

New Zealand Sub Antarctic & Chatham Islands Auckland to Lyttelton 14 Nights on board Le Lapérouse February 8 – 22 2021

This 14-night voyage visits the Chatham Islands and the New Zealand Sub Antarctic islands. The Subantarctic Islands are among the last unspoilt environments on Earth. Almost half of the world's albatross and penguin species reside here and The Snares Island alone boasts more nesting seabirds than the entire realm of the British Isles. For nature lovers, birders, photographers, and travellers wishing to venture where few have gone before, these UNESCO World Heritage Sites provide a truly privileged glimpse into a unique world



Join your expert expedition team, selected for their knowledge and experience, to explore these unique destinations by zodiac and guided walks ashore. On this voyage you will visit destinations that have less visitors than make attempts at the summit of Mount Everest, making them truly unique. Join Le Lapérouse for a remarkable journey available to only a select few.

Expedition Highlights:

- Every destination on this voyage is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The opportunity to see 10 of the world's penguin species.
- The opportunity to see at least 10 species of Albatross.
- The Snares Island alone boasts more nesting seabirds than the entire realm of the British Isles.
- Populations of New Zealand, Antarctic and Subantarctic Fur Seals, New Zealand Sea Lions and Southern Elephant Seals.
- Landscapes on a breathtaking scale.
- Guided walks on Enderby & Campbell Islands.
- Gain an insight into the History and the diversity of flora and fauna from your expert expedition team.



Day 1. Auckland. New Zealand. Embarkation

With an urban population of around 1,534,700, Auckland is New Zealand's largest and most diverse city, home to the largest Polynesian population in the world. The central part of the urban area occupies a narrow isthmus between the Manukau Harbour on the Tasman Sea and the Waitematā Harbour on the Pacific Ocean. Often nicknamed the "City of Sails", Auckland is home to around 60,500 of the country's 149,900 registered yachtsmen.

Le Lapérouse will be alongside in Auckland.



Days 2 – 3. At Sea.

During your days at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment



Days 3 – 14. Exploring the Chatham and Sub Antarctic Islands.

The Sub Antarctic Islands are remote outposts in the Southern Ocean. A flexible Itinerary will allow us to maximise our opportunity to visit these unique locations. In the true spirit of expedition cruising each day the Captain and Expedition leader will continually update the voyage plan taking into account the weather and sea conditions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all guests.

Below is a list of the destinations we may visit during our time in this remarkable region.



Chatham Islands, New Zealand.

The remote Chatham islands are renowned for their stunning scenery, intriguing history, flora, fauna and friendly hospitality. Located 800 kilometres to the east of the South Island, the archipelago consists of about ten islands within an approximate 60-kilometre radius, the largest of which are Chatham Island and Pitt Island. The islands were first inhabited by Moriori, who named the islands 'Rekohu' – translated as 'misty skies' or 'misty sun'. European sealers and whalers were next to arrive, followed by Māori from New Zealand who named the islands 'Wharekauri'.



Much of the natural character of the Chatham Islands is protected in a network of areas set aside for conservation including Mangere and Rangatira (South East Island). Rangatira has been described as one of the world's premier bird islands and is best known for the endemic black robin and the millions of storm petrels, sooty shearwaters and broad-billed prions that nest on the Island.

The Antipodes, New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands.

The volcanic islands of the Antipodes Island group lie 860 km to the southeast of New Zealand. The group consists of one main island, Antipodes Island, Bollons Island to the north, and numerous small islets and stacks. The islands are home to a wide variety of sea and land bird species including two species of parakeet. The seabirds range from the tiny storm petrel to the Antipodean wandering albatross, one of the largest flying birds in the world. There are also significant populations of erect-crested and rock hopper penguins. Landing on the Antipodes is prohibited. If time and weather permit, guests will have the opportunity to explore the coastal environments and view the prolific wildlife from our fleet of zodiacs.



The Bounty Islands, New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands.

The Bounty Islands are a scattering of 20 igneous islets and rocks lying 700 km east-south-east of New Zealand. They were discovered by Captain William Bligh in 1788, just months before the mutiny on the Bounty. The Bounty Islands can be smelt and heard from far away, as every available rock is covered in New Zealand fur seals and seabirds. The islands have the world's largest breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals. There are breeding populations of Salvin's mollymawks, erect-crested penguins and the endemic Bounty Island shag. Landing on the Bounty Islands is prohibited. If time and weather permit, guests will have the opportunity to explore the coastal environments and view the prolific wildlife from our fleet of zodiacs.



The Snares, New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands.

Amongst the islands of the Southern Ocean, The Snares have the distinction of being the only forested group without introduced mammals, not even mice. Consequently, it is a remarkable haven for wildlife. The Island boasts more nesting seabirds than the entire realm of the British Isles. Over 2 million Sooty Shearwaters breed here in the summer months. Four species of Albatross are listed as breeding on the Snares along with 35,000 endemic Snares Crested Penguins. There are also approximately 1000 New Zealand fur seals and 500 New Zealand Sea Lions. Landing on the Snares is prohibited. If time and weather permit, guests will have the opportunity to explore the coastal environments and view the prolific wildlife from our fleet of zodiacs.



Enderby Island, Auckland Islands. New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands.

Enderby Island is situated off the North Eastern tip of Auckland Island and is the second largest Island in the group. The eradication of introduced species in 1994 has seen a significant increase in the abundance of the native flora and fauna compared to the main Auckland Island. It has become a stronghold for the rare yellow-eyed penguin and the primary breeding location of the New Zealand Sea Lion. Guests will head ashore and have the opportunity to undertake a guided walk on the Northern Cliffs track as well as spend time viewing the New Zealand Sea Lion colony. There is also the opportunity to undertake a zodiac tour around the coastline of Enderby Island in search of the Auckland Island Teal and other endemic species.



Musgrave Inlet, Auckland Islands. New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands.

The Auckland Islands are the largest, highest and biologically richest of the five groups of Subantarctic Islands. They have been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International as they hold important seabird breeding colonies. The flora of the Auckland Islands is fascinatingly diverse with over 233 species of vascular plant. Musgrave Inlet is a picturesque bay on the eastern side of Auckland Island. Its sheer cliffs have protected the endemic flora from the introduced species, providing one of the best floral displays in the entire Island group. Landing in Musgrave Inlet is prohibited. If time and weather permits, guests will have the opportunity to view the spectacular flora and fauna from our fleet of zodiacs.



Campbell Island, New Zealand Sub Antarctic Islands.

Campbell Island is the most southerly of the five New Zealand subantarctic groups. Described by the English botanist Joseph Hooker as having a "flora display second to none outside the tropics." It is known for its megaherbs, herbaceous, perennial wildflowers characterised by their great size, with huge leaves and very colourful flowers, which have developed as an adaptation to the harsh weather conditions on the islands. Campbell Island is also home to six species of albatross, and several critically endangered endemic birds including the Campbell Island teal and snipe. Guest have the opportunity to undertake a guided walk on the Col Lyell Saddle boardwalk as well as undertake a zodiac tour around the coastline of Perseverance Harbour.



Day 15. Lyttelton, New Zealand. Disembarkation,

Just 20 minutes from the centre of Christchurch a bohemian vibe and great cafés attract visitors to the historic port town of Lyttelton. Historically regarded as the gateway to Canterbury Christchurch's first European settlers landed here in 1850 before trekking over the Port Hills to establish their new home. Today Lyttelton is a colourful town, home to a community of nearly 3,000, brimming with bohemian artists, cafés, quirky shops and restaurants. Lyttelton's heritage buildings were badly damaged during the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. However, in the years following widespread demolition, this small town has re-invented itself as one of the most creative communities in the Christchurch region. Le Lapérouse will be alongside and disembarkation will commence after breakfast.

