



Heritage Expeditions

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



EXPEDITION CRUISING 2016/2017





Dear Expeditioner,

In over 30 years of running expeditions we have taken thousands of travellers literally to the ends of the navigable world, from Wrangel Island in the north to the Bay of Whales in Antarctica in the south. In this brochure, you will find a great selection of genuine Expedition Cruise opportunities in these regions. The emphasis is on small groups, led by passionate and knowledge leaders making multiple landings each day and spending maximum time ashore in places and with permissions that other operators can only dream about.

Early every austral summer we offer expeditions to the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia's Macquarie Island, including our well-known Birding Down Under Expedition. In January and February each year we offer expeditions to the very heart of Antarctica, the Ross Sea region, which includes the historic huts and monuments of the explorers of the Heroic Period of Antarctic exploration including Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen. We are also including an extended 35 day Ross Sea exploration including a visit to the rarely visited Bay of Whales and the Balleny Islands.

We are expanding our South West Pacific program to include new destinations and we have expeditions scheduled for March and April and again in October. These include some of our old favourites such as the South West Pacific Odyssey, while this has historically had a birding and natural history focus we are now including a number of cultural visits on all our Pacific Expeditions as well as a Sea Kayaking option on selected voyages.

Our Russian Far East season runs from May through September each year – it is a highlight of our expedition calendar. These remain some of the most challenging expeditions to organise. The political landscape in Russia is not making this any easier but we are proud to have succeeded where others have failed. Our destinations include the Kuril Islands, the Sea of Okhotsk, the Kamchatka, Koryak and Chukotka Coasts and Wrangel Island which was voted one of the top 50 'Tours of a Lifetime' for 2015 by National Geographic Traveler. The wildlife and wilderness opportunities in this part of the world can only be described as exceptional and sadly are poorly appreciated except by those that have been there.

While our vessel the *Spirit of Enderby* (Professor Khromov) is not the newest in the fleet, its record of successful expeditions is way ahead of all other expedition ships. It is an ice strengthened vessel formerly used for oceanographic research which has been tastefully redecorated for just 50 passengers plus staff and crew. With smaller number of passengers we guarantee you more landings and most importantly more time ashore doing what you want to do. The cuisine and hospitality on board is of an international standard.

If you would like more information please contact my office today. I have friendly and experienced staff ready to talk with you and answer your questions and help you prepare for an expedition and experience of a lifetime.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney Russ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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



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Front cover images: Clockwise: Zodiac viewing Polar Bear © A Fergus; Melanesian culture © A Russ; Adelie Penguin © J Hoflehner



WHAT IS 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 and the South Pacific have been included in the company's long list of regular destinations.

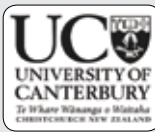
Heritage Expedition's vessel the *Spirit of Enderby* accommodates just 50 passengers. She boasts Australasian chefs who provide international quality cuisine. The cabins are clean and comfortable, with the majority offering private facilities. The officers and crew are amongst the most experienced in the world and they are complemented 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 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.

Heritage Expeditions works closely with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to ensure that our impact on New Zealand's National Parks and reserves is minimal. We are an approved concession holder, ensuring that your visit with us to conservation lands adheres to best practice and contributes to the management of these protected areas.

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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Hooker's Sea Lion © K Ovsyanikova



Auckland Island Gentian © S Blanc



EXPEDITION STAFF

As a family-owned and operated company, 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.



Dr. Huw Lewis-Jones is a historian of exploration with a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He was a Curator at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the National Maritime Museum in London and is now an award-winning author. Huw frequently appears on television and radio as a historian, most recently as onscreen expert in the BBC documentaries *Wilderness Explored*, *Frank Wild: Antarctica's Forgotten Hero* and *Of Ice and Men*.



Grigory Tsidulko graduated from the Moscow State University with a Masters in Marine Biology. He has spent many years working 'in the field' in the Commander and Sakhalin Islands and has specialised in the behaviour of Arctic Foxes of the Commander Islands, and the ecology of Gray Whales off the Sakhalin Coast. Fluent in English and Russian, Grigory (or Grisha) is heavily involved in conservation efforts to protect the Russian Far East.



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 and follow us on www.twitter.com/HeritageExp

Our website 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 you can view clips from our fragile earth, the wildlife and their habitats.

RUSSIAN FAR EAST EXPEDITIONS



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.

ANADYR

From Europe: Nonstop direct flights available from Moscow with Transaero.

From America: Heritage Expeditions has charter flights from/to Nome, Alaska for 'Across the Top of the World', 'Birding Chukotka' and 'Chukotka – Where Russia's Day Begins'. Flights are also available to join 'Jewel of the Russian Far East' and at the end of 'Siberia's Forgotten Coast'. 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 or Moscow.

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 (seasonal).

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.





RUSSIA'S RING OF FIRE

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

Crested Auklets © A Russ

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 subducts 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.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING AVAILABLE

13 DAY VOYAGE
27TH MAY – 8TH JUN 2016

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.

Days 3 to 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.



Clockwise: Zodiac cruising © K Ovsyanikova; Horned Puffin © M Schoenfelder

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 Onkotan 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 are the remains of a Gulag to explore and numerous species to see. This evening on Onkotan 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 afternoon's landing on Urup Island is a chance to stretch your 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 #1621 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$11,000 pp
Mini Suite	\$10,200 pp
Superior Plus	\$ 9,800 pp
Superior	\$ 9,200 pp
Main Deck	\$ 8,500 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,300 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, 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.



SEA OF OKHOTSK

SEALS, SEABIRDS AND A LEGACY OF SORROW

Zodiac viewing Ribbon Seal © N Russ

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, Tyuleniy 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.

FUTURE
DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING
AVAILABLE

12 DAY VOYAGE

9TH – 20TH JUN 2016

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: Piltun Bay, Sakhalin Island

It was the discovery of oil and gas in this region which put Sakhalin Island on many people's maps. Piltun 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



Clockwise: Kamchatka Brown Bear © A Fergus; Kayakers viewing Orca © Heritage Expeditions; Local hospitality © S Blanc

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'minskije 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 famous 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.

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.



VOYAGE #1623 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$10,300 pp
Mini Suite	\$ 9,400 pp
Superior Plus	\$ 9,000 pp
Superior	\$ 8,300 pp
Main Deck	\$ 7,800 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 6,700 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, 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.



SIBERIA'S FORGOTTEN COAST

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKIY TO ANADYR (Combining the best of our 'In Search of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper' and 'Wake of Bering' Expeditions with new added opportunities).

Kamchatka Brown Bear © J Ross

Siberia's eastern coastline is undoubtedly one of the most remote and least visited regions of the globe. It is home to several groups of indigenous people, including the Itelmen, Koryak, Even and Chukchi. Fur trappers and sealers plundered the regions natural resources in the name of the Tsar in the early 17th Century. Stalin and subsequent leaders encouraged economic development in this part of the Soviet Union. Soviet towns were built, bonuses were paid to those who would immigrate and work there and attempts were made to collectivise the traditional way of life.

As the iron curtain was drawn and the Cold War escalated, this region became forbidden territory. Travel to and within the area was strictly controlled, the number of military installations increased, early radar warning stations proliferated and Russia's Pacific fleet patrolled the coastline.

This all changed in the early 1990s with Perestroika and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Military installations were abandoned, there were mass migrations of workers back west and towns and industries were simply abandoned. As the heavily subsidised economy collapsed the indigenous people were forced back to traditional ways of life but permits to travel through the area did become a little easier to obtain.

Twenty five years on, travel through this region is still heavily regulated and virtually impossible for the independent traveller. There is little or no infrastructure, only a few kilometres of road, no hotels apart from in the main towns of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and Anadyr. These towns have scheduled air services, but access to the rest of the region either by air or sea even for locals is at best 'unpredictable'.

Throughout its chequered human history its rich natural history has largely gone unnoticed and unknown by the rest of the world. It is an amazing coastline dominated by the volcanoes of Kamchatka in the south, the fiords of what was formally the Koryak region and the rich estuarine areas and tundra of Chukotka.

This coastline has one of the most diverse assemblages of wildlife and habitats of anywhere of a similar latitude on the globe and virtually no people or visitors to disturb them. One of the most iconic species is the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper that is endemic to the region. For the past 5 years we have supported BirdLife International and Birds Russia research teams working on this species. Our 2016 expedition not only continues that support but it expands it to include other seabirds and waders as researchers monitor potential changes in their populations and distribution due to a variety of reasons including climate change.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING AVAILABLE

14 DAY VOYAGE
24TH JUN – 7TH JUL 2016

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 some occupied nests close to the river. Good numbers of Larcha Seals are also often hauled out on sandbars in the river and we should see a good variety of waterfowl and waders. 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.

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 and Sea Otters. 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, Orcas and Baird's Beaked Whales all regularly encountered.



Clockwise: Tintikun Lagoon © A Fergus; Spoon-billed Sandpiper © C Collins; Humpback Whale breaching © Heritage Expeditions

Day 5: Karaginskiy Island

Our proposed landing site is a patchwork of boggy tundra, ponds and shingle spits where an interesting range of waders can be found including Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint and Red-necked Phalarope. We also hope to see Bluethroat and Pallas' Reed Bunting.

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 here 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.

Days 7 to 10: Koryak and Chukotka Coast

During these days of the expedition we will travel along this largely unknown part of the coast. It comprises deep forested fiords where we should see brown bears, Red Fox and with luck, mountain sheep and Kamchatka Marmots. In the many lagoons and shallow bays there is a vast array of birdlife including Tundra Bean Goose, Steller's Eider, Great Knot, Long Tailed Stint, Gyrfalcon, Siberian Accentor and Asian Rosy Finch. This area is also a stronghold of the Kittlitz's Murrelet and we should see several during our journey. In our previous expeditions we have explored much of this coastline, documenting the distribution and abundance of many species. In 2011 we recorded a previously unknown breeding population of Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Working alongside researchers from BirdLife International and Birds Russia who will be travelling with us, we plan to revisit many of these areas to monitor changes and search for new breeding colonies. There will be unique opportunities for photography, for hiking and 'birding' in country where literally only a few 'westerners' have ever been and we know there is a rich diversity of species.

Days 11 to 12: Meinypil'gyno

Meinypil'gyno, located on a 40km long shingle spit is the most important site in the world for breeding Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Here about ten pairs are monitored by members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Taskforce. We will be guests of the Taskforce and if possible we may be guided to one of their monitored nests. The area is extremely rich in other wildlife, so we may also find Emperor Goose, Pacific Diver, White-billed Diver and Sandhill Crane. The lagoon entrance often has Largha Seal, Gray and Beluga Whales and Sabine's Gull.

Day 13: Cape Navarin and Keyngypilgyn Lagoon

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. To the north of Cape Navarin is Keyngypilgyn Lagoon. On previous visits we have found this an excellent location for waterfowl and waders including Emperor Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, Brant Geese, Whooper Swan, King Eiders, Red Knots and Aleutian Tern.

Day 14: Port of Anadyr

As we cruise into Anadyr Bay, there is an excellent chance of seeing more Beluga Whales 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.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



VOYAGE #1625 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$11,900 pp
Mini Suite	\$10,900 pp
Superior Plus	\$10,500 pp
Superior	\$ 9,800 pp
Main Deck	\$ 9,200 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 8,000 pp

Additional Charges:

Private charter flight	
Anadyr to Nome	\$ 1,000 pp
Local Payment	\$ 500 pp
Kayaking Supplement.....	\$ 1,050 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, excluding optional kayaking programme.

Price Excludes:

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





BIRDING CHUKOTKA

A SPECIAL BIRDING EXPEDITION TO NORTH EASTERN SIBERIA

Birdlife photography © E Tan

The Chukotka region of Russia is almost completely unknown to the outside world and the few expeditions that have travelled here have reported some amazing habitats including tundra, braided rivers, estuaries, lagoons and wetlands, plus a number of spectacular seabird breeding islands. Chukotka is home to the highest number of bird species in the whole of the Eurasian Arctic and there are more wader species breeding here than anywhere else in the world.

There are at least ten species of auks breeding in the region and we stand an excellent chance of seeing Common, Brunnich's, Black and Pigeon Guillemots, Crested, Least and Parakeet Auklets, Kittlitz's and Ancient Murrelets, as well as Horned and Tufted Puffins. Indeed, there are also reports of Little Auk breeding on Ratmanova Island, so we could see a dozen species of auks on this expedition.

This special 'Birding Chukotka' expedition will visit a wide range of habitats, with many landings and 'at sea' opportunities. Participants will be amongst the first 'birders' and ornithologists to land at some of these sites and the information we obtain on the species seen, their abundance and breeding status will add important data in their conservation and management.

This expedition is 'birding' at its very best and you will be joined by a world class team of Birders, Ornithologists and Leaders including Evgeny Syroechkovskiy, Elena Lappo and Chris Collins.

12 DAY VOYAGE

7TH – 18TH JUL 2016

Day 0: Nome

For those departing from 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 and transfer to the ship. Be on deck as we depart as there is some great habitat with the possibility of Sabine's Gull and Aleutian Tern.

Day 2: At Sea, Gulf of Anadyr

The Gulf of Anadyr should be an ideal opportunity to look for an interesting selection of seabirds. Key species could include Short-tailed Shearwater, Red-throated and Pacific Divers, Common Eider, Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks, Northern Fulmar, Arctic, Long-tailed and Pomarine Skuas, Glaucous-winged and Vega Gulls and with a bit of luck Kittlitz's and Ancient Murrelets and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel.

Day 3: Penkigeny Fiord and Getlyanen Lagoon

Penkigeny Fiord is renowned for its rich flora and as a result, is a great place to look for passerines including Bluethroat, Grey-cheeked Thrush, Common and Arctic Redpolls, Red-throated and Buff-bellied Pipit, Siberian Rubythroat and Lapland and Snow Buntings. Out on the tundra, search for Peregrine Falcon, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Stint, Baird's Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler and Sandhill Crane. A number of vagrants from Alaska have also been recorded here including Savannah, Fox and American Tree Sparrows. At Getlyanen Lagoon you will have an opportunity to land and explore the habitat where there is potentially some great birding (see species list from Mechigmen Spit, Day 8, as these two locations are close together and have similar habitats).



Clockwise: Yellow Billed Loon © K Ovsyanikova; Spoon-billed Sandpiper © Chris Collins; Harlequin Ducks © M Kelly; Horned Puffins © K Ovsyanikova; Siberian Rubythroat © B Van Doren

Day 4: Ratmanova Island and Pelagic Birding

Ratmanova is strategically important to Russia and there has been a Border Guard base here for many years and, as a result, landings are not permitted, so very little is known about the island's fauna. What is known comes from several coastal Zodiac cruises (which are generally allowed) and the island has some of the largest seabird colonies in Chukotka with good numbers of Tufted and Horned Puffins, Common and Brunnich's Guillemots, as well as Crested, Parakeet and Least Auklets.

Day 5: Neskan Lagoon

This lagoon is typical of much of the northern coast of Chukotka and is renowned for the abundance of birdlife. It is, for example, one of the few places in the Palearctic where both Western and Least Sandpipers have been recorded breeding and there are reports of American Golden Plover and Semipalmated Plover nesting here too. Both Black Turnstone and Hermit Thrush have also been seen, with these being the only Russian records of both these species. Neskan Lagoon is likely to be our best opportunity to find the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Six pairs were recorded breeding here in 2002 but since then no ornithologists have visited, so nobody knows if they are still present.

Day 6: Belyaka Spit and Kolyuchin Inlet

The habitat on Belyaka Spit is not dissimilar to Neskan Lagoon but this site is much better known as Russian Ornithologists have worked here on a regular basis. Species which have been recorded include Rock Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Red-necked Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Ringed Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Red (or Grey) Phalarope, Western Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Emperor Goose, Common Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Tundra Swan, White-billed (or Yellow-billed) Diver, Red-throated Diver and Pacific Diver. There are non-breeding records of a number of other species including King Eider, Steller's Eider, White-fronted Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler and Brent Goose.

Day 7: Kolyuchin Island and At Sea

On the bird cliffs at the western end of the island it is possible to get magnificent views and

photographs of puffins (both species), guillemots, kittiwakes and Pelagic Cormorants as they come and go from their nests. The beauty of this site is that you are on the same level as many of the birds.

Day 8: At Sea, Mechigmen Spit and Nuneangan Island

There is some good birding around this area and on our previous visit in 2013, the species found included White-billed, Black-throated, Pacific and Red-throated Divers, Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, White-fronted, Brent and Emperor Geese, Pintail, Eurasian Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Common, King and Spectacled Eiders, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Goosander, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Ringed Plover, Pacific Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Red Knot, Rock Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Western Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint, Ruddy Turnstone, Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic and Long-tailed Skuas, Glaucous and Vega Gulls, Arctic Tern, Kittlitz's Murrelet, Crested Auklet and Buff-bellied Pipit. During a Zodiac cruise around Nuneangan Island this evening we hope to see Horned and Tufted Puffins, Brunnich's, Common, Black and Pigeon Guillemots, Pelagic Cormorant and Black-legged Kittiwake.

Day 9: At Sea and Pelagic Birding

Our course takes us reasonably close inshore, so we should get good views of a range of auk species including, the endangered Kittlitz's Murrelet.

Day 10: Egvekinot

We will visit some inland habitats including wetlands, lakes and braided rivers. Asian Rosy Finches breed in this area and other possible species include Rough-legged Buzzard, Sandhill Crane, Peregrine Falcon, Temminck's and Red-necked Stints, Red-throated and Buff-bellied Pipits, Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler, Mongolian Plover, Common Ringed Plover and Snow and Lapland Buntings.

Day 11: Meechkin Spit and At Sea

Sightings could include Brent, Bean, White-fronted and Emperor Geese, all four species of Divers, Sandhill Crane, Tundra Swan, Pintail, Long-tailed Duck, Dunlin, Red-necked Stint, Red-necked

and Red Phalaropes, Ruddy Turnstone, Grey Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Vega Gull, Arctic and Aleutian Tern and Lapland Bunting.

Day 12: Anadyr

Cruise finishes with transfers to town and/or airport.

Optional Extensions: There are a number of extra extensions available, please enquire with our office for details.



VOYAGE #1627 DETAILS

Prices:

Twin share with Private Facilities \$ 7,800 pp
Twin share with Shared Facilities \$ 6,500 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.



CHUKOTKA – WHERE RUSSIA'S DAY BEGINS

A SPECIAL 15 DAY EXPEDITION INCLUDING WRANGEL ISLAND
AND THE ANNUAL BERINGIA REGATTA

Polar Bear © A Russ

The Chukotka region is one of 83 regions which make up the Russian Federation, officially known as the Chukotka Autonomous Region, it was the last part of Siberia to be 'conquered' or 'subdued' by the Cossack invaders from the west. The indigenous people of this region include Chukchi, Inuit, Even, Koryak, Chuvan and Yukaghir, the non native inhabitants are predominately Russian. The Soviet regime initially treated these indigenous people well, but the collapse of the Communist regime in the early 1990s spelt disaster for the people as they had become dependent upon the state. The election of Roman Abramovich as Governor of Chukotka in December 2000 changed the course of its history. His vision, generosity and leadership gave the people hope, and today Chukotka is taking its rightful place in the Russian Federation. It is rich in natural resources and wildlife is abundant, but like all Arctic fauna, it is under pressure because of significant climate change.

North of Chukotka where the Chukchi Sea meets the Arctic Ocean lies the nature reserve and World Heritage site, Wrangel Island, which has outstanding wildlife values. Sometimes referred to as a Polar Bear Maternity Ward, because of the high density of denning Polar Bears, it is one of those islands that never disappoints those who are keen on natural history or enthusiasts of Arctic history. As the ice retreats each summer (further and faster than ever before) Polar Bears come ashore and we see good numbers of these, likewise walrus find refuge here each summer normally in large numbers. Birds like Snow Geese and Snowy Owls also breed here. And of course Wrangel Island is central to the story of the wreck of the *Karluik* and other Arctic exploration stories.

On this special Chukotka expedition we will meet the people; see and listen to their stories and learn of their love for and strong connection with the land and the sea. We will celebrate with them at their annual Regatta and Festival. We will explore the vast expansive tundra with its wild flowers and dwarf tree species and we will watch for brown bears, reindeer, Arctic Foxes, ground squirrels, if we are lucky we may also see a Wolverine. We will explore Wrangel Island with its Polar Bears, walrus and rich Arctic history and at sea we will keep a look out for whales.

15 DAY VOYAGE

18TH JUL – 1ST AUG 2016

Day 0: Nome

For those departing from 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 capital of Chukotka. Depending on your time of arrival you may have the opportunity to explore Anadyr before boarding the vessel. We will sail in the late afternoon for Egvekinot.

Day 2: Egvekinot

This small town was built by Gulag prisoners as a port to supply the rich Lul'tin mining complex some 200km inland, they were then forced to construct a road to the mine. We explore the town which has an excellent museum and plan to travel by Ural to explore along the road towards Lul'tin and into the tundra to gain an appreciation of this unique Arctic landscape close to the Arctic Circle.

Day 3: Konergino

Across Kresta Bay from Egvekinot is the small reindeer herding village of Konergino. Reindeer herding is still an important part of the indigenous people's culture and economy, the practice has remained largely unchanged over the centuries and revolves around 'brigades' looking after large herds of reindeer out on the tundra. Today is an introduction to and an opportunity to understand this industry/practice.

Day 4: Presbrazhenya Bay

We will be cruising along the south coast of Chukotka today and we will take the opportunity to stop at Presbrazhenya Bay. We



Clockwise: Snow Geese and Spirit of Enderby © K Ovsyanikova; Chukotka culture © A Fergus; Whale Bone Alley © K Ovsyanikova; Zodiac viewing Walrus © A Breniere; Beringian Games © A Tockston

Zodiac cruise the spectacular bird cliffs which could provide great photographic opportunities. There will also be a chance to land at a hunting camp at the nearby village of Nunligrén.

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

The significant and intriguing archaeological site of 'Whale Bone Alley' on Yttygran Island dates to the 14th century, its origins and purpose have been the cause of much debate. Whalebones stretch along the beach in the form of a pathway for nearly half a kilometre and Gray Whales are frequently seen in the vicinity. This afternoon we intend to make a landing at the Gil'mimyl Hot Springs.

Day 6: Novo Chaplino and the Annual Beringia Arctic Games

We plan to be here for Day One of the annual Beringia Regatta and Festival which includes whaleboat and Baidara (traditional walrus skin covered boats) races as well as cultural group performances. It is one of the most colourful festivals in the Chukotka calendar and attracts people from all around the region. There will be a range of activities at the Regatta and Festival and local foods for you to sample. This is a festival that gets to the very heart and soul of the people, their culture and their land.

Day 7: Cape Dezhnev

Sea conditions permitting, we plan to will land at Cape Dezhnev early this morning, the north-eastern most point of the Eurasian continent. This cape commemorates the accomplishment of the Cossack, Semyon Dezhnev, who was the first European to sail through this strait in 1648 (80 years before Bering did). A short distance south of the cape is the former Inuit settlement of Naukan, as the relocation was fairly recent there is a wealth of historic data and photographs that make a visit to this site even more poignant.

Day 8: At Sea

Relax as we navigate towards Wrangel Island.

Days 9 to 11: Wrangel Island

Due to climate change in recent years Wrangel Island is becoming ice free earlier and earlier with huge ramifications for the wildlife (especially

the Polar Bears) that rely on the ice. Weather conditions permitting there should still be some ice around the island where wildlife will be concentrated. There should also be opportunities to land and to explore the tundra to look for species which breed here. We have allowed three days on and around the island to take advantage of whatever conditions we encounter. We will be utilising the local knowledge of the Park Rangers to make multiple landings as well as spending some time ice cruising looking for Polar Bears.

Day 12: Kolyuchin Island / Kolyuchin Inlet

This morning we will come to anchor at tiny Kolyuchin Island, at certain times of the year when the ice recedes large numbers of walrus haul out on the island. At the western end of the island is the remains of a Polar Research Station which was only abandoned in the 1990s. Nearby are some amazing bird cliffs, it is possible to get magnificent views (and photographs) of puffins and guillemots as they come and go from their nests. The only thing that will stop us from landing here are Polar Bears, if they are ashore we will Zodiac cruise the bird cliffs for equally good views of the birds. This afternoon we will cruise to nearby Kolyuchin Inlet, a massive tidal estuary and ideal habitat for many bird species, it is early enough in the season for the majority of them to either be on nests or have young. It is an easy landing with lots of opportunity for hiking, exploring and photography.

Days 13 to 14: At Sea

As we make our way back to Anadyr we will recap the many experiences we have enjoyed on this special Chukotka expedition.

Day 15: Anadyr

After breakfast passengers will be taken ashore, a complimentary transfer to the airport or to a central downtown hotel will conclude the expedition.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



VOYAGE #1628 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$11,000 pp
Mini Suite	\$10,400 pp
Superior Plus	\$10,000 pp
Superior	\$ 9,400 pp
Main Deck	\$ 8,900 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.



ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD

TO WRANGEL AND 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.

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.





Gray Whale encounter from Zodiac © S Blanc



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 *Karluks*, 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.

**WRANGEL ISLAND OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS (SEE PAGE 27)
EXCLUSIVE TO HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS**

WRANGEL ISLAND OVERLAND EXPEDITIONS

Join local Rangers on a 3 day (2 night) overland journey by special tundra buggy on a traverse of this incredible Nature Reserve to see and experience the remotest parts of the Island and enjoy unique wildlife encounters.
Limited to two groups of 5 persons per expedition.

HIGH ARCTIC EXPEDITION

The ultimate in High Arctic Experiences ... they simply don't come any better ... spend 10 days exploring this unique World Heritage Nature Reserve with local Rangers and Researchers. You will travel by special tundra buggy, camp in field huts and enjoy wildlife encounters and photographic opportunities that professionals dream about.
Only 1 departure per season ... limited to just 5 persons.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

15 DAY VOYAGE

- VOYAGE #1629**
1ST – 15TH AUG 2016
- VOYAGE #1631**
15TH – 29TH AUG 2016
- VOYAGE #1633**
29TH AUG – 12TH SEP 2016

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: Musk Ox © E Bell; Polar Bear © M Kelly; Arctic Fox cubs © G Riehle; Snowy Owl and Arctic Skua © G Riehle; Chukotka culture © K Ovsyanikova

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 Diomedea 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 #1629, #1631 & #1633 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$13,800 pp
Mini Suite	\$13,000 pp
Superior Plus	\$12,500 pp
Superior	\$11,700 pp
Main Deck	\$11,200 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.



THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

A SPECIAL 28 DAY EXPEDITION ALONG THE NORTHEAST PASSAGE

Viewing Walrus by Zodiac © A Russ

Russia controls one of the greatest seaways in the world. Within Russia it is known as the Northern Sea Route, while the rest of the world calls it the Northeast Passage. Only a handful of expedition vessels have ever transited this seaway, but recent changes in sea ice conditions mean this historic and fascinating sea route is now accessible. We invite you to be part of our history making expeditions through the Northern Sea Route.

The indigenous peoples of the north coast of Siberia were undoubtedly familiar with sections of this seaway but it wasn't until 1878-1880 that Swedish explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld completed the first ever transit. Early attempts to find a route in the 16th century were thwarted by either ice or politics. The Russian empire was expanding eastwards so to control and tax the burgeoning fur trade, all foreign shipping was banned from 1616 until 1753. Commercial interest in the route was revived in the late 19th century when several trading vessels reached the Ob and Yenisey Rivers to initiate trade with the interior as it proved much easier to ship timber, fur, gold and grain down these rivers than carry them overland to markets in the west.

It wasn't until 1914-15 that Imperial Russian Navy icebreakers *Taymyr* and *Vaygach* made the second transit of the Northern Sea Route to render the seaway navigable for strategic purposes. In 1932 the Soviet Union formed the Northern Sea Route Administration headed by Otto Schmidt who established a number of Polar research and weather stations along the route to assist in its development and operation. At the height of the Soviet administration, large convoys of ships assisted by powerful icebreakers plied this route carrying much needed supplies to Eastern Russia.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s spelled the end of this operation and the number of vessels using the Northern Sea Route dwindled. Recent changes in sea ice conditions in the Arctic however have renewed commercial interest from international shipping companies in this route which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Our vessel *Akademik Shokalskiy* is no stranger to this route having participated in a Soviet convoy in the late 1980s and more recently completed the journey unassisted. We invite you to join us on an historic journey which explores the history and development of the route and the many islands along the way.

28 DAY VOYAGE

**VOYAGE #1630 WESTBOUND
1ST – 28TH AUG 2016
ANCHORAGE/ANADYR TO LONGYEARBYEN**

**VOYAGE #1634 EASTBOUND
30TH AUG – 26TH SEP 2016
LONGYEARBYEN TO ANADYR/NOME**

Day 0: Anchorage

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

Day 1: Anadyr

Join the *Akademik Shokalskiy* in the Port of Anadyr this afternoon and depart. After sailing there will be introductions to ship and crew.

Day 2: At Sea

Crossing the Gulf of Anadyr there will be opportunities for pelagic birding, marine mammal watching and lectures.

Day 3: Whale Bone Alley and Gil'mimyl Hot Springs

We visit Whale Bone Alley on Yttygran Island, one of the most significant and intriguing archaeological sites in the Arctic. This afternoon we plan a landing at the Gil'mimyl Hot Springs.

Day 4: Cape Dezhnev and Uelen Village

Early this morning we will be at Cape Dezhnev, the eastern extremity of the Eurasian continent. This afternoon we visit the nearby village of Uelen. Here we enjoy the hospitality of the local people who are predominantly Chukchi and enjoy a cultural performance and visit the bone-carving studio.

Day 5: Kolyuchin Island

Early this morning we will pass close by the place where the Swedish explorer Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld wintered over in 1878. Later this



Polar Bear mother and cub © K Ovsyanikova

morning we plan to land on Kolyuchin Island, where there is an abandoned Polar research and weather station. There are some terrific bird cliffs where it is possible to get some great photos of puffins, guillemots and gulls.

Days 6 to 8: Wrangel Island

Wrangel Island is one of those islands that you have to visit to appreciate. It is a Federal Nature Reserve of international significance and importance and also a World Heritage Site. A lot of its significance lies in the fact that it is a major Polar Bear denning area. It is also the last landfall for migratory species flying north. Each summer thousands of birds migrate here to breed, including Snow Geese, Snowy Owls, skuas, Arctic Terns, Ross's, Sabine's and Ivory Gulls.

Day 9: East Siberian Sea

This sea occupies the area between the Novosibirskie Islands and Wrangel Island. Three of Siberia's major rivers flow into it – the Indigirka, Alazaya and the Kolyma. It was in this sea that the Soviet vessel *Chelyuskin* with 111 people on board became trapped in ice and sank in 1934.

Day 10: Ayon Island and Village

This island and village is home to a small group of Chukchi Reindeer herders. We enjoy their hospitality and learn about reindeer herding.

Day 11: Medvezhyi Islands

There are no permanent settlements on these little known and seldom visited islands. They are covered in tundra and known to have a good population of Polar Bears.

Day 12: East Siberian Sea

It was in this sea that the *Jeanette*, captained by George Washington De Long, became stuck fast in ice, drifted and was crushed and sunk in 1881. Wreckage from the *Jeanette* was found in Greenland in 1884 giving Amundsen the idea for the now famous 1893-96 *Fram* Expedition.

Days 13 to 15: Noviy Sebirskiye (New Siberian Islands)

These islands mark the border between the Laptev and East Siberian Seas and consist of three major groups: Southern, Central (Anzhu) and Northern (De Long) Group. The islands are

virtually unexplored and are uninhabited apart from the researchers at a couple of weather stations. We will explore the islands with a number of landings in search of Arctic flora and wildlife.

Days 16 to 17: Crossing the Laptev Sea

This sea is bounded in the west by the Taymyr and the Severnaya Islands and the Novosibirskie

Islands in the east. Look out for the Laptev Sea Walrus known only in this sea.

Days 18 to 20: Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago

The Severnaya Zemlya Islands are on the border of the Kara and Laptev Seas and are an extension of the Taimyr Peninsula. The islands were not discovered until 1914-15 by the Russian explorer Vilkitski. They are heavily glaciated with deep fiords and majestic glaciers which make them magnificent for cruising. There is also a great selection and abundance of Arctic wildlife including Polar Bears, Arctic Foxes, Arctic Hares and walrus.

Days 21 to 22: Kara Sea

The Kara Sea is one of the coldest seas in Russia. It lies between Novaya Zemlay, Franz Josef and Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago.

Days 23 to 25: Franz Josef Land

This is a huge archipelago of 192 islands located only 10 degrees from the North Pole. They were named in 1870 after the Hungarian Emperor when they were discovered by the Austro-Hungarian Payer-Weyprecht Expedition that was searching for the NE Passage. During our time here we plan multiple landings in search of history, wildlife and flora.

Days 26 to 27: Barents Sea

This sea is named in honour of Dutch Seafarer and navigator Willem Barents who explored the region on two separate expeditions in 1594 and 1596. We will keep a look out for marine mammals and of course seabirds.

Day 28: Svalbard, Longyearbyen

The expedition finishes in Longyearbyen. After Customs and Immigration clearance we will disembark and transfer to the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

NB: Voyage #1634 runs in reverse.



VOYAGE #1630 & #1634 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$28,200 pp
Mini Suite	\$26,200 pp
Superior Plus	\$25,200 pp
Superior	\$22,400 pp
Main Deck	\$20,800 pp

Additional Charges:

Private charter flight Anchorage to Anadyr	\$ 1,750 pp
Private charter flight Anadyr to Nome	\$ 1,500 pp
Local Payment	\$ 500 pp

(All prices are per person in USD)

* On voyage #1634 only.

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.

Important Note: These expeditions are subject to approval from various Russian Federal and Regional Authorities and may have to change depending on these approvals. Permits have been lodged for all the sites mentioned in the itinerary, depending on approvals these may have to be amended or substituted. We will endeavour to keep participants fully informed of any changes in the itinerary as and when they occur.



JEWEL OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

THE CHUKOTKA, KORYAK AND KAMCHATKA COASTLINE

Steller Sea Lions © M Kelly

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 1991/92 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.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

13 DAY VOYAGE

12TH – 24TH SEP 2016

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.



Clockwise: Kamchatka Brown Bear in Autumn colours © J Ross; Steller's Sea Eagle © G Breton; Walrus © M Kelly; Chukchi dancer © M Schoenfelder

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 Govena 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 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 Kamen 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 #1635 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$10,300 pp
Mini Suite	\$ 9,500 pp
Superior Plus	\$ 9,000 pp
Superior	\$ 8,300 pp
Main Deck	\$ 7,800 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,200 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, meals and all expedition shore excursions.

Price Excludes:

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



Spoon-billed Sandpiper © B Scampion



HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS SPONSORS 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 Meinypil'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 Meinypil'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 for more information.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper chick © P J McGill



Spoon-billed Sandpiper eggs © P J McGill



Spoon-billed Sandpiper chick in hand © P Marshall, WWF



Spoon-billed Sandpiper © C Collins

EXCLUSIVE WRANGEL ISLAND EXTENSIONS

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 all 'Across the Top of the World' expeditions.

We are offering a limited number of seats on six 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 offering 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 Drum Head (also known as 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 \$1,450 (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.

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 second 'Across the Top of the World' expedition on 15th August and remain there until the ship returns on our third '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, Drum Head (also known as 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: 15th Aug - 12th Sep 2016

Prices: Berth Price \$18,500 pp
(based on Main Deck cabin)

Land Portion \$ 6,500 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.



Tundra vehicle and hut © G Riehle



MELANESIA DISCOVERER

EXPLORING PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Melanesian welcome © A Russ

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 snorkelling, all while accompanied by our experienced kayaking guide.

FUTURE
DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING
AVAILABLE

14 DAY VOYAGE

14TH – 27TH OCT 2016

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 we leave Madang for the highlands close to the township; here the tall forests contain a richly diverse wildlife. We arrive back in Madang with time to explore the colourful 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.

Days 4 to 5: Manus Province

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



Clockwise: Hawksbill Turtles hatching © A Russ; Zodiac excursion © A Russ; Kayaking © Heritage Expeditions

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 CAN 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 short excursions up small rivers or creeks into tropical jungle, rainforest or mangroves, sometimes beyond the reach of our Zodiacs.



VOYAGE #1656 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:

Pre/Post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (inc. dinner/breakfast) all onboard ship accommodation with meals and all shore excursions and activities excluding optional specialised birding and kayaking programmes. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

Price Excludes:

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



SECRETS OF MELANESIA

EXPLORING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND VANUATU

Melanesian culture © Heritage Expeditions

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 on 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, with an abundance of marine life and coral gardens that draws you in to explore a magical underwater world. During frequent snorkel excursions throughout the expedition everybody will have the opportunity to appreciate the beauty beneath the waves.

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 or the Vanikoro White-eye may be seen. 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.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING
AVAILABLE

12 DAY VOYAGE

26TH OCT – 6TH NOV 2016

Day 1: Honiara, Solomon Islands

Arrive in the port town of Honiara and transfer to the Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel for the first night. This evening meet with your fellow travellers over dinner at the resort.

Day 2: Honiara, Solomon Islands

This morning enjoy a tour of Honiara, visiting historical sites including the iconic Japanese and American war memorials. 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.

Day 3: San Jorge Island and Santa Isabel

One of the largest in the Solomon Islands, most of Isabel remains unexplored and undiscovered. We explore the remote southern shores around Thousand Ships Harbour. Beautiful uninhabited islands dot the waters and verdant forest covers slopes which surround the harbour as we are treated to a warm welcome and have the opportunity to explore the forest and coral reefs.

Day 4: Malaita

Mountainous Malaita has pristine rivers and unexploited tropical forests, we enter the seldom visited Kwai Harbour, here the local people choose to live on small artificial islands off the coastline, we are treated to a rapturous welcome on tiny Ngongosila Island where the houses stand shoulder to shoulder. In this one small area several tribal groups overlap and these differences are readily apparent in dance and language. This afternoon the beautiful uninhabited Lelil Island is the ideal snorkel site.



ON THIS VOYAGE WE CAN 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 short excursions up small rivers or creeks into tropical jungle, rainforest or mangroves, sometimes beyond the reach of our Zodiacs.

Clockwise: Interaction with a local village © M Kelly; Entertaining local children © Heritage Expeditions; Kayaking © Heritage Expeditions

Day 5: Makira

Makira is the most easterly of the main islands in the Solomon's archipelago. This morning we anchor in the calm waters of Star Harbour. Join the naturalists for a Zodiac exploration of the abundant mangrove forests that line the shores and take a short walk to Makira's south coast where the villagers live much as they have for millennia. We spend time with the locals, who share with us their traditional song and dance. If we are lucky the local boys might be surfing on their hand carved palm wood boards.

Day 6: Nendö – Temotu Province

Nendö is the largest of the Santa Cruz Islands. The Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira unsuccessfully tried to establish a colony there in 1595. This is the home of red feather money, sourced from the Scarlet Honeyeater. Venturing inland we visit a village where the ancient traditions are still very much alive. Watch the manufacture of red feather money and join the locals in dances which reverberate through the ages.

Day 7: Duff Islands

The Duff Islands are a cluster of 11 small islands on the edge of the vast Pacific Ocean. We navigate the Zodiacs through the shallow passages in the reef to visit the only inhabited island, Taumako. Here we are welcomed by the Polynesian speaking local people, who live on hand crafted artificial islands of coral stone within the lagoon. These islands are exceptionally remote and the people largely cut off from the outside world; learn about their continued use of traditional sailing canoes.

Day 8: 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 wrecked here after both his vessels, *La Boussole* and *Astrolabe*, struck the 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 walk in search of the endemic White-eye and Monarch

or marvel at the delicate Vanikoro Orchid. We also have a good chance to see the recently rediscovered Vanikoro Flying Fox,

Day 9: 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. Visit the administrative centre of Sola or for a more active option, climb through the waterfalls behind the town for some excellent views over the bay. This afternoon we explore the nearby offshore islands for snorkelling and beach combing. The surrounding waters are home to the recently discovered Vanuatu Petrel.

Day 10: Espiritu Santo

Enjoy a full day on Vanuatu's largest Island, Santo; location of James Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific*. Early morning sees the birders ashore in search of many of Vanuatu's endemic birds. Take the opportunity to swim in the beautiful waters of Champagne Beach. This afternoon we use the Zodiacs to visit the iconic blue holes of Santo. For those with an interest in the history of this island there is a visit to Lugainville and Million Dollar Point.

Day 11: Ambryn

The *Spirit of Enderby* will make an inaugural visit to Ambryn, renowned as the island of volcanoes and magic throughout Vanuatu. We plan to head ashore at Ranon on the northern coast where the traditional Rom dance is still practised and custom carving is alive and well. A short walk through the forest brings us to the 'arena' where masked dancers emerge from the forest. The forests of Ambryn offer some excellent walks to go in search of the local birds and plants, accompanied by our naturalists. This afternoon enjoy a final snorkel excursion.

Day 12: Port Vila, Vanuatu

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

Enquire for a full itinerary.



VOYAGE #1658 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:

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 shore excursions and activities excluding optional specialised birding and kayaking programmes. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

Price Excludes:

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



SOUTH WEST PACIFIC ODYSSEY

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VIA NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW CALEDONIA, MELANESIA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Arrival into a local village © Heritage Expeditions

Journey through the Southwest Pacific where a variety of experiences await the intrepid explorer, perfect for those with a keen interest in rare birds, history, colourful cultures, exotic marine life and at the other end of the adventure spectrum, laid back enough for those who simply want to explore pristine white sandy beaches on remote Pacific Islands.

Join us on a journey that has become famous in birding circles as a 'must do' voyage searching for some of the rarest seabirds in the world. The itinerary affectionately known by birders as the 'WPO' has now evolved to include a number of intriguing new locations appealing to all expeditioners.

This voyage takes us from the temperate waters of New Zealand's Hauraki Gulf to the tropical seas of Papua New Guinea. Along the way we will observe how vegetation and wildlife adapt to the gradual change in climate as we explore pristine forests. We will also learn about the culture and history of the people who call these scattered islands home.

Lazy days at sea are best spent relaxing with a good book or patrolling the decks on the lookout for wildlife. The expedition will be accompanied by some of the best pelagic birding guides in the world, several who have travelled this route many times and are keen to share their extensive knowledge of the birds in this region. There will be plenty of opportunities ashore to immerse yourself in local village life, visit historic sites, wander through verdant forests, join an early morning bird excursion, snorkel colourful reefs and swim on deserted beaches.

A temperate to tropical blue water ocean voyage with something for everyone!

FUTURE
DATES
SEE WEBSITE

18 DAY VOYAGE

1ST – 18TH APR 2017

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 aboard as we cruise north up the coast of New Zealand.

Day 2: Hauraki Gulf

Cruise past the Mokohinau Islands where we look for Grey Ternlet, Little Penguin, Grey-faced and Black Petrels, Little, Fluttering and Buller's Shearwaters, and the recently rediscovered New Zealand Storm-Petrel.

Days 3 to 4: At Sea

Keen birders will want to spend time out on deck for a good chance of seeing Gould's, Black-winged, Kermadec, White-necked, Black and Grey-faced Petrels and Wedge-tailed and Short-tailed Shearwaters. During the days at sea our specialists will provide an entertaining variety of lectures on the history, culture, marine mammals and birdlife of the region.

Day 5: Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island's rugged coastline, golden sand beaches, lush native bush and fascinating history also offers us a chance for three endemics – the Norfolk Island Parakeet, Norfolk Gerygone and Slender-billed White-eye.

Day 6: At Sea

Bearing north, we'll cross a large underwater seamount where you are most welcome to join the expedition staff looking for wildlife from the bridge of the *Spirit of Enderby*.

Day 7: New Caledonia

We will visit the forests of the Rivière Bleue National Park searching for New Caledonian



Clockwise: Kagu © T Palliser; Bird watching © B Mercer; Beach landing © A Russ; Yellow Bandwing © S Howell

endemics such as the unique Kagu and highly range-restricted Crow Honeyeater as well as the Horned Parakeet, Cloven-feathered Dove, Yellow-bellied Robin and New Caledonian Imperial-Pigeon.

Day 8: The Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia

Enjoy a glimpse into the Kanak way of life, which retains its authenticity on this remote island. Our day's activity should include snorkelling the lagoons and coral reefs, jungle walking, Zodiac cruising mangrove wreathed lagoons and meeting the locals. Birders will want to look for the two species which are only found on this island, the Large Lifou White-eye and Small Lifou White-eye.

Days 9 to 10: At Sea

Two leisurely days at sea offer time to relax, sort through photos, catch up on reading and sleep. We will also keep a look out for Polynesian Storm-Petrel and an interesting range of marine mammals and flying fish.

Day 11: Santa Ana, Solomon Islands

We land expecting the full village welcome on the small coral island of Santa Ana, with colourful warriors, music and rhythmic dancing. Once formalities are completed, enthusiastic children will be keen to show off their home as they escort us around the village. Try snorkelling at the reef edge or just stretch the legs on a walk across the island to visit the other settlements or look for a new selection of exotic birds.

Day 12: Anuta Island in the Makira Group

Anchoring at Anuta for a morning ashore seeking out the Sooty Myzomela, San Cristobal Melidectes, San Cristobal Starling, Makira Flycatcher, Makira Cicadabird, White-Collared Monarch, Mottled Flowerpecker, White-headed Fruit-Dove and Chestnut-bellied Imperial-Pigeon. Later we will visit the idyllic Anuta Village.

Day 13: Honiara

Birders depart early for nearby Mount Austin known for an exceptional list of endemics and localised specialities including Ultramarine Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, Solomon Islands Cuckoo-shrike, Chestnut-bellied and Black-

and-white Monarchs, Steel-blue Flycatcher and Yellow-faced Myna. The later risers enjoy a tour of Honiara.

Day 14: Santa Isabel Region, Barora Fa Island, Poru Channel

Explore Santa Isabel and its surrounding islands, said to be amongst the most picturesque places in the Solomon Islands. We will Zodiac cruise through an amazing channel where the rainforest comes down to the water's edge and should see a range of parrots and other wildlife, including a chance of Dugong. We plan to visit Vakao Island where there will be an opportunity to explore the verdant rainforest and look for some localised birds such as Red-capped Myzomela and Yellow-throated White-eye.

Day 15: Kolombangara Island

Kolombangara's Imbu Rano Conservation Area offers a walk through dense forest to view picturesque waterfalls and grottos. More endemic birds can be found here including Pale Mountain Pigeon, Duchess Lorikeet and White-capped Monarch. An afternoon sailing finds us scanning the sea for dolphins and hopefully the highly localised and rare Heinroth's Shearwater.

Day 16: Shortland Islands

We call in at the rarely visited Shortland Islands which was a Japanese seaplane war-time base and will have the opportunity to see the impact of World War II on the remote atolls and local settlements.

Day 17: Off the coast of New Ireland

Cruising off the coast of New Ireland gives us our best chance of finding the recently rediscovered Beck's Petrel as well as Heinroth's Shearwater. This region can also be excellent for cetaceans and previously we have seen Melon-headed Whales as well as both Pygmy and Dwarf Sperm Whales.

Day 18: Kokopo/Rabaul, Papua New Guinea

After breakfast we will disembark the *Spirit of Enderby* and the expedition concludes.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



VOYAGE #1780 DETAILS

Prices:

Twin share with Private Facilities \$ 8,100 pp
Twin share with Shared Facilities \$ 6,300 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees \$ 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.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA EXPLORER

EXPLORING NEW BRITAIN, TROBRIAND ISLANDS, D'ENTRECASTEAUX ISLAND, SOLOMON SEA, MAINLAND PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE BISMARCK SEA AND MORE.

Village visit © A Russ

As we follow in the footsteps of the great explorers through regions seldom visited, join us as we reconnoitre remote atolls, walk distant shores and snorkel coral reefs which have never been fully explored in Papua New Guinea. Small local communities are keen to share their rich culture, fascinating history and the rich biodiversity which supports their traditional way of life, be it plants, birdlife or beneath the sea. Papua New Guinea is a revelation of exquisite wild beauty and exotic cultural wealth. The incomparable biodiversity in both sea and land makes this one of the most mysterious places on earth, as rugged mountains give way to picture perfect white sand beaches. In this region which is home to more than 800 distinct languages and cultures we are sure to experience some remarkable interactions with the locals.

This is a land of new discoveries, each year new species are revealed in these remote and fragile environments. The incredible statistics speak for themselves: 69% of the 284 known mammal species in Papua New Guinea are endemic, as are half of the 578 species of breeding birds.

From the volcanic region of Rabaul we head southwards through the nutrient rich waters of the New Britain Trench, which offers wonderful wildlife viewing opportunities. Our expedition begins with a visit to Jacquinot Bay which features a spectacular waterfall and small villages hugging the coastline. Next we delve into the culturally rich Trobriand Islands, sometimes called the 'Islands of Love'. The inhabitants have worked hard to keep the indigenous culture alive and today still live in the way they have for countless generations. We will then explore the coral fringed islands of the Louisiade Archipelago.

The D'Entrecasteaux Islands were named after the French Explorer Antoine d'Entrecasteaux who discovered them whilst looking for La Perouse. The sheer mist-covered peaks, wild untamed rivers, vast swaths of rainforest untouched by modern civilization, hot springs, bubbling mud pools and spouting geysers all attest to the geothermal activity.

As we head north-west along the main island of Papua New Guinea, we explore fiords, sandy beaches, jungles, remote islands and untamed coral reefs, before arriving in the port town of Madang.

This expedition offers a range of experiences to stimulate the senses. We explore remote regions of Papua New Guinea, snorkel some of the world's best coral reefs systems, walk through untouched rainforest and gain cultural insights through interactions with the locals. An optional programme for those wishing to kayak in the excellent conditions of this unique part of the Pacific is also available.

FUTURE
DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING
AVAILABLE

13 DAY VOYAGE

17TH - 29TH APR 2017

Day 1: Kokopo/Rabaul, Papua New Guinea

Arrive at Tokua Airport, Kokopo, New Britain, the capital of East New Britain Province and transfer to your hotel for the first night. Meet your fellow travellers and the expedition team over dinner this evening.

Day 2: Kokopo/Rabaul

Join the expedition team as we explore Rabaul which is surrounded by six beautiful cone-shaped volcanoes. Visit parts of old Rabaul which was covered by ash from the eruption of Mt Tavurvur in 1994. We will visit local markets and travel along roads built by Singaporean and Burmese prisoners of war under the direction of the Japanese during WWII and four sites including a Japanese submarine base and barge tunnels. Board the *Spirit of Enderby* in the afternoon and settle into your cabin. Join the captain and your expedition team on the bridge as we set sail.

Day 3: Jacquinot Bay, New Britain

We are sure to see some amazing creatures and wildlife as we sail through the rich nutrients upwelling from the New Britain Trench which lies just off the south-east coast of New Britain. Experience your first sing-sing (welcome) Papua New Guinea style and explore the war wrecks still in the region.

Day 4: Trobriand Islands, Kitava, Narutu

Positioned in the Solomon Sea and historically known as the 'Islands of Love', the Trobriands offer a glimpse of traditional culture largely unspoilt by outside influence. Meet the Trobriand islanders of Kitava and view energetic, time-honoured dances that celebrate fishing and the seasonal yam harvest. Learn about the history of the 'Kula Ring', a circular pattern of ceremonial trade relationships that binds the islands of Milne Bay and eastern Papua New Guinea together in a long-established network of friendship. These islanders are also



Clockwise: River cruising by Zodiac © A Russ; Local craft © Heritage Expeditions; Cultural interaction © A Russ

renowned for the exquisite quality of their ebony wood-carvings, often decorated with mother-of-pearl shell inlays. We take to the water around Narutu Island and snorkel among kaleidoscopic coral reefs populated by Parrotfish, Neon Damsels and other brilliantly-hued species. Those who prefer viewing birds and plant-life can join the expedition team on a walk around the island in search of Flying Foxes (fruit bats), Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Helmeted Friarbirds.

Days 5 to 6: Louisiade Archipelago, Misima Island, Deboyne Islands & Tagula Island

The Louisiade Archipelago which stretches some 400km along the northern rim of the Coral Sea is one of the great island arcs of the South Pacific. Rarely visited by outsiders, this area is a wonderland of literally hundreds of islands, lagoons and extensive barrier reefs and home to the seafaring Dobu people. Snorkel around the old Japanese base and discover a 'Zero' fighter plane in shallow waters. The largest island in the archipelago is Tagula Island, which endured a gold rush that peaked in 1889 and is dominated by 806m Mt Ri (Mt Rattlesnake). We will go ashore here to investigate the tropical moist broadleaf forest. Endemic birds we hope to see are the Tagula Honeyeater, White-chinned Myzomela, Tagula Butcherbird and White-throated White-eye. Whilst exploring we will also keep a look-out for the five endemic frogs and two endemic lizard species.

Days 7 to 8: D'Entrecasteaux Islands, Normanby, Dobu and Fergusson Islands

Awake this morning in the D'Entrecasteaux Islands. We have two full days to explore this unique island group, from the highs of Mt Lamanai to the protected harbour at Sewa Bay. One highlight will be the geothermal area with hot springs and bubbling mud pools surrounded by lush vegetation. We will visit the small village with less than 1,000 inhabitants on Dobu Island.

Day 9: Cape Nelson, Tufi Harbour

Today we discover the scenic beauty of the rarely visited Tufi Fjords. Featuring 25 individual canyons with sheer basalt cliffs, these are the only fjords in Papua New Guinea. Take in the spectacular views as we cruise close to the towering cliffs before boarding the Zodiacs which will take us ashore for a closer look and to meet the locals. Due to the protection of the fjords, the coral reefs are very

rich in colour and variety and the waters offer remarkable visibility. We will find a suitable spot to snorkel amongst the Gobie, Mandarin Fish, Pigmy Seahorses and sponge and shelf corals. Later we will take a walk in the surrounding rainforest to look for the world's largest butterfly, the Queen Alexandra Bird Wing.

Day 10: Kamiali Wildlife Management Area and Fly Islands

Travel ashore to the picturesque village of Lababia, gateway to one of the most important conservation areas in Papua New Guinea – the Kamiali Wildlife Management Area. Local guides will accompany us as we explore the area and walk the David Suzuki Trail through the prehistoric rainforest. We hope to attract a wide array of native birdlife including Hornbills, Palm Cockatoos, Parrots and the iconic Raggiana Bird-of-paradise.

Day 11: New Britain (Wako) and Arawe Islands

This morning we view the White Limestone Cliff as we take the Zodiacs up the Pulie River towards the small local villages. In the afternoon we explore a World War II battle ground where between 15 December 1943 and 24 February 1944 over 400 soldiers lost their lives during the conflict between the Japanese and the Allied forces in and around this maze of small islands.

Day 12: Vitiaz Strait – Tuam and Umboi Islands

The Siassi Islands lie in the Vitiaz Straits, between the Huon Peninsula on the island of New Guinea and the western end of the island of New Britain. We plan to visit Tuam and Umboi which offer a mix of both mainland and Bismarck Archipelago cultures. Watch the locals perform their traditional welcome dances and savour the warm village hospitality before joining your expedition team for a nature walk and some snorkelling at Umboi Island.

Day 13: Madang, Papua New Guinea

Madang sits on a peninsula within one of the South Pacific's most beautiful harbours. With a backdrop of steep mountains and lush tropical vegetation, the harbour shelters a number of picturesque islands. Madang's thriving community is renowned for its traditional artists, world class diving opportunities and the richness of its surrounding forests. This morning we will take a tour to explore the amazing diversity of wildlife in the surrounding area, before returning to Madang to visit the

markets. Upon disembarkation our expedition concludes with a complimentary transfer to your hotel or the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



VOYAGE #1782 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$10,600 pp
Mini Suite	\$ 9,900 pp
Superior Plus	\$ 9,000 pp
Superior	\$ 8,300 pp
Main Deck	\$ 7,400 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 6,500 pp

Additional Charges:

Discovery Fund (Payable on board)	\$ 500 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 onboard ship accommodation with meals and all shore excursions and activities excluding optional specialised and kayaking programmes. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

Price Excludes:

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



BIRDING DOWN UNDER

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA PLUS THE CHATHAM ISLANDS

King Penguins, Macquarie Island © N Russ

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.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

19 DAY VOYAGE

VOYAGE #1660
16TH NOV – 4TH DEC 2016

VOYAGE #1654 *
26TH NOV – 14TH DEC 2016
* SAILING ON **AKADEMIK SHOKALSKIY**

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



Clockwise: Light-mantled Sooty Albatross © S Blanc; Bulbinella rossii © A Fergus; Erect Crested Penguin, Antipodes © O Liodden

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 and Pyramid Rock

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. Late this afternoon we arrive at the spectacular Pyramid Rock, the only breeding place of the Chatham Island Albatross.

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 afternoon we have another look for the Magenta and Chatham Island Petrels.

Day 16: South East Island and Mangere Islands

Arrive early morning at South East Island one of the world's greatest nature reserves here we plan to Zodiac cruise to see the endangered Shore Plover. We will also keep our eyes peeled for the Pitt Island Shag. Before we depart the archipelago we visit the Mangere Islands from where the endemic Black Robin was rescued.

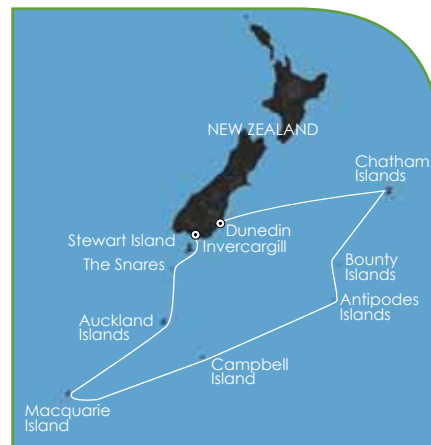
Days 17 to 18: At Sea

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

Day 19: Dunedin

Our adventure ends at this historic Otago Harbour. Early this morning we arrive in port and after a final breakfast we say our farewells before disembarking and transferring by complimentary coach to either a central city point or to the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



VOYAGE #1660 & #1654 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$15,750 pp
Mini Suite	\$14,700 pp
Superior Plus	\$14,000 pp
Superior	\$13,000 pp
Main Deck	\$11,500 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$10,500 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees	\$ 800 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, 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

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 many 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.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE



13 DAY VOYAGE

VOYAGE #1662 *
4TH - 16TH DEC 2016

***STARTS IN DUNEDIN**
CONTACT US FOR ALTERNATE ITINERARY

VOYAGE #1668
23RD DEC 2016 - 4TH JAN 2017

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.



Clockwise: Shy Albatross © A Russ; Yellow-eyed Penguin and the Spirit of Enderby © K Ovsyanikova

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 mega herbs 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.

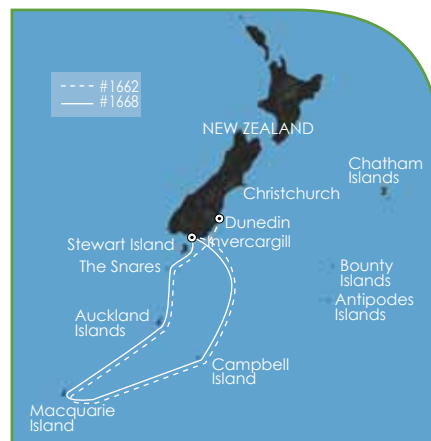
Day 12: At Sea

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 #1662 & #1668 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$ 9,900 pp
Mini Suite	\$ 9,300 pp
Superior Plus	\$ 8,800 pp
Superior	\$ 8,300 pp
Main Deck	\$ 7,600 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 6,600 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees	\$ 800 pp
Kayaking Supplement	\$ 975 pp

(Kayaking available on #1668 only)
(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, 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

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.

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

KAYAKING
AVAILABLE

8 DAY VOYAGE

VOYAGE #1666
16TH – 23RD DEC 2016

VOYAGE #1770
4TH – 11TH JAN 2017

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.



Clockwise: Mount Honey, Campbell Island © T Bickford; Rata Forest © O Liodden

Day 3: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a wildlife rich island that has no equal in the Southern Ocean. Offering a varying landscape where the Rata forests are regenerating and there is a resurgence of herbaceous plants, it is one of the most beautiful islands in this group. The island is home to the Hooker's or New Zealand Sea Lion which breeds on Sandy Bay beach where we plan to land. This animal is the rarest sea lion in the world. We will walk to enjoy close encounters with the Royal Albatross nested amongst a hummocked sward of *Oreobolus pectinatus* and regenerating tussock. There is a good chance that we will see the endemic snipe, shag and Auckland Island Flightless Teal as we walk around the island. We plan to spend some time with the Yellow-eyed Penguin, the world's rarest penguin and the fourth largest of the world's penguins. Unique fields of megaherbs, whose languorous names promise the exotic: the *Bulbinella rossii*, the regenerating patches of *Anisotome latifolia* and the vivid red and white gentians, make an unforgettable sight. Native birds such as the Tui, Bellbird and parakeets benefit from the presence of Rata trees and can be heard in the forest.

Day 4: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

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

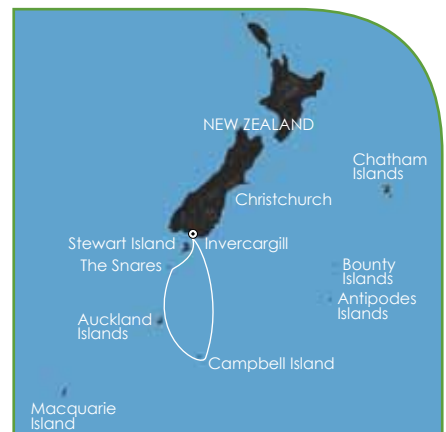
Day 7: At Sea

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 #1666 & #1770 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$ 6,600 pp
Mini Suite	\$ 6,400 pp
Superior Plus	\$ 6,050 pp
Superior	\$ 5,500 pp
Main Deck	\$ 5,000 pp
Main Deck Triple	\$ 4,300 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees	\$ 400 pp
Kayaking Supplement	\$ 550 pp

(Kayaking available on # 1666 only)
(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.





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 1841. 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.

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.



Minke Whales and Adelie Penguins © S Blanc

FUTURE
DATES
SEE WEBSITE

30 DAY VOYAGE

VOYAGE #1772 *

10TH JAN – 9TH FEB 2017

* SAILING ON *AKADEMIK SHOKALSKIY*
DEPARTS FROM HOBART.

VOYAGE #1774

11TH JAN – 9TH FEB 2017

VOYAGE #1778 **

10TH FEB – 11TH MAR 2017

** SAILING ON *AKADEMIK SHOKALSKIY*
RETURNS TO CHRISTCHURCH

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

Days 4 to 5: Auckland Islands

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

Day 6: At Sea

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

Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

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

Days 9 to 12: At Sea

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

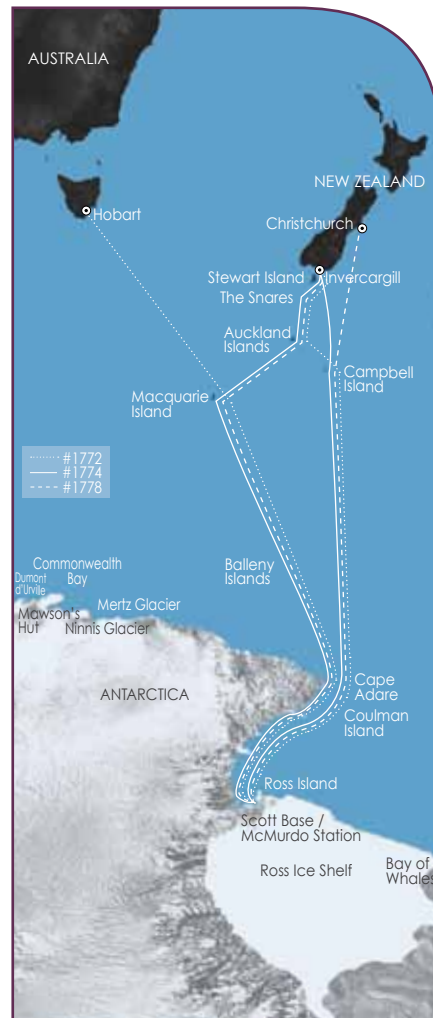
Days 13 to 22: Antarctica's Ross Sea Region

With unpredictable ice and weather conditions, a day-by-day itinerary is not possible but we assess the conditions daily and take every opportunity to make landings and launch the Zodiacs. You can anticipate wildlife viewing, visits to scientific bases and historic sites, as well as the spectacular white and blue scenery.

We hope to visit the following areas:

Cape Adare:

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



Clockwise: *Anisotome latifolia* © E Bell; *Spirit of Enderby* and Cape Evans Hut © A Breniere; Emperor Penguin © S Blanc

Cape Hallett:

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

Franklin Island:

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

Possession Islands:

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

Ross Ice Shelf:

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

Ross Island:

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

Terra Nova Bay:

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

Days 23 to 26: At Sea

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

Days 27 to 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 a central city point or to the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

Alternate itineraries apply on voyages #1778 and #1772 (31 days), contact us for details.

VOYAGE #1772, #1774 & #1778 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$30,200 pp
Mini Suite	\$28,000 pp
Superior Plus	\$27,000 pp
Superior	\$24,000 pp
Main Deck	\$22,300 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees	\$ 880 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, 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 MAWSON

COMMONWEALTH BAY, EAST ANTARCTICA

Adelie Penguins © K Ovsvanikova

Sir Douglas Mawson is arguably the grandfather of Antarctic science. The Australian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14 is notable for its achievements and sadly its tragedies.

Encouraged by the success of Shackleton's 1908-09 Nimrod expedition, of which he was a member, Douglas Mawson planned his own expedition to explore the Antarctic coastline directly south of Australia. The Australasian Antarctic Expedition sailed from Hobart on the 2nd of December 1911, making a brief stop at Macquarie Island to establish a radio base and then making landfall at Cape Denison in Commonwealth Bay. Unbeknownst to Mawson and his men, they had discovered the windiest place on the planet – renowned as the 'home of the blizzard'. Tragedy struck the expedition when Ninnis and Mertz, the other two members of Mawson's three-man Far Eastern Sledging Party, died. Mawson returned to base blinded by snow and having cheated death on more than one occasion. He made it back so late in the season that he had to overwinter in Antarctica as his relief ship had sailed.

Mawson's Hut at Cape Denison still stands; protected against the extreme weather for which the region is renowned. Cape Denison has historically been one of the very few ice free and readily accessible areas along the East Antarctic coastline. However when the Mertz Glacier tongue broke off in 2010 it blocked the annual movement of sea ice preventing any shipping and effectively isolating the area, we have been monitoring conditions in this region since and now see opportunities to return and explore this majestic, remote coastline.

27 DAY VOYAGE

15TH DEC 2016 – 10TH JAN 2017
SAILING ON *AKADEMIK SHOKALSKIY*

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 where staff will welcome you on board the *Akademik Shokalskiy* 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.

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.



Clockwise: Sailing through ice © K Ovsyanikova; Mawson's Hut © Heritage Expeditions; Interaction with Minke Whale © E Bell

Day 6: 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.

Days 7 to 11: At Sea

Soaring albatross and petrels circle the vessel as we steam ever southward through the Southern Ocean. Lectures now concentrate on the Antarctic 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. Relax in the ship's bar and catch up with some reading in the library. If you have brought your laptop with you there will be time to download and edit photos while they are fresh in your mind.

Days 12 to 18: Commonwealth Bay

Our first landing on the remote East Antarctic coastline will be Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay. Notoriously known as the 'home of the blizzard'. Here we will see (and experience) Mawson's Hut and its environs which include other relics from the 1911-14 expedition and Adelie Penguins. West from Cape Denison is the French Research Base, Dumont D'Urville which, if permission is granted and ice conditions permit, we will visit. There is also an Emperor Penguin colony nearby. Breeding season will be over but there could be birds around. Other landings could include Port Martin (abandoned French Base) and the McKellar Islands. We will also cruise in the Zodiacs looking for wildlife.

Days 19 to 21: At Sea

When we depart from the spectacular icebound majesty of Antarctica, we will have some quieter time at sea to recover from the extensive daylight hours of the Antarctic. There will be the opportunity to relax and

download and edit any photos. En route to Macquarie Island there will be a series of lectures designed to prepare you for our visit.

Days 22 to 23: 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.

Days 24 to 26: At Sea

At sea en route to the Port of Hobart, take the opportunity to relax and enjoy our last few days of shipboard life and to reflect on an amazing experience. On your last evening we will review and celebrate our discoveries over a farewell dinner.

Day 27: Hobart

We arrive at the Port of Hobart 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 a central city drop off or Hobart Airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

VOYAGE #1664 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$22,000 pp
Mini Suite	\$20,750 pp
Superior Plus	\$19,800 pp
Superior	\$18,500 pp
Main Deck	\$16,000 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees	\$ 880 pp
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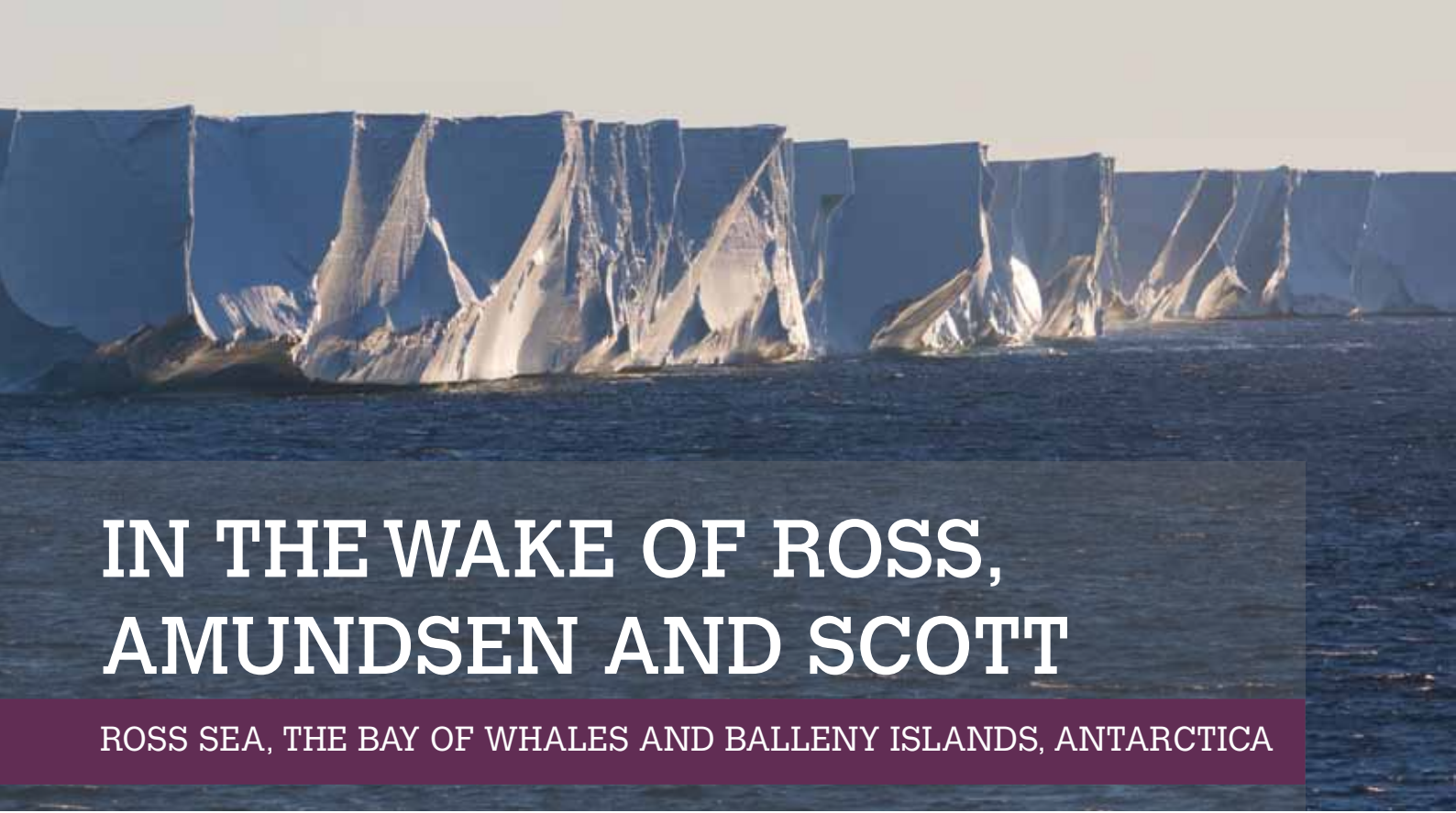
(All prices are per person in USD)

Price Includes:

Pre/Post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (inc. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation, 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 ROSS, AMUNDSEN AND SCOTT

ROSS SEA, THE BAY OF WHALES AND BALLENY ISLANDS, ANTARCTICA

Ross Ice Shelf © S Blanc

.....
"BEG TO INFORM YOU FRAM PROCEEDING ANTARCTIC--AMUNDSEN"
.....

Roald Amundsen landed on the ice shelf in the Bay of Whales in 1911 and established his wintering base at 78°30'S. With this simple telegram the Norwegian explorer set the scene for what some historians have referred to as 'The Race for the Pole'. Together with four companions and fifty-two dogs, he left his base on 20 October 1911 and pioneered a completely new route to the Antarctic ice cap. It was a race that Amundsen was to win easily ... largely due to his previous experience in the High Arctic and especially his reliance on dogs. Scott, his rival, is better known even though he perished on the way home. Every year a small number of Antarctic enthusiasts make the pilgrimage to Ross Island to visit Scott's huts and memorials. There are no relics or memorials in the Bay of Whales as Amundsen's hut which he called Framheim has long since disappeared, a victim of the advancing Ross Ice Shelf. On this special expedition we visit the Bay of Whales along with iconic historic and wildlife sites on Ross Island and the western coastline of the Ross Sea.

The Bay of Whales is the most southerly stretch of open sea on earth, and was so-named by explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton due to large cetacean populations in the vicinity at that time. More than 10 miles (16km) wide in 1911, the bay gradually narrowed until sometime in the early 1950s when the advancing sheets collided and broke off the ice shelf, nearly obliterating the Bay of Whales and carrying away part of the Little America IV station. In 1987 an iceberg 99 miles (159km) long calved off from this region of the Ross Ice Shelf and floated out to sea.

It is also appropriate that we attempt to visit the remote Balleny Islands. These islands were discovered in 1839 by British Sealer John Balleny. The second sighting was by Sir James Clark Ross in 1841 and Robert Falcon Scott also called briefly at these islands in 1904. Subsequent visits to these islands have been rare. Apart from the obvious historic and geographical interest, this region has one of the highest concentrations of the Greater Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea* in Antarctica.

Our journey is a unique opportunity to experience nature on a grand scale. The dramatic landscapes described by early explorers remain unchanged and the abundance of wildlife continues to enthral those who venture deep into the Southern Ocean.

35 DAY VOYAGE

9TH FEB – 15TH MAR 2017

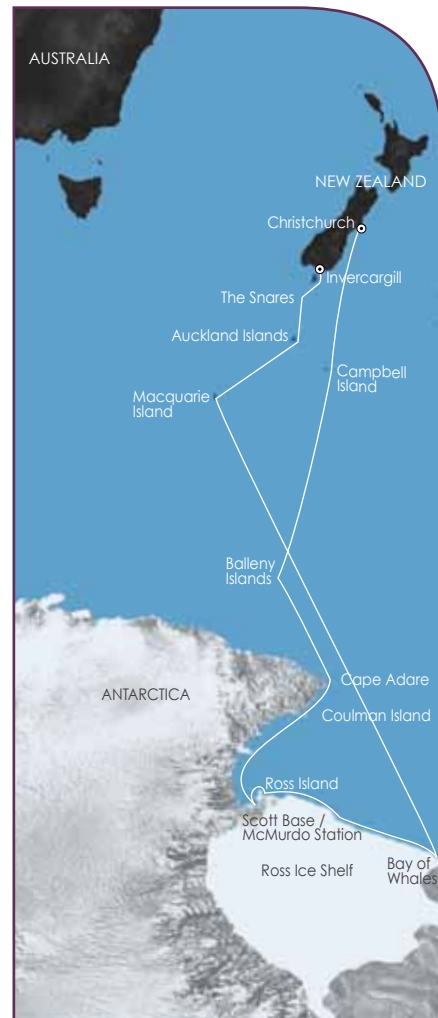
Day 1: Invercargill
Arrive at Invercargill, New Zealand's southern most city and rich in Scottish history. Grab your last-minute luxuries before meeting your fellow expeditioners for an informal get-together over dinner.

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.

Day 4: Auckland Islands
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.

Day 5: 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.



Clockwise: Weddell Seal © M Kelly; Zodiac viewing Adelle Penguins © A Breniere; Antarctic history © S Blanc; Royal Penguins © M Kelly

Days 6 to 7: 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 8 to 11: At Sea

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

Days 12 to 27: Antarctica – the Ross Sea Region, including Bay of Whales and Balleny Islands

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:

Balleny Islands:

Remote and often beset by ice, we will attempt not only to visit but to make a landing here. We are also keen to see and photograph the Greater Snow Petrel which is known to breed on these islands.

Bay of Whales:

The site of Amundsen's Framheim and Richard Byrd's 'Little America'.

Cape Adare:

One of the largest Adelle penguin rookeries in the world and also site of Carsten Borchgrevink's 1899 Hut.

Cape Hallett:

The mighty Admiralty Range dominates this site. A former NZ/American base.

Franklin Island:

Desolately beautiful and rugged, home to a large Adelle Penguin population.

Ross Ice Shelf:

Formerly called the 'Ice Barrier' the world's largest body of floating ice.

Ross Island:

Mount Erebus and visits to Cape Bird, Shackleton's Hut, Scott's Hut(s) and Scott and McMurdo Stations are high on our wish list.

Possession Islands:

These islands support tens of thousands of penguins.

Terra Nova Bay:

Both the Italian and Koreans have research stations here.

Days 28 to 30: 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.

Days 31 to 32: 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.

Days 33 to 34: 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 35: Christchurch

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

Enquire for a full itinerary.

VOYAGE #1776 DETAILS

Prices:

Heritage Suite	\$33,000 pp
Mini Suite	\$30,000 pp
Superior Plus	\$28,500 pp
Superior	\$26,500 pp
Main Deck	\$23,500 pp

Additional Charges:

Landing Fees	\$ 880 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, meals and all expedition shore excursions.

Price Excludes:

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

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 link to 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 snorkelling, 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 times 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 (with the exception of voyages to the Antarctic, the Northern Sea Route and Wrangel Island where it is 120 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 (120 days for Antarctic, the Northern Sea Route and Wrangel Island voyages) before departure. The exact date will be shown on your invoice. Although we accept credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) these will be subject to a 2.5% fee (direct bookings only), we do prefer the final balance to be paid by telegraphic transfer.

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.

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 (with the exception of voyages travelling to the Ross Sea, the Northern Sea Route and Wrangel Island where it is due 120 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 the 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 USD750 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. (*with the exception of voyages to the Ross Sea, the

- Northern Sea Route and Wrangel Island where loss of deposit is within 179 and 121 days and full loss within 120 days)
- 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

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

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