

**The American Association for the Advancement of Science
& Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society**



**BETCHART
EXPEDITIONS Inc.
AAAS Travels
& Sigma Xi Expeditions**

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS

Explore New Zealand!
November 15-30, 2018



NEW ZEALAND

Expedition

November 15-30, 2018

**A Special Expedition
for Members and Friends
of AAAS and Sigma Xi**



AAAS Travels • Sigma Xi Expeditions

Dear Members and Friends:

I invite you to join this exceptional expedition to explore New Zealand, November 15–30, 2018.

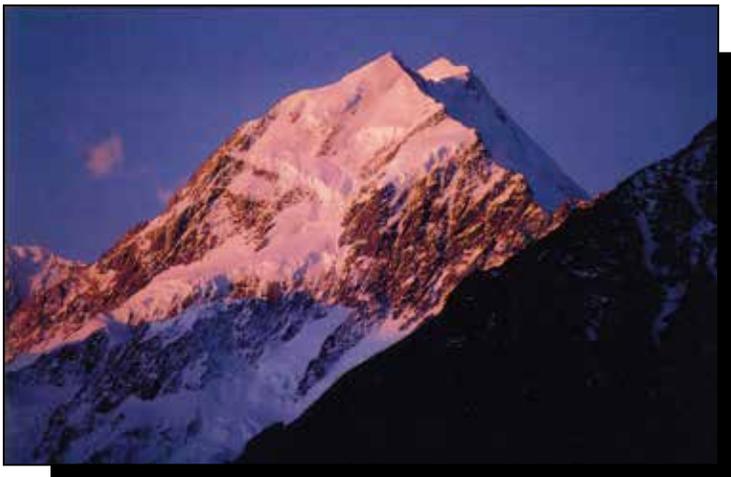
We are delighted that one of the top naturalists in New Zealand, **Lloyd Esler**, will again be our leader on this expedition. Lloyd has explored much of the New Zealand natural world, and is a historical researcher as well. He writes and illustrates popular scientific articles on New Zealand topics, and is an experienced trip leader. Lloyd looks forward to showing you the cultural and natural delights of this fascinating island nation.

From kiwis to kakas, temperate rainforests to glacial valleys, New Zealand possesses a rich heritage. The geologic forces are as dynamic as anywhere on earth, and can be seen in the fascinating geyserfields in Rotorua, in the plunging cliffs at Milford Sound, in the spectacular peaks and glaciers of the Southern Alps, and along the rugged shore. Some of the most spectacular scenery in the world is preserved in New Zealand's national parks, many of which we will visit on this expedition.

I hope you will join our New Zealand Expedition. As space is limited, we encourage you to make reservations right away.

Best regards,


Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
For AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions



ITINERARY

Days 1/2 – Los Angeles to New Zealand

Flight from Los Angeles International Airport on Air New Zealand for Christchurch, New Zealand. Cross the International Date Line en route.

Days 3/4 – Christchurch & Akaroa

Arrive in Auckland and take a connecting flight to Christchurch on the South Island, often called the most English city outside of England. Transfer to *Chateau on the Park* (2 nights). Visit the Canterbury Museum and botanic gardens. Welcome dinner. On Day 4 enjoy an excursion to the quaint village of Akaroa and a boat trip to see Hector's dolphins. D/B

Day 5 – Arthur's Pass & Paparoa National Parks

Today we will journey across the Canterbury Plains through remote river gorges into the heart of the Southern Alps of New Zealand and Arthur's Pass National Park. Here we will take a short bushwalk to look for mountain kea, rifleman, bellbird and silver eye. We will continue to the rugged West Coast and the Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki in Paparoa National Park where we will see fascinating limestone formations and impressive geyser-like blowholes. *Punakaiki Rocks Hotel*. B

Day 6 – Greymouth to Westland National Park

This morning, we will follow the coastline south to Franz Josef Glacier to learn about this spectacular river of ice and take a short walk in the glacier valley. There will be time for optional scenic flights—a stunning aerial excursion over the Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers and Mt. Cook (weather permitting). We will also explore south along the Heritage Highway to Fox Glacier where we will look for the inquisitive fantails and may explore the terminus of the glacier. *Te Weheka Inn Fox Glacier* or *Franz Josef Glacier Hotel*. B



Day 7 – Fox Glacier to Queenstown

Today we will begin our journey through the most historic yet most recently opened of the transalpine routes in New Zealand. We will stop for a short bush walk to Thunder Creek Falls. We will continue to Lake Wanaka, a popular summer and winter holiday location, and on through the fruit growing region of Cromwell to reach Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu, an enormous glacial lake. *Rydges Queenstown Hotel*. B

Day 8 – Queenstown to Te Anau

This morning, embark the *Spirit of Queenstown* for a cruise by catamaran across Lake Wakatipu to Mt. Nicholas High Country Farm with a behind-the-scenes visit to a truly authentic, family-run remino sheep farm. Mt. Nicholas produces the highest quality wool for world-renowned clothing company Icebreaker. Soak in the surrounding panoramic views in one of New Zealand's most rugged and remote high country farms. We will then depart for Lake Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park. *Village Inn, Te Anau* (2 nights). B,L

Day 9 – Milford Sound

Today we will explore Milford Sound in Fiordland World Heritage Park. The road to Milford Sound is ranked as one of the finest of all alpine drives in New Zealand with towering mountains, primeval beech forest, and the historic Homer Tunnel with its rockhewn surfaces. Stop at Cascade Creek for a nature walk. Your cruise will show you breathtaking scenery, waterfalls, and the famous Mitre Peak, and will give you the chance to see seals, penguins and dolphins. Also visit the underwater observatory. Below the surface, the stark grey granite walls of the sound turn into a kaleidoscope of red, pink, lilac, yellow, black and white, as coralline algae, anemones, and sponges contend for space. B, L

Day 10 – Te Anau to Invercargill & Stewart Island

This morning we will meet a Conservation Officer at the Wildlife Centre who will show us the rare and once endangered takahe, a flightless rail. We will then depart for Invercargill, the southernmost city of New Zealand. Here we will visit the Southland Museum to view the live tuatara, ancient and very rare native lizards known as “living fossils.” We will then fly to Stewart Island or Rakiura (Maori word meaning “heavenly glow”), a very special place for naturalists in New Zealand.

On arrival, we will explore Half Moon Bay, the island's only permanent settlement. Considerable birdlife abounds in close proximity to the village where you can also enjoy short bush walks, featuring some of the world's most beautiful ferns and temperate plants. Optional evening boat trip to Ocean Beach where you can see the Stewart Island kiwi in its natural environment—a rare opportunity. Accommodations are at an early traditional-style hotel and New Zealand's “southernmost pub.” *South Sea Hotel* (2 nights). B

Day 11 – Ulva Island

Today we will explore Ulva Island, a sanctuary for native land birds with a forest abundant with native ferns, orchids, and a fascinating history. Here we'll look for kakas, wekas, parakeets, and kererus, New Zealand's large native wood pigeon. B,L

Day 12 – Stewart Island to Dunedin

Fly to Invercargill today and travel north with stops to view spectacular coves en route. Arrive in Dunedin, view city highlights, and visit the Otago Museum. *Dunedin City Hotel* (2 nights). B



Day 13 – Taiaroa Head & Albatross Centre

Today, we will enjoy a nature cruise with unrivalled viewing of the diversity of wildlife around spectacular Taiaroa Head, the world's only mainland nesting place for Northern Royal Albatross. We'll also look for fur seals, dolphins, sea lions, and several species of nesting marine birds. In the afternoon, we will visit the Royal Albatross Centre conservation project, an iconic wildlife attraction. The Albatross visit begins with commentary on the life cycle of the Northern Royal Albatross followed by a Natural History NZ film, a short walk to our viewing area to see the nesting albatross, and a visit through Fort Taiaroa and Armstrong Disappearing Gun. B

Day 14 – Dunedin to Rotorua

Today we fly to Rotorua, New Zealand's most accessible area of geothermal activity and heart of the contemporary Maori culture in New Zealand. This afternoon we will have a fascinating visit to a traditional Maori village to learn more about their culture and heritage, including a traditional Maori hangi dinner. Our hotel is situated on a lake in a beautiful area. VR Rotorua Lake Resort. (2 nights) B, D

Day 15 – Rotorua

Morning at leisure. We will then visit Waio-O-Tapu Thermal Reserve, where a Maori guide will talk about the significance of Maori arts and crafts and guide us through the reserve to view the bubbling mud pools and fumaroles. Afternoon at leisure. Farewell dinner in celebration of our journey. B,D

Day 16 – Auckland to Los Angeles

Morning drive to Auckland. Afternoon visit to Auckland's fine museum with excellent Maori exhibits. Airport transfer for flight home. Arrive in Los Angeles same day. B

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$4,995 per person for 16 days, plus group air fare from Los Angeles of \$1,595 including in-tour flights Auckland/Christchurch and Dunedin/Rotorua.

What to Expect: An exceptional exploration of fine cities, museums, and national parks of New Zealand with excellent leadership by a New Zealand naturalist. Accommodations highlight the diverse culture and heritage of New Zealand. Activities include walks at a leisurely pace suitable for observation and discovery. This expedition is an in-depth exploration for travelers in good health. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport by minivan and motorlaunch; flights Invercargill to Stewart Island, round trip; group transfers; accommodations in first class hotels or "best available" lodge at Stewart Island based on twin share with bath (there are some rooms with share facilities at Stewart Island); meals as indicated; park/museum entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare (quoted separately); some meals; optional flightsseeing or optional kiwi safari at Stewart Island; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, snacks, or other personal items; passport, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure tax.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Group flights are reserved with Air New Zealand including the intour flights Auckland/Christchurch & Dunedin/Rotorua. If you arrange your own international tickets to New Zealand and don't take the group flight from LAX, you must include the Auckland/Christchurch flight. You pay \$395 per person for the intour flights Dunedin/Rotorua (Betchart must ticket these intour flights for you). AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Single Accommodations: Singles are available for \$1,095. If you do not have a roommate or we cannot assign one, you must pay the extra cost of a single.

Reservations, Deposits, Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$500 per person with the completed reservation form. The balance is due 60 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place is resold; then only the \$100 handling fee applies. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. Trip cancellation insurance will be available.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, terrorism, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

QUESTIONS?

Please call Betchart Expeditions Inc. (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910. Email: Info@betchartexpeditions.com

RESERVATIONS

#1519

YES! I/We want to join the **New Zealand Expedition, November 15–30, 2018**, offered by **AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ Wk (____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership (please circle): AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share w/friend or ___ assign a roommate
___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Mail To: New Zealand 2018, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, California 95014-5435**