

SOUTHERN FIORDS DISCOVERY

A DEEP EXPLORATION OF
FIORDLAND'S SOUTHERN FIORDS

2025 EXPEDITION DOSSIER



HERITAGE
EXPEDITIONS





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Experience the grand scale scenery, untamed wilderness, ice-carved mountains, forests, sounds and unique wildlife of Fiordland's Preservation and Chalky Inlets and Doubtful and Dusky Sounds on this 7-day exploration of the Southern Fiords. Rich in natural history, geology and the location of some significant historical firsts and important restoration and conservation projects, it is easy to see why this incredible region inspired our dream for responsible travel.

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.

Fiordland's Southern Fiords are only accessible by sea, making them some of the most remote areas 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, the thickly forested floors are covered with ferns, lichens and mosses while the calm waters are home to Bottlenose Dolphins, Fiordland Crested Penguins and New Zealand Fur Seals.

The isolation of the Southern Fiords has been beneficial in ensuring their epic beauty remains unspoiled and historic sites undisturbed. In these calm waters, away from the crowds, we plan to explore some of the most unique and wild parts of New Zealand as we sail through these beautiful fiords and landscapes.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Te Anau/Preservation Inlet

Make your way to the designated meeting point in Te Anau then take in the 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). Your 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 the fiords and the unrestrained landscape of Southern Fiordland.

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 three-storey chimney were restored in 2015. Among the activity, Preservation Inlet can

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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 most south-western 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 with North Port 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 envelope us with their majesty.

Days 4 & 5: Dusky Sound

Over the following two days we plan to leisurely expedition cruise through Dusky Sound visiting some of the most significant historical and conservation sites in New Zealand as well as marvelling at the majestic scenery as we sail deep into the heart of Fiordland. 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. 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 a number of 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 6: Breaksea & Doubtful Sounds

After a quiet night aboard surrounded by the nature and wilderness of Breaksea Sound join your naturalists on deck to spot seabirds including the majestic Wandering and Buller's Albatross as we pass Breaksea Island, which guards the entrance to Breaksea Sound. It was on Breaksea Island that the first successful island rat eradication program was completed, today it is a protected nature reserve of great significance to the many endangered species which call the island home. From here we sail onwards towards 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 cliffs, waterfalls, inlets, quiet coves and wildlife presents nature on a scale so grand it's off the chart. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner.

Day 7: Doubtful Sound/Te Anau

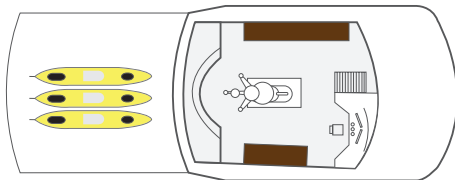
This morning we navigate to the very head of Doubtful Sound in Deep Cove home to several waterfalls including Helena and Lady Alice Falls. After a final breakfast and farewells, head ashore where a transfer to Te Anau, via the picturesque Wilmot Pass, the road constructed as part of the Manapouri hydro scheme, awaits. In case of unexpected delays, we ask you not to book any onward travel from Te Anau until after 3pm 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 weather and opportunities for making unplanned excursions. Your Expedition Leader will keep you fully informed. Voyages are planned and scheduled pending final regulatory approval.

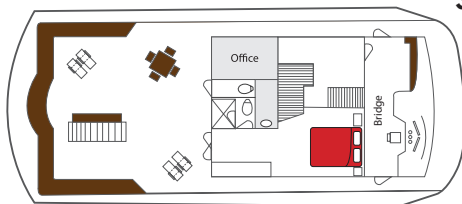
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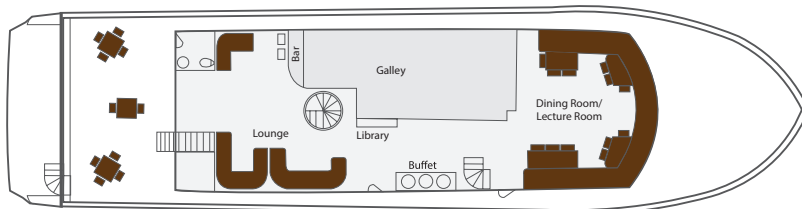
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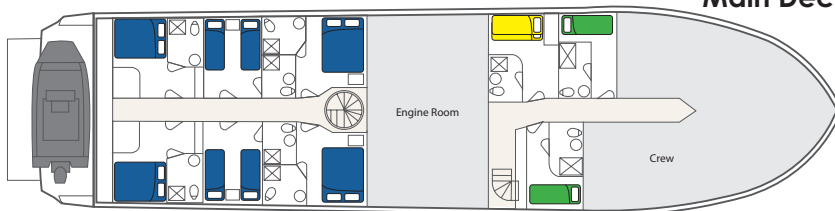
Sun Deck



Bridge Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck

■ Royal
■ Salvino's

■ Wandering
■ Buller's



**HERITAGE
EXPEDITIONS**

DATES

HX250207 7 – 13 February 2025
Doubtful Sound – Preservation Inlet

HX250312 12 – 18 March 2025
Doubtful Sound – Preservation Inlet

HX250704 4 – 10 July 2025
Preservation Inlet - Doubtful Sound

HX250710 10 – 16 July 2025
Doubtful Sound – Preservation Inlet

HX250809 9 – 15 August 2025
Doubtful Sound – Preservation Inlet

HX250903 3 – 9 September 2025
Preservation Inlet – Doubtful Sound

PRICES GBP£

Royal **£4,495 pp***
Located on the Bridge Deck, our Master Suite features a spacious bedroom with a queen-sized bed, ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, mirror and washbasin, private en suite, personal climate control, TV, PABX satellite telephone, window and French doors opening out on to the covered Bridge Deck.

Salvin's **£3,695 pp***
Located on the Lower Deck, Salvin's cabins have the option of either a double bed or two lower berths. Both feature ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, TV, PABX satellite telephone, private en suite and a picture porthole.

Wandering **£3,885 pp***
Located on the Lower Deck, Wandering cabins feature one lower single berth, ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, TV, PABX satellite telephone, private en suite and a porthole.

Buller's **£3,315 pp***
Located on the Lower Deck, the Buller's cabin features one bunk (one upper and one lower berth), ample storage with wardrobe and drawers, TV, PABX satellite telephone, private en suite and a porthole.

* All prices are per person in GBP£

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Premium drinks package **GBP£105 pp***

Queenstown packages
Heritage Expeditions offers accommodation and transfer packages in Queenstown – please ask your Expedition Expert for more information.

PRICE INCLUDES

Landing fees, pre cruise helicopter transfer and post cruise coach transfer, all on board ship accommodation with meals and all shore excursions and activities. GST, house drinks, expert on board naturalist guides.

PRICE EXCLUDES

All items of a personal nature, laundry, domestic flights, Queenstown packages, extensions and travel insurance.

18-03-2024