

**Day 6 :** We leave Te Anau for Invercargill. In the afternoon we fly across to Stewart Island for a two-night stay.

In the evening we'll meet up with local guide Philip Smith for one of the most memorable night-birding encounters you'll ever experience – a quest for Southern Brown Kiwi.

*Overnight Stewart Island*

**Day 7 :** Today our charter vessel will take us around the coast of Stewart Island and then out into the Pacific Ocean. We hope for good views of Shy Albatross and Sooty Shearwater. Back in the bay we land on Ulva Island, home to many South Island forest birds including the incredibly tame Weka.

*Overnight Stewart Island*

**Day 8 :** We take an early morning ferry back to Invercargill, and head for the vast inland plain of Mackenzie Country. We'll visit a nearby river delta for Banded Dotterel and Black Stilt, probably the rarest wader in the world. We stay at Lake Ohau for two nights.

*Overnight Lake Ohau*

**Day 9 :** A visit to the national park surrounding New Zealand's highest peak, Mount Cook. We'll take a four-hour walk in the fabled Hooker Valley, surrounded by awesome peaks and glaciers.

*Overnight Lake Ohau*

**Day 10 :** We head to the wild and tumultuous west coast, across the Haast Pass.

*Overnight Haast*

**Day 11 :** In the morning we'll walk down to a beach where we hope to see Fiordland Crested Penguins right at the end of their breeding season.

We continue further along Westland's battered coastline, stopping for a short walk up to Fox Glacier and continue north to Franz Joseph. From here we'll make a unique night-time excursion to seek out the endangered Okarito Brown Kiwi and take in the amazing spectacle of thousands of glow-worms shining like stars on the forest floor.

*Overnight Franz Joseph*

**Day 12 :** We travel up the west coast, then head inland to the superb mountain scenery of Arthur's Pass National Park. We stay at a comfortable lodge in a wonderful setting amidst the Southern Alps.

*Overnight Arthur's Pass*

**Day 13 :** We return across South Island to Christchurch to connect with our flight north to Auckland and our homeward flight, arriving in London on **Day 14**.

**Kaikoura and North Island Extension**

**Day 13 :** Participants on the extension will depart

Christchurch in the afternoon, and travel to the Kaikoura Peninsula where we stay for two nights. Here, the sea floor drops away equally dramatically as the continental shelf comes close inshore. The resulting upwellings of currents form rich feeding grounds for huge numbers of seabirds and a good concentration of cetaceans.

*Overnight Kaikoura*

**Day 14 :** Today's pelagic seabird trip is one of the best we know of anywhere in the world for getting close views of birds in their marine environment.

Remarkably, Kaikoura is even more famous for its whale-watching trips – and is probably the best place in the world to get close to a Sperm Whale! Because the boat trips here are highly weather-dependent, please note that this cost is not included within our tour price. However, we have allowed time for you to go on one of these, weather-permitting, as an optional extra (cost approx £45 pp).

*Overnight Kaikoura*

**Day 15 :** In the morning we travel up the east coastline to the Marlborough Sounds. Our boat takes us out beyond the sound into the Tasman Sea where we hope to encounter an excellent variety of seabirds including endangered Rough-faced Shags.

*Overnight Picton*

**Day 16 :** We embark on a three-hour ferry trip across Cook Strait to New Zealand's capital city, Wellington.

From Wellington we drive north to the volcanic plateau.

*Overnight Ohakune*

**Day 17 :** We have a morning trip to Tongariro where we stay on the slopes of the spectacular snowcapped volcanoes of the National Park. The rare Blue Duck still clings precariously to the headwaters of rivers in this region.

We continue north to Taupo for an overnight stay.

*Overnight Taupo*

**Day 18 :** An early morning start takes us to the so-called 'dinosaur forests' of Pureora. This is one of the few places we hope to find the primitive Kokako gliding through the canopy, with its evocative calls echoing through the treetops.

In the afternoon we head for sulphurous Lake Rotorua.

*Overnight Taupo*

**Day 19 :** We then travel north to Miranda. We hope to locate a range of key New Zealand internal migrants such as the scarce Wrybill, with its unique right-bending bill and New Zealand Dotterel. Banded Rail can sometimes be seen near the Visitor Centre.

We continue to Auckland.

*Overnight Auckland*



Takahe on Tiri Tiri Matangi

**TRIP DETAILS**

**ACCOMMODATION :** All hotels and lodges have rooms with private facilities except for the occasional room on Stewart Island.

**PRINCIPAL LEADER :** Mark Ayre

**NUMBERS :** Max. 14 clients

**PRICES :**  
**Main tour : £ 4,795**  
**Extension : £ 2,195**  
**Single supps. : Main tour : £ 570**  
**Extension : £ 340**  
**Deposit : £ 800 per person**

The price is per person, and is fully inclusive of scheduled flights\* London-Christchurch and Christchurch/Auckland-London, internal flights as specified, airport taxes, full board accommodation, road and boat transport as described, incidental tips, and the services of the leader(s).

The price excludes travel insurance, optional tips to the local guide(s) and driver, Kaikoura whale-watching trip (which is weather-dependent), drinks and other personal expenses.

\*For a price excluding the flights London-Christchurch, and Christchurch/Auckland-London, please deduct £ 995 from the tour cost. If you are booking your own flights please contact us first to check that the times fit with the current itinerary.

\*\* The extension price (£ 2195) is for 'land only', joining in Christchurch. If you wish to book the extension as a 'stand alone' tour from London, please ask our office for a quote including international flights.

**This trip will be operated in conjunction with Limosa Holidays.**

**TOUR EXTENSIONS AND INDEPENDENT TRAVEL**  
**Clients frequently ask us to extend their tour by a few days or a week, and we have organised several tailor-made options including whole tours, at any time of year to suit you. We recommend a self-drive option as being particularly cost-effective: all the hard work of bookings is done for you, and you'll get a detailed information pack giving precise directions to the best wildlife spots. Please contact our sister company, Wild Ambitions, for more information.**

**Day 20 :** Today we head for one of New Zealand's best spots for endemics, Tiri Tiri Matangi Island. Here we should encounter re-introduced Stitchbird, North Island Saddleback, and Kokako. At lunch we may well be joined by a few tame Takahe – the highly endangered giant flightless gallinule.

We reluctantly leave Tiri in the afternoon and head for Auckland and our homeward flight, arriving in London on **Day 21**.

**New Zealand 2011**

Sunday 20 November - Saturday 10 December  
 2011 (21 days)

Places available!

**Please see our 2011 brochure or contact us for full details!**



Cruising on Milford Sound (Photo: Keith Grant)

**For any queries, or to make a reservation, please contact us on 01 305-267994**