

ITINERARY
NEW ZEALAND
November 11-29, 2018
Hauraki Gulf Pelagic Extension
November 29-December 1, 2018



The Takahe is a large flightless rail endemic to New Zealand. Once thought to be extinct, a small population was located on South Island, and populations have been established in other parts of New Zealand. We'll visit Tiri-tiri Matangi Island, which hosts one of these groups. Photograph by participant Gregg Recer.

We include here information for those interested in the 2018 Field Guides New Zealand 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:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from the website)
- 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 reference 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

With its picturesque landscape of mountains, meadows, and fjords, New Zealand, or Aotearoa—"the land of the long white cloud" in Maori—is an enchanting land. Like its nearest neighbor, Australia, New Zealand has remained isolated for millions of years since the split of the continental plates, a fact reflected in the lack of land mammals (there are no native land mammals except a couple of now very rare bats) and in the ancient derivation of its avifauna. This is the home of such primitive families of birds as the amazing kiwis, New Zealand wattlebirds like the Kokako, Saddleback, the extinct Huia, and the New Zealand wrens.

Although New Zealand supports relatively few species of land birds, it boasts three endemic families and some 45 endemic species on the main islands. Some of these, such as the Saddleback, the Kokako, and the Stitchbird, are among the most endangered birds on Earth. There have been massive habitat changes since Maori settlement began a thousand years ago, followed by the huge impact of European settlement in the nineteenth century. The menace of introduced mammals like cats, stoats, rats, and possums means that many of the New Zealand birds are now to be found only in island sanctuaries or in remnant native forests. The New Zealand Department of Conservation has done an outstanding job of conserving these precious fragments, with very successful reintroduction programs for some of the rarest species. We shall visit many of the prime sites to get an idea of what the place was like in the not-so-distant past.

New Zealand is situated in a subtropical ocean convergence zone, and as such is richly endowed with seabirds; indeed, it is one of the cradles of seabird evolution. Boat trips off North, South, and Stewart islands and visits to several coastal sites will allow us to experience close at hand the tremendous variety of marine birds and mammals of this region. Our travels will take us to many places of great scenic beauty on North and South islands, from the snow-bound Mount Cook massif, to the deep-water upwellings off the seaward Kaikouras, incredible glacier-ringed Milford Sound in Fiordland National Park, the wild and remote Stewart Island, and the rare Yellow-eyed Penguin colonies. Join us this year for a most pleasurable springtime birding tour of New Zealand.



*The rare Kokako survives in a few protected areas; we will hope to see one on Tiri-tiri Matangi Island.
Photograph by participants David and Judy Smith.*

About the Physical Requirements & Pace: We'll visit some of the loveliest and wildest parts of the main islands of New Zealand with an emphasis on the endemic landbirds, seabirds, and shorebirds. Many days involve fairly long drives to get to essential sites, but only one is much over 150 miles. Photo opportunities should be good but the weather can be problematic. The pace of the tour is not rigorous and no steep climbing is envisaged, so modest levels of fitness should be fine and the birding will be almost entirely along roads or trails. There will be a couple of opportunities for some night birding, primarily for the Okarito Brown Kiwi, but also for the Stewart Island Brown Kiwi, where the trail is narrow, can be muddy, and is steep for a very short way at the start. Boat trips are a central feature of the tour, involving parts of days out in coastal waters where it can be both cold and wet. If you are a poor sailor, then the usual precautions apply. Accommodation is comfortable throughout, and the small cafe lunches and coffee breaks are a nice feature of the trip. There are also various opportunities for shopping for local souvenirs and the beautiful New Zealand jade or greenstone.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide.

About the Birding Areas

Fiordland is an area of magnificent mountain scenery and a truly spectacular deep fjord, where we hope to see the restricted-range winter-breeding Fiordland Crested Penguin, as well as Keas, and a chance for the rare New Zealand Falcon and Blue Duck. There will be an optional cruise on the sheltered waters of Milford Sound (a fjord in reality), and we'll have a further chance of Fiordland Crested Penguin in addition to New Zealand fur seals and Dusky and Bottlenose dolphins. Our only opportunity for the rare and declining South Island Wren (Rock Wren) is here, too, on the scree slopes above the tree line. We have been exceedingly fortunate over the last several trips, seeing the birds well without long walks, though we do need good weather!

Stewart Island—Wild, remote, and largely unspoiled, this spectacular island has an almost subantarctic feel about it and has fairly recently become New Zealand's largest national park (Rakiura). It is one of the best places to see New Zealand's iconic bird, the Brown Kiwi, which comes out to feed on some inaccessible beaches at night. We shall need good weather here, but with a bit of luck we should see this bizarre creature poking about on the beach sand. The supporting cast includes the curious flightless rail, the Weka, as well as Red-crowned and Yellow-fronted parakeets and

the South Island form of Kaka (which are not shy here!) and the South Island Saddleback on another of the island refuge sites. Seabirds to be expected include White-capped and Salvin's Albatrosses, Sooty Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel, Common Diving-Petrel, and Fairy Prion, and there's also a chance of Mottled Petrel and just perhaps an early Buller's Albatross.



Dunedin area—This seaside resort area has the world's only mainland colony of nesting Northern Royal Albatross and is also a good place to see one of the world's rarest penguins, the large and attractive Yellow-eyed Penguin. Little Penguins, Spotted Shags, Bronze (Stewart Island) Shag, and Little Pied Cormorant make up the supporting cast, while other seabirds are likely offshore.

Mackenzie Country (Otago) is a vast glacial outwash plain lying at the foot of Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain. The strange braided river systems here harbor one of the world's rarest waders, the Black Stilt, which will be our chief target, along with such oddities as Wrybill, Double-banded Plover (Banded Dotterel), and the delightful river-dwelling Black-fronted Tern, one of the prettiest of all terns.

Haast Pass and Franz Josef —Temperate montane rain forest, suggesting what the west side of the South Island must

once have been before the calamity of settlement. It is one of the last mainland sites for Yellowhead (which would likely be extinct within the next few years save for relocation efforts that have established populations on a few offshore islands), whereas Rifleman, NZ Robin, and Yellow-fronted Parakeet are also present. The forest itself has huge *Nothofagus* beeches and vast amounts of moss. Near the tourist community of Franz Josef is the local Okarito Brown Kiwi, and we will make an effort to see this very rare species our evening here.

Westland—The region of the western side of the South Island (surprise!) is forested with beautiful native podocarp forests and boasts impressive landscapes. The area is also home to a couple of range-restricted native birds. One we will make a particular effort to see is a nesting colony of the Westland Petrel. Another that may be more difficult, but we will nevertheless endeavor to see, is the Great Spotted Kiwi. Encounters with forest species such as Tomtit, Pipipi, Weka, Tui, and others will just be happy by products of our efforts.

Kaikoura—This rocky coastal area is set against a gorgeous mountain backdrop and lies adjacent to submarine canyons where upwellings of deep nutrient-rich cold waters occur. Seabird watching has become a local industry, and with the continental shelf only two miles offshore, pelagic trips are quick and efficient. They are some of the most outstanding pelagic trips in the world, and the afternoon out here is a trip highlight—we are out among the birds within 20 minutes, just how pelagic birding should be! Marvelous close views of albatrosses can be obtained, with several forms of Wandering, Royal, Black-browed, and Shy (both White-capped and Salvin's taxa) albatrosses being likely. The New Zealand form of Black-browed Albatross has a honey-colored eye and may well be a distinct species. Kaikoura is also an excellent place to see the rare Westland Petrel, which breeds in a small mountain area on the west coast of South Island. Hutton's Shearwater breeds in the mountains inland from Kaikoura, and this is again a great place to see it. The submarine canyon waters are also good for sea mammals including sperm whale, NZ fur seal, and Dusky and the diminutive endangered Hector's dolphins.

Picton—The northeast end of the South Island is a series of sunken riverbeds (sounds), and we will take a boat ride out onto Queen Charlotte Sound to look at seabirds such as the local Rough-faced (King) Shag, Little Penguin, Fluttering Shearwater, and land on a few islands to try for the very local Malherbe's (Orange-fronted) Parakeet, South Island form of Saddleback, and NZ Robin, among others. Picton is also where we will board the ferry between the South and North Islands, and seabirds will be on the menu as we cross the Cook Strait.

Whakapapa—At the base of one of the volcanoes of the central North Island, this skiing resort town is also nestled among several rivers that are home to the unique Blue Duck, a rare and local species that requires montane, rushing streams.

Taupo—This lake, and nearby Lake Rotoroua, are famous for being geothermal. Taupo is the largest lake in New Zealand, and both lakes are home to the NZ Grebe or Dabchick, and we may luck upon other specialties such as Fernbird and Australasian Bittern here.

Pureora—A wonderful forest reserve good for Long-tailed Koel, Yellow-fronted Parakeet, and the North Island forms of Kaka, New Zealand Robin, and Tomtit. This was formerly a stronghold of the North Island Kokako, which is still occasionally found here.



The Southern Royal Albatross is one of the world's largest birds. We should see them in the Kaikoura region. Photograph by participant Gregg Recer.

Miranda—a special reserve for shorebirds on the Firth of Thames, managed by a local naturalist group and with a very informative visitor center. A variety of eastern Palearctic waders should be here, as well as the extraordinary endemic Wrybill and the very scarce and declining New Zealand Dotterel.

Tiri-tiri Matangi Island—This small island in Auckland Harbor has been designated as a sort of ark for many of the endangered species that are unable to survive in the changed habitats on the main islands. Feral animals, including the long-established Polynesian rat or kiore, have been eliminated, and the island is becoming pristine habitat once again. The Department of Conservation has successfully introduced the North Island Saddleback here, a species that was once found on just a couple of predator-free islands. Recent and very promising introductions include

Whitehead, Stitchbird (a small honeyeater-type which is now classified as an entirely new family, once found only on Little Barrier Island, which was its final refuge), the large and very rare Kokako, the incredible flightless swamphen—the Takaha, and the nocturnal Little Spotted Kiwi. Apart from introduction sites such as this, the Takaha only occurs in a few remote valleys in Fiordland, while the diminutive kiwi is now only introduced here and on a few other tiny islands. Many of New Zealand's birds can only survive in managed habitats, due to the huge changes in the environment following Maori and then European settlement. It will be fascinating to view this experiment in applied conservation at first hand during our visit here.

Itinerary for New Zealand

Days 1-3, Sun-Tue, 11-13 Nov. Los Angeles to Auckland to Christchurch to Invercargill, New Zealand. We recommend the Air New Zealand flight #1 departing Los Angeles at 9:00 p.m. on November 11th; crossing the International Date Line en route, we effectively “lose” a day. Scheduled arrival in Auckland is 7:00 a.m. on November 13th. If you are not coming in early, you will continue on Air New Zealand flight 515 departing Auckland at 10:10 a.m. and arriving in Christchurch at 11:30 a.m., connecting to Air New Zealand flight 5005 departing Christchurch at 12:10 p.m. and arriving in Invercargill at 1:35 p.m. You may choose to arrive a day early and spend the night in Auckland to try to reset your internal clock. Upon arrival in the southern city of Invercargill, the group will be met at the airport and loaded onto our bus for transfer to our lodging at Te Anau, at the entrance to Fiordland National Park Night in Te Anau.

Day 4, Wed, 14 Nov. Fiordland National Park. After a long day of travel, we will have a relaxed morning breakfast, then drive into the awe-inspiring and scenic Fiordland National Park. The landscapes are unrivalled in New Zealand, and the Red Beech forests of northern Fiordland are home to an excellent array of forest birds. Among our top targets today will be the two New Zealand Wrens (the most “primitive” of passerines!): Rifleman and South Island (Rock) Wren, as well as *Nothofagus* beech forest birds such as Tomtit, NZ Robin, Long-tailed Koel (or Cuckoo), and Yellow-fronted Parakeet. We'll also have the opportunity to take a ferry ride around the impressive Milford Sound (actually a fjord), a great locality to see the Fiordland Crested Penguin as well as some impressive sights. Night in Te Anau.

Day 5, Thu, 15 Nov. Ferry to Stewart Island. After enjoying Fiordland, we'll drive back down to the southern end of the South Island, perhaps with a stop at Tautuku Estuary for the unique Fernbird, then on to the town of Bluff. Here, we'll board a ferry (leaving our bus behind for a couple of days) to New Zealand's "south-south island", Stewart Island. This island has recently been made NZ's largest National Park and is largely wilderness with few roads around the one large community of Oban. As a result, we don't need wheeled transport (other than to get bags to and from our hotel). Kakas are bold and inquisitive here, and will likely be waiting for us on the porch of our hotel. We'll end the day with an evening trip to view Stewart Island Brown Kiwi. Night at South Seas.



*The New Zealand Kaka can be very curious and personable.
Photograph by participant Paul Goldschmidt.*

Day 6, Fri, 16 Nov. Stewart Island; Ulva Island. Today we'll have a day charter boat at sea and in Paterson Inlet. Our charter vessel will take us along the coast of Stewart Island and out into the Pacific Ocean. We may spy White-capped, Sooty Shearwater, Broad-billed Prion, Mottled Petrel, Brown Skua, and the rare Yellow-eyed Penguin before we return to the more sheltered waters of Paterson Inlet. We'll land on Ulva Island for excellent viewing of most of the South Island forest birds such as Weka, Kaka, Yellow- and Red-crowned parakeets, the South Island Saddleback, Yellowhead, and Pipipi. After this fine opportunity, we'll depart mid-afternoon to return to Oban. Night at South Seas Hotel.

Day 7, Sat, 17 Nov. Ferry to South Island; Dunedin. This morning, we'll take the ferry back to Bluff, where we'll get aboard our bus and head northeast to Dunedin City. This afternoon we'll enjoy an evening cruise down Otago Harbour to Taiaroa Head with dinner on-board our vessel. Here, at Taiaroa, is the only mainland colony of the Northern Royal Albatross, one of the world's largest flying birds. Just below them is a colony of several thousand Bronze (Stewart Island) Shags and near them smaller colonies of Spotted Shags, Little Pied Cormorants, and Royal Spoonbills. No doubt shagged out by nightfall, we'll spend the night in Dunedin.

Day 8, Sun, 18 Nov. Dunedin to Mackenzie Basin; Lake Ohau. After breakfast in Dunedin, we will depart for the open country of the Mackenzie Basin, a region characterized by the "braided rivers" that cut across the eastern, drier side of the South Island. Here, we will stay in a very comfortable skiing lodge well away from the noise and bustle of the city. The view of tranquil Lake Ohau, with Mount Cook, or Aoraki (in Maori), New Zealand's highest peak at its head, is breathtaking! Night at Lake Ohau Lodge.

Day 9, Mon, 19 Nov. Mackenzie Basin. The braided rivers in this region are the habitat of the endangered Black Stilt, and we will look also for Double-banded Plover and a range of inland waterfowl. Later today we'll travel up the Aoraki (Mount Cook National Park). We'll be walking amidst the alpine splendor, searching for the rare NZ Falcon and taking further opportunities to look for Black Stilt and Wrybill on their breeding grounds. Night at Lake Ohau Lodge.

Day 10, Tue, 20 Nov. Mackenzie Basin to Westland. Leaving the dry Mackenzie country, we will head west, crossing Haast's Pass, where we'll stop in *Nothofagus* beech forest to see if we can find the declining Yellowhead and any other forest birds. The scenery here will also capture our attention. From here, we will reach the area where the picturesque Fox and Franz Josef glaciers are. Near Franz Josef is the home range of the local Okarito Brown Kiwi, and we will (weather permitting) make an effort to encounter this endangered bird. Night in Franz Josef.

Day 11, Wed, 21 Nov. Rainforests of the South Island's West Coast. This morning we will travel up the humid forested West Coast on avenues framed by the green lushness of temperate rainforest. In this landscape is our next stop, the Okarito Lagoon where, in gentle wetlands, Fernbirds may be found, as may the striking Great Egret (locally known as "White Heron," the Australasian form of this cosmopolitan species), a rare bird in NZ and one of great cultural significance to the Maori. We'll then head farther north on the wet... I mean west... coast to an area where there is a colony of appropriately-named Westland Petrel. This species is named for its breeding area, and uses forest at the top of cliffs near

the town of Punakaiki as its preferred nesting grounds. We will visit one colony with a local who has been active in trying to promote the conservation of this threatened species. Later this evening, should anyone be interested, we will make an effort to encounter the Great Spotted Kiwi (more than likely hearing it only). Night at Punakaiki.

Day 12, Thu, 22 Nov. Canterbury Plains and Kaikoura. From Westland, we will descend back into the drier eastern side of the South Island and onto the flat Canterbury Plains, which may remind you of some scenes from the Lord of the Rings movies (for good reason!). Black-fronted Terns and South Island Oystercatchers will probably flit past as we move along. By afternoon we'll be in the lovely seaside resort town of Kaikoura, which has put itself on the map as home to some of the easiest pelagic trips in the world! Night in Kaikoura.

Day 13, Fri, 23 Nov. Kaikoura. Kaikoura is a breathtaking place where snow-iced mountains reach down to a turquoise sea. The continental shelf drops abruptly very close to shore, resulting in upwellings of nutrients from the sea's depths, attracting a rich and abundant marine life. We will make an Albatross Encounters pelagic birding trip close inshore, which gives us an outstanding chance for great views of many seabirds and cetaceans including the rare endemic Westland Petrel which we'll have likely seen under very different circumstances just two days ago. This is the pelagic for people who don't like pelagics—just 20 minutes out to the birds, a couple of hours with them, and then back inshore—a great way to do it! We should get good views of many albatrosses including perhaps both southern and northern Royal Albatross, a couple of forms of Wandering Albatross, Salvin's and White-capped albatrosses, perhaps some form of Black-browed Albatross, Hutton's and possibly Short-tailed shearwaters, plus up close and personal Westland and White-chinned petrels, Fairy Prion, and maybe both Giant-Petrels, plus Dusky Dolphin and New Zealand Fur Seals. This afternoon we can take an optional second excursion, either whalewatching or birding. Night in Kaikoura.



The diminutive Rifleman may be the cutest bird in New Zealand! These mites are found throughout the islands, but are seen in higher densities on the North Island. Photograph by participant Gregg Recer.

Day 14, Sat, 24 Nov. Kaikoura to Picton. We will have an opportunity to bird the Kaikoura area again this morning before loading up and heading north along the coast to the town of Picton, which rests at the head of a sunken river valley, or sound. The waters and inlets of the Marlborough Sounds will be our playground this afternoon. A charter vessel will carry us through Queen Charlotte Sound to a small rocky islet where a small colony of the rare New Zealand King Shag breeds and roosts. The sound is also home to nesting Fluttering Shearwaters, feeding Australasian Gannets, and some other seabirds, as well as dolphins and fur seals. An island here has had a small population of Malherbe's (Orange-fronted) Parakeet introduced, and we will try for these if time allows. Night in Picton.

Day 15, Sun, 25 Nov. Ferry to North Island; drive to Whakapapa. From Picton we'll embark on a ferry crossing to the North Island. Wandering and White-capped albatrosses often pass by, as do Giant Petrels, Parasitic Jaegers (Arctic Skuas), and many shearwaters, and perhaps dolphins. Upon arriving in New Zealand's capital city, Wellington, we will continue north, perhaps breaking up the travel with a stop at the Foxton Estuary for some shorebirds. By day's end, we will have reached our ski resort hotel at the foot of one of the volcanoes of the North Island. Night in Whakapapa.

Day 16, Mon, 26 Nov. Blue Ducks; drive to Lake Taupo. This morning, we will make a concerted effort to see New Zealand's "torrent duck," the attractive Blue Duck. This species occupies long, linear territories along the fast-flowing streams and rivers of New Zealand's mountains, but it is easier to see here than in the Southern Alps, as here it has higher densities and smaller territories. With luck, we should have nice views here. Then, we will head north to New Zealand's largest lake, Lake Taupo, with a stop to check some marsh habitat beside the lake for Fernbird, New Zealand Grebe (Dabchick), and perhaps Australasian Bittern. Night at Lake Taupo.



*The New Zealand Storm Petrel is a main priority for the Hauraki Gulf Pelagic Extension.
Photograph by guide Chris Benesh.*

Day 17, Tue, 27 Nov. Pureora Forest Reserve; Miranda. This morning we'll visit the Pureora Forest Reserve near Te Kuiti to try for Long-tailed Koel, Yellow-fronted Parakeet, and the North Island forms of Kaka, New Zealand Robin, and Tomtit. Formerly a stronghold of Kokako, this species is rarely seen here these days, but we may luck out and hear one of the last remaining birds from deeper in the forest. Then we'll head to the Firth of Thames at Miranda, one of New Zealand's best tidal mudflats for resident and migrant shorebirds. Among the species to expect are Double-banded Plover, the bizarre Wrybill with its unique bent bill, the endangered and beautiful New Zealand Dotterel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sharp-tailed and perhaps Curlew sandpipers, and Red-necked Stint; rarities might include Pacific Golden-Plover, Gray-tailed Tattler, and Terek Sandpiper. From here, we will head in to New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. Night in Auckland.

Day 18, Wed, 28 Nov. Tiri-tiri Matangi Island. The tiny island of Tiri-tiri Matangi is situated in the inshore waters of the Hauraki Gulf off the southeastern coast of the northern peninsula of North Island. The island has become an important refuge for several birds whose mainland populations have been drastically reduced or eradicated by introduced predators such as rats, stoats, and domestic cats. The New Zealand Department of Conservation is

developing Tiri-tiri Matangi as an open sanctuary for various endangered species including the extremely rare (and strange) Kokako, one of the two extant members of the endemic family Callaeidae (Wattlebirds). The other bizarre wattlebird, the Saddleback, has recently been released and are breeding on the island, as is the stout and distinctive Takahe. (Note that male Takahe can be quite aggressive so sitting down in the territory of one is not recommended!) There is also a population of Stitchbird, which is now classified as being in its own family, the fourth uniquely NZ family. There is a good chance too of the rare Brown Teal and maybe Spotless Crake on ponds around the island. This lovely island will be a fitting "finale" to our tour, and we will celebrate with a fine meal afterwards! Night in Auckland.

Day 19, Thu, 29 Nov. Those who are headed home today will go to the Auckland airport to catch your flights to North America, with time to make connections home. Air New Zealand flight 4 departs Auckland at 4:00 p.m. arriving in LAX at 7:15 a.m. We'll gain back the day we lost crossing the International Date Line. If you are participating on the Pelagic Extension see below.

Itinerary for Hauraki Gulf Pelagic Extension

Day 1, Thu, 29 Nov. Auckland to Sandspit. This morning, those continuing on the extension will take a bus to the Sandspit area with some birding along the way. Night in Sandspit.

Day 2, Fri, 30 Nov. North Hauraki Gulf Pelagic Trip. While New Zealand is notable for its endemic families and species, it stands out as having some of the greatest diversity of seabirds and marine mammals in the entire world. Our extension has been designed with this in mind. In addition to the short pelagics out of Kaikoura and Stewart Island on the main tour, this full day pelagic out into the waters of the Hauraki Gulf will greatly enrich the tour's pelagic experience.

There are a number of species we may encounter that are less likely or unlikely elsewhere on the tour. These include: Little and Buller's shearwaters, Parkinson's (Black) and Cook's petrels (and more rarely Gray-faced, Pycroft's and Black-winged), and White-faced Storm-Petrel. But what makes this trip of particular interest is the possibility of encountering New Zealand Storm-Petrel. Previously known from three controversial specimens collected in the mid to late 1800's, this enigmatic species was lost to science until it was rediscovered in the Hauraki Gulf in 2003. Its breeding sites have only just been discovered on nearby Little Barrier Island, and now management is in place to try to preserve this exciting endemic species. Its closest relatives have only recently been determined, with genetic analysis revealing it to be a member of the genus *Fregetta* (along with Black-bellied and White-bellied storm-petrels). Sightings often include

interesting cetaceans as well, with several dolphin species and Bryde's Whales being highlights. Please join us for what promises to be a fantastic trip. Night in Auckland.

Day 3, Sat, 01 Dec. Flights home. Today we will have plenty of time to prepare for Air New Zealand flight 4 that departs Auckland at 4:00 p.m. arriving in LAX at 7:15 a.m. We'll gain back the day we lost crossing the International Date Line.

About Your Guide

Dan Lane was barely out of diapers when his love for birds manifested itself. He was an active birder in his home state of New Jersey until he graduated from college in 1995 and moved to Louisiana to pursue a master's studying Neotropical birds at Louisiana State University. By 1999, he'd received his degree and participated in three LSU expeditions to Peru and Ecuador, discovering a new species of bird (Scarlet-banded Barbet) along the way. His increasing experience with Peruvian avifauna, coupled with being in the right place at the right time, landed Dan co-authorship of the recently published *Birds of Peru*—alongside his childhood heroes, Ted Parker and John O'Neill.

Dan's interest in birds also includes illustration (he's provided artwork for several books, journals, and magazines, as well as the *Birds of Peru*), bird vocalizations, and bird biogeography and evolution. Dan was pleased to join Field Guides in 2006 and has ever since enjoyed the friendship and fun the FG family provides. His areas of expertise are largely in tropical Latin America, but on occasion he has led tours to other corners of the globe, including a tour last year to Colorado, and of course, (somewhat) regularly, birds near his home in Louisiana.

“Dan Lane is not only an exceptional birder, but also a caring leader who made sure each step of the way of our comfort and well-being.” R.L., Machu Picchu & Abra Malaga, Peru

You may view Dan's complete Field Guides schedule at <https://fieldguides.com/guides>; just click on his photo.

Dan will be accompanied by a **local guide** throughout the tour.

Financial Information

FEE: \$7275 from Invercargill

\$950 for Pelagic Extension

DEPOSIT: \$750 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: July 14, 2018

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$1100 (main tour); \$110 for Pelagic Extension

LIMIT: 12

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Karen Turner. Karen 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 not a US citizen, 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. For domestic flights on Air New Zealand, ticket prices are without any checked bags included, and paying for checked bags at check-in can be very expensive, whereas paying for them when buying the ticket is considerably cheaper. If you plan to bring checked bags, please let us know when we arrange your ticket so we can get you the cheaper fare. Also, beware that carry-on restrictions for domestic flights on Air New Zealand are quite strict—you are allowed only one carry-on (not the unofficial two, one and a “personal item,” as on US flights) under 7kg (= about 15 lbs)—so you will have to check any additional pieces, even if they’d usually be carry-ons in the US or on international flights.

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.**

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client’s responsibility. Also, please see “Air Arrangements” above.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is \$7275 for one person in double occupancy from Invercargill, and ending in Auckland, New Zealand. It includes all lodging from Day 3 through Day 18, all meals from dinner on Day 3 through breakfast on Day 19, all ground transportation, boat trips, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

The tour fee for the extension is \$950 per person in double occupancy from New Zealand. It includes all lodging for Days 1 and 2 of the extension, all meals from lunch on Day 1 (November 24) to lunch on Day 3 (November 26), all ground transportation, boat trips, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leader(s).

The above fees do not include your airfare to Invercargill and from Auckland to LAX, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** for the main tour is \$1100, and \$110 for the extension. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$700** per person. 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, 2018. 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.

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don’t exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open. However, on occasion, we will send along a guide in training on a tour. In these cases, the guide in training will be taking a seat in the van or bus. Our guides will have a rotation system within the vehicle so that clients share the inconvenience equally. We hope this minor inconvenience will be more than offset by the advantages of having another guide along.

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: Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 120 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 70 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. 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 in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

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, 24-hour accident protection, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance when 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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