

EXPEDITION CRUISING



# THE SOUTH PACIFIC ANTARCTICA & SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS 2013/2014



Heritage Expeditions



Dear Reader

The expeditions you will find described in this catalogue are designed for the adventurous traveller. They are not tours because there is a degree of unpredictability about them. These expeditions travel to some of the most wild, remote and beautiful places on the globe. These places are protected by their isolation and the vast oceans that surround them and weather systems that buffet them relentlessly. It's this that makes them so alluring but often makes them difficult to get to and land upon. Although we publish an itinerary this is at best a guide to what we hope to achieve (and have achieved on previous expeditions) we are always and always will be at the behest of the weather and the ice conditions travelling in these regions.

The islands that we visit on these expeditions are renowned for their abundance and diversity of wildlife, much of it endemic (found nowhere else in the world) and highly specialised for life in these high latitudes. All of the islands have some degree of legal protection, most are Nature Reserves and World Heritage Sites and entry is by permit only. Permits are a privilege, not a right and we jealously guard the permits that we have negotiated with the governments over the many years we have been working in this region. Many of them are unique to our company.

The Ross Sea sector of Antarctica is the historic gateway to the frozen continent. Our expeditions follow in the footsteps of those great explorers we have all read about, Scott, Amundsen, Shackleton and Hillary to mention just a few. Our expeditions face the same uncertainties with weather and ice as these early explorers did but our rewards are similar. We are treated to amazing land, sea and icescapes. We encounter some of the world's most iconic wildlife including penguins, albatrosses, petrels, prions, shearwaters, seals and whales. A bonus for us is the opportunity to see the relics and remains left behind by these 'heroic' explorers.

Our experience in conducting expeditions to these regions is unequalled in the world. We have done it more frequently with more success than anybody else. Our equipment, our staff, our planning and our experience are world class. We welcome genuine travellers to join us on these expeditions. We can't guarantee you perfect weather or sea conditions; we can't even guarantee you every landing or opportunity mentioned in the itineraries. What we will guarantee you though is a well planned, well researched expedition and a crew and staff that will do everything (and then some) to get you the best experiences and outcomes with the weather, sea and ice conditions we encounter.

I hope you will consider joining us. You are welcome to contact my office if you have questions or would like further information.

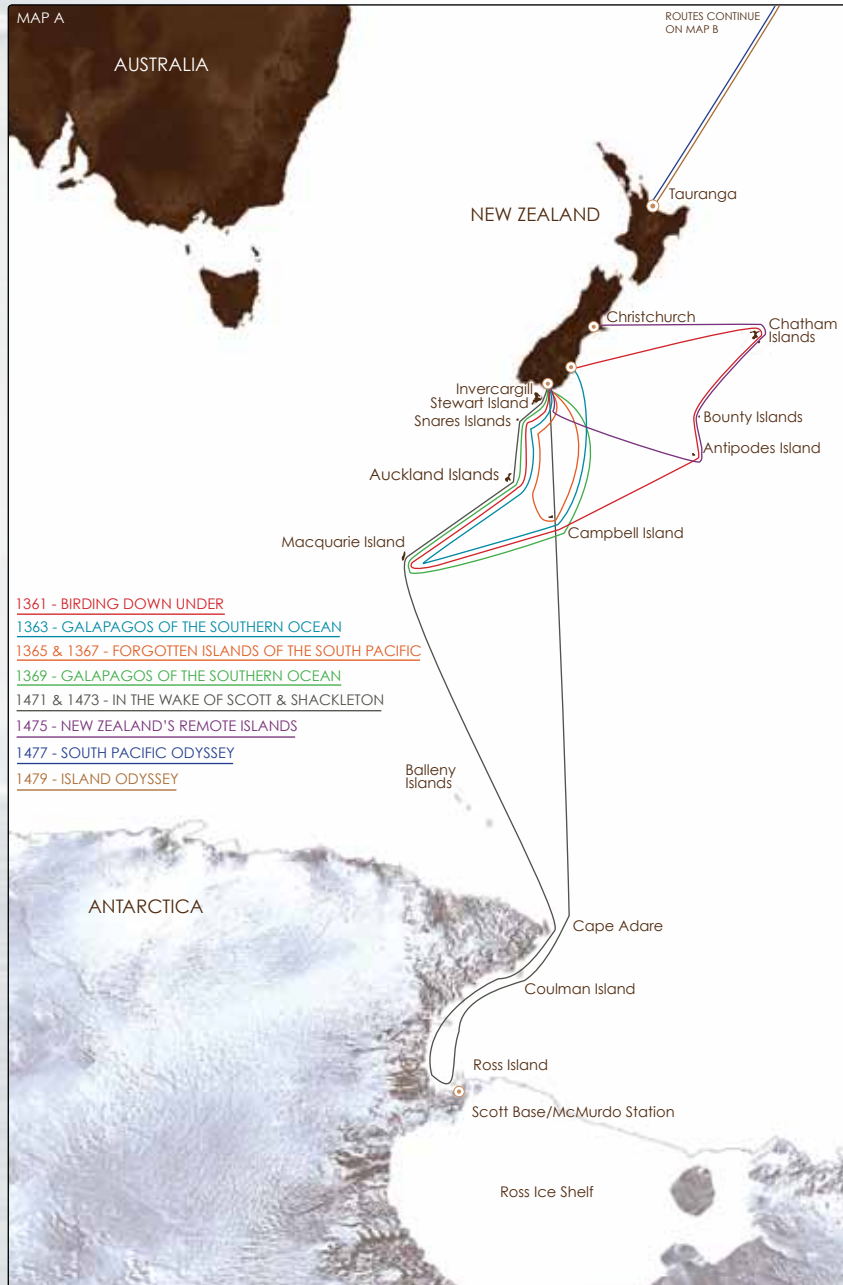
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney Russ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rodney Russ  
Biologist, Founder of Heritage Expeditions, Expedition Leader and Lecturer

P.S. If you like the idea of exploring remote islands, spending your days observing or photographing wildlife, learning about other cultures past and present but want to go somewhere warmer with more predictable weather and sea conditions – then check out our Pacific and Melanesian expeditions. They follow the same format, small groups, expert leaders and lots of time ashore going where very few other vessels go.

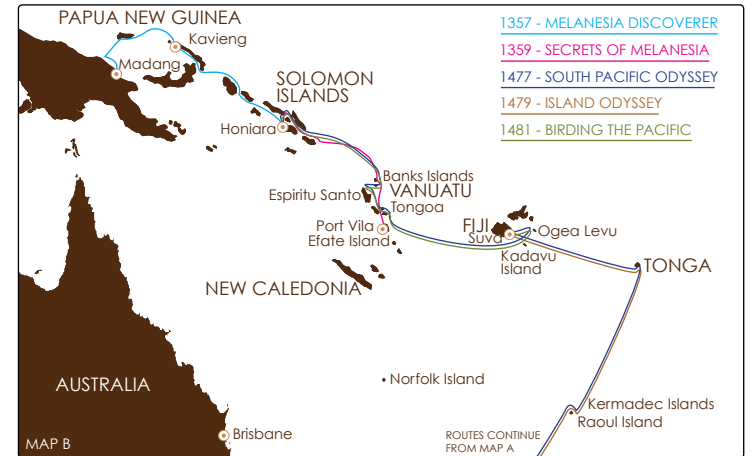






This Page: Zodiac cruising  
 Cover: Solomon Islands

Photo credit: Nathan Russ  
 Photo credit: Aaron Russ



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## EXPEDITION CRUISING INTRODUCTION

The spirit of adventure and exploration is being suffocated by jet liners and large cruise ships. Expedition Cruising offers genuine travellers (not tourists) the opportunity to experience true adventure and authentic experiences, going to areas far less visited, enabling us to go to places that are inaccessible by most other forms of transport. It doesn't discriminate, is available to people from all walks of life and can be enjoyed regardless of age or physical prowess. The common purpose amongst Expedition Cruise participants brings people together in a unique and fulfilling way.

Expeditions generally take place on smaller sized vessels to avoid the negative impacts of large groups on a culture or ecosystem. Smaller groups also enjoy more time ashore and a more authentic experience, whether it is in a wilderness or enjoying a cultural exchange in a remote village. Expedition ships are designed to navigate where larger ships can't, landing passengers by Zodiac in places inaccessible any other way.

In addition to showing participants an enjoyable time, one of our main objectives when sailing the *Spirit of Enderby* to remote regions of the world is to create a meaningful travel experience within a learning environment. The staff on board are teachers and interpreters, not entertainers. We find that this environment generates wonderful ambassadors for conservation.

Rodney and Shirley Russ founded Heritage Expeditions in 1985, and three years later they pioneered Expedition Cruising in the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia. Five years later the Ross Sea region of Antarctica was explored and more recently the Russian Far East has been added to the company's long line of destinational firsts.

We remain committed to conservation through advocacy and education and believe that our style of Expedition Cruising engenders this, whilst at the same time providing participants with lasting memories. With Heritage Expeditions there is no need to sacrifice comfort, quality of food or accommodation in the pursuit of wild destinations.

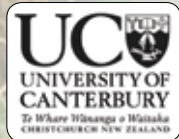
Our vessel the *Spirit of Enderby* accommodates just 50 passengers. It is comfortable and functional, having all the attributes that make it the perfect expedition ship for our style of exploring. Perhaps the most remarkable fact is that it remains one of the last family operated expedition vessels of its size and ice class in the world.







PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS



## RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL POLICY

Travelling with Heritage Expeditions is to travel responsibly. As biologists and ornithologists, we are intimately aware of the many issues that confront animals and their habitats, the world's oceans and isolated ethnic groups. We also take action. We actively contribute to the conservation of the places we visit in several ways; we 'buy local' and employ locally; we make sure that travellers are respectful of local customs and traditions; and we dispose of waste responsibly.

## CONSERVATION

Heritage Expeditions supports conservation by providing advocacy through responsible travel and providing funds and logistical support for research and management. For our Russia 2013 season we have continued our association with BirdLife International as a Species Champion for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. In addition to our providing transport and logistics for several researchers, we are committed to making financial contributions as a company and welcome our guests to join us in support of this programme.

We also make significant annual contributions to the New Zealand Department of Conservation, the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Antarctic Heritage Trust and the Russian State Reserve Agency. In addition to these contributions, Heritage Expeditions provides transport of freight and personnel to and from nature reserves. We support the New Zealand Meteorological Service and non-governmental research agencies, including the World Wildlife Fund (Russia) and the University of Canterbury. For the 2013-2014 season we have chosen our January Antarctic voyage to promote as well as collect and submit donations for The Last Ocean Charitable Trust. The organisation was established in August 2009 to raise awareness of the unique values of the Ross Sea.

We travel in small groups and endeavour to maintain a guide to client ratio of 1:12. Each expedition is led by an experienced Expedition Leader who is familiar with the region being visited. When selecting our specialist expedition equipment, vehicles and vessels, we research carefully to ensure that they are the most suitable and environmentally responsible. All waste generated on our expeditions is disposed of in a responsible manner. On board it is treated as prescribed by MARPOL, and on land expeditions recycling is encouraged. Non-recyclable waste is brought back for disposal at approved sites.

Heritage Expeditions owns and is covenanted to protect an area of native forest in New Zealand. We employ a part-time Conservation Officer for the purposes of predator control and native species replanting. We partner with the Enderby Trust to provide scholarships for young people, who could not otherwise afford to travel, to join our expeditions. Heritage Expeditions holds active membership in a number of conservation and travel organisations including the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) which promotes responsible travel to Antarctica and the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO).

## EXPEDITION STAFF

As a family-owned and operated company, there will almost certainly be a Russ family member on board in a leadership role. We have also assembled a world renowned team of experts to travel with you and to interpret the natural and human history along the way.



**Rodney Russ** is without doubt one of the most experienced Expedition Leaders in the world. He pioneered Expedition Cruising in Antarctica and the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia. For the last nine years he has been working to develop sustainable travel in the Russian Far East, which he claims is one of the most remarkable regions in the world.



**Aaron Russ** has grown up surrounded by wildlife and wilderness. He has been Expedition Leader on over 100 expeditions to the world's most remote regions. With a degree in zoology, a passion for photography and a desire to showcase the world's premier natural history destinations, expedition leading comes naturally.



**Nathan Russ** the younger of Rodney's two sons has worked as a chef on a number of expedition vessels around the world. A keen and capable Expedition Leader, he has led numerous expeditions, including Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Subantarctic Islands and all of our voyages in Russia. When not on an expedition, he manages the company's vessel.



**Adam Walleyn** was born in the Canadian Prairies, and has found his niche in Expedition Travel as a guide and naturalist. Knowledgeable and unflappable he is the perfect guide and companion when travelling to remote shores. He returns to the Southern Ocean for another season – because in his words “there is still so much more to see and share”.



**Alex Fergus** received an Enderby Trust Scholarship which led to his career as a botanist and ecologist. After two Subantarctic voyages, he studied in Switzerland, then explored the Swiss Alps, the taiga of Arctic Sweden and the Afghan Hindu Kush. Alex looks forward to sharing his knowledge of the plants found on your Southern Ocean adventure.



**Katya Ovsyanikova** is a biology graduate from Moscow State University. The daughter of High Arctic biologists, she has lived and worked in the Russian Far East from an early age. Passionate is the only word to describe her love of this region and its wildlife. She has worked for Heritage Expeditions for a number of seasons.



**Agnès Brenière's** love of nature began when she grew up in the French Alps. A self taught naturalist, she graduated in environmental law and management. Agnes has managed to combine her love of nature with a passion for travel into a satisfying career as an expedition guide, where she is happiest in the Polar Regions.



**Steve Howell** an International bird tour leader has been watching birds for as long as he can remember. A resident of California, Steve has been on three previous voyages and believes that birding should be fun. This widely published author is also interested in all aspects of marine life, island biogeography, chocolate and tequila.



**Sabrina Luecht** holds a B.Sc. in Zoology and has worked in the biodiversity sector on many a remote shore over the past eight years. She has studied forest and seabirds in Hawaii, Tasmania, Christmas Island and now works for the NZ Department of Conservation when not at sea. She is passionate, knowledgeable and happy to share her views on many conservation and resource management issues.



**David Harrowfield** has had a life-long interest in Antarctica and has made numerous visits to the Ross Sea region with New Zealand's Antarctic programme and the Antarctic Heritage Trust. He has published extensively and is a frequent visitor to the Scott Polar Research Institute UK. David looks forward to sharing your Antarctic and Subantarctic experience.



**Meghan Kelly** is a Southern California native who grew up exploring the desert landscape. She completed her education as an Environmental Scientist and worked in Fiji for three years to implement environmental resource management projects in rural villages. As the Cruise Director, Meghan manages passenger comfort on board, ensuring an enjoyable and rewarding time.



**Samuel Blanc** grew up in the French Alps. After three years working as a naturalist guide in France and Spain, Samuel spent 15 months at the French Antarctic research station Dumont d'Urville. There he studied seals, Adelie and Emperor Penguins. A keen photographer and passionate polar region specialist he joins us again in the Southern Ocean to share his knowledge.

### JOIN US ONLINE

For the latest conservation and expedition news become a fan at [www.facebook.com/HeritageExpeditions](https://www.facebook.com/HeritageExpeditions) and follow us on [www.twitter.com/HeritageExp](https://www.twitter.com/HeritageExp)

Our new website [www.heritage-expeditions.com](http://www.heritage-expeditions.com) features the very latest news from the ship, visit the Captain's Blog and ship locator for regular updates, plus read about past voyages and view photos of previous expeditions.

On [www.youtube.com/user/HeritageExpeditions](https://www.youtube.com/user/HeritageExpeditions) you can view clips from our fragile earth, its wildlife and their habitats.

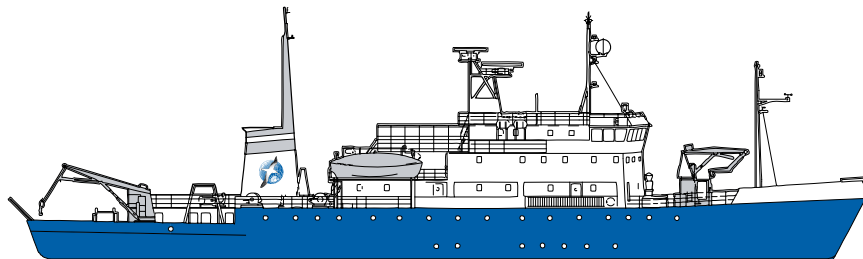
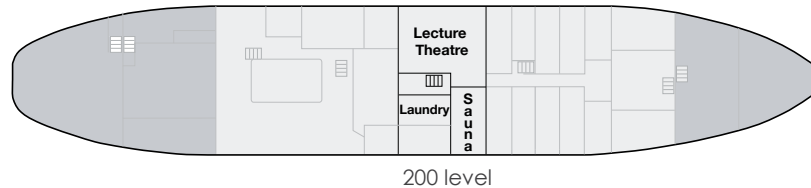
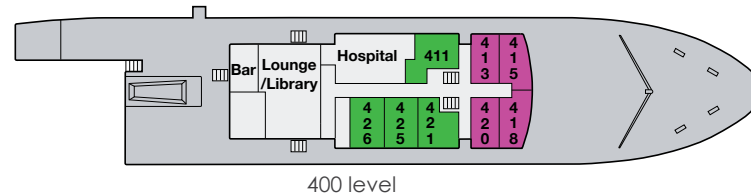
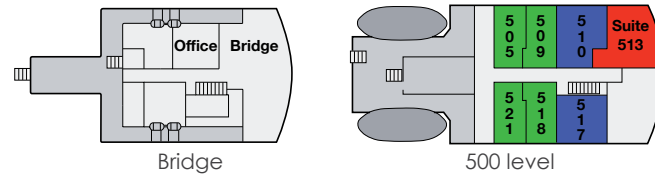
# THE SPIRIT OF ENDERBY

The *Spirit of Enderby* is the complete expedition vessel. Built in 1984 for polar and oceanographic research, she is fully ice-strengthened. This class of vessel is world renowned for Polar Expedition Cruising because of its strength, manoeuvrability and small passenger numbers. With a maximum of 50 passengers on Heritage Expedition voyages, we are one of the few remaining companies still offering the true small ship experience.

She was refurbished in March 2012 to provide comfortable accommodation in twin and triple share cabins, approximately half of which have private facilities. All cabins have outside windows or portholes and ample storage space. On board there is a combined bar/library lounge area and a dedicated lecture room.

## CABIN CATEGORIES:

- **Heritage Suite:** Large lounge area, separate bedroom with double bed and a single bed in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Large forward and side facing windows to allow great views.
- **Mini Suites:** Separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or sofa in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Mini Suites have windows.
- **Superior Plus cabins:** Two lower berths, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.
- **Superior cabins:** One bunk (one upper and one lower berth), writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.
- **Main Deck cabins:** Two lower berths, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private washbasin. Shared shower and toilets facilities nearby with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.
- **Main Deck Triple:** One bunk (one upper and one lower berth) and one additional lower berth, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private washbasin. Shared shower and toilet facilities nearby with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.







# MELANESIA DISCOVERER

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## EXPLORING PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Uncover the hidden gems of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. From the culturally rich arterial of the Sepik River we sail north across the Bismarck Sea to the remote shores of Manus and Mussau Islands. Manus has the lowest density of people in all New Guinea with its people still living a very traditional lifestyle. Next delve into the history, culture and wildlife of New Ireland and New Britain, in Rabaul we witness a local tribe's fire dance where intricately crafted masks dance over red-hot coals in a centuries old ritual to honour the local deity-spirits.

We cross the Buka Channel and at Nissan Island can view reminders of the brief but intensive World War II activities during which the islands were recaptured by Kiwi and British forces from the Japanese occupiers. Then enter a long isolated world as we are amongst the first travellers to return to Bougainville in over two decades. Sailing through the turquoise waters of the Solomon Islands, new vistas and unexpected encounters await.

For birders this itinerary offers once in a lifetime species on remote islands where few have been before. The birding potential is exceptional and highlights may include the Superb Pitta, identifiable by its black plumage with turquoise blue wings and scarlet belly. Endemic to the Solomon Islands we will be on the lookout for the Roviana Rail and Solomon Sea Eagle. Allowing birders to maximise the opportunities available to them there will be an optional specialised birding programme with customised excursions.

These waters also offer some of the greatest diving in the world and while everybody will have the opportunity to snorkel and appreciate the beauty beneath the waves, we also offer an optional scuba diving programme for those wishing to maximise their underwater experiences. Close to the Solomon Islands wrecks are scattered across the ocean floor, an indication of the fierce naval battles that took place in this area during World War II. Today these wrecks provide divers with plenty to explore as they now form spectacular reefs which attract masses of fish and coral gardens of all colours. Whether you are snorkelling or diving this ocean aquarium is waiting to be discovered.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Madang, Papua New Guinea

Arrive in the port town of Madang and transfer to the Madang Resort for the first night. This evening meet with your fellow travellers and the expedition team over dinner at the resort.

### Day 2: Madang

Madang is a thriving community renowned for its traditional artists, world class diving opportunities and the richness of its surrounding forests. This morning visit the Lababia Wildlife Management Area with its tall forest and rich diversity of wildlife, before returning to Madang to explore the markets with your Guides. Optional excursions this morning for bird and diving enthusiasts. This afternoon board the *Spirit of Enderby*, settle into your cabin and join the Captain and your expedition team on the Bridge as we set sail.

### Days 3 to 4: Sepik River

Sure to be one of the highlights of our expedition. The Sepik River is the longest river in Papua New Guinea, it is a rich arterial that has fostered great traditional artists. We plan to explore the river by Zodiac following tributaries and channels in search of local wildlife. We also meet with the villagers and marvel at their artistry.

### Day 5: Manus Island

Seldom visited and little known, Manus Island is considered a jewel in the crown of Papua New Guinea. Biologically isolated, the islands are home to a high proportion of endemic species including the Superb Pitta which is likely to be one of the birding highlights of the expedition. The waters around Manus offer some of the most spectacular and rich diving in the region, seldom explored waters promising a myriad of 'first' diving opportunities.

### Day 6: Mussa Island

Mussa Island represents one of the western-most extensions of the Lapita culture. Spend time with the local people to learn about their special culture and life on this remote outpost in the Pacific.

### Day 7: Kavieng, New Ireland

Historic Kavieng has significant evidence from the

large Japanese occupation. Birders will leave early for the highlands while the rest of the group will spend the morning exploring the town of Kavieng and its history. Later snorkel in the clear waters of the local reefs. Divers will spend the day in the company of local dive experts.

### Day 8: Rabaul, New Britain

Six beautifully cone-shaped volcanoes ring Rabaul's dramatic flooded-caldera harbour. Visit the bubbling hot springs and take in magnificent views of the harbour and volcanoes from Observatory Ridge. We are planning a very special performance tonight of the Baining tribe's fire dance. Rabaul is world renowned for the excellent diving opportunities.

### Day 9: Nissan Island

A tropical atoll bathed in rich tropical currents Nissan Island's waters abound in marine life. Seldom has anybody had the opportunity to discover this world which promises abundant pelagic fish life and pristine coral reefs. Ashore there are still reminders of the brief but intensive World War II activities on this island, meet with the friendly locals and search the dense woods for some of the elusive birds that occur here.

### Day 10: Bougainville Island

We plan to be amongst the first expeditioners to re-discover the treasures of Bougainville, long isolated and in a strange way protected by the conflict which swirled around its shores. A pristine island paradise it is home to some of the greatest biodiversity in the region both above and below the waters. With some of the most spectacular diving in the world; these reefs await rediscovery. We plan to explore the area around Arawa which offers great opportunities to access the island's interior and reefs.

### Day 11: Choiseul Island

Today we arrive in the Solomon Islands on the remote northern coast of Choiseul Island. This was once the home of the Choiseul Crested Pigeon and while it no longer walks the forest floor many other species still enliven the forest. We Zodiac cruise deep into the mangrove forest towards the Sui River Falls searching for Dugong and crocodiles.

### Day 12: New Georgia Islands

The volcanic New Georgia Islands are found in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. Birding enthusiasts will relish landing on Kolombangara Island, where we hope to see the rare Roviana Rail along with other endemic bird species. Nearby Ghizo Island has some of the best and most exciting diving in the world with World War II wrecks.

### Day 13: Santa Isabel Island

The Arnavon Islands are north-west of Santa Isabel, an area rich in marine biodiversity and one of the most important rookeries in the Western Pacific for the endangered Hawksbill Turtle. The islands also support a high diversity of terrestrial fauna, with 41 species of birds, six species of bats, and at least seven species of terrestrial reptiles. Sensational diving and snorkelling can be experienced around the islands. In the afternoon we Zodiac

cruise a chain of largely unpopulated islands off the north-western tip of Santa Isabel Island before visiting the unique village of Kia.

### Day 14: Honiara, Solomon Islands

Honiara was founded by the British as a military base during World War II and was witness to the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. Tour Honiara, visiting historical sites including Henderson Airfield, war memorials and the open-air war museum or alternatively head to the rain-forested slopes of Mount Austen in search of some of the Solomon Islands' most spectacular birds including the Solomon Sea Eagle. For those disembarking a transfer to your hotel or the airport will conclude your voyage OR join us to discover the Secrets of Melanesia.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



Lesser Bird of Paradise

Photo credit: Shutterstock



Meet the locals

Photo credit: Aaron Russ

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Superior Triple	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1357	11th - 24 Oct 2013	11,500	10,700	9,700	8,995	8,500	7,995	6,995

**Additional Charges:** Discovery Fund: \$500 pp Diving Supplement: \$800 pp Birding Supplement: \$500 pp Kayaking Supplement: \$995 pp Additional charges are payable on board (All prices are per person in USD)

**Price Includes:** All meals and 24 hour tea and coffee station aboard the ship. Use of snorkel equipment where available. All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac excluding optional specialised birding and diving programmes. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists. All onshore tips, service taxes and port charges. Comprehensive pre-departure material. Airport transfers at the beginning and end of your voyage.

**Price Excludes:** Extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, baggage/accident/travel protection plan, items of a personal nature such as bar, email, and laundry. Gratuities to ship's crew at your discretion. Airfares are an additional cost.



Papua New Guinea culture  
Photo credit: Aaron Russ

# SECRETS OF MELANESIA

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## EXPLORING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU

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Sail into a world that few have ever experienced; idyllic islands and isolated villages where unique time-honoured traditions and elaborately costumed dancers welcome us into their world. Sail from Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, to discover the beauty of the outer Solomon Islands. Relax as our ship glides into secluded bays, and takes us to remote oceanic islands where the art of traditional navigation lives today. On Santa Isabel the rhythms of life continue little changed, with daily life centered around the village and family. Malaita is culturally rich, the traditional currency, Malaitan shell-money, is still made on the island and is used as a dowry, and worn as a status symbol.

Vanuatu has produced a kaleidoscope of cultures and more than 100 indigenous languages. With over 80 habitable islands that were isolated from each other by sea or impassable mountains, islanders have closely guarded their own cultures and languages. Our expedition embraces some of these cultures and languages and offers a window into the happiest country in the world.

Our journey offers some of the greatest diving in the world and while everybody will have the opportunity to snorkel and appreciate the beauty beneath the waves, we also offer an optional scuba-diving programme for those wishing to maximise their underwater experiences. This experience includes the *SS President Coolidge* located sleeping in the waters around Espiritu Santo, listed among the top wreck dives in the world it is a diving jewel due to its accessibility. Formally a luxury liner and then commissioned by the US Navy as a military transport vessel, glass chandeliers from when she was a liner mix with cannons, jeeps and trucks from her military days. Snorkel at Million Dollar Point, where there are a multitude of bulldozers, cranes, forklifts, and trucks piled upon one another in this unique dive site, justifiably giving this location its worthy name. And then there is the abundance of marine life and coral gardens that draw you into a magical underwater world that truly is waiting to be explored else where on our expedition.

For birders this itinerary offers once in a lifetime species on remote islands where few have been before, endemic birdlife such as the Solomon Sea Eagle may be spotted. The birding potential is exceptional and to allow birders to maximise the opportunities on the expedition there will be an optional specialised birding programme with customised excursions. A picture postcard paradise awaits us as we uncover the Secrets of Melanesia.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Honiara, Solomon Islands

Honiara was founded by the British as a military base during World War II and was witness to the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. Tour Honiara, visiting historical sites including Henderson Airfield. Alternatively head to Mt. Austen in search of some of the Solomon Islands' most spectacular birds including the Solomon Sea Eagle. Board the *Spirit of Enderby* this afternoon. After familiarising yourself with your cabin and the ship join the Captain and expedition team on the Bridge.

### Day 2: San Jorge Island and Santa Isabel

One of the largest and highest islands in the Solomon Islands, most of Isabel remains unexplored and undiscovered. We will head for the remote southern shores and Thousand Ships Harbour which is nestled between San Jorge Island and the high peaks of southern Santa Isabel. The multitude of inlets, channels and bays provide numerous opportunities for divers to experience the thrill of a 'first' dive.

### Day 3: Malaita

Mountainous Malaita is home to one-third of the Solomon's total population, with pristine rivers and unexploited tropical forests. Anchoring in one of the harbours on the western side of the island, we'll spend the day ashore, including a visit to Langa Langa Lagoon, famous for its artificial islands. An excursion into the hills behind Auki provides good chances of sighting birds endemic to Malaita.

### Day 4: Makira and Santa Ana (San Cristobal)

Makira is the most easterly of the main islands in the Solomons archipelago. Nearby to the east lies Santa Ana, a small raised coral atoll. Sea caves on the island are believed to be the site of first habitation in the Solomons, dating back to 1280 BC. We spend time with the locals, who share with us their traditional song and dance. Join our naturalists for a walk across the island, looking out for colourful orchids and the elusive Melanesian Megapode.

### Day 5: Nendö – Temotu Province

Nendö is the largest of the Santa Cruz Islands, which lie to the south-east of the Solomon Islands.

The Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira unsuccessfully tried to establish a colony there in 1595. Biologically these islands share more in common with Vanuatu. This is the home of red feather money, sourced from the Scarlet Honeyeater. Today the islanders will perform the dances of their ancestors with traditional red feather sticks.

### Day 6: Duff Islands

The Duff Islands are a cluster of 11 small islands. On the tiny island of Taumako in the Solomon Islands' eastern province of Temotu live some 500 Polynesians who may be the only people in the Pacific still capable of building and sailing traditional voyaging canoes in completely traditional ways. Watch out for locals hand-crafting their vessels on the shore with adzes.

### Day 7: Vanikolo

Today we explore the archipelago of Vanikolo, with its five islands encapsulated by a dramatic barrier reef which offers superb diving and snorkelling. French explorer Jean-François de La Pérouse was stranded here after both his vessels, *La Boussole* and *Astrolabe*, struck this reef in 1788. On the shore we visit a monument to Le Perouse, erected by fellow explorer Dumont Durville in 1827. Join the naturalists on a forest wander in search of two endemic bird species.

### Day 8: Vanua Lava

This morning we arrive in Vanuatu at the northern outpost of Vanua Lava, the largest island in the Banks Islands which is crowned by the volcanically active Mt. Séré'ama. Vanua Lava with its nearby Motu Lava and Reef Islands offers diverse landscapes, rich culture and a bountiful underwater world. The surrounding waters are home to the recently discovered Vanuatu Petrel which we will be looking for upon our departure.

### Day 9: Espiritu Santo

Enjoy a full day ashore on Vanuatu's largest Island, Santo; location of James Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*. Early morning offers a visit to Vatthe Conservation Area for the birders in search of many of Vanuatu's endemic birds or divers can explore the wreck of *SS President Coolidge*. Other opportunities include swimming, snorkelling or a visit to Luganville Township.

### Day 10: Malakula

Vanuatu's second largest island, visited by Captain Cook in 1774, Malakula and its coastal islands became known as The Cannibal Islands due to the fierce reputation of the Big Namba and Small Namba tribes. We explore the southern shoreline, home of the Small Nambas tribal group and the least developed and most traditional part of Malakula. The nearby low-lying Maskelyne Islands offer first-class diving and snorkelling opportunities.



Clown Fish

Photo credit: Meghan Kelly



Kayaking Melanesia

Photo credit: Simon Sharpin

Be transported back in time as we witness the famed Masked Dances of Malakula.

### Day 11: Port Vila, Vanuatu

Arrive into Port Vila early morning and disembark. Upon disembarking a transfer to your central hotel or the airport will conclude your voyage.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Superior Triple	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1359	24th Oct – 3rd Nov 2013	9,995	9,250	8,600	7,995	7,500	6,995	5,995

**Additional Charges:** Discovery Fund: \$500 pp Diving Supplement: \$700 pp Birding Supplement: \$450 pp Kayaking Supplement: \$915 pp Additional charges are payable on board (All prices are per person in USD)

**Price Includes:** All meals and 24 hour tea and coffee station aboard the ship. Use of snorkel equipment where available. All shore excursions and activities throughout the voyage by Zodiac excluding optional specialised birding and diving programmes. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists. All onshore tips, service taxes and port charges. Comprehensive pre-departure material. Airport transfers at the beginning and end of your voyage.

**Price Excludes:** Extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, baggage/accident/travel protection plan, items of a personal nature such as bar, email and laundry. Gratuities to ship's crew at your discretion. Airfares are an additional cost.

# SOUTH PACIFIC ODYSSEY

## NEW ZEALAND TO THE SOLOMONS VIA THE KERMADECS, TONGA AND FIJI

Many people have had a taste of the South Pacific and Melanesia on a cruise or conventional tour, but there are numerous islands off the popular routes which due to their relative isolation offer an enticing array of experiences. Previously only the lucky few have sailed these blue waters on private yachts, dropping anchor in secluded bays, going ashore to explore virtually untouched rainforests and making contact with locals who rarely receive visitors. This world is now accessible to you on the *Spirit of Enderby*.

This expedition includes New Zealand's rarely visited Kermadec Islands, Tonga (including the remote northern island of 'Tin Can' or Nuiāfo'ou), the outer islands of Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomons. The seas surrounding these islands are some of the richest in the world in terms of marine diversity. Birders will relish the chance to look for two of the world's rarest seabirds – Fiji Petrel and Vanuatu Petrel, as well as the recently described Magnificent Petrel. In the Kermadec group we will seek out the endemic Red-crowned Parakeet and in Tonga we will search for the Tongan Whistler and the very rare Megapode. We will visit the Lau Archipelago in Fiji to look for the Ogea Monarch and the Shepherd Islands in Vanuatu in search of the Royal Parrotfinch.

Aboard the *Spirit of Enderby* for this significant journey from New Zealand to the Solomon Islands will be a team of Pacific historians and naturalists who will interpret our encounters, giving further insights into this seldom visited realm. One of the major objectives of our expeditions is to extend knowledge, and as with all expedition travel, there is a degree of flexibility in the itinerary. At each of the stops there is an opportunity to join organised excursions which focus on birding, cultural history or snorkelling and diving.

Renowned for its friendly people, this part of the world also has beautiful beaches with clear warm waters making travel through the region a pleasure in itself.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Tauranga

Welcome aboard. Today there is a good chance you will see Grey-faced, Cook's and Black Petrel, Buller's Shearwater, albatross and even Pycroft's Petrel.

### Day 2: At Sea

We will be passing through prime Pterodroma petrel country. We are likely to encounter Black-winged, White-necked, Kermadec and Cook's and may also see the mighty Sperm Whale and the elusive Cuvier's Beaked Whale.

### Day 3: L'Esperance Rock and Curtis/Cheeseman Islands – Kermadec Islands

On these havens for breeding seabirds we will be on the lookout for White-bellied Storm-Petrel and the Kermadec White-faced Storm-Petrel. Encounters likely are the Masked Booby, Red-tailed Tropicbird and Black Noddy. We plan to Zodiac cruise the coastline and possibly dive or snorkel.

### Days 4 to 5: Raoul Island

The weather and sea conditions will dictate our two days on Raoul Island. We hope to encounter Galapagos Sharks and the inquisitive Spotted Black Grouper. On shore interesting birds are the Kermadec Red-crowned Parakeet and the elusive Spotless Crake. Close encounters with Black Noddy, Grey Ternlet, White Tern and the beautiful Red-tailed Tropicbird are also likely.

### Days 6 to 7: At Sea

We hope to see Tahiti and Collared Petrels in these ornithologically virtually unknown waters.

### Day 8: Nuku'alofa – Tonga

Optional birding, natural history, cultural or swimming and snorkelling tours are available today.

### Day 9: Vava'u – Tonga

The Vava'u Island group is a spectacular tropical island paradise. Birders will be keen to search for the endemic Tongan Whistler and the near-endemic Blue-crowned Lorikeet.

### Day 10: Nuiafu'ou Island – Tonga

Northern most of all the Tongan islands and home to the critically endangered endemic Tongan Megapode.

### Day 11: Vava'u – Tonga

We return briefly to the island of Vava'u to clear Tongan customs then begin our journey to Fiji.

### Day 12: At Sea

Today we keep a sharp eye out for the critically endangered Fiji Petrel, the Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby and White-tailed Tropicbird.

### Day 13: Levuka – Fiji

We arrive on the island of Ovalau where in the hills above Levuka we explore the forests for the abundant and colourful birdlife.

### Day 14: Suva – Fiji

We arrive in the capital of Fiji where your time is free until midday tomorrow. Apart from lunch today (not included in the voyage price), meals and accommodation will be available on board.

### Day 15: Suva – At Sea

Sail for the waters off Gau in search of the critically endangered Fiji Petrel. Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropicbirds, Red-footed and Brown Boobies, Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds, Sooty and White Terns, Black and Brown Noddies are all likely to be seen today.

### Day 16: Ogea Levu – Fiji

This morning we will continue searching for Fiji Petrels and this afternoon will depart for Ogea Levu.

### Day 17: Ogea Levu – Fiji

Our main target this morning is the Ogea Monarch and we also hope to see the near endemic Blue-crowned Lorikeet.

### Day 18: Kadavu Island – Fiji

Kadavu has four endemics: Crimson Shining Parrot, Kadavu Honeyeater, Kadavu Fantail and Whistling Dove and we hope to encounter all of these.

### Days 19 to 20: At Sea

Several species of petrel and other tropical seabirds are likely to feed in these waters and it could be good for cetaceans.

### Day 21: Efate Island – Vanuatu

We explore some of Vanuatu's many islands which are surrounded by colourful coral reefs. Here we will lookout for the endemic Yellow-fronted White-

eye. Other species we may find are Dark-brown Honeyeater and the elusive Blue-faced Parrotfinch.

### Day 22: Tongoa – Shepherd Islands – Vanuatu

A rare chance to visit the Shepherd Islands where we will land on Tongoa – also known as Kuwae. This morning we will look for the elusive and striking Royal Parrotfinch rarely seen outside the Shepherd Islands.

### Day 23: At Sea

A great opportunity to look out for seabirds such as the Vanuatu Petrel, as well as cetaceans.

### Day 24: Espiritu Santo – Vanuatu

We should see a good selection of Vanuatu's endemic birds on the island of Espiritu Santo including the Santo Mountain Starling, Tanna Fruit Dove, Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher, Buff-bellied Monarch and hopefully the mound-building Vanuatu Megapode.

### Day 25: Banks Islands – Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Petrel and a distinctly dark subspecies of Collared Petrel, dubbed the Magnificent Petrel, have been found on these islands.

### Day 26: Banks Islands and Sola – Vanuatu

We may make an exploratory landing on Banks Islands this morning and will call briefly at Sola in Port Patterson, the capital of the Torba Province.

### Day 27: Santa Cruz Islands – Solomon Islands

This morning we steam north towards the Santa Cruz Islands. There may be an opportunity to land this evening.

### Day 28: Nendö Island – Solomon Islands

We stand a good chance of seeing the endemic Santa Cruz White-eye and the bizarre looking Sanford's White-eye, but the endemic Santa Cruz Shrikebill is rare. The Rusty-winged Starling can also be observed here.

### Day 29: Vanikoro Island – Solomon Islands

Today we search for two endemics, the Vanikoro Monarch and the Vanikoro White-eye.

### Day 30: At Sea

A final day at sea to enjoy the tropical seabirds that have been our companions throughout this expedition.

### Day 31: Honiara – Solomon Islands

We arrive at Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands. After breakfast you and your luggage will be transferred ashore by Zodiac and a complimentary shuttle will take you to a local hotel or the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



Black-winged Petrel

Photo credit: Aaron Russ

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1477	2nd Apr – 2nd May 2014	18,900	17,850	16,900	15,800	14,500	12,700

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$700 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.



# ISLAND ODYSSEY

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## FIJI VIA THE KERMADECS AND TONGA

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Today most people fly this route in a few hours completely oblivious to the unique islands and ecosystems over which they pass. Very rarely is there an opportunity to sail this route unless you are a hardened blue water yachts person. This expedition includes the rarely visited Kermadec Islands, Tonga and Fiji.

The isolated Kermadec Islands are the summits of huge undersea volcanoes situated along the western edge of the Kermadec Trench. They have a unique assemblage of subtropical and temperate species, testimony to the process of evolution arising from climate and isolation. The aquatic ecosystem surrounding the islands is protected by the extensive 748,000 hectare Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve, offering amazing dive opportunities. Our explorations around the offshore islands and on Raoul Island will provide a great opportunity to experience this lonely island group.

Tonga is untouched and largely undiscovered. Remaining as close to authentic Polynesia as you'll find, the sheltered beauty and cultural authenticity of the Kingdom of Tonga is often described as the 'jewel in the Pacific'. It is not hard to see why as we visit a number of islands including the remote northern most island in the group 'Tin Can' or Nuiāfo'ou Island. Tropical rainforests and pristine tropical atolls all host a magnificent array of flora and fauna. Captain James Cook dubbed the islands the 'Friendly Islands' more than two centuries ago and whilst onshore we will be able to experience this authentic Tongan hospitality.

As we sail towards the islands of Fiji a tropical paradise we will look for the critically endangered Fiji Petrel. Our expedition finishes in Suva but not before we have had a chance to look for some of the colourful endemic birdlife on the island of Ovalau in the hills above Fiji's first capital Levuka.

A team of Pacific historians and naturalists will join us for this expedition on board our expedition vessel the *Spirit of Enderby*. They will ensure that you not only enjoy the trip but also learn as you travel. While learning is not compulsory, we have found this is quite addictive! At each of the stops there is an opportunity to join organised excursions or activities such as birding, cultural history or snorkelling/diving. Alternatively you can simply enjoy the free time and fresh air. This is an expedition and as with all Expedition Travel, there is a degree of flexibility in the itinerary which allows us the freedom to stay longer if a landing is particularly good or divert from our planned course if there is something unique that we couldn't possibly have planned for or predicted.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Tauranga, New Zealand

Welcome aboard. This afternoon if you are on deck there is a good chance you will see numerous species of seabirds, including Grey-faced, Cook's and Black Petrel, Buller's Shearwater and even a few albatross. There is a reasonable chance of seeing Pycroft's Petrel, although a very good look would be needed to identify this species!

### Day 2: At Sea

Today we will be passing through deep waters in prime Pterodroma petrel country and we are likely to see an impressive variety of these graceful birds. We are likely to encounter Black-winged, White-necked, Kermadec and Cook's and there is always the chance of something really rare. If viewing conditions are good we stand a reasonable chance of seeing the mighty Sperm Whale and the elusive Cuvier's Beaked Whale.

### Day 3: L'Esperance Rock and Curtis/Cheeseman Islands – Kermadec Islands

These islands are havens for breeding seabirds and we are likely to encounter impressive numbers as we sail offshore. In addition to the more common species, we will be on the lookout for White-bellied Storm-Petrel and the Kermadec White-faced Storm-Petrel. We are also likely to encounter some tropical seabirds that occur nowhere else in New Zealand, such as Masked Booby, Red-tailed Tropicbird, and Black Noddy. The distinct local race of Bottlenose Dolphin often comes out to bow ride the ship as we approach these islands. If the weather and sea conditions are suitable we will Zodiac cruise (no landings are permitted) and possibly offer an opportunity to dive or snorkel at the later islands.

### Days 4 to 5: Raoul Island

We have two days scheduled for activities including diving, snorkeling and hikes ashore at Raoul Island. The weather and sea conditions will dictate our activities but you can be assured of a getting maximum time ashore or in the water snorkeling or diving. Galapagos Sharks are a feature of nearly every dive here and divers often have very close encounters with the massive and very inquisitive Spotted Black Grouper which has been fished out of most of its other haunts.

On shore the most interesting bird is the Kermadec Red-crowned Parakeet, often considered to be a distinct species endemic to these islands. Since the removal of rats, Spotless Crakes have increased greatly and it is probably the easiest place in the world to observe this very widespread but normally elusive species. Of course most of the birds on Raoul are seabirds and we are likely to have close encounters with Black Noddy, Grey Ternlet, White Tern and the beautiful Red-tailed Tropicbird.

### Days 6 to 7: At Sea

There is time to spend a few lazy hours at sea as we cruise north towards Tonga. These waters are rarely visited and virtually unknown ornithologically and we will be recording seabird and cetacean sightings with great interest. Some species we hope to see out here include Tahiti and Collared Petrels.

### Day 8: Nuku'alofa – Tonga

After breakfast there will be an opportunity to go ashore and explore. There will be an optional a) birding/natural history tour, b) a cultural tour or c) a swimming/snorkelling tour or alternatively free time to simply explore the town.

### Day 9: Vavau – Tonga

The Vava'u Island group is a spectacular tropical island paradise. Some of the islands are ringed by white sand beaches while others have tropical forests, sea-level caves and dramatic limestone cliffs with breathtaking vistas. The climate is nearly always suitable for swimming and snorkelling, with crystal clear waters providing exceptional visibility. You will have the opportunity to enjoy the islands or swim and snorkel. Those in search of the endemic Tongan Whistler will have an opportunity to search an area of remnant forest on the main island. We could also encounter the near-endemic Blue-crowned Lorikeet today.

### Day 10: Nuiafa'ou Island – Tonga

This remote island is the northern most of the Tongan group of islands. It is the ultimate destination for birders and natural history enthusiasts in Tonga. Nuiafa'ou is home to the critically endangered endemic Tongan Megapode. We will spend the day ashore enjoying the hospitality of the local people.

### Day 11: Vavau – Tonga

We return briefly to the island of Vavau to clear Tongan customs. Once this formality is complete we will begin our journey to Fiji.

### Day 12: At Sea

A chance to relax and reflect on everything we have seen and done on this 'Island Odyssey'. This day at sea we are again travelling through virtually unknown seabird waters and will keep a keen lookout. In particular, we will be keeping a sharp eye out for the critically endangered Fiji Petrel. Other species we may encounter include Brown Booby, Red-footed Booby and White-tailed Tropicbird.



Raoul Island ramble Photo credit: Marie Kospartov

### Day 13: Levuka – Fiji

We will have a final round of lectures and presentations as well as recaps and briefings prior to our arrival in Fiji. We arrive at the Fijian island of Ovalau in the historic Port of Levuka formerly Fiji's first capital, to experience Levuka is a step back into Fiji's past and history. We will complete customs formalities and explore the island; the remnant forests in the hills above Levuka offer an excellent introduction to the abundant and colourful birdlife of Fiji.

### Day 14: Suva – Fiji

We arrive in Suva, the capital of Fiji, where we will say our farewells. There will be a complimentary transfer to a local Suva hotel and/or to the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



White-tailed Tropic Bird Photo credit: Steve Howell

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1479	2nd Apr – 15th Apr 2014	9,100	8,500	7,900	7,600	6,900	5,991

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$400 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.



Red Tailed Tropic Bird  
Photo credit: Heritage Expeditions

# BIRDING THE PACIFIC

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## FIJI TO THE SOLOMONS

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Melanesia is comprised of thousands of islands, large and small. These islands boast lush tropical rainforest packed with many endemic birds and other wildlife. The seas surrounding the islands are some of the richest in the world in terms of marine diversity.

While the larger islands of Melanesia are easy enough to visit on a conventional tour, the smaller islands are nearly impossible to access. For most people these scattered islands are just dots on a map, with endemic birds that will only ever be seen as paintings in a field guide. The seabirds in this region are so unknown that species are being discovered or rediscovered with regularity, even in the 21st century.

This unique itinerary visits the Melanesian countries of Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. It offers birders the chance to look for two of the world's rarest seabirds – Fiji Petrel and Vanuatu Petrel, as well as the recently described Magnificent Petrel. It is also an opportunity to visit some of the most remote islands in the world and have a chance to see the endemic birds that inhabit them. These are birds that have only ever been seen by the very small number of birders and scientists who have been fortunate enough to access the islands on which they occur. We will visit the Lau Archipelago in Fiji in search of the Ogea Monarch and the Shepherd Islands in Vanuatu in search of the Royal Parrotfinch. We journey to Banks Island where the Vanuatu Petrel was recently found to breed, and the islands of Nendö and Vanikoro in the remote Santa Cruz Islands, home of no less than five endemics.

We are also planning on visiting some of the larger islands, such as Kadavu in Fiji and Santo in Vanuatu so we will see a good selection of the other birds of this region. Along the way we will also encounter an excellent variety of the seabirds which inhabit this region.

Melanesia is renowned for its friendly people, beautiful beaches and clear warm waters and travelling through this region is a pleasure in itself. The comfortable *Spirit of Enderby* is the perfect vessel to explore these islands.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Suva – Fiji

Meet at the Holiday Inn Suva before our transfer to the *Spirit of Enderby* berthed at the Port of Suva. We will sail for the waters off Gau. The island of Gau is famous amongst seabird aficionados as it is suspected to be the only breeding ground of the critically endangered Fiji Petrel. This is an extremely rare and elusive bird and sightings are far from certain, but we will be making every effort possible to locate this bird during our time off Gau. Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropicbirds, Red-footed and Brown Boobies, Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds, Sooty and White Terns and Black and Brown Noddies are all likely to be seen today and throughout our time at sea during this voyage.

### Day 2: Ogea Levu – Fiji

This morning we will make a chumming effort for Fiji Petrels and hope to see them after they depart their breeding grounds. This afternoon we depart the Gau region for Ogea Levu, home to the extremely localised Ogea Monarch which occurs on only two small islands within the Lau Archipelago.

### Day 3: Ogea Levu – Fiji

Our main target this morning is the Ogea Monarch. Very few birders or ornithologists have ever managed to visit this island but it is thought that this species is still fairly common here so we should have a good chance of locating it and perhaps also assessing its status. We may also be able to observe the near endemic Blue-crowned Lorikeet. Late this afternoon we depart for the island of Kadavu.

### Day 4: Kadavu Island – Fiji

Kadavu offers excellent birding and has four endemics: Crimson Shining Parrot, Kadavu Honeyeater, Kadavu Fantail and Whistling Dove and we hope to see all of these. This island also offers a chance to see a good selection of more widespread Fijian birds.

### Days 5 to 6: At Sea

At sea between Fiji and Vanuatu. These waters are essentially unknown ornithologically but this is likely to be an interesting crossing. Several species of petrel and other tropical seabirds are likely to feed in these waters and it could be good for cetaceans.

### Day 7: Efate Island – Vanuatu

Vanuatu has many islands and we will explore some of these, they are rich in culture and surrounded by colourful coral reefs, deserted beaches and crystal blue waters. We will hopefully see our first Vanuatu endemic, the Yellow-fronted White-eye and other species that we may be able to find are Dark-brown Honeyeater and the elusive Blue-faced Parrotfinch.

### Day 8: Tongoa – Shepherd Islands – Vanuatu

Very birders get the chance to visit the Shepherd Islands, we will be visiting the largest island of Tongoa. In addition to the more common Vanuatu birds, we will be looking for the Royal Parrotfinch, a striking and very poorly known bird that occurs widely in Vanuatu but is rarely seen outside the Shepherd Islands. It is very elusive but we have all morning to search for it. In the afternoon we continue north.

### Day 9: At Sea

We have the entire day at sea today as we head northwards. This provides a great opportunity to look out for seabirds, including the Vanuatu Petrel, as well as cetaceans.

### Day 10: Espiritu Santo – Vanuatu

The island of Espiritu Santo is home to all of Vanuatu's endemic birds, including the Santo Mountain Starling, a species restricted entirely to Santo. We will be spending the day birding the Vatthe Conservation area. We should see a good selection of the endemic Vanuatu birds here including Tanna Fruit Dove, Chestnut-bellied Kingfisher and Buff-bellied Monarch, and hopefully the mound-building Vanuatu Megapode. We should also see a good range of more widespread birds.

### Day 11: Banks Islands – Vanuatu

These islands hit the birding headlines a few years ago when the Vanuatu Petrel was not only rediscovered here, but its nesting grounds were found. Even more recently, a distinctly dark subspecies of Collared Petrel, dubbed the Magnificent Petrel, has also been found. Both species are apparently regularly seen at sea off the islands and we have the whole day to search for them.

### Day 12: Banks Islands and Sola – Vanuatu

We continue our birding in the Banks Islands this morning. If we still have not seen the Vanuatu and Magnificent Petrel we will continue our search for them. If we have seen them there will be an option for an exploratory landing to search for some of the endemics. This afternoon we call briefly at Sola in Port Patterson, the capital of the Torba Province.

### Day 13: Santa Cruz Islands – Solomon Islands

This morning is at sea as we steam north towards the Santa Cruz Islands. On arrival once formalities are completed and if time permits there will be an opportunity to land and have an evening's birding.

### Day 14: Nendö Island – Solomon Islands

We will spend the day birding on Nendö Island. We stand a good chance of seeing the three endemic birds, Santa Cruz White-eye, the bizarre looking Sanford's White-eye and the Santa Cruz Shrikebill which is seemingly very rare. We also have a chance of seeing Rusty-winged Starling here.

### Day 15: Vanikoro Island – Solomon Islands

We arrive at Vanikoro Island in the early morning. Today we search for the two endemics on Vanikoro Island, the Vanikoro Monarch and the Vanikoro White-eye, the latter species described as recently as 2008. Very few birders have had the opportunity to explore this remote island so it is something of an expeditionary day.

### Day 16: At Sea

We have a final day at sea to reflect on our experiences and enjoy the sunshine and tropical seabirds that have been our companions throughout this expedition.

### Day 17: Honiara – Solomon Islands

We arrive at Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands where we will anchor offshore and after breakfast we will transfer you and your luggage ashore by Zodiac. There will be a complimentary shuttle to a local hotel or the airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**



Red-footed Boobie Photo credit: Steve Howell



Moustached Treeswift Photo credit: Steve Howell

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1481	16th Apr – 2nd May 2014	13,100	12,500	11,977	10,900	9,950	8,900

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$400 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.

# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

## SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA PLUS THE CHATHAM ISLANDS

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.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Meet this evening for an informal get-together over dinner at the hotel, meet fellow adventurers on the voyage and some of our expedition team.

### Day 2: Port of Bluff

Enjoy a visit to the Southland Museum to view the special Subantarctic display before transferring to the Port of Bluff where we board the *Spirit of Enderby*.

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

Cruise by Zodiac if weather and sea conditions are suitable along the sheltered eastern side of North East Island. We should see the endemic Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbirds, also Cape Pigeons, Antarctic Terns, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls. There are are hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters nesting here and Buller's Albatross breeding from late December onwards.

### Day 4: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a great place to view birds and wildlife. We visit Sandy Bay, the main breeding ground for the rare New Zealand (Hooker's) Sea Lion and just one of three breeding grounds on the Auckland Islands. There are chances to observe the 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. We will also keep a lookout for the rare Subantarctic Snipe. On Dery Castle Reef there is a good chance of seeing the Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and perhaps other migratory waders.

### Day 5: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

These islands have witnessed many a shipwreck in days gone by and harbour tales of castaways and coastwatchers. If weather and sea conditions are suitable, energetic expeditioners are able to climb to the South West Cape Shy Albatross colony where Gibson's Wandering Albatross nest amongst the tussocks above the colony.

### Day 6: At Sea

We can expect some of the best pelagic birding on this leg of the journey from the Auckland Islands to Macquarie Island with great views of species such

as the Royal Albatross, Wandering Albatross, Shy Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, Diving-Petrel, Little Shearwater, Storm-Petrel and to confuse everybody, numerous Prion species.

### Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

The only place in the world where the beautiful Royal Penguin breeds, this remote outpost supports a breathtaking concentration of wildlife. You will never forget your first experience of a noisy 'penguin city' where you will be witness to a thousand chattering, feeding chicks; territorial disputes; petty pilfering and courtship displays: King, Gentoo and Rockhopper Penguins can also be seen here. We meet with Park Rangers and seek out the thousands of Southern Elephant Seals lolling on the beaches and along the coast where Redpolls and Imperial Shag can often be spotted.

### Day 9: At Sea

We will be keeping a keen lookout for cetaceans, albatross and petrels today, relax in the ship's bar or catch up on your reading in the library.

### Day 10: Campbell Island – Perseverance Harbour

We drop anchor in Perseverance Harbour. Once on shore we will walk to the nesting site of the Southern Royal Albatross or to Northwest Bay, passing beautiful megaherbs growing on the hills. During the day ashore we should see the Campbell Island Shag, Southern Skua, Antarctic Tern, Dunnock, New Zealand Pipit, Campbell Island Teal and hopefully the elusive Campbell Island Snipe.

### Day 11: At Sea

Join us on the Bridge, where we keep a keen lookout for species commonly seen in this area: Black-browed Albatross, Campbell Island Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. There should be plenty of petrels and again the hard to identify Prion species.

### Day 12: Antipodes Islands

One of the most isolated, least known and rugged of the Subantarctic Islands, landings are not permitted here, so we cruise along the coast looking for the endemic Antipodes Island and Reischek's Parakeet. We may also see the Antipodes subspecies of the New Zealand Pipit, and with half the world population of Erect-crested Penguins here, we should encounter one or two as well as Antarctic Terns and Kelp Gulls.

### Day 13: Bounty Islands

These inhospitable granite islets are home to thousands of Salvin's Albatross, Erect-crested Penguins, Fulmar Prions and the endemic Bounty Island Shag, the world's rarest. At sea we should spot Wandering Albatross species, 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.

### Day 14: At Sea

We continue north towards the Chatham Islands, with similar species accompanying us as yesterday. Towards evening as we approach the islands we are closer to the Subantarctic and sub tropical convergence and we see a subtle change in the species composition. This evening we cruise off the south coast of the main island where the critically endangered Magenta Petrel breeds and the Chatham Petrel has been seen on previous expeditions.

### Day 15: Chatham Islands – Waitangi

This morning we go ashore on the main island where we might see the endemic Chatham Island Shag and along the coast the Chatham Island Oystercatcher. We visit a private bush reserve on the south coast to see the Chatham Island Warbler, Chatham Island Pigeon and Tui. This evening we have another look for the Magenta and Chatham Island Petrels.

### Day 16: Pyramid Rock and South East Island

Arrive early morning at the spectacular Pyramid Rock, the only breeding place of the Chatham Island Albatross. Then at South East Island, one of the world's greatest nature reserves, we Zodiac cruise to see the endangered Shore Plover. We will also keep

our eyes peeled for the Pitt Island Shag. Before we depart the archipelago we visit the Mangere Islands from where the endemic Black Robin was rescued.

### Days 17 to 18: At Sea

En route to Dunedin we will cross the Chatham Rise. Here nutrient-rich waters allow for an overlap between northern pelagic species and birds from southern latitudes. We can expect to see Royal Albatross, Wandering Albatross, Westland Black Petrel, Cook's Petrel and much more.

### Day 19: Dunedin

Our adventure ends at the historic Port of Otago. We bid farewell to our fellow voyagers and enjoy a transfer to the city or airport.

### Enquire for a full itinerary.



Campbell Island Albatross

Photo credit: Ewen Bell

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1361	14th Nov – 2nd Dec 2013	15,000	14,500	14,000	12,900	11,550	10,500

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$650 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.



# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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## SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA

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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. 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 Alex's 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's, Macquarie and Campbell. Each one is different and each one is unique, just like this expedition.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Dunedin

Meet your fellow voyagers and expedition staff for an informal get-together over dinner at the hotel, where you will stay overnight.

### Day 2: Port of Otago

We transfer you to the Port of Otago where the staff welcome you on board the *Spirit of Enderby* and as you settle into your cabin, our adventure begins.

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

North East Island is the largest of The Snares and staggeringly, this one island is claimed by some to be home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles together. Zodiac cruising the rugged coastline we learn how the islands got their name and encounter Snares Crested Penguins, Cape Petrel and Buller's Albatross on the imposing cliffs. We are also likely to encounter Antarctic Terns, White-fronted Terns, Red-billed Gulls, Tomtits and Fernbirds.

### Day 4: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

Named for the same distinguished shipping family as our own vessel and one of the most beautiful islands in the group, this is a great birding location and a chance to see everything from the famous Southern Royal Albatross and Northern Giant Petrel to parakeets, Bellbirds and the endemic shag, teal and snipe. Sandy Bay is one of three breeding grounds on the Auckland Islands for the rare Hooker's or New Zealand Sea Lion.

### Day 5: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

These islands have witnessed many a shipwreck in days gone by. Loaded in human history, they harbour tales of castaways, bullion and coast watchers through to today's scientific visitors. Today we land in Carnley Harbour and if weather and sea conditions permit visit the Shy Mollymawk colony at South West Cape or if weather is not suitable we will select one of a number of other sites available to us.

### Day 6: At Sea

As we make our way through an area known as the Furious Fifties in the tumultuous Southern Ocean,

we will learn more about the flora and fauna as we prepare for our arrival at Macquarie Island. En route there are great birding opportunities which may 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. We will endeavour to spot the Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion – never an easy task – 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 the Black-bellied Storm-Petrel.

### Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

Described by one Australian explorer as "one of the wonder spots of the world" this is the only place in the world where the beautiful Royal Penguin breeds. Three other species of penguins, the King, Gentoo and Rockhopper also breed here. You will never forget your first experience of a noisy 'penguin city', where the dapper inhabitants show no fear of their strange visitors and where you will be immersed in a tumult of chattering, feeding chicks; territorial disputes; petty pilfering and courtship displays. This all happens amongst the hundreds of Southern Elephant Seals lolling on the beaches and dunes. On arrival we meet with scientists and Park Rangers based here who will accompany us on our landings.

### Day 9: At Sea

We head north from Macquarie Island through waters rich in seabirds towards Campbell Island. We invite you to join the Captain on the Bridge, to keep a keen lookout for birds and for whales. Today there will also be briefings and lectures on Campbell Island in preparation for our visit there.

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

We spend two days exploring the island by foot taking in the panorama of rocky islets and sea stacks, once the lonely preserve of settlers and seal hunters and now returned to nature. Enjoy an easy walk to the nesting site of the Southern Royal Albatross at Col Lyall or walk across the hills to

Northwest Bay and see the strange and beautiful megaherbs growing on the hills. These huge pink and yellow wild flowers have adapted well to the harsh conditions. We also seek out other wildlife such as Campbell Island Shags, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross and, on the beaches beyond, young male sea lions testing their strength.

### 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

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 Invercargill Airport.

### Enquire for a full itinerary.



Southern Elephant Seals Photo credit: Katya Ovsyanikova



Anisotome latifolia Photo credit: Ewen Bell

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1363	2nd – 14th Dec 2013	8,800	8,200	7,700	7,200	6,600	5,600
#1369*	30th Dec 2013 – 11th Jan 2014	8,800	8,200	7,700	7,200	6,600	5,600

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$650 pp (All prices are per person in USD) (\*1369 starts in Invercargill)

**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.



White-capped Albatross  
Photo credit: Aaron Russ

# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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## SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND

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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 coastwatchers 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 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.



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Meet at an Invercargill central city hotel and be transferred to the Port of Bluff for embarkation. The Captain and expedition team will be waiting for your arrival on the *Spirit of Enderby*. Familiarise yourself on board and then join the Captain on the Bridge or fellow travellers on deck as we set sail and our adventure begins.

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

The largest of this group of islands is North East Island, a nature reserve of international importance and home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles put together. A group of islands that have had no introduced mammals, they are a pristine haven for wildlife. Snagged with hidden reefs we learn how the islands got their name. We will cruise the jagged coastline by Zodiac allowing us to see some of the features of the island. From the water we can view the unique large tree daisies *Olearia lyallii* and *Brachyglottis stewartiae* which dominate much of the island, creating a forest canopy and draping the hills. Our cruise should also allow us to encounter some of the birdlife that inhabits these islands, including the endemic Snares Crested Penguin. We may also catch glimpses of the Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbird which are unique to these islands. On the cliffs we will likely see Buller's Albatross whose Maori name translates as 'flying wind' which could be an apt description of The Snares. This species only nests here and at the Solander Islands.

### Day 3: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a wildlife rich island that has no equal in the Southern Ocean. Offering a varying landscape where the Rata forests are regenerating and there is a resurgence of herbaceous plants, it is one of the most beautiful islands in this group. The island is home to the Hooker's or New Zealand Sea Lion which breeds on Sandy Bay beach where we plan to land. This animal is the rarest sea lion in the world. We will walk to enjoy close encounters with the Royal Albatross nested amongst a hummocked sward of *Oreobolus pectinatus* and regenerating tussock. There is a good chance that we will see the endemic snipe, shag and Auckland Island Flightless Teal as we walk around the island.

We plan to spend some time with the Yellow-eyed Penguin, the world's rarest penguin and the fourth largest of the world's penguins. Unique fields of megaherbs, whose languorous names promise the exotic: the *Bulbinella rossii*, the regenerating patches of *Anisotome latifolia* and the vivid red and white gentians, make an unforgettable sight. Native birds such as the Tui, Bellbird and parakeets benefit from the presence of Rata trees and can be heard in the forest.

### Day 4: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

Auckland Island is the largest of the islands in the group. The western coastline has been sculpted into formidable cliffs by the prevailing westerly winds, and to the east, the coast has been carved by glaciers into some of the most picturesque fiords in the world. Our anchorage in Carnley Harbour in the south of the group offers a range of activities, depending on weather and sea conditions. We could go in search of a Shy Mollymawk Albatross colony and perhaps spot the beautiful Wandering Albatross spreading its huge wingspan above the cliffs. Other possibilities include visiting the abandoned World War II coastwatchers station or the remains of a ship wrecked in 1864 and made famous by two books written by the survivors.

### Days 5 to 6: Campbell Island

Explore the island by foot and take in the panorama of rocky islets and sea stacks, once the lonely preserve of settlers and seal hunters and now returned to nature. Campbell Island is known for its megaherbs – herbaceous, perennial wild flowers characterised by their great size, with huge leaves and very colourful flowers, which have developed as an adaptation to the harsh weather conditions on the islands. Our visit should coincide with the flowering of the *Pleurophyllum speciosum*, an endemic daisy carpeting the hills and startling in size with leaves sometimes half a metre wide. Adapting unusually to survive the harsh climate, its nearest relatives can be found in the Canary Islands. There will be a range of walks offered. You can explore an abandoned Meteorological Station at the head of the harbour or take the Col Lyall Saddle walk which offers an opportunity to view and photograph the Southern Royal Albatross nesting amongst the flowers and tussocks. Alternatively, walk to remote Northwest Bay across the tussock tops and megaherb fields

to an isolated coastline that Southern Elephant Seals haul out on and New Zealand Sea Lions and Yellow-eyed Penguins call home. Or we could climb the beautifully-named Mt. Honey which offers dramatic views from its summit.

### Day 7: At Sea

A day at sea provides a great opportunity to reflect on the voyage and the Subantarctic Islands that we have visited. Today spend time on deck and view pelagic bird species that come close. We may also see cetaceans such as the Dusky Dolphins which sometimes surf the bow waves of the ship, and if sea conditions are

good, a number of different whale species are a possibility. The day is interspersed with illustrated lectures of the biology and history of the area we have visited and the Southern Ocean.

### Day 8: Invercargill

On arrival at the Port of Bluff this morning, we have our final breakfast and say our farewells before disembarking and taking a complimentary coach transfer to either a central city point in historic Invercargill or to the airport.

### Enquire for a full itinerary.



Subantarctic garden

Photo credit: Aaron Russ



Hooker Sealion

Photo credit: Heritage Expeditions

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1365	15th – 22nd Dec 2013	6,000	5,800	5,500	5,000	4,500	3,800
#1367	23rd – 30th Dec 2013	6,000	5,800	5,500	5,000	4,500	3,800

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$300 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.





# IN THE WAKE OF SCOTT & SHACKLETON

## ROSS SEA, ANTARCTICA



The Ross Sea region of Antarctica is one of the most remote places on Planet Earth and one of the most fascinating places in the continent's human history. With shipping restricted by impenetrable pack ice to just two brief months each austral summer, few people have ever visited this strange and beautiful territory, with opportunities for non-scientific personnel limited to a handful of tourist expedition ships. Heritage Expeditions offers such a voyage on its own fully equipped and ice-strengthened ship, crewed by some of the most experienced officers and sailors in the world and staffed by some of the most passionate and knowledgeable guides. This is a unique opportunity to experience nature on a scale so grand there are no words to describe it.

The Ross Sea takes its name from Sir James Clark Ross who discovered it in 1842. The British Royal Geographical Society chose the Ross Sea for the now famous British National Antarctic Expedition in 1901-04 led by Robert Falcon Scott. That one expedition spawned what is sometimes referred to as the 'Race to the Pole'. Ernest Shackleton almost succeeded in 1907-09 and the Japanese explorer Nobu Shirase tried in 1910-12. Scott thought it was his, but was beaten by his rival, Norwegian Roald Amundsen in the summer of 1911. Shackleton's Trans Antarctic expedition in 1914-17 marked the end of this 'heroic' or 'golden age' of exploration, but many of the relics of this era, including some huts, remain. The dramatic landscape described by these early explorers is unchanged. Mt. Erebus, Mt. Discovery and the Transantarctic Mountains are as inspiring today as they were 100 years ago. The penguin rookeries described by the early biologists fluctuate in numbers from year to year but they still occupy the same sites. The seals which are no longer hunted for food, lie around on ice floes seemingly unperturbed. The whales, which were hunted so ruthlessly here in the 1920s, are slowly coming back, but it is a long way from the edge of extinction, and some species have done better than others. Snow Petrels, Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Antarctic Prions and South Polar Skuas all breed in this seemingly inhospitable environment.

There is so much to do and so much to see here, from exploring historic huts and sites to visiting penguin rookeries, marvelling at the glacial ice tongues and ice shelves and understanding the icebergs and sea ice. Then there are all the seabirds, seals and whales to observe and photograph, modern scientific bases and field camps to visit and simply the opportunity to spend time drinking in the marvellous landscape that has always enthralled visitors.

Lying like stepping stones to the Antarctic continent are the little known Subantarctic Islands. Our journey includes The Snares, Auckland's, Macquarie and Campbell Island. They break our long journey but more importantly they help prepare us for what lies ahead, for these islands are part of the amazing and dynamic Southern Ocean ecosystem of which Antarctica is at the very heart. It is the power house which drives this ecosystem upon which the world depends.





Emperor Penguins on ice Photo credit: Nathan Russ

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Arrive at Invercargill, New Zealand's southern most city and rich in Scottish history. Grab your last-minute luxuries before meeting your fellow expeditioners for an informal get-together over dinner.

### Day 2: Port of Bluff

Enjoy a visit to the museum to view the Subantarctic display before transferring to the Port of Bluff, where you will board the *Spirit of Enderby*. Settle into your cabin and join your expedition team and the Captain for a welcome on board.

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

Staggeringly, the Snares Islands are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles put together. Zodiac cruising the coast we learn how the islands got their name and in the sheltered bays we should see the endemic Snares Crested Penguin, the Cape Petrel and Buller's Albatross nesting on the imposing cliffs.

### Days 4 to 5: Auckland Islands

Characterised by towering cliffs and rugged sea stacks, these islands have borne witness to many a shipwreck in days gone by. We spend the day ashore on Enderby Island which is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Subantarctic Islands. Here we find parakeets flitting above carpets of red, white and yellow wild flowers and on the beaches beyond, the rare Hooker's or New Zealand Sea Lion. We land in Carnley Harbour and if conditions are suitable climb to a Shy Albatross colony, otherwise we explore sites within the harbour.

### Day 6: At Sea

Take the chance to learn more about the biology and history of these islands and the tempestuous Southern Ocean through informal lectures with our experts. This particular stretch of ocean is very productive and we can expect many seabirds, including five or six kinds of albatross and numerous species of petrel.

### Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

This remote, rocky outpost which endures roaring westerly winds, supports one of the

highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Hemisphere. Four species of penguin, King, Royal, Rockhopper and Gentoo breed here. You will never forget your first experience in a ceaselessly active 'penguin city', where the dapper inhabitants show no fear of their strange visitors. We will also meet with the Park Rangers, visit the Australian Antarctic Base and observe the hundreds of Southern Elephant Seals along the beaches.

### Days 9 to 12: At Sea

Soaring albatross and petrels circle the vessel as we steam south through the Southern Ocean. Lectures now concentrate on the Ross Sea region and beyond the bow of the ship; drifting icebergs of extraordinary shapes begin to appear. Manoeuvring in close for your first ice photographs we pass the Antarctic Circle and into the continent's realm of 24-hour daylight.

### Days 13 to 22: Antarctica's Ross Sea Region

With unpredictable ice and weather conditions, a day-by-day itinerary is not possible but we assess the conditions daily and take every opportunity to make landings and launch the Zodiacs. You

can anticipate wildlife viewing, visits to scientific bases and historic sites, as well as the spectacular white and blue scenery.

We hope to visit the following areas:

**Cape Adare:** A large flat spit of land, teeming with the staggering sight of Antarctica's largest Adelie Penguin rookery; a tumult of chattering, feeding chicks; territorial disputes; petty pilfering and courtship displays. Curious penguins often come very close, offering superb photographic opportunities. Among the shifting mass of penguins we will find Carsten Borchgrevink's Hut, the oldest in Antarctica, an overwintering shelter for the first expedition to the Antarctic continent in 1899.

**Cape Hallett:** The enormous Admiralty Range heralds our arrival; wild and extraordinary, the mountains rear up from the sea to over 4,000m, bounded by colossal glaciers. We land at an abandoned base site, now home to large numbers of Adelie Penguins and Weddell Seals.

**Franklin Island:** Desolately beautiful and rugged, this is home to a large Adelie Penguin population and other nesting seabirds. We attempt a landing and explore the coastline.





Cape Royds Photo credit: Nathan Russ;



Ross Ice Shelf Photo credit: Heritage Expeditions;



Ross Seal Photo credit: Katya Ovsyanikova;



Grey-headed Albatross Photo credit: Heritage Expeditions



**Possession Islands:** Rarely-visited, small and rugged, these rocks support tens of thousands of penguins. Observe the birds' busy and humorous activity, with the Admiralty Mountains forming a superb backdrop across the water.

**Ross Ice Shelf:** The world's largest body of floating ice and a natural barrier, at times creating hazardous weather, with sheets of snow blown at gale force by winds off the polar ice cap. Just 800 miles from the South Pole, this daunting spectacle prevented many early explorers from venturing further south. We cruise along its dizzying 30m high ice cliffs, perhaps lucky enough to see icebergs 'calving'.

**Ross Island:** Mount Erebus/Cape Bird/Shackleton's Hut/Scott's Hut(s) and visits to a scientific field station (Scott and McMurdo Stations are high on our wish list but ice, weather and station operational requirements often make them inaccessible). Ross Island was and is the 'hub of activity' in the Ross Sea, dominated by Mt. Erebus, a monstrous active volcano named after the ancient Greek God of Darkness. The carefully preserved huts of the 'Heroic Era' help make the

history come alive. If we can reach the bases we get a modern perspective on Antarctic research.

**Terra Nova Bay:** An Italian research station where the scientists are always hospitable and enjoy showing us around their lonely but beautiful home. They share with us their scientific research and also, perhaps, the best 'cafe espresso' in Antarctica!

**Days 23 to 26: At Sea**

Taking time to rest and enjoy shipboard life in the bar or library after the excitement and long daylight hours of the Antarctic, we have time for lectures on our final destination and for some pelagic bird spotting.

**Day 27: Campbell Island – Perseverance Harbour**

We drop anchor in Perseverance Harbour, an occasional refuge for Southern Right Whales who come here to calve. Walk to the nesting site of the Southern Royal Albatross and see the strange and beautiful megaherbs growing on the hills. These huge wild flowers that have adapted to the harsh conditions have unusual colourings and weirdly-shaped leaves. We also seek out other wildlife

such as Campbell Island Shags, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross and sea lions.

**Day 28: At Sea**

Relax and reflect on a remarkable journey as you join our experts for a recap of highlights and enjoy a farewell dinner tonight.

**Day 29: Invercargill**

We disembark in the Port of Bluff and this adventure ends as we disperse to begin others. After fond farewells we transfer you to a central city hotel or to the airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1471	11th Jan – 8th Feb 2014	28,000	26,000	25,000	23,000	20,500	18,700
#1473	8th Feb – 8th Mar 2014	28,000	26,000	25,000	23,000	20,500	18,700

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$750 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.

# NEW ZEALAND'S REMOTE ISLANDS

## A VOYAGE TO THE ANTIPODES, BOUNTIES AND CHATHAM ISLANDS

In his book 'Straight through from London' published by Heritage Expeditions\*, scientist and ecologist Rowley Taylor describes the discovery of the Bounty Islands by Capt. Bligh in 1788 and the Antipodes Islands by Capt. Waterhouse in 1806. In subsequent chapters he describes their unique natural and cultural history and highlights their high conservation values. Expeditions here are almost unheard of.

The story is a little different for the Chatham Islands. They were inhabited long before they were discovered by Europeans in 1792. Several authors have written books about the human and natural history of these islands, one of the best known stories is that of the Black Robin. The late Dr Michael King in his book 'Moriori a People Rediscovered,' wrote about the early human history in a way that challenged the accepted view of the islands' history. New Zealand historian Rhys Richards has also published several books and numerous articles about the islands. Although regular air and sea services connect the Chatham Islands with New Zealand, it is a challenge for visitors to get to the most remote of the many islands that make up this fascinating archipelago.

We invite you to travel with Rowley Taylor and Rhys Richards, plus prominent southern biologists and naturalists on board our Polar Expedition vessel *Spirit of Enderby*. This 'one off' expedition includes the Antipodes, the Bounties and the most remote of the islands in the Chatham Archipelago as well as the more accessible Chatham and Pitt Islands.

The expedition is unique in many ways. It is only the second time (that we are aware of) that such an itinerary has been offered and it is unlikely that such a talented and knowledgeable team of lecturers will ever be assembled again. Other highlights include the opportunity to see the rare Erect-crested Penguin (which breeds only on the Antipodes and Bounty Islands), the two endemic parakeets that are only found on the Antipodes and the world's rarest wader, the Shore Plover that breeds only in the Chatham Islands. There are opportunities to observe many seabirds including the endemic Antipodean Wandering Albatross, the Chatham Island Albatross, the Pacific Albatross and numerous petrels, possibly including the very rare Magenta and Chatham Island Petrel. We urge you to book early to avoid disappointment as this expedition will have huge appeal in New Zealand and around the globe.

\*Copies are available from Heritage Expeditions – see [www.heritage-expeditions.com](http://www.heritage-expeditions.com)



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Invercargill

Meet at our central Invercargill meeting point and we will transfer you to the Port of Bluff for embarkation. Join the Captain on the Bridge as we set sail and our adventure begins, we will sail past Ruapuke Island formerly a local Maori stronghold and Stewart Island. Seabirds that we may encounter at this early point in the journey include albatross, petrels, cormorants, gulls and Blue Penguins.

### Day 2: At Sea

This is a day for pelagic birding and some introductory lectures on the Antipodes and Bounty Islands. Pelagic bird species commonly seen in this area include Wandering Albatross species, Southern Royal Albatross, Campbell Island Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel plus 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. We will be keeping a keen lookout for cetaceans.

### Day 3: Antipodes Islands

The Antipodes group of islands are the most isolated and least known of New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands. 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. We will also look for the Reischek's Parakeet, a strong subspecies of the Red-crowned Parakeet. Erect-crested Penguins are endemic to the Antipodes and Bounty Islands, good views of this species and Rockhopper Penguins which also breed here can be expected.

### Day 4: Bounty Islands

We arrive at the incongruously named Bounty Islands, they are home to thousands of Salvin's Albatross, Erect-crested Penguins, Fulmar Prions and the endemic Bounty Island Shag – the world's rarest. Very few people have been privileged to see these islands. We plan to arrive in the early morning and we will cruise by Zodiac around the granite outposts to take a closer look. After our

Zodiac cruise we depart for the Chatham Islands. Birdlife we should encounter include Wandering Albatross, Northern Royal Albatross, Mottled Petrel, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Broad-billed Prion, White-chinned Petrel and Black-bellied Storm-Petrels as well as Wilson's Storm-Petrel. We will also start to keep a lookout for the Chatham Island and Magenta Petrel.

### Day 5: Pyramid Rock

As we continue north towards the Chatham archipelago, there are excellent opportunities for pelagic birding today. Both Chatham Island Petrel and the very rare Chatham Island Taiko have been seen in this particular area before; these species are both endemic to the Chatham Islands and are amongst the world's rarest birds. Late this afternoon we arrive at the spectacular Pyramid Rock. It is the only breeding place of the Chatham Island Albatross. We will circumnavigate the island before sailing on to South East Island.

### Day 6: Chatham Islands – South East Island and 44's

South East Island is one of the world's greatest nature reserves, it is as close to pristine as is possible and the birdlife reflects this. Landings are not permitted, but from the Zodiacs we will see the Shore Plover, the Chatham Island Oystercatcher and be able to gain a greater appreciation of the island's topography. From South East Island we will steam out to one of the most outlying and remote islands in the archipelago – the Forty Fours. Only a handful of people have been privileged to see this amazing island which is home to both Northern Royal Albatross and Pacific Albatross.

### Day 7: Starkeys, Pitt and Mangere Islands

Early this morning we plan a Zodiac cruise at Mangere and Little Mangere Islands, both these islands feature prominently in the Black Robin story. On South East Island the chances of seeing Black Robins are extremely rare, but we hope to see the equally rare Forbes Parakeet from the Zodiacs. This afternoon we will sail past the privately owned Starkeys or Round Island. We plan to make a landing at Flower Pot harbour on Pitt Island. Pitt Island is one of the most isolated 'inhabited' islands of New Zealand and we will enjoy some time with the locals who are both

farmers and fisherman. This evening we sail across Pitt Strait to the main Chatham Island and plan to be off the south coast where the Magenta Petrel breeds in the late evening, providing another chance of seeing this extremely rare bird.

### Day 8: Chatham Islands – Waitangi

Today we visit a private Reserve on the south coast of the island, here guided by the local owners; we will enjoy a bush walk in the hope of seeing the Chatham Island Warbler and Chatham Island Pigeon.

### Days 9 to 10: At Sea

En route to Lyttelton we will cross the Chatham Rise. 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 shearwaters.

### Day 11: Lyttelton, Christchurch

We arrive into scenic Lyttelton Harbour early this morning where we may see the smallest dolphin in the world, the Hector's Dolphin and Little Blue Penguins, plus a variety of birdlife. After breakfast we disembark and you will board our complimentary transfer to a central city hotel drop off or Christchurch airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**



Erect crested Penguin

Photo credit: Nathan Russ



Chatham Island Albatross

Photo credit: Gunther Riehle

Voyage	Dates	Heritage Suite	Mini Suite	Superior Plus	Superior	Main Deck	Main Deck Triple
#1475	9th Mar – 19th Mar 2014	7,500	7,000	6,500	5,900	5,600	4,800

**Additional Charges:** Landing Fees \$450 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.



Mawson's Hut  
Photo credit: Aaron Russ

# FUTURE PLANS AND EXPEDITIONARY VOYAGES

## COMMANDER ISLANDS EXPEDITION

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Hot on the heels of our spectacularly successful 'Kuril Islands Sea Otter Survey' in 2012 we are offering another special conservation cruise in 2014. Participants will have the opportunity to assist researchers gather valuable data on the marine mammals and birds of the Commander Islands.

The wildlife on and around these islands is recovering from an extensive period of exploitation. Local rangers and researchers monitor various populations but like so many conservation agencies around the world they do not have the manpower, the resources nor the equipment to do it as regularly as they would like or is needed. That's where we can help.

Working alongside the Reserve staff (who will be joining us on the ship) we plan to do inshore and offshore surveys for wildlife. On the inshore surveys we are going to be concentrating on Sea Otters, Harbour Seals and of course bird colonies. Offshore we will be looking for whales, in particular Humpback, Minke and Orca. We plan to have a ship based team and also a small team camped on Medney Island. Both teams will use Zodiacs for detailed surveys and it is planned that the Medney Island team will also cover much of the coast on foot.

The combination of conservation work with exploration and discovery means there has never been a more compelling and worthwhile reason to visit these remote islands. Your fare will help fund this effort, where you will meet and work with locals as you enjoy rare wildlife encounters in a way that has never before been possible.

## MAWSON'S HUT REVISITED – WATCH THIS SPACE!

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After being 'blocked out' of Commonwealth Bay on the 100th Anniversary of the Australian Antarctic Expedition by ice, we are obviously a little wary of planning another expedition until we can be confident of getting in. There is nothing more disheartening than heading off full of anticipation and hope, only to be beaten back by the ice. Heavy ice conditions last year in Commonwealth Bay were the result of the break up of the Mertz Glacier tongue which grounded on the McKellar Islets. The area is renowned for strong Katabatic winds (Mawson called this area the 'Home of the Blizzard' with good reason) but even these gales could not shift the ice last year. We are monitoring ice conditions and as soon as conditions are right, we will promote another expedition to this fascinating part of Antarctica.

Horned Puffin  
Sea Otter  
Zodiac cruising

Photo credit: Giles Breton  
Photo credit: Samuel Blanc  
Photo credit: Meghan Kelly







## What do Heritage Expeditions and Just Russia Travel have in common?

Both are the brain child of Rodney Russ. Rodney has long been fascinated by Russia, and through Heritage Expeditions pioneered Expedition Cruises in the Russian Far East. He has also undertaken numerous private expeditions in remote parts of Russia so over the years he and his team have built a large resource of expertise in Russian travel.

Many passengers with Heritage Expeditions have asked Rodney about his adventures and how they might do something similar so Rodney's response is to found Just Russia Travel. We are planning some very special expeditions, cruises and tours to places in Russia you might have never heard about or if you have, you probably thought it was impossible to get there. The number of destinations and programs will increase over the coming months and years as we research and negotiate the necessary permits and permissions. Some of the programmes will run annually and others less frequently and there may be the occasional one off 'special' expedition.

Just Russia Travel is based in New Zealand and our native Russian speaking team are experienced and skilled in negotiating and organising the most complex of arrangements. In addition to our scheduled expeditions they are ready to assist with any travel to Russia, for business or leisure. Our office in Christchurch New Zealand is therefore a one stop Russian travel shop which can provide Letters of Invitation, assistance with visa applications, itinerary planning and reservations.

Our Road Journey series will begin in 2014 and we invite you to join us on The Kolyma Highway or 'Road of Bones' between Magadan and Yakutsk. This eight day road trip is a very sobering journey through an area with a disturbing history but the most beautiful taiga forest and compelling landscape. Yakutsk to Magadan: 14th - 21st June 2014 and Magadan to Yakutsk: 23rd - 30th June 2014.

**For information on these or any Russian travel check our website [www.justrussiatravel.com](http://www.justrussiatravel.com) or email [info@justrussiatravel.com](mailto:info@justrussiatravel.com).**



*Introducing Just Russia Travel*



## Wild Earth NZ Travel

*exploring natural New Zealand*

Experience unique places, plants, people and wildlife, putting yourself in the scenery, environment and cultures that make our home, New Zealand.

Whether you need a personalised itinerary created for pre and post voyage programmes, a comprehensive New Zealand programme or assistance in seeking specific species Wild Earth NZ is here to create the opportunities for you.

Or we offer more through our extensive self drive options - North Island, South Island and Stewart Island or combined to travel from the Far North to the South. Our extensive knowledge of New Zealand combined with years of travel operation is available for you to benefit from in your travels.

Explore New Zealand naturally with Wild Earth New Zealand Travel.



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f +64 3 365 1301

e [info@wildearthnztravel.com](mailto:info@wildearthnztravel.com)

w [www.wildearthnztravel.com](http://www.wildearthnztravel.com)

P.O. Box 7228, Christchurch 8240, New Zealand

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

### Detailed information

Fully detailed dossiers for every voyage listed in this brochure are available on request from our office. These dossiers also act as the final definitive statement of inclusions and other details and are therefore an essential part of the booking contract. After booking to help you prepare we will provide you with Pre-departure Information and Expedition Notes.

### Age Requirements

Our expeditions are designed for adults, but may be suitable for mature teenagers. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please note that we do not provide an on board children's programme and children will be the responsibility of their parent or guardian whilst on board.

### Flight Information

We do not package international flights to connect with our voyages but in some cases we will charter flights to aid travel to destinations that are not always serviced with regular scheduled air services.

### Passport & Visa Requirements

You are required to travel with a current passport (with at least six months' validity) and visa/s for all of our expeditions. Other regulations may apply and you should check with the nearest embassy or consulate of the countries that you plan to visit, (please note that Macquarie Island is part of Australia and a valid visa may be required to visit).

### Medical Matters

These are expeditions for persons in generally good health. We will be travelling to remote areas without sophisticated medical facilities. The ship has a medical advisor and a small infirmary on board but medical attention is limited to basic care. The fee for medical services rendered or medicines supplied will be added to your account.

You will be forwarded a confidential medical questionnaire 4 months prior to departure which we ask that you and, in some cases, your doctor complete and return promptly to enable us to assess if there may be difficulties in you joining the expedition. If there is any substantial change in your medical circumstances between the completion of that document and the expedition departure it is important that you advise us accordingly.

### Equipment & Clothing Requirements

Our Pre-departure Information details any essential clothing and equipment that is required.

### Travel Insurance

You must have it! You may be barred from embarkation if you have no proof of adequate insurance including full medical evacuation cover. If you are arranging your own insurance, you should check that any pre-existing medical conditions are covered as well as all included activities such as diving, landings, Zodiac excursions and charter flights.

### Adventurous Travel

However good our organisation is, we are at the mercy of the unexpected and this type of expedition can never be entirely predicted. If you are not prepared for this you should not travel with us. Because these are not ordinary package holidays, the outline itineraries given in this brochure are statements of intent rather than promises. Local weather, politics, airlines, transport or a host of other uncontrollable factors can mean a change in itinerary. It is unlikely that the itinerary would be substantially altered, but if changes are necessary the Expedition Leader will decide the best alternative. Where a delay or change does occur, we will do everything we can to minimise its effects, but we cannot be held responsible for the result of delays or changes outside our control.

### Cabin Arrangements

Double beds are available in suite cabin categories only. Single clients are matched with a sharer of the same gender in a twin-share cabin. Payment of a single supplement guarantees the sole use of a cabin (1.8 times the p/p rate for cabins, 2.0x for suites).

### Ship Communications

The radio room on the ship is equipped with a satellite telephone and email for on board communication.

## BOOKING YOUR EXPEDITION

### Booking Conditions

To make a booking you must send us a completed booking form and a deposit of 25% for your selected voyage. We will then invoice you for the balance, which must be paid no later than 90 days before departure. If you book less than 90 days before departure, full payment is due immediately.

Once you have decided which voyage is for you, please check availability by calling our office or visiting your travel agent. We can normally hold space (option) for you for 7 days while you send in the booking form. We strongly recommend that you read the brochure description, dossiers, general pages and booking conditions carefully.

### Completing the Booking Form

- Ensure your name is spelt exactly as it appears in your passport.
- Please specify any special dietary requirements as soon as possible.
- Please attach a copy of the passport you will be travelling on and inform us immediately if this changes for any reason. Check that your passport is valid for the required time beyond your period of stay, if not you may need to obtain a new passport.
- Would you like a single cabin? If so please request this on the booking form.
- Are you insured? We do require you to be insured and have suitable cover for the expedition.
- Where did you hear about us? E.g. Recommendation from whom, advertisement, Internet search, etc.

### Important

Please ensure that you sign the booking form. This indicates that you have read the booking conditions and agree to abide by them and also, having read the information provided, you understand what is involved in the voyage. If there are minors (under the age of 18) in your party, you should sign the booking form for them and this indicates that you are taking responsibility for them.

### Then

- Send the fully completed booking form with a deposit of 25%.
- You may pay your deposit over the telephone by Visa or Mastercard and this will secure your place (direct bookings only). We also accept telegraphic transfers; please contact us for our bank account details.
- A signed booking form must be received in our office within 14 days of bookings made by phone.
- Forward a colour copy/scan of the photo page of your valid passport you will be travelling on.
- Please note a 2.5% fee will be added for any payments made by credit card following your initial deposit.
- It has come to our attention recently that some telegraphic transfers have had bank fees deducted from intermediary banks. Please note that all bank fees are to the customer's charge. All outstanding balances, including minor values due to bank fee shortfall will need to be paid in full prior to departure. To avoid your payment coming through short, please instruct your bank to pay all bank fees and to instruct the intermediary (correspondent) bank that all charges are to be returned to the originating bank.

### What Happens Next?

Your booking will normally be confirmed within a week, although in busy periods it may take a little longer.

### Final Payment

The balance of your payment is due 90 days before departure. The exact date will be shown on your invoice. Although we accept credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) for the deposit, we prefer the final balance to be paid by cheque or telegraphic transfer. If paid by credit card it will be subject to a 2.5% fee.

### Lastly

Between 14 to 30 days before departure we will send out your final joining instructions. Please check these details carefully. If you have not received your final joining instructions at least 1 week before departure, please contact us. If you have any concerns about these details or any last questions please do not hesitate to contact us immediately.





## PERSONAL DETAILS

### APPLICANT ONE *(details as shown in passport)*

Title:  Mr  Mrs  Ms Other \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as per passport)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  M  F Date of Birth: DD / MM / YYYY

Place & Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached a clear copy of my valid passport.

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(or previous occupation if retired)

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Please ensure that you sign the booking form. This indicates that you have read the booking conditions, essential information and booking your trip information and agree to abide by them and also, having read the information provided understand what is involved in the voyage. If there are minors in your party, you should sign the booking form for them and this indicates that you are taking responsibility for them.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: DD / MM / YYYY

### APPLICANT TWO *(details as shown in passport)*

Title:  Mr  Mrs  Ms Other \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as per passport)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Home): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Mobile): \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  M  F Date of Birth: DD / MM / YYYY

Place & Country of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached a clear copy of my valid passport.

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(or previous occupation if retired)

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Please ensure that you sign the booking form. This indicates that you have read the booking conditions, essential information and booking your trip information and agree to abide by them and also, having read the information provided understand what is involved in the voyage. If there are minors in your party, you should sign the booking form for them and this indicates that you are taking responsibility for them.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: DD / MM / YYYY

## EXPEDITION DETAILS

Voyage Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date: DD / MM / YYYY

Cabin Selection:  Heritage Suite  Mini Suite  
 Superior Plus  Superior  
 Main Deck  Main Deck Triple

Any other requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT

A 25% DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING

**BY USD TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER -**  
 For telegraphic transfers - deposits to:  
 Account Name: Heritage Expeditions  
 (United States dollar account)  
 Account details: Bank of New Zealand Intl Branch,  
 80 Boulcott Street, Wellington, NZ.  
 Account number: 1000 744943 0002  
 Swift Code: BKNZ22

NOTE: *Please use surname and voyage number as reference when making transaction e.g. Smith#1471*

**BY CHEQUE -** Payable to HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS LTD

**BY CREDIT CARD -**  Visa  Mastercard

Please debit USD \_\_\_\_\_ from my credit card today

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: MM / YYYY

\_\_\_\_\_

CSV Numbers: (last 3 numbers on the back of card)

Cardholders Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Thank you for choosing to book with Heritage Expeditions Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as: 'HE'). Before you make a firm booking, we recommend you (hereinafter referred to as 'contracting party') carefully read the following travel conditions. These general travel conditions and the term 'contracting party' apply to both private persons (direct bookings) and (travel) organisations (see paragraph 1.2).

## 1. Reservation of trip/travel notification

1.1 If the contract comes about by means of a written acceptance by the contracting party on the offer of HE, upon which a binding travel contract with HE is effectual, all conditions set out in paragraph 1.3 up to and including paragraph 11.3 apply. If the contracting party, in addition to himself/herself, lists one or more other persons on one notification form, this contracting party is automatically responsible for all obligations ensuing from the travel contract (in line with the general travel conditions of HE) concerning himself/herself and the other persons booked.

1.2 If the contract has come about by means of a written acceptance by a (travel) organisation (as in the case of, but not limited to, tour operators, agencies, travel agents, foundations, societies etc), this (travel) organisation enters into a binding travel contract with HE. The (travel) organisation in question is then exclusively considered as the contracting party to which all conditions set out from paragraph 1.3 up to and including paragraph 11.3 apply. This is irrespective of the possibility that the (travel) organisation in turn enters into a binding travel contract with clients it has recruited (such as, but not limited to, private persons, members of the (travel) organisation, travel agents and third parties in general).

1.3 The contracting party shall, before the effecting of the travel contract and its implementation, provide HE with necessary personal data concerning himself/herself or third parties – in the case of a (travel) organisation the client(s) of the (travel) organisation. Incorrect or incomplete provision of (personal) data could result in faulty vouchers, etc for which HE shall not be held liable.

1.4 On receipt of the written booking form, the trip that has been booked will be confirmed by HE by means of a confirmation invoice sent to the contracting party.

1.5 Single travellers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should so indicate on the application form. The published per person double occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabin-mate is available. Single travellers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged 1.8 times the published fare on all cabins except suite cabins which will be charged at 2 times the published fare.

## 2. The travel offer/the travel elements

2.1 The scope of the travel offer (the travel elements) booked by the contracting party is contractually recorded in the travel confirmation (invoice) in combination with the description from HE's most up-to-date brochure/programme description.

2.2 Any deviation from the travel elements described in the brochure and publications are valid only if confirmed by HE in writing. This may be in the original offer, travel confirmation or a communication sent later.

## 3. Payment

3.1 On the implementation of the travel contract, the contracting party must pay to HE an advance of 25% of the total price, unless otherwise stated in the travel confirmation. The remaining 75% of the total price is due 90 days before departure. In the case of a (travel) organisation that has guaranteed allocation, the following payment conditions apply: 25% of total deposit on signing the contract, 25% of total price 12 calendar months prior to departure, 50% of total price 180 days prior to departure.

3.2 After payment has been received, the travel documents will be dispatched.

3.3 If the contracting party fails to fulfil their payment obligations, HE will send him/her a written reminder and he/she will have the opportunity to make immediate payment. If payment is still not made, the contracting party is liable to pay interest on the amount due of 1% for each month or part of a month that this remains unpaid. Furthermore, he/she will be liable to pay compensation for legal collection costs equal to an additional 15% of the sum claimed, with a minimum amount of USD 50. If the contracting party fails to comply with his/her payment obligations, HE reserves the right to cancel the contract on the day of default. HE is entitled to charge the cancellation costs incurred (in line with paragraph 6 or as agreed otherwise in the travel confirmation).

3.4 If, regarding the above, payment is then made, but HE cannot send the travel documents to the contracting party before the start of the journey, any additional dispatch costs will be charged to the contracting party. HE will not be held responsible for any travel documents not arriving on time.

## 4. Changes in travel elements/price changes

4.1 Changes to the travel offer, which occur before the start of the journey and are agreed in the travel confirmation, are permitted only if they do not substantially alter the nature of the trip. This includes, among other things, changes made by the airline, changes in flight departure times, changes referring to hotel overnight stays before or after the main journey, minor changes in the travel programme or excursion offer. HE is obliged to inform, in writing, the contracting party of such changes. Such changes may not be used by the contracting party as reason for cancelling the travel contract.

4.2 The agreed price is based on the prices, exchange rates, duties and taxes as known to HE at the time the publication went to press and at the time of the travel confirmation. HE reserves the right to raise the agreed price on the grounds of, among other things, unforeseeable increases (e.g. exchange rates, sudden increased prices of accommodation providers, airlines, duties, taxes, harbour dues and fuel prices). In the event that HE considers a price alteration is considered necessary, HE is obliged to inform the contracting party of this, in writing, at the very latest 20 days before the day of departure. Price increases are not permitted within 20 days of the start of the journey. In the case of a price increase of more than 10% of the total price of the trip, the contracting party is entitled to cancel the trip without incurring any costs.

## 5. Cancellation of the trip by HE

5.1 If the minimum number of participants has not been achieved, HE is entitled to cancel the planned trip up to 30 days before departure. Any payment already received from the contracting party will be paid back by HE if the contracting party does not agree to accept an alternative trip offered by HE.

5.2 HE has the right to cancel the trip in the case of force majeure (e.g. war, uprising, natural disasters, abnormal/exceptional weather and ice conditions, legal stipulations of the local/regional authorities and other 'acts of God'). HE will not be held liable for force majeure. If situations of force majeure occur before the departure date, HE will pay back to the contracting party the amount already paid. If situations of force majeure occur during the trip, HE will try to offer an alternative programme. If this should prove impossible, either HE or the contracting party is entitled to cancel the trip. In such a case, HE will not be held financially liable. However, in the case of any cost savings, HE shall return these monies to the contracting party. HE is obliged to

assist the contracting party – in the case of a (travel) organisation, the client(s) of the (tour) organiser, in obtaining a return trip/flight. The contracting party he/she is responsible for the costs of this.

5.3 If HE, by virtue of the provisions of paragraph 5.1 and 5.2, cancels the trip, only the equivalent of the billed price will be paid back to the contracting party. HE will not be held liable for costs the contracting party has incurred in preparation of the trip nor for reservations of travel components (such as but not limited to: flights, hotels, connecting programmes, travel insurances) which, in combination with the trip booked with HE, may have been booked elsewhere.

## 6. Cancellation of the trip by the contracting party

6.1 The contracting party may cancel the travel contract (exclusively in writing) at any time before the beginning of the trip. In the case of cancellation by the contracting party HE is entitled to charge the following costs to the contracting party: for cancellations received more than 180 days prior to the departure date, a full refund will be made less a USD 750 per person administration fee. For cancellations received within 179 and 91 days of the embarkation date the full deposit will be forfeited. If cancellation occurs within 90 days prior to the departure date the total price is forfeited. If cancellation occurs within 90 days and full payment has not yet been received, the total price will still apply and any unpaid monies are due immediately.

6.2 If the contracting party, after booking, wishes to make changes to the booked trip (e.g. the departure date, destination or type of accommodation), this is considered a cancellation and the cancellation costs stated in paragraph 6.1 apply. In case of minor changes HE is entitled to charge reservation costs of at least USD 25 per alteration.

6.3 It is possible for the contracting party – in the case of a (travel) organisation, the client(s) or the (travel) organiser, to take out cancellation insurance to cover the costs of any cancellation of the trip (see also paragraph 10.4).

## 7. Liability of HE

HE is obliged to provide correct details of the trip according to the travel contract and in line with the expectations the traveller may reasonably have on the grounds of the contract. HE is responsible for the selection of accommodation providers of ships, hotels, resorts etc. composition and the quality control of the travel elements and excursions, description of the travel elements in the HE brochures and other publications, the processing of the travel confirmation, reservation of the travel elements and control and dispatch of the travel documents.

## 8. Exclusion and limitation of the liability of HE

8.1 HE acts as intermediary for the sale of travel elements between, on the one hand, providers of accommodation/services (such as but not limited to: a stay in a hotel, a voyage on a ship, services of dive bases and providers of transport) and, on the other hand, the contracting party and therefore HE's liability is excluded. In these cases the conditions of the relevant providers of accommodation/services and/or the stipulations of (inter)national law applies and all liability of HE (in the case of complaints, claims, loss and damage of possessions/baggage, personal injury, death etc) are excluded. In the case of claims, HE will try to mediate between the provider of accommodation and the contracting party. HE is not responsible for optional travel elements booked by the contracting party elsewhere (optional excursions etc).

8.2 All travel elements booked with HE, which relate to stays on board a ship and/or excursions or programmes off ship (such as but not limited to excursions or programmes on land or on/in the water, incl.



# BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- scuba diving, swimming and snorkelling, are at 100% own risk of the contracting party – in the case of a (travel) organisation: the client(s) or the (travel) organiser. HE is therefore not liable for any damage such as, but not limited to, (bodily) injury, illness, death etc whatever the reason or cause may be. If the contracting party has booked a diving programme, HE or, as the case may be, the diving base or the diving leader on board our ship will ask the contracting party to sign a form to which the contracting party accepts 100% own risk and promises that he will not lodge any claims against the diving base and/or the diving leader on board the ship in the case of any calamity which may or may not result in (permanent) injury or death. The conditions for participation are stated precisely in our diving trips brochure. In any case the contracting party must have a health certificate signed by a doctor and an internationally accepted diving certificate. In the case of the land programmes, the contracting party should enjoy generally sound health. We advise the contracting party – in the case of a (travel) organisation: the client(s) of the (travel) organiser – to always take out travel insurance, supplemented if necessary by accident insurance (see also paragraph 10.4).
- 8.3 If HE offers the contracting party an air travel component, all liability of HE is excluded and, for this travel component, the conditions of the relevant airline apply. The stipulations of the Warsaw Convention in general limit the responsibility of the air travel component in the case of death, injury and also delays, loss of, or damage to baggage. In the case of delays, HE cannot be held liable in any way whatsoever, even if this is at the cost of other travel elements of the trip booked.
- 8.4 HE will not be held liable for loss, damage and robbery of travel documents, baggage or other possessions.
- 8.5 HE shall accept no liability for damage for which there is a claim to compensation based on a travel and/or cancellation insurance.
- 8.6 HE will not be held liable for damage as a consequence of the travel contract not being correctly implemented, if the deficiency in the execution of the contract is attributable to the contracting party.
- 8.7 The trips offered by HE are conducted mainly in 'marginal zones' and require the qualification of expedition trips to places where infrastructure and (medical) facilities may be poor. On booking the trip, the contracting party fully understands that booking the trip with HE is not comparable to booking an everyday standard trip. If, because of weather conditions, sea currents, nautical reasons, large amounts of floating ice etc the decision is made to change the programme, every effort will be made to offer an alternative. In certain exceptional cases, however, this will not always be possible. In such cases nonfulfilment expectations of the contracting party will not be grounds for claims. If the programme cannot be carried out according to the travel description and (certain) places described in the travel programme cannot be visited, HE will not be held liable for damage suffered and/or the spoiling of holiday enjoyment. The Expedition leader is at all times authorised to deviate from the programme, if he/she is of the opinion that it would be to the benefit of the quality of the programme. In such a case HE will not be held liable for payment of restitution.
- 9. Obligations of the contracting party**  
In the case of a (travel) organisation: instead of 'contracting party' (in paragraphs 9.1 up to and including 9.4) read also 'the client(s) of the (travel) organiser'.
- 9.1 The contracting party is obliged to comply with all instructions given by HE and the travel leadership (e.g. Expedition leader(s), guide(s), diving instructor(s) and diving assistant(s), crew of the ship, local agent and the personnel of accommodation providers such as hotels, resorts and diving locations) in order to benefit the sound execution of the trip. Furthermore, the contracting party is 100% liable for damage caused by improper behaviour, e.g. towards fellow travellers or material damage to the hotels, ships or resorts, to be judged according to the standards of behaviour of the model traveller.
- 9.2 Any contracting party who causes such disturbance, or who threatens to cause such disturbance, that the proper execution of (part of) a trip is seriously hindered or could result in danger for the contracting party and/or the fellow travellers, can by or on behalf of HE (trip leadership or the local representatives) be excluded from (continuation of) the trip (components). In the case of exclusion, the contracting party is not entitled to make any claim for restitution of (part of) the price.
- 9.3 If disturbing behaviour or damage (as described in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2) should occur, all costs resulting from this shall be charged to the contracting party.
- 9.4 If the contracting party does not enjoy generally sound health and/or does not have the required diving certificates and/or diving experience as required for participation in the trip, in the interest of the contracting party or his/her fellow travellers, HE is entitled to decide to offer an alternative programme for the contracting party in question or, in extreme cases, to exclude this person from (certain) excursions or (parts of the diving programme). These limitations apply also if the contracting party is not in possession of the correct (diving) gear, as stated in HE's publications. In the case of exclusion (or of a mandatory alternative programme) the contracting party is not entitled to make any claim for restitution of (all or a part of) the price.
- 9.5 The contracting party is obliged to inform HE's trip leadership of any negligence in the execution of the travel contract noted by him/her at the location – in the case of a (travel) organisation: noted by the client(s) of the (travel) organisation. This should be done as quickly as possible, in writing, or other appropriate form of communication, to HE's relevant Expedition leader, who shall immediately do their utmost to find an appropriate solution. As far as handling complaints is concerned, the following persons are responsible: general complaints during a ship voyage: the Expedition leader. If there is no Expedition leader present, the captain is responsible. In the case of hotel and land programmes: the manager of the hotel/organisation.
- 9.6 If an immediate solution for the complaints cannot be found, the contracting party – in the case of a (travel) organisation the client(s) of the (travel) organisation – should present these complaints to the relevant (travel) organisation where the trip was booked, upon which the (travel) organiser shall be obliged to report the complaint to HE and request assistance. In the case of complaints about travel elements, HE can decide to offer an alternative programme (e.g. hotel, cabin, excursion package) that is virtually identical to that in the originally booked trip (the originally booked travel component).
- 9.7 HE (incl. the representatives, trip leadership, local agent) is entitled to reject the complaint if the complaint does not seriously influence the character of the trip and/or the complaint results in hindrance of only minor significance, if exaggerated demands are made, if it is impossible to provide help to the contracting party within the set time limit, if the deficiency in the implementation of the contract is attributable to the contracting party himself/herself, if the deficiency in the execution of the contract could not have been foreseen or could not be neutralised, or if the deficiency in the execution of the contract is attributable to situations of force majeure. (Force majeure is understood to be abnormal and unforeseeable circumstances that are independent of the will of whosoever claims it and of which the consequences, despite every precaution having been taken, could not have been avoided, see also situations of force majeure as described in paragraph 5.2)
- 9.8 If the complaint has not been satisfactorily dealt with during the trip, the contracting party – in the case of a (travel) organisation the client(s) of the (travel) organisation should present these complaints to the relevant (travel) organisation, where the trip was booked, upon which the (travel) organiser shall present the complaint to HE at the very latest within 1 month of the termination of the trip (the last travel day). The complaint must be presented in writing and must be argued fully.
- 9.9 If HE has not then satisfactorily settled the complaint or if proper satisfaction has been not given in this matter, the contracting party is entitled to present the dispute to the Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand (which court shall have exclusive jurisdiction).
- 10. Baggage/Travel documents and insurance**  
In the case of a (travel) organisation: for 'contracting party' (in the paragraphs 10.1 up to and including 10.4) read also 'the client(s) of the (travel) organiser'.
- 10.1 The contracting party must have in his/her possession on departure and during the trip the necessary travel documents such as a valid passport or, where permitted, a tourist card and any required visa, diving certificates, diving logbook including a health certificate from the doctor, proof of inoculations and vaccinations. If the participant is unable to take (part of) the trip due to a lack of any (valid) documents, HE will not be held (financially) responsible, unless HE had undertaken to provide that document.
- 10.2 At the very latest, on the signing of the travel contract, HE shall provide general information to the traveller on passports, visa and any formalities in the area of health care. This information does not bind HE. The contracting party must himself/herself obtain the necessary information from the relevant authorities and before departure check whether there have been any changes concerning information provided at an earlier date.
- 10.3 The contracting party must comply with the current import restrictions of the various destinations and the amount of baggage permitted (also as far as the stipulations of the different airlines are concerned). HE will not be held liable for e.g. damage and prison sentences which could be imposed in the case of a contravention.
- 10.4 HE advises the contracting party to obtain the necessary travel insurance, such as travel insurance, accident insurance, third party risk insurance, baggage insurance and cancellation insurance. In case of a medical problem arising during the voyage, either on board or on shore, which results in costs for medical treatment, evacuation, use of aircraft or repatriation etc, the responsibility for payment of these costs belongs solely to the passenger. HE strongly advises that passengers ensure that such eventualities are covered by travel insurance. If not covered by travel insurance the responsibility still remains with the passenger and HE specifically declines any responsibility whatsoever.
- 11. General**
- 11.1 If the duration of the trip as stated in the publication is given in days, the day of departure and the day of arrival, irrespective of departure or arrival times, are counted as full days. The definite departure and arrival times are given in the travel documents.
- 11.2 The laws of New Zealand apply to this travel contract and all matters ensuing from this contract.
- 11.3 This document and its content belongs to Heritage Expeditions Ltd, Antarctic House, 53B Montreal Street, PO Box 7218, Christchurch 8240, New Zealand.

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