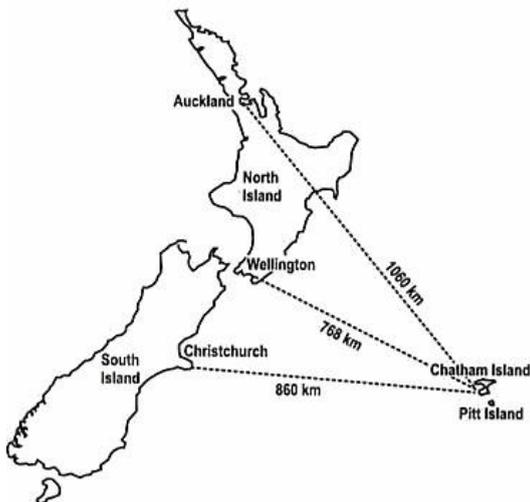




DISCOVER THE CHATHAM ISLANDS - 6 days/5 nights (ex Wellington) 4 December – 9 December 2020

The Chatham Islands is New Zealand's last frontier. 800km east of New Zealand mainland Chatham Islands is the first place in the world to see the sunrise each day. The Chatham Islands consists of approximately 51 islands, only two of which are inhabited - Chatham and Pitt. Chatham, the largest island has an area of around 92,000 hectares. Almost a quarter of the island is covered by lagoons and lakes. The largest is Te Whanga Lagoon, which dominates the eastern side and is intermittently open to the sea.

The descendants of the first settlers on the Chatham Islands were the Moriori (arriving at least 500 years ago). The Moriori developed a distinctive culture in the islands. The rich history of the islands and its first people still hold a strong presence to this day with their original name for Chatham Islands Rekohu, and the Maori name Wharekauri.



Chatham Islands offer unspoilt beaches, unique fauna, and flora, fishing and great local seafood.

The weather is typically oceanic with mixed conditions. Monthly temperature ranges from about 8 C in winter to 18 C in summer. Like the rest of New Zealand, it is possible to experience temperature and weather variations in the same day.

The Chatham Islands are 45 minutes ahead of New Zealand time.

Mobile phones can be left at home, as they will not work on the Islands (no cell phone service), providing an opportunity to relax and switch off from the world.

Friday 4 December 2020: Wellington – Chatham Island

Fly with AIR CHATHAM arriving in the afternoon and transfer to Hotel Chatham. During your stay we will visit the four corners of the Island and the special places in between, 3 full days of sightseeing included and 1 day left at leisure. On the extra day there will be several options (additional cost): Walking Tours, Geology Tour, Fishing & Diving, Bird Tours, Botanical tour, day tour to Pitt Island.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Flight: Wellington return flight to Chatham Island on AIR CHATHAM

Transfer on Chatham Island

3 full days guided tours Chatham Island

Five nights in comfortable Hotel Chatham including continental breakfast

4 x lunches (These maybe packed, depending on any additional arranged sightseeing)

5 dinners including a visit to Admirals Gardens and Farm with BBQ Dinner

Wednesday 9 December 2020: Transfer to the airport. Return flight to Wellington.

Places visited during included sightseeing are as follows (please note order may be changed to suit)..

Stone Cottage & Maunganui Bluff The cottage was built between 1866-1868, for the Moravian Missionaries who arrived in the Chathams in 1843. These German missionaries made no converts, but had a significant input into the history and lifestyle of the Chathams, introducing large-scale horticulture, sheep farming, ship building and literacy. The cottage is built largely of local stone and wood, which reflects the missionaries' attitudes. They were committed to the idea of being self reliant in their own lives, and as an example to others, and hence using only local materials.

Visiting the safest fishing harbour with the most shipwrecks on the island, at **Port Hutt**.

Visit of the amazing **Basalt Columns** at Waitangi West. Over farmland down to Ohira Bay lies massive olivine basalt columns, part of lava flows dated near 80 million years ago. These are another interesting geological formation - a series of pentagonal shaped volcanic rock columns on the shoreline, and not found anywhere else on the island and only two other places in the world. Giant's Causeway in Northern Island & Scotland .

Next stop is the **Moriori Kopinga Marae** sited on the hilltop at Te Awatea. This is the only Moriori marae in New Zealand. Kopinga Marae, shaped like an albatross when viewed from the air, continues to amaze visitors. Learn the culture, learn about the History of the first inhabitants fo the Island. Panoramic views across lake Huro to Waitangi and across Te Whanga to its entrance at Te Awapatiki.

Tommy Solomon Statue at Manakau, Owenga: Tommy Solomon, (7 May 1884 – 19 March 1933) is believed by most to have been the last full-blooded Moriori which were the indigenous people of the Chatham Islands.

Rangaiki Cliffs, 200-250m sheer drop cliffs, on a clear day amazing viewing point to Pitt and Mangere and surrounding Islands, also the best place to sight the seldom seen 44's looking east out to sea (cliffs are closed at the moment due to safety) A walk across farm land North of Te One Township to see **Moriori Rock Carving**.

Blind Jim's Creek (Fossilized Sharks Teeth) : On the shores of beautiful Te Whanga lagoon, near Blind Jim's Creek, careful fossicking is likely to be rewarded by the discovery of fossilised shark teeth. Around 30 million years old. These incredibly ancient objects are almost as scarce as hen's teeth but can be found in the Chatham Islands. To find a tooth from a creature that was eating fish long before the first primate - let alone the first human - walked the earth is amazing. I am sure that by the time you leave Te Whanga Lagoon you will all be in possession of one or many of these prized ancient fossils.

J M Barker Reserve (Hapupu) Tree Carvings , Dendroglyphs {tree carvings}. At Hapupu Historic Reserve we discover another unique archaeological site. Carved into the bark of kopi (karaka) trees within the reserve are Moriori tree carvings – known as dendroglyphs. They are among the little evidence of pre-contact Moriori culture remaining on the island. The last remaining live tree was expected to die and has done so during 2015 – 2017.

We also visit **Broughton Landing**—an old Mission and Whaling Station, and the farm 'Mission Station' owned by Jim Muirson. Jim has 1,400 hectares, running 3,000 Ewes and 350 Cows. This is where we will be able to view the remains of a wrecked RNZAF Short Sunderland and a newly arrived Fokker Friendship in the process of preservation. This particular Sunderland aircraft provided an aviation lifeline to the island until it was holed by a rock while taking off from the Te Whanga Lagoon in 1959.

A Minimum of 10 people are required to run this tour as a group tour (max group size 14)

DEPOSITS/ PAYMENTS:

A deposit of \$500 per person is required by 11 August 2020 to confirm your space. This becomes non-refundable on 7 September if we have reached minimum numbers.

Balance due 5 October 2020.

Cancellations between 5 October – 1 November = 50%

Cancellations between 2 November – 19 November = 75%

From 20 November 100%