Expedition Highlights

• Visit the sub-Antarctic islands of Macquarie, Campbell, Auckland, and The Snares—Zegrahm is among a small, exclusive number of operators that hold permits to travel to these far-flung isles.

• Observe several albatross species—Wandering, Black-browed, Gray-headed, Light-mantled Sooty, and Northern and Southern Royal—as well as colonies of King, Royal, Rockhopper, and Gentoo penguins.

• Search the elfin forests for yellow-eyed penguins, bellbirds, tomtits, and red-crowned parakeets.

• Cruise through Milford, Dusky, and Doubtful sounds, a supremely scenic land of soaring cliffs and plunging waterfalls.
Itinerary

Based on the expeditionary nature of our trips, there may be ongoing enhancements to this itinerary.

Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17, 2020
DEPART USA
Board your independent flight to New Zealand. Lose a day crossing the International Date Line.

Saturday, January 18
DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND
Arrive in Dunedin and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sunday, January 19
DUNEDIN / EMBARK CALEDONIAN SKY
Today, choose one of two local discovery options: Take a drive to Taiaroa Head to visit the world-famous Northern Royal Albatross colony; then, observe and photograph Yellow-eyed Penguins at close range. Or, enjoy a scenic train ride on the Taieri Gorge Railway, then join a local historian for a walk through the heart of enchanting Dunedin, viewing the distinct Edwardian and Victorian architectural styles of First Church and St. Paul Cathedral. Board the Caledonian Sky this afternoon.

Monday, January 20
AT SEA
Join naturalists for lectures and on deck to look for Royal, Shy, and Buller’s albatross, plus a host of Southern Ocean Petrels as we cruise to Enderby Island.

Tuesday, January 21
ENDERBY, AUCKLAND ISLANDS
Today nature walks lead you through lush vegetation and rata forests to visit nesting Southern Royal Albatross. Station yourself near a beach covered with Hooker’s Sea Lions to watch Yellow-eyed Penguins, one of the rarest penguins in the world, as they return to their nesting sites. In the elfin forest, search for Bellbirds, Tomtits, and Red-crowned Parakeets.

Wednesday, January 22
AT SEA
Our lecture series continues with recaps on Enderby and briefings on our next sub-Antarctic landings.

Thursday & Friday, January 23 & 24
MACQUARIE ISLAND, AUSTRALIA
Spend two days exploring Macquarie Island. Though tides and weather will determine our landings, we hope to visit a King Penguin colony as well as colonies of Royal and Gentoo penguins. A variety of birds, as well as Elephant and Fur Seals, can be found set against a background of mountains and tussock-covered headlands. Several species of albatross breed here, as well as Macquarie Island Cormorants, and Northern and Southern giant petrels.
Saturday, January 25
AT SEA
Spend a relaxing and educational day at sea as our lecture series continues.

Sunday, January 26
CAMPBELL ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND
Campbell Island is home to a multitude of seabirds, marine mammals, and unique sub-Antarctic megaherbs. Photographic opportunities include frame-filling encounters with Southern Royal Albatross, as well as Hooker’s Sea Lions. Birders search for the endemic Campbell Teal and Campbell Snipe; both species were previously believed to be extinct.

Monday, January 27
THE SNARES ISLANDS
Board Zodiacs for a cruise around The Snares Islands. This nature reserve is home to millions of breeding Sooty Shearwaters, as well as Buller’s Albatross, Cape Petrels, and endemic Snares Crested Penguins.

Tuesday, January 28
STEWART ISLAND / ULVA ISLAND
Peaceful Stewart Island is home to fewer than 500 inhabitants. Explore the coastline before anchoring near Oban. Local guides lend insight into the island’s unique environment and Maori history. Nearby Ulva Island is a predator-free sanctuary with lush temperate rainforest. It is a wonderful place to view the South Island Robin, South Island Saddleback, Yellowhead, and the curious Weka, a flightless rail.

Wednesday, January 29
DUSKY & BREAKSEA SOUNDS, FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK
Today is devoted to Fiordland National Park, a nearly uninhabited wilderness with breathtakingly beautiful fjords filled with wildlife. Part of Te Wahipounamu Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Fiordland National Park is famed for spectacular glacier-carved waterways and unique flora and fauna. In Dusky Sound explore by Zodiaks to discover rainforest luxuriant with tree ferns, mosses, and lichens and visit Astronomer’s Point, the site of a temporary observatory established during Captain Cook’s 1773 voyage. The forests and waterways are home to many birds—Bellbirds, Tuis, Fantails, and the Kereru, a large native Wood Pigeon.

Thursday, January 30
DOUBTFUL SOUND
Keep your binoculars ready as the ship slowly cruises Doubtful Sound, inspecting the coves where rare Fiordland crested penguins are sometimes found.

Friday, January 31
MILFORD SOUND / DISEMBARK / QUEENSTOWN
Be on deck this morning to watch the panorama of Milford’s sheer cliff faces, which rise thousands of feet almost vertically from the water’s edge, as well as the crashing waters of Bowen and Stirling Falls and the stunning mile-high Mitre Peak. Disembark for a short drive to the picturesque town of Te Anau for lunch. Continue to Queenstown, with dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Tuesday, February 1
QUEENSTOWN
Today choose one of two excursion options, designed to highlight Queenstown’s natural and cultural attributes. Journey through the dramatic Lord of the Rings landscapes of Central Otago and meet the winemakers of the world’s southernmost wine-producing region. Or, take a thrilling jet boat ride amongst stunning scenery, then ride the Skyline Gondola to the top of Bob’s Peak. Alternatively, you may choose to explore Queenstown on your own, browsing the private studios, gardens, and galleries of internationally renowned artists. Return to the hotel for a farewell dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, February 2
QUEENSTOWN / USA
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your independent homeward flight, arriving in the USA the same day.

Flight Information
You will need to purchase airfare from your home city/Dunedin and Queenstown/home city. Please call 800-328-VENT (8368) or 512-328-5221 to learn more about air arrangements.
The Caledonian Sky

The all-suite, 100-guest Caledonian Sky is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. Refurbished in 2012, her beautifully designed public spaces include a single-seating dining room, a large lounge, elegant bar, enclosed panoramic viewing deck, sun deck, library, and gym. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, flat-screen television, spacious wardrobes, and dressing table. The Caledonian Sky carries a fleet of Zodiacs, available for accessing remote shorelines and islands.

Rates

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Included:
- Daily activity options including cultural tours, nature walks, and Zodiac cruises
- All gratuities
- All accommodations
- World-class lecture and expedition team
- All onboard meals and group meals ashore, including soft drinks, beer, and wine with lunch and dinner
- All entrance fees, taxes, and landing and port charges
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates
- Gift certificates for recommended expedition gear
- Medical expense coverage and emergency evacuation insurance

Solo Travelers: No single supplement on this expedition! Solo travelers pay the double occupancy rate. (Limited availability).

Not Included:
- Airfare from your home city/Dunedin and Queenstown/home city
- Excess baggage charges
- Airport arrival and departure taxes
- Transfers for independent arrivals and departures
- Passport and/or visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcoholic beverages, (other than listed at left), and other incidentals
- Email/Internet/fax/telephone charges

A 25% per person deposit will secure your space on this expedition. All rates are per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise noted. Final payment is due 130 days prior to departure. Visit http://ventbird.com/birding-cruises to view the details and terms and conditions for this expedition.
MAX BRECKENRIDGE (VENT LEADER)  
Mark was born in the UK, but has lived virtually his entire life in Sydney, Australia. At age 12, his passion for birds was fostered when his parents took him and his brother out of school for 10 weeks to travel across Australia. After completing high school in Sydney, Max drove solo from Darwin to Broome, birding all the way, and spent the next month volunteering at the world-renowned Broome Bird Observatory. He is currently working on his Bachelor of Biodiversity & Conservation at Macquarie University. Max has an excellent eye, and especially ear, for Australian birds. Some of his birding exploits in Australia include two separate trips to the remote rainforests of Iron Range National Park (including a fly-in-fly-out trip during the middle of the wet season where he spent two weeks under a tarp in order to see some of the key migrants from Papua New Guinea). Max has also birded the key sites of Sabah in Malaysia, some of Thailand, Cambodia, most of Vietnam, the length of India from Rajasthan to Kerala, Sri Lanka, and New Zealand, and is also familiar with the birds of Western Europe. In addition to his focus of study, he has spent much of his spare time volunteering alongside Ph.D. researcher Ross Crates studying the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and conducting paid bird surveys. Max receives immense pleasure from birding and showing birds to others, and takes pride in writing detailed trip reports.

MIKE MESSICK (EXPEDITION LEADER) – One of the best expedition leaders in the business, Mike embarked on a full-time career in adventure travel shortly after graduating from college and has since visited more than 195 countries around the world. He is a cofounder of Zegrahm Expeditions, a member of The Explorers Club, holds a US Coast Guard captain’s license, and received his scuba instructor certificate from NAUI.

BRENT STEPHENSON (ORNITHOLOGIST) – Born in New Zealand, Brent has been an avid birder since childhood. In 2005 he completed his Ph.D., studying the breeding biology of Australasian gannets in New Zealand. His passion for travel, birds, and the ocean has led him to many corners of the world working on small expedition vessels. In his “spare time,” Brent conducts ecological research, conservation work, and co-owns a bird-guiding business. Brent is also the author of Birds of New Zealand: A Photographic Guide.

Know Before You Go

For most activities, a moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore. Many of the landings will be “wet” and require that you wear waterproof, knee-high boots. Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances, unaided, over occasionally rough and often slippery terrain. Temperatures will range from the low 50sºF to the mid-60sºF in Queenstown, and from 40ºF to 55ºF in the sub-Antarctic islands.