be kept on the deck of the kayak providing they are not too large. The pelican 1400 case is about the largest size that will easily stow on the kayak but a 1300 size is more suited. Throwaway waterproof cameras or more expensive waterproof cameras are a good option for paddling and then you can keep your better camera stored in a dry bag or Pelican case



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# SUBANTARCTIC SEA KAYAKING

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until on shore. Zip lock bags are not a good alternative for SLR cameras but may suffice for small point-and-shoot cameras if they are double bagged.

**Dry suits** are provided and included in your sea kayak surcharge. They are a waterproof nylon suit with snug latex rubber seals on your wrists and neck and integrated dry sock. These keep you dry in the unlikely event of a capsize and with thermal underwear worn underneath, maintain your body warmth more effectively than a wetsuit. They are also more comfortable to paddle in than a wetsuit. We require details of your height and weight to ensure correct sizing.

**Note:** the suits will be inspected when they are dispensed and also when they are returned. If the seals are damaged through lack of care you may be charged for repairs. (The dry suits are expensive and the latex and neoprene seals which keep them dry are fragile and must be treated sensibly and carefully. If the seals are badly damaged we often have to send the suits back to the US for repair so **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION WHEN YOU ARE SHOWN HOW TO USE YOUR DRY SUIT.**

**Thermal underwear** - medium weight usually suffices for the bottoms and for the top. (Synthetic or wool thermals are preferred for paddling and cotton is not suitable) - two pairs are recommended. A pile vest is useful for maintaining torso warmth without overheating, but is optional. Layering is a good idea.

If you suffer from the cold you may choose to wear a lightweight thermal top with a heavier weight thermal on top of that. A heavy pile jacket (200 or 300 wt) is too warm underneath a dry suit top but a light pile jacket (100 wt) may suit on a cold day. You may opt for light pile pants instead of the thermal

bottoms but a thermal bottom and pile pants combination is probably too warm for paddling.

**Socks** - Heavy thermal socks (2 pairs). The hull of the kayak gets quite cool and you need heavier socks than for walking, as your feet move around less. You should bring several spare socks in case your feet get wet or cold. The dry suits have waterproof nylon feet attached to the suit but still need some additional protection.

**Footwear** - Our dry suits have a waterproof sock attached so you can wear a wool sock inside the dry suit. You still require footwear on top of the dry suit and a normal wetsuit boot is recommended. We also have a supply of regular gumboots onboard ship or you can bring your own. You will need to carry spare socks and other footwear if you spend much time on shore as walking in neoprene boots is not very comfortable. It is possible to wear a pair of sneakers or running shoes over the dry suit instead of wetsuit boots but ensure they are large enough to go over several layers and realise they will get wet every outing. Please note your foot size on the experience form. If you are buying gumboots remember to get them one size larger than normal so you can fit an extra pair of socks or felt liner or felt inner-sole inside. NB: If your foot size is larger than 13 or smaller than 6 we advise bringing your own footwear. If you are bringing your own neoprene boot, as we recommend, please note that the boots do need to be a size bigger than if you were barefoot to accommodate the drysuit sock.

**Headgear** - Warm cap, beanie or balaclava. One that covers your ears is preferable and if it is wool, a tight weave is better in the wind. It is good to have two hats so if one gets wet while paddling you have

a spare. It is very important you have sun protection (+30) for your face. A hat with a brim that will fit on top of your beanie is a good idea. Make sure it has some tie-down strings. If we were to paddle in rainy conditions a waterproof hat is useful.

**Hands** - We supply pogies (a waterproof paddling mitt) for cold days. Heavy latex rubber kitchen gloves are useful to bring. A lightweight pair of polypropylene gloves underneath is ideal in conjunction with the rubber gloves or with the pogies on very cold days. These can be kept in a dry bag while paddling. Wetsuit gloves can be used while paddling but are not as useful on shore, and the pogies are warmer. Bring additional mitts as per the regular clothing list. You will likely get any gloves that you use paddling wet - so bring an extra pair of thin polypropylene gloves. Ski glove are not suited for paddling as they are too bulky but are fine for when you are ashore.

**Swimsuit** - or polypropylene underwear for under your thermals.

**Waterproof sunscreen block out and lip balm** - A skin moisturiser is useful in the evenings as the wind and dry air can cause chapped skin quite quickly.

**Sunglasses** with side visors and tie or string for attaching them to prevent loss.

**Water bottle** - 1-2 litres

**Waterproof binoculars** -for wildlife viewing from the kayak.

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**Galapagos of the Southern Ocean** (voyage 1563 and 1567)  
**Kayaking Supplement** **US\$975 pp**

**Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific** (voyage 1565)  
**Kayaking Supplement** **US\$550 pp**

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Heritage Expeditions

Antarctica • Western and South Pacific  
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

EXPEDITION DOSSIER  
22<sup>ND</sup> DEC 2015 – 3<sup>RD</sup> JAN 2016



# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS  
OF NEW ZEALAND &  
AUSTRALIA

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# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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*This is without doubt one of the most inspirational and informative journeys or expeditions into the Southern Ocean ecosystem that one can make anywhere in the world. Long recognised for their rich biodiversity, the Subantarctic Islands lying to the south of New Zealand are UNESCO World Heritage sites. This places them in a select group of only 180 natural sites that have been designated as 'the most important and significant natural habitats' on the planet. They are also afforded the highest conservation status and protection by the Australian and New Zealand governments and access to these islands is by permit only. On this expedition we offer you the unique chance to explore, photograph and understand these wonderful places in the company of some of the most knowledgeable and passionate guides.*

As a young biologist, Heritage Expeditions founder Rodney Russ first visited these islands in 1972 with the New Zealand Wildlife Service. He organised New Zealand's first commercial expedition there in 1989, and 24 years and over 100 expeditions later, he is still as passionate about the islands as he was in 1972. It was only natural that his family should travel with him, what wasn't predictable was that they would join him in the business and be as passionate about the conservation of this region as he is. As the original concessionaire we enjoy good relationships with the conservation departments and some of the access permits we hold are unique to these expeditions.

The name we have given to this voyage 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' reflects the astounding natural biodiversity and the importance of these islands as a wildlife refuge. (The book 'Galapagos of the Antarctic' written by Rodney Russ and Aleks Terauds and published by Heritage Expeditions describes all of these islands in great detail.) The islands all lie in the cool temperate zone with a unique climate and are home to a vast array of wildlife including



albatross, penguins, petrels, prions, shearwaters and marine mammals like sea lions, fur seals and elephant seals. The flora is equally fascinating; the majority of it being like the birds and endemic to these islands.

This expedition includes four of the Subantarctic Islands, The Snares, Auckland, Macquarie and Campbell. Each one is different and each one is unique, just like this expedition.

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# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Passengers should make their way to the Kelvin Hotel in the central city, where a complimentary night's accommodation is provided tonight. This evening there will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner; an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers on your voyage and some of our expedition team.

### Day 2: Port of Bluff

Take breakfast at your leisure in the hotel restaurant before transferring to the port to embark the *Spirit of Enderby*. You will have the opportunity to settle into your cabin and familiarise yourself with the ship; we will also take the opportunity to conduct a number of compulsory safety briefings. You are invited to join the expedition team and captain on the bridge as we set our course to The Snares and our adventure begins.



### Day 3: The Snares – North East Island

The closest Subantarctic Islands to New Zealand, they were appropriately called The Snares as they were once considered a hazard for sailing ships. Comprising of two main islands and a group of five islands called the Western Chain; they are uninhabited and enjoy the highest protection as Nature Reserves. It is claimed by some that these islands are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles together.

We plan to arrive early in the morning and as landings are not permitted we will Zodiac cruise along the sheltered eastern side of the main island if the weather and sea conditions are suitable. In the sheltered bays, we should see the endemic Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbirds. Cape Pigeons, Antarctic Terns, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls are also present in good numbers. There are hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters nesting on The Snares; the actual number is much debated. The Buller's Albatross breed here from early January onwards.

### Day 4: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

The Auckland Islands group was formed by two volcanoes which erupted some 10-25 million years ago. They have subsequently been eroded and dissected by glaciation creating the archipelago as we know it today.

Enderby Island is one of the most beautiful islands in this group and is named for the same distinguished shipping family as our own vessel. This northern most island in the archipelago is an outstanding wildlife and birding location and is relatively easy to land on and walk around. The island was cleared of all introduced animals (pests) in 1994 and both birds and the vegetation,



especially the herbaceous plants, are recovering both in numbers and diversity.

Our plan is to land at Sandy Bay, one of three breeding areas in the Auckland Islands for the Hooker's or New Zealand Sea Lion, a rare member of the seal family. Beachmaster bulls gather on the beach defending their harems from younger (ambitious) males, to mate with the cows shortly after they have given birth of a single pup. Hookers or New Zealand Sea Lion numbers are in a slow decline, for reasons which are not obvious but most probably connected with a nearby squid fishery.

During our day ashore there will be several options, some longer walks, some shorter walks and time to spend just sitting and enjoying the wildlife. The walking is relatively easy, a board walk traverses the island to the dramatic western cliffs from there we follow the coast on the circumnavigation of the island.

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# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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Birds that we are likely to encounter include the following species: Southern Royal Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Auckland Island Shag, Auckland Island Flightless Teal, Auckland Island Banded Dotterel, Auckland Island Tomtit, Bellbird, Pipit, Red-crowned Parakeet, Yellow-eyed Penguin and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. There is also a very good chance of seeing the Subantarctic Snipe. Other more common species we will see include the Goldfinch, Song Thrush, Blackbird, European Starling, Red-billed Gull and Redpoll. On Derry Castle Reef we will look for migratory waders which could include Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and possibly vagrants.

## Day 5: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

In the south of the archipelago there is a very large sheltered harbour it is rich in human history including shipwrecks, treasure hunters, coastwatchers and of course scientific parties. We plan



to arrive early morning from our anchorage at Enderby Island. We enter the harbour through the eastern entrance which is guarded on both sides by dramatic cliffs and rugged tussock covered hills.

Our activities here today are totally weather dependent. We have a number of options. If the weather is OK there will be an opportunity for the more energetic expeditioners to climb to the South West Cape and visit the Shy Mollymawk colony. Above the colony we occasionally see Gibson's Wandering Albatross breeding. This climb provides magnificent views in all directions, especially over the western entrance to Carnley Harbour, Adams Island and Western Harbour. For those not able to make the climb (it is reasonably difficult) there will be an opportunity to Zodiac cruise along the coast of Adams Island and Western Harbour, with landings in the later.

Other options include the Tagua Bay coastwatchers hut and lookout (the former is derelict) which was occupied during the Second World War. We could visit Epigwatt and the remains of the 'Grafton' which was wrecked here in 1864. All five men aboard survived and lived here for 18 months before sailing their modified dinghy to New Zealand to get help. Two of the survivors wrote books about their ordeal. Their first hand accounts tell us a lot about their time here. Alternatively we may visit the Erlagan clearing where a German Merchant ship cut firewood to fire its boilers after slipping its moorings in Dunedin on the eve of the Second World War. Another potential site is Camp Cove where we can see the remains of the castaway depots established and maintained by the New Zealand government between the 1860s and early 1900s.



We depart this afternoon for Macquarie Island.

## Day 6: At Sea

As we make our way south through the Furious Fifties also known as the Albatross latitudes, the birding especially south of the Auckland Islands should be good. We will have a series of informal lectures on the biology and history of the Subantarctic Islands. We will also prepare you for our visit to Macquarie Island.

Species that we may see include the Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. There should be plenty of prions including Fairy, Fulmar and Antarctic, identifying them is not easy – but we should get some great views.

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# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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Other species to be on the lookout for include the Soft-plumaged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and Black-bellied Storm-Petrel.

## Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

The great Australian Antarctic Explorer Sir Douglas Mawson once called Macquarie Island "One of the wonder spots of the world." You are about to discover why as we spend two days exploring this amazing Island. It was one of the first of the Subantarctic Islands to obtain World Heritage Status and that was largely due to its unique geology. It is one of the few places on earth where mid-ocean crustal rocks are exposed at the surface due to the collision of the Australian and Pacific Plates.

The island was discovered in 1810 and was soon ravaged by sealers who introduced various animals including rats, mice, cats and

rabbits. The native bird population was virtually eliminated and plants destroyed. The Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service which administered the island recently embarked on a very ambitious eradication program which appears to have been successful. The island is now predator free and both the birds and plants are responding. It is amazing to witness the regeneration and the increase in the number of birds.

Macquarie Island is home to four species of penguin, Kings, Royals, Gentoo and Rockhopper. The Royal Penguin occurs nowhere else in the world. During our visit we will land at two sites (subject of course to weather and sea conditions) and you will get a chance to see, observe and photograph all four species, although the Rockhopper is much harder to capture than the others.

Macquarie also has a large population of Southern Elephant Seals. Pups are born in October and weaned in November when the breeding adults return to sea. The weaners and sub adults lie around on the beaches. The weaners go to sea sometime in January, running the gauntlet of Orcas or Killer Whales who are waiting offshore.

We plan a landing at the Australian Antarctic Research Base at Buckles Bay where you will be able to meet with scientists and base staff. The original base was established in 1947 and the island has been 'manned' since then. It is one of the longest continuously occupied bases in the Subantarctic.

We depart for Campbell Island on the afternoon of the second day.

## Day 9: At Sea

Today is very similar to Day 6 except we are north bound and hopefully running with the prevailing weather



which should make it a bit more comfortable. There will be briefings and lectures on Campbell Island in preparation for our visit there and opportunities for pelagic birding and/or simply relaxing.

## Days 10 to 11: Campbell Island – Perseverance Harbour

We have plenty of time to explore Campbell Island, New Zealand's southernmost Subantarctic territory. Its history is as rich and varied as the other islands we have visited. Discovered in 1810 (by the same sealing captain who discovered Macquarie Island) it too was soon occupied by sealers who introduced rats and cats.

In 1895 the New Zealand government advertised the island as a pastoral lease. The lease was taken up by an entrepreneurial New Zealand sheep farmer who stocked the island with sheep and cattle. The farming practices, which included burning the scrub, modified the island considerably.



# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

The farming lasted until 1934 when it was abandoned. Coastwatchers were stationed on the island during the war, at the end of the war the station was taken over by the New Zealand Metrological service and they maintained a manned weather/research station on the island until 1995.

In the early 1970s the island was fenced in half and stock was removed off the northern half. The impacts of the remaining animals were monitored and they were all eventually removed in 1990. The vegetation recovered quickly and the cats died out naturally. In a very ambitious (and never before attempted on such a large scale) eradication programme the New Zealand Department of Conservation successfully removed the rats. With the island declared predator free, the way was clear to reintroduce the endangered Campbell Island Flightless Teal which had been rediscovered on an offshore island in 1975. Snipe, which were formerly unknown from the island but were discovered on another offshore island, recolonised the islands themselves. The vegetation which the great English botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker described in 1841 as having a "Flora display second to none outside the tropics" is flourishing and is nothing short of spectacular.

We will offer a number of options which will enable you to explore the island. There will be extended walks to Northwest Bay and possibly Mt Honey. There will also be an easier walk to the Col Lyall Saddle. All of these options will allow you the opportunity and time to enjoy the Southern Royal Albatross which nest here in large numbers. We also visit areas of the island which contain outstanding examples of the megaherbs for which the island is renown.

Other birds which we will search for include the teal and snipe, although the later is what we would refer to as a 'luck' bird. The endemic shag can be seen on the harbour, but unfortunately the nesting colonies of Rockhopper Penguins, Grey-head, Black-browed and Campbell Island Albatross are outside of the permitted areas and we will have to look for these species at sea.

Other birds we should see include Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Southern Skua, Red-billed Gull, Black-backed Gull, Antarctic Tern, Redpoll, Dunnock and New Zealand Pipit.

## Day 12: At Sea

At sea en route to the Port of Bluff, take the opportunity to relax and reflect on an amazing experience. We will recap the highlights of our expedition and enjoy a farewell dinner tonight as we complete the last few miles of our journey.

## Day 13: Invercargill

Early this morning we will arrive in the Port of Bluff. After a final breakfast and completing Custom formalities we bid farewell to our fellow voyagers and take a complimentary coach transfer to either a central city point or to the airport.

In case of unexpected delays due to weather and/or port operations we ask you not to book any onward travel until after midday today.

**Note: During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Landings at the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand are by permit only as administered by the Government of New Zealand. No landings are permitted at The Snares.**

## DATES

**Voyage #1567**  
**22nd December 2015 to**  
**3rd January 2016**

## PRICES

**Heritage Suite \$9,900 pp**  
Has a large lounge area, a separate bedroom with double bed, a single bed in the lounge and private bathroom. Large forward and side facing windows.

**Mini Suite \$9,300 pp**  
Has a separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or a sofa in the lounge and private bathroom. Large side facing windows.

**Superior Plus \$8,800 pp**  
Has two lower berths and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Superior \$8,300 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Main Deck \$7,600 pp**  
Has two lower berths and washbasin. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

**Main Deck Triple \$6,600 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), one lower berth and washbasin. The nearby toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. This cabin has a porthole.

## ADDITIONAL CHARGES

**Landing Fees: \$800 pp**  
**Kayaking Supplement: \$975 pp**  
(All prices are per person in USD)

## PRICE INCLUDES

Pre/Post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (inc. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions excluding optional kayaking programme.

## PRICE EXCLUDES

All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. International/domestic flights, visas and travel insurance.

1567230614



Heritage Expeditions

Antarctica • Western and South Pacific  
Subantarctic Islands • Russian Far East

EXPEDITION DOSSIER  
2ND – 12TH JAN 2016



# SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS IN FOCUS

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION TO THE SNARES,  
CAMPBELL & AUCKLAND ISLANDS

Photographing with Tui de Roy and the  
New Zealand Geographic Photographer  
of the Year award winner







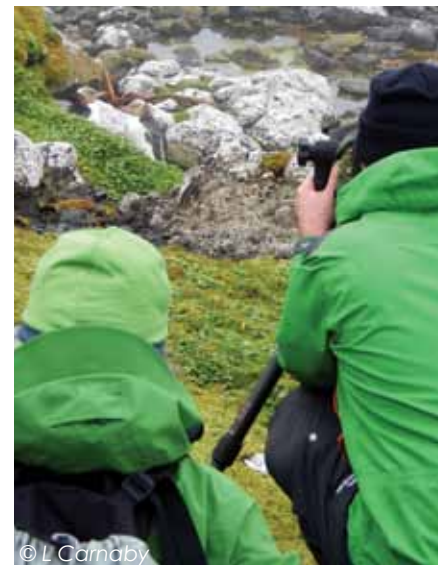
© E Bell



*Enjoy a rare opportunity to join celebrated wildlife photographer Tui De Roy on an expedition to extensively photograph New Zealand's 'forgotten islands'.*



Auckland, Campbell and the Snares Islands are amongst the most remarkable wildlife reserves in the Southern Ocean. Designated UNESCO World Heritage sites, afforded the highest protection of any of the nature reserves in New Zealand, they remain remote, uninhabited and highly protected by the New Zealand Department of Conservation that strictly limits the number of people allowed to land there each year.



© L Carnaby

On this photography focused voyage, extra time will be spent on these islands in the pursuit of the very best New Zealand natural history images. With a seasoned artist of Tui's Subantarctic experience and calibre offering her expertise and the right mix of weather and light, the chances are high that the expedition will yield a few 2016 NZ Geographic Photographer of the Year entries and who knows, maybe even a winner!

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Passengers should make their way to the Kelvin Hotel in the central city, where our group will spend the first night of the expedition. This evening there will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner which will be an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers and some of our expedition team.

### Day 2: Port of Bluff

Take breakfast at your leisure in the hotel restaurant before transferring to the port to embark the *Spirit of Enderby*. You will have the opportunity to settle into your cabin and familiarise yourself with the ship before we conduct a number of compulsory safety briefings. You are invited to join the expedition team and captain on the bridge as we set our course to The Snares and our adventure begins.

We will sail past Ruapuke Island, formerly a local Maori stronghold supporting a population of over 200 people and then will be able to see Stewart Island. Despite appearing quite small on most maps it is really quite large and has a 700 kilometre coastline. Seabirds that we may encounter at this early point in the voyage include albatross, petrels, cormorants, gulls and Little Blue Penguins.



© A Russ

### Day 3: The Snares – North East Island

Our first opportunity for world class wildlife photos should be at The Snares some 60 nautical miles south of Stewart Island. These are honeycombed with seabird burrows, home to hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters (known locally as 'Mutton Birds') as well as the Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbirds, all of which are endemic. As landings are not permitted, we will Zodiac cruise the sheltered eastern side of the main island. Hopefully we will encounter calm seas and soft light conditions as we look for photographic opportunities which should include both wildlife and landscape. If the weather or seas are not cooperating we may have a chance to try again on the return leg of our expedition as we have a bit of extra time in the cruise schedule.

### Days 4 to 5: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

We plan to maximise the daylight hours ashore over two full days at Port Ross in the Auckland Islands. A full day is planned on Enderby Island where the photographic opportunities can only be described as fantastic, incredible and amazing. Whether your interest is in wildlife, landscape or plants you will find something here. The rare New Zealand Sea Lion will be breeding on Sandy Bay beach, Southern Royal Albatross will be nesting on the summit of the island; and the rare Yellow-eyed Penguins will be transiting to and from the sea and their nests. Keep an eye out in the forest for Bellbirds, Tui, tomtits and New Zealand Falcon. Out on the fellfields, Auckland Island Banded Dotterel, Pipit and possibly the rare Subantarctic Snipe could be photographed. The island is regenerating after the removal of browsing animals in the 1990s and the special Subantarctic plants are

© K Ovsyanikova



thriving. Look out for the *Anisotome*, the stilbocarpa and gentians along with the tussocks and the rata forest which make for some great photographic opportunities.

Our second day will be spent in the upper Port Ross region, a historic and sheltered harbour in which numerous expeditions and people have sought refuge. Maori from the Chatham Islands settled here in the early 1840s and the British attempted to establish a colony in 1849. Both groups found the climate and soils too harsh and abandoned the islands. The well known and documented expeditions of Sir James Clark Ross, Dumont d'Urville, Robert Falcon Scott and Douglas Mawson all visited this harbour. The New Zealand Government was concerned that enemy shipping might congregate in the harbour during the Second World War so established coastwatcher's stations here. We plan to explore the coastline by Zodiac making numerous landings looking for that special photo which captures the essence of this little known refuge deep in the Southern Ocean. Tonight we cruise to Carnley Harbour in the south.

### Day 6: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

Another great harbour with lots of opportunities, albeit a little bit more weather dependent than Port Ross. It is the caldera of an extinct volcano and consequently the landscape is very different to that of Port Ross. Here forest and tussock

covered hills rise steeply from the sea to fascinating jagged peaks often wrapped in mist and fog. The photographic opportunities are different but just as numerous. Possibilities include a Shy Albatross colony, abandoned coastwatcher's huts, a shipwreck and castaway depots. The hunt for good light and forgiving weather windows will dictate our exact programme. We depart from here this afternoon for Campbell Island.

## Days 7 to 9: Campbell Island

We plan an early arrival at Campbell Island. Perseverance Harbour, nestled beneath Mt Honey, has wonderfully protected waters to anchor and start exploring this magnificent island. This is one of the best sites to photograph Royal Albatross. The birds are more active in the late afternoon and early evening so we will spend the morning photographing some of the amazing megaherbs, especially the *Pleurophyllums*, for which the island is renowned. We will also look for the elusive Campbell Island Flightless Teal which was reintroduced to the island once the rats were removed. There will be an opportunity for those with a little more energy to walk across the tussock covered hills to the dramatic western cliffs and Northwest Bay. This is an all day excursion with lots of different photographic opportunities. If the weather is settled we may also offer the opportunity to climb Mt Honey (the highest peak on

the island) which affords some magnificent views across the entire island. Whatever your interest, birds, plants or landscape, you won't be disappointed with Campbell Island.

## Day 10: At Sea

We will strap down and get out those computers for post production work and downloading our best efforts for sharing with each other while sailing the impressive stretch of water separating these two World Heritage Sites from our final port of call, Bluff. This final leg crosses the Southern Ocean's 'furious fifties' and 'roaring forties' which act as a protective barrier to New Zealand's southernmost gems.

## Day 11: Invercargill

We will arrive into Bluff as early as possible allowing the opportunity to get the last shots of the voyage at sunrise while sailing into Bluff Harbour. Bid farewell to your expedition team after breakfast and board our complimentary coach transfer to downtown Invercargill or the local airport. Our adventure ends but memories will last long beyond this.

In case of unexpected delays due to weather and/or port operations we ask you not to book any onward travel from Invercargill until after midday today.

**During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Landings at the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand are by permit only as administered by the Government of New Zealand. No landings are permitted at The Snares.**

## DATES

**Voyage #1669**  
**2nd to 12th January 2016**

## PRICES

**Heritage Suite \$8,000 pp**  
Has a large lounge area, a separate bedroom with double bed, a single bed in the lounge and private bathroom. Large forward and side facing windows.

**Mini Suite \$7,800 pp**  
Has a separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or a sofa in the lounge and private bathroom. Large side facing windows.

**Superior Plus \$7,200 pp**  
Has two lower berths and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Superior \$6,600 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), and private bathroom. These cabins have windows.

**Main Deck \$6,000 pp**  
Has two lower berths and washbasin. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

**Main Deck Triple \$5,300 pp**  
Has one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), one lower berth and washbasin. The nearby toilets are shared with other Main Deck cabins. This cabin has a porthole.

## ADDITIONAL CHARGES

**Landing Fees \$500 pp**  
(All prices are per person in USD)

## PRICE INCLUDES

Pre/Post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (inc. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions.

## PRICE EXCLUDES

All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. International/domestic flights, visas and travel insurance.



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1669/07/15