

Sub Antarctic Islands - Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific | Heritage Adventurer

Trip Code
NZHEFIIV
Departure



Introduction

Embark on an incredible expedition to the Subantarctic islands of New Zealand. These 'forgotten' islands are often omitted from the mind of the exploratory traveller. However, despite their low profile, these islands are some of the most remarkable wildlife reserves in the Southern Ocean and designated UNESCO world heritage sites. Departing from Invercargill on board the Heritage Adventurer you will explore islands dotted with honey-combed seabird cliffs, windswept Rata forests, flowering fields of incredible 'megaherbs' and unforgettable wildlife experiences from Snare crested Penguin to majestic Royal Albatross. Discover one of the most pristine ecosystems that truly to this day unheard of.

Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive Invercargill

Guests should make their way to the designated hotel where we will spend the first night of the expedition. This evening there will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner; an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers on your voyage and some of our expedition team.



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DAY 2: 20/12/2026 - 26/12/2027

Duration

8 Days we enjoy breakfast in the hotel restaurants and have the morning free to explore the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand 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 Campbell Island and our adventure begins. We will sail past Ruapuke Island, formerly a local Maori stronghold supporting a population of over 200 people. We will also be able to see Stewart Island. Despite appearing quite small on most maps it is really quite large and has a 700 kilometre coastline. Seabirds that we may encounter at this early point in the voyage include: albatross, petrels, cormorants, gulls and Little Blue Penguins.



DAY 3: At Sea

As we make our way through the Southern Ocean we take the opportunity to learn more about the flora and fauna as we prepare for our arrival at Campbell 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, Campbell Island Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. There should be plenty of petrels and again the hard to identify prion species. We can expect some of the best pelagic birding on this leg of the journey from Bluff to Campbell Island with great views during the crossing.



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Location

New Zealand's southernmost

Subantarctic islands 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

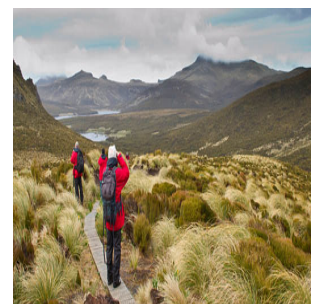
Albatross which nest here in large numbers.

We also visit areas of the island which

contain outstanding examples of the

megaherbs for which the island is

renowned.



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8 Days south of the archipelago there is a
Verdant sheltered harbour rich in human
history including shipswrecked
Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand
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 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 evening we will sail up the
eastern coast, making our way to Port Ross
in preparation for our landing at Enderby
Island.



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27/12/2026 - 26/12/2027 - Enderby Island

Duration

8 Days 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 former 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 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,

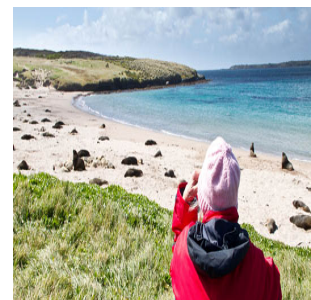
European Starling, Red-billed Gull and

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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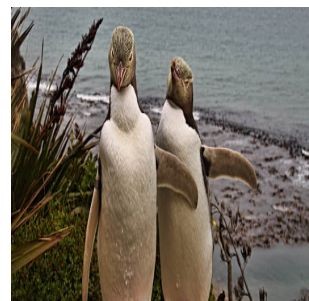
Duration

~~8 Days~~ The Snares - North East Island

Locations

~~The closest islands to New Zealand~~

~~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. Tonight we enjoy a farewell and celebratory dinner with newfound friends with time to reflect on a wealth of new experiences and recap on what amazing wildlife, plant life, landscapes and history we have enjoyed.



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Expeditions morning exploring Stewart and

Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand.

Uva Island has been predator-free since

1997 and its bird song and wildlife is some

of the best in New Zealand. Say your

farewells be transferred to either

Invercargill or Queenstown Airport. In case

of unexpected delays, we ask you not to

book any onward travel from Invercargill

before 3pm or before 6pm 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

Hotel & Cabin Onboard a Ship

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INCLUSIONS

Pre/post cruise transfers to/from the ship (does not include airport arrival transfer to hotel)*

One night hotel accommodation in Invercargill 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

* If you arrive in Queenstown, you can join our complimentary coach transfer leaving at 3 PM from the designated meeting point on Day 1 of the itinerary. Upon disembarkation you can take a complimentary coach transfer to either Invercargill or Queenstown Airports.

Inclusions

EXCLUSIONS

International flights

Airport arrival 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

2 (light adventure)

Difficulty Rating

Single Surcharge

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.

Your voyage includes a pre departure night in Invercargill. If you arrive in Queenstown, you can join our complimentary coach transfer leaving at 3 PM from the designated meeting point. on Day 1 of the itinerary. Upon disembarkation you can 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.

Notes

Itinerary is subject to change depending on government regulations, weather and ice conditions

* 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.

Price Dependent upon

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

Sustainability