



Heritage Expeditions

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

WINTER 2015 NEWS

THE SOUTHERN OCEAN REVEALS ANOTHER ONE OF ITS FASCINATING SECRETS

Work undertaken by **Katya Ovsyanikova** (a lecturer/guide for Heritage Expeditions) for her Masters Degree at the University of Canterbury's Gateway Antarctica, provided evidence (based on photo-identification of individual animals and other characteristics) that at least some of the orcas from the Ross Sea regularly visited northern New Zealand in summer/early autumn.



This was also supported by Italian Researchers who followed satellite tagged animals from Terra Nova Bay to Northern New Zealand during the 2014/15 summer. It is not clear how many animals make this journey, whether they do it annually and most curiously - why?

Katya, who was on a scholarship from the Russian New Zealand Foundation in New Zealand, compiled a photo library of Orcas photographed recently by the Top Predator Alliance project in the Ross Sea region. She then compared them with photos taken in and around New Zealand and in various regions of Antarctica from a catalogue of photos compiled by Orca Researcher Dr Ingrid Visser. Some of the photos in the Top Predator Alliance library and in Dr Visser's library have been taken by participants on our expedition cruises. This underlines one of the important contributions that expeditions such as ours can make to science. Dr Regina Eisert from Gateway Antarctica, the lead scientist on this "Top Predator Alliance" project under whose supervision Katya worked, is keen to see more study done on these Orcas because she says this work only raises more questions than it answers.

This is just one of the many secrets of the Southern Ocean, there are many more yet to be

revealed. We are only just starting to understand the region's importance, not only in our weather systems and consequently its role in climate change but its role in the life of those that call it home. The University of Otago has recently obtained approval from the Department of Conservation to establish a research station on the Auckland Islands to start considering some of these questions. The location of New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands makes them the perfect laboratory to study the Southern Ocean. Our many expeditions to these islands provide an opportunity for you to see, to experience and to begin to understand just how important the Subantarctic Islands are as breeding grounds for numerous seabirds and mammals as well as the importance of the Southern Ocean for our planet's health and wellbeing.

Rooney Run

Authentic Experiences Abound

For the past 25 years, Heritage Expeditions has pioneered conservation-driven voyages to some of the wildest, least-explored and biologically rich regions on the planet. Recent highlights, as shared with us by past expeditioners, include:

- Being welcomed by a family of reindeer herders into their camp
- Spending the night in a ranger's hut on Wrangel Island while Polar Bears amble past
- Looking into the limpid brown eyes of a baby Elephant Seal
- Watching Orca patrolling the coastline in search of dinner
- Meeting researchers who are passionate about their work in remote locations
- Seeing delighted school children proudly show us around their schoolrooms in the South Pacific and Russia

© K Ovsyanikova



Exclusive WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY EXPEDITION



Travel with renowned wildlife photographer Tui De Roy to New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands on a photographic odyssey in January 2016. Extended excursions ashore will provide extra time to wait for exactly the right light and conditions.

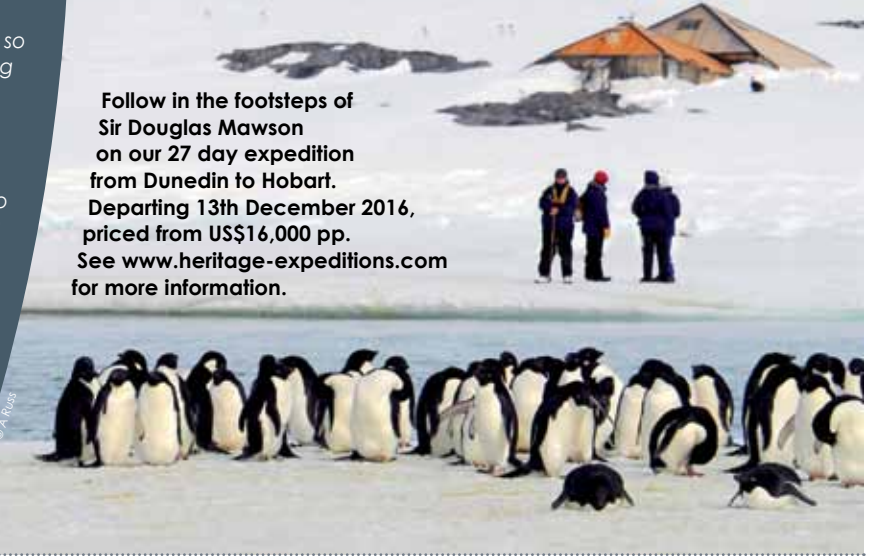
Tui says: *The NZ Subantarctic Islands are the birthplace of my life's most ambitious project: my big Albatross book, which was 10 years in the making. Auckland, Campbell and Snares are all completely different and so magnificently wild they almost defy description. Seeing the majestic albatrosses going about their lives in such settings is a mesmerising experience. I spent several months there aboard our little sailboat, in summer and winter, hiking over, across and around them, seeking out the very best photo opportunities. I look forward to reliving those experiences with folks who are seeing them for the first time.*

Subantarctic Islands in Focus
Departs 2 January 2016
From US\$5,300 plus landing fees.
Call +64 3 365 3500 for more information.

UPCOMING EXPEDITIONS TO EAST ANTARCTICA

In January 2016 we will embark on our first expedition in some years to Cape Denison in historic Commonwealth Bay, site of the heroic exploits of the Australian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-1914 led by explorer and scientist Sir Douglas Mawson. When a huge iceberg named B90B which had calved from the Ross Ice Shelf grounded at the entrance to the bay in 2009, the sea ice in the bay was prevented from breaking up, effectively barring ships from visiting the area where Mawson's historic huts still stand. According to the few visitors who have used amphibious vehicles or flown in to reach Mawson's huts in the past few years, the structures are holding up well and our team is very excited at the prospect of visiting them again. Our January 2016 expedition is already fully booked, however our December 2016 voyage is now open for sale.

Follow in the footsteps of Sir Douglas Mawson on our 27 day expedition from Dunedin to Hobart. Departing 13th December 2016, priced from US\$16,000 pp. See www.heritage-expeditions.com for more information.



SPEND CHRISTMAS IN THE SUBANTARCTICS

If escaping the Christmas madness is high on your wish list we have the perfect solution! Join a friendly bunch of like minded escapees on our Christmas & New Year 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' voyage to Australia's beautiful Macquarie Island.

Along the way we will also explore the Snares, Enderby, Auckland and Campbell Islands. Spend Christmas Day strolling at leisure around wildlife rich Enderby Island - be entertained by sea lion pups cavorting and shy Yellow Eyed penguins ambling along the beach in front of the rata forest dressed in its Christmas livery. After a full day exploring, enjoy Christmas dinner and celebrations on board the *Spirit of Enderby*. New Year's Eve will be spent at Campbell Island, home to the majestic Southern Royal Albatross.

Travel with friends or family. A number of cabins on board sleep more than two passengers. If you are travelling independently, solo travellers are not penalised as we will arrange a same gender cabin mate, avoiding compulsory single supplements required on other ships.

Enjoy the festive camaraderie with those living and working on Australia's best known Subantarctic Island this year and create some new Christmas memories aboard the *Spirit of Enderby* departing Invercargill on 22 December 2015.



Galapagos of the Southern Ocean
Departs 22 December 2015
From US\$8,800 plus landing fees
 Visit Macquarie Island on this ultimate Southern Ocean voyage.
Email info@heritage-expeditions.com to book now.





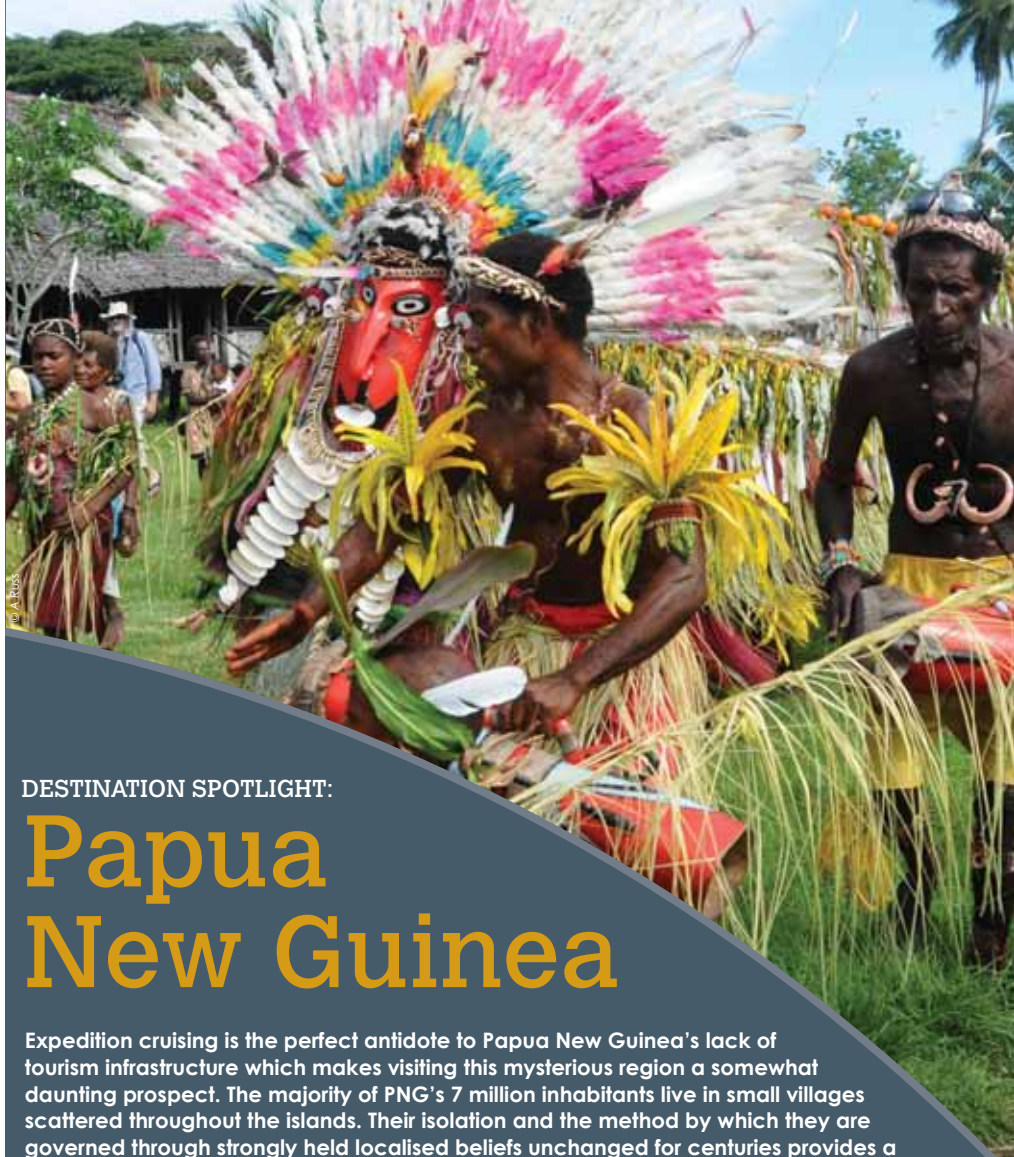
SEA KAYAKING

Our inaugural sea kayaking excursions took place during the 'Russia's Ring of Fire' expedition in 2014 and the group was enthralled by a close encounter with a pod of Orca. Participants who chose the kayaking option on the 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' voyage in December were delighted to be the first to paddle amongst the rock stacks along the Macquarie Island shoreline. This island, blessed with an abundance of curious creatures, provides the perfect advertisement for wildlife kayaking. Paddlers on our Melanesian voyages provided entertainment for large numbers of laughing children who either wanted to race against them in dugout canoes or borrow the kayaks to try for themselves. For an alternative view of the world, the seat of a kayak is hard to beat!

Sea Kayaking is available on selected voyages in the South Pacific, Subantarctic Islands and Russian Far East, see www.heritage-expeditions.com for more information.

CAN'T TRAVEL THIS YEAR?

For a full list of expeditions for 2016 and beyond see our voyage calendar: heritage-expeditions.com/expedition-calendar



DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT:

Papua New Guinea

Expedition cruising is the perfect antidote to Papua New Guinea's lack of tourism infrastructure which makes visiting this mysterious region a somewhat daunting prospect. The majority of PNG's 7 million inhabitants live in small villages scattered throughout the islands. Their isolation and the method by which they are governed through strongly held localised beliefs unchanged for centuries provides a unique opportunity to experience a myriad of ancient cultures in one nation. Some of the most enduring impressions will be the colourful costumes and painted bodies of the performers and the rhythms of their drums as we explore these rugged islands. You can join the winner of the Australian Geographic ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year competition aboard to capture stunning images on the 'PNG Explorer' voyage from Kokopo to Madang in April 2016.

Besides cultural experiences, there is a vast diversity of flora and fauna contained in this land of geological contrasts. Approximately 190 mammal species, over 700 birds (including numerous Birds of Paradise), countless insects and frogs and a vast array of orchids make this destination an ecological extravaganza to stimulate the senses.

Come with us to experience the real Papua New Guinea! Call +64 3 365 3500 today!



**Papua New Guinea Explorer
Departs 22 April 2016**
From US\$6,500 plus landing fees
Exploring New Britain, Trobriand Islands, D'Entrecasteaux Island, Solomon Sea, Mainland Papua New Guinea, the Bismarck Sea and more.



**Melanesia Discoverer
Departs 11 October 2015**
From US\$6,995 plus discovery fund
Exploring Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands including the Sepik River, Manus and Mussa Island, Rabaul, Bougainville Island and more.



ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD



Voted One Of The Best

'Across the Top of the World', Heritage Expeditions' 15 day expedition to the polar wildlife sanctuary of Wrangel Island has been selected as one of National Geographic Traveler's ninth annual '50 Tours of a Lifetime'.



Across the Top of the World
Departs 1, 15 & 29 August 2016
From US\$11,200

Book now to experience the home of Polar Bears -Wrangel Island. Add on the Overland Traverse to explore the interior of the island.

Wrangel Island lies at the top of the world, 140 km off the northeast coast of Siberia. Untouched by glaciers during the last Ice Age and looking much as it did when woolly mammoths roamed the land, the island is today best known for its population of polar bears.

Curious travellers can take the opportunity to travel across the interior of the island, a privilege few people have been lucky enough to experience. Exploring the interior of the island by six wheel Tundra vehicle for three days, the Overland Traverse is a photographer's dream, with rolling tundra, incredible vistas and a range of wildlife including curious polar bears, stunning snowy owls, arctic foxes, musk oxen and more.



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*.

Huw travelled with us down to the Ice this year, and we asked him to share with us some of his favourite memories from his Antarctic voyage.

'Favourite memory: Just so many, where do I start! I clearly have a thing for old huts, and have guided trips to many others all over the Antarctic Peninsula, but spending time in Captain Scott's hut at Cape Evans is a dream come true for a historian like me. More things, just glimpses of a great voyage: being far south in the Ross Sea as the ice freezes over for the coming winter. Sunsets over Mount Discovery, honouring heroes from the past and making new

friends. Fin whales racing along the ship and surging beneath our bows. Running up the east coast of New Zealand bathed in golden sunlight on our way home. The silence, the immense vistas, the feel of rock in your hands, the taste of true cold. I'm also drawn to islands - the more remote the better. The volcanoes of Ross Island, Inexpressible Island in the far south, and, in the heart of the Southern Ocean, exploring Macquarie, the windswept Auckland Islands, and rugged Campbell Island. It's a haven for the albatross and, simply, my idea of heaven on earth. Can't wait to go back.'

NEW STAFF PROFILE

Dr. Huw Lewis-Jones

ENDERBY TRUST – CALLING FOR APPLICANTS

The Enderby Trust was founded by the Russ family to provide opportunities for young people to visit remote regions they would not otherwise be able to experience. In this way the family seeks to inspire new generations to appreciate and protect the wild environments explored on Heritage Expeditions voyages.

London based Enderby & Co outfitted vessels for commercial voyages of

discovery and their captains were encouraged to explore beyond the known world at the time. Charles Enderby was a founding member of the Royal Geographical Society and in 1841 was admitted to the Royal Society of London for his "promotion of geographical discovery in the Antarctic regions". Each Enderby Scholar is required to submit a report to the trustees on their return and to share their experiences with others, thus creating further awareness of some of the world's little known regions.

Enderby Trust Scholarships are open to applicants aged 18-30 years old, who would otherwise be unable to travel to the Southern Ocean.

Contact enderby@hotmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/HeritageExpeditions for more information.