

## Antarctica

### THE SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS

#### Why join this Voyage?

- A journey to the rarely visited Sub Antarctic Islands, renowned as the 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean', including Snares, Auckland, Bounty, Antipodes, Macquarie, Campbell and Chatham
- This collection of remote islands is one of the richest areas for seabirds anywhere in the world, with more than forty different species, including ten albatross and three endemic penguin species
- Travel on board the cosy, 48 passenger, ice-strengthened vessel *Spirit of Enderby*, renowned for her highly experienced crew, knowledgeable on board naturalists and relaxed atmosphere



#### Trip Summary

To the south of New Zealand are six groups of islands, remote from each other and from New Zealand. These are the Sub Antarctic Islands and they are among the world's wildest places. Sea birds, land birds and small invertebrates are surprisingly numerous, diverse and in some cases very rare. The land birds indicate, through their diversity, just how long these islands have been isolated, and as such are often referred to as the 'Galapagos of the Southern Ocean'. There is no other comparable expedition for an introduction and understanding of the dynamic and diverse southern ocean eco-system and its impressive birdlife. This has to be the ultimate pelagic bird trip with the opportunity to see ten of the world's Albatross species, along with Petrels, Shearwaters, Fulmars and Prions. You will also have the chance to visit the colonies of up to seven different penguin species, three of which are endemic.

## Itinerary



### Days 1 & 2 Depart London / New Zealand

Depart London and fly to New Zealand.

### Day 3 Invercargill

Arrive at the city of Invercargill on New Zealand's South Island where you'll overnight with chance to meet your fellow travellers at dinner

### Day 3 Invercargill / Bluff /Embarkation

After breakfast you will be taken to the Southland Museum to view the special Sub Antarctic display before being transferred to the Port of Bluff (27 km to the south of Invercargill) to board the Spirit of Enderby. Depart for the Snares Islands.



### Day 5 Snares Island

The Snares are the first of the Sub Antarctic Islands we will be visiting. More birds nest on this small island than there are seabirds around the entire British Isles. Landings are not permitted so we zodiac cruise the sheltered eastern side. In the bays we should see the endemic Snares Crested Penguins, Tomtits and Fernbirds. There is an estimated six million Sooty Shearwaters nesting here & Buller's Albatross breed here from early January.



### Day 6 Enderby Island

At Enderby Island, in the Auckland Island group, our plan is to land at Sandy Bay, the main breeding ground for the New Zealand (Hooker's) sea lion. We will also see Southern Royal Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Auckland Island Shag, Auckland Island Teal, Auckland Island Banded Dotterel, Auckland Island Tomtit, Bellbird, Pipit, Red Crowned Parakeet, Yellow-eyed Penguin and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. We spend some time searching for the Sub Antarctic Snipe.

### Day 7 Auckland Islands

This morning we will cruise to Carnley Harbour in the south of the main Auckland Islands, where energetic participants can climb to the Southwest Cape Shy Mollymawk Colony. Wandering Albatross nest above the colony amongst the tussock. Those remaining on board will visit one of a number of historic sites.



### Day 8 At Sea

At sea en-route to Macquarie Island. It's a day for observing the pelagic species. Wandering, Royal, Black-browed, Light-mantled Sooty, Salvins and Grey Headed Albatross species, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater, Little Shearwater along with various prion species and a wide range of petrels.

### Days 9 & 10 Macquarie Island

At Macquarie Island we will see an abundance of the endemic Royal Penguin, King Penguins are also found here in large numbers. Two other penguin species breed on Macquarie Island, the Gentoo and the Rockhopper. Along the coast we will see the Imperial (Macquarie) shag. Redpolls can be seen, as can the European Starling along the cliff edges. We plan landings at both the ANARE base and at Sandy Bay. We will also zodiac cruise Lusitania Bay with it's a huge King Penguin colony.



### Day 11 At Sea

At sea en-route to Campbell Island.

### Day 12 Campbell Island

Arriving early in the morning we will spend the day exploring the island by foot from Perseverance Harbour. There are some great birding and photographic opportunities on this island, especially Southern Royal Albatross and the early flowering mega herbs. During the day ashore we should see various albatross species including Southern Royal, Light-mantled Sooty, along with Northern Giant Petrel, Campbell Island Shag, Southern Skua, Red Billed Gull, Black Backed Gull, Antarctic Tern, Redpoll, Dunnock and the New Zealand Pipit.

### Day 13 At Sea

At sea en-route to the Antipodes. It is a day for pelagic birding. Species commonly seen in this area include Wandering Albatross species, Southern Royal, Black-Browed, Campbell Island, Light-mantled Sooty, Salvins, and Grey-headed Albatross, Northern and Southern Giant Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Little Shearwater. This region is one of the few places where the Fairy Prion, Fulmar Prion and Antarctic Prion occur together.



### Day 14 Antipodes Island

Antipodes Island is one of the most isolated, least known and rugged of New Zealand's Sub Antarctic Islands. As landings are not permitted, we zodiac cruise along the coastline where we have a good chance of seeing the Antipodes Island and Reischek's Parakeet. We will also see the Antipodes subspecies of the NZ pipit. We enjoy good views of both Erect Crested and Rockhopper Penguins colonies.

### Day 15 Bounty Islands

The Bounty Islands are inhospitable granite knobs lashed by the Southern Ocean. Here we hope to see Erect Crested penguin, Fulmar Prions and the endemic Bounty Island shag on our zodiac cruise. This afternoon we should see Wandering Albatross species, Northern Royal, White Capped & Salvin's Albatross along with Northern Giant, Cape, Mottled, Soft Plumaged, Black Bellied, Wilson's Storm & White Chinned Petrel's; Broad Billed Prion, Fulmar Prion, Sooty Shearwater, Little Shearwater and Antarctic Fulmar. There is a possibility we could see the Chatham Island Petrel and we will be keeping a close watch for the Magenta Petrel.



### Day 16 Chatham Archipelago

Continue toward the Chatham Archipelago we will be especially interested in looking out for the Chatham Island Petrel and also the very rare Chatham Island Taiko or Magenta Petrel (both of which have been seen on this part of the voyage before). In the afternoon visit Pyramid Rock, the only breeding place of the Chatham Island albatross.



### Day 17 Rangatira

At South East Island (Rangatira), one of the world's greatest nature reserves, we will zodiac cruise for good views of the very rare Shore Plover and the Chatham Island oystercatcher. We should also see the Pitt Island Shag, Tui, Tomtit and Red Crowned Parakeet. This afternoon we will cruise past Mangere and Little Mangere Island from where the endemic Black Robin was rescued in the 1970's when the total population was only 6 birds. We sail across Pitt Strait to the main Chatham Islands and pass the Tuku Valley where the Magenta Petrel breeds.

### Day 18 Chatham Islands

Near Waitangi, the main settlement on the Chatham Islands we should see the endemic Chatham Island Shag. At Tuku Reserve, on private land and guided by the local people, we will enjoy a bush walk in the hope of seeing the Chatham Island Warbler and Pigeon.



### Days 19 & 20 At Sea over the Chatham Rise

On route to Dunedin we will cross what is known as the Chatham Rise. It's a relatively shallow area of water and one of the best places for pelagic watching with an overlap of both northern or more temperate species and those birds from southern latitudes. We hope to see many species of Albatross & Petrels along with Shearwaters & Prions.



### Day 21 - 22 Port of Otago, Dunedin / London

We will arrive in the Inner Harbour at the Port of Otago, Dunedin. After completing formalities passengers will be able to disembark. There will be a central city and airport drop off for overnight flights back home.

**Please note:** Landings at the Sub Antarctic Islands are by permit only as administered by the governments of New Zealand and Australia. No landings are permitted at Snares, Antipodes and Bounty Islands and South East in the Chatham Island group. Heritage Expeditions is committed to providing the highest quality natural history expeditions and specialise in remote regions and difficult to see species. As part of our expeditions we have for many years used the practice of chumming and/or oiling to give people the opportunity to see species that they are unlikely to see otherwise or appreciate aspects of seabird ecology such as impacts from interactions with fishing vessels. Heritage Expeditions believes that chumming has an important part to play in a successful seabird watching expedition but it is a tool which is used with moderation and always for a specific purpose.

## Route Map



## The Boat

**Spirit of Enderby**  
Capacity: 48 passengers



The Spirit of Enderby was built in Finland in 1984, a sister ship to both the Akademik Shokalskiy and the Polar Pioneer. She was fully refurbished as an ice-strengthened vessel in 2004 in New Zealand, providing comfortable accommodation for just 48 passengers, allowing for personal and flexible activities. One of the last of the former Russian small research vessels which still service polar waters, this class of vessel has a fine reputation for polar expeditionary cruising, due to her strength, manoeuvrability and small number of cabins. The expeditionary staff are made up of mainly Antipodeans so the atmosphere onboard is relaxed and informal.

The Spirit of Enderby is not a luxury vessel, accommodation is simple yet perfectly comfortable. All cabins have outside portholes and ample storage space, with the choice of triple & twin shared cabins with shared bathrooms or private twins with private facilities along with superior double cabins and a suite. There are two dining rooms serving a choice of menus prepared by international chefs, along with a bar and lounge. The spacious bridge with open door policy at almost all times, flying bridge and main deck are an ideal platform for wildlife viewing. During sea crossings the expeditionary staff will give informal lectures on the wildlife and history of the regions you are visiting.

A small fleet of zodiac enable landings and exploratory cruising. For the Antarctic region two specially designed and built Hovercraft give unprecedented access allowing landings in places that are inaccessible to other ships. Ship to shore communications are also available via satellite.

## Expedition Dates for 2012/ 13

21<sup>st</sup> December 2012 - 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013

### Other Shorter Sub-Antarctic voyages available:

28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011 - 4<sup>th</sup> Jan or 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2012 (8 or 9 days) includes Snares, Auckland, & Campbell Islands  
9<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2012 (13 days) includes Snares, Auckland, Macquarie & Campbell Islands

## Guide Prices for 2012/ 13

### Cabin Type

(from price per person based on 2 sharing)

Main Deck Triple	£6,725
Main Deck Twin	£7,375
Superior	£8,215
Superior Plus	£8,800
Mini Suite	£9,060
Heritage Suite	£9,385

### Includes

- 1 night Accommodation in Invercargill
- Antarctic voyage based on full board
- All guided excursions, landings & lectures on board ship
- A polar jacket for use during the expedition
- Post expedition log book

### Excludes

- All international & internal flights based
- Any additional accommodation, excursions or services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance & vaccinations
- Visas & gratuities
- Items of a personal nature, including laundry & drinks

### Notes

These prices are a **guide only** and are subject to exchange rate fluctuations and possible fuel surcharges.

### Flights

Although prices are voyage only we are happy to arrange flights to New Zealand, there are a wide choice of options on carriers and stopovers available so please call for details.

### Visa Information

British passport holders will require a visa for Australia, this can be obtained online free of charge, they do not require a visa for New Zealand. If flying via the US, even in transit, you will need to apply for advance authorisation to travel through the Visa Waiver Program. This is relatively straightforward and completed online

## Want to discuss this trip?

Please call **Sue** on **01285 880981** for more details or to check boat availability.



Having spent the best part of 5 years on my “gap year” working in travel seemed the natural progression. I am most at home travelling to remote wilderness areas of the globe. With a life-long passion for wildlife I love to get up close either by kayak or on foot. My travels have taken me to all seven continents. Most recently travelling to the Russian Far East along the Chukotka coast and up to Wrangel & Herald Islands, where I was lucky enough to encounter 105 bears. I have also voyaged to Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Canadian High Arctic and Baja California’s Sea of Cortez on expedition vessels, along with sailing the Amazon Basin and paddling down the Yukon. I hope to go whale and bear watching in Alaska next.

Sue is Country Director for Steppes Voyages

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