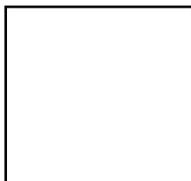


BETCHART
EXPEDITIONS Inc.
AAAS Travels
& Sigma Xi Expeditions

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS

Explore New Zealand!
November 12-27, 2017



NEW ZEALAND Expedition

November 12-27, 2017

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

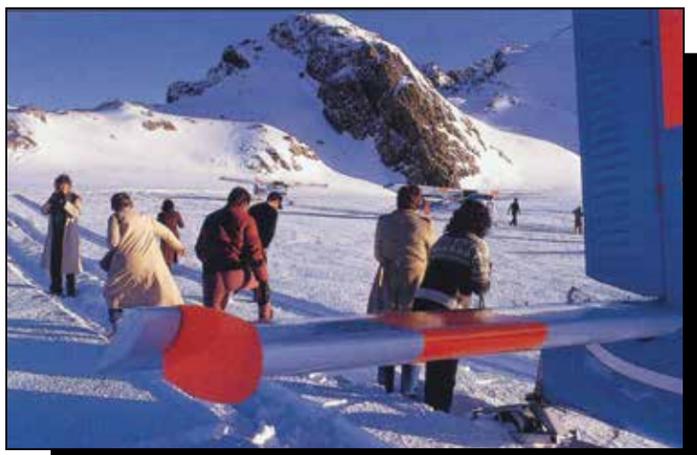


AAAS Travels • Sigma Xi Expeditions

Dear Members and Friends:

I invite you to join this exceptional expedition to explore New Zealand, November 12-27, 2017.

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.

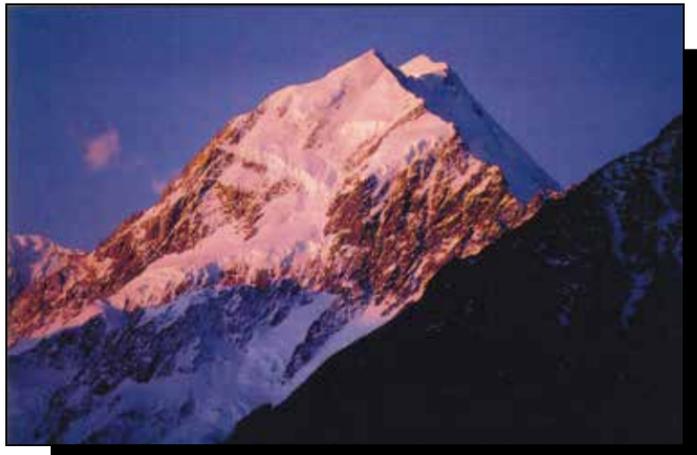


From kiwis to kakas, temperate rainforests to glacial valleys, New Zealand possesses a rich heritage. The geologic forces are as dynamic as anywhere on earth, and can be seen in the fascinating geyserfields in Rotorua, in the plunging cliffs at Milford Sound, in the spectacular peaks and glaciers of 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
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 Fox Glacier. *Te Weheka Inn Fox Glacier. 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 and enjoy lunch on a working high country farm overlooking Lake Hawea. 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,L*

Day 8 – Queenstown to TeAnau

This morning is free to choose from the many optional activities available in Queenstown, including the Dart River jetboat trip into the back country to experience one of New Zealand's "inaccessible" areas with views of high peaks, glaciers, ancient forests, spectacular waterfalls and unique birdlife. This afternoon we will visit the kiwi house for a behind-the-scenes view of this rare bird and to learn about the artificial breeding program underway in an effort to increase the numbers of New Zealand's most famous bird. We will then depart for Lake Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park. *Village Inn, Te Anau (2 nights). B*

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

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 kererua, 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 & Penguin Place

This morning 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 Penguin Place conservation project to see yellow eyed penguins and learn about them. In the reserve, your guide will lead you through a unique system of covered trenches into viewing hides to witness penguin activity at close range.

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. Our hotel is situated on a lake in a beautiful area. *Amora Bay Hotel. B*

Day 15 – Rotorua to Auckland

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. We will then drive through fertile farming countryside to Auckland. Farewell dinner in celebration of our journey. *Rydges Auckland Hotel. B,D*

Day 16 – Auckland to Los Angeles

Morning at leisure to stroll along the waterfront in 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. Group air fare from Los Angeles is \$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 transfers 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; 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 pay \$395 per person for the intour flights (Betchart must ticket the 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 observe 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. 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.

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QUESTIONS?

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

RESERVATIONS

#1479

YES! I/We want to join the **New Zealand Expedition, November 12-27, 2017**, 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 2017, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, California 95014-5435**