Some call it the last frontier for travel and adventure. We simply call it our second home. This is our 6th catalogue of cruises to this unique part of the world and with each passing year we add to our experience and knowledge of the region. Our expeditions reflect this hard won expertise – nobody has more experience exploring this region than Heritage Expeditions.

This catalogue reflects the well earned wisdom, familiarity and passion of our guides and staff. Over the years we have amassed an impressive team of lecturers and guides. We are increasingly looking towards the local people to tell their stories, and why shouldn’t we? When they have lived it and know it best. Our ratio of local Russian Guides to non Russian Guides is the highest of any company working in this region and it is increasing. We are proud of our employment ethics as we believe that local communities should benefit from our operations in the region.

Our vessel the Spirit of Enderby is in fact a Russian registered vessel (Professor Khromov) which we manage and maintain. Our Russian registry has many advantages in this part of the world. The ship has been tastefully refurbished and redecorated for a maximum of 55 passengers. We guarantee you more landings, more time ashore and most helpful for those all important photographs and wildlife observations you have come on the expedition for – a small group. The cuisine, on board hospitality and service is of international standard. Meals are prepared by Australasian chefs using only the best produce and there is a comprehensive wine list to compliment the menus.

Each year our expeditions work from south to north, following, but a little behind the northern hemisphere’s spring migration as far as Wrangel Island and then in the fall we make our way south enjoying the soft lighting and autumn colours. In this catalogue you will find five separate itineraries. Only our Wrangle Island expedition has multiple departures, the rest are unique with only one departure. ‘Russia’s Ring of Fire’ expedition provides the best (and only) introduction to Kamchatka, Commander Islands and the Kuril Islands. ‘The Sea of Okhotsk’ expedition takes an in-depth look at this natural history hotspot that few people have ever had the chance to see and experience. Our ‘In Bering’s Wake’ expedition is our third annual voyage to sail in support of the extremely rare Spoon-billed Sandpiper. This project undertaken by BirdLife International and Birds Russia is a truly unique expedition in which participants not only get an opportunity to assist researchers but experience an amazing part of the world. We have multiple departures of our very popular ‘Across the Top of the World’ expedition to Wrangel Island and finally ‘Jewel of the Russian Far East’ is precisely that – a unique late summer expedition along the entire eastern coast of Russia.

Finally I encourage you to book early for two reasons. Firstly to avoid the disappointment of missing out, as these expeditions do sell out quickly, but secondly we are required by Russian law to obtain special permits and permissions to undertake these cruises. Passenger manifests must be submitted to Moscow for approval up to 60 days prior to departure of some expeditions and if your name isn’t on that list you cannot participate. I will almost certainly be leading many of the expeditions this coming year so give us a ring, sign up and I look forward to seeing you in one of the last great wilderness areas on the planet.

Rodney Russ
Founder of Heritage Expeditions
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EXpedition CRuising Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Our vessel the Spirit of Enderby accommodates just 55 passengers. It is comfortable and functional, having all the attributes that make it the perfect expedition ship for our style of exploring. Perhaps the most remarkable fact is that it remains one of the last family operated expedition vessels of its size and ice class in the world.
RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL POLICY

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

CONSERVATION

Heritage Expeditions supports conservation by providing advocacy through responsible travel and providing funds and logistical support for research and management. For our Russia 2013 season we have continued our association with BirdLife International as a Species Champion for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. In addition to our providing transport and logistics for several researchers, we are committed to making financial contributions as a company and welcome our guests to join us in support of this programme. All funds donated will be contributed to BirdLife International’s extinction prevention activities. From these donations, 70 percent goes directly to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation project with the remaining 30 percent pooled with other contributions to fund three other vital aspects of BirdLife International’s work:

1. To fund vital development of conservation (capacity) for critically endangered species who do not yet receive support.  
2. A contribution to the BirdLife Partnership’s International Science, Policy, Advocacy, Conservation and Coordination work that underpins the programme.  
3. Vital communications and publicity that raises international awareness of the extinctions crisis and promotes the programme to help recruit new BirdLife Species Champions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adam Wallenyn 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 for another season — because in his words “there is still so much more to see and share”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dmitry Pasenyuk is from Kamchatka. He spends the winter helping organise the annual Kamchatka dog sled race, perhaps one of the toughest and challenging races for competitors and their dogs. In summer he assists international scientific research programs, providing valuable local knowledge and assistance, this knowledge will be invaluable to our expeditions as well.

Ekaterina (Katya) Tserkovniková was born and educated in Chukotka, then studied in Moscow and St Petersburg. She has a degree in history and postgraduate diploma in Museum Management. She recently returned to Chukotka to work because of her passion for the region and the indigenous people of the north. Her lectures on ethnology and history will add significantly to our expeditions.

JOIN US ONLINE

For the latest conservation and expedition news become a fan at www.facebook.com/HeritageExpeditions and follow us on www.twitter.com/HeritageExp

Our new look website www.heritage-expeditions.com features the very latest news from the ship, visit the Captain’s Blog and ship locator for regular updates, plus read about past voyages and view photos of previous expeditions.

On www.youtube.com/user/HeritageExpeditions you can view clips from our fragile earth, the wildlife and their habitats.
THE SPIRIT OF ENDERBY

The Spirit of Enderby is the complete expedition vessel. Built in 1984 for polar and oceanographic research, she is fully ice-strengthened. This class of vessel is world renowned for Polar Expedition Cruising because of its strength, manoeuvrability and small passenger numbers. With a maximum of 55 passengers on Heritage Expedition voyages, we are one of the few remaining companies still offering the true small ship experience.

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

CABIN CATEGORIES:

- **Heritage Suite:** Large lounge area, separate bedroom with double bed and a single bed in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. Large forward and side facing windows to allow great views.

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

- **Superior Plus cabins:** Two lower berths, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.

- **Superior cabins:** One bunk (one upper and one lower berth), writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.

- **Main Deck cabins:** Two lower berths, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private washbasin. Shared shower and toilet facilities nearby with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.

- **Main Deck Triple:** One bunk (one upper and one lower berth) and one additional lower berth, writing desk, wardrobe and drawers. Private washbasin. Shared shower and toilet facilities nearby with other Main Deck cabins. These cabins have a porthole.
RUSSIA’S RING OF FIRE

KAMCHATKA, THE COMMANDER AND KURIL ISLANDS

The Pacific Ring of Fire manifests itself in numerous places on the rim of the Pacific Ocean – but nowhere more dramatically than in Russia’s Far East. Along one of the world’s most active plate boundaries, the Pacific plate subducts under the Eurasian plate and the resulting volcanic and geothermal activity has built a unique and amazing landscape. The region was ‘closed’ even to Russians during the Cold War and 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 falls into three quite distinct and unique geographical regions: the Kamchatka Peninsula; the Commander Islands (the western extremity of the Aleutian chain of islands) and the Kuril Islands. Each has their own story and in many cases endemic plants and birds. On this expedition we go in search of those people, plants, animals and birds that make Russia’s portion of the Pacific Ring of Fire so special.

Stretching from Japan to the southern end of the Kamchatka Peninsula, the Kuril Islands are a chain of over 30 volcanic islands bordering an oceanic trench which reaches depths of over 8,000 metres. This is one of the richest areas in the world for seabirds and potentially cetaceans. For birders the undoubted highlights in the region are up to 14 species of auks including Tufted and Horned Puffins, Parakeet, Whiskered and Rhinoceros Auklets, as well as Spectacled and Pigeon Guillemots.

Bering and Medny Islands which make up the Commander Islands were uninhabited when Vitus Bering landed there in 1741. The arrival of humans in the pursuit of furs decimated the population of otters, foxes and fur seals and led to the extinction of the Sea Cow. Today the islands are a protected and unique Nature Reserve.

The Kamchatka Peninsula which dominates the North Pacific is in turn dominated by a large number of volcanoes, dense forest and unforgettable scenery. We have chosen several landing sites which will give a good overview of the region. These locations include one of the hundreds of salmon-rich rivers for which the region is renowned and around which the infamous Kamchatka Brown Bear congregates. We plan to visit several idyllic bays renowned for cetaceans such as the Western Grey, Humpback and Sperm Whales.
**ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky**
Arrive into Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky the capital and administrative centre of the Kamchatka Region and transfer to the port to board the Spirit of Enderby.

**Day 2: Zhupanova River**
This morning we will Zodiac cruise on the river for several hours looking for birds and other wildlife. The combination of smoking volcanoes and mile upon mile of untouched forest make this area home to some exceptional wildlife, including a high density of Steller’s Sea Eagles.

**Day 3: Bukhta Kamenistaya and Chazma River**
We sail across Olga Bay, an area known for the Western Grey Whale, normally good numbers of whales can be seen here. Close to extinction the Western Grey Whale is considered to be one of the rarest in the world and it is thought they journey here to feed in the cold nutrient-rich waters. Our landing along the Chazma River will be one of the best opportunities for seeing the Kamchatka Brown Bear as they venture here to the salmon streams. We will be surrounded by numerous extinct and active volcanoes that create a crarter landscape and make it easy to appreciate how this region is frequently described as a ‘Land of Fire and Ice’. Near the shoreline there are geothermal hot springs – here there is an opportunity for us to indulge as we soak in the magma heated groundwater.

**Days 4 to 5: Commander Islands**
The Commander Islands form the western extremity of the Aleutian Islands and are the only islands in the chain that belong to Russia. They are named after the legendary Danish explorer Commander Vitus Bering. During our two days in the Commander Islands we plan to visit both Bering and Medny. There are several sites where Zodiac cruising can be highly productive with good birdlife encountered; whilst ashore we could encounter Rock Ptarmigan and the endemic subspecies of Arctic Fox.

**Day 6: Al Sea**
We enjoy a day at sea as we cruise south from the Commander Islands towards the southern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Kuril Islands. For the keen birders today the list of possible species is truly mouth-watering and includes: Short-tailed, Black-footed and Layson Albatrosses and Mottled Petrel. The celacans can also be exceptional; good numbers of Sperm, Humpback, Northern Minke, Baird’s Beaked Whales and Orca have all previously been seen.

**Day 7: Bukhta Russkaya**
We will spend the day exploring the south-eastern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula. If the weather is fine, there should be fantastic views of the many snow-covered volcanoes that dominate the southern part of the peninsula. Weather and permits permitting we plan to visit Bukhta (Fiord) Russkaya and there is an excellent chance of seeing both Sea Otters and Largha Seals. Checking the shoreline and hillsides can also be rewarding as Kamchatka Brown Bears are often seen here.

**Day 8: Kurikdky Strait and Atlasova Island**
At first light we will enter the strait between Shumshu and Paramushir where we have recorded some of the highest populations of Sea Otters – there will be a chance to observe these amazing animals which were once in great demand because of their pelts. Our first landing in the Kuril Islands will be on Atlasova Island where the tallest volcano in the archipelago can be found.

**Day 9: Shliashkotan, Matua and Toporkovy Islands**
Our landing at Shliashkotan Island focuses firstly on the Anui people who once inhabited the Kuril Islands. Near the landing we will see remains of their rock dwellings. From here we cruise to Toporkovy Island where, once again, there are spectacular colonies of breeding seabirds. The island is named after the Tufted Puffin and we can expect to see large numbers of them rafting on the sea. We hope to land on the nearby island of Matua where there is an active volcano which last erupted in 2009. During the Second World War, Matua was heavily fortified by the Japanese and there is a labyrinth of trenches across the island and a huge airstrip which the Japanese used for attacks on the Aleutian Islands.

**Day 10: Simushir and Yankicha Islands**
This morning we will board the Zodiacs and cruise into a vast flooded caldera at the northern end of Simushir Island. Within the stunning setting of this huge caldera, we can expect to find a good range of bird species with one of the most common birds likely to be the spectacular Siberian Rubythroat. Yankicha Island is the summit of a submerged volcano. The visit here is invariably one of the highpoints of the entire voyage as the numbers of alcid which breed here is truly incredible. The concentrations of Crested and Whiskered Auklets here is simply spectacular (in their hundreds of thousands) and we can also expect to get great views of Brunnich’s and Common Guillemots and both Tufted and Horned Puffins.

**Day 11: Onekotan Island**
We plan an afternoon landing at the northern end of Onekotan Island from where it is a relatively easy walk to Black Lake. A selection of wildfowl can usually be found here including Greater Scaup and Goosander. As we make our way to and from the lake, there should also be plenty of wild flowers in bloom including the possibility of some stunning orchids.

**Day 12: Utashud Islands**
Our last day of the expedition brings us to a small group of islands off the eastern coastline of the Kamchatka Peninsula, the Utashud Islands. This is your last chance to enjoy Tufted and Horned Puffins. There is also a good population of Sea Otters and Harbour Seals.

**Day 13: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky**
By early morning we will enter Avacha Bay and we will disembark the ship in the morning.

**Enquire for a full itinerary.**
In the language of its indigenous people, the Sea of Okhotsk translates as something like the ‘Sea of Hunters’ or ‘Hunters Sea’. It’s our first indication of the abundance of wildlife in the region. Despite the hunting that has gone on over the years, this sea remains one of the richest in the world – but there is so little known about it. The freshwaters of the Amur River flow into this vast, naturally-sheltered sea and it freezes into ice-floes that make it impassable for much of the year.

Dominating the Northwest Pacific, the sea is bounded to the north and west by the Russian continent and the Kamchatka Peninsula to the east, while the Kuril Islands and Sakhalin Island guard the southern border. Its coasts were home to a number of indigenous peoples – the Nivikh, Oroki, Even and Itelmen – mostly now displaced by the advance of the modern world, though descendants can still be found practising a way of life handed down by their ancestors.

The great 17th century explorer Commander Vitus Bering launched two expeditions from the town of Okhotsk on the western shores of the sea in order to explore the coasts of the Russian Empire. The town remains to this day, seemingly frozen in time. Our expedition also visits the town of Magadan; once upon a time the gateway to the Kolyma Goldfields. Thousands of political prisoners were shipped here under Stalin’s regime to work in the mines. Many never made it back from the infamous Gulags, succumbing to brutal treatment and the bitterly cold winters of the region.

Man’s treatment of the region’s wildlife wasn’t much better. In 1854 no fewer than 160 American and British whaling ships were here, hunting the Bowhead Whale. Hunted almost to extinction, whale numbers are growing and it is possible to see a number of species including a rare western population of the Grey Whale, plus Bowhead Whales. The beautiful and rare Ribbon Seal may also be found on the ice, while Steller Sea Lions may be viewed shambling on craggy rocks.

On Talan Island we visit a huge colony of Crested Auklets and on the cliffs tumbling round the back of forgotten islands, we’ll find thousands of seabirds. Soaring above the archipelagos is the huge and beautiful Steller’s Sea Eagle. But birds compose only part of the rich wildlife tapestry of the region. We will see rivers which churn with salmon during the breeding season and spectacular taiga forests where wolves, Big Horned Sheep and Arctic Fox roam. During our excursions ashore we should catch sight of the mighty Kamchatka Brown Bear.
THE WILDEST AND LEAST-STUDIED RESERVES IN RUSSIA.

Dzhugdzhursky Nature Reserve, which is one of these small islands form part of the Utashud. This massive archipelago consists of 15 islands, of which there are four big ones, surrounded by numerous smaller rocks. Sea ice gets stuck in this archipelago. The Utashud are a small group of islands off the eastern coastline of the Kamchatka Peninsula. They have an abundance of birds and marine life. If conditions are suitable Zodiac around the islands to view some of the region’s seabirds including Tufted and Horned Puffins. There is also a good population of Sea Otters and Harbour Seals. This afternoon we sail around Cape Lopatka and into the Sea of Okhotsk.

Day 3: At Sea
Cruise across the Sea of Okhotsk towards the northern tip of Sakhalin Island. The upwelling around the edge of the Deryugin Basin should be an ideal location to see cetaceans.

Day 4: Northern Sakhalin Island
The north-east part of Sakhalin Island especially holds the biggest congregation of whales during summer months; they come every year to forage in the productive waters off the shelf.

Days 5 to 6: Shantar Archipelago
This massive archipelago consists of 15 islands, of which there are four big ones, surrounded by numerous smaller rocks. Sea ice gets stuck in the strait for a long time before it melts, so there are only a few months of ice-free sea and ice floes can be seen as late in the season as July. These small islands form part of the Dzhugdzhursky Nature Reserve, which is one of the wildest and least-studied reserves in Russia.

The reserve epitomises the harsh Siberian climate and breathtaking landscapes of the region. The Mal’minskie Islands are home to numerous seabirds; one of the biggest colonies of Spectacled Guillemot is to be found here, along with kitiwakes, Parakeet Auklets and puffins. There is also a good chance of Steller’s Sea Eagle. On the mainland, brown bears roam free, as well as wolves, Wolverines, Red Foxes, various species of weasel, Siberian Musk Deer and Moose.

Day 8: Iony Island
A small island in the vastness of the Sea of Okhotsk, it is completely uninhabited with only an automatic weather station and a small derelict hut of unknown origin. It is a crucial location for the endangered Steller Sea Lion population. We will cruise around the island and surrounding rocks, enjoying magnificent birding and watching numerous sea lions all around.

Day 9: Okhotsk Town
The first settlement was established on this site by Russian Cossacks in 1647, making it one of the earliest towns of the Russian Far East. The famous explorer Commander Vitus Bering visited here on the way to Kamchatka on his first expedition Okhotsk was an important port on the Far East coast from which many expeditions departed.

Day 10: Talan Island
A tiny island in the northern Sea of Okhotsk, it supports an unbelievable diversity of wildlife. Despite its size this island has one of the largest seabird colonies in the north of the Sea of Okhotsk. Over an estimated 1.8 million birds bring the cliffs alive and obscure the sky as they fly out to sea. Gulls, kitiwakes, Thick-billed Murres, Horned and Tufted Puffins, Crested, Whiskered and Parakeet Auklets, Ancient Murrelets and many other species form a birdwatcher’s paradise. The island is also inhabited by Red Foxes.

Day 11: Zavyalov Island and Magadan
Thirty miles off the entrance to Magadan Harbour is Zavyalov Island. Depending on sea and weather conditions we will make an expedition landing in search of wildlife encounters, wild flowers and scenery.

Day 12: Koni Peninsula
(Magadanskaya Reserve)
This peninsula south of Magadan is part of the Magadanskaya Reserve and we will likely be accompanied by a Ranger for our landings. There are numerous sheltered bays and harbours with rivers flowing in to explore, the largest of which is the Zabybayka Bay.

Day 13: Yamskiye Islands
The huge bay in the northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk (Penzhinskyy) is covered with ice for half of the year and is famous for its irregular and very high tides. Home to four seal species: Bearded, Ringed, Ribbon and Largha, along with the Steller Sea Lion. There are also potentially many whale species that can be seen in the area: Bowhead, Northern Right, Grey, Humpback and Fin.

Day 14: Bukhta Russkaya
If the weather is fine, there should be fantastic views of the many snow-covered volcanoes that dominate the southern part of the peninsula as we sail north. Bukhta Russkaya is an isolated fiord. We hope to cruise into the fiord where there is an excellent chance of seeing both Sea Otters and Largha Seals. Brown bears are often seen here on the hillsides and birding can be very rewarding here.

Day 15: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
During the night the Spirit of Enderby will enter Avacha Bay, after a final breakfast it will be time to disembark.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

Ribbon Seal
Photo credit: Katya Ovsyanikova
IN THE WAKE OF BERLING

IN SEARCH OF THE SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER

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

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

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

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

Day 1: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
Arrive into Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, the capital and administrative centre of the Kamchatka Region and transfer to the port to board the Spirit of Enderby.

Day 2: Zhupanova River
We plan to spend the morning Zodiac cruising on the Zhupanova River. Our main target here is the Steller’s Sea Eagle and there are usually at least three occupied nests close to the river. By late afternoon, we should be over deep water heading for the Commander Islands and new species to look for include Laysan Albatross, Mottled Petrel and the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. The Kamchatka Trench can also be excellent for cetaceans and we have previously seen Blue Whales on this crossing. Good numbers of Largha Seals are also often hauled out on sandbars in the river.

Days 3 to 4: Commander Islands
The wildlife-rich Commander Islands were first discovered by the Commander Vitus Bering when his ship was wrecked here in 1741. We intend to explore the islands through a combination of landings and Zodiac cruises and our first stop will be the village of Nikolskoye, where there is an interesting museum. Zodiac cruising is often spectacular and we hope to encounter Red-faced Cormorant, Red-legged Kittiwake, Pigeon Guillemot, Horned Puffin, as well as Parakeet, Crested and Whiskered Auklets. Our plans also include a ship cruise heading for the Commander Islands and new species to look for include Laysan Albatross, Mottled Petrel and the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. The Kamchatka Trench can also be excellent for cetaceans and we have previously seen Blue Whales on this crossing. Good numbers of Largha Seals are also often hauled out on sandbars in the river.

Day 5: Verkhutorova Island and Govena Peninsula
Verkhutorova 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 Elder and Harlequin Duck occur too and we may also see some Steller Sea Lions, as they are often hauled out on some offshore rocks. Later in the day, there will either be a Zodiac cruise or landing on the Govena Peninsula. Good numbers of brown bears can often be found here.

Day 6: Tintikun Lagoon and Olyutorskiy Bay
Tintikun Lagoon is one of the most scenic places in the Russian Far East and the lake is surrounded by jagged mountains, glaciers and forested slopes. A shallow river allows us to drive the Zodiacs onto the lake and we intend to make several landings. Later in the day we will explore Olyutorskiy Bay, where we should encounter a range of seabirds which could include Aleutian Tern and the critically endangered Kittlitz’s Murrelet.

Day 7: Bukhta Petra and Bogoslova Island
Another beautiful fiord possessed of a dramatic allure in the low sun of the Subarctic. A walrus haul out guards the entrance and we make a landing to explore the hinterland, surrounded by imposing mountain landscapes and verdant tundra.

Day 8 to 9: Chukotka Coast
We plan to spend two days with members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Taskforce searching remote bays looking for unknown populations of this critically endangered species. In 2011 we made ornithological history by locating three territories at a location which had not been previously surveyed. We will be assisting the Taskforce again and hope to repeat our success elsewhere.

Day 10: Tintikun Lagoon and Olyutorskiy Bay
Meinypil’gyno is located on a 40 kilometre long shingle spit and is the most important site in the world for breeding Spoon-billed Sandpiper, as there are about ten pairs which are monitored by members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Taskforce. Extremely rich in other wildlife too we may also find Emperor Goose, Pacific Diver and Sandhill Crane, whilst just offshore Grey Whales and Belugas often gather to feed.

Day 13: Cape Navarin
This coastline is rich in marine mammals and one creature we will be looking for, in particular, is the walrus, as there is a known haul out. The animals do regularly move between locations, so finding them is always very much a matter of luck, although we have had success here in the past. Good numbers of Grey Whales often congregate here too, and we may well end the activities of the expedition by Zodiac cruising some spectacular cliffs where tens of thousands of seabirds breed, giving us a final chance to watch birds such as Tufted Puffin and Black-legged Kittiwake.

Day 14: Port of Anadyr
As we cruise into Anadyr Bay, there is an excellent chance of seeing more Belugas and after a final breakfast on board the Spirit of Enderby, it will be time to disembark. We will provide complimentary transfers to a downtown hotel and the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

ITINERARY Continued

Day 10: Verkhutorova Island and Govena Peninsula
Another beautiful fiord possessed of a dramatic allure in the low sun of the Subarctic. A walrus haul out guards the entrance and we make a landing to explore the hinterland, surrounded by imposing mountain landscapes and verdant tundra.

Day 11 to 12: Meinypil’gyno
Meinypil’gyno is located on a 40 kilometre long shingle spit and is the most important site in the world for breeding Spoon-billed Sandpiper, as there are about ten pairs which are monitored by members of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Taskforce. Extremely rich in other wildlife too we may also find Emperor Goose, Pacific Diver and Sandhill Crane, whilst just offshore Grey Whales and Belugas often gather to feed.

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Day 14: Port of Anadyr
As we cruise into Anadyr Bay, there is an excellent chance of seeing more Belugas and after a final breakfast on board the Spirit of Enderby, it will be time to disembark. We will provide complimentary transfers to a downtown hotel and the airport.

Enquire for a full itinerary.
ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD

TO WRANGEL AND HERALD ISLANDS

This unique expedition crosses the Arctic Circle and includes the isolated and pristine Wrangel and Herald Islands and a significant section of the wild North Eastern Siberian coastline. It is a journey only made possible in recent years by the thawing in the politics of the region and the retreat of summer pack ice in the Chukchi Sea. The very small distances 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 Grey Whales that migrate thousands of kilometres north from their breeding grounds in Baja, Mexico. Reindeer, Musk Ox and Snow Geese can normally be seen further inland. A visit to massive bird cliffs on nearby Herald Island is also planned. The ‘mammoth steppe’ vegetation complex, a rich and diverse relic from the Pleistocene epoch nurtures over 400 plant species and never fails to astound visitors with its sublime beauty. The number and type of endemic plant species, the diversity within plant communities, the presence of relatively recent mammoth tusks and skulls, a range of terrain types and geological formations in the small geographical space are all visible evidence of Wrangel’s rich natural history and its unique evolutionary status within the Arctic.

The human history of Wrangel Island is fascinating on its own. Highlights include a 3,400 year old Palo Eskimo camp in Krassin Bay, controversy over discovery and ownership of the island, the amazing story of the survivors of the Karluk, the heroine of the island Ada Blackjack, the Soviet occupation and militarisation of the island and 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.
ITINERARY

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 staff on board the Spirit of Enderby.

Day 2: Anadyrskiy Bay
We will depart Anadyr Harbour early morning and you are invited to join the Captain, officers and the expedition team on the bridge. The Anadyr estuary is renowned for its Beluga Whales.

Day 3: Yttygran, Nuneangan and Arakamchechen Islands
Yttygran Island is home to the monumental ancient aboriginal site known as Whale Bone Alley. Whalebones stretch along the beach for nearly half a kilometre. Grey Whales are frequently seen around the island, we will also include a visit to nearby Herald Island. There are many landings that we can make to search out wildlife, wild flowers and Arctic landscapes. Polar Bears will be high on our list of animals to see and with a little patience we should be rewarded with a number of encounters. Musk Oxen and reindeer were introduced to the island in 1975 and 1948 though reindeer numbers are low. We also have a chance to visit Dragi Harbour where the survivors of the Karluk which was crushed by ice in 1914 scrambled ashore and lived until they were rescued. Wrangel Island is a Russian Federal Nature Reserve of international significance and importance particularly as it is a major Polar Bear denning area. Also each summer thousands of birds migrate here to breed, including Snow Geese, Snowy Owls, skuas, Arctic Terns, Ross’s, Sable and Ivory Gulls.

Day 4: Cape Dezhnev and Uelen Village
Sea conditions permitting, we will land at Cape Dezhnev early this morning. The north-eastern most point of the Eurasian continent, it is sometimes possible to see the coast of America from this remote and lonely outpost. A few nautical miles to the west of Cape Dezhnev we visit Uelen Village the most north-eastern village in Russia. The population is predominantly Chukchi and the village is one of the largest centres for traditional Chukchi and Inuit art in the world. We’ll be entertained by villagers and visit the bone-carving workshop during our visit.

Day 5: Kolyuchin Island
This small island was once an important Russian Polar Research Station and one of a number dofted 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. On our Zodiac cruise we will be on the lookout for potential Polar Bears and walrus.

Day 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 include a visit to nearby Herald Island. There are many landings that we can make to search out wildlife, wild flowers and Arctic landscapes. Polar Bears will be high on our list of animals to see and with a little patience we should be rewarded with a number of encounters. Musk Oxen and reindeer were introduced to the island in 1975 and 1948 though reindeer numbers are low. We also have a chance to visit Dragi Harbour where the survivors of the Karluk which was crushed by ice in 1914 scrambled ashore and lived until they were rescued. Wrangel Island is a Russian Federal Nature Reserve of international significance and importance particularly as it is a major Polar Bear denning area. Also each summer thousands of birds migrate here to breed, including Snow Geese, Snowy Owls, skuas, Arctic Terns, Ross’s, Sable 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 a coastline that very few humans have seen and survived to tell the tale. Looking for walrus we will come across Chukchi villages whose residents scratch out a living 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 waterfront and migratory waders. We concentrate our visit on the spit near the mouth of the inlet. It is a wild, desolate landscape that is strangely beautiful. We search the dunes and tidal areas for birdlife including Emperor Geese and Spoon-billed Sandpipers, Grey 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 Diomede 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.

Nome to Nome includes Private charter flights Nome to Anadyr to Nome

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Anadyr to Anadyr

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Additional Charges: Landing Fees/Local Payments $500 pp (All prices are per person in USD)

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

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

Freephone: 0800 262 8873 (within NZ)  1800 143585 (within Australia)  www.heritage-expeditions.com  info@heritage-expeditions.com
JEWEL OF THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

THE CHUKOTKA, KORYAK AND KAMCHATKA COASTLINE

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

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

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

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

Day 0: Nome
For those departing Nome, Alaska your adventure begins with a flight across the Bering Sea and International Date Line, to the remote port of Anadyr.

Day 1: Anadyr
All expedition members will arrive in Anadyr, the administrative centre of the Chukotka region, and transfer to the Spirit of Enderby.

Day 2: Bukhta Gavilla
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 3: 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.

Day 4: 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 5: 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 picturesque locations found anywhere in the world. A large population of brown bears inhabits this area which we may be fortunate to catch sightings of.

Day 6: 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 and Zodiac cruising along the coast. Brown bears frequently visit this area which is completely protected and rarely visited. In the afternoon we go to 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 7: Karaginsky Island
A few miles to the south from Verhoturova Island is the much larger Karaginsky Island. Here we encounter some of the first ‘forests’ of the voyage. This is a change from the tundra that we have seen so far depicting 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 8 to 9: 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 will start the morning in Kamchatka Brown Bear country.

Day 8: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
During the night the Spirit of Enderby will enter Avacha Bay which is one of the greatest natural harbours in the world. We end our expedition today and due to outbound flight schedules are pleased to offer two disembarkation options either on the 15th or 16th of September.

Enquire for a full itinerary.

Nome to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
includes Private charter flight Nome to Anadyr

Anadyr to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy

Additional Charges:
Landing Fees/Local Payment $500 pp        (All prices are per person in USD)
Price Includes:
Pre/post cruise transfers, all on board ship accommodation and meals and all expedition shore excursions. *Disembarkation option for Day 13.
Price Excludes:
All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. International/domestic flights, visas and travel insurance.

Nome to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
Voyage | Dates | Heritage Suit | Mini Suite | Superior Plus | Superior | Main Deck | Main Deck Plus | Main Deck Triple
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#1336 | 3rd – 15th Sept 2013 | 12,400 | 11,400 | 10,000 | 9,800 | 8,600

Anadyr to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy
Voyage | Dates | Heritage Suit | Mini Suite | Superior Plus | Superior | Main Deck | Main Deck Plus | Main Deck Triple
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
#1336 | 4th – 16th Sept 2013 | 11,400 | 10,400 | 9,400 | 8,800 | 7,600

Tufted Puffin          Photo credit: Katya Ovsyannikova

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SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER PROJECT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you or your company would like to become a BirdLife Species Champion (Spooner-billed Sandpiper is just one of the many species requiring support) we urge you to contact species.champions@birdlife.org for more information.
In co-operation with the Wrangel Island Nature Reserve we are excited to offer a limited number of seats on a very special Overland Traverse through the heart of this incredible landscape. For curious explorers who join us to circumnavigate Wrangel Island, there is no reason to just wonder what lies beyond the coast, over the crest of the hills and mountains. The High Arctic environment that very few people will ever experience is now accessible and exclusively available to passengers travelling with Heritage Expeditions on both ‘Across the Top of the World’ expeditions.

We are offering a limited number of seats on four very special 3-day (2-night) Overland Traverses. Transport is by a six wheel Russian built Tundra vehicle brought to the island in 2010. Each traverse is led by Rangers from Wrangel Island. We have been operating these traverses since 2011 and those who have been lucky enough to participate literally ‘raved’ over their experiences. Numbers are strictly limited; we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

NORTHBOUND ITINERARY
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 Palaeo-Eskimos summer camp were discovered recently. The overnight accommodation will be Wrangel Ranger huts at Somnitelnya.

Day 2: Somniltenya Travel north firstly over the southern tundra slopes climbing gradually to a mountain pass through the Somniltenie Mountains. A steep descent takes us to a tributary of the Mammoth River, the longest river on the island. In the evening we will enjoy a walk on the tundra slopes with possible sightings of Snowy Owls, Lemmings, Arctic Foxes and a huge variety of High Arctic plants. Stay overnight at the Peak Tundra hut, a field hut for studies of the Snow Geese nesting nearby.

Day 3: Academic Tundra Continue down the Tundra River to the Academic Tundra, an extensive area that makes up over half the island. There are opportunities to see amazing fields of wild flowers, Musk Ox, and potentially reindeer, although numbers have been greatly reduced by recent harsh winters. We will return to the ship at midday near the Dream Head Mountains on the north coast of the island.

Enquire for a full itinerary. Northbound and Southbound options available. Southbound itinerary will operate in reverse to the above itinerary.

Price: $1,350 (All prices are per person in USD)
Price Includes: Transport, accommodation (basic field huts) and meals. Please note this is in addition to the cost of the cruise.
Price Excludes: Travel insurance, gratuities and other items of a personal nature.

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

FLYING TO AND FROM RUSSIA

Travelling to and from the Russian Far East is not difficult or complicated. But you do need to plan in advance. Heritage Expeditions staff are in regular contact with a number of airlines that can provide safe and reliable connections to the two main cities that the expeditions featured in this brochure depart from. Please ask your reservation 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 (August 2012).
ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Detailed Information
If you would like more detailed information, full dossiers for every voyage listed in this brochure are available on request from our office. They contain more background information and a fully detailed itinerary. 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, Expedition Notes and a Passenger Handbook to help you prepare for your voyage.

Age Requirements
Our expeditions are designed for adults, but may be suitable for mature teenagers. We can accept bookings for children; however 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 whist on board.

Flight Information
We do not package international flights to connect with our voyages but in some cases we will charter flights to and travel to destinations that are not always serviced with regular scheduled air services. Information on these charter flights will be provided at time of booking.

Passport & Visa Requirements
You are required to travel with a current passport and visa for all of our holidays. We also recommend that any passports within 6 months of expiry are renewed before travelling. Other regulations may apply and you should check with the nearest embassy or consulate of the countries that you plan to visit.

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

You will be forwarded a confidential medical questionnaire 4 months prior to departure which we ask that you and, in some cases, your doctor complete and return promptly to enable us to assess if there may be difficulties in you joining the expedition. This form will then be held by the ship’s doctor during the voyage to assist him/her should any treatment be required. If there is any substantial change in your medical circumstances between the completion of that document and the expedition departure it is important that you advise us accordingly.

Equipment & Clothing Requirements
Our Pre-departure Information details any essential clothing and equipment that is required.

Travel Insurance
You must have it! You may be barred from embarkation if you have no proof of insurance. If you are arranging your own insurance, you should check that all the included activities are covered such as landings, Zodiac and charter flights.

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

Ship Accommodation
The Spirit of Enderby ship details are shown on page 7 of this brochure.

Cabin Arrangements
Twin (2 berth) cabins will be allocated to clients booking together, Double beds are available in suite accommodation only. Single clients are matched with a sharer of the same gender in a twin-share cabin. Payment of a single supplement guarantees the sole use of a cabin. The cost of a single supplement is 1.8 times the price of the voyage with the exception of the suites which are double the single rate.

Ship Communications
The radio room on the ship is equipped with a satellite telephone and email for on board communication. Details of communication charges and how to contact the ship in case of an emergency will be sent with your final documents.

Hotel Accommodation
Please contact our reservation agents regarding pre/ post accommodation packages which are available in conjunction with your voyage.

BOOKING YOUR TRIP

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

Once you have decided which voyage is for you, please check availability by calling our office or visiting your travel agent. We can normally hold space (option) for you for 7 days while you are 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.
• 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. At 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, for example instruct the intermediary (correspondent) bank that all charges are to be returned to the originating bank.

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

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

If paid by credit card it will be subject to a 2.5% fee (direct bookings only).

Lastly
Between 14 to 21 days before departure we will send out your final joining instructions. Please check these details carefully. If you have not received your final joining instructions at least 1 week before departure, please contact us. If you have any concerns about these details or any last questions about your holiday please do not hesitate to contact us immediately.
BOOKING FORM

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 an electronic copy of my valid passport.

Occupation: (or previous occupation if retired)

Dietary requirements:

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

Signed: ____________________________ Date: DD/MM/YYYY

APPLICANT TWO (details as shown in passport)
Title: [ ] Mr [ ] Mrs [ ] Ms [ ] Other

Preferred Name:

First Names: (as per passport)

Surname:

Email:

Physical Address:

Postal Address (if different):

Tel (Home):

Tel (Work):

Tel (Mobile):

Sex: [ ] M [ ] F

Date of Birth: DD/MM/YYYY

Place & Country of Birth:

I have attached an electronic 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

EXPEDITIONS DETAILS

Voyage Name:

Departure Date: DD/MM/YYYY

Embarkation: [ ] Nome [ ] Anadyr

(Please indicate your embarkation preference for voyages #1332, 1334 & 1336)


Any other requests:

Where did you hear about us?

PAYMENT

A 25% DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING

BY USD TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER - For telegraphic transfers - deposits to:

Account Name: Heritage Expeditions (United States dollar account)

Bank: Bank of New Zealand Int Branch, 80 Boulcott Street, Wellington, NZ.

Account number: 1000 744943 0002

Swift Code: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: Please use surname and voyage number as reference when making transaction e.g. Smith#1332

BY CHEQUE - Payable to HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS LTD

BY CREDIT CARD - [ ] Visa [ ] Mastercard

Please debit USD ________ from my credit card today

Card Number: ____________________________ Expiry Date: MM/YYYY

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

Cardholders Name: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________
BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

1. General terms 

1.1. HE reserves for the booking terms and conditions of HE concerning himself/herself and the other parties 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 other private persons, members of the (travel) organisation, travel agents and third parties in general.

1.3. The contracting party shall, before the effect 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, insurance details or incomplete provision of personal data could result in faulty vouchers, documents not arriving on time.

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 notify the contracting party prior to departure. If the contracting party is entitled to cancel the trip. In such a case, HE will pay back to the contracting party the amount already paid. If the trip is considered a cancellation and the total price is 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. If the trip is considered a cancellation if the total price is 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.

2. The offer/the travel elements

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

2.2. Any developments of 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. Payments

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. If the offer the remaining 75% of the total price is due 90 days before departure. In the case of a (travel) organisation that has guaranteed allocation, the following payment conditions apply:

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

3.2. If the contracting party fails to fulfil their payment obligations, HE will send a reminder. If the reservaation has not been made, the contracted party is liable 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 thereof. If the booking 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 contract (e.g. the departure date, destination or type of accommodation), this is considered a cancellation and the cancellation costs stated in paragraph 6.1 apply. In case of minor changes HE is entitled to charge reservation costs of at least USD 25 per alteration.

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 payments already received from the contracting party will be paid back by HE if the contracting party does not agree to accept an alternative programme. If the trip is considered a cancellation and the remaining 75% of the total price is due 90 days before departure. In the case of a (travel) organisation that has guaranteed allocation, the following payment conditions apply:

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 or 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 on the offer of HE, upon which a binding travel contract has been booked with HE, may have to cancel the trip.

6. Exclusion and limitation of the liability of HE

6.1. 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 dives bases and providers of transport) and, on the other hand, the client(s) or the (travel) organiser, to take out travel insurance. This is irrespective of the conditions the relevant providers of accommodation/services and/or the stipulations of (international law applies and all stipulations or complaints, claims 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/services and the contracting party. HE is not responsible for optional travel elements booked by the contracting party elsewhere (optional excursions etc.).

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 dives bases and providers of transport) and, on the other hand, the client(s) or the (travel) organiser, to take out travel insurance. This is irrespective of the conditions the relevant providers of accommodation/services and/or the stipulations of (international law applies and all stipulations or complaints, claims 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/services and the contracting party. HE is not responsible for optional travel elements booked by the contracting party elsewhere (optional excursions etc.).
The contracting party is obliged to comply with all instructions given by
In the case of a (travel) organisation: instead of ‘contracting party’ (in
9.2 Any contracting party who causes such disturbance, or who threatens
to cause such disturbance, the case, that the person in charge (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 manager of the hotel/organisation) decide to exclude from (certain)
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 and/or 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 necessary change in the character of the trip and/or the complaint
results in hindrance of the (travel) organisation – should present these complaints to
the relevant (travel) organisation, where the trip was booked, upon
which the (travel) organisation shall have the possibility to 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.
9.6 If HE has not then satisfactorily settled the complaint or if proper
satisfaction has not been 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
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, if 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 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 on 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 (travel) organisation 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
as also as far as the organizator regulations (which court shall have exclusive jurisdiction)
entitled to present the dispute to the Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand
satisfaction has not been given in this matter, the contracting party is
entitled to present the dispute to the Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand
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) organisation shall have the possibility to 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.
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 eventuality 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
times, the day of departure, help help respecting departure or
arrival times, are counted as full days. The definitive 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
ensuring from this contract.
11.3 This document and its content belongs to Heritage Expeditions Ltd.
info@heritage-expeditions.com

Freephone: 0800 262 8873 (within NZ)       1800 143585 (within Australia)       www.heritage-expeditions.com       info@heritage-expeditions.com

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EXPEDITION CRUISING IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Back cover photos: Cultural Display by Meghan Kelly; Sea Otter by Heritage Expeditions; Flora by Nathan Russ; Grey Whale by Pascal Rapin; Crested Aucklets by Heritage Expeditions; Brown Bear by Jenny Ross; Polar Bear by Nathan Russ; Volcano by Nathan Russ