

NEW ZEALAND

Expedition

November 6-20, 2010

An outstanding introduction to the wild flowers, flora, fauna, and natural heritage of New Zealand, this 15-day expedition features fine cities, museums, botanic gardens, national parks, and natural areas on North and South Islands, including:

- Cosmopolitan **Auckland**, including the Auckland Botanic Garden for native plants and the excellent Museum for New Zealand's Maori heritage; the picturesque community of **Queenstown**; and **Christchurch**, the most English of New Zealand's cities.

- **Rangitoto Island**, a volcanic island reserve near Auckland where the crimson-flowered Pohutukawa (or New Zealand Christmas tree) is found, and the **Waitakeres**, home of the immense kauri tree, one of the largest trees in the world.

- The lush rainforests of New Zealand at **Fiordland**, **Paparoa**, and **Westland** National Parks.

- Wild flowers and native plants from alpine flowers dotting the scree slopes at **Arthur's Pass** National Park, to the Mount Cook lily, and perennials and wild flowers of **Rangitoto Island**, **Lake**

Wanaka, the **Pisa Flat Reserve**, and the **Remarkables Range**.

- The unique geologic history and landscapes of New Zealand, including the sea-washed cliffs of **Paparoa** National Park, to the **Franz Josef** and **Fox** Glaciers in the Southern Alps, to the glacial mountains at **Mt. Cook** and **Te Anau**.

- Kiwis, tuis, keas, and other birdlife of New Zealand in habitats varying from marshlands to high tussock shrublands.

- Spectacular scenery, from sweeping seascapes to green pastureland dotted with sheep and breathtaking fiords, including **Milford Sound**.

Of special interest will be the unique trees, ferns, wild flowers, birds, insects, and geology which make New Zealand a naturalist's paradise. On outings by foot, motorlaunch, motorcoach, and mini-train, we will explore the striking contrasts of this island country.

A comprehensive overview, this expedition offers an exceptional opportunity to become acquainted with the people, natural history, flora, and stunning landscapes of New Zealand.



NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY

Dear Friends:

Invite you to join this exceptional expedition to explore New Zealand, November 6-20, 2010.

From kiwis to kakas, temperate rainforests to alpine meadows, New Zealand possesses a rich natural heritage. Some of the most spectacular scenery in the world is preserved in New Zealand's national parks, many of which we will visit on this expedition. Nearly 93% of the alpine flora of New Zealand is endemic and many plants have no close relatives anywhere else in the world. The geologic forces are as dynamic as anywhere on earth, and can be seen in the plunging cliffs at Milford Sound, in the spectacular peaks and glaciers of the Southern Alps, and along the rugged shore.

*We are delighted that one of the top naturalists in New Zealand, **Lloyd Esler**, will be our leader on this expedition. Lloyd has explored and written about much of the New Zealand natural world, and is an experienced trip leader. He is often called a "walking encyclopedia!" He looks forward to showing us all the delights of this fascinating island nation.*

I hope you will join our New Zealand Expedition. As space is limited, we encourage you to make reservations right away.

Best regards,

Bonnie Drexler

Education Director

New England Wild Flower Society



Itinerary

Days 1/2 Los Angeles to New Zealand

Flight from Los Angeles International Airport on our Air New Zealand flight to Auckland, New Zealand. Cross the International Date Line en route.

Day 3 Auckland

Arrive in Auckland and meet your expedition leader. Transfer to the *Crowne Plaza Auckland Hotel (2 nights)*. Enjoy an introduction to the city, including city sights, Albert Park, and the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens where we'll have a special introduction to New Zealand native plants and the Threatened Native Plant Garden. Welcome dinner. D

Day 4 Rangitoto Island & Auckland Museum

Today, we'll enjoy a half-day excursion by boat to one of the finest botanical reserves on North Island, Rangitoto Island. The environment on Rangitoto is unique—the only one of its type in the world. Here, we will explore the Pohutukawa (New Zealand Christmas tree) forest, and see amazing native plants, and ferns in volcanic grottos. The largest and youngest of Auckland's volcanoes, Rangitoto rises 230 meters above sea level. The Pohutukawa has crimson blossoms and is the canopy tree of the forest. More than 200 other plant species are found on the island. We'll return to Auckland for a fascinating afternoon at the Auckland Museum, which features excellent exhibits of New Zealand history, Maori heritage, and natural history. B

Day 5 Waitakeres to Christchurch

This morning, we will depart for the Waitakere Mountains and Aritaki Visitors Center. We'll enjoy a forest

walk to see the huge kauri tree, New Zealand's largest endemic tree and one of the world's largest.

We will continue to the coast where we will see the spectacular gannet colony.

Here we will enjoy close up views of gannets nesting on top of pillow lava cliffs, high

above the Tasman Sea. We will then depart on our flight to Christchurch on South Island, often called the most English city outside of England. Transfer to *Rydges Hotel Christchurch*. B,D



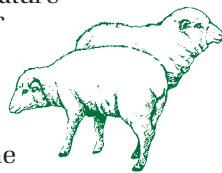
Day 6 Arthur's Pass & Paparoa National Parks

Today we will journey across the Canterbury Plains into the heart of the Southern Alps of New Zealand and Arthur's Pass National Park. Here we'll take a short bushwalk to look for plants found in the subalpine forest including *Copromas*, *Hebe*, and the large white *Ranunculus lyallii*. Look for endemic flax, *Dacrydium* pines, snowberries, snowgrass, curly grass, and many species of alpine daisies. Overhead can be found many birds, including the mountain kea, bellbird, fantail, and silver-eye. We will continue to the rugged West Coast and Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki in Paparoa National Park where we will see fascinating limestone formations and impressive geysir-like blowholes. *Punakaiki Rocks Hotel*. B,D

Day 7 Greymouth to Westland National Park

This morning, we will follow the coastline south to Franz Josef Glacier to learn about this spectacular river of ice and take a nature walk in the glacier valley. You may take optional scenic flights—a stunning aerial excursion over the

Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers and Aoraki Mount Cook (weather permitting). We will also explore south along the Heritage Highway to Fox Glacier. Here we will take a magnificent rainforest walk alongside the Fox Glacier river beneath tree ferns and rainforest trees covered with epiphytic ferns, mosses, and filamentaceous algae. *Te Weheka Inn, Fox Glacier*. B



Day 8 Haast Pass & Lake Wanaka

Today, we will begin our journey through the most historic yet the most recently opened of the trans-alpine routes in New Zealand. We will stop for a short walk to look for wild flowers and native bush near Thunder Creek Falls and enjoy lunch on a working high country farm overlooking Lake Wanaka. We will continue to Lake Wanaka, a popular summer and winter holiday location, where we will stay at the *Edgewater Resort*. In the afternoon, we will visit wonderful country gardens in the Wanaka area and look for wild flowers in this delightful alpine location. B,L,D

Day 9 Pisa Flat & Queenstown

This morning we will look for spring blooming wild flowers and perennials at Pisa Flat Reserve overlooking Lake Wanaka. See and photograph the Cabbage tree (*Cordyline*), endemic and almost immune to fire, a trait

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shared by many New Zealand species. See the Wild Spaniard (*Aciphylla*) and the Wild Irishman (*Discaria*), both with adaptations to protect themselves from herbivores. Many of the endemic perennial plants possess spikes, spines, hooks, and prickles for protection. After a picnic lunch, we will take an excursion high into the Remarkables Range overlooking Queenstown, the lake, and surrounding mountain country. Here we will enjoy a loop nature walk with spectacular mountain scenery. We'll continue to Queenstown for the night. *Rydges Queenstown Hotel*. B,L,D

Day 10 Queenstown to Te Anau

This morning is free to choose from the many optional activities available in Queenstown, including the Dart River jetboat trip into the back country to experience one of New Zealand's "inaccessible" areas with views of high peaks, glaciers, ancient forests, spectacular waterfalls, and unique birdlife. This afternoon we will visit the kiwi house for a behind-the-scenes view of this rare bird and to learn about the artificial breeding program underway in an effort to increase the numbers of New Zealand's most famous bird. We will then depart for Lake Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park. *Village Inn, Te Anau (2 nights)*. B

Day 11 Milford Sound & Fiordland World Heritage Park

Today we will explore Milford Sound in Fiordland World Heritage Park. The road to Milford Sound is ranked as one of the finest of all scenic drives in New Zealand with towering mountains, primeval southern beech forest, and the historic Homer Tunnel with its rockhewn surfaces near an area rich in alpine plants. We will

Costs & Conditions

Trip Fee: \$3,995 per person for 15 days (plus air fare of approximately \$1,295 + tax from Los Angeles, including in-tour flights).

What to Expect: An exceptional exploration for the travel enthusiast of fine cities, gardens, museums, national parks and nature reserves of New Zealand, led by an excellent New Zealand naturalist. Activities include walks through botanical gardens, museums, and national parks at a leisurely pace suitable for observation and discovery. Travel by deluxe motor-coach and motorlaunch, with optional flight-seeing and jet boat ride. An in-depth exploration for travelers in good health with a complete program of interpretive talks and lecture/discussions by your expedition leader. (No smoking in motorcoach, or during meals or lectures, please.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; airport transfers; accommodations in first class hotels and lodges twin share; meals as indicated; park/museum entrance fees; tips to drivers, porters,

and local guides; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: International air fare (quoted separately); some meals; gratuities to expedition leader; alcoholic beverages; personal items such as laundry, telephone calls, passport, personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes. (OVER)

Leadership

We are delighted that one of the top naturalists in New Zealand, **Lloyd Esler**, will be our leader on this expedition. Lloyd has explored much of the New Zealand natural world, and is a historical researcher as well. He has explored the unique botanical heritage of New Zealand on both North and South Islands. He writes and illustrates popular scientific articles on New Zealand topics, and is an experienced trip leader. He is also secretary of the Southland Astronomical Society. Lloyd looks forward to showing you the cultural, botanical, and natural delights of this fascinating island nation.



Reservations

#1141

Yes! I/We want to join the **New Zealand Expedition, November 6-20, 2010** offered by the **New England Wild Flower Society**. Please reserve ___ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____ Sex _____

_____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email: _____

Membership: _____

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share with a friend *or* ___ assign a roommate

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Mail To: **New England Wild Flower Society**
New Zealand 2010
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

stop at Cascade Creek for a nature walk. Your cruise will show you breathtaking scenery, waterfalls, and famous Mitre Peak, and will give you the chance to see seals, penguins, and dolphins. Included is a visit to the underwater observatory. Below the surface, the stark grey granite walls of the Sound turn into a kaleidoscope of red, pink, lilac, yellow, black and white, as coralline algae, anemones, and sponges contend for space. B,L

Day 12 Te Anau to Aoraki Mount Cook

This morning, we will visit the Te Anau Wildlife Centre to see the rare and once endangered takahe, a flightless rail and other species. We will then depart for Mt. Cook, New Zealand's finest alpine national park. Mt. Cook National Park takes in the eastern side of the Southern Alps with Mt. Cook at 12,316 ft. the highest point and the Tasman Glacier the longest in New Zealand. The lower elevations will be dotted with spring wild flowers while the upper regions are covered by snow and ice making a breathtaking contrast of environments. *Mt. Cook Hermitage Hotel (2 nights)*. B

Day 13 Mt. Cook National Park

Today, we will enjoy excursions to see and photograph some of the more than 550 plants found in the Mt. Cook region (all but 135 are native to the area). Many of the wild flowers of New Zealand are dominated by white and yellow flowers with introduced Russell lupines and foxgloves also giving spring color. The Mt. Cook lily, the largest buttercup in the world, should be in flower. B

Day 14 Mt. Cook to Christchurch

We will depart for Christchurch this morning, and will enjoy our drive across the South Island of New Zealand, passing glacier fed Lake Takapo, and then through Geraldine and farmland to Christchurch. Arrive Christchurch and check in at *Rydges Hotel Christchurch (2 nights)*. Farewell dinner in celebration of our journey! B,L,D

Day 15 Christchurch to USA

Morning at leisure in Christchurch. Fly to Auckland this afternoon for your flight home. Arrive in Los Angeles same day. B





NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY

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*Join the Botanical Wonderland
in New Zealand!
November 6-20, 2010*

Costs & Conditions

(CONTINUED)

Accommodations:

Are in excellent lodges and hotels in or near national parks and in first class hotels in the cities which highlight the diverse culture and heritage of New Zealand. Accommodations are based on double occupancy of a twin-bedded room with private bath. All singles are encouraged to room with other singles who register. If a roommate is not available, the single supplement of \$950 must be paid.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:

Air fare quoted is based on a group fare with Air New Zealand Los Angeles/Auckland, return, including in-tour flights Auckland/Christchurch round trip. Upon registration for the expedition, you will receive details about flights and fares. All air bookings will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. All group members fly together. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments:

To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person with the completed reservation form to:

**New Zealand 2010
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road,
Cupertino, CA 95014**

All reservations will be acknowledged in the order received until the maximum enrollment of 26 is reached. The balance is due 90 days before departure (August 6, 2010).

Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 90 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 90-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the handling fee of \$100 is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended.

Questions: Please call Marisa Eide at Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Telephone: (800) 252-4910
or: (408) 252-4910
Fax: (408) 252-1444

Email:

Marisa@betchartexpeditions.com
www.betchartexpeditions.com



Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and the New England Wild Flower Society act only as agent 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. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour 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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Illustrations by Narca Moore-Craig.

CST# 2036304-40