

## Sub Antarctic Islands - Galapagos of the Southern Ocean | Heritage Adventurer

Trip Code  
NZHEGSO  
Departure



### Introduction

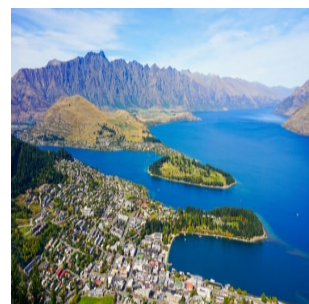
Undertake one of the most inspirational and unforgettable journeys to the unique sites of the Southern Ocean. The Subantarctic Islands are dubbed the 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean' due to their incredibly rich biodiversity. This expedition experience will have you encountering vast colonies of penguins, fur and elephant seals. You will also spot unique seabirds including albatross, petrels, shearwaters and prions. Discover four of the Subantarctic Islands on this incredible adventure as you immerse yourself in some of the most remote and isolated islands of the world, each unique and filled with incredible vistas and varied ecosystems. From rocky shores to open plains of incredible 'megaherbs'. This is a truly unforgettable and unique expedition experience close to home.

\* Optional Sea Kayaking now on some departures. Please enquire for price and availability at time of booking.

### Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival and Overnight in  
Queenstown

Our Galapagos of the Southern Ocean adventure started with a relaxing night at our respective accommodations in Queenstown. This was a chance to connect with fellow travellers, meet some of our Expedition Team and build excitement for the voyage ahead. After a delicious dinner, we settled in for the night.



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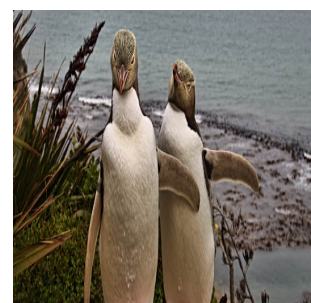
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 Duration  
 22 Days

2 Days enjoy breakfast in the hotel  
 Restaurants and have the morning free to  
 explore the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand  
 before returning to the hotel for lunch and departing for the Port of  
 Bluff to embark your ship. You will have  
 time to settle into your cabin and familiarise  
 yourself with the ship; we will also take the  
 opportunity to conduct a number of safety  
 briefings. You are invited to join the  
 expedition team in the Observation Lounge  
 and up on the Observation Deck as we set  
 our course to The Snares and our adventure  
 begins.



**DAY 3: The Snares - North East Island**

The closest Subantarctic Islands to New Zealand, they were appropriately called The Snares as they were once considered a hazard for sailing ships. Comprising of two main islands and a group of five islands called the Western Chain; they are uninhabited and enjoy the highest protection as Nature Reserves. It is claimed by some that these islands are home to more nesting seabirds than all of the British Isles together. We plan to arrive in the morning, and as landings are not permitted, we will Zodiac cruise along the sheltered eastern side of the main island if the weather and sea conditions are suitable. In the sheltered bays, we should see the endemic Snares Crested Penguin, Snares Island Tomtit and Fernbirds. There are hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters nesting on The Snares; the actual number is much debated. Buller's Albatross breed here from early January onwards. There will be opportunities to view the forests of large tree daisy Olearia lyallii which forms a canopy over much of the island group.



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Duration

7 Days

The Auckland Islands group was formed by

two volcanoes which erupted some 10-25

million years ago. They have subsequently

been eroded and dissected by glaciation

creating the archipelago as we know it

today. Enderby Island is one of the most

beautiful islands in this group and is named

after the same distinguished shipping family

as one of our own vessels. This northern

most island in the archipelago is an

outstanding wildlife and birding location

and is relatively easy to land on and walk

around. The island was cleared of all

introduced animals (pests) in 1994 and both

birds and the vegetation, especially the

herbaceous plants, are recovering both in

numbers and diversity. Our plan is to land

at Sandy Bay, one of three breeding areas in

the Auckland Islands for the Hooker's or

New Zealand Sea Lion, a rare member of

the seal family. Beachmaster bulls gather on

the beach, defending their harems from

younger (ambitious) males, to mate with the

cows shortly after they have given birth to a

single pup. Hooker's or New Zealand Sea

Lion numbers are in a slow decline, for

reasons which are not obvious but most

probably connected with a nearby squid

fishery. During our day ashore there will be

several options, some longer walks, some

shorter walks and time to spend just sitting

and enjoying the wildlife. The walking is

relatively easy. A boardwalk traverses the

island to the dramatic western cliffs, from

there we follow the coast and

circumnavigate the island. Birds that we are

likely to encounter include the following

species: 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. There is also a

very good chance of seeing the Subantarctic

Snipe. Other more common species we will

see include the Goldfinch, Song Thrush,

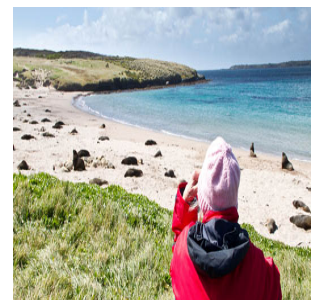
Blackbird, European Starling, Red-billed

Gull and Redpoll. On Derry Castle Reef we

will look for migratory waders which could

include Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and

possibly vagrants.



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Duration

14 Days Auckland Islands - Carnley Harbour

Locations

Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand

A very large sheltered harbour rich in history including shipwrecks, treasure hunters, Coastwatchers and, of course, scientific parties. We plan to arrive mid-morning entering the harbour through the eastern entrance which is guarded on both sides by dramatic cliffs and rugged, tussock-covered hills. Our activities here today are weather dependent. We have a number of options. If the weather is fine there will be an opportunity for the more energetic expeditioners to climb to the South West Cape and visit the Shy Mollymawk colony. This climb provides magnificent views in all directions, especially over the western entrance to Carnley Harbour, Adams Island and Western Harbour. For those not making the climb there will be an opportunity to Zodiac cruise along the coast of Adams Island, Western Harbour and Victoria Passage. Other options include the Tagua Bay Coastwatcher's hut and lookout which was occupied during the Second World War. We could visit Epigwatt and the remains of the 'Grafton' which was wrecked here in 1864. All five men aboard survived and lived here for 18 months before sailing their modified dinghy to New Zealand to get help. Two of the survivors wrote books about their ordeal, their first-hand accounts tell us a lot about their time here. Later this afternoon we depart for Macquarie Island.

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Duration

13 Days

Locations

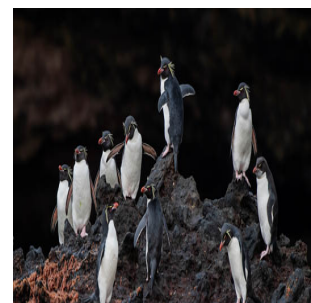
Southern Ocean Islands of New Zealand

The flora and fauna as we prepare for our arrival at Macquarie Island. En route there are great birding opportunities which may include the Wandering Albatross, Royal Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Salvin's Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. We will endeavour to spot the Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion - never an easy task - but we should get some great views. Other species to be on the lookout for include the Soft-plumaged Petrel, Mottled Petrel, White-headed Petrel, Grey-faced Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel and the Black-bellied Storm-Petrel.



DAY 7: Macquarie Island - Day 7 & 8

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.



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Duration

7 Days will be briefings and lectures on

Location Campbell Island in preparation for our visit

Subantarctic islands of New Zealand

and/or simply relaxing.



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Duration

12 Days

**Locations** full day to explore Campbell

Island, New Zealand's southernmost

Subantarctic island of New Zealand

and varied as the other islands we visit.

Discovered in 1810, it was soon occupied by

sealers who introduced rats and cats.

Farming followed from 1895 to 1934 when

it was abandoned. Coastwatchers were

stationed on the island during the war and

at the end of the war the station was taken

over by the New Zealand Metrological

service. They maintained a manned

weather/ research station there until 1995.

In the early 1970s the removal of farm

animals commenced and all were eventually

removed by 1990. The vegetation recovered

quickly and the cats died out naturally. In a

very ambitious (and never before attempted

on such a large scale) eradication

programme the New Zealand Department of

Conservation successfully removed the rats.

With the island declared predator free, the

way was clear to reintroduce the

endangered Campbell Island Flightless Teal,

which had been rediscovered on an offshore

island in 1975. Snipe, which were formerly

unknown from the island but were

discovered on another offshore island,

recolonised the islands themselves. The

vegetation which the great English botanist

Sir Joseph Hooker described in 1841 as

having a "Flora display second to none

outside the tropics" is flourishing and is

nothing short of spectacular. We will offer a

number of options which will enable you to

explore the island including an extended

walk to Northwest Bay. There will also be

an easier walk to the Col Lyall Saddle. All of

these options will allow you the opportunity

and time to enjoy the Southern Royal

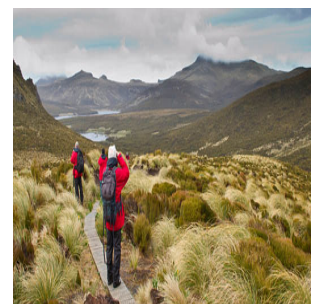
Albatross which nest here in large numbers.

We also visit areas of the island which

contain outstanding examples of the

megaherbs for which the island is

renowned.



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Duration

12 Days

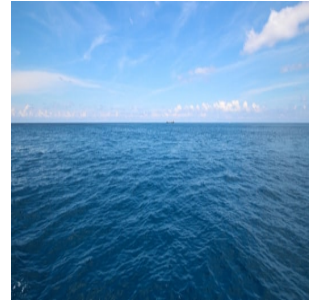
Opportunities

Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand

highlights of our expedition and enjoy a

farewell dinner tonight as we complete the

last few miles of our journey.



### DAY 12: Disembarkation in Bluff

Early this morning we will arrive in the Port of Bluff. After a final breakfast we bid farewell to our fellow voyagers and take a complimentary coach transfer to either Invercargill or Queenstown Airports. In case of unexpected delays due to weather and/or port operations we ask you not to book any onward travel until after midday from Invercargill and after 3pm from Queenstown. Note: During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Landings at the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand are by permit only as administered by the Government of New Zealand. No landings are permitted at The Snares.



### Inclusions & Details

Accommodation Cabin on board ship & Hotel

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**INCLUSIONS**

Duration 12 Days  
Locations Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand  
 Pre/post cruise transfers to/from the ship (does not include airport arrival transfer to hotel)\*  
 One night hotel accommodation in Queenstown in a twin share room (incl. dinner/breakfast)  
 Cabin Accommodation on board vessel  
 All meals whilst on board; house beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner  
 Landing Fees (valued at 500USD per person)  
 Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition crew  
 Expeditions by zodiac according to itinerary

**Inclusions**

**EXCLUSIONS**

International flights  
 Airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified  
 Meals other than those specified in the pre-departure information  
 Pre or post cruise travel expenses  
 Any optional activities not mentioned in itinerary  
 Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)  
 Travel insurance  
 All items of a personal nature  
 Laundry and drinks  
 Customary gratuities for staff and expedition crew

Difficulty Rating  
Single Surcharge

2 (light adventure)  
 Available on request. Subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.  
 Prices are based on per person, twin share\* (unless otherwise stated for triple/quad cabins)  
 Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.  
 Itinerary is subject to change depending on government regulations, weather and ice conditions

**Notes**

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 Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

Price Dependent upon  
Sustainability