

MITALUMNI
Travel Program

**THE BEST OF
NEW ZEALAND**
by Sea



Queenstown to Auckland
Aboard *Heritage Adventurer*

NOVEMBER 11-24, 2025

DEAR MIT ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Experience the best of New Zealand and its three main islands, the North Island, South Island, and Stewart Island, on this unforgettable 14-day cruise aboard the Kiwi-owned and operated *Heritage Adventurer*. This spacious and comfortable vessel contains a full fleet of 14 Zodiacs, allowing all passengers ample opportunity for exploration.

Begin with one night in Queenstown, the country's adventure capital, then embark on a 10-night cruise from Fiordland National Park to Auckland, calling at Milford Sound, Doubtful and Dusky Sounds, Stewart Island, Dunedin, Christchurch, Marlborough Sounds, Wellington, and Rotorua. A diverse menu of included excursion options offers generous access to the island nation's dramatic glacial fiords, geothermal wonders, cultural richness, and untamed wilderness. On naturalist-led Zodiac expeditions, observe some of the world's rarest wildlife species in their natural habitats. Visit the rarely accessed Stewart Island and take a guided walk in Rakiura National Park, with its stunning coastal rainforest. In the breathtaking Marlborough Sounds, walk ashore on the Queen Charlotte Track, ranked one of the top ten walks in New Zealand.

Expert study leaders travel with you throughout this program and will offer a series of illustrated lectures and informal discussions along the way. There will also be opportunities to join a pre-trip extension in Queenstown and a post-trip extension to the Bay of Islands. With limited space available, we encourage you to reserve your cabin today!

Sincerely,



Melissa Chapman Gresh
Director, MIT Alumni Travel Program

SCAN ME
with your iPhone or tablet
to register online.



ON THE COVER:
Milford Sound

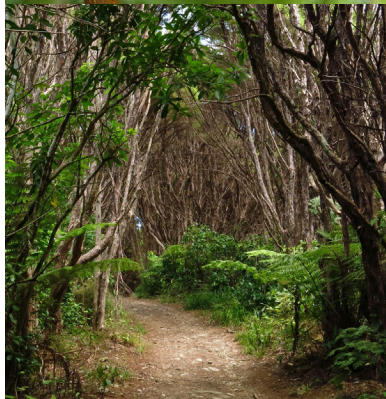
THIS PAGE:
Yellow-Eyed Penguin



Highlights

- **VISIT** Fiordland National Park over two full days with time in the iconic Milford Sound, the stunning and remote Doubtful Sound, as well as the largest and most spectacular of the fiords, Dusky Sound.
- **ACCESS** seldom-visited Stewart Island for guided walks in the pristine coastal rainforests of Rakiura National Park.
- **OBSERVE** some of the world's rarest wildlife in their natural settings, including the Royal Albatross and Yellow-Eyed Penguin.
- **MARVEL** at sheer cliffs punctuated by crashing waterfalls and native species on naturalist-led Zodiac expeditions.
- **WALK** on part of the famous coastal Queen Charlotte Track in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.
- **EXPERIENCE** a private Māori welcome ceremony, including tribal dances, and see bubbling thermal mud pools near Rotorua.

TOP TO BOTTOM: New Zealand fern; Queen Charlotte Track, Māori warrior carving; Royal Albatross; Taiaoroa Head in Dunedin.



ENRICHMENT LECTURERS

Amanda D. Rodewald is the Garvin Professor and Senior Director of the Center for Avian Population Studies at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at Cornell University.

Maureen Long, Bruce D. Alexander '65 Professor and Chair of Earth & Planetary Sciences at Yale, is an observational seismologist, using measurements of earthquake waves to study the structure and dynamics of the Earth's interior.

Noel Michele (Missy) Holbrook is the Charles Bullard Professor of Forestry in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard.





Queenstown

Tuesday-Wednesday, November 11-12

DEPART U.S.

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Queenstown, located on New Zealand's South Island. Lose one day crossing the international date line. (MEALS ALOFT)

Thursday, November 13

QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Arrive in Queenstown and transfer to Novotel Queenstown Lakeside Hotel, ideally situated in the heart of Queenstown. This evening, gather for a welcome orientation and casual reception to meet fellow travelers.

NOVOTEL QUEENSTOWN LAKESIDE HOTEL (R)

Friday, November 14

BLUFF

This morning enjoy a walking tour of Queenstown with local guides, including a scenic gondola ride to the top of Bob's Peak for spectacular views of Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu, and the surrounding mountain ranges. In the afternoon depart by motorcoach for a 3.5-hour drive to Bluff, where you will embark *Heritage Adventurer*. Gather on deck for cocktail hour as the ship departs for Fiordland National Park, and later, attend the Captain's welcome reception and dinner.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,R,D)

Saturday-Sunday, November 15-16

FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK: DOUBTFUL, DUSKY & MILFORD SOUNDS

Spend two full days exploring the incredible wilderness of Fiordland National Park, New Zealand's wildest, most remote region, by Zodiac and by foot. Cruise the iconic Milford Sound, a spectacular fiord in the shadow of Mitre Peak. HERITAGE ADVENTURER (2B,2L,2D)

Monday, November 17

STEWART ISLAND

Zodiac ashore to seldom-visited Stewart/ Ulva Islands, an ornithologists' delight. Follow local naturalist guides on bush walks in Rakiura National Park and then enjoy free time to explore the small village of Oban.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Tuesday, November 18

DUNEDIN

Learn about and see nesting Northern Royal Albatross at the Royal Albatross Centre, the only mainland breeding colony of these incredible birds. Journey to OPERA (Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance) to encounter rare and endangered yellow-eyed penguins up close in their rehabilitation center, learn about the organization's conservation efforts, and take a nature walk through the reserve. After lunch enjoy a guided tour and free time to explore the exhibits at Tūhura Otago Museum, showcasing the unique

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **R** = Reception, **D** = Dinner
INCLUDED IN THE TRIP COST



Kate Sheppard Memorial in Christchurch.

nature, culture, and history of Southern New Zealand. *HERITAGE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, November 19
LYTTLETON / CHRISTCHURCH

Anchor in Lyttleton and travel by coach to Christchurch with a quick stop at the Cardboard Cathedral, followed by an Ōtautahi Culture Walk through the city's revived central district, led by guides who will share traditional Māori and Settlers stories and ways of life. At the Kate Sheppard House, learn how the pioneering suffragist and her fellow campaigners organized their movement to secure the vote for women, resulting in New Zealand becoming the first country in the world to grant women the right to vote in 1893. Lunch will be off the ship at Riccarton House, a unique heritage site, and there will be some free time at the Arts Centre to shop and explore.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Thursday, November 20
MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

Take Zodiacs to Ship Cove and choose from different hike options on New Zealand's famed Queen Charlotte Track. Here scout for rare birds and other native wildlife. This evening arrive in Wellington and either join an optional post-dinner Zealandia by Night Tour to search for nocturnal species (added cost) or explore the nightlife of New Zealand's capital city independently. *HERITAGE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)

Friday, November 21
WELLINGTON

Today take guided walking tours of Wellington of varying lengths, ride the cable car to the lookout perched high above the city, and then stroll down the hill through the beautiful Botanic Gardens established in 1868. Enjoy a guided tour and free time at the renowned Te Papa Tongarewa National Museum.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Saturday, November 22
AT SEA

Today at sea, relax and take advantage of the ship's many amenities as the educational program continues. *HERITAGE ADVENTURER* (B,L,D)



Geothermal pools in Rotorua.

Sunday, November 23
TAURANGA (ROTORUA)

Disembark in Tauranga and drive to Rotorua, the rich heartland of Māori culture. Learn about Māori customs and traditions at Te Pā Tū, a village nestled within a native Tawa forest. Meet tribal leaders, enjoy a cultural performance of song and dance, and dine on a Māori fusion lunch. Visit Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland to see some of Rotorua's famed geothermal features, where boiling mud pools and colorful hot springs provide remarkable evidence of the still-hot magma just beneath the earth's surface. Back on board, celebrate your New Zealand adventure with fellow travelers during the Captain's Farewell reception and dinner. *HERITAGE ADVENTURER* (B,L,R,D)

Monday, November 24
AUCKLAND / HOME

Disembark in Auckland and transfer to the airport for flights home or extend your stay in Auckland. Recover one day upon return. (B)

Optional Extensions

November 9-11, 2025

PRE-TOUR IN QUEENSTOWN Fly into Queenstown two days early for the opportunity to journey through the dramatic Lord of the Rings landscapes of Central Otago. Visit a winery for a behind-the-scenes tour and wine tasting from the world's southernmost winemaking region. Experience a jet boat ride through a national park and enjoy free time to explore in Queenstown before the main program commences. NOVOTEL QUEENSTOWN LAKESIDE HOTEL (2B, 2L, R)

November 24-26, 2025

POST-TOUR IN THE BAY OF ISLANDS Embark on a scenic drive north from Auckland, with a stop at the Hundertwasser Art Centre. Arrive at the charming coastal town of Paihia, your base for two nights. Explore the enchanting Bay of Islands on a picturesque boat cruise and take a private tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, a place of great historical and cultural significance. SCENIC HOTEL BAY OF ISLANDS (2B, 2L, D)

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Observation Lounge



Superior Cabin

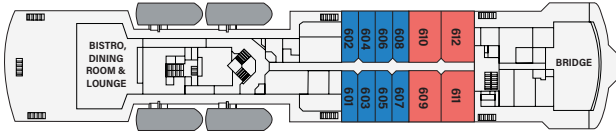
Heritage Adventurer

The *Heritage Adventurer*, formerly known as MS *Hanseatic*, was originally designed to accommodate 184 guests, but has since been reconfigured to **welcome just 140 passengers**, providing plenty of space for a comfortable voyage. A **full fleet of 14 Zodiacs** allows for all passengers to maximize their time to explore.

All cabins aboard *Heritage Adventurer* offer living and sleeping areas with a king or two single beds, ample storage, a writing desk, and a modern ensuite bathroom. Public spaces and open decks abound, including two separate bar and lounge areas featuring 180-degree views and the open-topped Observation Deck for 360-degree views. Meals are served in the gourmet restaurant and in the indoor/outdoor bistro—both options offer plenty of seating and large picture windows. Additional amenities include an open-air saltwater pool that can be heated or chilled, a hot tub encased in glass for all-weather use, a dry-heat Finnish sauna, a European steam room, a well-equipped gym, and a spa.

| RETAIL PROGRAM FEES (per person): | DOUBLE | SINGLE |
|---|----------|----------|
| 1 STANDARD CABIN Deck 3, portholes | \$9,990 | \$12,490 |
| 2 SUPERIOR CABIN Deck 4, windows | \$11,990 | \$14,490 |
| 3 SUPERIOR CABIN Deck 5, windows | \$12,990 | \$15,490 |
| 4 SUPERIOR CABIN Deck 6, windows | \$13,990 | — |
| 5 HERITAGE SUITE | \$18,990 | — |

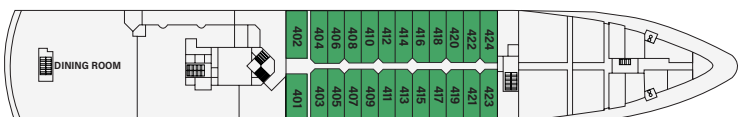
DECK 6



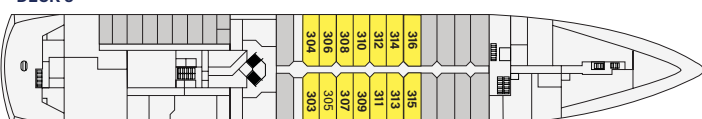
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



General Information

GROUP SIZE This program is limited to 128 participants and is co-sponsored with other organizations.

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, R=reception, D=dinner) ■ Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations ■ Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates ■ Baggage handling ■ Daily excursions ■ Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers ■ Gratuities to shipboard personnel ■ Port charges ■ Entrance fees ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners ■ Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information ■ Filtered water on motorcoaches ■ Wi-Fi aboard the ship and at hotels ■ Professional tour managers throughout the program

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport/visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations, if required at the time of travel ■ Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days ■ Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour ■ Airline baggage charges ■ Travel and trip cancellation insurance ■ Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Telephone, laundry, room service, and other items of a personal nature

AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT We consider this program to be moderately active. Much of the touring is done by motorcoach, but some excursions may require standing for long periods of time and/or walks that range from one to three miles, often on uneven terrain where stairs may be unavailable or not have handrails. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for excursions (there will be staff

and crew members on hand to assist). Participants should be fit and in active good health. All participants will be required to follow safety and sanitization protocols set forth by the tour operator, local staff, and host country laws. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that s/he does not have any physical or other limitation that would create a hazard for her/himself or other travelers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS

Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

Reserve your space online at https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/MIT/251111_NEZ/tour or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Balance of payment is due **July 14, 2025**. After July 14, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by



Traditional Māori Lunch

Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable.

After **July 14, 2025** final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. **NOTE:** Neither MIT Alumni Association (MITAA) nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the MIT Alumni Association (MITAA) and Criterion Travel (the tour operator). Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, MITAA and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant. In the unlikely event that this program cannot be operated for any reason, the refund of all payments received shall release MITAA and the tour operator from any liability. The study leaders named in this trip information are confirmed at the time of publication. If a study leader must cancel, we will attempt to provide, but cannot guarantee, a suitable replacement.

RESPONSIBILITY

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

NOTE The MIT Alumni Travel Program provides further information about the Travel Program and the relationship between the Alumni Association and the tour operator online at <http://alum.mit.edu/travel/about>

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

THE BEST OF NEW ZEALAND *by Sea*



RESERVE ONLINE

For more information call: (888) 328-2089
To reserve, please connect to the online registration form with the QR code above, or complete and return this form by email to res@criteriontravel.com. If paying by check, please return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

NAME #1 MIT AFFILIATION

NAME #2 MIT AFFILIATION

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PREFERRED TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for _____ place(s) on *The Best of New Zealand by Sea*.
 Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to my VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____
Bed Preference: King/Queen Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)
 I plan to share accommodations with: _____

I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a non-smoker smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of July 14, 2025 I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the General Information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

THE BEST OF NEW ZEALAND

by Sea



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600 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139

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