



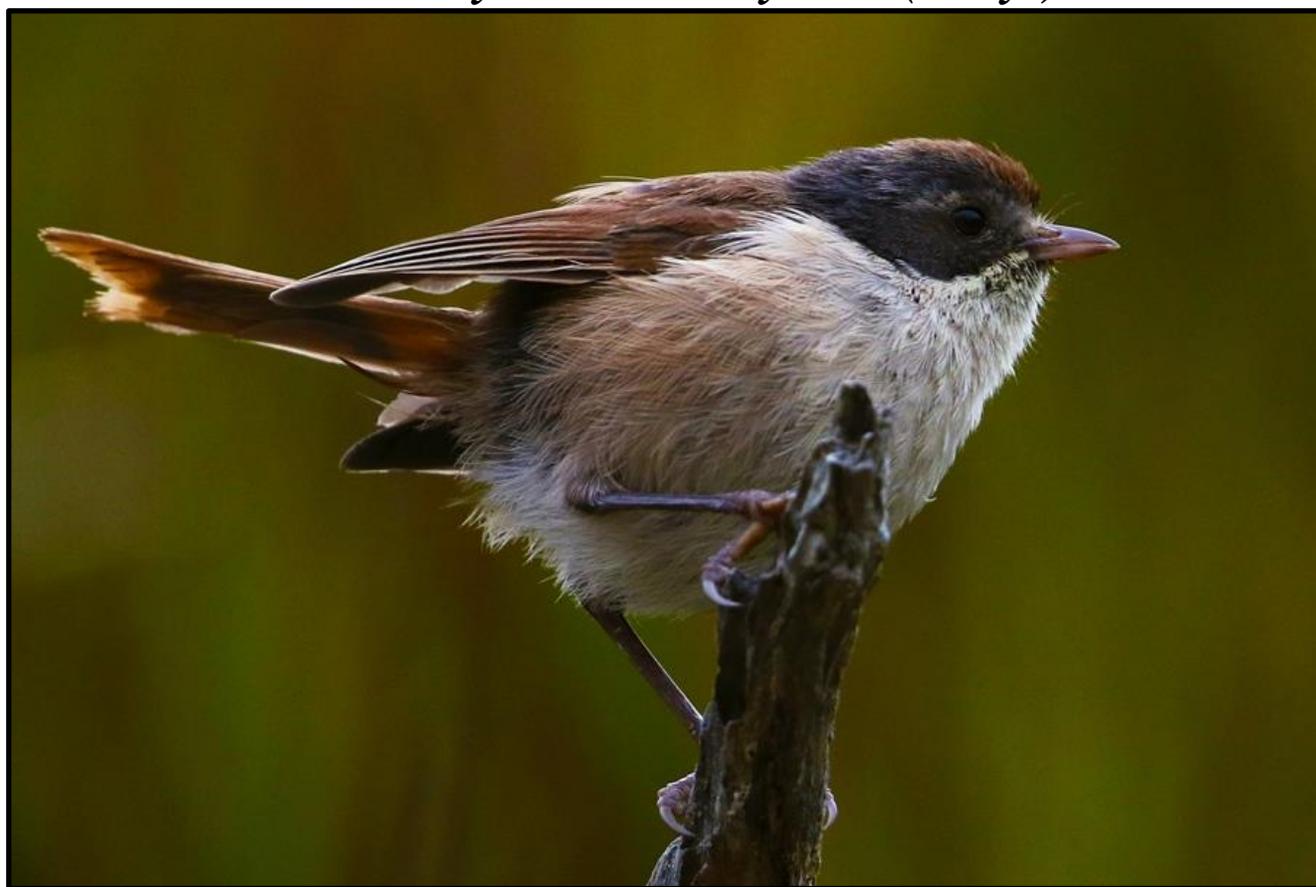
# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## New Zealand

### Great Spotted Kiwi Quest

*4<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (5 days)*



Pipipi by Adam Riley

*Our Great Spotted Kiwi tour is designed to seek out one of New Zealand's most sought-after endemics. By no means guaranteed, we have two nights each at prime localities where we will maximise searching for this species.*

*Other attractions are hiking through pristine Red Beech forest surrounded by breath-taking glacier-lined mountains, where Pipipi (Brown Creeper) Blue Duck, the cute New Zealand Rockwren, New Zealand Falcon, Malherb's (Orange-fronted) Parakeet, Fernbird, Rifleman and the friendly Kea can be found.*

### THE TOUR AT A GLANCE...

#### THE ITINERARY

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Christchurch to Arthurs Pass</b>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Arthurs Pass area</b>
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Arthurs Pass to Punikaiki</b>
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Punikaiki area</b>
<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Punikaiki to Christchurch and depart</b>

### TOUR ROUTE MAP...



## THE TOUR IN DETAIL...



New Zealand Falcon by Erik Forsyth

### **Day 1: Christchurch to Arthur's Pass.**

After departing Christchurch, our first stop will be the Ashley River Mouth where we will scan the mudflats for Variable and South Island Pied Oystercatchers, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pied Stilt, Wrybill and Royal Spoonbill. Less frequently recorded species may include Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, the rare Black Stilt and in the surrounding trees Little Owl. Later in the morning we will drive towards Arthur's Pass keeping a careful watch for New Zealand Falcon. A small lake at the side of the road often has a breeding pair of Great Crested Grebe as well as Masked Lapwing and

occasionally Double-banded Plover. We should arrive in the Arthur's Pass area in the late afternoon in time to search for the Alpine loving Kea, a large parrot which is often found searching for food around the village.

After dinner we will begin our search for one of New Zealand's most sought-after nocturnal endemics, the Great Spotted Kiwi. Careful scanning with red-filtered torches and listening for the penetrating call will give us our best chance at locating this species.

**Day 2: Arthur's Pass area.** After breakfast today, we will walk several trails near the village, through beautiful Beach Forest to look for the tiny Rifleman, Pipipi (Brown Creeper) and South Island forms of New Zealand Robin and Tomtit, the latter with a yellow-breast. We will also have another search for the Kea if not found from the previous day. They tend to be within the vicinity of the village and so we will concentrate our efforts here. After lunch we will take a hike through the Hawdon Valley in search of New Zealand Falcon, New Zealand Kaka, Long-tailed Cuckoo and the very rare Malherbe's (Orange-fronted) Parakeet which is still holding on in this area.

Tonight, we will undertake several trails in this area in search of the Great Spotted Kiwi.

### **Day 3: Arthur's Pass to Punakaiki.**

After a leisurely breakfast and further opportunities for Kea we will drive westwards, following fat-flowing streams.



The entertaining Kea by Erik Forsyth





Female Rifleman by Erik Forsyth

Careful scanning at several stops could reveal the torrent-loving Blue Duck, a rare inhabitant of these mountain streams. We will also be on the lookout for Weka, a large forest rallid, which often can be found scavenging road kills.

Other species possible on the drive may include New Zealand Falcon, Swamp Harrier, Paradise Shelduck, New Zealand Scaup, Grey Teal, Eurasian Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Masked Lapwing, New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit, Australian Magpie, Yellowhammer and Common Redpoll. We should arrive in Punakaiki in the late afternoon. Tonight we will have another opportunity to search for the Great Spotted Kiwi.

**Day 4: Punakaiki area.** This morning we visit Pancake Rocks, a stunning area near our hotel. The Pancake Rocks are a heavily eroded limestone area where the sea bursts through several vertical blowholes. The foundations of the Pancake Rocks were formed 30 million years ago. Afterwards, we will visit several wetlands, searching for the endemic New Zealand Fernbird. These shy reed-bed specialists are fairly common here and we will try to obtain good views. While searching for this enigmatic species, we will also look for other river-loving species which may include further chances for the endemic Double-banded Plover, Black-fronted Tern, Black-billed Gull and New Zealand Pipit. Small passerines introduced from Europe are another feature of this area, with possibilities for Yellowhammer, European Greenfinch, European Goldfinch, Common Redpoll, Song Thrush and Dunnock.

Tonight, will be our final search for the Great Spotted Kiwi if not already found. Other possibilities are Morepork and introduced mammals such as European Hedgehog and Brush-tailed Possum are often encountered.

**Day 5: Punakaiki to Christchurch and departure.** After breakfast today we will drive through to Christchurch with a couple of birding stops en route arriving in the early afternoon.



Morepork by Adam Riley



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**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 lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 5;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation;
- All national park entrance fees; 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 quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is however fixed only in the currency printed in bold (New Zealand Dollar - NZ\$), and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing (usually 4 months before the tour.) The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates, which are also quoted in the respective fixed currency.**

**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 travelers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20kg (44lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18lb) for hand luggage.



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- This tour is aimed at the serious birder. The tour will be moderately paced and based at two locations, maximizing our night-time birding to locate one of New Zealand's most difficult endemics.

**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DETAILS:**

This tour **does not** include ANY airfares. The tour will begin in Christchurch on Day 1, according to the above itinerary. The tour will conclude at Christchurch International Airport on Day 5.

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. Direct flights to Christchurch are available on Air New Zealand, Emirates, Qantas, Singapore and Virgin, otherwise connecting flights are routed through Auckland. **Please DO NOT book any flights until you have consulted the Rockjumper office for confirmation on the status of the tour.**

