



## ALL OF THE FIORDS

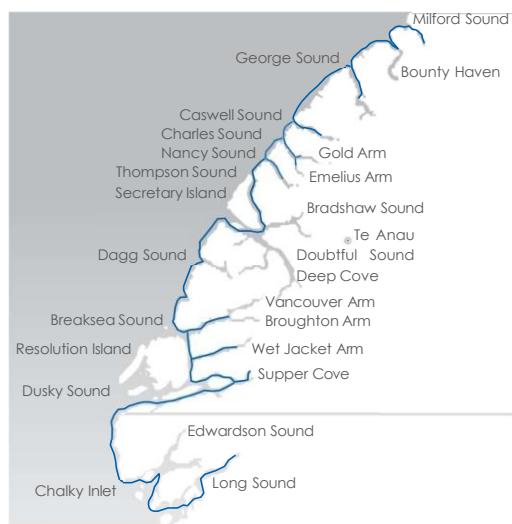
### THE ULTIMATE FIORLAND EXPEDITION CRUISE

Heritage Expeditions, pioneers in authentic small ship expedition cruising, invites you to join us on the ultimate 10-day exploration of New Zealand's world famous remote ice-carved mountains, verdant forests and winding fiords of Fiordland. This treasured natural wonderland, its wildlife, conservation and history inspired our dream for responsible travel.

Established in 1952, Fiordland National Park is now over 1.2 million hectares in size and rightly famous for its epic, grand scale scenery, untamed wilderness and unique wildlife including Bottlenose Dolphins, Fiordland Crested Penguins and New Zealand Fur Seals. However, Fiordland is also rich in natural history, geology and the location of some historical firsts and important restoration and conservation projects.

Māori legend describes how demi-god Tu-te-raki-whanoa carved out the region's fiords with his adze, Te Hamo, from rock walls to create the fiords we know today. Captain Cook and his crew were the first Europeans to visit, landing here aboard *HMS Resolution* in 1773 and subsequently spending five weeks in Dusky Sound. Cook's records of his discovery and maps would attract sealers and whalers not long after, who would go on to form the first European settlements here. Historically this region is very important, and shaped the future of New Zealand.

The majority of Fiordland's sounds are only accessible by sea, making them among the most remote areas of New Zealand's mainland ensuring their epic beauty remains unspoiled and historic sites undisturbed. Waterfalls, streams, rivers and fiords are enveloped with misty veils that come and go, revealing steep gradients of mountain peaks and sheltered valleys. Join us as we sail the calm waters of Fiordland in solitude exploring some of the most unique and wild parts of Fiordland on this unforgettable adventure.



## ITINERARY

**Day 1: Te Anau/Preservation Inlet**

**Days 2 & 3: Preservation & Chalky Inlet**

**Day 4: Dusky Sound**

**Day 5: Acheron Passage & Breaksea Sound**

**Days 6 - 8: Doubtful, Charles, Caswell & George Sound**

**Day 9: Milford Sound**

**Day 10: Milford Sound/Te Anau**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Soak in ice-carved mountains, verdant forests and winding fiords
- Marvel at Milford Sound, visit rarely explored Charles and Caswell Sounds & experience the Sound of Silence – Doubtful Sound
- Enjoy a scenic helicopter flight to start or finish your adventure
- Look for Bottlenose Dolphins, Fiordland Crested Penguins and New Zealand Fur Seals
- Explore Acheron Passage, Breaksea Sound, Chalky Inlet & more

### **Day 1 - Te Anau/Preservation Inlet**

Make your way to the designated meeting point in Te Anau then take in the grand views and awe-inspiring scenery as you enjoy a spectacular helicopter transfer to join Heritage Explorer in Preservation Inlet (times and meeting point will be confirmed with your voyage documents). The Captain and Expedition Leader will be waiting to welcome you aboard Heritage Explorer and show you to your cabin. Settle into life aboard before we set sail along Long Sound and enjoy your first impressions of Southern Fiordland's unrestrained landscape.

\*\*\*Note: Some voyages will operate the itinerary in reverse.\*\*\*

### **Day 2 - Preservation Inlet**

Today is dedicated to exploring Preservation Inlet, rich in history we will delve into the gold mining and forestry attempts that once made this now quiet waterway a bustling hub of activity. The area's natural bounty saw more than 2,500 gold miners and saw millers flock to the region in the late 1890s, this early settler history at mining towns Cromarty and Te Oneroa, now reclaimed by nature, can still be observed, none more spectacularly than at the failed Tarawera Mine and Smelter, where the ruins of the smelter's historic three-storey chimney were restored in 2015.

Among the activity, Preservation Inlet can also lay claim to having New Zealand's first whaling station at Cuttle Cove and the location of one of the country's most remote lighthouses at Puysegur Point, which began operation in 1879 perched some 40-feet above the South Island's south-western most point. Here a great coastal walk, formerly a telegraph track built to connect the lighthouse, leads to the old landing shed at Otago Retreat.

### **Day 3 - Chalky Inlet**

The entrance to Chalky Inlet is guarded by the impressive limestone cliffs of Chalky Island, the inspiration behind Captain Cook's naming of the fiord. One of several important predator-free islands in the inlet including Great Island and Passage Islands, Chalky Island is home to some of New Zealand's most critically endangered bird species including the Little Spotted Kiwi and Kākāpō, and endemic Te Kakahu Skink, discovered in 2002.

The protected harbours at North and South Port offer much to explore as the centres of human history in the inlet. North Port is the final resting place of the rusting hulk of purposely grounded GSS Stella, while South Port reveals an industrial past with the remnants of once prolific sawmilling activity. Sailing to the head of the fiord the surrounding mountains envelop us with their majesty.

### **Day 4 - Dusky Sound**

Our expedition cruise through Dusky Sound visits some of the most significant historical and conservation sites in New Zealand as well as some of the most majestic scenery as we sail deep into the heart of Fiordland. Predator-free Anchor Island homes half of the world's population of Kākāpō and Little Spotted Kiwi and is also the location of historic Luncheon Cove and several New Zealand firsts including New Zealand's first sealing gang, the building of New Zealand's first European homestead and first European designed ship, the 16-metre Providence built here and launched in 1795. On nearby Pigeon Island learn the history of Richard Henry and his pioneering live transfer of birds to island refuges – an international first in wildlife conservation. While his attempts were unsuccessful due to stoats swimming over to the island, it is heartening to learn the island is now pest-free and a sanctuary for native birdlife, with Henry's vision fulfilled.

### **Day 5 - Acheron Passage/Breaksea Sound**

A navigation through Acheron Passage, which separates Resolution Island from the mainland, is sure to be one of the highlights of our time in Fiordland. This iconic scenic waterway is an area where Bottlenose Dolphins are often spotted. Our explorations here may include venturing into Wet Jacket Arm where the crew of Cook's HMS Resolution ended up with wet jackets during their survey work. It is also the sight where moose were released, and last seen, in New Zealand. The extensive sheltered waters of scenic Breaksea Sound, initially scouted for sheep farming suitability by early settlers in the 1850s is also the location of Breaksea Island, an iconic site in New Zealand conservation history as one of the first large islands declared rat-free in 1988.

### **Day 6 - Doubtful Sound**

Experience some of the most spectacular scenery in all of Fiordland – Doubtful Sound, or the sound of silence as it's also known. Spanning some staggering 40-kilometres and holding the title as New Zealand's deepest fiord, Doubtful Sound with its cloud-scraping wilderness cloaked mountains, sheer stone cliffs, waterfalls, inlets, quiet coves and wildlife presents nature on a scale so grand it's off the chart. Photographic opportunities abound and our time spent here could include ship cruising Blanket Bay, the Shelter Islands, Pandora River, Deas Cove and Open Bay.

### **Day 7 - Charles and Caswell Sounds**

One of the southern-most of the northern fiords, Charles Sound, branches into Emelius and Gold Arms at its head with Gold Arm being home to one of the most extensive marine reserves in the inner fiords (Kahukura Marine Reserve) while other sections are included in the Taumoana Marine Reserve. Your Captain and Expedition Leader will find a suitably sheltered anchorage for Heritage Explorer where activities could include kayaking or joining your expedition guides in a coastal exploration by Zodiac. Another rarely explored fiord, Caswell Sound is home to the last physical remains of the 1949 New Zealand–American Fiordland scientific expedition, a primitive hut standing on the banks of the Stillwater River used while studying the Wapiti/elk herd introduced earlier in the century. Tiny Styles Island guards the fiord's entrance to the Tasman Sea while walks include a nature-filled stroll along Stillwater River towards Lake Marchant. Fishing here is good for those interested in securing tonight's dinner.

### **Day 8 - George Sound**

Today we plan to navigate to the largest of the Northern Fiords, George Sound. Stretching 26-scenic-kilometres, George Sound is also the longest of the Northern Fiords and with several arms branching from the fiord we have multiple options for exploration. However, the spectacular sight of Alice Falls flanked by dense forest and tumbling over boulders as it thunders out of Lake Alice at the head of the fiord is always a strong draw. It was at the head of George Sound that Wapiti/elk were introduced to New Zealand in 1905, part of the herd being gifted by US President Theodore Roosevelt.

**Day 9 - Milford Sound**

We enter the magnificent Milford Sound this afternoon and enjoy a leisurely final cruise of this unforgettable location. Enjoy your final night aboard in the protected waters beneath the towering peaks of Milford Sound and revel in the sensational scenery as you celebrate this unforgettable adventure with a farewell dinner.

**Day 10 - Te Anau**

After a final breakfast and farewells, head ashore where a transfer to Te Anau, via the historic Homer Tunnel and the lowland beech forests and golden tussocks of scenic Eglinton Valley, awaits. In case of unexpected delays, we ask you not to book any onward travel from Te Anau until after 3 pm this afternoon.

Note: Some voyages will operate the itinerary in reverse. 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.

Voyages are planned and scheduled pending final regulatory approval.