Australasia

Endemic Families of New Caledonia, Australia & New Zealand

22nd November to 11th December 2023 (20 days)



Kagu by David Hoddinott

In another first of its kind, Rockjumper offers a tour like no other – an opportunity to see a representative of every family to be found in Australasia! Over the course of nearly three weeks, we will visit New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand on our quest to find a representative of each family to be found over this diverse region.

We begin our tour with a pre-tour extension to New Caledonia, a rather large and ancient chip off the once enormous Gondwanaland block. Host to the highly sought after, and only surviving member of its family – the Kagu. In addition to Kagu, we will also seek out specialities such as Goliath Imperial Pigeon (the world's largest arboreal pigeon), the lovely Cloven-feathered Dove, the rare Horned Parakeet and New Caledonian Cuckooshrike amongst many others.

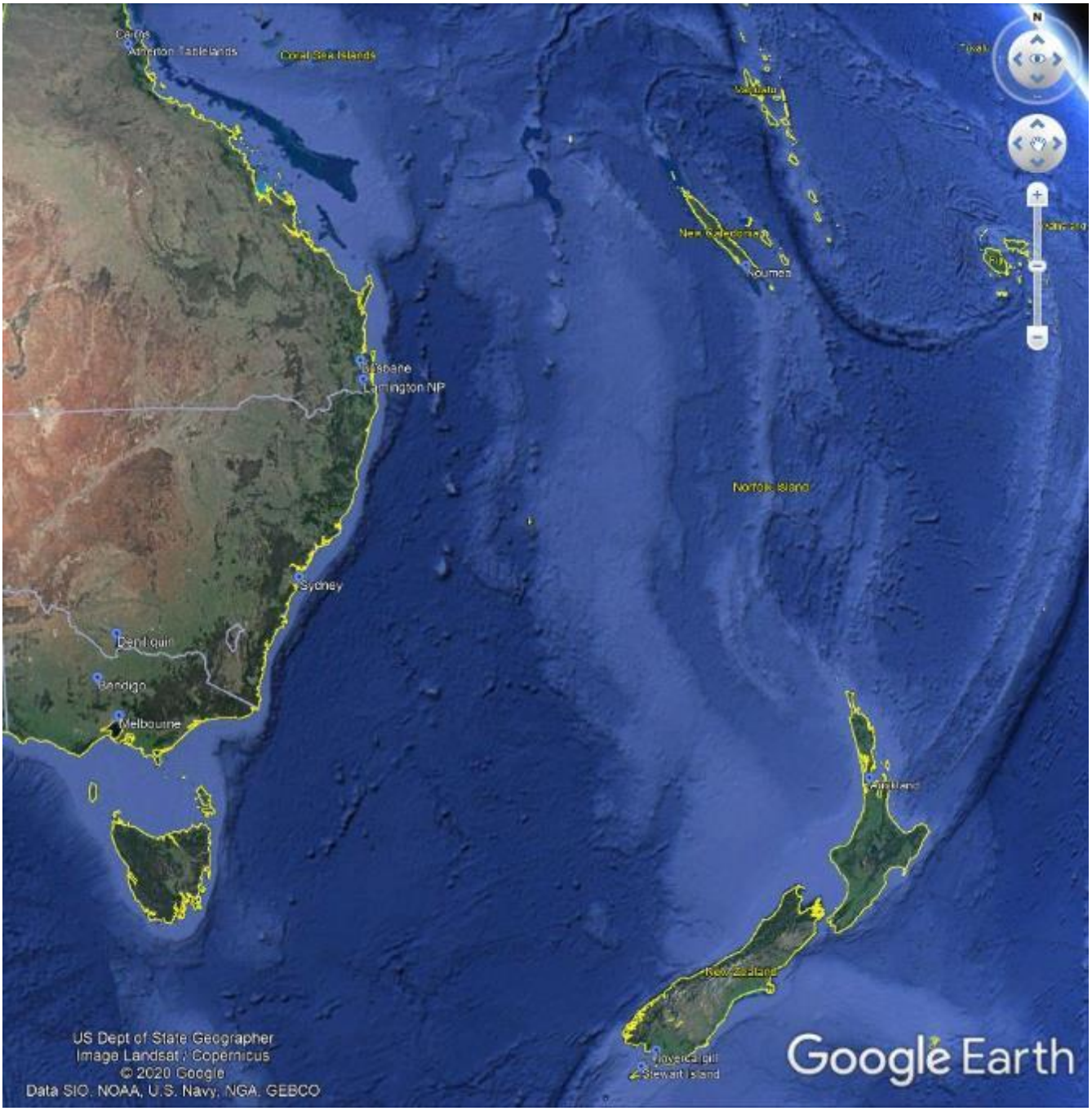
We next head to the vast continent of Australia, which harbours 6 endemic families, as well as numerous endemic and bizarre wildlife found nowhere else on our planet. Traversing the eastern part of the country, we will cover an incredible variety of habitats ranging from lush expanses of dense tropical rainforest to the dry

endless stretches of the desolate outback. Major targets we hope to find include Plains-wanderer, Southern Cassowary, Albert's Lyrebird, Regent Bowerbird, Striated Pardalote, Australian Logrunner, Varied Sitella, Chowchilla, Atherton Scrubwren, Apostlebird, Spotted Quail-thrush and Rufous Bristlebird but the extended list of mouth-watering endemics is truly phenomenal!

We finish the main tour in New Zealand, which despite its small size is host to an incredible 6 endemic families! Beginning in Auckland, we search for North Island Brown Kiwi before spending a day on Tiritiri Matangi Island to find the prehistoric South Island Takahe, North Island Saddleback, the strange North Island Kokako and unique Stitchbird. Our final destination of the tour will be Stewart Island, home to Southern Brown Kiwi, Yellowhead, New Zealand Kaka and Rifleman.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Noumea, New Caledonia**
Day 2	**Riviere Bleu Reserve**
Day 3	**New Caledonia, flight to Brisbane, Australia, transfer to Lamington National Park**
Days 4 & 5	**Lamington National Park (O'Reilly's Guesthouse)**
Day 6	**Lamington National Park to Cairns via Brisbane**
Day 7	**Etty Bay and Cairns area**
Day 8	**Cairns to Atherton Tablelands via Etty Bay**
Days 9 & 10	**Atherton Tablelands**
Day 11	**Atherton Tablelands to Melbourne via Cairns**
Day 12	**Melbourne to Deniliquin**
Day 13	**Deniliquin to Bendigo**
Day 14	**Bendigo to Melbourne**
Day 15	**Melbourne area**
Day 16	**Melbourne to Auckland, New Zealand & Tawharanui Regional Park**
Day 17	**Tiritiri Matangi Island & Tawharanui Regional Park**
Day 18	**Auckland, flight to Invercargill & ferry to Stewart Island**
Day 19	**Ulva Island & Oban**
Day 20	**Stewart Island to Invercargill, flight to Auckland & final departure**


Cairns
Atherton Tablelands
Coral Sea Islands
Vanuatu
New Caledonia
Noumea
Fiji
Tonga
Brisbane
Lamington NP
Norfolk Island
Sydney
Canberra
Bendigo
Melbourne
Auckland
New Zealand
Stewart Island
US Dept of State Geographer
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Google Earth

Birding sites in detail

Riviere Bleu Reserve. New Caledonia is geologically extremely old, having been cast adrift many millions of years ago from what we know today as Australia and New Zealand. As a result, its community of plants and animals have evolved in extreme isolation, to such a degree that most of its native inhabitants are found nowhere else in the world, thus providing us with a rare glimpse of this region's forests as they were in Gondwanaland times. Our birding will largely focus on the Riviere Bleu Forest Reserve, which encompasses some of the best remaining lowland and hill forest on the island.



Cloven-feathered Dove by David Hoddinott

Thanks to the efforts of Yves Letocart and the Department of Forests, many of the introduced predators, which have so decimated the island's Kagu populations in the past, have been greatly reduced. This has resulted in a relatively healthy group of approximately 500 birds inhabiting the reserve. These strange, ghost-like, flightless birds, which resemble a cross between a Sunbittern and a rail with a long shaggy crest, are one of the most exciting and, until recently, amongst the most challenging birds to see on our planet.

Happily, this is no longer the case, and arriving ideally before dawn, we will listen for the Kagu's puppy-like calls that are such a characteristic sound of the forest. In the past, this was about as near as one could hope to get to encountering one of these seemingly mythical creatures. Now, thanks to intensive conservation efforts, our chances of seeing this incredible bird are very good indeed.



Red-throated Parrotfinch by David Hoddinott

This morning we will, therefore, depart early for the important Riviere Bleu Reserve to search for the Kagu in addition to several other really fascinating New Caledonian endemics: New Caledonian Goshawk, the huge Goliath Pigeon, Cloven-feathered Dove (a very strange and beautiful bird), Horned Parakeet (severely threatened – the Riviere Bleu reserve is one of its last strongholds), New Caledonian Parakeet, New Caledonian Crow, New Caledonian and South Melanesian Cuckooshrikes, Long-tailed Triller, Fan-tailed Gerygone, New Caledonian Whistler, Striated Starling, New Caledonian Myzomela, Barred and Crow

Honeyeaters (the latter sadly now very rare), New Caledonian Friarbird and Red-throated Parrotfinch.



Australian Logrunner by Adam Riley

Lamington National Park. O'Reilly's Guesthouse combines a unique mixture of subtropical rainforest and wet Eucalypt woodland, creating a natural haven for wildlife. The area protects vast tracts of forested mountains and offers charming waterfalls, spectacular views of the rugged escarpment, and a birding experience second to none! In the lodge grounds we'll be blown away by constant, close encounters with brightly coloured Australian King Parrots, the stunning Crimson Rosella, incredible Regent, and Satin Bowerbirds, Australian Brushturkey, White-browed Scrubwren, Red-browed Finch and Pied Currawong. Other great birds that will likely be regularly encountered at point-blank range include the very handsome Wonga Pigeon, Eastern Yellow Robin, the normally shy Eastern Whipbird, Australian Logrunner, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Superb Fairywren, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch, and Lewin's Honeyeater. A little bit of effort and specific targeting will hopefully reveal the exquisite Rose Robin, Green Catbird, Topknot Pigeon, Paradise Riflebird, Bassian and much rarer Russet-tailed Thrushes and the spectacular Albert's Lyrebird.

The lower elevation, mixed Eucalyptus and Casuarina woodland harbours Red-browed and White-throated Treecreepers, the exquisite Variegated Fairywren, the striking white-headed subspecies of Varied Sittella and the rare and nomadic Glossy-black Cockatoo.



Albert's Lyrebird by Glen Valentine

Nocturnal excursions might produce Southern Boobook and the scarce and elusive Marbled Frogmouth, as well as Short-eared Brush-tailed and Common Ringtail Possums, Red-necked Pademelon and Long-nosed Bandicoot.

Etty Bay. Etty Bay is an area of coastal forest just over an hour from Cairns. Our main target here is the incredible Southern Cassowary, which still occurs in small numbers in this area. This impressive and enigmatic species will be our focal species this morning and our chances of finding one are excellent. We'll check the grassy clearings along the entrance road, as well as the beach alongside the campsite for fresh tracks and scat, as the birds are known to feed on fallen fruit from the surrounding

trees. If we are fortunate, we might also find a party of Lovely Fairywren here, while Olive-backed Sunbirds and Torresian Imperial Pigeons frequent the fruiting and flowering trees.



The prehistoric looking Southern Cassowary by Glen Valentine

Cairns area - Cairns Esplanade & surrounds: One of the most famous birding sites in all of Australia and justifiably so, the mudflats and surrounding trees along the Cairns Esplanade support an incredible number and diversity of migrant and resident birds. We'll spend some time scanning the tidal mudflats for Australian Pelican, White-faced and Pacific Reef Herons, Little Egret, the huge White-bellied Sea Eagle, Silver Gull, Greater Crested Tern, and a whole host of waders such as Far Eastern Curlew, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, Red-necked Stint, Great Knot, Pacific Golden and Red-capped Plovers, Black-fronted Dotterel, Greater and Lesser Sand Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Eurasian Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sanderling, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper, Pied Oystercatcher and if we are fortunate, the scarce and erratic Beach Stone-curlew. Varied Honeyeater is common in the surrounding flowering trees, as is the abundant but brilliant Rainbow Lorikeet. We also hope to be able to track down the whereabouts of a roosting Rufous Owl that usually has a roost or nest somewhere in the immediate vicinity.

Cairns area - Cairns Botanical Gardens: One of the birdiest sites in the greater Cairns area, the extensive Cairns Botanical Gardens support good densities of birds with several species like Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Helmeted Friarbird, Magpie-lark, Laughing Kookaburra and Maned Duck being particularly common. Some of the more special and lower-density species we will be on the lookout for include Grey and Brown Goshawks, Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Green Oriole, Common Cicadabird, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, White-throated Honeyeater, the scarce and endemic Lovely Fairywren and the impressive Papuan Frogmouth.



Red-backed Fairywren by Erik Forsyth

Atherton Tablelands - Crater Lakes National Park (Lakes Barrine & Eacham) & Chambers grounds: Early mornings around the grounds of our accommodations offers some of the finest birding and photographic opportunities of the entire area and we are likely to be rewarded with close encounters of Victoria's Riflebird, Spotted Catbird, the localised and impressive Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Bridled, Yellow-spotted and Lewin's Honeyeaters, Wompoo, Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit Doves, Pacific Emerald Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Barred Cuckooshrike, Pied Monarch, Grey-

headed Robin, Silver-eye, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Bower's and Rufous Shrikethrushes, Eastern Whipbird and Mistletoebird.

At Lake Barrine, we hope to find the unique Chowchilla feeding in small family groups on the forest floor and this is also an excellent area to find Tooth-billed Bowerbird, as well as the north-eastern minor subspecies of Australian King Parrot, the unobtrusive Musky Rat-Kangaroo and Boyd's Forest Dragon, an impressive forest-dwelling reptile.

In the lodge gardens, there is a night-lit viewing platform that is regularly visited by several species of nocturnal mammal, and these include Musky Rat-Kangaroo, Red-legged Pademelon, Sugar Glider, Striped Possum and Long-nosed Bandicoot.



Chowchilla by Glen Valentine

Atherton Tablelands - Mount Hypipamee: This high altitude, montane forest site is excellent for most of the Atherton Tablelands' Forest endemics and especially so for a few specialised species that only occur at higher elevation such as the immaculate and rare Golden Bowerbird, Mountain Thornbill and Atherton Scrubwren. During a morning here we are likely to see both sought-after species, the former at its impressive bower. Other noteworthy species we are likely to encounter in the lush forest that blankets the mountain include Bower's Shrikethrush, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Macleay's and Bridled Honeyeaters, Grey-headed Robin, Victoria's Riflebird and Peregrine Falcon.

A night excursion here will likely reveal several rarely seen and localised species of possum such as the Coppery Brush-tailed, Green Ringtail and the extremely range-restricted and threatened Lemuroid and Herbert River Ringtail Possums. We might also find the fantastic Northern Leaf-tailed Gecko and Southern Boobook and with exceptional fortune, the very rare and elusive Lesser Sooty Owl.



Golden Bowerbird by Erik Forsyth

Deniliquin. We leave Melbourne driving north into farming areas before arriving in the small town of Deniliquin. The mix of habitats, including pine and mallee vegetation may produce several exciting new species for the trip. Possibilities along the drive include Australian Ringneck, Red-rumped Parrot, the strange Apostlebird, White-winged Chough, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Eastern Rosella, Grey Shrikethrush, Laughing Kookaburra, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Australian Raven, the huge Wedge-tailed Eagle and as we near Deniliquin, the aptly named Superb Parrot.

After our evening meal, we will be heading out for a spotlighting excursion on the open-plains country near Hay, where the endemic, monotypic, and critically endangered Plains-wanderer occurs. This species is the world's only member of the bird family *Pedionomidae* and the native, stubble grasslands of New South Wales and Victoria are their last stronghold. A night on the plains also gives us the chance to locate other grassland species, such as Stubble Quail, Little Buttonquail, Banded Lapwing, Australian Pratincole, and Inland Dotterel, all of which are very difficult to see elsewhere during the tour.



Plains-wanderer by Stephan Lorenz

Mount Korong. The tiny reserve of Mount Korong situated an hour north-west of Bendigo is a reasonably reliable site for the often-elusive Painted Honeyeater on passage during the spring months. It is a notoriously elusive species that winters up in the Gulf region of north-western Queensland and breeds in the box-ironbark woodlands in New South Wales and Victoria during the summer months. We'll try our best to obtain good views and will also keep a lookout for other specialties such as Diamond Firetail and White-browed Babbler.

Bendigo National Park. This morning we'll explore the mallee woodlands within the Bendigo National Park in search of a few species we may not yet have found. These may include Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Tawny-crowned, White-fronted and White-eared Honeyeaters, Shy Heathwren, Purple-backed Fairywren, Southern Scrub Robin, Gilbert's Whistler, and Inland Thornbill.

Great Ocean Road – Kennett River, Lorne area & Anglesea. This morning we'll will explore the coast road and surrounding forest for Koala. There are few places in Australia where Koala can be seen this regularly and we stand an excellent chance of having memorable encounters with these endearing mammals. While in the area, we are also likely to see Australian King Parrot, Satin Bowerbird, Rufous Bristlebird and Crescent Honeyeater and stand a reasonable chance at the scarce and secretive Olive Whistler, Pink Robin and Gang-gang Cockatoo.



Emu by Glen Valentine

Looking offshore, we have reasonable chances of seeing Shy Albatross, Short-tailed and Fluttering Shearwaters, the range restricted Pacific Gull, Black-faced and Pied Cormorants, Australasian Gannet, and the highly threatened Hooded Plover. In dense heathland and mixed forest habitat in the Anglesea area, we'll search for the usually extremely shy and elusive Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, as well as Satin Flycatcher and Southern Emu-wren if we haven't already encountered them.

Tawharanui Regional Park. After an early dinner, we'll head to Tawharanui Regional Park. One of many significant conservation success stories in

New Zealand, the park has no less than 18 endemic bird species. Our evening arrival will allow us to search for some endemic diurnal species including South Island Takahe, Brown Teal, North Island Saddelback, New Zealand Pigeon, New Zealand Robin, New Zealand Kaka, Red-crowned Parakeet and Whitehead. Aside from the endemics, we may also find Swamp Harrier, Australasian Swamphen, Kelp Gull and Yellowhammer. While the above-mentioned species are of the highest quality, we are here for something even more special. Tawharanui hosts a member of one of the most sought-after bird families in the world, the Kiwis. As darkness descends, we undertake a night walk to look for the incredible North Island Brown Kiwi, one of only five family representatives, wholly endemic to New Zealand. We will return late this evening to our lodging.



Little Spotted Kiwi by Adam Riley

Tiritiri Matangi Island. We depart today by water taxi for the fabled Tiritiri Matangi Island. Several highly endangered endemic species can be seen here, including rare species sadly extirpated from the mainland. One of the Jewels of the Hauraki Gulf, Tiri is an amazing example of habitat restoration with over 200,000 native trees meticulously replanted. We will explore this predator-free haven for some of New Zealand's most endangered wildlife, including the outrageous North Island Saddleback, localised Stitchbird, New Zealand Bellbird, the spectacular North Island Kokako, and the prehistoric looking Takahe. Throughout our time on the island, we will also see New Zealand Pigeon, Red-crowned Parakeet, Tui, Whitehead flitting through the undergrowth, the north island forms of New Zealand Robin and Fernbird, Brown Quail, and New Zealand Fantail. In addition, we'll be on the lookout for Brown Teal and Spotless Crake, which are sometimes seen at a small pond near the jetty.



New Zealand Kaka by Erik Forsyth

Port Bluff to Oban. From Port Bluff we will take an hour-long ferry ride across the Foveaux Strait to Oban, Stewart Island. Birding from the ferry is often of good quality, and we may well see Foveaux Shag, Shy and Salvin's Albatross, Cape Petrel, Sooty Shearwater and Common Diving Petrels.

Stewart Island. Stewart Island is New Zealand's third largest island and newest national park, a wild and rugged land, with few roads and high numbers of birds,

makes it a very exciting birding destination indeed! Home to only 400 permanent residents, it is steeped in Māori mythology – indeed, Stewart Island is better known locally by its abbreviated Māori name of Rakiura (in full, 'Te Rakiura a Te Rakitamau'). The seafood is of the highest quality as one may expect from a settlement whose economy was founded and maintained by fishing.



South Island Saddleback by Adam Riley

Weather permitting, we shall head out this evening in search of the main prize – a kiwi! Unlike all other species of kiwi, the Stewart Island form of Southern Brown Kiwi (locally known as the Tokoeka), is not strictly nocturnal. However, to improve our chances of success, we shall start our search after dark. From Oban, we climb aboard a boat and travel for approximately 20 minutes to a deserted bay. Depending on kiwi activity, we may be take a walk into the forested hillside or simply walk along the beach. If we are quiet, and luck is on our side – it is not impossible to get views of these incredible creatures at very close range. After what promises to be a highly successful evening, we head back to our boat, keeping a careful eye out for Little Penguins that are occasionally seen at the boat jetty.

Ulva Island. Today we will board our water taxi and head into Halfmoon Bay in search of the highly desirable Fiordland Penguin that breed here along the rugged coastline. Careful scanning amongst the caves and rocks will give us a good chance of finding this species. During the crossing we may also find Little Penguins and Shy Albatross. Several cormorants may be present with Pied and Little Pied Cormorants, Foveaux and Spotted Shags often recorded alongside Kelp and Silver Gulls, White-faced Heron, and White-fronted Tern. After searching for Fiordland Penguin, we will travel the short distance to Ulva Island.



The impressive Tui by Erik Forsyth

Ulva Island is a predator-free haven for a variety of birds, including the Stewart Island form of Weka, Tui, New Zealand Bellbird, the South Island form of New Zealand Kaka, both Red-crowned and Yellow-crowned Parakeets, South Island Saddleback, the endangered Yellowhead, the tiny Rifleman, New Zealand Robin, and New Zealand Pigeon (locally known as the Kereru). There is an excellent series of paths around the island, and we'll be out for several hours before taking the water taxi back to Halfmoon Bay on Stewart Island.

If weather conditions prevented us from heading out in search of Southern Brown Kiwi last night, then we shall head out this evening to search.

Families Possible on this tour (Endemic Families in BOLD):

1	**Apterygidae**	**Kiwis**
2	Casuariidae	Cassowaries, Emu
3	**Anseranatidae**	**Magpie Goose**
4	Anatidae	Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl
5	Megapodiidae	Megapodes
6	Odontophoridae	New World Quail
7	Phasianidae	Pheasants & Allies
8	Spheniscidae	Penguins
9	Diomedeidae	Albatrosses
10	Procellariidae	Shearwaters and Petrels
11	Podicipedidae	Grebes
12	Ciconiidae	Storks
13	Threskiornithidae	Ibises and Spoonbills
14	Ardeidae	Herons, Bitterns
15	Pelecanidae	Pelicans
16	Sulidae	Boobies and Gannets
17	Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants, Shags
18	Anhingidae	Anhingas, Darters
19	Pandionidae	Ospreys
20	Accipitridae	Hawks, Eagles, and Kites
21	Otididae	Bustards
22	**Rhynochetidae**	**Kagu**
23	Rallidae	Rails, Gallinules, and Coots
24	Gruidae	Cranes
25	Turnicidae	Buttonquails
26	Burhinidae	Stone-curlews, Thick-knees
27	Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
28	Recurvirostridae	Stilts, Avocets
29	Charadriidae	Plovers
30	Jacanidae	Jacanas
31	**Pedionomidae**	**Plains-wanderer**
32	Scolopacidae	Sandpipers, Snipes
33	Glareolidae	Coursers, Pratincoles
34	Laridae	Gulls, Terns, Skimmers
35	Columbidae	Pigeons, Doves
36	Cuculidae	Cuckoos
37	Tytonidae	Barn Owls
38	Strigidae	Owls
39	Podargidae	Frogmouths
40	Aegothelidae	Owlet-nightjars
41	Apodidae	Swifts
42	Coraciidae	Rollers
43	Alcedinidae	Kingfishers
44	Meropidae	Bee-eaters
45	Falconidae	Falcons
46	**Strigopidae**	**New Zealand Parrots**
47	Cacatuidae	Cockatoos

48	Psittaculidae	Old World Parrots
49	**Acanthisittidae**	**New Zealand Wrens**
50	Pittidae	Pittas
51	**Menuridae**	**Lyrebirds**
52	**Atrichornithidae**	**Scrubbirds**
53	Ptilonorhynchidae	Bowerbirds
54	Climacteridae	Australasian Treecreepers
55	Maluridae	Australasian Wrens
56	Meliphagidae	Honeyeaters
57	**Dasyornithidae**	**Bristlebirds**
58	**Pardalotidae**	**Pardalotes**
59	Acanthizidae	Thornbills and Allies
60	Pomatostomidae	Australasian Babblers
61	Orthonychidae	Logrunners
62	**Callaeidae**	**New Zealand Wattlebirds**
63	**Notiomystidae**	**Stitchbird**
64	Psophodidae	Whipbirds and Wedgebills
65	Machaerirhynchidae	Boatbills
66	Artamidae	Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies
67	Campephagidae	Cuckooshrikes
68	**Mohouidae**	**Whiteheads**
69	Neosittidae	Sittellas
70	Oreoicidae	Australo-Papuan Bellbirds
71	Pachycephalidae	Whistlers & Allies
72	Oriolidae	Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra
73	Dicruridae	Drongos
74	Rhipiduridae	Fantails
75	Monarchidae	Monarch Flycatchers
76	Corvidae	Crows, Jays
77	**Corcoracidae**	**Australian Mudnesters**
78	Paradisaeidae	Birds-of-paradise
79	Petroicidae	Australasian Robins
80	Alaudidae	Larks
81	Hirundinidae	Swallows, Martins
82	Acrocephalidae	Reed Warblers & Allies
83	Locustellidae	Grassbirds & Allies
84	Cisticolidae	Cisticolas & Allies
85	Zosteropidae	White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies
86	Sturnidae	Starlings, Rhabdornis
87	Turdidae	Thrushes
88	Dicaeidae	Flowerpeckers
89	Nectariniidae	Sunbirds
90	Passeridae	Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches
91	Prunellidae	Accentors
92	Estrildidae	Waxbills, Munias & Allies
93	Motacillidae	Wagtails and Pipits
94	Fringillidae	Finches, Euphonias, and Allies
95	Emberizidae	Old World Buntings

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate to brisk paced tours suited for those in good health with goof level of fitness. Not suited for anyone with mobility challenges or serious medical conditions.
Birding Ease		Moderate to demanding. Several difficult target species, both diurnal & nocturnal.
Accommodation		Comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Moderate to tough. Some strenuous hikes. Night walks for kiwis can be challenging on narrower trails, some might be muddy.
Vehicles / Roads		Mostly comfortable vehicles on reasonable quality sealed roads. Many long drives.
Photography		Worthwhile, but limited time due to nature of tour.
Annoyances		Long travel days with limited down time. Lots of single night stays. Sea crossing conditions can vary from calm to rough.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 20;
- All lodgings;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All ground transportation during the tour;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- 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.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is 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. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- This tour involves some moderate walking with a couple of strenuous hikes. You should be in good health and of reasonable fitness to undertake this tour. If you have any physical limitations or medical conditions of any sort, please do let the Rockjumper office know in advance of the tour.
- We will be birding in some remote areas well away from modern medical facilities at times.
- Most hotels are of reasonable standard during the tour.
- The seas during our crossing to and from Stewart Island, New Zealand are unpredictable. It is essential that you bring motion sickness medication if you suspect or are prone to seasickness. We suggest that you contact your travel doctor for information regarding the various medication options.
- We are covering vast distances on this tour, with many one-night stays and limited down time between locations.
- This tour is primarily focused on recording as many Bird Families as possible, whilst we will also search for as many endemics and specialist species as possible, precedence will always be given to unrecorded Families.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour will begin in Nouméa, New Caledonia on Day 1, according to the above itinerary. The tour will conclude in Auckland on day 20.

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.

Nouméa La Tontouta International Airport, New Caledonia (IATA: NOU) is the main port of entry for international flights for this tour and is well serviced by many of the world's major airlines. Auckland Airport, New Zealand (IATA: AKL) is the main port of departure and is well serviced by most of the world's major airlines.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements. The following website provides detailed information about visa eligibility and assistance with online applications options where viable: Visa HQ for Travel

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.