

# NEW ZEALAND COASTAL ODYSSEY

THE ULTIMATE EXPEDITION CRUISE  
OF THE NEW ZEALAND COAST

EXPEDITION DOSSIER  
3 – 14 MARCH 2026



HERITAGE  
EXPEDITIONS





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Discover the hidden gems of Aotearoa/New Zealand and its three main islands (the North Island, South Island, and Stewart Island) on this unforgettable 12-day expedition. From the bright lights of New Zealand's largest city to the geothermal wonderland of Rotorua, Dunedin's avant-garde fashion labels and the adventure playground of Queenstown, this is the ultimate Kiwi adventure to experience it all.

With the 9th longest coastline in the world measuring some 15,000 kilometres, you will wind through narrow fiords, circumnavigate small islands, explore secluded bays, and visit quaint seaside towns. Bordering the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and once part of Gondwanaland, New Zealand has a fascinating natural

and cultural history from its first Polynesian arrivals through European settlement, early sealing and whaling and world-leading conservation efforts. Highlights include the sunken valleys and towering mountains of Fiordland's Doubtful and Dusky Sounds; the volcanoes, hot springs and geysers of Rotorua; the 'World's Coolest Little Capital' (Wellington); the scenic playground of the Marlborough Sounds; the Scottish city of Dunedin; the iconic wildlife havens of Stewart Island and nearby predator-free Ulva Island; the French-infused village of Akaroa; and the City of Sails, Auckland.

Those looking for a thrilling exploration filled with wildlife encounters will enjoy observations of dolphins and whale watching, as well as exceptional birdwatching, including several rare endemic species such as on Ulva Island, and an albatross colony on the Otago Peninsula. Those with a taste for gourmet delights will enjoy experiencing some of New Zealand's award-winning cuisine including the wines of Canterbury, Marlborough and cheese in Akaroa.

Our vessel *Heritage Adventurer* is built for exploring regions like New Zealand's intricate coastline, navigating through fiords, cruising up harbours, and allowing for Zodiac cruising to remote and isolated bays. We invite you to join us on this in-depth exploration of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Queenstown

Guests should head to the designated hotel where we will spend the first night of the expedition. This evening, there will be an informal get-together at the hotel for dinner; an excellent opportunity to meet fellow adventurers on your voyage and some of our expedition team.

### Day 2: Queenstown/Bluff

Today we enjoy breakfast in the hotel restaurant and have the morning free to explore Queenstown before returning to the hotel for lunch and departing for the Port of Bluff to embark *Heritage Adventurer*. You will have time to settle into your accommodation and familiarise yourself with the ship. You are

invited to join the expedition team in the Observation Lounge and up on the Observation Deck as we set our course to Fiordland and our adventure begins.

### Days 3 – 4: Fiordland

We have two days to explore the incredible wilderness of Fiordland in the southwest corner of the South Island. This area is rich in history, majestic scenery and abundant in wildlife. Fiordland was well known to local Māori, with the demi-god Tu-teraki-whanoa said to have used his adze, Te Hamo, to carve out the region's fiords. Captain Cook and his crew landed here on *HMS Resolution* in 1773 and were the first Europeans to visit Fiordland, subsequently spending five weeks in Dusky Sound. Cook's records of his discovery and maps attracted sealers and whalers from around the world. Fiordland's coast is only accessible by sea, making it the most remote region of New Zealand's mainland. Waterfalls, streams, rivers, and fiords are enveloped with misty veils that come and go, revealing steep gradients of mountain peaks and sheltered valleys. A rugged terrain and thickly forested floors



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are covered with ferns, lichens, and mosses. Bottlenose Dolphins, Fiordland Crested Penguins and Little Blue Penguins are all residents of the fiords, and we will look for them during our time here. Our schedule gives us the flexibility to visit as much as possible. The areas we plan to explore include Milford Sound, Doubtful Sound, Dusky Sound and Acheron Passage, Astronomer's Point and Pickersgill Harbour. During our time in Dusky Sound, there will be the optional opportunity to experience an unforgettable helicopter flight through the Sound swooping down alongside Cooper Island and Cook Channel with a landing on Mount Pender enjoying spectacular vistas across constellations of islands stretching into the horizon and dotting the winding fiords. Our final plan will be determined by the weather. The Captain and Expedition Leader will work hard to make the best use of our time in this incredible region of New Zealand, including areas that few New Zealanders have visited.

## Day 5: Stewart Island

New Zealand's third island, Stewart Island, is well off the usual beaten tourist track. It is a wonderfully tranquil place, and the scenery of untouched bushland is stunning. We will enjoy the morning exploring

nearby Ulva Island which is rich in history and wildlife being a predator-free island since 1997, the bird song and wildlife are some of the best. Some of the wildlife you may observe while walking the tracks on Ulva Island include Stewart Island Robin, Southern Brown Kiwi, Stewart Island Weka, South Island Kaka, Kereru (Wood Pigeon), Mohua (Yellowhead), Red-crowned Parakeet, Fantail, Bellbird and Tui. Many more species may also be seen, and our knowledgeable expedition guides will be listening for bird calls and keeping a close watch in overhead canopies and the

surrounding shrubs to identify further species. We will visit Stewart Island in the afternoon. During our time in Paterson Inlet, there will be the opportunity to explore the quirky town centre Oban in Halfmoon Bay, where local shops, brand new Rakiura Museum and beautiful walks in the surrounding forests await exploration, while a drink with a view can be enjoyed at the iconic South Sea Hotel.

## Day 6: Dunedin

This morning, sail into the beautiful Otago Harbour and watch closely for Northern Royal Albatross at the Tairaroa Head Albatross Colony.



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From our berth explore the famed fashion-forward city of Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the south, and its rich history as the gateway to Otago. Explore the scenic Otago Peninsula, where New Zealand Sea Lions rest and Yellow-eyed Penguins can be observed in one of their last mainland strongholds, and where the beautiful, farmed hills roll down towards white sand beaches.

## Day 7: Akaroa

*Heritage Adventurer* will sail through the Akaroa heads and anchor in the sheltered waters of Canterbury's largest harbour. It was here, beneath the eroded volcanic hills of Banks Peninsula, that the

French attempted to settle in 1840. The French connection remains, with a certain *je ne sais quoi* at heart of the township of Akaroa. This afternoon, visit the Barry's Bay Cheese Factory and French Farm Vineyard at the head of the harbour and enjoy the opportunity to explore Akaroa or take one of the local nature walks.

## Day 8: Wellington

Wellington is New Zealand's 'coolest little capital' and an exceptional natural harbour, where *Heritage Adventurer* will be docked in the centre of the action. From here, you can easily explore this vibrant city on foot. Visit

the iconic cable car, explore the world-renowned Zealandia nature reserve, and discover the Botanic Gardens and New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa.

## Day 9: Marlborough

This morning, *Heritage Adventurer* sails into the sheltered waters of the Marlborough Sounds, a beautiful labyrinth of waterways intersecting the northern shores of the South Island. Take the opportunity to explore a coastal trail through the lush regenerating forest and watch for native birds, including Saddleback, Parakeets and Robins on one of the region's nature reserves.



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## Day 10: At Sea

Sailing up the scenic North Island coastline, enjoy a day at sea attending lectures, relaxing on board or catching up on your photos and journaling as we head towards Tauranga.

## Day 11: Tauranga/Rotorua

From our berth in Tauranga, we drive inland, passing the rich horticultural region of the Bay of Plenty as we travel to the geothermal heartland of Rotorua. Marvel at the abundance of steam vents, geysers and bubbling mud

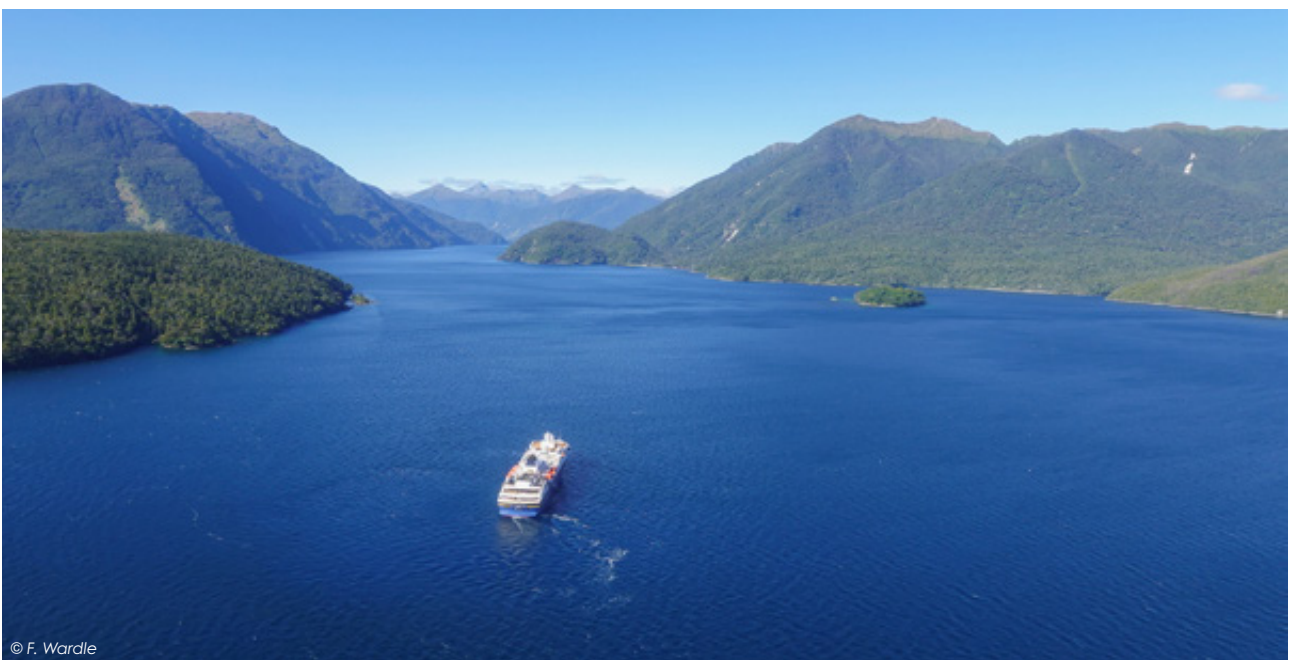
pools as we explore one of the most geologically active regions on the planet accompanied by expert local guides. Renowned for its rich Māori culture, world-class spa and wellness experiences, otherworldly geothermal landscapes, incredible lush forests and sparkling lakes there is much to see and experience here.

## Day 12: Auckland

This morning *Heritage Adventurer* arrives in Auckland, the City of Sails, where she will berth in the central city waterfront, following breakfast

disembark and head to the airport or continue your exploration of New Zealand. In case of unexpected delays, we ask you not to book any onward travel until after midday today.

**During our voyage, circumstances may make it necessary or desirable to deviate from the proposed itinerary. This can include poor weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed.**



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## HERITAGE ADVENTURER

*Heritage Adventurer* is a true pioneering expedition vessel of exceptional pedigree often referred to as the 'Grande Dame of Exploration Cruising'.

Purpose built for adventure in 1991 at Finland's Rauma shipyard and specifically designed for Polar exploration, *Heritage Adventurer* (formerly known as *MS Hanseatic*) is 124-metres long, boasts the highest passenger-ship ice-class rating (1A Super) and an impressive history of Polar and remote region exploration making her perfect for Heritage Expeditions signature experiential expedition travel.

Originally designed to accommodate 184 guests, we now welcome just 140 expeditioners to create a spacious, comfortable on board experience and continuation of the exceptional, personalised expedition experience synonymous with the company. While a fleet of 14 Zodiacs ensures

all guests are able to maximise their expedition experience. On board, enjoy stylish, sophisticated accommodations spanning 4 decks, visit the captain and crew in the Bridge with our Open Bridge Policy and dine on gourmet fare from leading Australasian chefs.

Watch your adventure unfold from numerous spectacular indoor and outdoor viewing locations including *Heritage Adventurer's* famed Observation Lounge resplendent with 270-degree views and join our world-renowned team of naturalists, botanists, historians and experts as they interpret the natural and human history discovered during each voyage, as well as hosting regular lectures.

And should you require a little R&R, unwind in the library, pool, gym, hot tub, sauna and steam room, indulge in some retail therapy or find a quiet place to enjoy a coffee or cocktail from the café and bar.

## DATES

**Voyage #HA260303**  
**3 – 14 March 2026**  
**Queenstown – Auckland**

## PRICES NZ\$

**Heritage Suite \$25,000 pp\***  
 Located on Deck 6, Heritage Suites are an expansive 44m<sup>2</sup> and feature large double panoramic windows, king bed, large living area with a sofa, coffee table and chairs and grand marble bathroom with a double basin, bathtub and shower, large writing desk, floor to ceiling cabinetry for storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Worsley Suite \$17,775 pp\***  
 Located on Deck 6, Worsley Suites are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds, comfortable chaise-style lounge suite, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Superior Single \$17,775 pp\***  
 Superior Single Cabins on Deck 5 are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature large panoramic windows, king bed, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Superior Triple \$10,995 pp\***  
 Superior Triple Cabins on Deck 5 are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds and one Pullman bed which folds down from the wall, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Superior Deck 5 \$13,845 pp\***  
 Superior Cabins on Deck 5 are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Superior Deck 4 \$13,095 pp\***  
 Superior Cabins on Deck 4 are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature large panoramic windows, king or two single beds, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Main Deck Single \$16,475 pp\***  
 Main Deck Single Cabins on Deck 3 are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature two porthole windows, king bed, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

**Main Deck Triple \$9,225 pp\***  
 Main Deck Triple Cabins on Deck 3 are a spacious 22m<sup>2</sup> and feature two porthole windows, two single beds and one Pullman bed which folds down from the wall, comfortable lounge, writing desk, private en-suite with shower, ample storage and a flat screen entertainment system.

\*The price listed includes the additional local payment of NZD\$660 (All prices are per person in NZD\$).

## ADDITIONAL OPTION

**Helicopter Excursion \$695 pp**

### PRICE INCLUDES

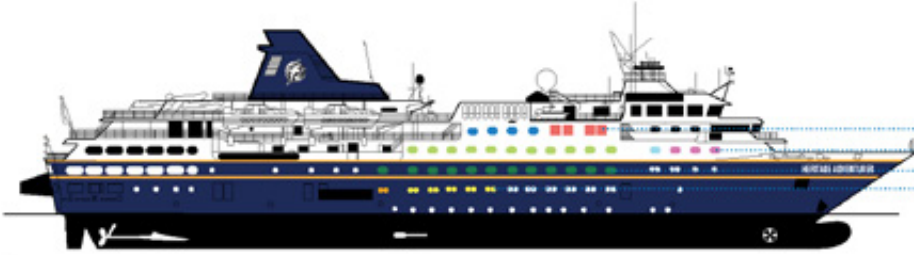
Local payment, pre/post cruise transfers, one night hotel accommodation in a twin share room (incl. dinner/breakfast), all on board ship accommodation with meals house beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner and all expedition shore excursions. Programme of lectures by noted naturalists.

### PRICE EXCLUDES

All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, gratuities. Helicopter excursion, International/domestic flights, visas and travel insurance.

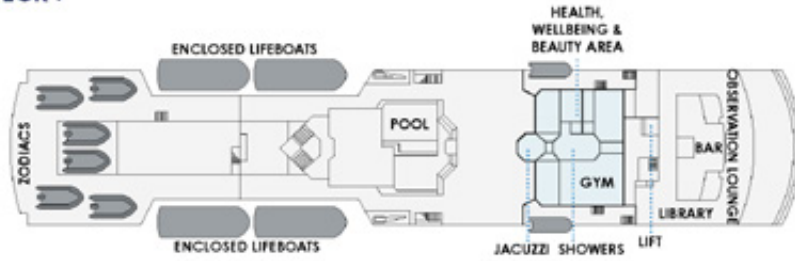
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# Heritage Adventurer Deck Plan



DECK 6: SUITES ● WORSLEY ● HERITAGE  
 DECK 5: ● SUPERIOR ● SUPERIOR TRIPLE ● SUPERIOR SINGLE  
 DECK 4: ● SUPERIOR  
 DECK 3: ● MAIN DECK TRIPLE ● MAIN DECK SINGLE

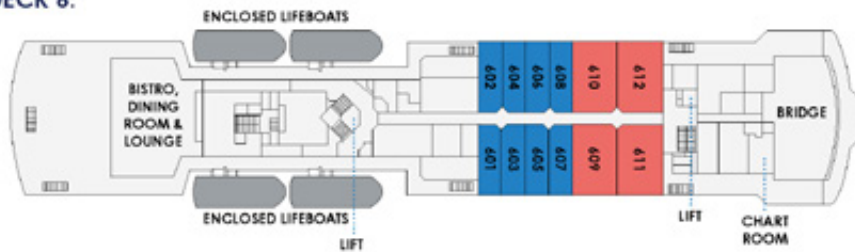
## DECK 7



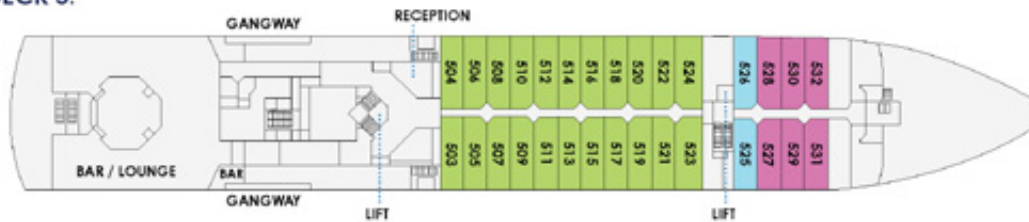
## DECK 8



## DECK 6:



## DECK 5:



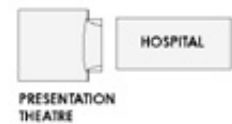
## DECK 4:



## DECK 3:



## DECK 2



### SUITE CATEGORIES

- HERITAGE SUITE
- SUPERIOR SINGLE
- DECK 4 SUPERIOR
- MAIN DECK SINGLE
- WORSLEY SUITE
- DECK 5 SUPERIOR
- MAIN DECK TRIPLE
- SUPERIOR TRIPLE



**HERITAGE**  
EXPEDITIONS



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