



**Discover Superb National Parks, Dramatic
Landscapes, Unique Birds, & the Maori Culture**



**BETCHART
EXPEDITIONS INC.**

with AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS
17050 Montebello Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014

FIRST CLASS

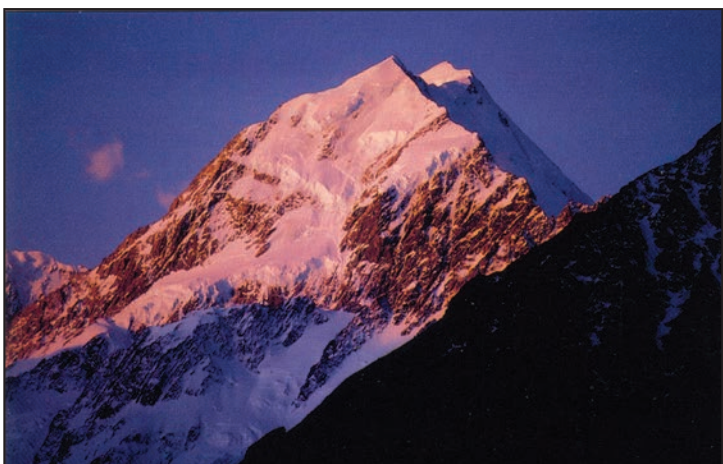
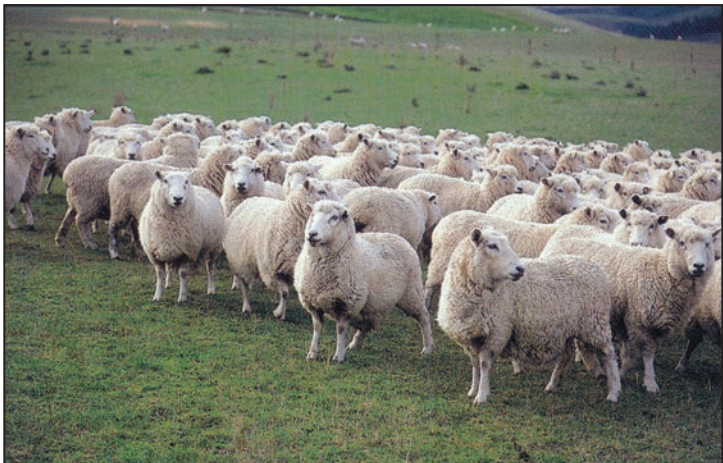
Explore New Zealand!
November 7 - 22, 2023



NEW ZEALAND Expedition

November 7 - 22, 2023

A Special Expedition
for Members and Friends
of AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS



AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS

Dear Members and Friends:

I invite you to join this exceptional expedition to explore New Zealand, November 7 - 22, 2023. We highly recommend travel to New Zealand! It is safe – virtually free of covid and a delightful place to visit.

We are delighted that one of the top naturalists in New Zealand, **Lloyd Esler**, will be our leader on South Island during 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. There are fascinating geyserfields in Rotorua, plunging cliffs at Milford Sound, and spectacular peaks and glaciers of the Southern Alps. 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.
with AAAS, Sigma Xi, & ACS



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Photography by Robert P. Nansen, John Cancalosi,
John Henderson, and Will B. Betchart.

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 Ocean Retreat 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. *Distinction Inn Fox Glacier* or *Scenic Franz Josef Glacier Hotel*. B

Day 7 – Fox Glacier to Wanaka

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 on an enormous glacial lake. *Oakridge* or *Edgewater Resort*. B

Day 8 – Wanaka to TeAnau

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. *Distinction luxmoreHotel, 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. 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. We will then fly or ferry to Stewart Island or Rakiura (Maori word meaning “heavenly glow”), a very special place for naturalists in New Zealand.

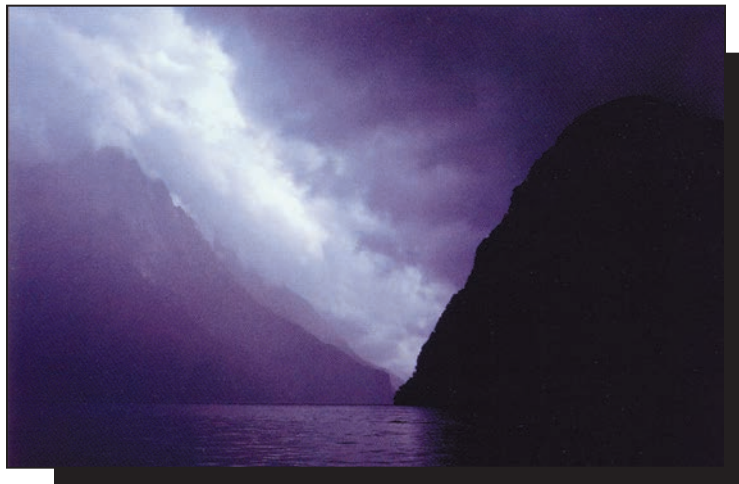
On arrival, we will explore Half Moon Bay, the island's only permanent settlement. Considerable birdlife abounds in close proximity to the village where you can also enjoy short bush walks, featuring some of the world's most beautiful ferns and temperate plants. Optional evening to look for kiwis in their 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 or ferry to Invercargill today and travel on the Southern Scenic Route with a stop at the excellent Te Hikoi Museum in Riverton en route which explores Maori heritage, early Europeans way of life and the geology of the area. *Dunedin City Hotel* (2 nights). B



COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$5,495 per person twin share for 16 days, plus air fare from LAX to Christchurch with return Auckland to LAX, \$1,695 plus in-tour flights Dunedin/Rotorua at \$395.

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, coach, and motorlaunch; group transfers; accommodations in first class hotels or "best available" lodge at Stewart Island based on twin share with bath (some rooms have share facilities); meals as indicated; park/museum entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International or in-tour air fare (quoted separately); some meals; optional flightseeing 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 airline ancillary fees for bags, etc.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: If you arrange your own international tickets to New Zealand you must include the Auckland/Christchurch flight. You pay \$395 per person for the in-tour flights Dunedin/Rotorua (Betchart must ticket these in-tour flights for you). AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Single Accommodations: Singles are available for \$1,195. 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.

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Day 13 – Taiaroa Head & Nature Cruise

Today, we will visit the Otago Museum, one of the finest museums in New Zealand. It includes everything from antiquities to moa eggs. Its galleries also feature the rich maritime history, New Zealand's strong links with Pacific Cultures, and the unique birdlife of the country. We will then 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. B,L

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 evening 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 treasures from the Maori, the peoples of Oceania and New Zealand, and the natural world. Airport transfer for flight home. Arrive in Los Angeles same day. B

QUESTIONS?

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

RESERVATIONS

#1705

YES! I/We want to join the **New Zealand Expedition, November 7-22, 2023**, offered by **Betchart Expeditions Inc.** with **AAAS, Sigma Xi, and ACS**. 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

Accommodations Preference: _____ Nonsmoker _____ Smoker

_____ Twin _____ Single _____ Twin Share w/friend or _____ assign a roommate

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

**Mail To: New Zealand Nov. 2023, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, California 95014-5435**