

# NEW ZEALAND TOUR ITINERARY PREPARED FOR HAWKS ALOFT BIRDING GROUP

November 10 – 30, 2011

Escorted by Gail Garber



*Kotuku Okarito Lagoon*



*PACIFIC PATHWAYS*

*1919 Chula Vista Drive, Belmont CA 94002*

*PH: 650 595 2090*

*E-mail: [nzaustours@pacificpathways.com](mailto:nzaustours@pacificpathways.com)*

*Web site: [www.pacificpathways.com](http://www.pacificpathways.com)*

**HAWKS ALOFT** is a nonprofit, conservation organization, founded in 1994, and based in Albuquerque, NM. Our mission is to conserve indigenous wild birds through avian research, conservation education and cooperation with others. To this end, Hawks Aloft actively works with government agencies, public corporations and communities to protect natural areas for both wildlife and humans. Our education program features live, non-releasable birds of prey, and reaches students throughout New Mexico. We are a member organization and much of our work is done by volunteers. To learn more about Hawks Aloft and our many programs, please visit our website at <http://www.hawksaloft.org>

*In the body of the itinerary below, we include unusual species that may be found at particular locations. We did not include the more common species that will likely be seen at many locations.*

## NOVEMBER 2011

**Thu 10**      **DEPART LOS ANGELES** Evening flight. 12 hours non-stop. Dinner and breakfast served on board and entertainment available at your seat. Cross the International Dateline during the night.

**Sat 12**      **ARRIVE AUCKLAND – MURIWAI / PAKIRI /SNELLS BEACH**  
5.55 am      Arrive at Auckland International Airport.  
After competing customs and immigration, you will be met. Travel by coach out to **Muriwai Beach** on the Tasman Sea Coast to view the Australasian Gannet colony then drive about an hour north east to **Pakiri Beach** on the Pacific Coast to view the Fairy Tern Colony.  
**Species: Australasian Gannet, Fairy Tern**  
Afterwards, drive on to the hotel. The balance of the day is free to rest.  
The Salty Inn Hotel, Restaurant and Bar is located at Snell's Beach on Kawau Bay. It blends olde English character and style with modern appointments. Your accommodation is in a deluxe grade studio room with en suite facilities, king-size bed, Sky TV, fridge and Internet access. There are laundry facilities on site.  
**Accommodation      Salty Dog Inn**

**Sun 13**      **TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND / MIRANDA**  
(B)      Breakfast at hotel.

Then drive south to Gulf Harbour on the Whangaparoa Peninsula.

Pick up your own picnic lunch before boarding the ferry for the quick trip across to **Tiritiri Matangi Island**. This island, which is located in the Hauraki Gulf off shore from Auckland, is a Department of Conservation bird sanctuary. It has been cleared of rats, cats and other predators allowing many of New Zealand's rarest and most endangered species to breed in relative safety. Among the birds to be seen here are the **Takahe** – thought to be extinct until discovered in 1947 in a remote part of Fiordland National Park. Today, the world population is only about 250 birds. A 60 minute guided tour will be provided on arrival on the island and then you are free to roam the island yourselves looking for the birds or taking a swim at Hobbs Beach. **Species: Kokako, Takahe, Saddleback, Stitchbird, Little Blue Penguin, North Island Robin, Bellbird, Tui, Wood Pigeon, Whitehead, Weka, Kaka, North island Robin**



4.30 pm Return to Auckland on the ferry, where you will be met by your coach and driver for a drive of about 75 minutes to Miranda on the Firth of Thames. Prepare own dinner in communal kitchen at Miranda or stop enroute at the Kaiaua Pub, noted for fish and chips. Bunk room accommodations. Bedding linen provided.  
**Accommodation Miranda Shorebird Centre**

**Mon 14 MIRANDA / MT KAKEPUKU / MAUNGATAUTARI**

**Prepare own breakfast.**

Spend the morning birding at the Miranda Ramsar rated wetlands where intertidal mudflats and shell bank roost attract tens of thousands of migratory waders. High tide is predicted for 9:00am.

**Species: Wrybill, South Island Pied Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Banded Dotterel, Lesser Knot.**

In the afternoon drive on south through the Maramarua Forest and through Te Kauwhata to Hamilton and Te Awamutu to Tokanui, and the property of Laurie and Janice Hoverd on the slopes of Kakepuku Mountain where NZ falcon are released after rehabilitation at Wingspan.

**Species: New Zealand Falcon**

Afterwards, drive east through Kihikihi to Out in the Styx, which is located in the shadow of Mt Maungatautari, an “ecological island” where 47 kms of predator proof fence have been erected to allow birds a safe breeding area. The birds are free to come and go but predators are excluded.

(D) Dinner at Out in the Styx. Your hosts are Lance and Mary Hodgson  
After dinner at the lodge, walk up to the Maungatautari Ecological Island Reserve to listen for and, hopefully see New Zealand’s nocturnal emblem bird – the rare and flightless Kiwi.

**Species: North Island Brown Kiwi**

**Accommodation Out in the Styx Motels**

**Tue 15 MAUNGATAUTIRI / AUCKLAND / WELLINGTON (by air)**

(B) Breakfast at Out in the Styx followed by more birding.  
Spend time early this morning birding in the forest.



Then drive north to Auckland Airport for an afternoon flight to Wellington.

On arrival in Wellington transfer to the hotel. The balance of the day is free. If time allows, a visit to **Te Papa**, New Zealand’s national museum, is recommended.

The Hotel Ibis is a modern 200 room hotel with a 3 star grading. It is centrally located on Featherston Street handy to the cable car, most Government Offices and Parliament

Buildings. There is a bar and restaurant on site and a wide choice of restaurants, cafes and bars within easy walking distance.

**Species: Kaka, Takahe, Kakariki, Kiwi, Stichbird, Bellbird, Kingfisher, Fantail, Tui.**

**Accommodation Hotel Ibis**

**Wed 16**  
(BD)

## WELLINGTON / KAPITI ISLAND

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning visit **The Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary** at Karori, the first “ecological island” to be fenced in New Zealand from rodents, stoats, cats and other predators in an effort to allow rare and endangered native birds to inhabit the area in relative safety. In addition to the birds, this may be your opportunity to see the rare and ancient **Tuatara** in its natural habitat.

**Species: Grey Warbler, 4 species of Shag, Shining Cuckoo, Welcome Swallow, Brown Teal**

In the afternoon transfer north by coach to Paraparaumu.

2.30 pm

Depart Paraparaumu Beach by ferry for a 15 minute ride to Kapiti Island.

On arrival take the ferry across to **Kapiti Island Wildlife Sanctuary** where you will be met by John Barrett who is the Manager of Kapiti Island Alive and Kapiti Nature Lodge. After a Bio security check and lodge check there will be a short briefing over a cup of tea/coffee, then go birding until dinner time (3 hours). **Species: Kokako, Little Spotted Kiwi, Takahe, Red-crowned Parakeet, Long-tailed Cuckoo, Saddleback, Stitchbird, New Zealand Pigeon, Kaka, Weka, Bellbird, Tui, New Zealand Scaup, Black Swan, Brown Teal, White-fronted Tern, Reef Heron, shags and gulls.**

7.30 pm

Dinner at the lodge.

9.00 pm

Go Kiwi Spotting.

**Accommodation Kapiti Island Nature Lodge**

**Thu 17**  
(BL)

## KAPITI ISLAND / WELLINGTON

Breakfast at the lodge.

After a short briefing on today’s site and opportunities go birding. Day packs only required for time at the Rangatira area. (See species above).

3.00 pm

Return to the mainland by ferry and transfer back to Wellington by coach.

**Accommodation Hotel Ibis**



**Fri 18**  
(B)

## WELLINGTON / PICTON / KAIKOURA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Then transfer to the Inter Islander Ferry Terminal and check in.

8.25 am

Depart Wellington on the Inter Islander ferry and cruise across Cook Strait to Picton on the South Island. The last part of the voyage through Queen Charlotte Sound is especially scenic.

**Species: New Zealand King Shag, other shags, Fluttering Shearwater, Blue Penguin, Fairy Prion, albatross, terns, gulls.**

11.35 am

Arrive in Picton and walk across to the nearby Railway Station. Suggest you have lunch.

1.00 pm

Depart Picton on the Tranz Coastal train for a scenic journey to Christchurch, travelling through Blenheim and the Marlborough wine region and down the Pacific Coast to Kaikoura, which is a popular place for marine nature viewing.

3.28 pm

Arrive in Kaikoura. There are two good walks in Kaikoura with chances for species like **Red-billed Gull**, OR an inland walk through a podocarp forest with chances for **Shining Cuckoo, Brown Creeper (not the N.A. species), Rifleman and other forest birds.**

Your accommodation is situated on the waterfront and close to the town centre with stunning sea and mountain views. Adjacent to dolphin swimming and within walking distance of the whale watching and Visitor Information Centre. There are 31 rooms here – 12 standard grade studios, 12 x luxury spa rooms with king beds and 4 x super king rooms. Restaurant and bar on site. Studio rooms.

**Accommodation White Morph Motor Inn**

Sat 19  
(B)

### PELAGIC BIRDS CRUISE/ PUNAKAIKI

Breakfast at the hotel.

Due to the currents off the coast Kaikoura is a rich feeding area for seals, whales, dolphins and birds - the largest number of different varieties of seabirds within this one small area than anywhere else in New Zealand. This morning take a Pelagic Birds Cruise.

**Species: Hutton's Shearwater, Northern and Southern Royal Albatross, Wandering, Salvin's, Buller's and White-capped Albatross, other albatross, Fairy Prion, Cape Pigeon, Giant Petrel, Antarctic Fulmar, Westland and other petrels, Arctic Skua, Black-fronted Tern, Red-billed Gull, shearwaters, terns, shags and gulls.**

In the afternoon drive across the Lewis Pass to the West Coast and north to Punakaiki.

See the unusual Pancake Rocks and Blowhole and at dusk visit the **Westland Black Petrel** colony on private property.

Your accommodation is in a modern complex which has been built to harmonize with the environment and spectacular beachfront location. There are 27 studio units on the beach front, 24 semi self contained studio units and 12 luxury eco rooms. All rooms have sea views or are set in the rainforest. Full dining facilities are available in the Waterline Restaurant and Bar. It is a short walk to the famous Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. Studio rooms.

**Accommodation Punakaiki Resort**



Sun 20  
(B)

### PUNAKAIKI / TO FRANZ JOSEF GLACIER

Breakfast at the resort.

Today drive down the West Coast through Greymouth and Hokitika with the Southern Alps to your left and the Tasman Sea on your right. At Okarito take a tour to the **Kotuku White Heron Colony**.



This 3 hour tour starts with a short coach ride to Okarito followed by a gentle 20 minutes in a jetboat and a 500 metre walk through native bush to view the birds. The **Royal Spoonbill and the Little Shag** also nest here (NB. Wet weather gear provided). White Heron is migratory and only present in New Zealand during breeding season. **Species: Banded Dotterel, Fantail, Black-billed gull, Arctic shorebirds.**

The hotel is the largest in the Franz Josef area and is centrally located within easy walk of a choice of cafes and bars. All rooms have Sky TV, fridges and tea/coffee making facilities. There are two restaurants and 3 bars on site, plus a guest laundry and 4

spa pools.

**Accommodation Scenic Hotel Franz Josef (Graham Wing)**

Mon 21  
(B)

### FRANZ JOSEF / WANAKA

Breakfast at the hotel.

The Franz Josef Glacier is a huge river of snow and ice that flows from vast snowfields high in the Southern Alps almost to sea level, which is quite unusual in a temperate climate.

Opportunity to view the glacier before driving south to Fox where, if the weather is calm and clear you may want to stop for a walk to Lake Matheson for views of Mts Cook and Tasman reflected in the lake. Then continue south to Haast and over the pass to Wanaka. There are many short walks recommended en route and birding should be good in the forest covered pass. The scenery changes abruptly as you leave the forest, drive alongside lakes Wanaka and Hawea and enter the tussock countryside of Otago. **Species: Kea, other forest and high elevation species.**

The resort is delightfully located on the edge of Lake Wanaka set against a backdrop of the snow-capped Southern Alps. There are 104 hotel rooms and 1 and 2 x bedroom apartments all with lake views, Sky TV. There is a guest spa and sauna, tennis courts and kayaks for guest use plus children's playground. The Sargood Restaurant provides fine a la carte dining and the Wineglass Café lighter fare throughout the day. Qualmark 4 star + grading. Studio rooms.

**Accommodation Edgewater Resort**

**Tue 22**  
(B)

### **WANAKA / STEWART ISLAND**

Drive south today by passing Queenstown and travel around Lake Wakatipu south through pastoral countryside to Bluff then travel by ferry across Foveaux Strait to Stewart Island. The strait and surrounding waters are breeding grounds for 20 seabird species and support a host of ocean-travelling species, some from subantarctic breeding grounds. **Species: Sooty Shearwater, also six species of albatross, petrels, shearwaters.**

On Stewart Island, the birdlife is prolific. One night take a kiwi spotting trip. (Limited to 12 persons and operates on alternate nights.) Many pelagic birds can be viewed en route to the kiwi spotting site. **Species: Kaka, Yellowhead, Saddleback, Stewart Island Robin, Red-crowned and Yellow-crowned Parakeet, White-faced Heron, Weka, Variable Oystercatcher, penguins, shags, waders and shorebirds.**

The motel is modern and is located on a hillside above the town of Oban with great views out across Half Moon Bay to Foveaux Strait. There are 12 x motel-apartments here ranging from studio rooms to 1 and 2 x bedroom motel-apartments. Courtesy transfers to and from the wharf are provided. Qualmark grade 4 star. Studio rooms.

**Accommodation: Bay Motel (2 nights)**

**Wed 23**  
(B,L)

### **AT STEWART ISLAND/ULVA ISLAND**

Continental breakfast at the motel

Walk across to Golden Bay (15 minutes walk) and meet your guide from Ruggedy Range for a full day guided walk on Ulva Island, starting with a 7 minute water taxi ride across Patterson Inlet. You need to bring raincoats, warm clothing, covered footwear and a water bottle. Ulva Island is the ultimate for bird watchers; it is free of predators and is a haven for native birds and plants. The birds are almost tame. Since 2000 four species of birds have been released on Ulva Island. Lunch is included, **Species: South Island Saddleback, Yellowhead and the threatened Stewart Island Robin. Among other species to be seen here are the Weka, Tui, Robins, the Spotted Shag, the Brown Creeper and the Kiwi.** Lunch is included.

**Thu 24**  
(BD)

### **STEWART ISLAND/BLUFF/MILFORD SOUND**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Make an early start this morning returning across Foveaux Strait and driving to Te Anau, starting point for many of New Zealand's famous walking tracks and gateway to Fiordland National Park. Stop at the Department of Conservation headquarters before entering the park and check for best spots to see the tiny **Rifleman** and the **Fernbird**.



Board the Milford Wanderer at 4:30pm for a cruise sound to the Tasman Sea. Seals and dolphins are often seen along with the tiny **Fiordland Crested Penguins** which nest above the shore. The ship anchors in a quiet bay and you may kayak on your own or take a nature cruise on the ship's tender with a guide. Enjoy a memorable Thanksgiving Dinner amidst some of the most stunning scenery in the world! Private cabins. Shared facilities.

**Accommodation MV Milford Wanderer**

**Fri 25**  
(B)

### **MILFORD SOUND / INVERCARGILL**

Breakfast on board.

After the ship docks, retrace your steps through Fiordland to Te Anau then travel south to Invercargill via Lake Manapouri. You will be traveling on the fringes of Fiordland National Park and there should be good birding opportunities en route. On arrival in Invercargill visit the museum and see the **tuatara**.

The hotel is a modern 72 room complex set in landscaped grounds, 10 minutes drive from Invercargill Airport. There is a heated swimming pool, sauna, spa pool and fitness centre on site. Emberz Restaurant and Bar caters for fine dining and relaxation.

**Accommodation Ascot Park Hotel**

**Sat 26**  
(CB)

### **STEWART ISLAND / CATLINS FOREST PARK**

Continental breakfast.

Return to Invercargill by ferry.

Then drive east through the city and out along the coast to Waituna Lagoon for birding.

Afterwards, follow the coast road east to Tokanui and Owaka. Time permitting, suggest a detour to Waipapa Point lighthouse, site of New Zealand's worst maritime disaster when 131 people lost their lives in a shipwreck in 1881. The lighthouse was built after that. Seals and other wildlife can be seen on the beaches and there are petrified logs on the shore at Curio Bay. There are also a variety of historic sites related to early settlement and timber milling in the area. On arrival at Kaka Point suggest walk out to the lighthouse. **Species: Pied Stilt, New Zealand Pipit, penguins, forest birds, sea lions, seals.**

There are 13 studio units at this motel which has a Qualmark grading on 4 star. Ocean views.

**Accommodation Nugget View Kaka Point Motels**

**Sun 27**  
(CB)

### **CATLINS / DUNEDIN.**

Continental breakfast at the motel

Time this morning for more birding before driving north to Balclutha to cross the Clutha River and drive to Lake Waihola, which is home to many species of wading birds and the elusive **Fernbird**.

Afterwards, drive past Dunedin Airport into the city, which was originally settled by the Scots and retains a good deal of tartan character. It is a popular university city, renowned for its student 'scarfie' culture. A short orientation tour of Dunedin will be included on arrival.

This popular modern hotel has 110 en suite guest rooms, all with tea/coffee making amenities, Sky TV, mini bars, internet access, refrigerator, iron and ironing board and hair dryers. There is a restaurant, bar, gymnasium, valet car parking and two guest laundries. It is centrally located close to several cafes and restaurants.

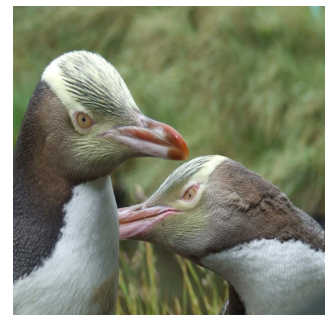
**Accommodation Scenic Hotel Dunedin City (2 nights)**

**Mon 28**  
(B)

### **AT DUNEDIN**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning free. In the afternoon, drive out Otago Peninsula for a tour of the **Royal Albatross Colony**, the only mainland nesting area in the world. View nests and chicks from specially constructed hides and watch the adults as they wheel overhead. Then visit Penguin Place where you can view **Yellow Eyed Penguins** in their nests and as they return from a day of fishing in the sea.



**Tue 29**

**DUNEDIN / LAKE TEKAPO**

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Travel north to Oamaru Then travel west to Omarama and north to Twizel. Visit the **Black Stilt Colony** here. Continue to Tekapo for overnight.

The night skies in this area are particularly clear and a popular option this evening is star gazing at the Mt John Observatory (extra cost)

Pepper's Blue water Resort is a modern complex with accommodation ranging from studio rooms to 1, 2 and 3 bedroom family villas. All rooms are delightfully appointed and have Sky TV, refrigerators and hairdryers. The Rakinui Restaurant is open daily for breakfasts and dinners. Salmon is the specialty of the house. Your accommodation is in studio rooms.

**Accommodation Pepper's Blue Water Resort**

**Wed 30**

**TEKAPO / CHRISTCHURCH AND DEPART**

(B)

Breakfast at the resort.

Drive down the foothills of the Southern Alps, across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch., about a 3 hour drive. If time allows, visit Lake Ellesmere before entering Christchurch and/or, the Avon-Heathcote Ponds. Or, relax and enjoy the city before transferring to the airport for your flight to Auckland and onward to Los Angeles. Arrive Los Angeles the same day.

**RETURN HOME WITH HAPPY MEMORIES OF YOUR NEW ZEALAND TOUR**

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**PRICE:**

**\$5975.00 per person, share twin/double minimum 9 travelers**

**\$5554.00 per person, share twin/double minimum 11 travelers**

**\$5082.00 per person, share twin/double minimum 16 travelers**

**\$1304.00 extra for single rooms at the hotels and aboard the MV Milford Wanderer**

(Note no single rooms at the Miranda Shorebird Centre and Kapiti Nature Lodge)

*We ask that participants become a member of Hawks Aloft, at the Red-tailed Hawk level (\$150) or higher. This trip is just one of the many benefits of membership.*

A group airfare will be available for minimum 10 passengers on the same itinerary

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

Meet and greet on arrival at Auckland International Airport, 20x nights' accommodation as shown – ranging from basic grade DOC hostel style accommodation at the Shoreline Centre at Miranda to self catering motels (Stewart Island and Kaka Point) to 3 and 4 star hotels and 1 x night in en suite cabins aboard the MV Milford Mariner, 18 x breakfasts, 1 x lunch, and 3 x dinners, all transfers and touring by late model air conditioned vans / small coaches with experienced drivers who will provide English language touring commentary, sightseeing tours and admissions as specified in the itinerary, the Interislander and Foveaux Strait ferries, GST tax @ 15%

**DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

Any meals at The Shoreline Centre Miranda, items of a personal nature or the cost of any optional/suggested sightseeing tours and activities, use of rooms before/after normal check in/out times. Air fares

**Recommended Reading: Where to Watch Birds in New Zealand, Kathy Ombler, © 2007. This book is available at Amazon.com**

**Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand, Barrie Heather and Hugh Robertson. © 1997. This field guide is out of print. However, it is a very good guide and well worth having if you can find a used copy.**

**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:**

Deposit at time of application: **\$500.00** per person. **\$100.00 of this deposit is non-refundable.**  
90 days before departure: **Non-refundable penalty increases to \$500.00.**  
60 days before departure: **Final payment due. Non-refundable penalty increases to \$500.00.**  
**No refunds issued on or after September 29, 2011 Travel insurance is advised.**

**Prices are based on a minimum number of travelers, airfares, tariffs and exchange rate as of November 2010.** . All prices and schedules are subject to change. Though it is our goal to promote this tour as presented, we have no control over air schedules and prices and cannot be responsible for changes. In the event that services outlined in this package cannot be provided due to delay or other causes beyond the control of the operator, the operator will endeavor to provide comparable services.

**INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is **not included** in this pricing. **Accidents, illnesses and/or trip irregularities do occur, and so travel insurance is strongly advised (cancellation and/or medical) for each traveler.** Call CSA at 800 348 9505 or go to [www.csatravelpro.com](http://www.csatravelpro.com). Producer code:81331622

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** If you are a US citizen with a US passport, no visa is required for up to a 3 month stay in New Zealand. Your passport should be valid for 6 months after completion of travel. Note, if you are including an extension to your tour a visa may be required. A VISA IS NECESSARY FOR ENTRY INTO AUSTRALIA. Pacific Pathways and participating airlines are not responsible if tour participants fail to obtain all necessary international travel documents

**AIRFARE:** If you use frequent flier mileage awards you must make the arrangements for their use with the airline directly. We accept no responsibility for your air travel if you are using free tickets or making your own arrangements.

**REFUNDS:** No refunds will be given for unused portions of the tour and voluntary no-shows.

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Reservations prepared by Pacific Pathways are done so on the basis that the quoted price constitutes an independent package price, Such a price includes charges for research, itinerary planning and preparations, currency transfer and booking procedures and the service of the tour operators representing Pacific Pathways. We regret that a breakdown of individual charges cannot be given.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

*PACIFIC PATHWAYS, 1919 CHULA VISTA DRIVE, BELMONT CA 94002*

PH: (650) 595 2090

E-MAIL: [nzaustours@pacificpathways.com](mailto:nzaustours@pacificpathways.com)

CA Registration # 1009524-40

FAX: (650) 591 7721

WEB SITE: [www.pacificpathways.com](http://www.pacificpathways.com)

