

# EXPEDITION CRUISING



2014/2015



**Heritage Expeditions**

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





## Calling all expeditioners,

Welcome to the world of 'Expedition Cruising'. If you are new to this form of travel I encourage you to read on and discover the many different expeditions that we offer. If you have already discovered the joys of Expedition Cruising and are looking for new destinations, then I invite you to discover the destinations we offer, many of which are unique to Heritage Expeditions.

These are expeditions not tours and as such there is a degree of unpredictability about them. Many of the places we include in our itineraries are isolated, lonely outposts in vast oceans which are buffeted by extreme weather. This is partly what makes them so alluring. They are not only difficult to get to but also to land upon. Although we publish an itinerary for each expedition 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, sea and ice conditions.

The majority of the destinations included in this catalogue are renowned for the abundance and diversity of their wildlife. Many have some degree of legal protection, either they are nature reserves or World Heritage Sites and often entry is by permit only. Permits are a privilege, not a right and we jealously guard the permits we have negotiated with the various governments. Many of the permissions are unique to our company.

Our destinations include:

- a) The Ross Sea sector of Antarctica: historic gateway to the frozen continent.
- b) The Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia: the Galapagos of Antarctica
- c) The South West Pacific: a rich mixture of indigenous cultures and unique wildlife.
- d) The Russian Far East: the wildest parts of Siberia where Russia's day begins.

Our experience in conducting expeditions to these regions is unequalled in the world. We have organised more expeditions with more success than anybody else. 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 to get you the best experiences and outcomes regardless of the weather, sea and ice conditions we encounter.

Our vessel the Spirit of Enderby is a Russian ice strengthened vessel formerly used in oceanographic research. The ship has been tastefully refurbished and redecorated for a maximum of 50 passengers. With the smaller numbers we can guarantee you more landings and more time ashore. The cuisine and hospitality is of an international standard. Meals are prepared by Australasian chefs using only the best produce and there is a comprehensive wine list to compliment the menus.

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact my office today. I have friendly and experienced staff ready to talk with you and answer all your questions.

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



Polar Bear © A Russ

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© E Tan

## EXPEDITION CRUISING

Expedition cruising is a unique form of travel. It offers travellers (not tourists) the opportunity to go where few have been before, and experience wilderness, wildlife and cultures in a genuine and responsible way.

Expedition cruise ships are smaller vessels, designed to navigate areas inaccessible to larger ships. These smaller vessels avoid the negative impact of large cruise ships and groups on a culture or ecosystem. Participants go ashore in small groups by Zodiac at unique destinations with the clear objective of gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of the region or culture, not simply for sightseeing.

The staff aboard expedition cruise ships are teachers and interpreters, not entertainers. Their objective is to inform, enthuse and create ambassadors for conservation. Genuine expedition cruising appeals to people from all walks of life from around the world and can be enjoyed regardless of age, interests, knowledge or physical prowess.

New Zealand based Heritage Expeditions, founded in 1985 by Rodney and Shirley Russ, is one of the few companies that still offers genuine expedition cruises. Heritage Expeditions pioneered expedition cruising in the Subantarctic islands of New Zealand and Australia. Soon after the Ross Sea region of Antarctica was added and more recently the Russian Far East, the South Pacific and Melanesia have been included in the company's long list of regular destinations.

Heritage Expedition's vessel the *Spirit of Enderby* accommodates just 50 passengers. She boasts Australasian chefs who provide international quality cuisine. The cabins are clean and comfortable, with the majority offering private facilities. The officers and crew are amongst the most experienced in the world and they are complimented by a passionate and knowledgeable expedition team. Perhaps one of the more unique features of the *Spirit of Enderby* however is that she is one of the last family operated expedition vessels of her size and ice class in the world.

Heritage Expeditions was founded and is still owned and operated by a family of biologists and adventurers committed to providing an authentic expedition cruising experience.



PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS



## SAILING WITH HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS IS TO TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Heritage Expeditions makes every effort to respect the environment in all aspects of its operation. We are a leader in Responsible Travel to remote places on the globe and our objective is to tread and cruise lightly wherever we go.

We minimise waste and employ recycling policies on the ship and in our head office by selecting environmentally friendly products and produce. Our goal in managing our vessel is to minimise fuel consumption and emissions with regular servicing and a proactive maintenance program. We annually clean and antifoul our vessels hull to reduce the risk of bio fouling. When selecting our specialist expedition equipment, we research this carefully to ensure that they are the most suitable and environmentally responsible.

We travel in small groups (max of 50 pax) and endeavour to maintain a guide to client ratio of 1:12. Each expedition is led by an experienced Expedition Leader familiar with the region being visited and where at all possible we employ local experts. We make sure that all expedition members are respectful of local customs and traditions and are aware of and abide by the conditions of our entry permits to nature reserves and specially protected areas.

Heritage Expeditions supports numerous worldwide conservation programs with funds, advocacy and logistical support. We are proud to be a Species Champion for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper with BirdLife International. We are not afraid to take a stand on issues we feel strongly about and recently joined with Whale and Dolphin Conservation in a successful lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opposing the importation of wild Beluga Whales from Russia into a United States aquarium. We have partnered with both New Zealand and Russian government agencies to negotiate and develop sustainable and best practice tourism policies for their respective world class nature reserves.

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) and the Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO).



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Sea Otters © G Riehle



© E Tan



Yellow-eyed Penguin © JJ L'Heureux



Mount Honey, Campbell Island © T Bickford

## 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 ten 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, Melanesia and all of our voyages in Russia. When not on an expedition, he manages the company's vessel.



**Adam Walley** 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 Russian Far East and Southern Ocean for another season – because in his words "there is still so much more to see and share".



**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.



**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, petrels, skuas, Adelie and Emperor Penguins. A keen photographer and passionate Polar Region specialist he joins us again to share his knowledge.



**Alex Fergus** received an Enderby Trust Scholarship, triggering his on going subantarctic research projects. After two voyages south he studied in Switzerland before joining the Campbell Island Bicentennial expedition. His Russian Far East botanical forays have deepened his passion for plants. Alex lives in Bluff, daily casting his eyes south to the Subantarctic, and works as a field botanist.



**Lloyd Spencer Davis** (a.k.a. Professor Penguin) has spent over 35 years researching the behavioural ecology of penguins, including leading 14 expeditions to Antarctica and two to the Subantarctic Islands. He has authored over 125 scientific publications and seven books, including five on penguins. His other passions are photography and filmmaking.



**Leonid Kotenko** is a native Russian who discovered the Kuril Islands and Kamchatka some years ago and has made them his home. He retrained as a volcanologist and now monitors volcanic activity on Paramushir Island in the northern Kuril Islands where he lives. His passion and knowledge of these islands, especially their human history is unsurpassed and his enthusiasm in sharing it is infectious.



**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.



**Julia Mishina** was born and raised in Kamchatka. Her first vocation was teaching but she has been involved in travel and tourism for a number of years. She is responsible for the permits and permissions required to operate our expeditions and regularly joins us on board as an Assistant Expedition Leader.



**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.



**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.



**Chris Collins** a former accountant turned Birder. His role in researching and organising the now famous Western Pacific Odyssey (WPO) Expedition is legendary. He brings this same passion and knowledge to many of these 'Birding' expeditions. His attitude to birding is professional and 'infectious'. A true team player he is always there to help and 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 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 species lists and photos of previous expeditions.

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



Spirit of Enderby and Zodiacs © A Breniere

## 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.

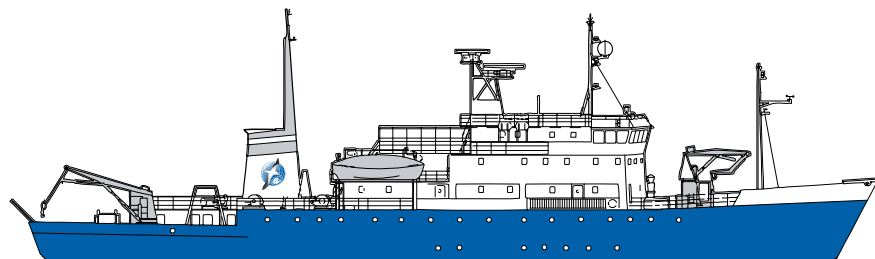
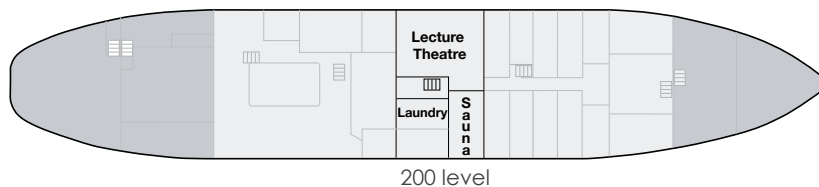
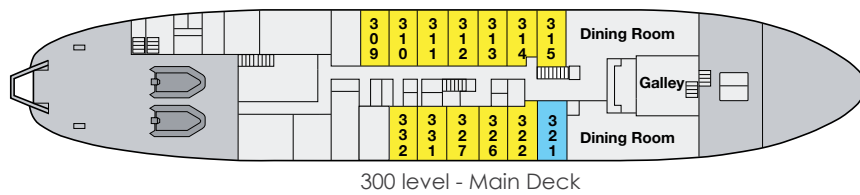
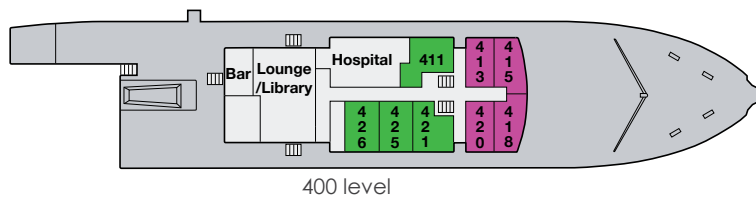
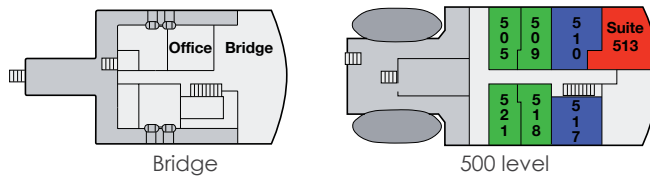
**Mini Suites:**  
Separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or sofa in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Mini Suites have windows.

**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.







## FLYING TO AND FROM RUSSIA



Travelling to and from the Russian Far East is not difficult or complicated. But you do need to plan in advance. Heritage Expeditions staff are in regular contact with a number of airlines that can provide safe and reliable connections to the main cities that the expeditions featured in this brochure depart from. Please ask your reservations agent for further information on our charter flight services to Anadyr.

This information is a guide to the options available for flights at the time of publishing (November 2013).

### ANADYR

**From Europe:** Nonstop direct flights available from Moscow with Yakutia Air or Transaero.

**From America:** Heritage Expeditions have charter flights from/to Nome, Alaska for 'Across the Top of the World / Beringian Arctic Games' and to join 'Jewel of the Russian Far East'. Seats are subject to availability at the time of reservation.

**From Australasia:** You can either travel via the USA to connect with our charter flights from Nome or transit through Khabarovsk.

### MAGADAN

**From Europe:** Nonstop direct flight available from Moscow with Transaero.

**From America:** Flights to Korea or China offer onward flight option to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk.

**From Australasia:** Flights to Korea or China offer onward flight options to Vladivostok or Khabarovsk.

### PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKIY

**From Europe:** Nonstop direct flights available from Moscow with a number of different airlines including Aeroflot and Transaero.

**From America:** Flights to Korea or China offer onward flight options to Vladivostok or Khabarovsk. Or you can fly from Anchorage directly to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy with Yakutia Air.

**From Australasia:** Flights to Korea or China offer onward flight options to Vladivostok or Khabarovsk.

### YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK

**From Europe:** Nonstop direct flights available from Moscow with a number of different airlines.

**From America:** Flights to Korea or China offer onward flight options to Vladivostok or Khabarovsk

**From Australasia:** Flights to Korea or China offer onward flight options to Vladivostok or Khabarovsk. Or you can choose a nonstop direct flight from Seoul.





# COMMANDER ISLANDS

## A UNIQUE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH EXPEDITION

Steller Sea Lions © M Kelly

### 10 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

20TH MAY – 29TH MAY 2014

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

The Commander Islands are the western extension of the Aleutian chain of islands. When the islands were discovered by Commander Vitus Bering in 1741 they were uninhabited. He and many of his men perished there. Those that survived eventually made it back to Russia and told amazing stories of large numbers of seals and otters and a previously undescribed animal which they called a Sea Cow. Sealers 'rushed' to the islands. The wildlife was heavily exploited and the islands permanently settled.

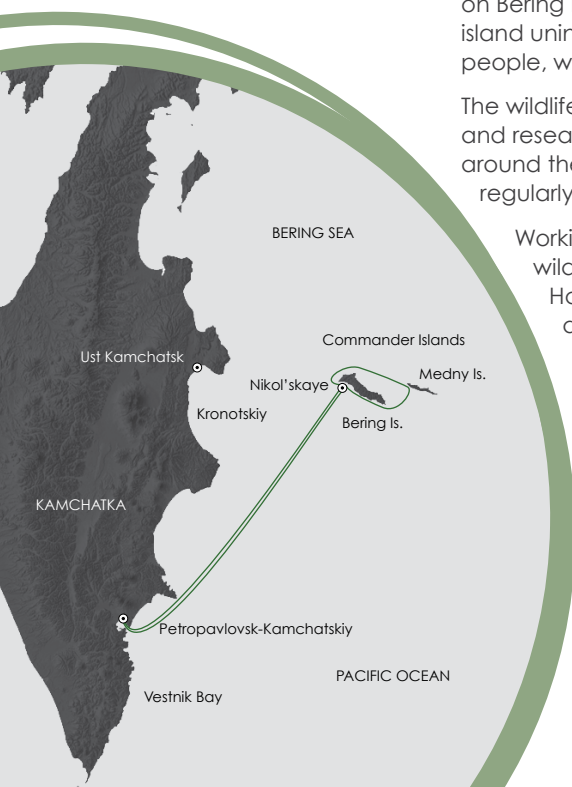
The two islands of Bering and Medny which make up the Commanders were both populated. In the 1970s the people from Medny were relocated to the village of Nikolskoye on Bering Island and in the early 2000s the Border Guards withdrew from Medny leaving the island uninhabited. Today the village of Nikolskoye on Bering Island is home to about 580 people, who make a living from the land and the sea.

The wildlife is slowly recovering from the extensive period of exploitation and local Rangers and researchers monitor various populations. However like so many conservation agencies around the world they lack the manpower, the resources and 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, we plan to do inshore and offshore surveys for wildlife. On the inshore surveys we are going to be particularly interested in otters, Harbour Seals and of course bird colonies. Offshore we will be looking for whales and in particular Humpback, Minke and Orca.

We plan to have a ship based team and also a small team of volunteers camped on Medny Island. Both teams will use Zodiacs for detailed surveys and it is planned that the Medny Island team will also cover a lot of the coast on foot. There will also be a chance for multiple landings on Bering Island by the ship based team.

There has never been a more 'compelling' and worthwhile reason to visit these unique islands combining conservation work with exploration and discovery.





Clockwise: Sea Otter © Heritage Expeditions; Tufted Puffins © G Berton; Whiskered Auklet © Heritage Expeditions

### Day 1: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy

The team will meet early morning at a central city meeting point in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy the capital and administrative centre of the Kamchatka Region. From here you will be transferred by coach to the vessel. On arrival at the *Spirit of Enderby* you will be shown to your cabins where there will be the opportunity to unpack, then explore the vessel. To ensure you are able to meet the group on time we recommend arriving in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy the night prior to the voyage departure.

We plan to depart mid morning and set a course directly to the Commander Islands some 300 nautical miles to the north-east. We will set sail through Avacha Bay, one of the greatest natural harbours in the world which was home for a large portion of Russia's Pacific fleet. This fleet included a large number of submarines, many of which are still present.

As we cross the bay, we will look for Spectacled Guillemot, an uncommon species which breeds here in small numbers. Other birds we could see include Red-faced and Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet and Tufted Puffin.

Once we are underway there will be a series of compulsory briefings and drills and an introduction to staff and the ship.

### Day 2: At Sea and Nikolskoye

During the morning there will be lectures and planning for

the survey. Those going ashore on Medny Island will have the opportunity to check gear and equipment in preparation for the landing tomorrow.

We will have an estimated arrival time of approx 3pm at Nikolskoye, on arrival we will clear in with the Border Guards and also pick up local staff and researchers who we will be assisting during our time at the Commander Islands. This evening we will sail for Medny Island.

### Days 3 to 7: Commander Islands

Early this morning we will drop off the Medny Island team. There are at least a couple of suitable bays from which they can base themselves; the final choice will depend on weather and sea conditions. There will be a chance to land and explore the island and maybe enjoy a Zodiac cruise before those not staying on Medny head off on their survey of Bering Island.

After dropping off the Medny Island team and enjoying some time ashore we will commence the survey work. We are interested in marine mammals and of course birds. There is a deep trench a few miles to the south of Bering Island and it is known for its cetaceans including Humpback, Sperm, Northern Minke and Baird's Beaked Whales. We will spend some time here possibly using the Zodiacs to survey the area. During the survey we will Zodiac cruise the coastlines for seals, otters and of course bird colonies. There will

also be an opportunity to land and take extended walks over the island and along the coast.

We plan to include a landing in Commander Bay where Bering is buried; a simple tombstone which marks Bering's grave can be seen here. We will be working at all times with the Rangers and local researchers assisting them to collect the data that they need to manage this reserve.

### Day 8: Commander Islands

First thing this morning we will be back at Medny Island to pick up the team based here. Once they are safely on board we will steam back to Nikolskoye to drop off the Rangers and researchers and then we will head for Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy.

### Day 9: At Sea

We are at sea all day. This will be a chance to reflect on the surveys and there will undoubtedly be highlights to reflect upon, photographs to be shared and results to be collated. Tonight we will enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate what will have been, regardless of the results, an amazing time on and around these special islands.

### Day 10: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy

We will enter the Port of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy at first light this morning. After breakfast we say our farewells and a bus will take you either to a central city hotel or to the airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

## VOYAGE #1421 DETAILS

### Prices – ship based team:

Twin share with  
Private Facilities ..... \$4,980 pp

Twin share with  
Shared Facilities ..... \$4,250 pp

### Prices – Medny Island on shore team:

Cost per person ..... \$4,250 pp

This on shore team experience is limited to three persons with a reasonable degree of fitness and some proven experience in living/working in remote field situations. Participants will be expected to assist with chores around camp. Accommodation on shore in basic hut/tent/ sleeping bags.

### Additional Charges:

Local Payment not applicable

(All prices are in USD per person)

### Price Includes:

Pre/Post cruise transfers and on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions. Medny Island on shore team will also be provided with sleeping accommodation whilst on shore (basic hut or tent), sleeping bag and meals.

### Price Excludes:

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



# RUSSIA'S RING OF FIRE

KAMCHATKA, THE COMMANDER & KURIL ISLANDS  
(Incorporating our Popular "Birding The Russian Far East" Expedition)

Auklets and zodiac © M Kelly



## 13 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

29 MAY – 10 JUN 2014

The Pacific Ring of Fire manifests itself in numerous places on the rim of the Pacific Ocean – but nowhere more dramatically than in Russia's Far East. Along one of the world's most active plate boundaries, the Pacific plate sub ducts under the North American plate and the resulting volcanic and geothermal activity has built a unique and amazing landscape. Upwelling from the deep trenches formed by this action and currents around the many islands creates perfect conditions for seabirds and cetaceans. Consequently the area is one of the richest in the world, both in terms of the number of species, which can be seen, and their sheer abundance. For many birders, the undoubted highlight is the auks and during our voyage it is possible to see up to fourteen species including Tufted and Horned Puffins, Parakeet, Whiskered and Rhinoceros Auklets, as well as Spectacled and Pigeon Guillemots.

Other seabirds we regularly encounter include Laysan Albatross, Mottled Petrel, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, Red-faced Cormorant, Red-legged Kittiwake and Aleutian Tern. For those keen on cetaceans we can reasonably expect to see Blue, Fin, Sperm, Humpback and Gray Whales as well as Orca (Killer Whale), Baird's Beaked-Whale and Dall's Porpoise.

The region's human history is equally interesting and fascinating. The original settlers were the Ainu and Itelmen. They were displaced with the arrival of the Cossacks in the 18th century after the Explorer Vitus Bering had put the region on the map. The Soviet empire encompassed the region and at the height of the Cold War, Russia's formidable Pacific Fleet was based here. The secrecy surrounding the fleet resulted in the region being 'closed' even to Russians who had to get special permits to travel to and within the area. It is only now, two decades since Perestroika, that people can travel relatively freely here, although there is still very little in the way of infrastructure for visitors.

The region we explore on this expedition falls into three quite distinct and unique geographical regions: the Kamchatka Peninsula; the Commander Islands (the western extremity of the Aleutian chain of islands) and the Kuril Islands. Each region is very different. Each has its own story and in many cases endemic plants and birds. Join us as we go in search of those people, plants, animals and birds that make this part of the Pacific Ring of Fire so special.

*A message for the keen birders and cetacean watchers reading this. Space doesn't allow us to list all species on a day-by-day basis in this itinerary. Please ask for an expedition dossier or a bird and mammal list from previous expeditions.*





Crested Auklets © A Russ

**Day 1: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy**

You will be transferred to the vessel and we will depart for the Commander Islands. You are welcome on the bridge as we sail from what some people consider the best natural harbour in the world. There is also some good birding as we leave the shoreline behind.

**Day 2: At Sea**

A day at sea as we cruise towards the Commander Islands. Enjoy several lectures and briefings as we prepare for the days ahead. It is also a good time to be on deck as the birding is good with Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel and Red-legged Kittiwake amongst the likely sightings.

**Day 3 and 4: Commander Islands**

There are two main islands in the Commander group, Bering and Medny, and during our two days we will explore several sites combining the best of the natural and cultural history. There is an excellent chance of finding Rock Sandpiper, Mongolian Plover, Pechora Pipit and Grey-crowned Rosy-Finch, as well as the endemic subspecies of Arctic Fox. Zodiac cruising can be extremely rewarding here with several species of auklets as well as the Red-legged Kittiwake. The area is also extremely rich in marine mammals. Potential species include Sperm, Humpback, Northern Minke and Baird's Beaked-Whales, as well as Orcas, Steller Sea Lions, Northern Fur Seals and Sea Otters. We include

a visit to the small settlement of Nikolskoye and the local museum and if weather permits Commander Bay, where Vitus Bering was shipwrecked and is buried.

**Day 5: Zhupanova River, Kamchatka**

We will spend several hours in the Zodiacs cruising on the scenic Zhupanova River where we should get great looks at Steller's Sea Eagles as the birds often perch in the trees adjacent to the river. Other highlights could include Pacific Diver, Far Eastern Curlew, Glaucous-winged Gull, Aleutian Tern and Yellow-breasted Bunting. There is also a major salmon fishery on the river which we can visit.

**Day 6: Bukta Russkaya, Kamchatka**

In this deep fiord on the Kamchatka Peninsula we will look for the critically endangered Kittlitz's Murrelet as well as Long-billed Murrelet. We plan a short excursion at the head of the fiord where there is a chance of seeing brown bears. At the entrance to the fiord where we can Zodiac cruise there are almost always Orcas and Steller Sea Lions.

**Day 7: Second Kuril Strait, Atlasova and Onekotan Islands**

Very early in the morning we will pass through Second Kuril Strait which has one of the highest densities of Sea Otters in the Kuril Islands. Our landing on Atlasova Island is great for birders and non birders alike. There is the remains of a Gulag to explore



Zodiac and Steller's Sea Eagle © K Ovsyanikova

and numerous species to see. This evening on Onekotan Island we can stretch our legs through an amazing field of wild flowers as we walk to Black Lake.

**Day 8: Ekarma and Toporkovy Islands**

During an early morning Zodiac cruise at Ekarma Island we should see various alcids, with close looks at Tufted Puffin and Whiskered Auklet. This afternoon at Toporkovy Island in the shadow of the active Matua Island volcano we can expect to find Harlequin Ducks, Red-faced Cormorants, Tufted Puffins and Brunnich's Guillemots. Ashore we could encounter Grey-tailed Tattler, Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler and Black-faced Bunting.

**Day 9: Simushir and Yankicha Islands**

We will enter a flooded caldera at the northern end of Simushir Island where a once top secret Soviet submarine base lies abandoned. In the surrounding area look for the Siberian Rubythroat, Eurasian Nutcracker, Pine Grosbeak and Japanese Grey Bunting. Our visit to Yankicha Island is likely to be one of the highlights of the voyage as the number of alcids which breed here is incredible, with spectacular concentrations of Crested and Whiskered Auklets.

**Day 10: Chirpoy and Urup Islands**

This morning depending on weather we will either Zodiac cruise or land on Chirpoy Island where there are some dramatic volcanic landscapes and headlands covered in breeding seabirds. This afternoons landing on Urup Island is a chance to stretch you legs on an extended walk, beachcomb and look for Sea Otters or bird in the forest behind the beach.

**Day 11: Iturup Island**

This morning we land at the small settlement of Kurilsk from where local buses/trucks will take us into the volcanic highlands to thermal hot pools where you can enjoy a soak or go birding. Possible species include Brown Dipper,

Arctic Warbler, Japanese Robin, Pine Grosbeak and Japanese Grey Bunting.

**Day 12: Kunashir Island**

Kunashir is the largest island in the Kuril chain. We plan a landing in the Kurilsky Reserve and will explore an extensive area of woodland, where there are some good walks and birding. This afternoon while we are at sea there is a chance for birding and an opportunity to recap and pack.

**Day 13: Sakhalin Island**

Arrive at the Port of Korskov on Sakhalin Island. There will be transport to a central hotel and the airport in the town of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

**Enquire for a full itinerary and/or Bird and Mammal List.**

**VOYAGE #1423 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$10,800 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$9,800 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$9,400 pp
Superior .....	\$8,800 pp
Main Deck .....	\$8,200 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$7,000 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Local Payment .....	\$500 pp
Kayaking Supplement .....	\$1,025 pp

(All prices are per person in USD)

**Price Includes:**  
Pre/Post cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation and meals and all expedition shore excursions.

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



# SEA OF OKHOTSK

SEALS, SEABIRDS AND A LEGACY OF SORROW

Zodiac viewing Ribbon Seal © N Russ



## 12 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

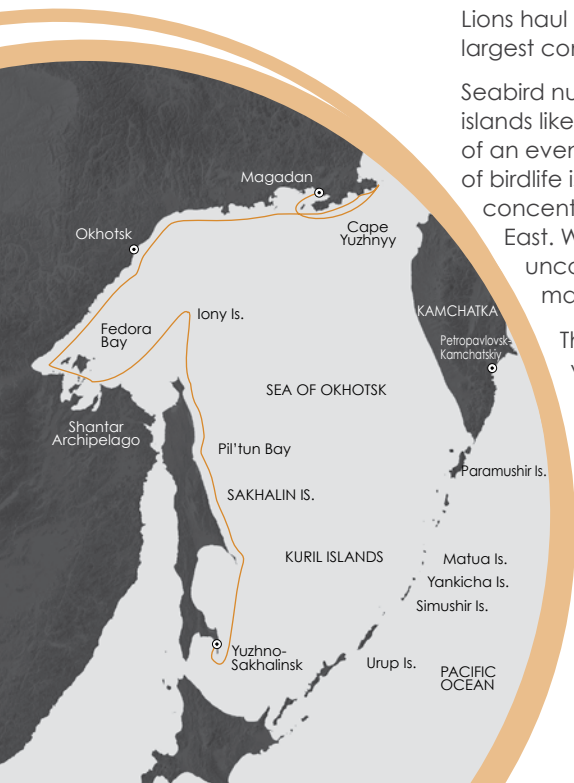
11TH – 22ND JUN 2014

Perhaps no other sea in the world has witnessed as much human suffering and misery as the Sea Okhotsk. Between 1932 and 1953 it is estimated that over 3 million prisoners (the vast majority of them innocent) were transported across the Sea Okhotsk to the Gulags of the Kolyma Goldfields. It is estimated that only five hundred thousand of those prisoners survived to make the journey home. The town and port of Magadan were built to process these prisoners.

The upper regions of the Sea of Okhotsk remain frozen for much of the year and winter storms make it an inhospitable place. However the lure of a rich fishery and more recently oil and gas discoveries means this sea is still being exploited, so nothing has changed there. In 1854 no fewer than 160 American and British whaling ships were there, hunting whales. Despite this seemingly relentless exploitation the wildlife thrives, including the beautifully marked and rare Ribbon Seals. On three small islands within this sea hundreds of Steller Sea Lions haul out each year to breed. One of these, Tyulenly Island, also is home to one of the largest concentrations and breeding colonies of Northern Fur Seals in the Russian Far East.

Seabird numbers in the Sea of Okhotsk can only be described as spectacular. There are islands like Talan where the sky darkens when the Crested Auklets start massing offshore of an evening. Other birds include guillemots, puffins, auklets and fulmars. But the richness of birdlife is not restricted to pelagic species. The Sea of Okhotsk has one of the highest concentrations of the majestic Steller's Sea Eagle of anywhere in the Russian Far East. Waterfowl are common as are many migratory species. Harder to see but not uncommon on this expedition are the magnificent Kamchatka Brown Bear and other mammals such as the Snow Sheep and the Marmot.

This is a truly unique journey in that it travels through a little known and seldom visited region. A region with a rich history and very significant and important wildlife values, both terrestrial and marine. There are still discoveries to be made and so for the inquisitive, adventurous and open minded traveller this is a 'must do' expedition.





Clockwise: Local hospitality © A Breniere; Kamchatka Brown Bear © K Ovsyanikova; Steller's Sea Eagle © N Russ

#### Day 1: Sakhalin Island, Port of Korsakov

This morning we board a coach for transfer to the Port of Korsakov some 40 minutes south of the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk where we will board the *Spirit of Enderby*. Once on board you will be shown to your cabins and there will be a chance to unpack and explore the vessel. There will be briefings and introductions to the ship, staff and crew after we sail towards the Sea of Okhotsk.

#### Day 2: Tyuleniy Island

We visit little known Tyuleniy Island off the south east coast of Sakhalin Island. This small island is a strong hold for Northern Fur Seals and Steller Sea Lions. Fur seal numbers have increased since an International Convention signed in 1911 banned seal hunting here. In the 1990s Steller Sea Lions started breeding on the island and their colony now numbers about 2,500 animals. Sea conditions permitting we plan a landing here for an opportunity to photograph the seals and sea lions.

#### Day 3: Pitun Bay, Sakhalin Island

It was the discovery of oil and gas in this region which put Sakhalin Island on many people's maps. Pitun Bay is an important habitat for the small population of western Gray Whales. Researchers monitor the population during the summer months. We go in search of the Gray Whales that live here, travelling by Zodiac inshore to the shallower waters where they are known to feed.

#### Day 4: Iony Island

Iony Island lies in the middle of the Sea of Okhotsk, it is really just a rock, but what it lacks in physical size it more than makes up for wildlife. Birds appear to take up all available space; there are guillemots, kittiwakes and various species of auklets, with Parakeet, Whiskered and Least being the most prominent. We will Zodiac cruise around the island as Steller Sea Lions occupy the few rocky beaches, making any landing impossible.

#### Days 5 to 6: Shantar Archipelago

Lying in the western sector of the Sea of Okhotsk close to the continent, the islands in this archipelago are amongst the last place in the Sea of Okhotsk to become ice free each year. This late ice can sometimes restrict how far we can explore here; on the other hand ice increases our chances of seeing some of the seals including Bearded, Ringed, Larga and Ribbon Seals that breed here. If we can land there will be birding, botany and photography excursions led by our team of on board naturalists.

#### Day 7: Mal'minskies Islands

Here there are birds everywhere, in the air, in the water and on the land. Numerous species breed here including large numbers of Spectacled Guillemot. Other species include Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Parakeet Auklet, Horned and Tufted Puffin, Crested Auklet and both Common and Brunnichs Guillemot. There is

also a good population of Steller's Sea Eagles on the island and on the adjacent mainland. Landing on the island is restricted to a small gravel spit; however on the mainland we can stretch our legs and explore the taiga forest.

#### Day 8: Okhotsk Town

This town has featured in Russian Far East history since the earliest Cossack explorers came from the west. Vitus Bering travelled overland from St Petersburg to Okhotsk in 1725 and again 1733 and travelled to Kamchatka and beyond. Today Okhotsk is the centre of fishing in the region. The port exports significant quantities of salmon and other fish. We visit the town, landing by Zodiac up the river near the town centre. The local people are generous and welcoming and will provide entertainment in the town centre and a cultural display.

#### Day 9: Talan Island

An internationally known, but very difficult bird island to get to, Talan is infamous largely because of the hundreds of thousands of Crested Auklets that nest there. There are also an extraordinary number of kittiwakes nesting along the cliffs and not surprisingly a large population of Steller's Sea Eagles. We plan to circumnavigate the island by Zodiac before landing and then return in the late evening to witness the huge flocks of Crested Auklets amassing at sea before coming ashore.

#### Day 10: Koni Peninsula

This is a mountainous region to the south-east of the town of Magadan, part of which is included in the Magadanskiy Zapovednik. This reserve protects among other animals Brown Bear and Snow Sheep. Many of our landings are expeditionary, in that although we have landed at a number of places along the coast, many will be new and unknown to us, so we are never quite sure what we will find. That is part of what makes this style of travel so interesting.

#### Day 11: Yamskiye Islands

These islands are claimed by some biologists to be the largest bird colony in the North Pacific. According to bird counts there are an estimated 7 million birds nesting on Matykil Island, the largest in the group. Birds include Common and Brunnichs Guillemot, Crested, Parakeet and Least Auklets, Tufted and Horned Puffins and Northern Fulmars. The most abundant of these is the Least Auklet. We Zodiac around the coast as no landings are permitted.

#### Day 12: Magadan

The name Magadan is synonymous with Stalin's oppressive Gulags or prisons but there is very little evidence now of this town's tragic past. The local museum has an excellent display about the Gulags but the most poignant reminder is the 'Mask

of Sorrow' a large monument on a hill overlooking the town. Today Magadan is a town of about 100,000 people. Fishing is important and gold mining is experiencing a revival. The infamous Kolyma Highway or the 'Road of Bones' connects Magadan with Irkutsk and ultimately greater Russia. We plan to arrive here midday where our journey ends. You will be transferred to a central hotel or the airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

## VOYAGE #1425 DETAILS

### Prices:

Heritage Suite .....	\$9,900 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$9,000 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$8,700 pp
Superior .....	\$8,000 pp
Main Deck .....	\$7,600 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$6,500 pp

### Additional Charges:

Local Payment .....	\$500 pp
Kayaking Supplement	\$995 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.

## SPECIAL POST CRUISE OPTIONS UNIQUE TO THIS EXPEDITION.

The following excursions are exclusive to this cruise. For more detailed information on the following or other options contact your agent or our office.

### 1. Magadan City Tour:

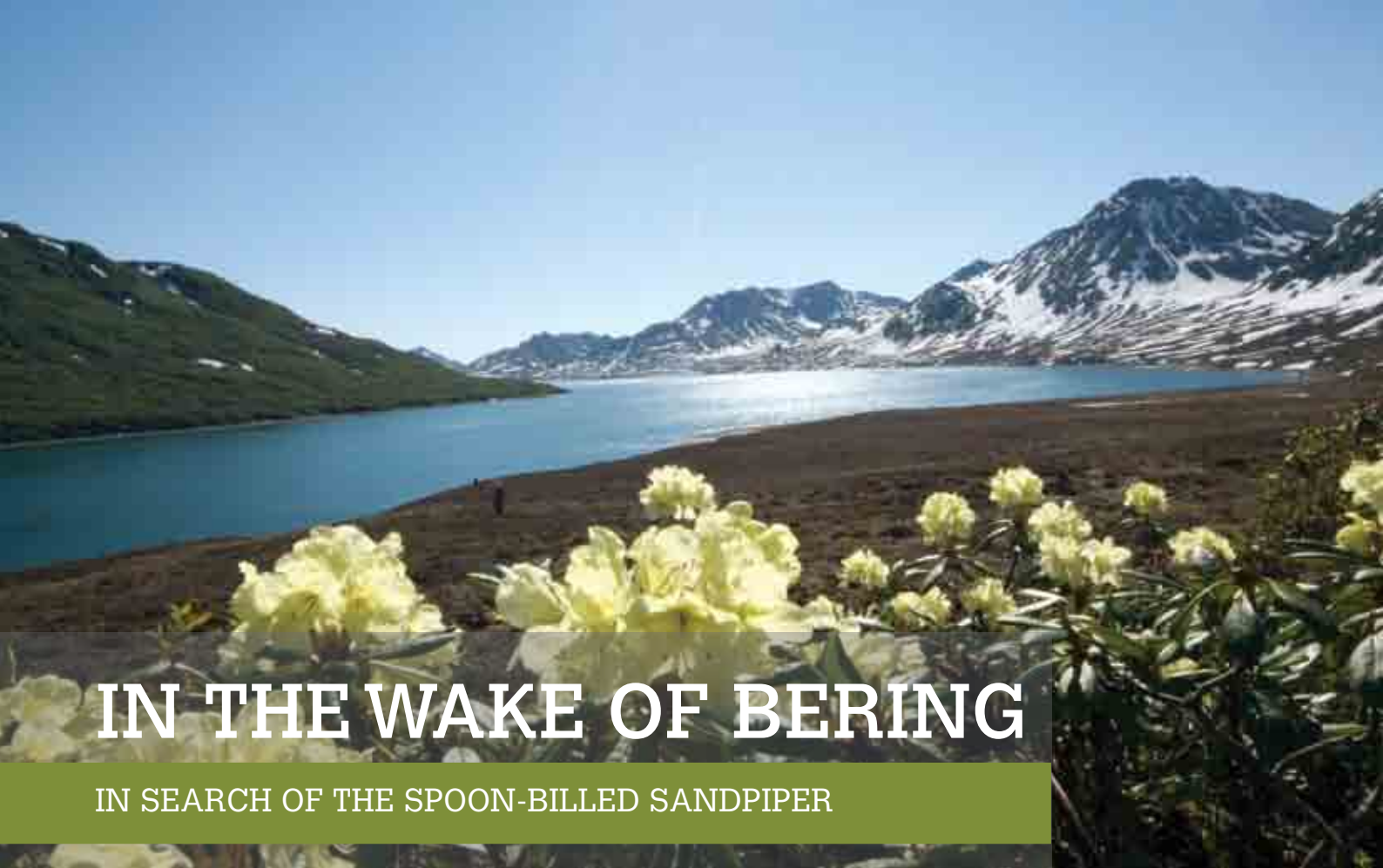
Take a half-day guided tour of the city including museum, Mask of Sorrow and enjoy dinner hosted by local family.

### 2. Kolyma Goldfields and Gulags:

A special 4 day tour through the Goldfields and some of the infamous Gulags of the region.

### 3. The Road of Bones:

Take this 8 day journey along the road from Magadan to Yakutsk and through it gain a greater understanding of this tragic period in Russia's history.



# IN THE WAKE OF BERING

IN SEARCH OF THE SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER

Bukhta Petra © N Russ

## 14 DAY VOYAGE

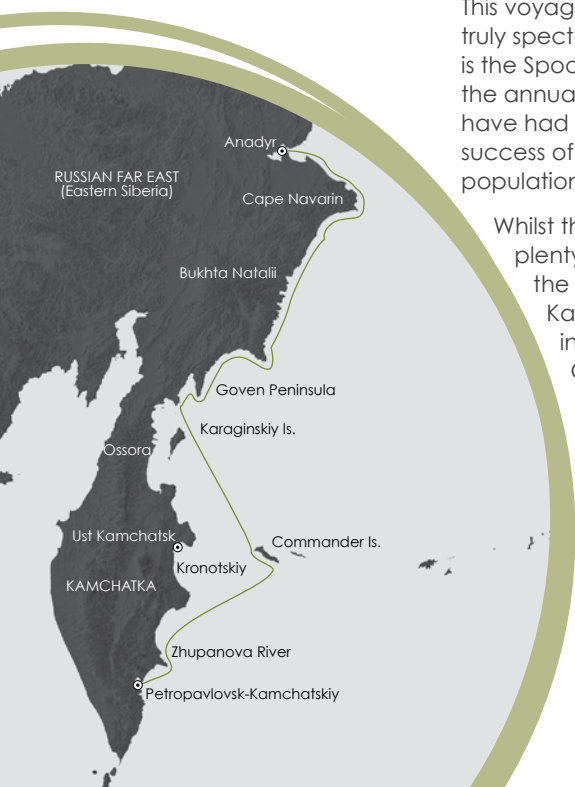
DATES:  
26TH JUN – 9 JUL 2014

Run as a co-operative venture with BirdLife International, this unique expedition follows in the footsteps of the Danish explorer Commander Vitus Bering. Bering's instructions from Tsar Peter the Great were to "sail north by north-east (from Kamchatka), chart the coast and collect information". Modern day voyage participants will also have the opportunity to hopefully collect information on the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Our journey starts in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy; the city named after two of Bering's ships, and like Bering we will travel north by north-east, along what is still one of the more remote coastlines on earth. Along the way we will visit the Commander Islands, resplendent with natural and human history with a planned visit to the last resting place of the famous explorer. As we sail the coastline we will launch Zodiacs to explore numerous landings, some of them old favourites others of them new.

This voyage is dedicated to looking for birds and wildlife and we can expect to have some truly spectacular experiences along the way, but the bird which makes this trip very special is the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. There are now thought to be less than 200 pairs which make the annual migration to Northern Kamchatka and Chukotka to breed. Very few people have had the privilege of visiting this region to see this species and we hope to repeat the success of a previous expedition when we made ornithological history by finding a new population south of the only monitored breeding site at Meinypil'gyno.

Whilst the Spoon-billed Sandpipers are the central focus of our voyage, there will be plenty of other highlights. The special wildlife we will look for while ashore includes the Steller's Sea Eagle, Emperor Goose and Pechora Pipit, as well as the mighty Kamchatka Brown Bear, Kamchatka Marmot, Sea Otter and Arctic Fox. The seas in this area also support a rich diversity of species and sightings of Beluga, Blue, Gray, Humpback, Sperm and Baird's Beaked Whales are all possible. We will also keep an eye out for 13 species of auks and other regional specialities such as the Red-faced Cormorant and Red-legged Kittiwake. The Wake of Bering is truly an expedition of rich diversity and experiences.







Spoon-billed Sandpiper © C Collins

**Day 1: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy**

Arrive into Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, the capital and administrative centre of the Kamchatka Region and transfer to the port to board the *Spirit of Enderby*.

**Day 2: Zhupanova River**

We plan to spend the morning Zodiac cruising on the Zhupanova River. Our main target here is the Steller's Sea Eagle and there are usually at least three occupied nests close to the river. By late afternoon, we should be over deep water heading for the Commander Islands and new species to look for include Laysan Albatross, Mottled Petrel and the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. The Kamchatka Trench can also be excellent for cetaceans and we have previously seen Blue Whales on this crossing. Good numbers of Larga Seals are also often hauled out on sandbars in the river.

**Days 3 to 4: Commander Islands**

The wildlife-rich Commander Islands were first discovered by the Commander Vitus Bering when his ship was wrecked here in 1741. We intend to explore the islands through a combination of landings and Zodiac cruises and our first stop will be the village of Nikolskoye, where there is an interesting museum. Zodiac cruising is often spectacular and we hope to encounter Red-faced Cormorant, Red-legged Kittiwake, Pigeon Guillemot,

Horned Puffin, as well as Parakeet, Crested and Whiskered Auklets. Our plans also include a ship cruise along the southern coast of Bering Island, as this area is excellent for cetaceans with Humpback, Sperm, Northern Minke and Baird's Beaked Whales all regularly encountered.

**Day 5: Karaginskiy Island**

Our proposed landing site is a patchwork of boggy tundra, ponds and shingle spits and an interesting range of waders can be found here including Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint and Red-necked Phalarope.

**Day 6: Verkhoturova Island and Govena Peninsula**

Verkhoturova Island has some huge seabird colonies and by following a short trail to the cliff top we should be able to enjoy some fantastic views of Tufted Puffins, Brunnich's Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorants and Black-legged Kittiwakes. Both Steller's Eider and Harlequin Duck occur too and we may also see some Steller Sea Lions, as they are often hauled out on some offshore rocks. Later in the day, there will be either a Zodiac cruise or landing on the Govena Peninsula. Good numbers of brown bears can often be found here.

**Day 7: Tintikun Lagoon and Olyutorskiy Bay**

Tintikun Lagoon is one of the most scenic places in the Russian Far East and the lake is surrounded by jagged mountains, glaciers and forested slopes. A shallow



Kamchatka Brown Bear © E Tan

river allows us to drive the Zodiacs onto the lake and we intend to make several landings. Later in the day we will explore Olyutorskiy Bay, where we should encounter a range of seabirds which could include Aleutian Tern and the critically endangered Kittiwake's Murrelet.

**Days 8 to 9: Chukotka Coast**

We plan to spend two days with members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce searching remote bays looking for unknown populations of this critically endangered species. In 2011 we made ornithological history by locating three territories at a location which had not been previously surveyed. We will be assisting the Taskforce again and hope to repeat our success elsewhere.

**Day 10: Bukhta Petra and Bogoslova Island**

Another beautiful fiord possessed of a dramatic allure in the low sun of the Subarctic. A walrus haul out guards the entrance and we make a landing to explore the hinterland, surrounded by imposing mountain landscapes and verdant tundra.

**Days 11 to 12: Meinypil'gyno**

Meinypil'gyno is located on a 40 kilometre long shingle spit and is the most important site in the world for breeding Spoon-billed Sandpiper, as there are about ten pairs which are monitored by members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Taskforce. Extremely rich in other wildlife too we may also find Emperor Goose, Pacific Diver and Sandhill Crane, whilst just offshore Grey Whales and Belugas often gather to feed.

**Day 13: Cape Navarin**

This coastline is rich in marine mammals and one creature we will be looking for, in particular, is the walrus, as there is a known haul out. The animals do regularly move between locations, so finding them is always very much a matter of luck, although we have had success here in the past. Good numbers of Gray Whales often congregate here too, and we may well end the activities of the expedition by Zodiac cruising some spectacular

cliffs where tens of thousands of seabirds breed, giving us a final chance to watch birds such as Tufted Puffin and Black-legged Kittiwake.

**Day 14: Port of Anadyr**

As we cruise into Anadyr Bay, there is an excellent chance of seeing more Belugas and after a final breakfast on board the *Spirit of Enderby*, it will be time to disembark. We will provide complimentary transfers to a downtown hotel and the airport.

**2014 voyage under charter, contact us for 2015 dates.**

**VOYAGE #1430 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

- Heritage Suite .....
- Mini Suite .....
- Superior Plus .....
- Superior .....
- Main Deck .....
- Main Deck Triple .....

**Additional Charges:**

- Local Payment .....

**2015 dates available on request**

**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.

UNDER CHARTER





# BERINGIAN ARCTIC GAMES

## SPECIAL EXPEDITION IN CHUKOTKA

Barida races © A Tockston

### 9 DAY VOYAGE

**DATES:**  
**17TH – 25TH JULY 2014**

Some 14,000 years ago the first people walked from Chukotka (in Russia), across the Beringia Land Bridge to discover North America and beyond. In July of 2014 peoples from the seven Arctic nations will return to Chukotka for the first ever Beringian Arctic Games, coming together, to celebrate and compete in skin boat races and other competitions in the picturesque village of Novoye Chaplino on the shores of Bukhta Tkachen. You are invited to join them on this special Beringian Arctic Games Expedition.

When people made their way across the vast plain of Beringia from the Asian to the American continent, they moved on foot. Then as glacier ice turned to sea and the Bering Strait came into being, the peoples on both sides continued to connect, sailing the waters in large skin boats. Life in these Arctic regions would have been unthinkable and unsustainable without these Arctic ships.

The first ever Beringian Arctic Games will bring together peoples from all around the circumpolar Arctic. It will be a powerful celebration of this environment and a feature event of these games will be the skin boat races in which the various countries will compete.

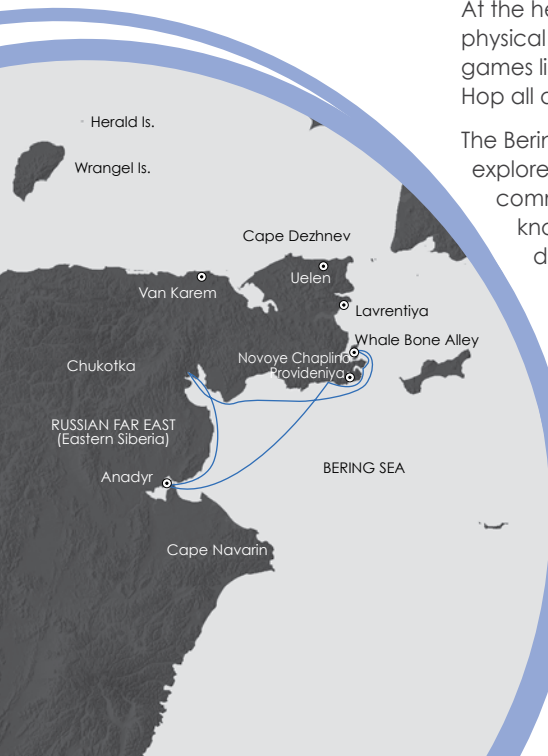
At the heart of the skin boat races are agility, ability, and endurance embracing mental and physical strength – the very essence of all the games that will be played. Events held at these games like One Foot High Kick, Musk Ox Push, Kneel Jump, Mouth Pull, Snow-snake and Knuckle Hop all demonstrate the ability to adapt and survive in this severe environment.

The Beringian Arctic Games will be a unique opportunity for all of us who join these people to explore Beringia through the prism of its traditional games and sports and be part of building community spirit which, instils a sense of pride in this society's cultural roots. The more people know about and appreciate these traditional sports and games, the less likely they are to disappear or fade from memory.

This expedition will also be an opportunity for participants to explore other parts of Chukotka, including a significant archaeological site called Whale Bone Alley and Provideniya, a former important Soviet military town with a significant port and airfield. We will also visit Egvekinot, a town built by Gulag prisoners in the late 1940s to service an important tin mine. Today it is a busy town as mineral extraction becomes a significant part of the Chukotka economy. A highlight will be a morning spent with a family of Chukchi reindeer herders learning about their unique lifestyle first-hand.

Your participation will help.... We are sponsoring transport for 25 students from the 7 Arctic Nations to travel to these Games. Your participation on this expedition will help them realise their dreams. Travel with them on our ship, share their journey, support them at the Games and learn from them – a truly unique opportunity.

With 50% of the berths on this expedition already allocated (to the students) you will need to book early to secure your berth.





Clockwise: Barida races © K Ovsvyanikova; Chukchi dance © K Ovsvyanikova; Reindeer © K Ovsvyanikova

**Day 0: Nome**

For those departing Nome, Alaska your adventure begins with a flight across the Bering Sea and International Date Line to the remote port of Anadyr.

**Day 1: Anadyr**

Arrive in Anadyr, the administrative capital of Chukotka. You will be transferred to the ship. We plan to sail in the late afternoon for Preobrazheniya Bay.

**Day 2: At Sea and Preobrazheniya Bay**

We plan to complete the briefings and begin a lecture series that will provide valuable background on the Games and on the cultural and natural history of the region. In the early afternoon we will arrive at Preobrazheniya Bay on the Chukotka coast. There are impressive bird cliffs and we plan (if conditions are suitable) to take the Zodiacs for a closer look.

**Days 3 to 4: Novoye Chaplino – Beringian Arctic Games**

The village of Novoye Chaplino, built on the relatively sheltered Bukhta (bay) Tkachen, is the perfect venue to host the Beringian Arctic Games. The vessel will anchor and there will be continuous Zodiac shuttles to and from the ship allowing you to enjoy the games and watch the Barida (or skin boat) races. There will be traditional foods and dancing for you to enjoy. On the Saturday evening (Day 3) after

an early dinner there will be an opportunity to visit the nearby town of Provideniya. Our local guides will show us around the town and describe what it was like during the Soviet period. A highlight of the visit will be one of the best museums in Chukotka.

**Day 5: Whale Bone Alley and Gil'mimyl Hot Springs**

We will have sailed to an anchorage off Ytygran Island overnight. Here is one of the most significant and intriguing archaeological sites in the Arctic known affectionately as 'Whale Bone Alley' due to the large number of whale bones spread along the beach in the form of a pathway. This afternoon we make a landing near the Gil'mimyl Hot Springs. After a soak in the springs we can explore the tundra for plants and wildlife. We will rejoin the ship this evening and sail for Egvekinot.

**Day 6: At Sea**

Our lecturers will continue the series of lectures about Chukotka, its people and its wildlife. It will also be an opportunity to download the many photos you will have taken, catch up on diaries and emails to friends and family.

**Day 7: Egvekinot**

There is more to this small town on the shores of Kresta Bay than first meets the eye. It was built by Gulag prisoners in 1946 as a port to supply the Lu'tin mining

complex some 200km inland. The town has an excellent museum. As we will be only a few miles south of the Arctic Circle, we will travel to the point where the circle cuts across the road to a reindeer herding village at Amguema.

**Day 8: At Sea**

This morning we plan to join a family of Chukchi reindeer herders to learn first-hand about this unique lifestyle that is in fact enjoying a renaissance in the Russian Far East. You will be introduced to the people, the reindeer and be invited to participate in their work. This afternoon we must return to Anadyr.

**Day 9: Anadyr**

We will wake this morning as we enter the Port of Anadyr. After breakfast passengers will be taken ashore either to the airport to catch a flight out today or to the town if staying on a few extra days.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

**VOYAGE #1430 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$8,600 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$7,900 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$7,500 pp
Superior .....	\$7,100 pp
Main Deck .....	\$6,600 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$5,500 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Private charter flight Nome to Anadyr to Nome .....	\$2,000 pp
Local Payment .....	\$200 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 association with:**







# ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD

## TO WRANGEL & HERALD ISLANDS

This unique expedition crosses the Arctic Circle and includes the isolated and pristine Wrangel and Herald Islands and a significant section of the wild North Eastern Siberian coastline. It is a journey only made possible in recent years by the thawing in the politics of the region and the retreat of summer pack ice in the Chukchi Sea. The very small distance between Russia and the USA along this border area was known as the Ice Curtain, behind which then and now lies one of the last great undiscovered wilderness areas in the world.

The voyage journeys through the narrow Bering Strait, which separates Russia from the United States of America, and then travels west along the Chukotka coastline before crossing the De Long Strait to Wrangel Island. There we will spend four to five days under the guidance of local rangers on the nature reserve. Untouched by glaciers during the last ice age, this island is a treasure trove of Arctic biodiversity and is perhaps best known for the multitude of Polar Bears that breed here. We hope to catch many glimpses of this beautiful animal.



Polar Bear from Zodiac © K Ovsyanikova

## 15 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

**VOYAGE #1431**  
25TH JUL – 8TH AUG 2014

**VOYAGE #1433**  
8TH – 22ND AUG 2014

**VOYAGE #1435**  
22ND AUG – 5TH SEP 2014

The island also boasts the world's largest population of Pacific Walrus and lies near major feeding grounds for the Gray Whales that migrate thousands of kilometres north from their breeding grounds in Baja, Mexico. Reindeer, Musk Ox and Snow Geese can normally be seen further inland. A visit to massive bird cliffs on nearby Herald Island is also planned. The 'mammoth steppe' vegetation complex, a rich and diverse relic from the Pleistocene epoch nurtures over 400 plant species and never fails to astound visitors with its sublime beauty. The number and type of endemic plant species, the diversity within plant communities, the presence of relatively recent mammoth tusks and skulls, a range of terrain types and geological formations in the small geographical space are all visible evidence of Wrangel's rich natural history and its unique evolutionary status within the Arctic.

The human history of Wrangel Island is fascinating on its own. Highlights include a 3,400 year old Paleo Eskimo camp in Krassin Bay, controversy over discovery and ownership of the island, the amazing story of the survivors of the *Karluk*, Ada Blackjack the heroine of the island, the Soviet occupation and militarisation and more recently, the establishment of this world class nature reserve. A host of similarly enthralling stories hail from several optional landings along the northern coasts of Chukotka. Our expert expedition team will take you on guided walks, Zodiac cruises and provide lectures to help you better understand and appreciate this unique High Arctic landscape.

### Remembering the tragedy of the 'Karluk' 100 years on.

On our expedition sailing 8th – 22nd August 2014 to Wrangel Island we remember the tragedy of the vessel 'Karluk' of the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-16, crushed by ice near Wrangel Island in January 1914 with the loss of 11 lives. We also celebrate the heroic feats of Capt. Barlett and his Inuit companion who trekked across the De Long Strait and Siberia to finally reach Nome in Alaska to get help. We are joined on this expedition by Jennifer Niven, author of the award winning book 'The IceMaster' that tells the story of the *Karluk* disaster in detail.

### Day 0: Nome

For those departing Nome, Alaska your adventure begins with a flight across the Bering Sea and International Date Line to the remote port of Anadyr.

### Day 1: Anadyr

All expedition members will arrive in Anadyr; depending on your time of arrival you may have the opportunity to explore Anadyr, before getting to know your fellow voyagers and expedition team on board the *Spirit of Enderby*. We will depart when everybody is on board.

### Day 2: Anadyrskiy Bay

At sea today, there will be some briefings and lectures it is also a chance for some 'birding' cetacean watching and settling into ship life. Late this afternoon we plan to Zodiac cruise some spectacular bird cliffs in Preobrazheniya Bay.

### Day 3: Yttygran, Nuneangan and Arakamchechen Islands

Yttygran Island is home to the monumental ancient aboriginal site known as Whale Bone Alley. Whalebones stretch along the beach for nearly half a kilometre. Gray Whales are frequently seen around the island, we will also cruise by Nuneangan and Arakamchechen Islands where seabirds nest and walrus can be found.



Clockwise: Chukchi dancer © G Brefon; Snowy Owl © E Bell; Ptarmigan bird life © A Charles

**Day 4: Cape Dezhnev and Uelen Village**

Sea conditions permitting, we will land at Cape Dezhnev early this morning. The north-eastern most point of the Eurasian continent, it is sometimes possible to see the coast of America from this remote and lonely outpost. A few nautical miles to the west of Cape Dezhnev we visit Uelen Village the most north-eastern village in Russia. The population is predominantly Chukchi and the village is one of the largest centres for traditional Chukchi and Inuit art in the world. We'll be entertained by villagers and visit the bone-carving workshop during our visit.

**Day 5: Kolyuchin Island**

This small island was once an important Russian Polar Research Station and one of a number dotted across the Arctic. Near the derelict buildings are some of the most spectacular bird cliffs in the Arctic where puffins, guillemots and gulls can be observed and photographed up close.

**Days 6 to 10: Wrangel and Herald Islands**

Ice and weather conditions permitting, we will spend the next few days on Wrangel Island and we will also attempt to include a visit to nearby Herald Island. There are many landings that we can make to search out wildlife, wild flowers and Arctic landscapes. Polar Bears will be high on our list of animals to see and with a little patience we should be rewarded

with a number of encounters. Musk Oxen and reindeer were introduced to the island in 1975 and 1948 though reindeer numbers are low. We also have a chance to visit Dragi Harbour where the survivors of the Karluk which was crushed by ice in 1914 scrambled ashore and lived until they were rescued. Wrangel Island is a Russian Federal Nature Reserve of international significance and importance particularly as it is a major Polar Bear denning area. Also each summer thousands of birds migrate here to breed, including Snow Geese, Snowy Owls, skuas, Arctic Terns, Ross's, Sabine and Ivory Gulls.

**Day 11: North Siberian Coast**

Bounded by narrow sand ridges with numerous lagoons and inlets, this area offers plenty of places to land and explore this extensive coastline. We will be on the lookout for whales, walrus and other wildlife. We will see Chukchi villages whose residents survive in an unforgiving climate, hunting seals and whales just as their ancestors did.

**Day 12: Kolyuchin Inlet**

So huge that it is visible from satellite photos, this inlet contains vast numbers of waterfowl and migratory waders. We concentrate our visit on the Belaka Spit near the mouth of the inlet. It is a wild, desolate landscape that is strangely beautiful. We search the dunes and tidal areas for birdlife

including Emperor Geese and Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Gray Whales frequent the area and are sometimes spotted feeding only metres offshore.

**Day 13: Bering Strait and Chukotka Coast**

Early morning we will pass the Diomed Islands, sometimes called Tomorrow Island and Yesterday Isle because they straddle the International Date Line. Here Russia and America are separated by only 2.3 nautical miles of ocean. We will remain in Russian territory as we cruise south past the islands. Later this afternoon we make an expedition landing on the Chukotka coast, our last chance to enjoy the wildlife and tundra landscape.

**Day 14: At Sea**

Relax as we sail across Anadyrskiy Bay towards Anadyr.

**Day 15: Anadyr**

After breakfast it will be time to say our farewells. There will be a complimentary transfer to the airport or to a central downtown hotel.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

**VOYAGE #1431, #1433 & #1435 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$13,100 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$12,600 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$12,000 pp
Superior .....	\$11,600 pp
Main Deck .....	\$10,800 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$9,800 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Private charter flight Nome to Anadyr to Nome .....	\$2,000 pp
Local Payment .....	\$500 pp

(All prices are per person in USD)

**Price Includes:**

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

**Price Excludes:**

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



# JEWEL OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

THE CHUKOTKA, KORYAK AND KAMCHATKA COASTLINE

Swimming Walrus © M Kelly

## 13 DAY VOYAGE

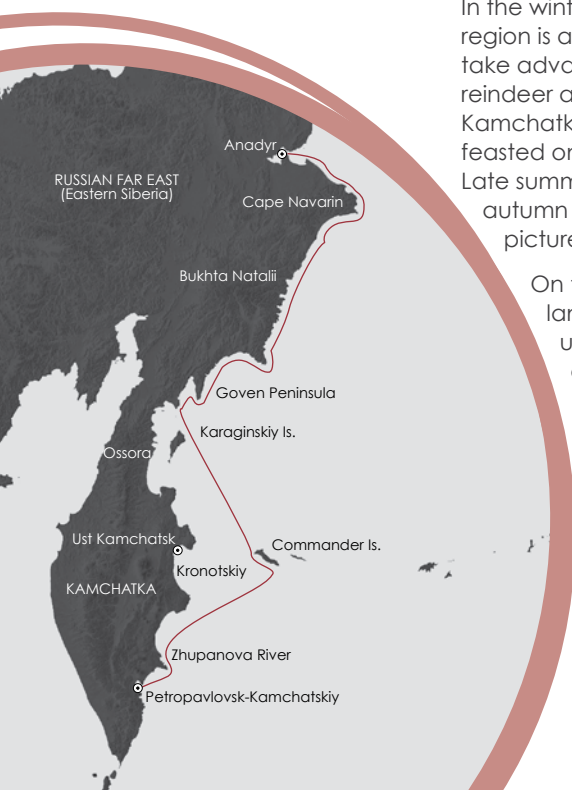
DATES:  
5TH – 17TH SEP 2014

The eastern seaboard of Russia dominates the North Pacific and yet very few people know anything about it, let alone have experienced it. This isolation has protected one of its most valuable assets – its wilderness and to some degree, its wildlife.

The area was considered an important 'frontier zone' during the Cold War, so it was off-limits to foreigners. Even Russians had to get special permission to travel here. These limitations were changed in 1992/93 with Perestroika but that didn't make it more accessible. If anything it is probably less accessible now than it was, as there are fewer people living in the region and the state-subsidised transport system has collapsed. There is no money to replace the ageing fleets of aircraft and ships and few people can afford the prices that are charged to travel in this region today. This makes it the perfect destination for Expedition Cruising.

In the winter much of the shoreline is choked by ice. During spring and summer the region is a hive of activity. In September the thousands of birds that migrated here to take advantage of the phenomenal abundance of food will be preparing to leave. The reindeer and mountain sheep will be feeding in preparation for the harsh winter, while fat Kamchatka Brown Bears, which have fed extensively on berries in the early summer, then feasted on salmon in the rivers and creeks, will be dozing in the late summer sunshine. Late summer and early autumn is a beautiful time to discover this wilderness. The onset of autumn paints vibrant colours on the tundra cloaked hillsides making the landscape a picture perfect postcard.

On this journey from Anadyr to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy we will make numerous landings along these remote coastlines so that you can discover for yourself this untamed and beautiful landscape. We will select sites that few people visit such as river mouths, fiords, bays and islands that in our experience offer the natural history enthusiast, the photographer, the historian and travellers the most unique of opportunities. Come with us and discover the jewel that is the Russian Far East.







Kamchatka Brown Bear in Autumn colours © J Ross

#### Day 0: Nome

For those departing Nome, Alaska your adventure begins with a flight across the Bering Sea and International Date Line, to the remote port of Anadyr.

#### Day 1: Anadyr

All expedition members will arrive in Anadyr, the administrative centre of the Chukotka region, and transfer to the *Spirit of Enderby*.

#### Day 2: Egvekinot

We spend the day in and around the town of Egvekinot on the shores of Kresta Bay. The town was built by Gulag prisoners who were then forced to construct a road to the mine. We explore the town which has an excellent museum, the road and tundra as well as visit the Arctic circle.

#### Day 3: Bukhta Gavrilla

This coastline is rich in marine mammals and one creature we will be looking for, in particular, is the walrus. The bukhta (or bay) was named after Commander Vitus Bering's ship, the *St Gabriel*, of the First Kamchatka Expedition. Behind the expansive beach there is a lagoon we can explore for waterfowl and waders.

#### Day 4: Pika River and Meinypil'gyno

We start the day with a visit to the delta of Pika River – a well known walrus haul out. Later in the day, we visit Meinypil'gyno, a small settlement located on a 40km long shingle spit. It is a traditional village although renovated under

the recent Chukotka government; we enjoy local hospitality from the village ensemble who perform some of their traditional dances for us.

#### Day 5: Bukhta Natalii

Along the Koryak Coast there are many beautiful fiords (bukhtas or bays) and none are more beautiful than Bukhta Natalii. This fiord has two smaller fiords that drain into it from the south. We hike from one bay to another whilst surrounded by the magnificent mountain landscapes and tundra vegetation.

#### Day 6: Tintikun Lagoon

Much of the southern Goven Peninsula was recently made into a state reserve. There are a number of fiords included in the reserve; one of the most spectacular is Tintikun Lagoon which is one of the most picturesque locations found anywhere in the world. A large population of brown bears inhabits this area, if we are fortunate we should see a number of them.

#### Day 7: Koryakskiy Reserve and Verhoturova Island

We will start the morning in Kamchatka Brown Bear country, an undisturbed habitat within the Koryakskiy Reserve, where we will go bear watching. Brown bears frequently visit this area which is completely protected and rarely visited. In the afternoon we visit Verhoturova Island where Tufted and Horned Puffins, Pigeon, Common and Brunnich's Guillemots and also Parakeet



Whale watching © J Ross

and Least Auklets can be seen. On nearby rocky islets there is a regular non-breeding haul out of Steller Sea Lions.

#### Day 8: Karaginskiy Island

A few miles to the south of Verhoturova Island is the much larger Karaginskiy Island. Here we encounter some of the first 'forests' of the voyage. This is a change from the tundra that we have seen, a sure sign that we are getting further south. Autumn is the best time for the wild berries and we can marvel at the richness of the local flora, as many of them should be at their best.

#### Days 9 to 10: Commander Islands

The wildlife-rich Commander Islands were first discovered by Commander Vitus Bering when his ship was wrecked here in 1741. He perished on the island along with many of his men. The reports from those that survived led to a 'fur rush' and the settlement of the islands. There are two large islands (Bering and Medny) with two smaller islands Ariy Karmen and Toporkov. We intend to explore the islands through a combination of landings and Zodiac cruises. We plan to stop at the village of Nikolskoye. We visit the fur seal rookery at North-West Cape and Zodiac cruise around the impressive bird colony at Ariy Kamen. We will also possibly visit the gravesite of Commander Vitus Bering or the remarkable Medny Island.

#### Day 11: Olga Bay

Olga Bay is a part of the very large Kronotskiy Reserve, which also includes the world-famous Valley of the Geysers. The habitat has lush Kamchatka forests coming right down to the beach. The area around Olga Bay is frequented by large numbers of Gray Whales that are usually quite friendly to visiting boats. The rising volcanoes in the background will provide a beautiful setting to explore real Kamchatka wilderness.

#### Day 12: Zhupanova River and Bukhta Bechevinskaya

This morning we make our way along the Zhupanova River by Zodiac. This journey allows us to explore a river habitat which is common in Kamchatka. Steller's Sea Eagles are known to nest in the lower reaches of the river.

#### Day 13: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy

During the night the *Spirit of Enderby* will enter Avacha Bay which is one of the greatest natural harbours in the world. There will be a complimentary transfer to the airport or to a central downtown hotel.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

### VOYAGE #1436 DETAILS

#### Prices:

Heritage Suite .....	\$9,900 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$9,100 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$8,600 pp
Superior .....	\$8,000 pp
Main Deck .....	\$7,500 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$6,900 pp

#### Additional Charges:

Private charter flight	
Nome to Anadyr .....	\$1,000 pp
Local Payment .....	\$500 pp

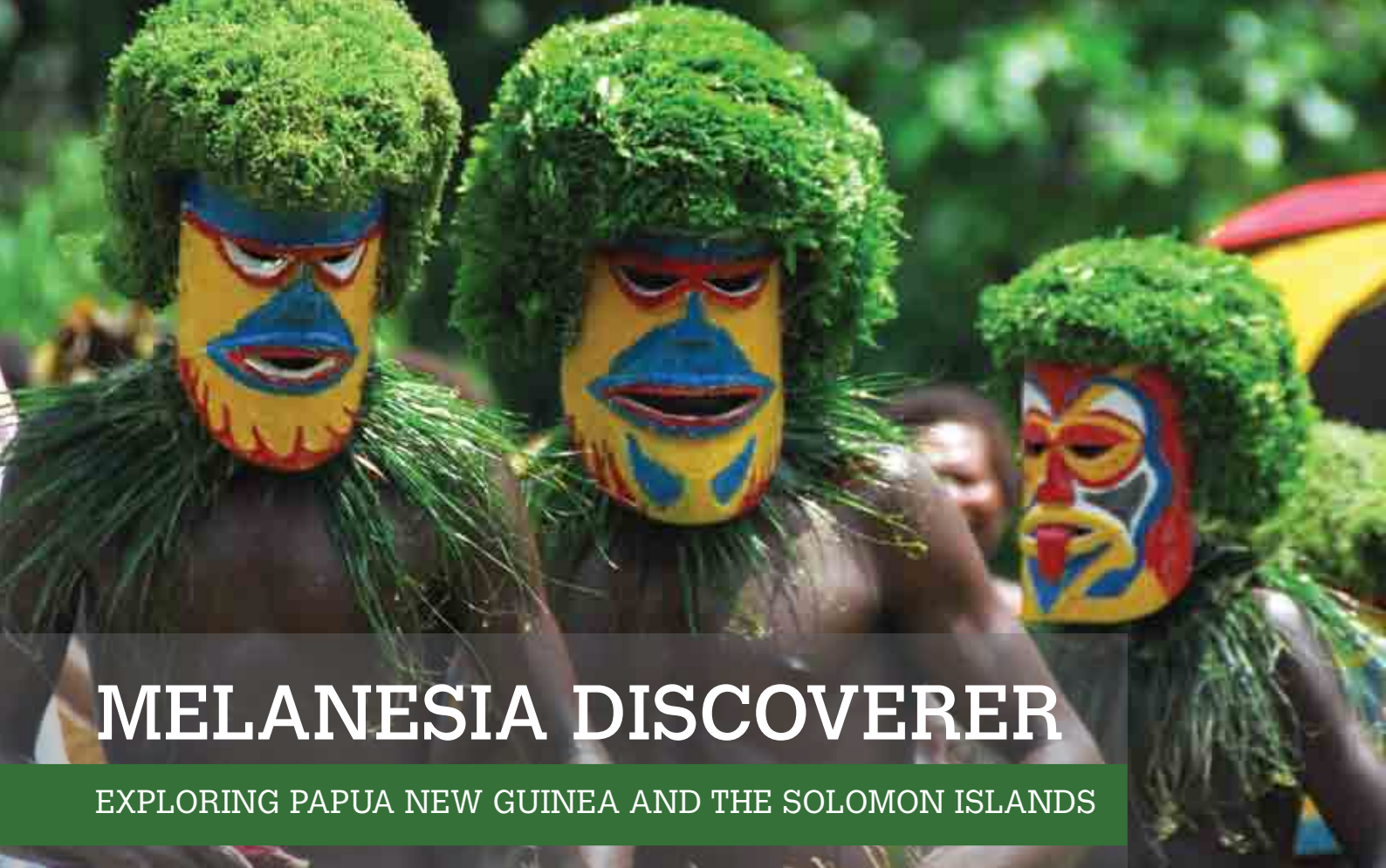
(All prices are per person in USD)

#### Price Includes:

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

#### Price Excludes:

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



# MELANESIA DISCOVERER

EXPLORING PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Cultural performance © A Russ



## 14 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

8TH – 21ST OCT 2014

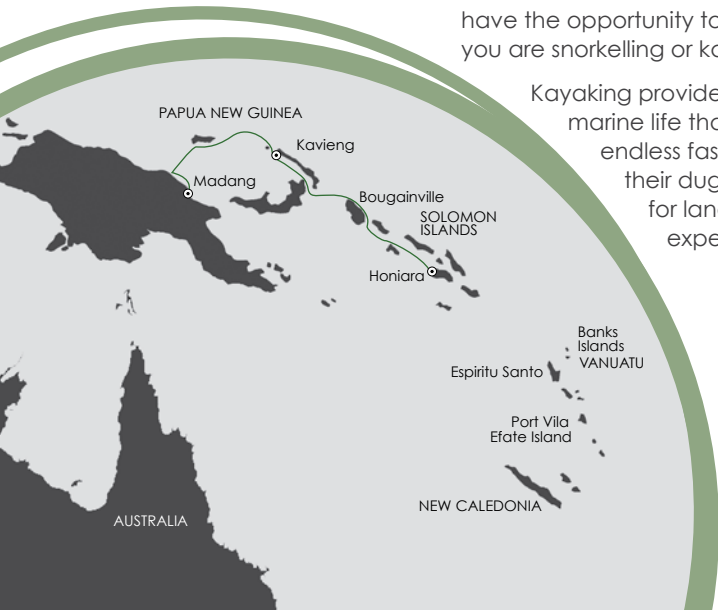
Uncover the hidden gems of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. From the culturally rich arterial of the Sepik River we sail north across the Bismarck Sea to the remote shores of Manus and Mussau Islands. Manus has the lowest density of people in all New Guinea with its people still living a very traditional lifestyle. Next delve into the history, culture and wildlife of New Ireland and New Britain.

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 with many highlights including the Manus Friarbird, Mussau Monarch and the Paradise drongo. 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 marine diversity in the world and everybody will have the opportunity to snorkel and appreciate the beauty beneath the waves. Whether you are snorkelling or kayaking this ocean aquarium is waiting to be discovered.

Kayaking provides the perfect way to explore the islands of Melanesia, discover the marine life that swims below and meet the locals. The kayaks are a source of endless fascination for the local children who will often come out to join us in their dugout canoes. Travel at your own pace, with plenty of opportunities for landings, village visits and snorkeling, all while accompanied by our experienced kayaking guide.





Top: White Terns © A Russ; Bottom: Zodiac excursion © A Russ

**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 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.

**Day 3: 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 4 to 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 reefs in the region, seldom explored waters promising a myriad of 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.

**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.

**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. 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.

**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 snorkelling can be experienced around the islands.

**Day 14: Honiara, Solomon Islands**

Honiara was founded 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 while the birders 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.**



On this voyage we offer a unique kayaking experience.

There is no better way to fit in with the locals, often paddling in their own dugouts, and to experience the stunning coral reefs. These self propelled craft allow you to enjoy exploratory excursions through a tropical paradise, interact with the locals and discover at a different pace, sometimes beyond the reach of our Zodiacs.

**VOYAGE #1456 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$11,500 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$10,700 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$9,700 pp
Superior .....	\$8,995 pp
Main Deck .....	\$7,995 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$6,995 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Discovery Fund (Payable on board): ...	\$600 pp
Birding Supplement: ...	\$500 pp
Kayaking Supplement:	\$995 pp
(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 kayaking 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.



# SECRETS OF MELANESIA

EXPLORING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU

Island visit © A Russ



## 11 DAY VOYAGE

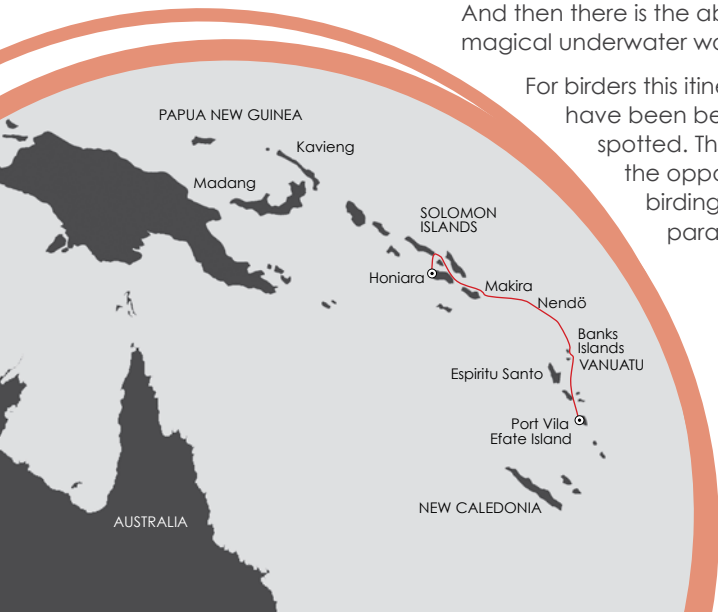
DATES:  
21ST – 31ST OCT 2014

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, 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 underwater experiences in the world and everybody will have the opportunity to snorkel and appreciate the beauty beneath the waves. Snorkel at Million Dollar Point, where there are a multitude of bulldozers, cranes, fork lifts, 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 elsewhere 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.





Top: Snorkelling © R Russ; Bottom: Village excursion © A Russ

**Day 1: Honiara, Solomon Islands**  
 Honiara was founded 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. Birdwatchers will 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 our days exploration.

**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 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 Vathe Conservation Area for the birders in search of many of Vanuatu's endemic birds. 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 snorkelling opportunities. 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.**



On this voyage we offer a unique kayaking experience.

There is no better way to fit in with the locals, often paddling in their own dugouts, and to experience the stunning coral reefs. These self propelled craft allow you to enjoy exploratory excursions through a tropical paradise, interact with the locals and discover at a different pace, sometimes beyond the reach of our Zodiacs.

## VOYAGE #1458 DETAILS

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$9,995 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$9,250 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$8,600 pp
Superior .....	\$7,995 pp
Main Deck .....	\$6,995 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$5,995 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Discovery Fund (Payable on board): ..	\$600 pp
Birding Supplement: ...	\$450 pp
Kayaking Supplement:	\$915 pp

(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 kayaking 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.



# BIRDING DOWN UNDER

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA PLUS THE CHATHAM ISLANDS

King Penguins, Macquarie Island © N Russ

## 17 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

**VOYAGE #1460**  
9TH – 25TH NOV 2014

**VOYAGE #1462\***  
24TH NOV – 10TH DEC 2014

\*OPERATES IN REVERSE

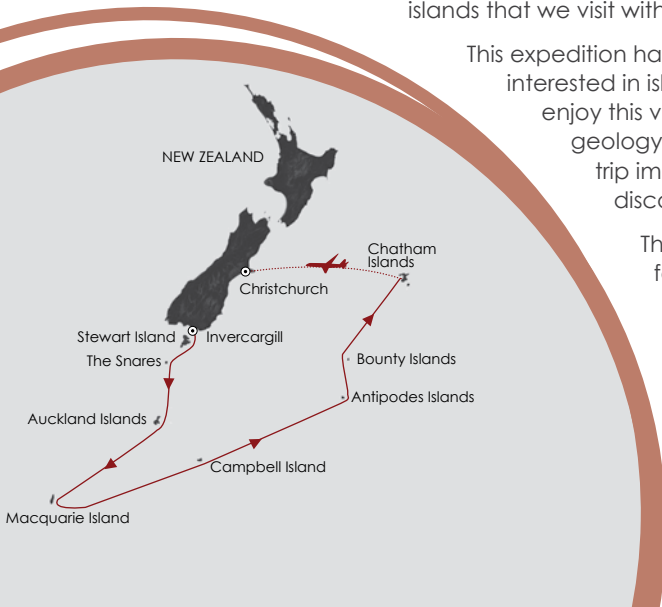
Listen to the names: Snares, Bounty, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell, Macquarie and Chatham Islands. They are music to the ears of 'Birders'. Apart from the Chathams, these islands are probably more isolated now than they were when they were discovered in the late 1700s and early 1800s and were regularly 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.





Top: Yellow-eyed Penguin © K Ovsyanikova;  
Bottom: Southern Royal Albatross © K Ovsyanikova

**Day 1: Invercargill**

Meet this evening for an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner, meet fellow adventurers on your 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 we should see Cape Pigeons, Antarctic Terns, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls. There are hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters nesting here. Buller's Albatross breed here 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 Derry 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 Albatrosses, Wandering Albatrosses, Shy Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, diving-petrel, Little Shearwaters, 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 breath-taking 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 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, 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 walk to the nesting site of the Southern Royal Albatross or to Northwest Bay, pass 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-Petrels 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, South East Island and Mangere Islands**

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. This evening we will take the opportunity to recap the expedition, complete the end of expedition formalities, pack and sadly say our farewells.

**Day 17: Waitangi – Chatham Islands**

This morning we return to Waitangi, where you disembark by Zodiac and are transferred to the airport for a special charter flight to Christchurch.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

**VOYAGE #1460 & #1462 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$15,000 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$14,000 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$13,500 pp
Superior .....	\$12,400 pp
Main Deck .....	\$11,000 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$10,000 pp

**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.



# GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA

Elephant Seal among King Penguins © G Riehle



## 13 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

VOYAGE #1464  
10TH – 22ND DEC 2014

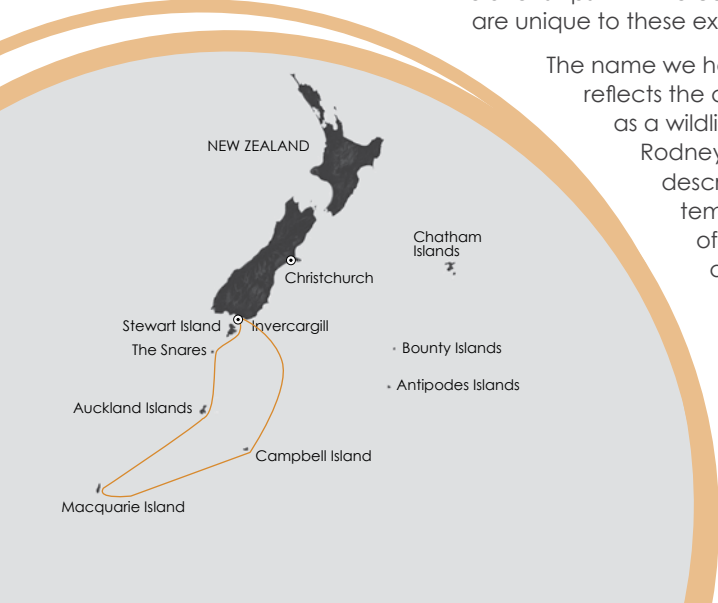
VOYAGE #1466  
22ND DEC 2014 – 3RD JAN 2015

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

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

The name we have given to this voyage 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' reflects the astounding natural biodiversity and the importance of these islands as a wildlife refuge. (The book 'Galapagos of the Antarctic' written by Rodney Russ and Aleks Terauds and published by Heritage Expeditions describes all of these islands in great detail.) The islands all lie in the cool temperate zone with a unique climate and are home to a vast array of wildlife including albatross, penguins, petrels, prions, shearwaters and marine mammals like sea lions, fur seals and elephant seals. The flora is equally fascinating; the majority of it being like the birds and endemic to these islands.

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







Auckland Island Shag © S Blanc



Royal Penguin colony © M Kelly

**Day 1: Invercargill**

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 Bluff**

We transfer you to the Port of Bluff 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 coastwatchers 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 all 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.**

**VOYAGE #1464 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$9,500 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$8,900 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$8,400 pp
Superior .....	\$7,900 pp
Main Deck .....	\$7,300 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$6,300 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Landing Fees .....	\$750 pp
Kayaking Supplement	\$975 pp

(All prices are per person in USD)

**VOYAGE #1466 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$9,200 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$8,600 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$8,100 pp
Superior .....	\$7,600 pp
Main Deck .....	\$7,000 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$6,000 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Landing Fees .....	\$750 pp
Kayaking Supplement	\$975 pp

(All prices are per person in USD)

**Price Includes:**

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

**Price Excludes:**

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



# FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND

Snares Crested Penguin colony © A Russ

## 8 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:  
4TH – 11TH JAN 2015

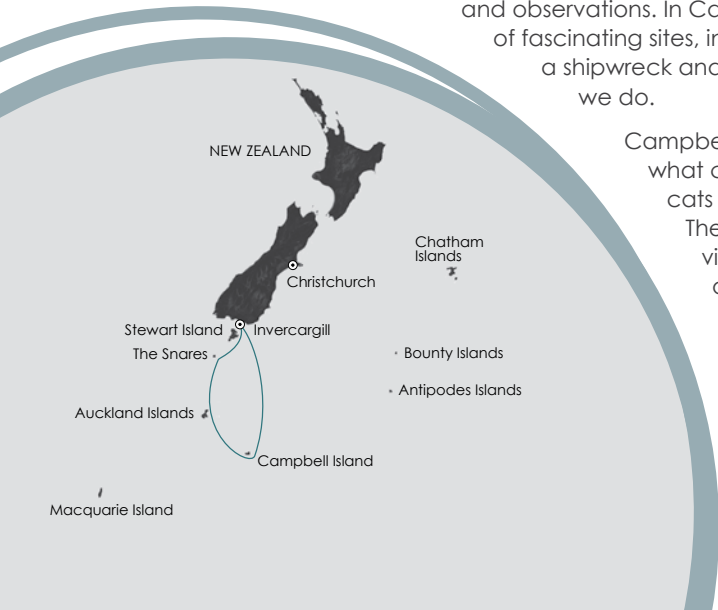
You won't find them mentioned in a travel brochure on your high street; you won't find them in most guidebooks, you probably don't know anyone that has ever been there and they don't even appear on some maps of the South Pacific – these are the 'forgotten islands'. Despite their low profile, they are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

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

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

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



Macquarie Island



Black-browed Albatross © A Russ

### 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



Walk amongst *Bulbinella rossii* © A Russ

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 coastwatcher's 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.**

## VOYAGE #1568 DETAILS

### Prices:

Heritage Suite .....	\$6,300 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$6,100 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$5,800 pp
Superior .....	\$5,300 pp
Main Deck .....	\$4,800 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$4,100 pp

### Additional Charges:

Landing Fees .....	\$375 pp
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(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 AND 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 back 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.



Adelie Penguins © K Ovsyanikova

## 30 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:

**VOYAGE #1570**  
11TH JAN – 9TH FEB 2015

**VOYAGE #1572 \***  
9TH FEB – 10TH MAR 2015

\*RETURNS TO LYTELTON

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, Aucklands, 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.

### 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.



Top: Spirit of Enderby © N Russ; Bottom: Cape Royd's Hut © JJ L'Heureux

**Days 13 to 23: 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 Adelle 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 Adelle Penguins and Weddell Seals.

**Franklin Island:**

Desolately beautiful and rugged, this is home to a large Adelle Penguin population and other nesting seabirds. We attempt a landing and explore the coastline.

**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 24 to 27: 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 28: 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 29: 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 30: 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 central city hotels or to the airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

**VOYAGE #1570 & #1572 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$28,800 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$26,800 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$25,800 pp
Superior .....	\$23,800 pp
Main Deck .....	\$21,300 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$19,500 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Landing Fees .....	\$850 pp
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(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.

# KERMADECS – LAND OF DREAMS

KERMADEC ISLANDS – NEW ZEALAND

Denham Bay © G Scott-Douglas

11 DAY  
VOYAGE

DATES:

26TH MAR – 5TH APR 2015

Few people would know where these subtropical islands are. That is one of their many attractions, visitors are rare. They lie 1000km north-east of New Zealand about half way to Tonga and well off the main shipping routes.

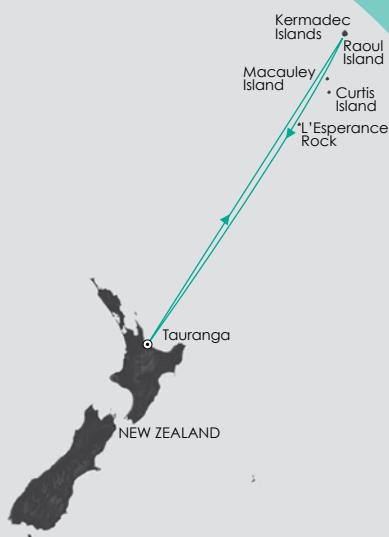
Possibly as early as the 10th century, but certainly by the 14th century, Polynesians knew about these islands and had settled them, as well as using them as a staging post for voyages to New Zealand. However when Europeans discovered them in 1788 they had been abandoned and were uninhabited.

There are four islands within the Kermadec group and all are the summits of huge undersea volcanoes situated along the western edge of the Kermadec Trench, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. They have a unique assemblage of subtropical and temperate plant, bird and marine species, testimony to the process of evolution arising from climate and isolation.

Raoul Island was settled by the Bell family in 1878 and they finally left in 1914. Other settlers came and went, but permanent settlement was discouraged after 1939. The New Zealand government has maintained a weather station on the island since 1938. The introduced plants and animals left behind by the settlers have had a significant impact on the island's ecosystem, but now an ambitious conservation program is attempting to restore Raoul Island to its original splendor. The goats, cats and rats have been removed and many introduced plants controlled. Bird numbers and diversity are increasing and endemic plants are recovering, a testimony to what can be achieved with a vision and hard work.

An extensive Marine Reserve protects the unique marine ecosystem that surrounds these islands. With virtually no disturbance (certainly no fishing and only a handful of divers each year) the diving and snorkelling can only be described as amazing and unique. As with the terrestrial species there is both subtropical and temperate species to be encountered.

This is not an annual expedition. It is off the beaten track, even for us, but it is so rare to have the opportunity to explore such unique marine and terrestrial ecosystems that we are constantly drawn back. We hope you will join us on what will be our 4th Kermadec Island expedition.







Clockwise: Diving with Grouper © Heritage Expeditions; Kermadec Parakeet © G Scott-Douglas; Raoul Island ramble © M Kospartov

**Day 1: Tauranga**

Make your way to a central city meeting point (Reporting times and the departure time of the transfer will be confirmed with your voyage documents). The captain and expedition team will be waiting for your arrival at the ship to greet you and show you to your cabin. You will have the opportunity to unpack before exploring the ship and meeting other expeditioners, there will also be formal introductions to the team followed by safety briefings. We plan to sail late afternoon.

**Day 2: At Sea**

A day at sea is a chance to relax. Do some reading in the bar/library, or come birding up on the bridge. We will schedule a series of lectures, videos and briefings to prepare us for our visit to the Kermadecs. For the keen birders we will be sailing across deep waters – prime Pterodroma petrel country and we are likely to see an impressive variety of these 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**

Today we continue our journey northwards, arriving in the afternoon at the southernmost island in the group: L'Esperance Rock. Later we visit Curtis and

nearby Cheeseman Island. If the weather and sea conditions are suitable we will cruise by Zodiac (no landings are permitted) and possibly offer an opportunity to dive or snorkel.

All of these islands are havens for breeding seabirds and we are likely to encounter impressive numbers as we cruise 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.

**Days 4 to 7: Raoul Island**

We have four days scheduled for activities at Raoul Island, including options for diving, snorkelling and hikes ashore. The weather and sea conditions will dictate our activities to a certain extent. The seas surrounding the Kermadecs are the only true example of subtropical waters in New Zealand, and are sufficiently distant from the mainland to have escaped heavy commercial fishing. The extensive Marine Reserve ensures added protection and guarantees some of the best diving in the South Pacific. For those keen on diving, our Dive Master will be organising as many dives and snorkelling opportunities as weather and time will allow.

During our time at Raoul Island we will also cruise the Meyer Islets by Zodiac to witness the seabirds

returning to the Islets in the evenings. Many of these birds are endemic, including the Kermadec Petrel, the White Napped Parakeet, and the Kermadec race of the Little Shearwater. On shore we can get great views of the endemic Kermadec Red-crowned Parakeet and it is also one of the easiest places to see Spotless Crakes. We should also get good views of Black Noddy, Grey Ternlet, White Tern and the beautiful Red-tailed Tropicbird.

The following are some of the walks that we maybe able to do on Raoul Island depending on weather and time.

- Boat Cove to the Department of Conservation Base
- Green Lake Walk
- Water Supply Walk
- Denham Bay Hut
- Mahoe Hut

**Day 8: Macauley Island**

We arrive at Macauley Island early in the morning. The original forest cover was destroyed by goats and since their removal in the 1970s the vegetation is recovering. Landings are not permitted on this island so we will Zodiac cruise and dive/snorkel if sea conditions are suitable.

**Days 9 to 10: At Sea**

These days present an opportunity to catch your breath after our activities at Raoul and Macauley Islands. Our staff and Dive Master will be offering lectures and further presentations on the islands and some of the conservation issues surrounding them.

**Day 11: Tauranga**

Our vessel will berth in Tauranga this morning. Enjoy breakfast on board and a last minute opportunity to bid farewell to your expedition team then you disembark and board our complimentary coach transfer to the central city or local airport.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

**VOYAGE #1574 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$4,000 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$3,800 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$3,700 pp
Superior .....	\$3,400 pp
Main Deck .....	\$3,100 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$2,700 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Landing Fees .....	\$375 pp
Diving Supplement .....	\$500 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. Dive programme.



# WESTERN PACIFIC ODYSSEY

## REMOTE ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC

Bird watching © B Mercer

### 31 DAY VOYAGE

DATES:  
5TH APR – 5TH MAY 2015

Known in birding circles, simply as the 'WPO', this expedition incorporates many of the key birding areas in the South West Pacific. First offered in 2007, it is now considered one of the 'must do' expeditions for any birder because of opportunities to see some of the rarest pelagic seabirds in the world (at least one still to be described) plus many island endemics. But it is not only for 'birders'. The cetacean list can only be described as outstanding and if you ever tire of birding or cetacean watching then there are numerous snorkelling/swimming/relaxing opportunities.

After departing the Port of Tauranga, in New Zealand we sail for the rich waters of the Hauraki Gulf where there are numerous endemic species, including the recently discovered New Zealand Storm-Petrel. From there it's northward to Norfolk Island for a day. Next stop is New Caledonia where we search for the amazing Kagu and other endemics in the Rivière Bleue National Park.

We then spend four exciting days in the Solomon Islands birding on Rennell, Makira, Guadalcanal (Mt Austin) and Kolombangara, before cruising across the Britain Trench, an area known to be extremely rich in cetaceans. As we sail along the coasts of Bougainville and New Ireland, we will look for two extremely poorly known seabirds, Heinroth's Shearwater and the recently rediscovered Beck's Petrel, both of which we have seen on all previous expeditions in this region.

Next stop is Truk Island (Federated States of Micronesia) for some more intensive birding before we set a course for Japan. Our route will take us close to Torishima Island (and hopefully the Short-tailed Albatross) before we pass Miyakejima Island, where we will look for the last speciality of the expedition, the Japanese Murrelet. Our voyage will then conclude at the Port of Yokohama in Japan.

This expedition is accompanied by some of the best pelagic birding guides in the world who have extensive experience of the seabirds of the West Pacific and have visited the islands we will be landing on multiple times before. Birding starts at dawn and finishes at sundown. Our guides are there throughout the day to assist you and the 'reading of the bird list' each evening is legendary for its detail and discussion. This is one expedition you can't afford to miss.

A message for the keen birders and cetacean watchers reading this. Space doesn't allow us to list all species on a day-by-day basis in this itinerary. Please ask for an expedition dossier or a bird and mammal list from previous expeditions.





Kagu © T Palliser

**Day 1: Tauranga, New Zealand**

Arrive in Tauranga and transfer to the *Spirit of Enderby*. Settle into your cabin and join your expedition team and captain for a welcome on board.

**Day 2: Hauraki Gulf**

In the outer Hauraki Gulf, we should obtain some good sightings of the Grey Ternlet. Other birds could include the Little Blue Penguin, Buller's Shearwaters, Grey-faced Petrel, Little Shearwaters and Black Petrels, Fluttering Shearwaters and hopefully the New Zealand Storm-Petrels.

**Days 3 to 4: At Sea**

En route to Norfolk Island, we have a good chance of spotting Gould's Petrel, Black-winged Petrel, Kermadec Petrel, White-naped Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, Wedge-tailed and Short-tailed Shearwaters and Black Petrels.

**Day 5: Norfolk Island**

After clearing Australian Customs, we spend most of the day at Norfolk Island's remnant forest, home to the three endemics – the Norfolk Island Parakeet, Norfolk Gerygone and the Slender-billed White-eye.

**Day 6: At Sea**

At sea on a northward course, we cross a large underwater seamount, a productive area for seabirds including Tahiti, Kermadec, Collared and White-necked Petrels.

**Day 7: At Sea and New Caledonia**

Approaching New Caledonia we will try to locate the 'New Caledonian Storm-Petrel' which is considered an undescribed species.

Other species including Short-tailed and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, as well as Tahiti, Gould's and Collared Petrels could be attracted to our oiling. Later today we arrive in Noumea.

**Day 8: New Caledonia**

Today we journey to the Parc de la Rivière Bleue National Park to look for Kagu and Crow Honey-eater. Other birds to be on the lookout for include the Crested Parakeet, Cloven-feathered Dove, Yellow-bellied Robin, New Caledonian (Goliath) Imperial Pigeon and many more.

**Days 9 to 11: At Sea**

Enjoy leisurely days at sea and a chance to relax, catch up on notes, reading and sleep. Birding can also be good including Polynesian Storm-Petrel.

**Day 12: Rennell Island**

This morning we will go ashore at Rennell Island where we hope to see the Rennell Starling, Rennell Shrikebill, Bare-eyed White-eye, Rennell Fantail and Rennell White-eye. Other species we may come across include the Imperial Pigeon, Silver-capped Fruit Dove, Singing Parrot, Melanesian Flycatcher, Cardinal Myzomela, Finsch's Pygmy Parrot and Island Thrush.

**Day 13: Makira Island**

Makira Island holds its own treasures, including the endemic Sooty Myzomela, San Cristobal Melidectes, White-collared Monarch, Mottled Flowerpeckers, White-headed Fruit Dove and Rufous Fantail. Other species could include Rainbow Lorikeets,



Yellow Bandwing © S Howell

Red-knobbed and Imperial Pigeon, San Cristobal Singing and Metallic Starling, Pied Goshawk, Pacific Baza, and Cardinal Myzomela. We will also enjoy the hospitality of the people in nearby Anuta Village.

**Day 14: Honiara**

We will anchor off Honiara and depart in the early morning for nearby Mt Austin. The birding here is quite exceptional and there is the potential for a good list of endemics and localised specialities including Yellow-eyed, White-bellied and Solomon's Cuckoo-shrikes, Cicadabird, Brown-winged and Singing Starlings, Yellow-faced Myna, Chestnut-bellied and Black-and-white Monarchs and also the Steely Blue Fly-catcher.

**Day 15: Kolombangara Island**

At Kolombangara Island this afternoon we hope to see White-capped Monarch, Solomon White-eye, Yellow-vented Myzomela and hopefully, the Roviana Rail. Other species could include Blyths Hornbill, Superb Fruit Dove, Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon, Steely Blue Fly-catcher, Melanesian and Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrikes, Metallic and Singing Starlings and the Solomon Sea-Eagle.

**Day 16: At Sea / Bougainville Coast**

Today we are at sea near the Bougainville and the New Britain Trench, experience tells us that it is a very productive area and we hope to see Heinroth's Shearwater, it is also great for cetaceans.

**Day 17: New Ireland / At Sea**

Today we cruise along the coast of New Ireland, where our target of the day is the recently rediscovered Beck's Petrel. Also there is another chance for Heinroth's Shearwater.

**Days 18 to 19: At Sea**

During these days at sea we cross the equator – a cause for celebration! There are a number of species that we should be on the lookout for, including Bulwer's Petrel, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird, White and Sooty Terns and the Frigate Bird.

**Days 20 to 21: Caroline Islands**

On Weno Island where we will be berthed we hope to see species such as Myzomelas, Reed Warbler, Swiftlet and the Ground Dove. We should be able to see Caroline Islands White-eye, Swiftlet and Reed Warbler, the Micronesian Myzomela and Starling as well as Oceanic Flycatcher. On Tol South it is possible that we may see the

endemic Great Truk White-eye and the Chuuk Monarch.

**Days 22 to 28: At Sea**

It's a long-haul to the Bonin Islands and the birding can be quiet, but there is potentially some good sightings including Matsudaira's and Tristram's Storm-Petrel, Bonin and Bulwer's Petrels, Wedge-tailed and Bannerman's Shearwaters.

**Day 29: Torishima Island**

Landings are not permitted at Torishima Island, but we cruise close by where we hope to spot the Short-tailed or Steller's Albatross. Other species in the vicinity include the Black-footed and Laysan Albatross, Streaked Shearwater, Tristram's and Matsudaira's Storm-Petrels.

**Day 30: Miyakejima Island**

We cruise offshore of the island where there is known to be Japanese Murrelet breeding. We continue our journey to Yokohama, there is generally some good birding on this last leg of the cruise. We enjoy a farewell dinner tonight.

**Day 31: Yokohama, Japan**

After breakfast and completing Japanese arrival formalities you disembark the *Spirit of Enderby*. We bid farewell to our fellow voyagers and board a complimentary transfer from the ship to Yokohama railway station.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**

**VOYAGE #1576 DETAILS**

**Prices:**

Heritage Suite .....	\$16,400 pp
Mini Suite .....	\$15,500 pp
Superior Plus .....	\$14,300 pp
Superior .....	\$13,400 pp
Main Deck .....	\$12,100 pp
Main Deck Triple .....	\$11,000 pp

**Additional Charges:**

Landing Fees/ Local Payment .....	\$600 pp
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(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.



## FUTURE PLANS AND EXPEDITIONARY VOYAGES FOR SPIRIT OF ENDERBY

We are constantly researching new expeditions and expanding/adding to existing itineraries. Check this brochure for a number of new expeditions including several in the Pacific Islands. In the Russian Far East check out our special **Commander Islands expedition**, our **Beringia Festival expedition** and our revamped **Sea of Okhotsk expedition** which has some amazing add-ons.

People have asked us about another **Mawson's Hut expedition**. As you know ice has blocked Commonwealth Bay for the last three years. We are monitoring conditions there and as soon as we are confident that we can reasonably expect to reach Cape Denison we will schedule an expedition. Meanwhile if you would like to go, please register your interest today and we will let you know the dates.

One of the more exciting expeditions on the drawing board is a specialist **Marine Mammal expedition** scheduled for Sept 2015 in the Russian Far East concentrating in the waters around Kamchatka and the Sea of Okhotsk where some of the world's rarest cetaceans can be seen including the Bowhead and Northern Right Whale.

Siberian Sunrise © G Riehle



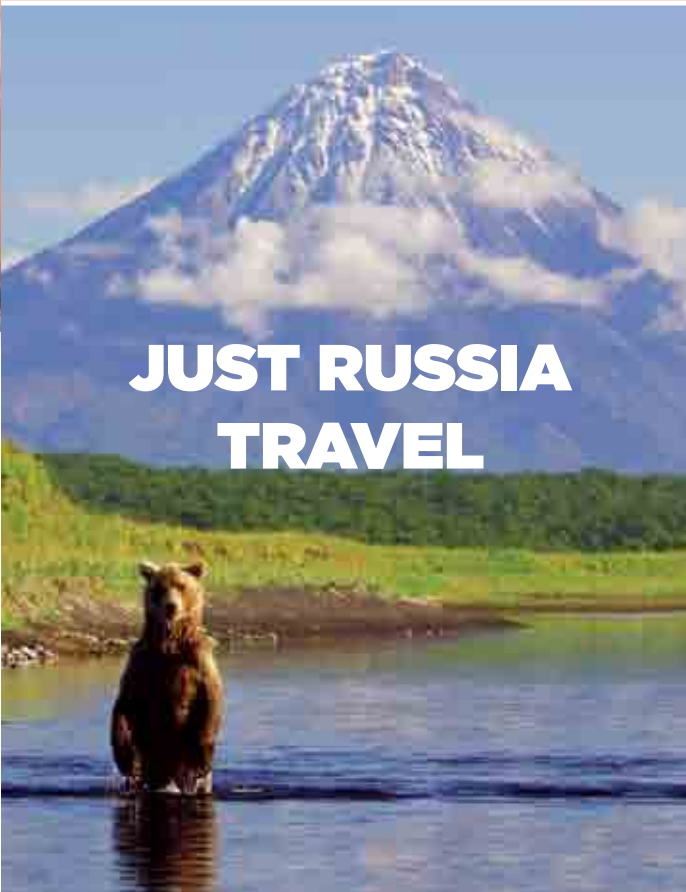
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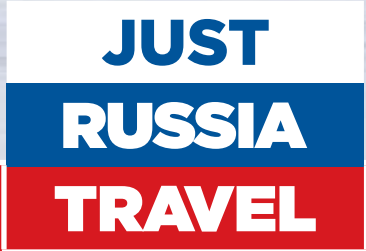
# JUST RUSSIA TRAVEL

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

Both were founded by Rodney Russ. Rodney has enjoyed a long association with Russia and is passionate about the opportunities it offers for travel. Over the years he has worked and travelled there, he and his team have built a huge resource of expertise that is now available to you through this specialist travel company.

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 Heritage Expeditions scheduled expeditions, they are ready to assist with any travel arrangements to Russia, either for business or leisure. Our office in Christchurch, New Zealand is a one stop Russian travel shop which can provide advice, Letters of Invitation, assistance with visa applications, itinerary planning and reservations.

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).



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Spoon-billed Sandpiper © B Scampton



## SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER PROJECT

In 2010 Heritage Expeditions became a BirdLife Species Champion and remains committed to helping BirdLife International's work in protecting the world's most threatened species and in particular the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Of the world's 10,000 different bird species, one in eight is now threatened with extinction. The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is among 189 that are considered 'Critically Endangered' and are teetering right on the brink of existence.

If you are more than 30 years of age, at least 21 species of birds have become extinct during your lifetime and as the rate of loss is now escalating, without help many more are set to join them over the next decade. Heritage Expeditions has made the commitment to give financial and practical support to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper recovery project and we invite you to join with us today to help stop this species becoming extinct.

Because the Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a migratory species, breeding in the Russian Far East and wintering in south-east Asia, its conservation plan involves many partners. Species Guardians are local organisations or individuals that BirdLife International recognises as having the best knowledge, experience and capability to make a positive change for a particular threatened species in their region.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper has two official Species Guardians – one in Myanmar and the other in Thailand. There is also a group working in the village of Meinyuil'gyno in the Russian Far East which is near to where the bird breeds.

Heritage Expeditions role as a Species Champion is different to that of a Species Guardian. We are committed to a significant annual financial donation and have made our vessel *Spirit of Enderby* available to transport equipment, support staff and even the birds themselves.

In 2011, we transported Spoon-billed Sandpiper eggs and chicks from Meinyuil'gyno to Anadyr as part of the Conservation Breeding Program being undertaken by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Slimbridge, England in association with BirdLife International. These birds are now thriving and it is hoped that more will join them to ensure an ongoing captive breeding population is well established as insurance against their demise in the wild. Ultimately it is hoped that their progeny will be returned to bolster numbers in the regions they originated.

If you or your company would like to become a BirdLife Species Champion (Spoon-billed Sandpiper is just one of the many species requiring support) we urge you to contact [species.champions@birdlife.org](mailto:species.champions@birdlife.org) for more information.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper © C Collins



Left to right: Spoon-billed Sandpiper chick in hand © P Marshall, WWT; Spoon-billed Sandpiper chick on mat and Spoon-billed Sandpiper eggs © P J McGill



Tundra vehicle © E Bell



Wrangel Island flora © K Ovsvyanikova



## WRANGEL ISLAND EXTENSIONS

### 1: OVERLAND TRAVERSES

In co-operation with the Wrangel Island Nature Reserve we are excited to offer a limited number of seats on a very special Overland Traverse through the heart of this incredible landscape. For curious explorers who join us to circumnavigate Wrangel Island, there is no reason to just wonder what lies beyond the coast, over the crest of the hills and mountains. The High Arctic environment that very few people will ever experience is now accessible and exclusively available to passengers travelling with Heritage Expeditions on both 'Across the Top of the World' expeditions.

We are offering a limited number of seats on four very special 3-day (2-night) Overland Traverses. Transport is by a six wheel Russian built Tundra vehicle brought to the island in 2010. Each traverse is led by rangers from Wrangel Island. We have been operating these traverses since 2011 and

those who have been lucky enough to participate literally 'raved' over their experiences. Numbers are strictly limited; we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

#### Day 1: Doubtful Harbour

On arrival the Overlanders will go ashore, spend the afternoon and evening exploring the area including the nearby spit known for large haul outs of walrus. Visit Devil's Creek, the only archaeological site on the island where remains of a Paleo-Eskimos summer camp were discovered recently. The overnight accommodation will be Wrangel Ranger huts at Somnitelnya.

#### Day 2: Somnitelnya

Travel north firstly over the southern tundra slopes climbing gradually to a mountain pass through the Somnitelnie Mountains. A steep descent takes us to a tributary of the Mammoth River, the longest river on the island. In the evening we will

enjoy a walk on the tundra slopes with possible sightings of Snowy Owls, Lemmings, Arctic Foxes and a huge variety of High Arctic plants. Stay overnight at the Peak Tundra hut, a field hut for studies of the Snow Geese nesting nearby.

#### Day 3: Academic Tundra

Continue down the Tundra River to the Academic Tundra, an extensive area that makes up over half the island. There are opportunities to see amazing fields of wild flowers, Musk Ox, and potentially reindeer, although numbers have been greatly reduced by recent harsh winters. We will return to the ship at midday near the Dream Head Mountains on the north coast of the island.

#### Enquire for a full itinerary.

Northbound and Southbound options available. Southbound itinerary will operate in reverse to the above itinerary.

### OVERLAND TRAVERSES DETAILS

**Price:** ..... \$1,350  
(All prices are per person in USD)

#### Price Includes:

Transport, accommodation (basic field huts) and meals. Please note this is in addition to the cost of the cruise.

#### Price Excludes:

Travel insurance, gratuities and other items of a personal nature.

#### Note:

This Wrangel Island extension is an optional activity and conducted in conjunction with our voyage but independently operated by the Park Rangers. It is subject to minimum numbers, reserve regulations and weather and ice conditions. Participants should be aware that there is no discount or compensation for missed landings that the main expedition makes possibly including Herald Island while they are participating in the extension.

### 2: HIGH ARCTIC EXPEDITION

Our 'Across the Top of the World' expeditions have opened up new opportunities for travellers which were previously only available to a few select Russian scientists.

Participants on our Wrangel Island 'High Arctic Expedition' will travel north to the island on our first 'Across the Top of the World' expedition on 25th July and remain there until the ship returns on our second 'Across the Top of the World'.

Staff will accompany you from the reserve along with an interpreter/cook from Heritage Expeditions. You will be expected to help with camp chores but the long daylight hours will mean endless opportunities for exploring and photography. There is no fixed itinerary but among the places you will explore are the Mammoth River, the Goose River,

Komsomol, Dream Head, Peak Tundra, the Unknown River, Red Flag, Cape Waring and the Clark River.

Enjoy unbelievable wildlife and wilderness photographic opportunities in a High Arctic environment that have previously only been available to researchers on special assignments. We cannot guarantee the weather, but we do guarantee an experience in the High Arctic that has never been available before. You will rejoin our vessel when it returns to Wrangel Island and travel back to Anadyr where your adventure will end.

For more details on this expedition – please contact our office. It is restricted to just five participants and these will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

### HIGH ARCTIC DETAILS

**Dates:**  
25th Jul - 22nd Aug 2014

#### Prices:

Berth Price: ..... \$18,000 pp  
(based on Main Deck cabin)

Land Portion: ..... \$5,500 pp

#### Additional Charges

Local Payment ..... \$500 pp

(All prices are per person in USD)

#### Price Includes:

Return transport to and from Anadyr from Wrangel Island and participation in the itinerary plus meals, transport, accommodation (basic field huts) and guiding on Wrangel Island.

### Price Excludes:

International and/or domestic flights, travel insurance, gratuities and other items of a personal nature.

#### Note:

These Wrangel Island extensions are optional activities and conducted in conjunction with our voyage but independently operated by the Park Rangers. They are subject to minimum numbers, reserve regulations, weather and ice conditions. Participants should be aware that there is no discount or compensation for missed opportunities.

## 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 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 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 officer 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. We recommend purchasing insurance at time of booking in the event of cancellation. Please see points 5 and 6 of the Booking Terms and Conditions for more information.

### 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 accommodation 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.

Most travellers to Russia require a valid visa as well as regional permits to visit the Russian Far East.

The Heritage Expeditions office can arrange a visa invitation as well as the necessary permits required, but we must work to local government deadlines, so we strongly recommend booking as early as possible.

### 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 (direct bookings only).

### 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 about your holiday please do not hesitate to contact us immediately.





PERSONAL DETAILS

EXPEDITION DETAILS

APPLICANT ONE (details as shown in passport)

APPLICANT TWO (details as shown in passport)

Title: Mr Mrs Ms Other  
Preferred Name:  
First Names: (as per passport)  
Surname:  
Email:  
Physical Address:

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.

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.

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.

Voyage Name:  
Departure Date: DD / MM / YYYY  
Embarkation: Nome Anadyr  
(Please indicate your embarkation preference for voyages #1430, 1431, 1433, 1435 & 1436)  
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

CONTACT US FOR NZD & AUD PAYMENT OPTIONS

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: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: Please use surname and voyage number as reference.

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

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

Cardholders Name:

Signed: Date: DD / MM / YYYY

# 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 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.

- 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. 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

# BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 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.



Clockwise: Spirit of Enderby and Adelle Penguin © J Hoflehner; Melanesian culture © A Russ; Chukchi child and pup © A Charles



# Heritage Expeditions

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

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