

Christmas Cruise in NEW ZEALAND

On board M/V Orion December 18-28, 2010

Dear Travelers:

We invite you to join us as we discover the dramatic beauty of New Zealand on this Christmas voyage "down under!"

We will travel on board the elegant M/V Orion from Dunedin on the southeast corner of South Island, passing along the coast of South Island to the heart of Fiordland National Park, the largest national park in New Zealand. Here, we will venture into Dusky and Doubtful Sounds, in addition to world renowned Milford Sound. The voyage will also include remote Stewart Island, which includes New Zealand's newest national park.

We will be traveling at mid-summer in New Zealand, when the weather should be at its finest, with bright sparkling days, cascading waterfalls, and a profusion of flowers in city gardens and wildflowers in bloom along park trails. New Zealand's many bird species will enchant us, and we will look for seals and other marine life in the dramatic fiords of Fiordland National Park.

Our floating home will be the luxurious expedition ship, the M/V Orion, one of the most sophisticated vessels in its class. Constructed by the world-leading Cassens Shipyard in Emden, and launched in November 2003, Orion is the epitome of elegance. No expense has been spared when it came to the quality of fittings and furnishings, and the range and caliber of onboard recreational facilities is outstanding. Orion's luxurious appointments means she is more a mega-yacht than a cruise ship.

Our group that traveled on board Orion to Antarctica during the 2004/05 Antarctic season was thrilled with the ship, the superb naturalist staff, and on board comfort and service. We think you will also be very pleased.

I have been to New Zealand many times as an Expedition Leader, and would be happy to answer questions about what you will see and experience. Please feel free to call me for more information.

For reservations, please contact Marisa, phone (800) 252-4910.

We invite you to join us as we discover the magic of the fiords, national parks, wildlife, and flora of this enchanting destination during the magic of the holiday season.

Sincerely yours,



Robert P. Nansen
Field Operations Coordinator
Betchart Expeditions Inc.



ITINERARY

Days 1/2 Los Angeles to New Zealand

Expedition members gather at the Los Angeles International Airport for our flight to Auckland, New Zealand. Cross the International Date Line en route.

Day 3 Auckland to Dunedin

Arrive in Auckland this morning, and take a connecting flight to Dunedin on South Island. Arrive in Dunedin and transfer by taxi to your hotel (1 night).

Day 4 Dunedin & Otago Peninsula

Latitude: 45° 50'S Longitude: 170° 35' E

The Otago region was settled by Maori people over four centuries ago, with Scottish migrants establishing the small town of Dunedin in 1848. After gold was discovered Dunedin rapidly developed to become New Zealand's biggest city at the time and the country's industrial and commercial heart. Many ornate buildings dating from this period still stand today. It was the first city outside the USA to have its own tram system.

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore Dunedin. Your exploration could include the Botanic Gardens, New Zealand's first, located at the northern end of the city on the lower slopes of Signal Hill. In the late afternoon, meet at the dock to board M/V Orion. You will be shown to your cabin to settle in before dinner. The ship will remain in port this evening.

ITINERARY (continued)

Day 5 Cruise to Jackson Bay

Today, we'll be cruising along the coast of South Island en route to Jackson Bay. This will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the on-board lecture program, sumptuous meals, and to become acquainted with the other guests and lecturers. This is a wonderful day to explore the ship, relax in the spa, peruse books on the heritage of New Zealand in the on-board library, or just to relax on deck and enjoy watching the shoreline pass by!

Day 6 Jackson Bay

Latitude: 43°58'S Longitude: 168°37'E

Today, we'll make a wet landing in Jackson Bay, a small fishing village set deep in the southern West Coast. The bay is a natural ocean harbor sheltered from the prevailing winds and backed by the Southern Alps, providing an ideal landing for Orion's Zodiacs. This remote and geographically diverse region has been designated as a World Heritage site.

Days 7/8 Fiordland National Park— Milford Sound & Doubtful Sounds

Latitude: 44°36'S Longitude: 167°50'E

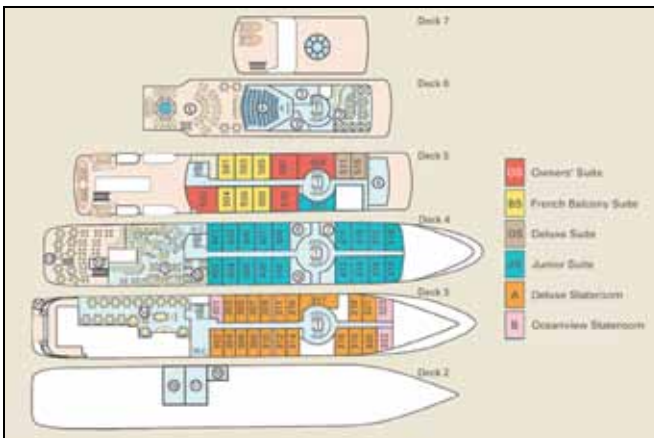
Fiordland National Park is both a World Heritage Site and is considered one of the most dramatic and beautiful parts of New Zealand. *Orion* will have two days to explore hidden bays and isolated coves including Milford and Doubtful Sounds. The Maori were the first to ascribe creation of the fiords to a "titanic mason", Tute Rakiwhanoa—a concept you will find totally believable as *Orion* slips beneath sheer granite cliffs, not yet worn smooth by time. *Orion* is the perfect viewing platform from which to see Milford Sound. This is a memorable scenic cruise that includes glacially carved hanging valleys, the iconic 1600-meter-high Mitre Peak, and magnificent Stirling Falls.

Day 9 Dusky & Doubtful Sounds

Latitude: 45°16'S Longitude: 166°52'E

Today, we will experience spectacular cruising through pristine wilderness in the very heart of Fiordland National

M/V ORION



Discover New Zealand



Park. The park is bordered to the east by glacial lakes and to the west by the 14 fiords that give Fiordland its name. *Orion* enters via Thompson Sound enroute to Doubtful and Dusky Sounds. At 421 metres depth, Doubtful is the deepest of these fiords. It exudes a peaceful serenity sometimes called "the Sound of Silence." Abundant in both flora and fauna, these fiordlands are renowned for their excellent dolphin and seal viewing opportunities, either from *Orion* or on board one of *Orion's* Zodiacs. Fiordland Crested Penguins are often seen on many of the small islets at the entrance of the fiord and at Nees Islets there is a fur seal colony.

Day 10 Stewart Island— Rakiura National Park

Latitude: 47°0'S Longitude: 168°0'E

Stewart Island is the southern-most island of the main islands which compose New Zealand. The forest is a haven for birdlife including Kaka, parakeets and bellbirds as there are fewer predators than on the mainland. New Zealand's national bird, the elusive kiwi, is found on the Island, and may sometimes be seen feeding on sandhoppers at the beach. Most sand is golden; however there is black iron sand on some beaches while others are white with quartz, or red with garnet. *Orion* will make her way along the sheltered eastern coast of Stewart Island (Rakiura), 96% of which is designated as Rakiura National Park.

We will anchor in Paterson in the afternoon to visit the quaint fishing village of Oban in Halfmoon Bay with its art and craft shops as well as the wildlife sanctuary on Ulva Island. Zodiac transfers to Golden Bay Wharf will allow you access to Oban township. You will also have the choice today of one optional excursion complimentary. The optional guided walking tour of Ulva Island Bird Sanctuary is a wonderful natural history experience through a native forest to discover endemic plants and birdlife.

An optional guided coach tour of Oban township and surrounds will allow you to learn more about the history and environment of Stewart Island at the local museum and to gain insights into New Zealand's southernmost community.

New Zealand!



Highlights will include Lee Bay, Horseshoe Bay, and stunning views of Paterson Inlet from Observation Rock.

There will be an optional Underwater Explorer Cruise below Halfmoon Bay in a semi-submersible vessel called the *Mollymawk* (for a fee per person). This is a rare opportunity to view what lives beneath these waters in the kelp forests, near sandy bays, or the rocky foreshore. We will enjoy a farewell dinner this evening on board *M/V Orion* and sail back to the port of Dunedin.

Day 11 Dunedin to Auckland & USA

Disembark in Dunedin and transfer to outbound flights to Auckland and Los Angeles, arriving the same day.

RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, and American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Operation of the ship M/V Orion is solely the responsibility of Orion Expeditions. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Map by April Milne.

CST# 2036304-40

LEADERSHIP

Your Expedition Leaders and Lecturers will be announced in your final documents for the voyage. Schedules permitting, they may include the following individuals, or others with similar expertise:

- **Neville Peat**—a leading New Zealand nature writer and interpreter—the author of more than 30 books, most of which explore natural history or environmental/geographical themes. He has lectured on ship-based study tours around New Zealand for the past 10 years.
- **Glenn Ehmke**—spends much of his professional career as a threatened species ecologist with *Birds Australia*, navigating the shores and coastal wetlands of Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales, running community-based conservation programs, and researching coastal birds.
- **Michael Fogg**—has two degrees in Marine Biology and over 20 years experience in research and educating the public on the myriad of wonders that abound in the marine world.
- **Dr. Liana Joseph**—is a research fellow at The Ecology Centre, University of Queensland, Australia and the Department of Conservation, New Zealand. Dr. Joseph was awarded a Bachelor of Science from James Cook University and a PhD in Conservation Biology and Planning at the University of Queensland.

RESERVATIONS #1131

Yes! I/we want to join the **Christmas Cruise in New Zealand, December 18-28, 2010**, offered by **AAAS Travels, ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$_____ (\$1,500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (____) _____

Work (____) _____

Email Address _____

Membership:
 AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

Twin Single Twin Share with a friend *or* assign a roommate
 Nonsmoker Smoker

Cabin Category per person based on twin share (+ air):

B Oceanview Stateroom	\$4,420
A Oceanview Stateroom	\$5,135
JS Junior Suite	\$6,100
DS Deluxe Suite	\$6,675
BS French Balcony Suite	\$7,975
Owners Suite	\$9,255

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please Mail To:
Christmas Cruise in New Zealand
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

For Members of AAAS, ACS & Sigma Xi

AAAS Travels ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.

17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

FIRST CLASS

Christmas Cruise in New Zealand! December 18-28, 2010

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Cruise Fee: From \$4,420 per person (based on cabin category) + air fare Los Angeles/Auckland/Dunedin, round trip of approximately \$1950 plus Dunedin prenight.

Questions:

Please call Marisa Eide, **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**

Telephone: **(800) 252 4910**

or **(408) 252 4910**

Fax: (408) 252 1444

Email: BetchartExMarisa@earthlink.net

On the web: www.betchartexpeditions.com

Expedition Fee Includes: Cruise accommodations based on twin share in a comfortable stateroom with private facilities, all meals on board *M/V Orion*, 24-hour room service, entertainment and educational programs, use of ship's sporting equipment and facilities, port & handling charges, Zodiac excursions and tender transfers, one special excursion at Stewart Island; use of the ship's library; tour leadership; administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare (quoted separately); arrival transfer in Dunedin; hotel and meals in Dunedin; items of a personal nature, including but not limited to: travel and medical insurance, laundry charges, shopping onboard, bar expenses, hair dressing and massage treatments, optional shore excursions on Stewart Island, tips, medical treatment, telephone and internet charges; foreign airport departure taxes.

What to Expect: This expedition voyage is on the superbly outfitted, 106-passenger *M/V Orion*. The voyage is for the travel enthusiast who would like to explore the fiords and sounds of New Zealand's South Island by ship, from Dunedin to Fiordland National Park, to discover their breathtaking beauty and intriguing natural history, with leadership by a team of experts. You will be introduced to the pristine wilderness of coastal New Zealand as you cruise the spectacular

fiords, in lectures, and on shore excursions. In virtually every place we visit, *Orion* will drop anchor and you will be landed ashore in one of ten Zodiacs (inflatable rubber boats). There will be optional walks on shore in several locations.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Air fare quoted is based on a fare with Air New Zealand Los Angeles/Auckland/Dunedin, roundtrip. Upon registration for the expedition, you will receive details about flights and fares. All air bookings will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

M/V Orion: Our journey will be on board a 106-passenger luxury expedition cruise ship. The ship has 31 Suites and 22 Staterooms, all with private bath, ample storage space, complimentary 24-hour room service, flat screen TV, DVD/CD player, internet connectivity, a personal safe, hairdryer and a mini-refrigerator continuously stocked with complimentary bottled water. Snorkeling equipment (masks, fins, and snorkel) is available to all guests free of charge when conditions permit. The *Orion* is equipped with ten 2-man kayaks and a 4-man fishing boat. Other facilities on board include an elevator, gymnasium, beauty salon, hospital, jacuzzi, cocktail bar, outdoor cafe and bar, sun deck, and health spa with sauna.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of \$1,500 per person with the completed reservation form to:

**New Zealand Christmas Cruise
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due 90 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 90 days before departure less a handling fee of \$250 per person. There is no refund after the 90-day period unless your place is resold, then only the \$250 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.