A WILDLIFE AND BIRDING EXPEDITION
ABOARD THE CALEDONIAN SKY

Wild Kamchatka
AND Kuril Islands

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ABOARD THE CALEDONIAN SKY

May 20 to June 4, 2020

a program of the stanford alumni association
The Sea of Okhotsk is one of the planet’s least explored and most remarkable destinations for dramatic scenery, pristine tundra, indigenous cultures and a staggering abundance of wildlife. We begin this remarkable journey in northern Japan. At this time of year, millions of seabirds congregate to breed, mountain valleys are green with new vegetation and wildflowers carpet the tundra against a backdrop of snowcapped volcanoes. As we sail north along the volcanic Kuril Islands archipelago, watch for the magnificent Steller’s sea eagle, and scan the horizon for brown bears on the Kamchatka Peninsula, land of smoking volcanoes. Join Stanford Travel/Study faculty leader Daniel Sneider and Zegrahm Expeditions experts aboard the Caledonian Sky to explore this fascinating region.

Highlights

**WITNESS** huge concentrations of seabirds in a frenzy of breeding activity—northern fulmars, horned and tufted puffins, guillemots, black-legged kittiwakes and more.

**CRUISE** by Zodiac along rocky islets and uninhabited shores to search for the area’s prolific marine and wildlife—including seals, whales, bears and Arctic foxes.

**PHOTOGRAPH** a wide variety of stunning scenery, from towering volcanoes to tiny, desolate islands to wildflower-studded tundra.

**ENJOY** a performance of traditional Russian songs and dances in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk on Sakhalin Island.
“The world is not the same after you’ve seen it through the eyes of a knowledgeable Stanford scholar.”

ELIZABETH WEBB, MA ’65

Faculty Leader

DANIEL Sneider, a lecturer in international policy at Stanford University, has focused his studies on U.S. foreign policy in Northeast Asia. “This trip is a dream one for me, combining my life-long engagement with these two fascinating countries and a personal passion for birding. As a journalist, I visited Sakahlin and the disputed territory of the southern Kurils, and was one of the first American journalists allowed into Vladivostok.” During our program, Sneider will explore the historical rivalry between Japan and Russia that goes back more than a century and includes two major wars. He will also explain contemporary Japanese views of Russia and the role of the Far East in the Russian imagination and its current politics, economics and geopolitics. Additionally, Sneider will offer a glimpse into Hokkaido’s unique culture and position in Japan.

— Lecturer, international policy, Stanford University, and visiting researcher, Canon Institute for Global Studies, Tokyo
— Former associate director for research, and director, the Divided Memories and Reconciliation project and the Nationalism and Regionalism project, Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

Joining our Stanford Travel/Study faculty leader on this voyage are Zegrahm’s expedition leader Mike Moore; naturalists Rich Pagen, Brad Climpson, Conrad Field and Mark Brazil; marine biologist Jack Grove; and historian Steve Fisher.

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?kamchatka2020
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
Itinerary

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MAY 20 & 21
DEPART U.S. / SAPPORO, JAPAN
Board independent flights to Sapporo, arriving on Thursday, and check in to our hotel. Gather this evening for a welcome reception, dinner and orientation. SAPPORO GRAND HOTEL (5/21: D)

FRIDAY, MAY 22
SAPPORO / OTARU / EMBARK
After breakfast, join a tour of Sapporo’s highlights. Hokkaido is Japan’s northernmost island and during late May, flowers and trees should be bursting into bloom. Pass by historic buildings such as the city’s symbolic Clock Tower, the university, the charming red-brick Old Prefectural Office and several 1972 Winter Olympics sites. After lunch, transfer to the port of Otaru to embark our ship. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 23
TEURI ISLAND / RISHIRI ISLAND
Cruise past tiny Teuri Island at dawn where early risers may train their binoculars on one of the largest colonies of rhinoceros auklets in Asia. Watch as the birds leave the rocky cliffs en masse to feed in the productive surrounding waters. Continue cruising north to the classically cone-shaped volcano of Rishiri Island, where we stop to stroll or hike in the magnificent conifer forests of Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park. Visit the municipal museum to learn of the local history and view artifacts dating back more than 1,000 years. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 24
KORSAKOV, SAKHALIN ISLAND, RUSSIA / YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK
Today visit Sakhalin Island’s capital, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Founded as a small Russian settlement in the 1880s, the city became a Japanese prefect capital when the southern half of the island was declared a Japanese colony in 1905; after WWII it was returned to Russia. Visit the Russian Orthodox church; the Regional Museum, housed in an impressive former Japanese mansion; and the bustling market. Enjoy a performance of traditional Cossack song and dance from a group dressed in colorful costumes. Alternatively, join our ornithologist for a day of birding in the southern part of the island. Watch for Latham’s snipes, Eurasian bullfinches, white-tailed sea eagles, Siberian thrushes and Swinhoe’s robins. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MAY 25
TYULENIY ISLAND
Upon arrival at Tyuleniy Island, it’s immediately evident how it got its name, which means “seal” in Russian. Hundreds of northern fur seals and Steller sea lions cover the beaches—watch bulls defending their harems, males sparring and pups cavorting in the water. Birds fill whatever space the seals and sea lions have left unclaimed. Thousands of common murre and kittiwakes cover the cliffs and fly overhead. Other bird species include crested auklets, Siberian rubythroats and Pallas’s warblers, with sightings possible of red-necked stints and narcissus flycatchers. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 26
BROUTONA ISLAND, KURIL ISLANDS / CHIRPoy ISLAND
Today we arrive in the Kuril Islands, an archipelago of 56 large and small islands, nearly equal to the Hawaiian Islands in landmass, stretching some 700 nautical miles between Japan and Kamchatka. Young in geological years, the Kurils are still bursting forth with volcanic action, with 40 active volcanoes. Take a Zodiac cruise past the sheer cliffs of uninhabited Broutona Island, watching for the northern fulmars and fork-tailed storm petrels that nest here. Continue to the dramatic headlands of Chirpoy Island, also home to thousands of breeding seabirds. While black-legged kittiwakes and thick-billed murre are among the more numerous species, we may also spot red-faced and pelagic cormorants. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27
SIMUSHIR ISLAND / YANKICHA ISLAND
This morning discover Simushir Island’s spectacular geology, which features a string of extinct volcanoes, well-wooded slopes and a flooded crater at its northern tip. The crater’s narrow pass opens into a nearly hidden bay that was home to a secret Russian military base from 1978 to 1991. Nearly 2,000 occupants inhabited the keyhole harbor, where Russian submarines were based. Enjoy some time to wander among the abandoned buildings and other relics of this former military base.

THURSDAY, MAY 28
SREDNEGO STRAIT
Today cruise past the islands near the Srednego Strait. Often enshrouded in fog, the rugged columnar stacks of these islands are home to thousands of nesting seabirds. Here, we’ll find northern fulmars, guillemots, black-legged kittiwakes and whiskered auklets, as well as large populations of Steller sea lions and northern fur seals. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 29
LOVYSHKI ISLANDS
We next stop at the Lovyshki Islands, small, rocky islets that offer the perfect resting place for thousands upon thousands of northern fur seals. Sightings of crested auklets are also a possibility here. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MAY 30
ONEKOTAN ISLAND
Beautiful Onekotan Island boasts an impressive 4,000-foot-high volcano with a deep, almost perfectly circular crater lake in its center. Small streams and waterfalls tumble down the hillsides to the beach, while lush tundra slopes are the habitat for red foxes and myriad bird species, such as the red-throated pipit. Scan the rugged and rocky ledges for seabirds while taking a shoreside walk with our naturalist. The area was once inhabited by the Ainu, and we may have the chance to investigate ruins of their former dwellings. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 1
RUSSKAYA BAY, KAMCHATKA PENINSULA
Reminiscent of a Norwegian fjord, the craggy shores of Russkaya Bay served as a natural shelter for ships in the past. The imposing inland mountains and volcanoes add to the dramatic impact of this spectacular bay, where we find seabirds such as horned and tufted puffins, cormorants, kiltiwakes and auklets, as well as a wealth of marine mammals. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 2
ZHUPOVNA RIVER
Board Zodiacs to negotiate the shallow and meandering Zhuponova River, with superb opportunities for both birding and nature walks. Heading upstream, we’re likely to spot up to 40 species of birds, including such special Siberian species as the yellow-billed loon, yellow-breasted bunting, common greenshank and Far Eastern curlew. Heading downriver, scan the skies for the magnificent Steller’s sea eagle. Enjoy a farewell reception celebrating our voyage this evening before dinner. CALEDONIAN SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY / DISEMBARK / SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
After breakfast on board, disembark the Caledonian Sky and transfer to the airport in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatksy for our charter flight to Seoul, arriving in time for dinner. GRAND HYATT INCHON (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 4
SEOUL / U.S.
Board independent homeward flights, arriving in the U.S. the same day. (B)
Caledonian Sky

The Caledonian Sky, formerly the Hebridean Spirit, is a 114-passenger premier expedition ship refurbished in 2012. All cabins have an ocean view, en suite bathroom with walk-in shower and/or bathtub, spacious wardrobe or walk-in closet, safe, mini-bar, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, flat-screen television and sitting area with sofa. Eight of the suites feature private balconies. The ship’s amenities include a dining room, two lounges with bar service, library, small gym, sun deck with comfortable lounge chairs, hairdresser, laundry service and gift shop. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The Caledonian Sky’s chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served in a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CATEGORY 1</td>
<td>$14,980</td>
<td>$18,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Castle Deck</td>
<td>244 sq. ft., with 2 portholes, shower</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATEGORY 2</td>
<td>$15,980</td>
<td>$19,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caledonian Deck</td>
<td>232 sq. ft., with large window, bathtub, shower (except #329, #330 and #331—shower only)</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 3</td>
<td>$16,880</td>
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<td>Promenade Deck</td>
<td>217 sq. ft., with large window, shower (except #431 and #432—shower, bathtub)</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 4</td>
<td>$18,780</td>
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<td>Promenade Deck</td>
<td>217 sq. ft., with sliding glass door, shower</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 5</td>
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<td>Promenade Deck</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 6</td>
<td>$23,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge Deck</td>
<td>217 sq. ft., plus 60-sq.-ft., private balcony, sliding glass doors, walk-in wardrobe, shower, bathtub</td>
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*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

**Dates**
May 20 to June 4, 2020 (16 days)

**Size**
This program can accommodate a total of 96 participants, including travelers from Stanford and Zegrahm Expeditions. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

**Included**
- 2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 12-night cruise aboard the Caledonian Sky
- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 14 dinners
- Charter flight from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to Seoul on 6/3
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**Not Included**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare (except for the charter flight above)
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**Air Arrangements**
You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

**What to Expect**
For most activities, a relatively moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb, unaided, in and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore. Many of the landings will be “wet” and require that you wear waterproof, knee-high boots. Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances over occasionally rough and often slippery terrain. We’ve designed our shore excursions to accommodate both those who enjoy gentle strolls and those who prefer more active hikes. Summer temperatures in the Kamchatka region range from approximately 40 °F to the low 60s, but can get down into the high 30s, and high winds are also possible. Flexibility is a must, as itineraries are subject to change, and landings may be tidal- or weather-dependent. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space for this program. A $200-per-person deposit is required to reserve space for the optional Hokkaido pre-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?kamchatka2020 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember price. To purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

**Responsibility**
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2019 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
Wild Kamchatka AND Kuril Islands

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alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy

“I can’t imagine a better way to visit such a remote area.”

ROBERT WINTHROP, '69, GREENLAND TO ICELAND, 2018

STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

YANKICHIA ISLAND, KURIL ISLANDS, RUSSIA