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PHOTO EXPEDITIONS



WildNature
Photo Expeditions

RUSSIAN FAR EAST SEA OF OKHOTSK PHOTO WORKSHOP

11-23 JUNE 2017

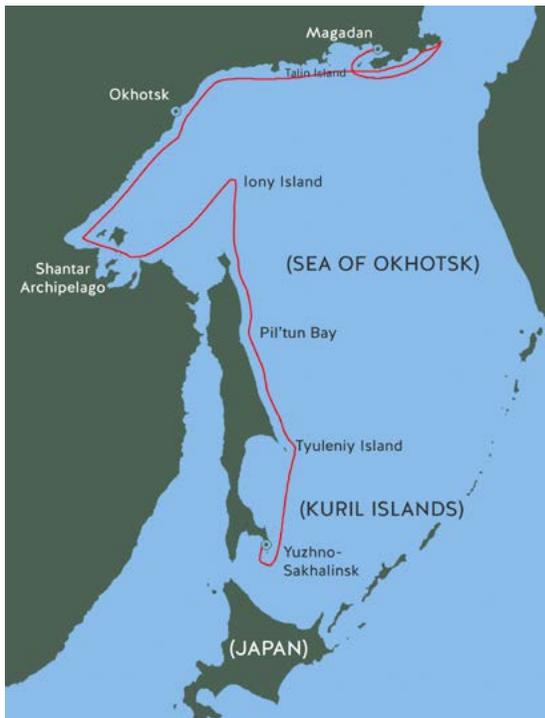
WITH DAVID BURREN
AND MICHAEL SNEDIC

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HORNED PUFFIN

© ALEKS TERAURDS



Join us on this 12-day photographic adventure in the Russian Far East. We travel by small expedition ship, exploring the wildlife and scenery of the Sea of Okhotsk.

The Sea of Okhotsk is a northwestern arm of the Pacific Ocean, lying between Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and Japan's Hokkaido island. This is a seldom-visited but amazingly-rich region. We expect to see many hundreds of thousands of animals, including mammals such as whales, bears, many seals (including Ringed, Ribbon, Larga, and Bearded along with Sea-lions) but in sheer numbers mostly birds. As well as the many species of sea-birds along the coast, the forests ashore will also yield other species.

We will have 10 photographers on this expedition, being led by two professional nature photographers and tutors: David Burren and Michael Snedic. As we travel around the sea, we will be photographing from our ship, from Zodiacs, and from land.

Photographers of all experience levels are welcome. David and Michael will be guiding you and supporting your photography during the expedition. Not just in taking photographs in the field, but also in reviewing and refining your photos along the way using software such as Adobe Lightroom.



ORCA PASSING BY

© MEGHAN KELLY



BROWN BEAR

© MEGHAN KELLY

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY LEADERS

On this expedition you will have access every day to two professional nature photographers and instructors. David and Michael are there to help you photograph the stunning scenery and wildlife we will encounter. We will be conducting a series of classes throughout the voyage, as well as being on-hand throughout the outings.

As full-time professionals, David and Michael are both accredited members of the Australian Institute of Professional Photographers (AIPP). As well as being experienced photographers they're both experienced photographic tutors, and regularly run workshops together.



DAVID BURREN AIPP FAPS

David has been photographing since the 1970s (professionally since 2002). As well as winning awards for his photography, and teaching the field craft to hundreds of people, his IT background has provided important tools in managing the photography workflow.

He is an Adobe Certified Expert, and has spent years teaching Photoshop and Lightroom at a tertiary level and to individuals and groups. As the principal of LuminOdyssey Photo Expeditions, David regularly conducts photographic workshops and tours to destinations around Australia and the globe.

www.luminodyssey.com



MICHAEL SNEDIC

Michael is an experienced (20-years) and widely published photographer, writer and photo expedition leader. His photography articles and images have featured in numerous publications in Australia and across the world.

He is owner of WildNature Photo Expeditions and presents exciting photography workshops and tours to many wonderful photographic and travel destinations. He is also an Australian Ambassador for both Lowepro and LensCoat. Michael loves sharing his photographic knowledge and passion with workshop participants, helping them improve their photographic skills.

wildnaturephotoexpeditions.com



RIBBON SEAL

© MEGHAN KELLY

ITINERARY

Our itineraries are always subject to weather conditions, but the basic plan is as follows:

DAY 0 (11 JUNE)

We start in the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Before 1945 this area was part of Japan, and the pagoda-roofed building which is now the [Regional Museum](#) was the centre of Japanese administration. Yuz-Sak is an interesting mixture of Soviet-era architecture, mixed history and the surrounding wilderness.

We meet up at our hotel for a final briefing. Depending on when you arrive we can take advantage of the day to explore this remote corner of Russia.

DAY 1

We travel to the port of Korsakov and board our ship the Spirit of Enderby. As we sail into the Sea of Okhotsk and head north we settle in to ship-board life.

DAY 2 - TYULENIY ISLAND

This island is a stronghold of Northern Fur Seals and Steller's Sea-lions. Conditions-permitting we will be photographing these animals from land as well as sea.

DAY 3 - PIL'TUN BAY

Pil'tun Bay is an important habitat for Western Grey Whales, which we will be searching for by Zodiac.

DAY 4 - IONY ISLAND

This tiny rock in the middle of the Sea of Okhotsk is covered in birds, with sea-lions thrown in for good measure to fill the gaps. There's no room for us to land, but we expect to photograph guillemots, kittiwakes, and various species of auklet (and sea-lions of course).

DAYS 5-6 - SHANTAR ARCHIPELAGO

This group of islands is in the western corner of the Sea of Okhotsk, and is the last place to thaw out in

summer. While the ice can restrict where we go, it does increase our chances of seeing seals, especially the iconic Ribbon Seal.

DAY 7 - MAL'MINSKIE ISLANDS

Another birding hot-spot, this is a breeding location for many species. Spectacled, Common and Brünnich's Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet, Rhinoceros, Crested and Parakeet Auklet, Horned and Tufted Puffin: the list goes on. Of course this also supports a population of Steller's Sea-eagles. As well as exploring the islands from the water and landing in the one permitted location, we also get to explore the taiga forest on the mainland.

DAY 8 - OKHOTSK TOWN

Today we get to meet the locals and absorb some culture in this historically-important town. Today it's the centre of the region's fishing industry.

DAY 9 - TALAN ISLAND

Talan is famous as a breeding site for hundreds of thousands of Crested Auklets, along with Black-legged Kittiwakes and Steller's Sea-eagles. We explore the island by sea and by land. In the evening the huge flocks of Crested Auklets gather at sea before coming ashore.

DAY 10 - KONI PENINSULA

This mountainous region is part of the Magadanskiy Zapovednik Reserve, and on our landings along the coast we hope to find animals such as Brown Bear.

DAY 11 - YAMSKIYE ISLANDS

No landings are permitted here, but we Zodiac around the coast of these islands which are claimed to hold the largest bird colony in the North Pacific (the largest island has 7 million nesting birds). This will include at least guillemots, auklets, puffins, and fulmars.



HORNED PUFFINS

© JENNY ROSS



STELLER'S SEA-LION LOOMING OVER A ZODIAC

© HERITAGE



CRESTED AUKLETS

© AARON RUSS

DAY 12 (23 JUNE) - MAGADAN

This morning we arrive in the city of Magadan, and leave the Spirit of Enderby behind. We leave our luggage at our hotel before heading out with a local ornithologist on an optional tour to Olskaya Lagoon (a bird staging area on the East Palaearctic flyway) to get our last wildlife fix. The following morning we head to the airport to start our homeward journeys.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Anyone in normal good health can join us on this adventure. There are no special fitness requirements, although we will be often climbing into and out of the inflatable Zodiac boats, and walking on shore.

The ship has a doctor and basic medical facilities on board. If you have specific health concerns or dietary requirements the staff at Heritage will be able to help.

OUR SHIP

Heritage Expeditions' Spirit of Enderby is a great small expedition ship. The ship regularly visits both polar regions and is a very capable vessel. She also has plenty of vantage points for scenic and wildlife photography from all around the ship.

The ship will also have non-photographer passengers (she takes up to 50 in total) and while we will be mingling with them and sharing the ship and the general expedition experience, the photographic advice/instruction will be for our group. On outings we usually operate as a group with dedicated Zodiacs. LuminOdyssey works closely with the Heritage expedition team throughout (and before) the voyage to optimise operations on both sides to help everyone.



VISITING OKHOTSK

© CHRIS COLLINS



STELLER'S SEA-EAGLE

© NATHAN RUSS



SPIRIT OF ENDERBY

© MEGHAN KELLY

INCLUSIONS

- Photography tuition throughout the expedition.
- Transfer from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk hotel to ship, and to Magadan on completion of the voyage.
- Shipboard accommodation.
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners onboard. Coffee, tea, cocoa available around the clock.
- All ship-based excursions.
- Pre- and post-departure materials.

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares and other travel expenses to/from Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk/Magadan.
- Hotels in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Magadan.
- Optional Magadan birding (approx US\$90).
- Passport/visa expenses. We provide assistance with Russian visa paperwork, but you're responsible for the actual visa.
- Personal/travel insurance coverage. Heritage will discuss with you the required insurance coverage (due to the remoteness of our destination).
- Onboard bar, laundry, and telecommunications charges. Internet access is not available onboard.

PRICES

The trip is being put together with our partners at Heritage Expeditions in Christchurch, and they take care of the bookings and travel arrangements for us, while we run the photography program.

Do note that these prices are the same as for booking this voyage directly with Heritage. We've managed to arrange a deal where **by booking as part of our group you essentially get access to our photography program for free!**

There are a variety of cabin classes, mostly twin-share cabins. Your choice of berth/cabin type directly impacts the price of your ticket.

Main deck triple:	US\$6,700
Main deck:	US\$7,800
Superior:	US\$8,300
Superior Plus:	US\$9,000
Mini Suite:	US\$9,400
Heritage Suite:	US\$10,300

These prices are in US dollars per berth. A 25% deposit is required to secure your place.

The twin-berth cabins can be reserved as single cabins for 1.8x the standard price. There's also a mandatory charge of US\$500 per person to cover local fee payments.

To reserve your place, to get onto the waitlist once it's booked (there are often cancellations in the long lead-up to these expeditions) or just to ask more questions about the workshop, contact David or Michael:

David Burren
david@LuminOdyssey.com or 0411 471 634

Michael Snedic
info@WildNaturePhotoExpeditions.com
 or 0408 941 965



Heritage Expeditions
 Spirit of Enderby Deckplan

Cabin categories:

- **Heritage Suite:** Has a large lounge area, a separate bedroom with double bed, a single bed in the lounge, writing desk, wardrobe, drawers. There is a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. There are large forward and side facing windows to allow great views.
- **Mini Suites:** Have a separate bedroom with a double bed and a single bed or a sofa in the lounge, wardrobe, drawers, a desk and a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. The Mini Suites have windows.
- **Superior Plus cabins:** Cabins have two lower berths, wardrobe, drawers, desk, a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.
- **Superior cabins:** Cabins have bunks (an upper and lower berth), wardrobe, drawers, a desk, a private bathroom with shower, toilet and washbasin. These cabins have windows.
- **Main deck cabins:** Cabins have two lower berths, wardrobe, drawers, a desk, washbasin and porthole. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main deck cabins.
- **Main deck triple:** This cabin has one bunk (one upper and one lower) and one lower berth, wardrobe, drawers, a desk and wash basin. The nearby showers and toilets are shared with other Main deck cabins.

