



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

New Zealand

Chatham Islands Extension I

25th January to 28th January 2023 (4 days)



Chatham Albatross by Erik Forsyth

Situated 700km to the south-east of mainland New Zealand, these islands have long been ignored and seldom visited by birders and travellers. In our short time here, we will search the mainland for several rare and highly sought-after species such as: Chatham (Island) Shag, Pitt (Island) Shag, Chatham Oystercatcher, Chatham (Island) Pigeon, Red-crowned Parakeet, Chatham (Island) Gerygone, and the Chatham sub-species of Tui and New Zealand Pipit.

Excitement comes in the form of a pelagic trip into the Pacific Ocean to the rugged Pyramid Island where we will marvel at the only breeding colony in the world of Chatham Albatross. While enjoying spectacular flight views of this gem and nesting activity, we will scan the surrounding ocean for many other species of petrel, shearwater, and albatross that feed in the area. If we are very lucky, we may see the rare Chatham Petrel or even the near-mythical Magenta Petrel (or Taiko as it is known locally), observed by only a few birders. We will also have the opportunity to moor alongside the South East Island to look for the highly endangered Shore (Plover) Dotterel feeding on the wave-platforms and Chatham (Island) Parakeet and Tomtit foraging in the stunted trees. Our visit to these smaller islands will give us opportunities to see some of the rarest birds in the world, to go where few birders have been and allow an insight into the daily life on these rugged Islands.

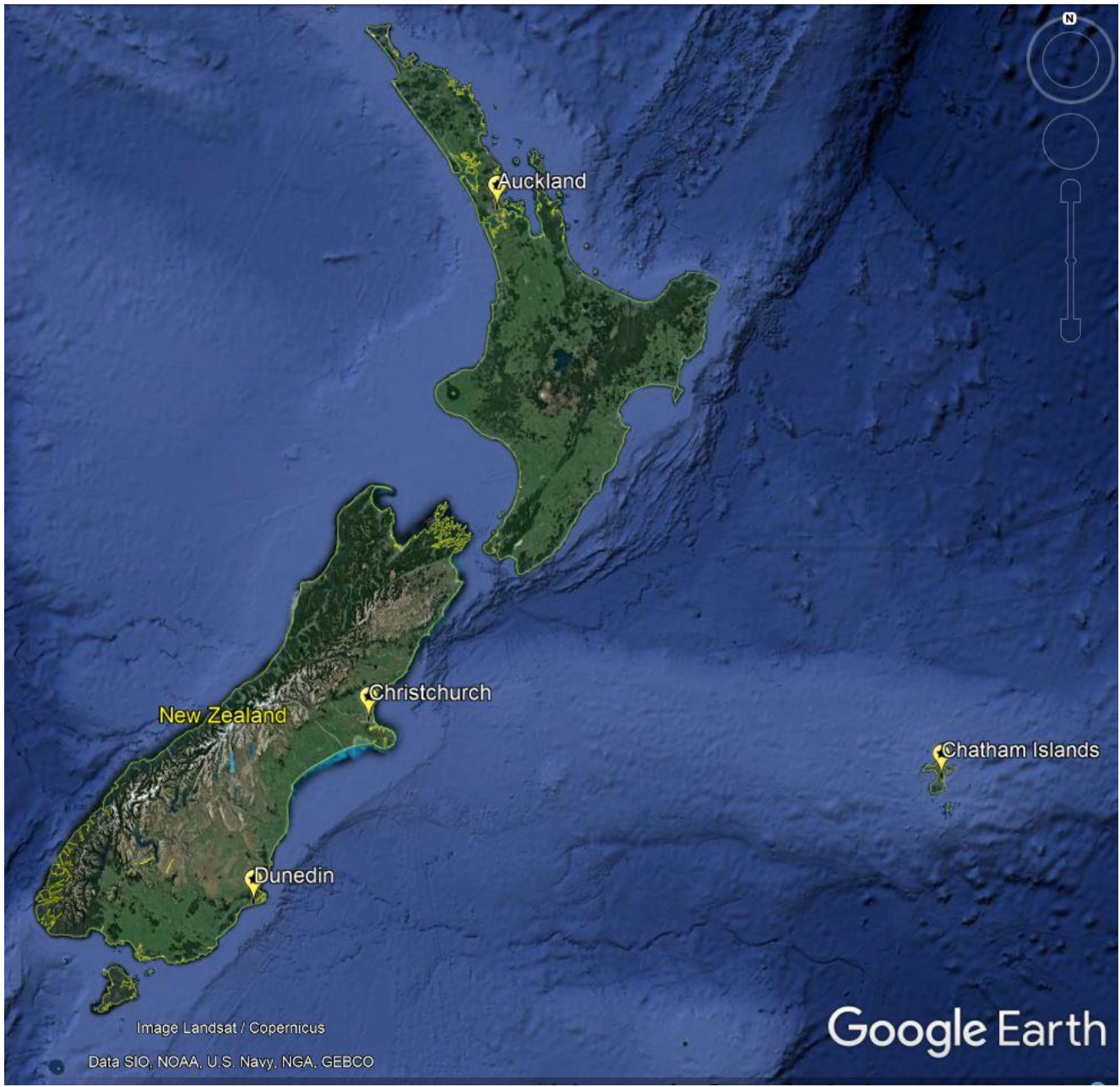
THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

THE ITINERARY

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| Day 1 | Dunedin to Chatham Islands via Auckland |
| Day 2 | Pelagic Tour |
| Day 3 | Birding mainland of Chatham Island |
| Day 4 | Chatham Islands to Christchurch |



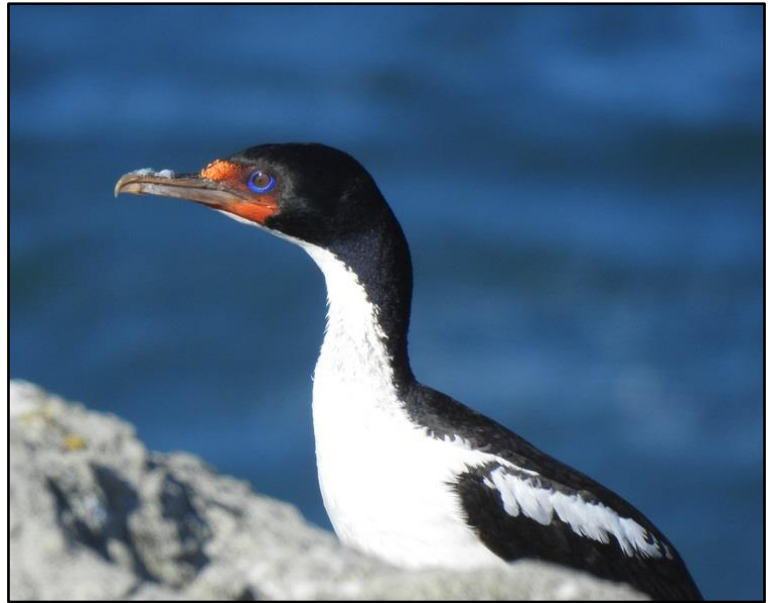
TOUR ROUTE MAP:



THE TOUR IN DETAIL...

Day 1: Dunedin to Chatham Islands via Wellington. After breakfast in Dunedin, we will catch a flight to Auckland where we will connect with our flight to the remote Chatham Islands, inhabited by around 500 sheep farmers and fishermen. During the early settlement days, cats, rats and dogs took a heavy toll on the native birdlife where several species teetered on the brink of extinction. With the help of locals and the Department of Conservation, several of these species have become conservation success stories.

Arriving in the late afternoon we will search the nearby harbour area for the endemic Chatham (Island) Shag and Pitt (Island) Shag. Other birds we should see here are Kelp and Red-billed Gulls and White-fronted Tern.



Chatham Shag by Erik Forsyth

Day 2: Pelagic to Pyramid Island. Early this morning we depart for a pelagic seabird tour to the Pyramid Island first stopping en route at Little Mangere Island to scan the shoreline and wave platforms

for the highly endangered Shore (Plover) Dotterel, with an estimated world population of around 250 birds! While here we will also be on the lookout for the scarce Chatham (Island) Parakeet and Tomtit. Heading out towards Pyramid Island we should see our first of many albatross species, including Northern Royal and Southern (Royal), Salvin's, Buller's, Black-browed, Campbell and Shy (White-capped), Northern Giant Petrels, Cape Petrels, Broad-billed and Fairy Prions, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Skua, White-faced and Grey-backed Storm Petrels and Little Blue Penguin.



Magenta Petrel by James Holmes

Arriving at Pyramid Island we will be awestruck by this huge volcanic-shaped rock jutting out of the sea high above us and teeming with nesting Chatham Albatrosses. This is the only site in the world where this species breeds, with an estimated +/- 4000



birds. With a huge slice of luck, we may find the highly endangered Chatham Petrel (+/- 1000 birds) or the critically endangered Magenta Petrel, or Taiko as it is known locally, with an estimated population of just +/- 150 birds, making it one of the rarest seabirds in the world. Both the latter species mentioned breed in forested valleys on the mainland, where they are protected and monitored. These small populations are slowly increasing due to intense predator control.



Shore Dotterel by John Ryan

Day 3: Chatham Island birding.

Today we will visit a few key areas on the mainland to look for endemics such as Chatham (Island) Shag, Pitt (Island) Shag, the scarce Chatham Oystercatcher (estimated population +/- 250 birds), Chatham (Island) Pigeon, Red-crowned (-fronted) Parakeet, Chatham Gerygone, as well as the sub-species of Tui, New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit, and New Zealand Fantail. We will also search for the Weka, a large, showy rallid which was introduced from Canterbury on the South Island for hunting in the late 1800s. This sub-species disappeared from the Canterbury area by the mid-1900s and now occurs only on the Chatham Islands. A number of more common species occur, including Black Swan, White-faced Heron, Pied Stilt, Australasian Swamphen, wintering Shining Cuckoo, Silver-eye, Common Redpoll, Eurasian Goldfinch and Yellowhammer.

Day 4: Chatham Island to Christchurch. This morning we transfer to the airport and catch our flight to Christchurch, where the tour will end.



Chatham Pigeon by Erik Forsyth

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Tour dates, prices, single supplement rates, approximate flight costs and spaces available for this tour are displayed on our website. Please see under IMPORTANT NOTES below.

This includes:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 4;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation;
- Pelagic;
- Entrance fee to Tuku Reserve; and
- All guiding services (including tips for local guides and services.)



The tour fee does not include:

- **ANY** flights (see above);
- Visa fees;
- Any drinks;
- Special gratuities; and
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- a) Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we now quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 3 months before the tour.) Approximate flight and single supplement rates have been converted to US\$ but are also subject to exchange rate movements.**
- b) Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registration a small party supplement will have to be charged.**
- c) Furthermore, these costs are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- d) Lastly, we may be forced to change or alter the itinerary and / or the designated Rockjumper leader/s at short or no notice due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware that we will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

Tippling: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc) are included on this tour. However, this does not include your Rockjumper leader. If, therefore, you feel that he has given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip him.

Please note:

- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 5kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a good standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of range from comfortable to good. There is no camping on this trip.
- Please note that the seas during the various pelagic trips can be unpredictable and participants who opt for these pelagics, must therefore bear this in mind. If you have any medical conditions or physical limitations relating to balance and mobility, please do let the Rockjumper office know. Furthermore, it is essential that you bring along some motion sickness medication if you suspect that you could be prone to seasickness. We suggest that you contact your travel doctor for information regarding the various medication options.
- Tap water on the Chatham Islands is of an excellent quality. Due to this, we do not supply bottled drinking water on this tour.
- There is a 45 minutes time-difference between mainland NZ and the Chatham Islands.



ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:

This tour **does not** include **ANY** airfares. The tour will begin in Dunedin on day 1, according to the above itinerary. The tour will conclude after our flight arrives at Christchurch Airport on day 4.

Due to fog at this time of year, flights can be delayed for several hours. Please book international flights from the New Zealand mainland for evening departure.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your **Tour Confirmation** package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

FLIGHTS:

Auckland Airport, Auckland (IATA: AKL) is the main port of entry for international flights into New Zealand and is well serviced by many of the world's major airlines. The tour ends at Christchurch International Airport (IATA: CHC). **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

