

CONSERVATION & ADVENTURE
EXPEDITION
CRUISING

2020/2021



Heritage Expeditions

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



Gray Whale encounter from Zodiac, Beringia National Park © S Blanc

Welcome to our 2020-21 brochure and our 36th annual edition! Pioneers in expedition travel, we are a proudly family owned and operated company dedicated to delivering authentic, in-depth expedition experiences and one-of-a-kind wildlife encounters aboard our comfortable, yet robust purpose-built expeditions ships.

Founded in 1984 to share and explore the seldom visited and far reaches of New Zealand with like-minded inquisitive travellers, Heritage Expeditions continues to forge new ground while remaining true to our founding principles. Today the Heritage Expeditions' world spans from the remote Ross Sea and East Antarctica through to the historic shores of the Russian Arctic including Wrangel Island, exploring the amazing diversity of landscapes, people and wildlife in between on our voyages of discovery.

During the year we have provided travellers with experiences and encounters of a lifetime including floating alongside Emperor Penguins on the ice in the Ross Sea; cruising alongside a North Pacific Right Whale, one of the world's rarest whale species and our second encounter in two years, at the Commander Islands; discovering a new species of sea bird the 'Heritage Lava Petrel' off the Solomon Islands; record sightings of the world's rarest seabird the Magenta Petrel/Chatham Island Taiko off the Chatham Islands; returning to the wonderland of Fiordland and climbing Secretary Island, and a 101 Polar Bear sightings on our final Wrangel Island expedition of the season.

This year our flagship expedition vessel *Spirit of Enderby* was refurbished and Wi-Fi internet access installed, we launched our first Indonesian voyage exploring Raja Ampat and Cenderawasih Bay, are returning to East Antarctica and Mawson's Huts following the historic region's first ice-free summer in 8 years, as well as one of the world's greatest seaways the Russian Arctic's Northeast Passage, and have added a new voyage dedicated to exploring the Chatham, Antipodes and Bounty Islands to our 2021 schedule.

We look forward to sharing another exciting season of expedition voyages aboard both *Spirit of Enderby* and her sister vessel *Akademik Shokalskiy* experiencing the greatest wildlife opportunities, most immersive cultural experiences and unrivalled access to the world's most wild and beautiful places!

Yours in Adventure



Aaron & Nathan Russ





Elephant Seal among King Penguins © G Riehle



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WHAT IS EXPEDITION CRUISING?

EXPEDITION CRUISING IS A UNIQUE FORM OF TRAVEL

Expedition cruising 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 1984 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 Expeditions' vessels *Spirit of Enderby* and *Akademik Shokalskiy* can accommodate up to 50 and 48 passengers respectively. *Spirit of Enderby* has been recently refurbished and both boast Australasian chefs creating international-quality cuisine. The cabins are clean and comfortable, with the majority offering private facilities. Their officers and crew are among the most experienced in the world, and are complemented by a passionate and knowledgeable international expedition team. *Spirit of Enderby* and *Akademik Shokalskiy* offer a unique point of difference being among the world's last, family-operated expedition vessels of their size and ice class setting the standard in authentic small ship expedition cruising.

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



Carlsey Harbour © T. Kraakman

TRAVELLING RESPONSIBLY

EXPEDITIONS WITH A CONSCIENCE



PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS



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

We minimise waste and employ recycling practices on our ships and in our head office by selecting environmentally friendly products and produce. Our goal in managing our vessels is to minimise fuel consumption and emissions with regular servicing and a proactive maintenance program. We annually clean and antifoul our vessels' hulls to reduce the risk of biofouling. 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 on *Spirit of Enderby* and up to 48 pax on *Akademik Shokalskiy*) and endeavour to maintain high guide to guest ratios. 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 also 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.

In Russia we work closely with several National Parks and Federal Reserves, including Beringia National Park and the Wrangel Island Reserve. Our goal is to minimise impact on the environment and on the wildlife, while ensuring a world-class experience for all our expeditioners.

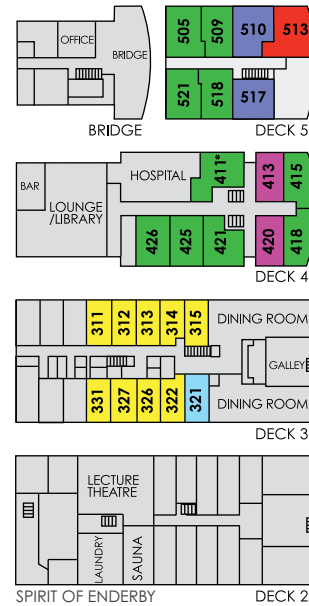
Heritage Expeditions holds active membership in a number of conservation and travel organisations including the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) and the Tourism Sustainability Commitment.

OUR SHIPS

Spirit of Enderby (Professor Khromov) and her sister ship Akademik Shokalskiy



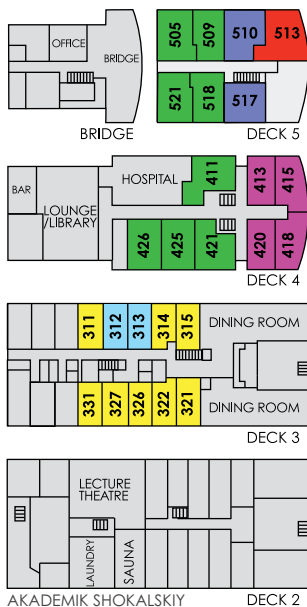
Spirit of Enderby © P Tyree



Our flagship *Spirit of Enderby* (Professor Khromov) and her sister ship *Akademik Shokalskiy* are fully ice-strengthened expedition vessels, built in 1984 for polar and oceanographic research they are perfect for expedition travel.

Carrying just 50 and 48 passengers respectively, Heritage Expeditions is one of the few remaining companies still offering true, small ship exploration. *Spirit of Enderby* was refurbished in May 2019 and both vessels provide comfortable accommodation in twin share cabins, approximately half of which have private facilities. All cabins have outside windows or portholes and ample storage, while the ships feature bar/library lounge areas and dedicated lecture rooms.

The real focus and emphasis of every expedition however, is getting you ashore as often as possible for as long as possible with maximum safety and comfort. Our expeditions are accompanied by some of the most experienced naturalists and guides who have devoted a lifetime to field research in the areas that we visit, and our ships are crewed by a very enthusiastic and experienced Russian Captain and crew.



Akademik Shokalskiy © J Hoffeher

- **Heritage Suites:** Large lounge area, separate bedroom with double bed and a single bed or sofa in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Large forward and side facing windows allow great views.
- **Mini Suites:** Separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or sofa in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Mini Suites have windows.
- **Superior Plus Cabins:** Two lower berths, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.
*Cabin 411 has a double bed with upper bunk.

- **Superior Cabins:** One bunk (one upper and one lower berth), writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.
- **Main Deck Cabins:** Two lower berths, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private washbasin. Nearby shower and toilet facilities are shared with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.
- **Main Deck Triple:** One bunk (one upper and one lower berth) and one additional lower berth, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private washbasin. Nearby shower and toilet facilities are shared with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

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.



Aaron Russ has grown up surrounded by wildlife and wilderness, working in the family business from a young age. 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 vessels.



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 Banks Peninsula and works as a field botanist when he's not exploring the Subantarctic Islands.



Judd Hill grew up playing in, on and under the water. He has been a professional adventure guide since leaving the chef world behind in 2000. The first to guide commercial sea kayaking along the Northeast Passage coastline of Russia and Macquarie Island he is passionate about all things connected with the oceans. Judd looks forward to showing you the wilds of the amazing places we visit and the moods of the oceans we traverse.



Maxim Ilin grew up in Archangel, a popular departure point for Arctic expeditions, which fed his interest in history and saw him obtain a specialist degree from the Northern Federal University. Working in museums and the UNESCO-listed Solovetsky Islands in the White Sea, Max has a particular interest in the Russian colonisation of the north and the early Soviet period, including Gulag history, and looks forward to sharing his knowledge.



Courtney Rayes' passion for the life aquatic steered her towards a career in marine biological science. An avid scuba diver, Courtney spent a year-long scholarship working on marine conservation projects around the world including marine education in Papua New Guinea. When she's not running a small marine consultancy in New Zealand, guiding and educating, Courtney can be found in or out on the water.



Chris Collins is 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.



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".



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.



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



Chris Todd grew up exploring New Zealand's great outdoors, studied natural history, nature conservation and National Park management, has run an ecological restoration business and worked for the Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird. He enjoys sharing his love and knowledge of wildlife and wild places.



Dan Brown grew up in Bangor University's botanic garden, North Wales. After 18 years surrounded by plants and animals, it was only natural that he went on to complete an Ecology degree. Dan has set up his own ecological consultancy which provides field and technical support to a variety of organisations on biodiversity related projects.



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 obtaining the permits and permissions required to operate our expeditions and regularly joins us on our voyages as an Assistant Expedition Leader.



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.

RUSSIA'S RING OF FIRE

13 DAY VOYAGE | KAMCHATKA, THE COMMANDER & KURIL ISLANDS
(Incorporating our Popular 'Birding The Russian Far East' Expedition)



Viewings from the bow deck © D Brown



Orca viewing from Zodiac © J Ross



Auklets and Zodiac © J Mishina



Tufted Puffins © G Riehle

The Pacific Ring of Fire manifests itself in numerous places on the rim of the Pacific Ocean – but nowhere is more dramatic than 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 14 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 Fin, Sperm and Humpback 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 destinations: 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, localised 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. 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.

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 across the Kamchatka Trench towards the Commander Islands, we will keep a look out for the cetaceans that this area is well-known for. 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. Enjoy several lectures and briefings as we prepare for the days ahead.



Stellers, Commander Islands Reserve © G Riehl

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, often spotted. 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 Pacific Sea Otters. We include a visit to the small settlement of Nikolskoye and the local museum.

Day 5: Zhupanova River, Kamchatka

We will spend several hours in the Zodiacs cruising on the scenic Zhupanova River where we should get great views of Steller's Sea Eagles as the birds often nest in the trees adjacent to the river. Other highlights could include Far Eastern Curlew, Long-toed Stint, Kamchatka Gull and Aleutian Tern. 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 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: Atlasova and Onekotan Islands

Very early in the morning we will pass through Second Kuril Strait which has one of the highest densities of Sea Otters in the Kuril Islands. Our landing on Atlasova Island is great for birders and non birders alike. There are the remains of a Gulag to explore and numerous species to see. This evening on Onekotan Island we can stretch our legs through an amazing field of wild flowers as we walk to Black Lake.

Day 8: Ekarma and Toporkovy Islands

During an early morning Zodiac cruise at Ekarma Island we should see various alcids, with close looks at Tufted Puffin and Whiskered Auklet. This afternoon at Toporkovy Island in the shadow of the active Matua Island volcano we can expect to find Harlequin Ducks, Red-faced Cormorants, Tufted Puffins and Brünnich'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 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 sheer number of alcids which breed here is incredible, with spectacular concentrations of Crested and Whiskered Auklets.



Siberian Rubythroat © D Brown

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 birds 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 we could encounter include Kamchatka Leaf-warbler, Japanese Robin, Siberian Accentor, Pine Grosbeak and Japanese Bush-warbler.

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. Species we could encounter include



Steller Sea Lions, Commander Islands Reserve © G Jones

Latham's Snipe, Oriental Turtle-Dove, Oriental Cuckoo, Japanese Bush-Warbler, Eastern Crowned Warbler, Narcissus and Brown Flycatchers, Siberian Stonechat and Long-tailed Rosefinch. This afternoon while we are at sea there is a chance for birding and an opportunity to recap and pack.

Day 13: Sakhalin Island

During the night, the ship will arrive at the Port of Korskov on Sakhalin Island. There will be a complimentary transfer to a central hotel and the airport in the town of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

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



27 May – 8 June 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2021

26 May – 7 June 2021

VOYAGE #SOE2120

Prices:	2020	2021
Heritage Suite	\$12,050 pp*	\$12,300 pp*
Mini Suite	\$11,200 pp*	\$11,400 pp*
Superior Plus	\$10,790 pp*	\$10,900 pp*
Superior	\$10,160 pp*	\$10,300 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 9,425 pp*	\$ 9,600 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 8,150 pp*	\$ 8,300 pp*

*The price listed includes the additional local payment of \$500 which is payable in US\$ cash onboard the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Local payment (payable on board), 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.

SEA OF OKHOTSK

12 DAY
VOYAGE

SEALS, SEABIRDS & A LEGACY OF SORROW



Zodiac viewing Ribbon Seal, Shantar Archipelago National Park © N Russ



Steller's Sea Eagle © M Kelly



Orca © K Ovsyanikova

Perhaps no other sea in the world has witnessed as much human suffering and misery as the Sea of Okhotsk. Between 1932 and 1953 it is estimated that over 3 million prisoners (the vast majority of them innocent) were transported across the Sea of Okhotsk to the Gulags of the Kolyma Goldfields. It is estimated that only 500,000 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. 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 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 Arctic Ground Squirrel.

This is a truly unique expedition 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.

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 ship. 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 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 places in the Sea of Okhotsk to become ice free each year. This late ice can sometimes restrict how far we can explore. On the other hand, ice increases our chances of seeing some of the seals including Bearded, Ringed, Larga and Ribbon Seals that breed here. If we can land, there will be birding, botany and photography excursions led by our team of on board naturalists.

Day 7: Mal'minskies Islands

Here there are birds everywhere, in the air, in the water and on the land. Numerous species breed here including large numbers of Spectacled Guillemots. Other species include Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros Auklet, Parakeet Auklet, Horned and Tufted Puffin, Crested Auklet and both Common and Brünnich's Guillemot. There is also a good population of Steller's Sea Eagles on the island and 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 in 1733, as well as to Kamchatka and beyond. Today Okhotsk is the region's fishing centre. The port exports significant quantities of salmon and other fish. We visit the town, landing by Zodiac up the river near its centre. The local people are generous and welcoming, and will provide entertainment in the town centre with 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 Black-legged 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 offshore before returning to the island.

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 Reserve. 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 Brünnich's 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 Yakutsk and the rest of 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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.



9 – 20 June 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2023

Prices:	2020
Heritage Suite	\$10,870 pp*
Mini Suite	\$ 9,920 pp*
Superior Plus	\$ 9,500 pp*
Superior	\$ 8,770 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 8,250 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,090 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional local payment of \$500 which is payable in US\$ cash onboard the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Local payment (payable on board), 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.

SIBERIA'S FORGOTTEN COAST



14 DAY VOYAGE

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, Koryaksky Nature Reserve © J Ross



Koryak Coast © C Collins



Steller Sea Lions, Commander Island Reserve © M Kelly

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 region's 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. Permits to travel through the area did, however, 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, and 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, with 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. Since 2011 we have supported BirdLife International and Birds Russia research teams working with this species. This support now includes other seabirds and waders as researchers monitor potential changes in their populations and distribution due to a variety of reasons including climate change.

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 our ship.



Steller's Sea Eagle © L. Gwynn

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 Larga 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.

Day 5: Karaginsky 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 offshore rocks. Later in the day, there will be either a Zodiac cruise

or landing on the Govena Peninsula. Good numbers of Kamchatka 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, hiking and 'birding' in country with a rich diversity of species, and where only a few 'westerners' have ever been before.

Days 11 to 12: Meinypil'gyno

Meinypil'gyno, located on a 40-kilometre-long shingle spit, is the most important site in the world for breeding Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Here about 15 pairs are monitored by members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force. 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 Larga Seal, Gray and Beluga Whales and a spectacular number of gulls.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper © C Collins

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, Brent Geese,

Whooper Swan, King Eiders, Red Knots and Aleutian Terns.

Day 14: Port of Anadyr

As we cruise into Anadyr Bay, there is an excellent chance of seeing more Beluga Whales. After a final breakfast on board our ship, it will be time to disembark. We will provide complimentary transfers to a downtown hotel or the airport.

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



Traditional living, Beringia National Park © A Charles



23 June – 6 July 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2025

21 June – 5 July 2021

VOYAGE #SHO2102

Prices:	2020	2021
Heritage Suite	\$11,930 pp*	\$11,930 pp*
Mini Suite	\$10,920 pp*	\$10,920 pp*
Superior Plus	\$10,500 pp*	\$10,500 pp*
Superior	\$ 9,780 pp*	\$ 9,780 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 9,140 pp*	\$ 9,140 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,880 pp*	\$ 7,880 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional local payment of \$500 which is payable in US\$ cash onboard the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Additional Option:

Private charter flight
Anadyr to Nome \$ 1,000 pp

Price Includes:

Local payment (payable on board), 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

15 DAY VOYAGE

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



Baidara races © A. Tockston



Polar Bear, Wrangel Island Reserve © A. Russ



Bowhead Whale, Wrangel Island Reserve © M. Carwadine

The Chukotka region is one of 85 regions which make up the Russian Federation, officially known as the Chukotka Autonomous District, 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 nature reserve and World Heritage site Wrangel Island, which has outstanding wildlife values. Sometimes referred to as the world's 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 and 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 *Karluk* and it features in other Arctic exploration stories.

On this special Chukotka expedition we will meet the locals; see and listen to their stories and experience 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 and, if we are lucky, we may also see a Wolverine. We will explore Wrangel Island with its Polar Bears, walrus and rich Arctic history, while at sea we will look out for whales.

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 200 kilometres 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 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 Zodiac cruise spectacular bird cliffs which could provide great photographic opportunities. We also plan time exploring the rich tundra landscape for birds and plants.

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. Whale bones stretch along the beach in the form of a pathway for nearly half a kilometre. Gray Whales are frequently seen in the vicinity and there may be a chance to go whale-watching by Zodiac. This afternoon we plan a landing at nearby Gil'mimyl Hot Springs.

Day 6: Cape Dezhnev

Sea conditions permitting, we plan to land at Cape Dezhnev early this morning; this is the north-eastern most point of the Eurasian continent. The name 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). Nearby is the former Inuit village of Naukan, the inhabitants were relocated to nearby villages by the Soviet administration in 1958, but photographs and stories make the site come alive.

Day 7: At Sea

Relax as we navigate northwards towards Wrangel Island. Ice conditions will determine our speed and course, and



Walrus viewing from Zodiac, Wrangel Island Reserve © A Russ

will ultimately dictate whether we will actually be able to reach the island.

Days 8 to 10: Wrangel Island

As we approach the island we will spend time searching the ice for Polar Bears, Ringed Seals and walrus. Should there be opportunities to land we will 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 and will be utilising the local knowledge of the Park Rangers to make multiple landings and Zodiac cruise the ice.



Ground Squirrel © S Blanc

Day 11: At Sea

We sail south towards Kolyuchin Island. The day is filled with illustrated lectures, opportunities to spend time on deck, relaxing in the ship's bar and catching up with some reading or download and editing photos.

Day 12: Kolyuchin Island/Kolyuchin Inlet

This morning we plan a landing and/or Zodiac cruise at Kolyuchin Island. When the ice recedes large numbers of walrus sometimes haul out on the island. At the western end of the island is the remains of a Polar Research Station and nearby are some amazing bird cliffs, where it is possible to get magnificent views (and photographs) of puffins and guillemots. 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 'birding'.

Day 13: Lavrentiya and the Annual Beringia Regatta and Festival

We plan to be here for opening day of the annual Beringia Regatta and Festival which includes Baidara (traditional walrus skin covered boats) races as well as cultural group performances and games. It is one of the most colourful festivals in the Chukotka calendar and attracts people from many villages. There will be a range

of activities at the Regatta and Festival, local foods for you to sample and souvenirs to purchase. This is a festival that gets to the very heart and soul of the people, their culture and their land.

Day 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.



6 – 20 July 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2005

5 – 19 July 2021

VOYAGE #SOE2126 & VOYAGE #SHO2104

Prices:	2020	2021
Heritage Suite	\$11,500 pp*	\$12,000 pp*
Mini Suite	\$10,900 pp*	\$11,300 pp*
Superior Plus	\$10,500 pp*	\$10,800 pp*
Superior	\$ 9,900 pp*	\$10,200 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 9,400 pp*	\$ 9,800 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 8,200 pp*	\$ 8,500 pp*

*The price listed includes the additional local payment of \$500 which is payable in US\$ cash onboard the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Additional Option:

Private charter flight
Nome to Anadyr to Nome \$ 2,000 pp

Price Includes:

Local payment (payable on board), 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.



Polar Bear, Wrangel Island Reserve © M Kelly



ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD

15 DAY VOYAGE | TO WRANGEL & HERALD ISLANDS

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

The voyage journeys through the narrow Bering Strait, which separates Russia from the United States of America, and then travels west along the Chukotka coastline before crossing the De Long Strait to Wrangel Island. There we will spend four to five days under the guidance of local rangers on the nature reserve. Untouched by glaciers during the last ice age, this island is a treasure trove of Arctic biodiversity and is perhaps best known for the multitude of Polar Bears that breed here. We hope to catch many glimpses of this beautiful animal. 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 Oxen and Snow Geese can normally be seen further inland. A visit to massive bird cliffs on nearby Herald Island is also planned. The 'mammoth steppe' vegetation complex, a rich and diverse relic from the Pleistocene epoch, nurtures over 400 plant species and never fails to astound visitors with its sublime beauty. The number and type of endemic plant species, the diversity within plant communities, the presence of relatively recent mammoth tusks and skulls, a range of terrain types and geological formations in the small geographical space are all visible evidence of Wrangel Island's rich natural history and its unique evolutionary status within the Arctic.

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



Cape Dezhnev © H Ahern

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 ship. We will depart when everybody is on board.

Day 2: Anadyrskiy Bay

At sea today, there will be some briefings and lectures. There is also a chance for some 'birding' and cetacean watching as we settle into ship life. Later this afternoon we plan to Zodiac cruise some of the 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, where 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.

Day 4: Cape Dezhnev and Uelen Village

Sea conditions permitting, we will land at Cape Dezhnev early this morning. The



Cotton grass, Wrangel Island Reserve © J Carnish



Polar Bear, Wrangel Island Reserve © Y Smitiuk

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.

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



Musk Oxen, Wrangel Island Reserve © E Hill



Arctic Fox cub, Wrangel Island Reserve © E Hill

EXCLUSIVE EXPEDITIONS (SEE PAGE 22)

Wrangel Island Overland Traverse

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.



Walrus © M Carwadine



Snowy Owl, Wrangel Island Reserve © I Menyshina

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 Diomedes 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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.

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



Local culture © H Ahern



13 – 27 July 2020

VOYAGE #SHO2027

3 – 17 August 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2009

17 – 31 August 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2011

19 July – 2 August 2021

VOYAGE #SHO2106

2 – 16 August 2021

VOYAGE #SOE2130 & VOYAGE #SHO2108

16 – 30 August 2021

VOYAGE #SOE2132 & VOYAGE #SHO2110

Prices:	2020	2021
Heritage Suite	\$13,800 pp*	\$14,300 pp*
Mini Suite	\$13,000 pp*	\$13,500 pp*
Superior Plus	\$12,500 pp*	\$13,100 pp*
Superior	\$11,500 pp*	\$12,000 pp*
Main Deck	\$10,500 pp*	\$10,900 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 9,500 pp*	\$ 9,850 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional local payment of \$500 which is payable in US\$ cash onboard the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Additional Option:

Private charter flight
Nome to Anadyr to Nome \$ 2,000 pp

Price Includes:

Local payment (payable on board) pre/post cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation, meals and all expedition shore excursions.

Price Excludes:

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

JEWEL OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

13 DAY VOYAGE

THE CHUKOTKA, KORYAK AND KAMCHATKA COASTLINE



Red Fox, Koryakskiy Reserve © J Mishina



Walrus and Zodiac, Wrangel Island Reserve © K Ovsvyanikova



Kamchatka Brown Bear with cubs, Koryakskiy Reserve © J Mishina

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.

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 ship.

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 40 kilometre-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.



Chukchi dancer © A Breniere

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 be able to see a number of them.



Horned Puffin © G Brefon

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: Karaginskii Island

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

Days 9 to 10: Commander Islands

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

Day 11: Olga Bay

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

the background here provide a beautiful setting to explore real Kamchatka wilderness.

Day 12: Zhupanova River

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 ship 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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.



31 August – 12 September 2020
VOYAGE #SOE2013

30 August – 12 September 2021
VOYAGE #SOE2134

Prices:	2020	2021
Heritage Suite	\$10,800 pp*	\$10,800 pp*
Mini Suite	\$10,000 pp*	\$10,000 pp*
Superior Plus	\$ 9,500 pp*	\$ 9,500 pp*
Superior	\$ 8,800 pp*	\$ 8,800 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 8,300 pp*	\$ 8,300 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,700 pp*	\$ 7,700 pp*

*The price listed includes the additional local payment of \$500 which is payable in US\$ cash onboard the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Additional Option:

Private charter flight
Nome to Anadyr \$ 1,000 pp

Price Includes:

Local payment (payable on board), 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.

EXCLUSIVE WRANGLE ISLAND EXTENSIONS

OVERLAND TRAVERSE

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 these 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 off-road traverse across this rugged island is led by rangers from Wrangel Island and offers lucky guests a first-hand experience into the wilds of this remote region. We have been offering these traverses since 2011 and 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 Mountains (also known as the Dream Head Mountains) on the north coast of the island.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

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

Price: \$1,450 (Price per person in US\$)

Price Includes: Transport, accommodation (basic field huts) and meals. (This is in addition to the cost of the cruise).

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

Note: These Wrangel Island extensions are optional activities and conducted in conjunction with our voyages 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 landings that the main expeditions make, possibly including Herald Island, while participating in these extensions.



Tundra Vehicle and hut, Wrangel Island Reserve © E Bell

FLYING TO & 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.

From America: Heritage Expeditions has charter flights from/to Nome, Alaska for 'Across the Top of the World' 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.

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKIY

From Europe: Nonstop direct flights available from Moscow with Aeroflot or indirectly with Siberia Airlines (S7).

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.

YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK

From Europe: Nonstop direct flights available from Moscow with Aeroflot, or indirectly with Siberia Airlines (S7).

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.

INDONESIAN EXPLORER

14 DAY VOYAGE

DISCOVER PARADISE AMONG INDONESIA'S LOST ISLANDS



Biak Caves © A Russ



Swimming with Whale Shark © D Brown



Red Bird-of-paradise © D Brown



Zodiac cruising © A Russ



Wayag Island © A Russ

A true expedition voyage in every sense, our journey will explore Indonesia's rarely-visited and little known biodiverse-rich jungle-capped volcanic islands scattered across pristine pellucid waters well beyond traditional tourist routes. Join us and discover a true paradise where untouched dense jungles home to some of the rarest flora and fauna on the planet meet crystalline tropical waters teeming with exotic marine life and some of the world's best coral reefs all wrapped in a land steeped in history and rich in culture and tradition.

Comprised of some 18,000 islands, this South East Asian archipelago's fascinating human history dates back almost 2 million years to the fossilised remains of Homo erectus/'Java Man' discovered in the early 1890s, while ancient rock art waits in hidden caves on renowned Misool Island. European arrival saw Portuguese spice traders chasing the fragrant bounty of nutmeg and cloves in the 16th Century, this was followed by Dutch colonisation then Japanese occupation during World War II before Indonesia regained its independence in 1949 (excluding the Dutch territory of West New Guinea).

While still a heavy hitter on the spice trading scene, Indonesia is now attracting attention for having one of the

richest concentrations of flora and fauna on the planet. One of the world's 17 mega diverse countries, Indonesia is home to 2 of the planet's 25 biodiversity hotspots, 18 of the World Wildlife Fund's Global 200 ecoregions and 24 of BirdLife International's Endemic Bird Areas. Its dense forests, jungles, oceans and waterways we will be exploring boast more than 25,000 species of flowering plants (40 per cent of which are endemic), 1,592 bird species (430 of which are endemic and 114 considered extremely threatened), 1,051 reptile and amphibian species, 515 species of mammal and half of the world's fish species. For botanists, birders and nature lovers alike, this expedition offers numerous opportunities to spot once-in-a-lifetime species and experience rare wildlife encounters on remote and unknown islands.

Indonesia's extraordinary diversity also extends to its population where more than 300 ethnic groups, many with their own set of customs, cultures and languages, live scattered throughout the archipelago. Our expedition embraces some of these cultures with visits planned to some of these villages. Sublime wildlife, incredible underwater encounters, exceptional birding and thrilling cultural exchanges await on 'Indonesian Explorer'.

Day 1: Sorong, Indonesia

One of the fastest growing locations in Indonesia, Sorong is the starting point of our expedition. Meet your fellow travellers at a central city location and transfer to the ship. Settle into your cabin and meet your expedition team and captain for a welcome on board.

Day 2: Misool Island

Part of the Sultanate of Tidore during the spice trade wars, Misool Island is the second largest island in the aquatic wonderland that is Raja Ampat (aka Four Kings Islands, named after its four main islands) and our introduction to this stunning marine environment. Discover caves hidden among verdant forests featuring rock art dating back more than 5,000 years, while under its protected waters Dugong, Bumphead Parrotfish, Clownfish, Manta Rays, Ghost Pipefish, Harlequin Shrimp, Pygmy Seahorse and more can be found among spectacular coral gardens and sea-cave cemeteries. We aim to explore the labyrinth of caves and passages including the water-filled dome-topped network of Tomolol Caves and enjoy the extraordinary experience of swimming among thousands of stingless jellyfish.

Day 3: Kofiau Island

Kofiau Island is an ancient slice of isolated continental crust covered in lush rainforest, the least visited among the major islands in Raja Ampat and ours to explore. Activities on offer during the day include snorkelling and exploring the island where we will be on the lookout for the endemic birds Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher and Kofiau Monarch, lime-green Kofiau Green-tree Python and, if lucky, the Red Bird-of-paradise.

Days 4 to 6: Raja Ampat

Lapped by stunning turquoise waters, Raja Ampat's collection of 1,500 tiny, jungle-cloaked islands are Indonesia's least developed and easternmost islands. Forming part of the Coral Triangle (one of the most biodiverse marine habitats on the planet), we plan to spend 3 days exploring the bounty of rainforest corals, shoals of fish, ocean-carved limestone formations and jungles of this tropical paradise of forgotten islands. Spotting the Wilson's Bird-of-paradise and Red Bird-of-paradise will be high on our agenda, with two early morning visits ensuring the best opportunity to see these spectacular birds in their natural habitat. If we are lucky we may also spot the Lesser Bird-of-paradise.

Day 7: Amsterdam Island

Part of the Su Islands (Mios Su) or the Soe Island Group, a cluster of small islands off the northern coast of Western New Guinea, our visit to little-known and explored Amsterdam Island channels the true expedition nature of our voyage providing an opportunity to explore this pristine environment very few have seen.

Day 8: Manokwari and Arfak Mountains

Located at the top of the Bird's Head Peninsula and surrounded by lush rolling hills and imposing spine of the Arfak Mountains, Manokwari is the capital of West Papua. Here we plan to travel into the Arfak Mountains to the Pegunungan

Arfak Nature Reserve and enjoy the rare opportunity of exploring the higher elevations and misty tropical montane rainforests with their exceptional suite of endemic plants, animals and birds. During our journey we will be on the lookout for the Western Parotia, Vogelkop Bowerbird and Magnificent Bird-of-paradise among the region's 320 bird species.

Day 9: Cenderawasih Marine Park

Enjoy an unforgettable day swimming with the iconic Whale Sharks of Cenderawasih Bay. One of the best places in the world to snorkel with these gentle giants, we aim to visit the local fishermen's Bagans (handmade floating platforms) where these mega-fish, hopeful of catching smaller fish escaping fishermen's nets, are known to congregate. This spectacular 15,000-square-kilometre marine park is also home to some of the finest coral reef examples in the world and 18 tropical islands where 209 species of fish, 4 species of turtle, dolphin and Blue Whale can be seen.

Day 10: Biak and Supiori Islands

Exploring the seldom-visited remote coasts, white sand beaches and crystalline waters of twin islands Biak and Supiori in the Schouten Islands archipelago of Cenderawasih Bay is our plan for today. Separated by a narrow mangrove-lined channel, the islands boast the highest endemic diversity in Papua including 17 endemic birds. Among the species we may encounter are the Long-tailed Honey-buzzard, Red-capped Flowerpecker, Yellow-bibbed Fruit-dove, Geelvink Imperial-pigeon, Biak Black Flycatcher and Numfor Paradise-kingfisher and Leaf Warbler. A snorkel excursion exploring the abundant marine life and pristine reefs is also planned.

Day 11: Mamberamo River

Flanked by tropical rainforest and at around 800-kilometres long, the biologically-rich Mamberamo River is considered the Amazon of Papua. Snaking through dense, unexplored and unspoiled terrain it sustains a plethora of wildlife including wallabies, tree shrews, crocodiles, frogs, butterflies, endemic birds and hundreds of species of plants, as well as a number of traditional tribes who are largely cut off from the outside world. We plan to Zodiac cruise the river's mouth searching for wildlife and visit local tribal people.

Day 12: Jayapura

The peaceful paradise of Lake Sentani, the glittering freshwater lake reflecting the steep, verdant mountains in the Cyclops Strict Nature Reserve of Papua's capital Jayapura, is renowned for its famous artifacts, traditional motifs, pottery, woodworking and bark paintings. Taking local buses, we will journey to the seldom visited lake's edge before enlisting traditional longboats, passing stilt houses, as we navigate its many islands. Experience local culture in the form of dance and artists at work making bark paintings and bride money, visit the small church built at the beginning of the 20th Century and World War II monument to General Douglas MacArthur on Gunung Ifar

for breathtaking lake views before returning to the ship for lunch and sailing towards Vanimo and Papua New Guinea.

Day 13: Murik Lakes/Sepik River, Papua New Guinea

Undoubtedly a highlight on our voyage, we plan to explore by Zodiac the intricate network of lagoons and mangroves surrounding this cluster of salt and freshwater lakes sustaining a myriad of wildlife where the Sepik River (the longest in Papua New Guinea) joins the Bismarck Sea. Used as a staging location for barge traffic by the Japanese during World War II, it is also the location of at least four Allied aircraft that were lost or abandoned between 1943 and 1944. Home to more than 100 villages and inspiring the region's renowned Sepik art, we expect to enjoy their hospitality and handiwork first hand.

Day 14: Madang

The self appointed 'Prettiest Town in the South Pacific', Madang is bound by lush rainforest, calm blue waters studded with volcanic islands, 34-sunken ship dive sites, Tupira's supreme surf break, flourishing coral gardens and rich history.

For those disembarking, a transfer to a central hotel, or the airport, will conclude your voyage, OR continue the adventure with us on 'Melanesia Discoverer'.

Enquire for a full itinerary.



28 September – 11 October 2020
VOYAGE #SOE2054

Prices:	2019
Heritage Suite	\$12,100 pp*
Mini Suite	\$11,300 pp*
Superior Plus	\$10,300 pp*
Superior	\$ 9,595 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 8,595 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,595 pp*

*The price listed includes the additional discovery fund local payment of \$600 which is payable in US\$ cash on board the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Discovery fund (payable on board) pre/post cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation with meals and all shore excursions and activities. 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.

MELANESIA DISCOVERER

14 DAY
VOYAGE

EXPLORING PAPUA NEW GUINEA & THE SOLOMON ISLANDS



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 among the first travellers to return to Bougainville in more than 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.

Throughout Melanesia there are spectacular reefs, which are home to masses of fish and coral gardens of every colour. These waters 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 swimming, this ocean aquarium is waiting to be explored and discovered.

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. Late morning we board the ship, settle into your cabin and join the captain and your expedition team on the bridge as we set sail.



Blyth's Hornbill © Heritage Expeditions

Day 3: Sepik River

Sure to be one of the highlights of our expedition. The Sepik River, the longest in Papua New Guinea, is a rich arterial river 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 island is home to a high proportion of endemic species including the Superb Pitta which is likely to be one of the birding highlights of the expedition. The waters around Manus offer some of the most spectacular reefs in the region, seldom explored waters promising a myriad of opportunities.

Day 6: Mussa Island

Mussa Island represents one of the westernmost 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

Evidence from Japan's World War II occupation is prevalent in historic Kavieng. 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 crystalline 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 the magnificent views of the harbour and volcanoes from Observatory Ridge.

Day 9: Nissan Island

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

Day 10: Bougainville Island

We plan to be among 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 water. We plan to explore the area around Arawa, which offers great opportunities to access the island and its 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 can still be found here. 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.



Hawksbill Turtles hatching © A Russ

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, 6 species of bats, and at least 7 species of terrestrial reptiles. Sensational snorkelling can also 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. Touring Honiara we visit historical sites including Henderson Airfield, war memorials and the open-air war museum, while the birders head to the slopes of rainforest on Mount Austen in search of some of the Solomon Islands' most spectacular birds including the Solomon Sea Eagle.

For those disembarking, a transfer to either a central city hotel, or to the airport, will conclude your voyage OR join us to discover the 'Secrets of Melanesia'.

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



10 – 23 October 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2056

Prices:

2020

Heritage Suite	\$12,100 pp*
Mini Suite	\$11,300 pp*
Superior Plus	\$10,300 pp*
Superior	\$ 9,595 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 8,595 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 7,595 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional discovery fund local payment of \$600 which is payable in US\$ cash on board the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Additional Option:

Birding Supplement \$ 500 pp

Price Includes:

Discovery fund (payable on board) pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals and all shore excursions and activities excluding optional, specialised birding supplement. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

Price Excludes:

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

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

SECRETS OF MELANESIA

12 DAY VOYAGE

EXPLORING THE SOLOMON ISLANDS & VANUATU



Nendo Island culture © S Noakes



Tropical island bound © R Rudland



Village welcome © S Noakes

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 and on to Vanuatu. 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 centred around the village and family. Malaita is culturally rich, the traditional currency, Malaitan shell money, is still made on the island and is used as a dowry, and worn as a status symbol.

Vanuatu has produced a kaleidoscope of cultures, and more than 100 indigenous languages. With over 80 habitable islands, islanders have closely guarded their own cultures and languages. Our expedition embraces

some of these cultures and languages, as well as a window into one of the happiest places on the planet.

On our journey you will also have the opportunity to experience some of the greatest underwater encounters in the world, with an abundance of marine life and coral gardens drawing 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, and 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 is an optional, specialised birding programme with customised excursions. A picture postcard paradise awaits as we uncover the 'Secrets of Melanesia'.

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 hotel.

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 your ship 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 Leli Island is the ideal snorkel site.

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 and the location of the Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña de Neira's unsuccessful attempt at establishing a colony in 1595. It is also 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 are largely cut off from the outside world; we learn about their continued use of traditional sailing canoes.



Zodiac: adventure © Heritage Expeditions

Day 8: Vanikoro

Today we explore the archipelago of Vanikoro, with its five islands encapsulated by a dramatic barrier reef which offers superb snorkelling. French explorer Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de La Pérouse famously disappeared 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 Duville in 1827. Join the naturalists on a forest walk in search of the endemic Vanikoro 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.



Birdlife © E Hill

Day 9: Vanua Lava

This morning we arrive in Vanuatu at the northern outpost of Vanua Lava, the largest island in the Banks Islands, crowned by active volcano 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 beachcombing, the surrounding waters 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. Indulge in a swim in the crystalline waters of Champagne Beach with its famed powdery white sand. This afternoon we will enjoy Zodiac cruises to the iconic blue holes of Santo. For those with an interest in the history of the island, there is a visit to Lugainville and Million Dollar Point.

Day 11: Ambrym

The ship will visit Ambrym, 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 Ambrym 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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.



22 October – 2 November 2020
VOYAGE #SOE2058

Prices:	2019
Heritage Suite	\$10,095 pp*
Mini Suite	\$ 9,350 pp*
Superior Plus	\$ 8,700 pp*
Superior	\$ 8,095 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 7,095 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 6,095 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional discovery fund local payment of \$600 which is payable in US\$ cash on board the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Additional Option:

Birding Supplement \$ 450 pp

Price Includes:

Discovery fund (payable on board) pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals and all shore excursions and activities excluding optional, specialised birding supplement. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

Price Excludes:

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



WESTERN PACIFIC ODYSSEY

31 DAY VOYAGE | INCLUDING BONIN ISLANDS!



Arrival into a local village © Heritage Expeditions



Short-tailed Albatross © A Russ



Kagu © T Palfiser



Bird watching © B Mercer

Known in birding circles as the 'WPO', this expedition incorporates many key birding areas in the West Pacific. First offered in 2007, it is now considered one of the 'must do' expeditions for any birder because of its opportunities to see some of the rarest pelagic seabirds in the world, plus many island endemics. But it is not just for 'birders', as the cetacean list is outstanding. And if you ever tire of birding or cetacean watching, then there are numerous options for snorkelling, swimming and relaxing.

After departing Tauranga, we sail for the Hauraki Gulf where there are numerous endemic species, including the recently discovered New Zealand Storm-petrel. From there it's northward to Norfolk Island. Next stop is New Caledonia where we search for the amazing Kagu and other endemic bird species at Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue.

We then spend six exciting days in the Solomon Islands birding on Nendö, Santa Ana, Makira, Guadalcanal (Mt Austin), Tetepare and Kolombangara, before cruising across the New Britain Trench, an area known to be extremely rich in cetaceans. As we sail along the coasts of Bougainville and New Ireland, we will look for two rarely seen seabirds: Heinroth's Shearwater and the critically endangered Beck's Petrel.

Next stop is Truk Island (Micronesia) for some more intensive birding. We will then set a course for the Bonin Islands south of Japan; our route will take us to Chichi-jima, Torishima Island and Hachijo-jima, where we will look for the last specialities of the expedition.

Our voyage will then conclude at Yokohama in Japan. This expedition is accompanied by some of the best pelagic birding guides in the world who have extensive experience of the seabirds of the West Pacific and have visited the islands we will be landing on multiple times. Birding starts at dawn and finishes at sundown. Our guides are there throughout the day to assist you and the 'reading of the bird list' each evening is legendary for its detail and discussion.

Day 1: Tauranga, New Zealand

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

Day 2: Hauraki Gulf

Our seabirding starts in the Hauraki Gulf where we will look for the critically endangered New Zealand Storm-petrel as well as the Little Penguin, Grey Ternlet, Buller's, Fluttering and Little Shearwaters, as well as Grey-faced and Black Petrels.

Days 3 to 4: At Sea

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

Day 5: Norfolk Island

After clearing Australian Customs, we plan to visit Norfolk Island's remnant forest, home to four endemics – the Norfolk Island Parakeet, Norfolk Gerygone, Norfolk Robin and Slender-billed White-eye.

Day 6: At Sea

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

Day 7: New Caledonia

We visit the Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue where we will search for the unique Kagu, we hope to get good views of this extraordinary bird. Other endemics and localised species that we might see include the New Caledonian (Goliath) Imperial-pigeon and (White-bellied) Goshawk, New Caledonian and Horned Parakeets, New Caledonian Cuckooshrike, Crow Honeyeaters, Yellow-bellied Robin and Red-throated Parrotfinch.

Day 8: New Caledonia and At Sea

This morning on the forested slopes of Mount Koghi we will be looking for New Caledonian Goshawk, South Melanesian Cuckooshrike, Streaked Fantail, Southern Shrikebill, New Caledonian Crow and New Caledonian Grassbird. We then plan to sail around the southern tip of New Caledonia looking for the New Caledonian Storm-petrel. This intriguing bird was first found on the WPO expedition in 2008 and has been seen several times since. Although seemingly closely related to New Zealand Storm-petrel, there are a number of important differences and it is now considered a long-lost species collected in Samoa more than 200 years ago, and not seen since!

Days 9 to 10: At Sea

Enjoy leisurely days at sea, new seabirds could include Polynesian Storm-petrel, Tropical Shearwater, Providence Petrel, Vanuatu Petrel, Collared Petrel and Tahiti Petrel.

Day 11: Nendö – Temotu Province

The largest of the Santa Cruz Islands, Nendö has several localised endemics, during our time ashore we hope to find Temotu Whistler, Sanford's White-eye and Santa Cruz White-eye. Other possibilities include Red-bellied Fruit-dove, Pacific Imperial-pigeon and Cardinal Myzomela.

Day 12: Santa Ana, Solomon Islands

Santa Ana is one of the most easterly of the main islands in the Solomon Islands archipelago and has a distinctive avifauna. We can expect birds such as Silver-capped Fruit-dove mixed with Makiran endemics. Santa Ana is home to an endemic and highly distinctive subspecies of Rufous Fantail, and we will also be looking for Sanford's (Solomon) Sea-eagle and Oriole Whistler.

Day 13: Anuta Island in the Makira Group

Anuta is a small inshore island on the western side of Makira Island. Birding treasures that we can expect to see including the White-headed Fruit-dove, Chestnut-bellied Imperial-pigeon, Makira Honeyeater (San Cristobal Melidectes), San Cristobal Starling, Makira Flycatcher, Makira Cicadabird, White-collared Monarch, Sooty Myzomela and Mottled Flowerpecker. Other species could include Red-knobbed and Island Imperial-pigeon, Brahminy Kite, Pied Goshawk and Pacific Baza. We will also enjoy the local hospitality.

Day 14: Honiara, Guadalcanal

We will anchor off Honiara and depart before dawn for Mount Austin. The birding here is exceptional and the specialities we could see include Ultramarine Kingfisher, Solomons Cuckooshrike, Chestnut-bellied Monarch, Steel-blue Flycatcher, Midget Flowerpecker, Brown-winged Starling and Black-headed Myzomela. There should also be numbers of parrots and pigeons, including the Yellow-bibbed Lory, Ducorps' Cockatoo and Red-knobbed Imperial-pigeon.

Day 15: Tetepare Island

Tetepare is a community run reserve located in the New Georgia islands. There are a number of new Solomon endemics to look for here including the highly localised Dark-eyed White-eye. Other possibilities include Melanesian Scrubfowl, Claret-breasted Fruit-dove, Island Imperial-pigeon, Buff-headed Coucal, Crimson-rumped Myzomela, Cockerell's Fantail and Kolombangara Monarch. If we are extremely fortunate, both Nicobar Pigeon and Solomons Nightjar may be seen.

Day 16: Kolombangara Island

We intend to head into the hills to visit the Imbu Rano Conservation Area to explore dense upland forest. We hope to see the spectacular Sanford's (Solomon) Sea-eagle, Cardinal, Duchess and Meek's Lorikeets, White-capped Monarch, Crimson-rumped Myzomela, Ducorps' Cockatoo and Metallic and Singing Starling. We may also look for the elusive Roviana Rail as we leave the reserve and will be scanning the cetacean-rich seas for whales and dolphins. Birders will also want to keep a lookout for Heinroth's Shearwater.

Day 17: Off the coast of Bougainville

Today we are at sea off Bougainville and hope to see Heinroth's Shearwater. These waters are also great for cetaceans including Sperm Whale, False Killer Whale and Fraser's Dolphin.

Day 18: Off the coast of New Ireland

Today we cruise along the coast of New Ireland, where our target is the critically endangered and poorly known Beck's Petrel with an additional chance for spotting the Heinroth's Shearwater. Cetaceans to look for include Melon-headed Whale, Dwarf and Pygmy Sperm Whales and Orca.

Days 19 to 20: At Sea

Crossing the Equator we will be on the lookout for the following species: Bulwer's Petrel, Tropical Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird and the Sooty Tern.

Days 21 to 22: Caroline Islands

On Weno Island we hope to find Purple-capped Fruit-dove, Oceanic Flycatcher, Caroline Reed Warbler, Caroline Islands Swiftlet, Caroline Islands White-eye, Micronesian Myzomela and Micronesian Starling. There may also be an optional excursion to Tol South to look for the endemic Teardrop (or Great Truk) White-eye and Chuuk Monarch.

Days 23 to 26: At Sea

The birding can be quiet but as we head northwards, new species could include Matsudaira's Storm-petrel, Bonin Petrel as well as Bannerman's and Christmas Shearwaters. As we approach the Bonin Islands, we stand a good chance of finding Humpback Whales.

Day 27: Chichi-jima Island

After clearing into Japan at the largest of the Bonin Islands, Chichi-jima, we will be looking for Japanese Bush Warbler, Blue Rock Thrush, Brown-eared Bulbul and Japanese White-eye. This afternoon we will look for the critically endangered Bryan's Shearwater, this species is only known to breed on a small islet off Chichi-jima. We should also see good numbers of Bannerman's Shearwaters.

Day 28: At Sea

Seabird possibilities today could include the Tristram's Storm-petrel, Bonin Petrel and Bannerman's Shearwater.

Day 29: Torishima Island

Landings are not permitted but we cruise offshore and hope to find Short-tailed Albatross. Other species could include Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses, Streaked Shearwater, Tristram's and Matsudaira's Storm-petrels.

Day 30: Hachijo-jima Island

Located in the Izu Islands archipelago, Hachijo-jima is home to the endemic Izu Thrush, Ijima's Leaf-warbler and Owston's Tit. We will also look for Japanese Wood Pigeon, Japanese Pygmy Woodpecker, Japanese (Izu) Robin and Japanese Murrelet.

Day 31: Yokohama, Japan

Disembark the ship and transfer to Yokohama railway station.

For a complete species overview, request a Bird and Mammal List and full itinerary.



13 March – 12 April 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2075

1 April – 1 May 2021

VOYAGE #SOE2176

Prices:	2020	2021
Mini Suite	\$13,900 pp*	\$14,570 pp*
Superior Plus	\$11,700 pp*	\$12,260 pp*
Superior	\$11,100 pp*	\$11,630 pp*
Main Deck	\$10,200 pp*	\$10,680 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional discovery fund local payment of \$600 which is payable in US\$ cash on board the ship. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Discovery fund (payable on board) pre-cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions, transfer from ship to Yokohama railway station.

Price Excludes:

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



BIRDING DOWN UNDER

19 DAY
VOYAGE

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND
& AUSTRALIA PLUS THE CHATHAM ISLANDS



White-capped Albatross © A Russ



Cape Petrels and Zodiac © R Robinson



Royal Penguins courting © N Russ



Elephant Seal and Gentoö Penguin © G Jones

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 here – that is at least 11 per cent 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 Islands' archipelago with similar status and protection.

This expedition has huge appeal to pelagic enthusiasts, penguin fanatics and those interested in island endemics. Though you don't have to be a keen birder 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 more than 20 years, so you will benefit from the knowledge and expertise gained over that time.

Day 1: Invercargill

This evening there will be an informal get together at the hotel for dinner; an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers and some of our expedition team.

Day 2: Port of Bluff

Take breakfast at your leisure in the hotel restaurant before exploring the local attractions and transferring to the port of Bluff where we board the ship.

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. We should also see Cape Pigeons, Antarctic Terns, White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls. There are hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters nesting here and the Buller's Albatross also breed here from late December onwards.

Day 4: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a great place to view birds and wildlife. We visit Sandy Bay, the main breeding ground for the rare New Zealand (Hooker's) Sea Lion and just one of three breeding grounds on the Auckland Islands. There are chances to observe the Southern Royal Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Auckland Island Shag, Auckland Island Flightless Teal, Auckland Island Banded Dotterel, Auckland Island Tomtit, Bellbird, Pipit, Red-crowned Parakeet, Yellow-eyed Penguin and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. We will also keep a lookout for the rare Subantarctic Snipe. On Derry Castle Reef there is a good chance of seeing the Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and 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 often nest among 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 regal Royal Penguin breeds, this remote outpost supports a breath-taking concentration of wildlife. You will never forget your first experience of visiting 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, passing beautiful megaherbs on the hills. During the day we should see the Campbell Island Shag and Teal, Southern Skua, Antarctic Tern, Dunnock, New Zealand Pipit and, hopefully, the elusive Campbell Island Snipe.



Campbell Island Snipe © A Fergus

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 these 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 will see a subtle change in the species composition. Late this afternoon we arrive at the spectacular Pyramid Rock, the only breeding site 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, where we plan a 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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.



12 – 30 November 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2060

Prices:	2020
Heritage Suite	\$17,300 pp*
Mini Suite	\$16,200 pp*
Superior Plus	\$15,500 pp*
Superior	\$14,450 pp*
Main Deck	\$12,950 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$12,050 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional landing fees of \$800. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Landing fees, pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals and all expedition shore excursions.

Price Excludes:

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



GALAPAGOS OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

13 DAY VOYAGE

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA



Royal Penguin © S Blanc



Zodiac cruising, Musgrave Inlet © S Gutowsky



Yellow-eyed Penguins © K Ovsyanikova

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 it was only natural that his family should travel with him, what wasn't predicted was that they would join him in the business and be as passionate about the conservation of this region as he is. Now, many years

and over 100 expeditions later, Rodney's sons Aaron and Nathan continue their father's enthusiasm and legacy for this region with Heritage Expeditions. 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 renowned 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.

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 expedition team welcome you on board the ship and, as you settle into your cabin, our adventure begins.

Day 3: The Snares – North East Island

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

Day 4: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

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

Day 5: Auckland Islands – Carnley Harbour

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

Day 6: At Sea

As we make our way through an area known as the Furious Fifties in the tumultuous Southern Ocean, we will learn more about the flora and fauna as we prepare for our arrival at Macquarie Island. En route there are great birding opportunities which may include



Tomtit and *Bulbinella rossi* © A. Fergus



Elephant Seals challenging each other among King Penguins and Royal Penguins © L Gwynn

the Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. We will endeavour to spot the Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion – never an easy task – but we should get some great views. Other species to be on the lookout for include the Soft-plumaged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and the Black-bellied Storm-Petrel.

Days 7 to 8: Macquarie Island

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

Day 9: At Sea

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

Days 10 to 11: Campbell Island – Perseverance Harbour

We spend two days exploring the island by foot taking in the panorama of rocky islets and sea stacks; once the lonely preserve of settlers and seal hunters and now returned to nature. Enjoy an easy walk to the nesting site of the Southern Royal Albatross at Col Lyall or walk across the hills to Northwest Bay and see the strange and beautiful megaherbs growing on the hills. These huge pink and yellow wild flowers have adapted well to the harsh conditions. We also seek out other wildlife such as Campbell Island Shags, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross and, on the beaches beyond, young male sea lions testing their strength.

Day 12: At Sea

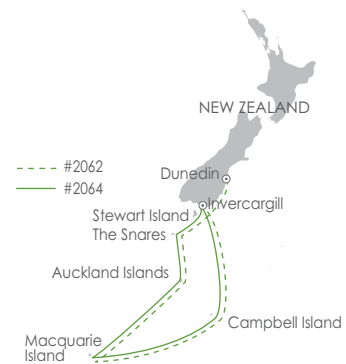
At sea en route to the Port of Bluff, take the opportunity to relax and reflect on an amazing

experience. We will recap the highlights of our expedition and enjoy a farewell dinner tonight as we complete the last few miles of our journey.

Day 13: Invercargill

We arrive at the Port of Bluff early in the morning. After breakfast, customs formalities and a last minute opportunity to bid farewell to your expedition team, you disembark and board our complimentary coach transfer to downtown Invercargill or Invercargill Airport.

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



30 November – 12 December 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2062

(STARTS IN DUNEDIN, CONTACT US FOR ALTERNATE ITINERARY)

11 – 23 December 2020

VOYAGE #SOE2064

Prices:	#2062	#2064
Heritage Suite	\$11,400 pp*	\$11,000 pp*
Mini Suite	\$10,700 pp*	\$10,400 pp*
Superior Plus	\$10,400 pp*	\$10,000 pp*
Superior	\$ 9,600 pp*	\$ 9,300 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 9,100 pp*	\$ 8,950 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 8,550 pp*	\$ 8,300 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional landing fees of \$800. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Landing fees, pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. 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.



FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

8 DAY VOYAGE

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND



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 New Zealand's 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, Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbird – 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.

Day 1: Invercargill

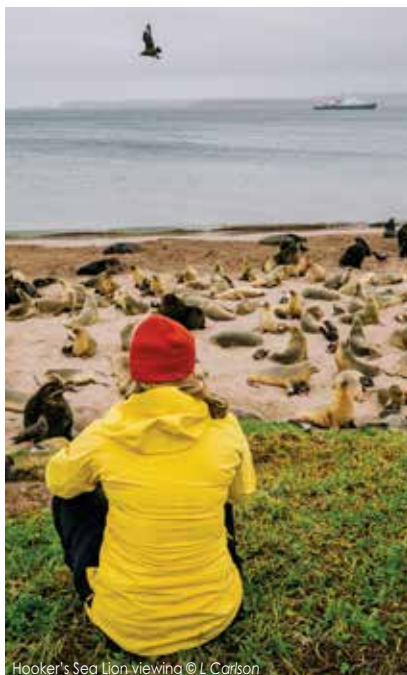
Meet at an Invercargill central city hotel and be transferred to the Port of Bluff for embarkation. The captain and expedition team will be waiting for your arrival on the ship. Familiarise yourself on board and then join the captain on the bridge, or fellow travellers on deck, as we set sail and our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

Day 2: The Snares – North East Island

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

Day 3: Auckland Islands – Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a wildlife rich island that has no equal in the Southern Ocean. Offering a varying landscape where the Rata forests are regenerating and there is a resurgence of herbaceous plants, it is one of the most beautiful islands in this group. The island is home to the Hooker's, or New Zealand, Sea Lion which breeds on Sandy Bay beach where we plan to land. This animal is the rarest sea lion in the world.



Hooker's Sea Lion viewing © L Carlson

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.



Yellow-eyed Penguin © E Bell

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 is 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, 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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.



23 – 30 December 2020
VOYAGE #SOE2066

FUTURE DATES
SEE WEBSITE

Prices:	2020
Heritage Suite	\$ 6,900 pp*
Mini Suite	\$ 6,400 pp*
Superior Plus	\$ 6,000 pp*
Superior	\$ 5,600 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 5,400 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 5,000 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional landing fees of \$400. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Landing fees, 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.

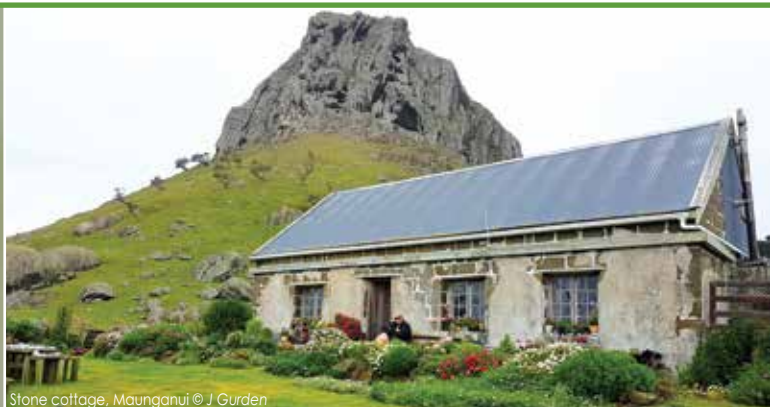
CHATHAM ISLANDS – A LAND APART

10 DAY
VOYAGE

INCLUDING THE ANTIPODES AND BOUNTY ISLANDS



Erect Crested Penguins © L Gwynn



Stone cottage, Maunganui © J Gurden



Little Mangere Island © K @svyanikova



Awatotara Valley © Heritage Expeditions

Discover amazing endemic wildlife, meet the locals and experience conservation in action as we journey through the incredibly-diverse archipelagos of the Chatham, Antipodes and Bounty Islands.

Their first inhabitants, the Moriori, called them 'Rekhou' (misty skies), the Europeans who rediscovered them in 1791 named them the Chatham Islands after their ship, while Maori, who didn't settle the islands until 1835, called them 'Wharekauri'. Today, most New Zealanders know them as the last place mentioned in their daily weather forecast, but some might also know them as the home of the endangered Black Robin.

The Chatham archipelago (made up of at least 12 islands, plus numerous islets) lies 870 kilometres east of New Zealand and runs 45 minutes ahead of the rest of the country. The history of these islands and their rich natural history is unique, and it is only recently that these precious islands have begun to be understood and appreciated. Several books, including Rodney Russ' *Galapagos of the Antarctic – Wild Islands to the South of New Zealand* capture some of their beauty and mystique, but it is only by visiting these remarkable islands that one can truly appreciate what they have to offer. During explorations around the archipelago we will hear remarkable stories of rediscovery and

population recovery with the Black Robin and its rescue from the brink of extinction, and the once thought to be extinct Chatham Island Taiko (Magenta Petrel). The ongoing careful management of these critically endangered species serve as beacons of hope and inspiration for conservationists everywhere. Heritage Expeditions has an excellent track record of sighting a number of Chatham Island Taiko during its voyages to the Chatham archipelago and we hope to continue this good fortune during this expedition.

Visiting the Chatham Islands is not difficult, but this expedition is unique and rare, as it includes the seldom visited (and almost impossible to get to) outlying islands. Our journey is also guided by a team of Chatham Island experts whose knowledge will add another dimension to your experience.

This expedition also includes designated UNESCO World Heritage sites The Antipodes and Bounty Islands, which are afforded the highest conservation status and protection by the New Zealand Government (there are also islands that we visit within the Chatham Islands' archipelago with similar status and protection). While no landings are possible at these remote outcrops, islets and stacks, we plan to Zodiac cruise their shorelines if weather conditions are favourable.

Day 1: Invercargill

Make your way to the Ascot Park Hotel for transfer to the ship. Settle into your cabin and join the captain on the bridge, or fellow travellers on deck, as we set sail for the Antipodes Islands.

Day 2: At Sea

Pelagic species commonly seen include Wandering Albatross, Southern Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Campbell Island Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, and the Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. This is one of the few places where Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion occur together; while other species include Soft-plumaged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-petrel, Wilson's Storm-petrel, Black-bellied Storm-petrel and the Common Diving-petrel.

Day 3: Antipodes Islands

The most isolated and perhaps least known of New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands, Antipodes Island has benefited from one of the world's most successful island eradications. Dubbed the 'Million Dollar Mouse', it saw the island declared 'mouse free' in 2018. The island's unique plants and wildlife now thrive following the removal of some 200,000 mice. Landings are not permitted, so if sea conditions are suitable we plan to Zodiac cruise along the coastline looking for the Antipodes Parakeet, the largest of New Zealand's parakeets, which has an entirely green head, the Reischek's Parakeet, a subspecies of the Red-crowned Parakeet found in the Auckland Islands and on the Chatham Islands, as well as the Antipodes subspecies of the New Zealand Pipit. We can also expect to see Erect-crested and Rockhopper Penguins, Antarctic Terns and Kelp Gulls.

Day 4: Bounty Islands

These inhospitable granite knobs, tips of the submerged Bounty Platform, are home



Zodiac cruising - Bounty Islands ©D Brown

to thousands of Salvin's Albatross, Erect-crested Penguins, Fulmar Prions and the endemic Bounty Island Shag – the world's rarest – along with New Zealand Fur Seals. At sea there should be opportunities to see Wandering Albatross, Northern Royal Albatross, Mottled Petrel, Soft-plumaged Petrel, Broad-billed Prion, White-chinned Petrel and Black-bellied Storm-petrel as well as Wilson's Storm-petrel. Other possibilities include White-capped Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Cape Petrel, Antarctic Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Little Shearwater and Grey-backed Storm-petrel.

Days 5 to 8: Chatham Islands

Pelagic birding opportunities as we approach the Chatham Islands include the Chatham Island Petrel and, in the past, we have observed the very rare Chatham Island Taiko (Magenta Petrel), one of New Zealand's most endangered species. Consisting of one large island and numerous smaller islands and rocky islets, only two islands of the Chatham Islands' archipelago are inhabited. Working closely with the Chatham Island people our visit could include:

Chatham Island

The main settlement of Waitangi features a wharf normally bustling with activity where we may see the endemic Chatham Island Shag. Visiting a private reserve in Awatotara Valley there is a good chance to see the endemic Chatham Island Pigeon (once close to extinction), Chatham Island Warbler and Tui.

During our time on the main island our activities may include:

- Visiting small fishing village Owenga and searching for fossilised sharks' teeth at Blind Jim's Creek.
- Discovering the rich history of Maunganui's old stone cottages and seeing the dendroglyphs (tree carvings) at the JM Barker (Hapupu) National Historic Reserve.
- Viewing the island's two endemic shags (cormorants) at Matarakau and endemic plants, including the famed Chatham Island Forget-me-not, at Kaingaroa.
- A visit to the uniquely designed Kōpinga Marae, built as a tribute to the Moriori ancestors.

Mangere and Little Mangere Islands

Mangere Island is one of only two sites in the world where Black Robin are found. We will hear how this endemic species was rescued from the brink of extinction in the 1970s from a population of just six birds. As we Zodiac cruise the islands we will be looking for the rare, endemic Forbes' Parakeet or Chatham Parakeet at Mangere Island.

Pitt Island

The jewel in the Chatham Islands' crown, our visit may include Flowerpot or Glory Bay where we will hear stories of life on the island and looking for impressively horned New Zealand Pitt Island Sheep.

Pyramid Rock

Viewing the basalt outcrop of Pyramid Rock – the only breeding place of the Chatham Island Albatross – where great views of birds can be had.



Chatham Albatross © L Gwynn

South East Island

One of the world's greatest nature reserves, we plan a Zodiac cruise where we can expect to see the world's rarest wader the endemic New Zealand Shore Plover, Chatham Island Oystercatcher, and Pitt Island Shag.

Day 9: At Sea

We will cross the Chatham Rise where nutrient-rich waters allow for an overlap between northern pelagic and southern latitude birds including Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Cape Petrel, Westland Black Petrel and Cook's Petrel. We can also expect to see shearwater and prion species off the coast of New Zealand.

Day 10: Christchurch

After a final breakfast we will say our farewells and board complimentary transfers to either a central city drop off or Christchurch airport.

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



13 – 22 March 2021
VOYAGE #SOE2174

Prices:	2021
Heritage Suite	\$ 7,440 pp*
Mini Suite	\$ 6,950 pp*
Superior Plus	\$ 6,750 pp*
Superior	\$ 6,200 pp*
Main Deck	\$ 5,850 pp*
Main Deck Triple	\$ 5,450 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional landing fee of \$100. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Landing fees, 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.





Emperor Penguins © S Blanc

IN THE WAKE OF SCOTT & SHACKLETON

30 DAY VOYAGE | 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 ships, crewed by some of the most experienced officers and sailors in the world and staffed by a passionate and knowledgeable expedition team. 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 also includes The Snares, Auckland, Macquarie and Campbell Islands. 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 powerhouse which drives this ecosystem upon which the world depends.





Shackleton's Hut © L Gwynn



Scott's Hut © S Gutowsky



Cape Evans © S Blanc

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 breakfast at the hotel and exploring the local attractions before transferring to the Port of Bluff, where you will board the ship. 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 will 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 all 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.



Bird interaction © J Mishina



Historic site, McMurdo Sound © A Breniere

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 continent in 1899.

Cape Hallett:

The enormous Admiralty Range heralds our arrival; wild and extraordinary, the mountains rear up towering out of the sea to over 4,000-metres high and are bounded by colossal glaciers. We make our landing 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



Ross Ice Shelf © H Dahn



King Penguins, Macquarie Island © N Russ



Crabeater Seal and Spirit of Enderby © J Mishina

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 30-metre 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 will 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 life on board the ship 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.

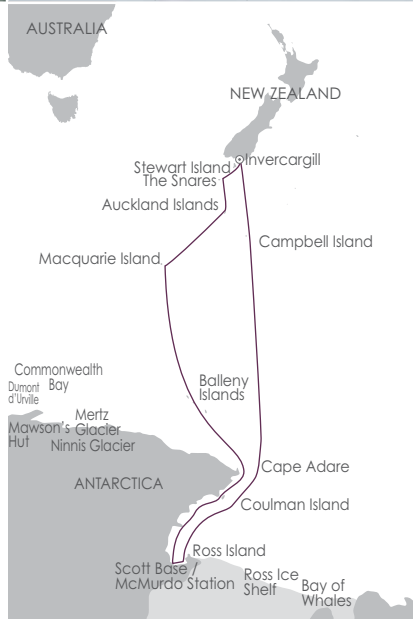
Day 29: At Sea

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

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 and/or a Bird and Mammal List.



13 January – 11 February 2021
VOYAGE #SOE2170

11 February – 12 March 2021
VOYAGE #SOE2072



Prices:	2021
Heritage Suite	\$32,880 pp*
Mini Suite	\$30,280 pp*
Superior Plus	\$29,180 pp*
Superior	\$25,880 pp*
Main Deck	\$23,880 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional landing fees of \$880. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Landing fees, pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. 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.



Adelle Penguins © K Ovsyanikova

IN THE WAKE OF MAWSON

26 DAY VOYAGE

COMMONWEALTH BAY, EAST ANTARCTICA



Mawson's Hut © Heritage Expeditions



Orca spyhopping © S Blanc



Sailing through the ice © S Ott



Hooker's Sea Lion © T Kraakman

Voyage to one of the least visited coastlines in the world and discover why East Antarctica held such a fascination for pioneering Antarctic explorer Sir Douglas Mawson. A passionate scientist, explorer and academic, Mawson spent his life devoted to exploring and studying Antarctica. His 1911-1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) and joint 1929-1931 British, Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition (BANZARE) mapped and explored the coastal area of Antarctica, defining Australia's claim over the icy continent.

Our journey takes us from Hobart via Australia's icy outback Macquarie Island, where we are introduced to four different species of penguin at this UNESCO World Heritage Site before sailing to Antarctica. Crossing the Antarctic Circle, where the sun stays above the horizon, we move closer to Mawson's Antarctica. Pelagic birdlife wheels overhead on our journey south as we navigate astounding ice formations and marvel at Mertz Glacier's ice tongue. Highlights of our voyage in this region will include exploring and retracing history at Cape Denison, the location of Mawson's Hut, where we plan to visit the far eastern sector of the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Zodiac cruising along the ice edge and among passing floes, we should encounter Adelie Penguins and, if we are lucky, Emperor Penguins. Cetaceans on previous expeditions have included Fin, Minke, Blue and Humpback Whales; Orca also can be seen in this region. Birds we might encounter include Snow Petrels, Antarctic Petrels, Giant Petrels, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Cape Petrels and Antarctic Fulmar, whilst Crabeater, Weddell and Leopard Seals may be resting along the ice edge. With long daylight hours and magnificent landscapes the photographic opportunities are endless in this land of snow and ice. We also plan to visit the region Terre Adelie which has a coastline of roughly 300 kilometres and comprises the French sector where the French station Dumont D'Urville is located, and close by, Port Martin.

Day 1: Hobart

Arrive in Hobart, meet fellow adventurers and some of our expedition team this evening during a private tour and reception at the Mawson's Huts replica, and stay over night in a local hotel.

Day 2: Port of Hobart

Enjoy breakfast and exploring Hobart. After completing security formalities embark the ship and be welcomed on board by the Captain and expedition team. Settle into your cabin and familiarise yourself with the ship before joining the Captain in the bridge as we set sail.

Days 3 to 5: At Sea

Preparing for our arrival at Macquarie Island, 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, Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion.

Days 6 to 7: Macquarie Island

This UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Australia's jewel in the Southern Ocean, has a history firmly linked to Mawson's endeavours. This enduring windy, rocky outpost supports one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in the Southern Hemisphere. Millions of penguins

breed here with four different species: King, Rockhopper, Gentoo and the endemic Royal calling this island home. You will never forget your first experience of Sandy Bay's perpetually active penguin metropolis, while the King Penguin rookery at Lusitania Bay is noisy and spectacular with a quarter of a million King Penguins standing at attention on shore. Large groups of Southern Elephant Seals slumber on the beaches and in the tussock, there are three species of fur seals and four species of albatross, Wandering, Black-browed, Grey-headed and Light-mantled Sooty.

Days 8 to 10: At Sea

Soaring albatross and petrels circle the vessel as we steam southward through the Southern Ocean. Lectures concentrate on Antarctica and drifting icebergs of extraordinary shapes and colour begin to appear as we pass the Antarctic Circle and into the continent's realm of 24-hour daylight.

Days 11 to 16: East Antarctica

Exploring the historic and isolated coastline of Commonwealth Bay, where very few have ventured before, our expedition also carries the same thrill of the unknown as we traverse the frozen coastline following in the wake of great adventurers. We hope to visit the following areas:

Commonwealth Bay

Our first explorations on the remote East Antarctic coastline will be at Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay. Here we hope to see, and experience, Mawson's Hut – established for the 1911-1914 Australasian Antarctic Expedition – and its environs, which includes the Memorial Cross to expeditioners Ninnis and Mertz who perished during the infamous three man 'Far Eastern Party' sledging trip (which Mawson himself barely survived). Nesting near the hut are substantial numbers of Adelie Penguin and Wilson's Storm-Petrel.

Dumont d'Urville, Port-Martin

West from Cape Denison is the French Research Base, Dumont d'Urville, which we will visit if permission is granted and ice conditions permit. The base's main area of study is wildlife, notably the Emperor Penguin. In summer, the rocks near the base are also home to an Adelie Penguin rookery, as well as skua, Snow Petrel, Giant Petrel and Cape Petrel. This French base was rebuilt on the current site after a fire destroyed the original



Adelie Penguins © F Bell

research station located at Port Martin, over 60 kilometres east of Dumont d'Urville. We also plan to visit this abandoned site.

McKellar Islands

This group of approximately 30 small islands and rocks were discovered by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition under Mawson. We will not land at these islets but there may be good opportunities for wildlife sightings close by. East from Cape Denison we follow the East Antarctic ice edge towards the Mertz Glacier. The Mertz Glacier emerges from the mountains of East Antarctica in King George V land. Extending into the ocean with a floating tongue, this tongue advanced from 1956 to 2010 a distance of 43 kilometres without calving. In 2010 it was struck by the B9B iceberg causing the Mertz Glacier tongue to calve off an iceberg 78 kilometres long. With the extended daylight hours, there is time to enjoy the light bouncing off the ice as we sail. We plan to cruise the icebergs and coastline in the Zodiacs looking for wildlife.

Days 17 to 20: 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. Travelling along the Antarctic convergence for part of this, we will remain vigilant for sea and birdlife. Take part in a series of lectures designed to prepare you for our visit to Campbell Island.

Days 21 to 22: Campbell Island

– Perseverance Harbour
We spend two days exploring the island by foot taking in the panorama of rocky islets and sea stacks; once the lonely preserve of settlers and seal hunters and now returned to nature. Enjoy an easy walk to the nesting site of the Southern Royal Albatross at Col Lyall or walk across the hills to Northwest Bay and see the strange and beautiful megaherbs 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 23: Auckland Islands

– Carnley Harbour

We arrive in Carnley Harbour, once the caldera of the Carnley volcano. The walls of the caldera have been breached on both the eastern and western sides, separating Adams Island to the south. The eastern entrance is navigable for smaller vessels such as ours. The extensive harbour is rich in history and in opportunities. We have a number of options including a reasonably difficult scramble to a Shy Albatross colony on South West Cape. There will also be the option to Zodiac cruise the pristine shores of Adams Island and Western Harbour. Other options include visiting an abandoned WWII Coastwatcher's hut and landing on the shores on the north arm of Carnley Harbour where the *Grafton* was wrecked in 1865.

Day 24: Auckland Islands

– Enderby Island

Enderby Island is a wildlife rich island with no equal in the Southern Ocean, considered one of the most beautiful of the Subantarctic Islands. Enderby Island's landscape is a mix of regenerating rata forest – playing host to native songbirds, the Tui and Bellbird, and

chatterbox Red-fronted Parakeets – and otherworldly megaherbs. The island is home to the rarest sea lion in the world, the New Zealand Sea Lion, which breeds on Sandy Bay beach where we plan to land. As we walk around the island, we will encounter the Yellow-eyed Penguin, the rarest penguin in the world, and nesting Royal Albatross. We could also see the endemic snipe, shag and Auckland Island Flightless Teal.

Day 25: The Snares

It has been claimed that The Snares are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles. Uninhabited and protected, the only mammals are New Zealand fur seals and sea lions. Zodiac cruising the jagged coast we should see endemic Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Snares Island Fernbird, plus Sooty Shearwater and returning-to-nest Buller's Albatross.

Day 26: Invercargill

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

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



14 December 2020 – 8 January 2021 VOYAGE #SHO2044

Prices:	2021
Heritage Suite	\$24,880 pp*
Mini Suite	\$22,880 pp*
Superior Plus	\$21,680 pp*
Superior	\$19,430 pp*
Main Deck	\$17,880 pp*

* The price listed includes the additional landing fees of \$880. (All prices are per person in US\$).

Price Includes:

Landing fees, pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. 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.

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 (and cabin 411). Single guests 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.

PERSONAL DETAILS

APPLICANT ONE (details as shown in passport)

Title: Mr Mrs Ms Other _____

Preferred Name: _____

First Names: _____
(as per passport)

Surname: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Postal Address (if different): _____

Tel (Home): _____

Tel (Work): _____

Tel (Mobile): _____

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

Place & Country of Birth: _____

I have attached a clear copy of my valid passport.

Occupation: _____
(or previous occupation if retired)

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

Signed: _____ Date: DD / MM / YYYY

BOOKING FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS

APPLICANT TWO (details as shown in passport)

Title: Mr Mrs Ms Other _____

Preferred Name: _____

First Names: _____
(as per passport)

Surname: _____

Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Postal Address (if different): _____

Tel (Home): _____

Tel (Work): _____

Tel (Mobile): _____

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

Place & Country of Birth: _____

I have attached a clear copy of my valid passport.

Occupation: _____
(or previous occupation if retired)

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

Signed: _____ Date: DD / MM / YYYY

EXPEDITION DETAILS

Voyage Name: _____

Departure Date: DD / MM / YYYY

RUSSIAN VOYAGES TO / FROM ANADYR ONLY

Please circle embarkation/disembarkation point: Name Anadyr

Body weight (Nome only): _____ kg
APPLICANT ONE

Cabin Category: _____

Any other requests: _____

Where did you hear about us? _____

PAYMENT

A 25% DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING

CONTACT US FOR NZD & AUD PAYMENT OPTIONS

BY USD TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER -

For telegraphic transfers - deposits to:

Account Name: Heritage Expeditions (2018) Ltd

United States dollar account

Account details: Bank of New Zealand International Branch,

80 Boulicott St, Wellington, New Zealand

Account number: 02 1000 725853 0000

Swift Code: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: Please use surname and voyage number as reference.

BY CREDIT CARD - Visa Mastercard

Please debit USD _____ from my credit card today

Card Number:

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CSV Numbers:

(last 3 numbers on

Expiry Date: MM / YYYY the back of card)

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Cardholders Name: _____

Signature: _____

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

Thank you for choosing to book with Heritage Expeditions (2018) 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 Antarctic, 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 USD50. 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 Antarctic, 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 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 (2018) Ltd, Antarctic House, 53B Montreal Street, PO Box 7218, Christchurch 8240, New Zealand.



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Heritage Expeditions

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

Freephone: 0800 262 8873 (within NZ)
1800 143 585 (within Australia) 1866 285 7884 (within USA/Canada)
Antarctic House, 53B Montreal Street,
P.O. Box 7218, Christchurch 8240, New Zealand.
Tel +64 3 365 3500 Fax +64 3 365 1300
info@heritage-expeditions.com www.heritage-expeditions.com



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