

ITINERARY

**PETRELS, PENGUINS & ALBATROSSES:
CRUISING NEW ZEALAND'S SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS**

November 11-December 1, 2019



*Salvin's Albatross is one of the albatrosses, commonly known as "mollymawks" in New Zealand. The Bounty Islands are their main breeding site, but following breeding, they disperse across the southern Pacific to the coast of South America.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

We include here information for those interested in the 2019 Field Guides Cruising New Zealand's Subantarctic tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

Those who register for the tour will be sent this additional material:

- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a reading list
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

The wilderness that is the Subantarctic of New Zealand and Australia is one of the most spectacular in the world, yet few people ever see it. In terms of the grandeur of the wildlife and the landscapes, it is on par with such epic trips as the Galapagos and East Africa. Similar to Antarctica, the region is superior in a number of ways. There is a much greater diversity of seabirds (the best in the world in fact) and there are also a good number of other endemic island specialties. Remote and mostly uninhabited, the islands we visit on this tour abound with wildlife.

Australia's Macquarie Island and New Zealand's subantarctic islands—the Snares, the Aucklands, the Antipodes, the Campbells, the Bounties, and (farther north) the Chathams—teem with life. The sheer biomass at certain spots is just overwhelming, with birds being the dominant biological force. Seven species of penguin (at least three of them endemic to these waters) porpoise through ocean swells and bray from rocky shorelines, while with effortless grace, albatrosses spiral above the sea stacks and cliffs. The islands are amazing and chock full of birds and seals, but the seas that surround them are just as entertaining and harbor rafts of petrels and shearwaters, diving-petrels, storm-petrels, and prions and not infrequently, a whale or two.

New Zealand's subantarctic islands rise from the submerged Campbell Plateau, a fragment of ancient Gondwana, once connected to Antarctica and Australia. Volcanoes built most of the isles, and glaciers sculpted dramatic cliffs and snug harbors. Vegetation varies from the lichens and algae of the barren Bounties, to the impressive megaherbs and gnarled *rata* forests of the Auckland Islands. Each island, each jewel in the silver Southern Ocean, bears its freight of endemic species—21 nesting species are endemic to the islands, and an additional 20 species are endemic to the larger New Zealand area. We could see a further 27 New Zealand endemic subspecies, a good number of these ripe for splitting. The region is a cradle of seabird evolution and endemism.

Island avifaunas are especially vulnerable to introduced predators, and here as a result of predation (especially by rats) and habitat change, several species are highly endangered. The New Zealand Department of Conservation has done an outstanding job in conserving its precious biological heritage, and we'll learn about their successful programs for removing exotic species and reintroducing the rarest endemics.

If you find irresistible the allure of remote, wild islands where penguins and parakeets share the turf, if whales and seabirds and the sea's shifting moods fascinate you, please join us for an unsurpassed wildlife experience and a unique odyssey Down Under.



The Chatham Island Gerygone is one of the endemics we'll seek on the tour. These small insectivores are found in the forested areas of the Chatham Islands. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: We'll visit some of the loveliest and wildest islands of the Southern Ocean, with an emphasis on the endemic seabirds, landbirds, and shorebirds. The dramatic settings, play of light and cloud, and close encounters with wildlife create a photographer's dream, although wet weather can be problematic.

The pace of the tour varies from relaxed to moderately vigorous (if one opts for one of the more challenging hikes on the Aucklands or Chathams). Most birding will be from the ship or a zodiac (or perhaps the very similar naiads, though we will refer to these rigid inflatable expedition boats as zodiacs here), or along trails or boardwalks. An optional excursion to at least one vista for viewing seabird nests requires a rather involved scramble up steep, muddy slopes covered in tussock grass, but for most outings, only modest levels of fitness are needed. The most regular challenge is the process of boarding or de-boarding the zodiacs, which requires some balance and agility. Also, most landings will be wet (requiring waterproof boots for wading through surf and wet seaweed) and so one needs to be capable of climbing in and out of the zodiacs with some agility. We may occasionally need to dodge the young male Hooker's sea lions, which can be a little aggressive.

Because this tour is a cruise in both the open sea and more sheltered waters around the islands, outings can be cold and wet, although today's marvels in outdoor clothing make it ever easier to enjoy being out in the elements. We'll be in the region of persistent westerly winds and cold fronts known as the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties, and the open sea can be really rough if we encounter a storm, so one needs to consider their "seaworthiness." Conversely towards the northern end of the trip (we will span over 10° in latitude in our 18 days at sea) it can be rather warm and almost subtropical. Regardless, nearly everyone will need to adjust to the ship's motion, and medications to ease this process are advisable.

Our vessel, the *Spirit of Enderby*, was a Russian research vessel that has been reconfigured and adapted to be comfortable for ecotourists. It is 220 feet long and is fitted with stabilizers for greater comfort at sea. With a maximum of 50 passengers, the atmosphere on board is one of warm camaraderie between travelers and crew. The *Spirit of Enderby* is manned by expert Russian officers, with New Zealand and Australian hotel and expedition staff headed by Rodney Russ, a veteran of 25 years work in the Southern Ocean. Award-winning chefs serve outstanding cuisine. Seabirding is excellent from both bridge and deck, and a lecture series focuses on the biology, ecology, and conservation of New Zealand's treasured wildlife. Our reliable operators will do their best to stick to the itinerary, but the captain is in charge and may amend the plan, if necessary because of weather or for reasons of safety. (Please check the back pages of this itinerary for more information on the ship.)

While aboard the ship, apart from our Field Guides group, there will be a mix of other birders and voyagers with whom we'll share discoveries, knowledge, and a sense of fun.

About the Birding Areas



Snares Islands—About 125 miles southwest of Bluff, the Snares were discovered by Vancouver in 1791 and are among the most pristine of island groups. The Snares, two small, granitic, peat-covered islands and additional rocks, are free of introduced predators. This tiny island group, about 600 acres in area, supports some 6 million breeding seabirds, comparable to the total number of seabirds in Britain and Ireland. Forests of *Olearia* (tree daisy) shadow the burrows of about 5 million pairs of Sooty Shearwaters (1/4 of the world's population), and tussock meadows and cliffs accommodate other breeding seabirds—including about 5000 pairs of Buller's Albatross, 1000 pairs of "Salvin's" Shy Albatross, Mottled and Cape petrels, Brown Skua, Red-billed Gull, and Antarctic Tern. Special endemics are the Snares Crested Penguin and the Snares subspecies of both Fernbird and Tomtit (the latter two being potential splits). Because of the islands' protected status, all birding will be from the zodiacs and we will not land on the Snares.

Auckland Islands—These sublime volcanic islands, sculpted by glaciers and graced by red-flowering *rata* forests, were inhabited by Maoris, sealers, and English settlers for a period during the 1800s. Consequently, the main island and the Port Ross area were impacted by people and their domestic animals and are now recovering through the efforts of New Zealand's Department of Conservation. The Aucklands, long isolated from other land masses, support the richest flora of any island group in the Southern Ocean, as well as the world's largest breeding populations of New Zealand (Hooker's) Sea Lion, "Snowy" Wandering Albatross (about 7250 pairs), and "White-capped" Shy Albatross (64,000 pairs). We plan to spend most of a day leisurely hiking on **Enderby Island** (a rather vigorous hike is an option for those so inclined). Renowned for its diversity of birds and spectacularly flowering megaherbs, Enderby's birds of special note include Yellow-eyed Penguin (the world's rarest penguin, with 225 pairs in the Aucklands), Auckland Islands Shag (total population of 4000 birds), and the flightless Auckland Islands Teal (1500 birds). Endemic subspecies of Double-banded Plover, Subantarctic Snipe, Australasian Pipit, New Zealand Bellbird, and Tomtit also grace these islands. Our second day in the Auckland Islands we plan to visit lovely **Southwest Cape**, with its colony of Shy Albatross. Surrounding waters could produce "Gibson's" Wandering Albatross, "Southern" Royal Albatross (which nests only in the Auckland and Campbell Islands), White-headed, White-chinned, and Soft-plumaged petrels, Gray-backed and Black-bellied storm-petrels, and Antarctic Prion.

Macquarie Island, alone of the island groups, was never part of a continent. It is a very rare type of island, formed perhaps 100,000 years ago by uplifted oceanic crust along the Macquarie Ridge, and is perhaps the most impressive fragment of deep oceanic crust known above sea level. It lies just north of the Antarctic Convergence and is the farthest

south of the islands we'll visit. Macquarie's vegetation is tall tussock grassland and wet mire over a peat layer; it is rich in mosses, liverworts, and lichens. Weather is cold, wet, windy, foggy, and... well, just perfect for penguins. With about 100,000 pairs of King Penguins and about a million pairs of endemic Royal Penguins, some 5000 pairs of Gentoos, and 500,000 pairs of Rockhoppers, there are more penguins nesting here than anywhere else in the world. Joining the tumult are Gray-headed and Light-mantled albatrosses, Antarctic Prion, Antarctic and Hall's giant petrels, White-headed Petrel, Common Diving-Petrel, Macquarie Shag, Brown Skua, Kelp Gull, and an endemic subspecies of Antarctic Tern.

Campbell Island is the site of one of New Zealand's most ambitious and successful conservation projects; the complete eradication of rats from a large island. A glacially-sculpted remnant of a volcanic dome, Campbell was visited first by sealers, later by scientists and naval vessels. Farmers lived here from 1895 until 1931, when they abandoned their efforts, leaving behind about 4000 sheep and 25 cattle. Campbell became a nature reserve in 1954, and the sheep were gradually restricted by fencing and their numbers reduced, until now only a remnant herd remains. Vegetation is primarily tussock grassland and shrubland with dwarf forest growing in sheltered areas. Nesting here are about 300 pairs of Yellow-eyed Penguins and a declining population of Rockhoppers. Massive colonies of breeding albatross include "Southern" Royal (8500 pairs), Black-browed (74,000 pairs), Gray-headed (11,500 pairs), Wandering (20 pairs), and Light-mantled. The distinctive Campbell race of Black-browed Albatross (another potential split) has a honey-colored eye and may well be a distinct species. Gray-backed Storm-Petrel and other birds, which were formerly limited by rats to offshore islets, are expected to recolonize the main island, and in recent years the Campbell Island Flightless Teal (thought extinct until the mid-1970s) has been seen once in a rare while. Campbell Islands Shag is another endemic.



*The Royal Penguin is an endemic of remote Macquarie Island, the farthest south we will travel on this tour.
Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.*

Antipodes Islands are a moody, splendid volcanic group. The main island is ringed by spectacular cliffs and covered with tussock grassland interspersed with shrubs, ferns, and tall herbs. The Antipodes boast Erect-crested Penguins (115,000 pairs); Rockhopper Penguins (50,000 pairs); the Antipodean subspecies of Wandering Albatross (a strong candidate for splitting); Light-mantled Albatross; Fairy Prion; Hall's Giant, Soft-plumaged, White-chinned, Mottled, and White-headed petrels; Little Shearwaters; Common Diving-Petrel; Gray-backed and Black-bellied storm-petrels; an endemic subspecies of Australasian Pipit; and two parakeets—the Antipodean Parakeet (a bulky, ground-dwelling parakeet restricted to the Antipodes) and the endemic subspecies "Reischek's" Red-fronted Parakeet.

Bounty Islands, named by their discoverer, the infamous Captain Bligh of the *Bounty*, are the smallest of the island groups and the most barren, being without permanent fresh water or soil. Their sheer cliffs, wreathed in cloud, rise dramatically from the white froth of breaking waves. About 115,000 pairs of Erect-crested Penguins, 76,500 pairs of Shy ("Salvin's") Albatross, and some 570 pairs of the rare Bounty Islands Shags crowd onto 334 acres of lichen-encrusted granite.

Chatham Islands are the largest and most northerly archipelago we'll visit. A rugged land of precipices, lakes, peat bogs, bamboo-rush moorlands, and forest, the Chathams sit astride the subtropical convergence zone (and so technically aren't numbered among the subantarctic islands). Inhabited originally by the Maori of Polynesian origin and later by European settlers, today about 750 people live, farm, and fish on two of the islands. The vegetation of the main Chatham Island has been extensively modified by settlement, and the wildlife on the main island has been impacted by introduced Australian

Brush-tailed Possums, cats, rats, and European hedgehogs. About 11% of the flora is endemic, underscoring the island's importance to New Zealand's biodiversity. Endemic birds include the exquisite and highly endangered Shore Plover, which numbers about 100 individuals and inhabits the wave platforms on South East Island (also called Rangatira). Pitt Island Shag (1000 birds), Chatham Islands Shag (1000 birds), Chatham Islands Oystercatcher (perhaps 100 birds), Chatham Islands Parakeet, and Chatham Gerygone are other specialties. The Chathams host endemic subspecies of Chatham Shy Albatross (about 2500 pairs), New Zealand Pigeon (rare and declining), Gray Fantail, Tomtit, and Tui. (Northern) Royal and (Pacific) Buller's albatrosses both breed here. Now, consider the little-known Magenta Petrel; intensive efforts to find and study Magenta Petrels have located a single breeding population of fewer than 10-14 pairs in one valley in the Chatham Islands. Total population, extrapolated from banding returns, may be 120-150 birds. Chances are very slim for seeing either the near-mythical Magenta Petrel or the critically endangered Chatham Petrel (fewer than 1500 birds, 200 breeding pairs), but we'll certainly be watching! What a climax to the trip that would be!

Dunedin—As we approach the Otago Peninsula and our last port-of-call at Dunedin, we'll watch for mainland species such as Little Penguins, Spotted Shag, Little Pied Cormorant, South Island Oystercatcher, Variable Oystercatcher, and Masked Lapwing.



King Penguins coming ashore at Sandy Bay on Macquarie Island. Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.

Itinerary for New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands

Days 1-3, Mon-Wed, 11-13 Nov. Los Angeles to Invercargill, New Zealand's southernmost city. After flying from Los Angeles to Auckland, and losing a day when crossing the International Dateline, we'll then fly from Auckland to Invercargill. On arrival please plan to take a taxi to the **Kelvin Hotel** in the central city. There will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner, involving all members of the cruise, where we will meet our fellow adventurers and some of the expedition team. Information regarding the group's first meeting will be available to you when you check in at reception or your guide will contact you directly. Night on November 13 in Invercargill at the **Kelvin Hotel**.

Day 4, Thu, 14 Nov. Departure for the Subantarctic Islands. After an introduction to the islands at the Southland Museum, we'll depart Invercargill for the Port of Bluff, where we will board the *Spirit of Enderby* and begin our cruise to the Subantarctic Islands! As we depart coastal waters, we'll watch for Little Blue Penguins, Fairy Prions, and three cormorants—Spotted and Bronze shags and Pied Cormorant. All nights through Day 20 will be on board *Spirit of Enderby*.

Day 5, Fri, 15 Nov. Snares Islands. We will begin the day at or approaching the Snares, watching the dark cloud of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, which will have departed their nest burrows to spend the day at sea. Weather permitting, we'll cruise in the zodiacs along the coastline and into sheltered waters in search of the Snares races of

Fernbird and Tomtit, as well as a colony of Snares Crested Penguins. Seabirds today are likely to include “Snowy” Wandering Albatross, both Northern and Southern races of royal albatrosses, “Salvin’s” and “White-capped” shy albatrosses, Buller’s Albatross, and Hall’s Giant, Mottled, Great-winged, and White-chinned petrels.



The Australasian Pipit is widespread and common, but we have the chance at finding several subspecies, including one found in the Auckland Islands. Photograph by participant Angus Hogg.

Day 6, Sat, 16 Nov. Auckland Islands. Today we expect to spend the entire day at Enderby Island with its enchanting birdlife and spectacular megaherbs. Foremost among the birds are Yellow-eyed Penguin, nesting Light-mantled Albatross, Hall’s Giant Petrel, Auckland Islands Shag, Auckland Islands Teal, New Zealand Falcon (rare), skulking Subantarctic Snipe, Red-fronted and Yellow-fronted parakeets, and Tui, plus endemic subspecies of Double-banded Plover, Australasian Pipit, Tomtit, and New Zealand Bellbird. Two options exist on Enderby for birding today, but both offer us the same species of birds. For intrepid hikers, there is the opportunity to circumnavigate the island by foot and this is highly recommended for those who are able. A shorter hike that offers all of the same birding opportunities is likely what most of us will do, with both groups performing the majority of it.

Day 7, Sun, 17 Nov. Auckland Islands. We continue to explore the Aucklands with a stop at Southwest Cape, where the fittest of us may climb to a good vantage point for viewing a colony of “White-capped” Shy Albatrosses, a subspecies which nests only in the Auckland Islands. Others will have the option of taking a zodiac cruise beneath the nesting cliffs and looking for more Auckland Islands Teal and New Zealand Falcon.

Day 8, Mon, 18 Nov. At sea. As we sail for Macquarie Island, we pass through some of the richest waters where sea-birding is spectacular, conditions permitting. As many as 15-20 species of tubenoses are possible, and—given luck and sharp eyes—we’ll find cetaceans adding spice to the voyage.

Day 9, Tue, 19 Nov. Macquarie Island. After picking up Australian rangers, we’ll anchor in Sandy Bay, then head ashore in zodiacs to be welcomed by a riotous mob of Royal and King penguins and lounging Southern Elephant Seals. Make sure you have your photography gear ready!

Day 10, Wed, 20 Nov. Macquarie Island. Today we’ll continue to explore Macquarie, going ashore at the Australian base in Buckles Bay where small numbers of Gentoo Penguins join the other nesters. Zaiads may shuttle us past a colony of Rockhopper Penguins. For any Australian listers, we will keep our eyes and ears open for Common Redpolls.

Day 11, Thu, 21 Nov. At sea. Our seawatch continues as we sail for Campbell Island. It is a good time to look for whales, dolphins, and any other cetacean that may surface, as well as more tubenoses; we’ll also have time to get a little rest and relaxation.

Day 12, Fri, 22 Nov. Campbell Island. After anchoring in Perseverance Harbor, we’ll go ashore on Campbell Island, where the New Zealand Department of Conservation appears to have succeeded in eradicating introduced rats. Nesting “Southern” Royal Albatrosses are a highlight, and pipits often make close approaches. We’ll keep our eyes peeled and our fingers crossed for anything resembling a teal, but that will take quite a stroke of luck, and we may even have a shot at the elusive Campbell Island Snipe.

Day 13, Sat, 23 Nov. At sea. Sea-watchers will be in their element again, with lots of opportunities to admire albatrosses, and polish our ID skills. We will be ever watchful while listening for the blow of a whale, and perhaps glimpsing the Green Flash at sunset, as we voyage through the wild splendor of the Southern Ocean.

Day 14, Sun, 24 Nov. Antipodes Islands. Weather permitting, we'll zodiac-cruise along the coast in search of Erect-crested Penguins and the endemic Antipodes Parakeet, which clambers through the shrubbery and along the ground, seldom flying. The endemic race of "Reischek's" Red-fronted Parakeet also thrives here.

Day 15, Mon, 25 Nov. Bounty Islands. We hope to zodiac-cruise around these inhospitable granite islets amid flotillas of Erect-crested Penguins, while hordes of Salvin's Albatrosses wheel overhead and Bounty Island Shags beat past in this wilderness of bleak rock and wave.

Day 16, Tue, 26 Nov. At sea. En route to the Chatham Islands, we'll cruise along the edge of the continental shelf where upwellings create ideal conditions for foraging whales and seabirds, including Broad-billed Prions and White-faced Storm-Petrels, Wandering Albatross, and Mottled Petrels. These waters are among the best for any chance of encountering the rarer petrels. As we reach the edge of the Chathams, we'll circumnavigate the spectacular Pyramid Rock, where huge numbers of Chatham Island and Buller's ("Pacific") albatrosses nest, before steaming past Pitt Island to South East Island.

Day 17, Wed, 27 Nov. Chatham Islands (Waitangi). We'll land on the inhabited main island and hike a private bush reserve on the south coast, with opportunities for seeing Weka, Chatham Islands Parakeet, Chatham Island Gerygone, the endemic Chatham Island Pigeon, Tomtit, Australasian Pipit, Gray Fantail, and Tui. We'll also meet a few of the multitude of Bruces who call the island home.



Chatham Island is the only location where the endangered Shore Plover nests. These small shorebirds were once common, but invasive rats and other predators have reduced the population to a few hundred. Photograph by participant Dave Semler.

Day 18, Thu, 28 Nov. Chatham Islands (South East Island and Mangere Island). On this, our second day in the Chathams, we will arrive in South East Island, where we plan to look for the striking Shore Plovers, among the rarest birds in the world, at their wave platforms. We'll Zodiac-cruise alongside the platforms, searching for the plover as well as the endemic Chatham Oystercatcher, Chatham Islands Shag, and Pitt Island Shag. As our final goodbye to the archipelago, we visit the Mangere Islands, from whence the endemic Black Robin was rescued.

Days 19-20, Fri-Sat, 29-30 Nov. At sea. As we cross the Chatham Rise and various seamounts, in addition to possibilities of Royal Albatross and Wandering Albatross, our chances improve for seeing a few of the more northerly pelagic species such as Buller's Shearwater and several petrels—Cook's, Black-winged, and the rare Westland.

Day 21, Sun, 01 Dec. Dunedin. We make port at the historic Otago Harbour. After a final breakfast and our disembarkation farewells, we will fly from Dunedin to Auckland and then home. Best not to make travel arrangements out of Dunedin before mid-day.

About Your Guide

Doug Gochfeld was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and his interest in birds was sparked at a young age (he participated in his first CBC at the age of 7), in part by his father. This interest soon spiraled into a full-blown obsession for Doug for a few years before he abruptly shelved it, in favor of baseball, for several adolescent years. He picked up his interest in birds again a few years ago and once again became a dedicated birder (though when he's not roaming the habitats of his native Brooklyn in search of avian quarry, he still finds occasion to get in some baseball-related activities). Doug graduated from Binghamton University, NY in 2008 with a B.S. in Economics with a focus in finance.

“Doug's enthusiasm, skill and tenacity at finding birds is amazing. He clearly loves showing birds to people - be it a common or not so common bird”. D. S. Colorado Grouse

For the last few years, he has been essentially a working birder, and this has taken him all over the United States. Doug was the swing counter (counting the Hawkwatch, the Seawatch, and the Songbird Morning Flight) in Cape May for two falls (2009 + 2010). He worked annually from 2011 to 2014 as a tour guide on St. Paul Island, Alaska (in the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea). He has also spent several months in Israel working on spring counts of migrant raptors. Doug is a Leica Pro Staff member, and he has been a regular leader at birding festivals in Texas, Ohio, Florida, New Mexico, and Virginia. He also co-led one of our Field Guides Alaska tours with Megan Crewe in 2014.

His strongest interests in birding are migration, vagrancy, and patterns of distribution. He has a particular interest in shorebirds, and he has worked in Alaska and volunteered in Suriname studying Hudsonian Godwits and Semipalmated Sandpipers, respectively. Alaska and the rest of the Arctic and sub-Arctic hold special places in Doug's heart, though he's also quickly falling for Neotropical birding as well.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/guides> for Doug's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

About Your Ship

The *Spirit of Enderby* is a fully ice-strengthened expedition vessel, built in 1984 for polar and oceanographic research and is perfect for expedition travel.

She carries just 50 passengers and was refurbished in March 2013 to provide comfortable accommodation in twin 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 recently updated combined bar/library lounge area and a dedicated lecture room (March 2018). The cuisine is excellent and is prepared by top NZ and Australian chefs.

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

The name *Spirit of Enderby* honours the work and the vision of the Enderby Brothers of London. The Enderby Captains were at the forefront of Antarctic exploration for almost 40 years in the early 1800s. It also celebrates Enderby Island, arguably the greatest Subantarctic Island in the world.

More information about the ship and photographs can be seen under the “ship” tab at the following link: <https://www.heritage-expeditions.com/trip/birding-downunder-2019/>

Financial Information

Cruise Fee (prices are per person from Invercargill):

Heritage Suite—\$16,500

Mini Suite—\$15,400

Superior Plus (two lower berths)—\$14,700

Superior (one bunk)—\$13,650

Main Deck (two lower berths)—\$12,150

Triple Main Deck (one bunk and one lower berth)—\$11,250

Land Fees—\$800 per person (the land fee is in addition to the Cruise Fee, and covers pre/post cruise transfers, one-night hotel accommodation in a twin share room [including dinner and breakfast], museum entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader.)

DEPOSIT: 25% of cabin fee per person; ***please note your cabin category preference on your registration form***

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 14, 2019

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: Single travelers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should indicate this on the registration form. The published per person double occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabin-mate is available. Single travelers who require sole occupancy of cabins will be charged at 1.8 times the published fare on all cabins except suite and superior cabins which will be charged at 2 times the published fare.

LIMIT: 15 (cabins are limited and are confirmed on a first come first serve basis; it is possible that we could increase the tour limit if more cabins become available to us)

Price Changes—Heritage Expeditions (from whom we have an allotment of cabins) reserves the right to impose surcharges (price increases) up to 20 days before departure due to unfavorable changes in exchange rates, increases in air fares or other transportation costs, increases in local operating costs, taxes, or government action. If any surcharge results in an increase of more than 10% of the expedition fare, the client may cancel the booking within 14 days of notification of the surcharge and obtain a full refund. Field Guides will only pass along any surcharges we are assessed.

*Insurance—Heritage Expeditions and Field Guides **strongly** advise that travelers obtain insurance that will cover personal injury, medical, repatriation, and evacuation expenses. The cost of emergency evacuation and medical care can be very high. A minimum of \$75,000 is required and it is strongly recommended that coverage be extended to include cancellation and trip interruption. Coverage offered through CSA on the Field Guides Comfort Plan meets these minimums as well as trip cancellation/interruption insurance.*

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Ruth Kuhl. Ruth will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter New Zealand. No visa is required.

If you are a citizen of another country, please check with the New Zealand consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online, or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees.

Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **cruise fee** is for one person in double occupancy from Invercargill. It includes lodging from Day 4 through Day 20 on board the *Spirit of Enderby*, all meals from lunch on Day 4 through breakfast on Day 21, entrance fees, expedition shore excursions, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The **land fee** of \$800 includes pre/post cruise transfers, one-night hotel accommodation in a twin share room [including dinner and breakfast], museum entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader.

The above fee does **not** include your airfare to Invercargill and from Dunedin, airport taxes, visa fees, any alcoholic beverages, **optional tips to the boat crew (recommended amount of \$7 per person per day)**, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

Single travelers who wish to share their cabin/hotel room should indicate this on the registration form. The published per person double occupancy fare is guaranteed in this case, whether or not a cabin-mate is available. Single travelers who *require* sole occupancy of cabins will be charged at 1.8 times the published fare on all cabins except suite and superior cabins, which will be charged at 2 times the published fare.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of 25% of the cabin fee per person.** (*Please note your cabin category preference on your registration form.*) If registering by phone, a deposit must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or **by July 14, 2019. We will bill you for the final payment at either 120 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: *Due to the cancellation policy of our supplier, Heritage Expeditions, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows:* If cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure, Field Guides will refund 10% of your deposit (25% of the cabin fee). Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour fees (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute another guide for the original one. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members, and they will have the right to cancel their participation and receive a full refund.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 70 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 70 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive from us a brochure regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. **Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii.** We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance with InsureMyTrip (www.insuremytrip.com) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. Please let us know if you have any questions about this. If you purchase the insurance within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights), pre-existing conditions are covered. The CSA

brochure includes a contact number; you may also purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/travelinsurance.html> and clicking the link to CSA. Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Field Guides Incorporated accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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