

TRIP REPORT

Inala Guide: Paul Brooks | Oct 31, 2024



Hero Image of : White-capped Albatross - Eaglehawk Neck Pelagic. Author: T. Dougherty

Southern Ocean Pelagic

31.10.24 Eaglehawk Neck

The tour faced strong southerlies, rough seas, and several showers, some heavy, resulting in high numbers of birds but very low diversity. Despite these challenging conditions, we observed a remarkable 9,520 individual birds across 19 species. Highlights included large numbers of **Short-tailed Shearwaters** (around 9,000), **Great Crested Terns** (100), and **Australasian Gannets** (100). Gulls were represented by **Silver Gulls** (50), **Kelp Gulls** (80), and **Pacific Gulls** (2). Among the impressive albatross sightings were **Southern Royal Albatrosses** (8), **Northern Royal Albatrosses** (2), **White-capped Albatrosses** (40, including 2 steady), **Black-browed Albatrosses** (1 with 4 from the Campbell subspecies), and a single **Buller's Albatross**. Storm-Petrels included **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (30) and **Grey-backed Storm-Petrels** (2), while petrel sightings included **Northern Giant-Petrels** (3), a **Pintado Petrel** (Antarctic), and **White-chinned Petrels** (10). Other notable sightings included **Black-faced Cormorants** (80), **Wedge-tailed Eagles** (2), and a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**.

Due to strengthening winds, the trip was cut short, but not before we encountered at least five **Humpback Whales**, including a calf, with some individuals breaching and tail-slapping. The seas were also home to **Short-beaked Common Dolphins**, **Oceanic Bottlenose Dolphins**, **Brown Fur Seals**, and **Long-nosed Fur Seals**.



On behalf of Inala - thanks for touring with us.



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