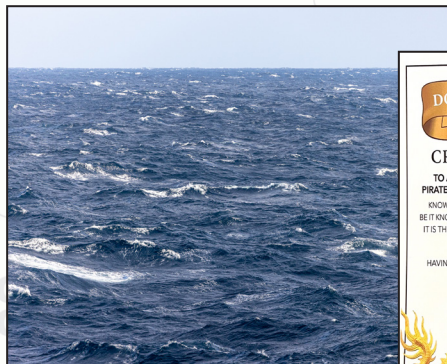


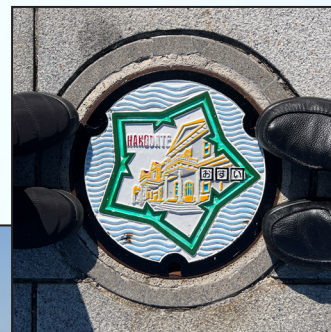
New Zealand 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Leaving Dutch Harbor, our last stop along the Alaska Aleutian Island chain, we headed into the rough Bering Sea, then into the rough North Pacific and eventually south east across the International Date line and onto Japan.



After seven days of rough seas we arrived at our first stop in Japan, Hakodate. The bad weather affected our itinerary so that we did not get to visit Kushiro on Hokkaido and see the Red-Crowned Cranes. Hakodate, had a plethora of interesting manhole covers.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN



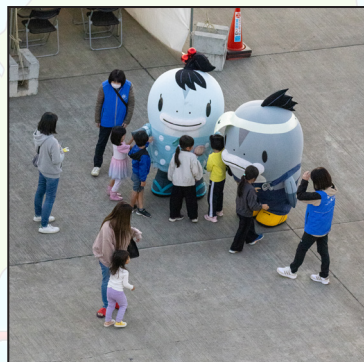
New Zealand 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN



Most of the ports we visited in Japan had welcoming groups and events. Dock side there were usually booths for food and merchandise as well as transportation into the downtown areas of the port.

Miyako is of historical importance to the Pacific Northwest. On 27 January 1700, the coast of Miyako was hit by a tsunami that was a product of a magnitude 8.7-9.2 Cascadia earthquake off the coast of Pacific Northwest. This event was recorded in Japanese tsunami records and with other data used to put the Cascadia earthquake at about 9:00 PM Pacific Time on the evening of January 26, 1700.



Wendy got a dock side lesson on a loom.



New Zealand 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Miyako was a pretty small city and an enjoyable walk. Our ship the Regatta seems to be a repeat customer here.

Radical pruning!



Bicycle parking box



Lots of vending machines along the streets, in particular at public transportation hubs.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

We got a nice send off from Miyako and sailed off into another nice sunset.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

The surf was up as we came into Oarai the next day



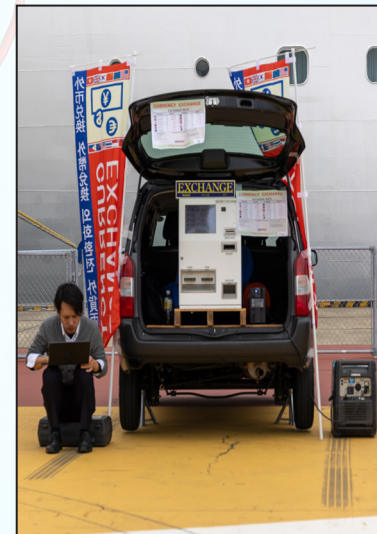
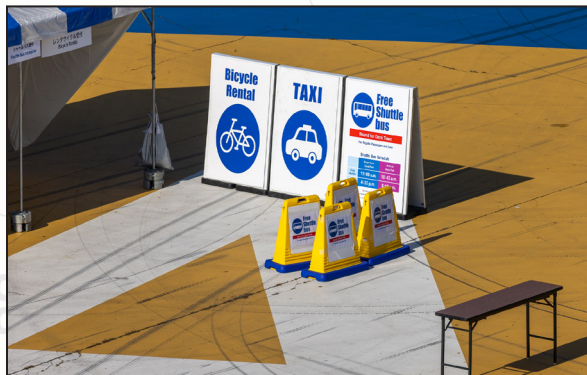
In most of the ports in Japan there were tsunami control walls, structures and gates. This one in Oarai.



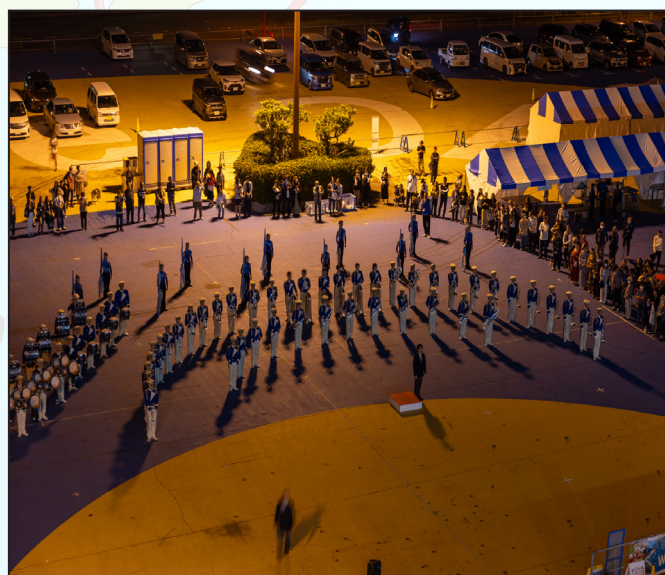
New Zealand 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Oarai's welcoming group and event, with their own version of dock side booths for food, merchandise and transportation.



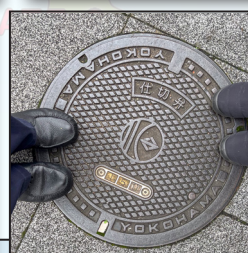
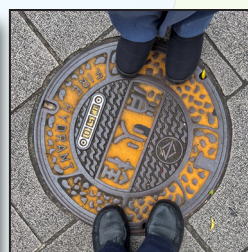
Oarai provided a send off comparable but different to others we had.



New Zealand 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Yokohama, our next port, had a great selection of manhole covers too.

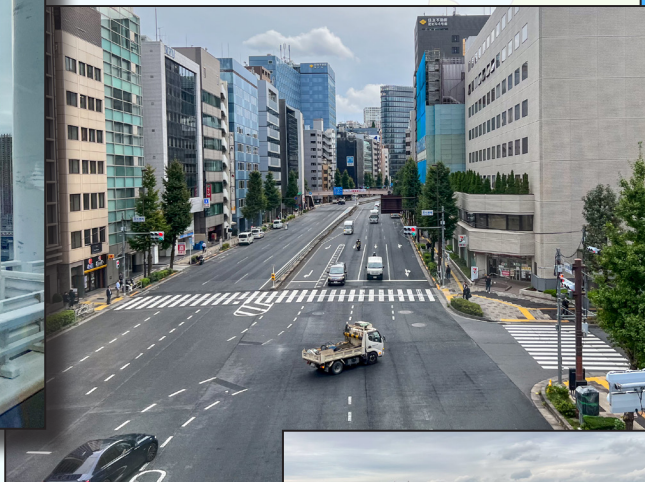




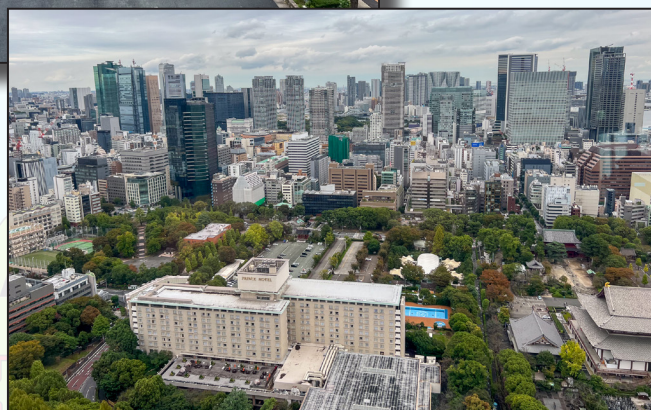
NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

We took a bus ride into Tokyo for an hour or so visit.



We went to Tokyo Tower and I defied death by standing on the glass walkway looking down at the distant tarmac.



Not sure why anyone would buy one of these AND expect to drive it anymore than 5 miles per hour in the Tokyo stop and go traffic! What a waste of a perfectly good performance sports car.

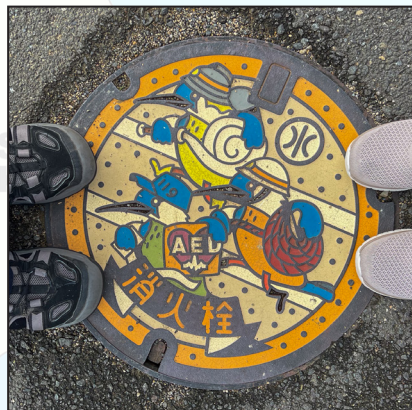




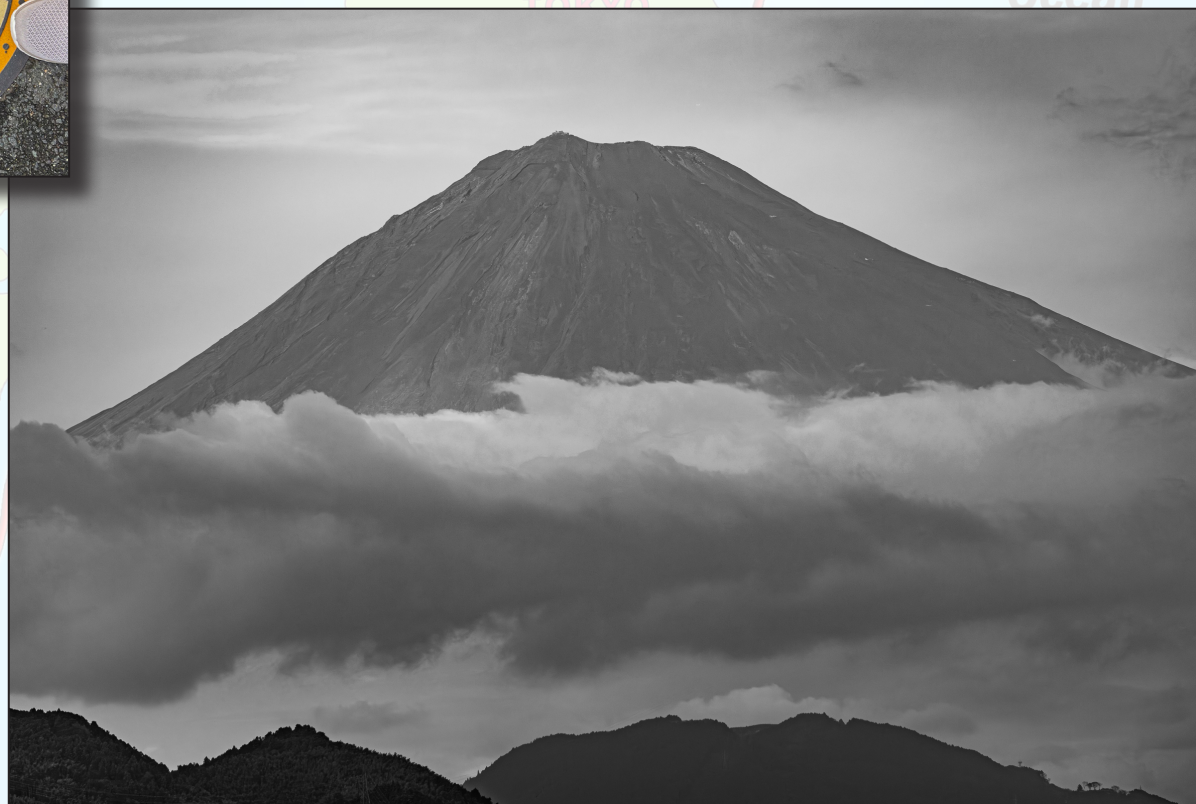
NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

We left after dark to the bright lights of the Yokohama port.



Shimizu, our portal to Mt. Fuji, was the next stop.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Our ship's arrival helpers.



We saw some familiar brands as we walked around Shimizu.



Views of Shimizu and Mt. Fuji as we left port.



NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Dusk sunlight lite up and highlighted this ship as we continued on towards our next stop, Kobe.



HAKODATE

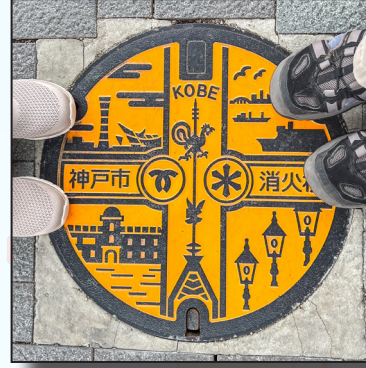
Most mornings my Situation Room would be in this area of the ship, a large lounge area with glass windows looking forward as well as port and starboard.



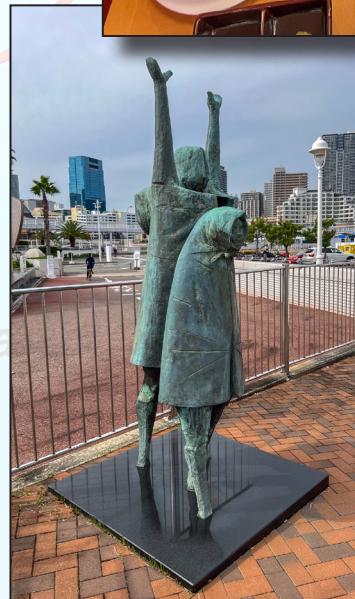
NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

Kobe offered a nice variety of manhole covers too.



We found a restaurant where we could try a dinner of the famous Kobe beef. Being on a budget we did have to cook it ourselves though.



NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

The Great Hanshin Earthquake occurred on January 17, 1995. It measured 6.9 and lasted for approximately 20 seconds. The center of the earthquake was located 20 km (about 12 miles) away from the center of the city of Kobe. At least 5,000 people died as a result of this earthquake; about 4,600 of them were from Kobe. Damage was widespread and severe. Structures irreparably damaged by the earthquake included nearly 400,000 buildings, numerous elevated road and rail bridges, and 120 of the 150 quays in the port of Kobe. The quake triggered approximately 300 fires, which raged over large portions of the city.

Below is Meriken Park (meaning “American Park,” named after the former American consulate that was nearby). In a corner of this peaceful garden stands a series of stone monuments and the preserved remains of a quay damaged during the Great Hanshin Earthquake.



NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN



On a day of inclement non-walking weather we took a bus ride to Osaka to see the Umeda Sky Building. The Umeda Sky Building is a two-tower skyscraper consisting of two 40-story towers interconnected at their two uppermost stories via glass bridges with escalators and elevators that cross an open atrium space.

Construction started with the construction of the twin towers using reinforced concrete, while the construction of the sky deck began afterwards. As the structural works of the towers were completed, the sky deck was raised from the ground using a set of hydraulic elevators, the first time this was done in a construction project. The installation of the glass-layered

escalators and elevators also followed the same system. It was pretty wet and windy on the open air top platform, but I braved a walk around it to take in the overcast and wet views of Osaka. Wendy declined to take the walk with me, choosing the more dry, covered and windowed interior views instead.





NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

We also took a walk on the Osaka Castle grounds.



Left, in 1970 two time capsules identical in every detail were buried adjacent to Osaka Castle. The lower capsule will remain buried for 5,000 years; the upper capsule will be opened for the first time in the year 2,000 and every 100 years thereafter.



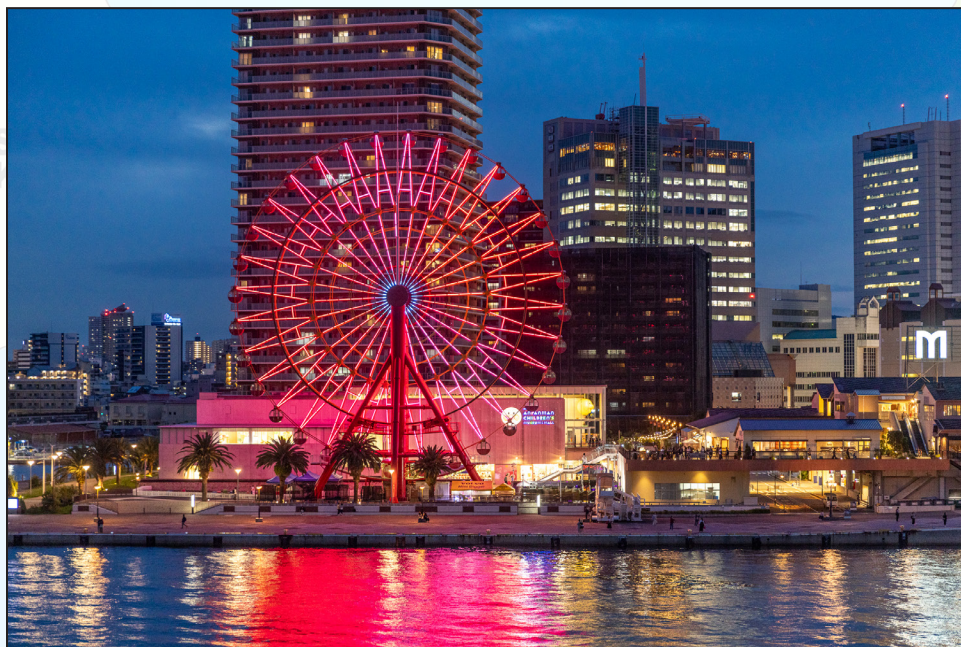
NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

After our bus ride to Osaka, we returned to Kobe and continued our sea journey south with a little guidance from another tug.



As we left Kobe to more bright city lights, a traveling light pattern was displayed across the Ferris wheel that spelled out "Bon Voyage Regatta".



New Zealand 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN



Our next stop was Hiroshima, where we visited ground zero of the atomic bomb that was dropped there.



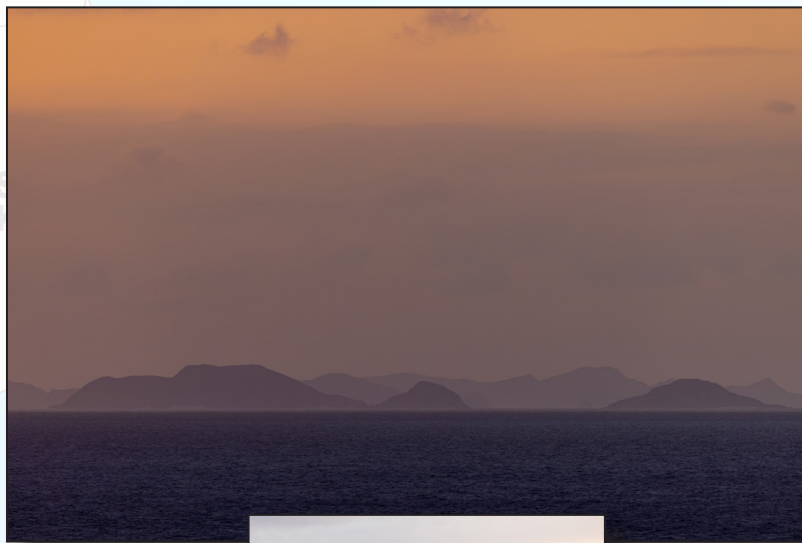
NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN

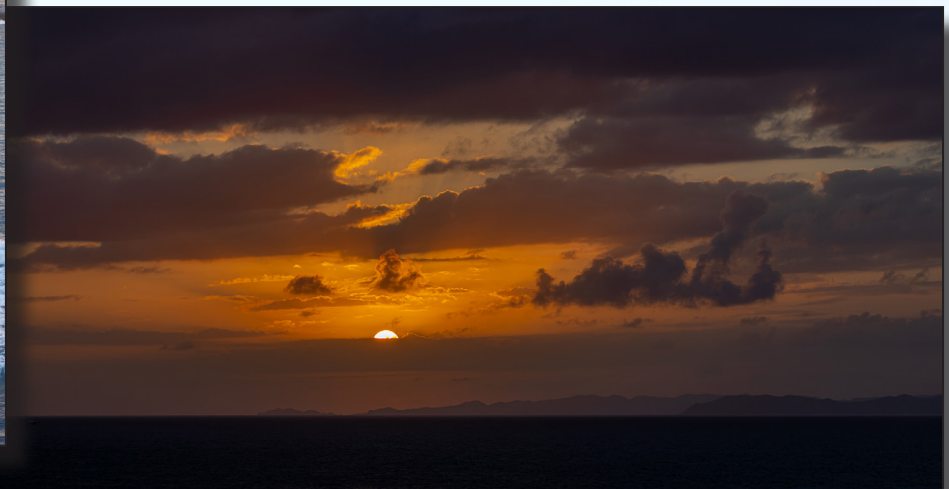
A total of four stops in Japan were canceled due to bad weather and seas. Our last stop in Japan was Naha, the capital city of Okinawa Prefecture, the southernmost prefecture of Japan.



After a short visit to Naha we were escorted back out to sea and onward on our journey towards New Zealand.



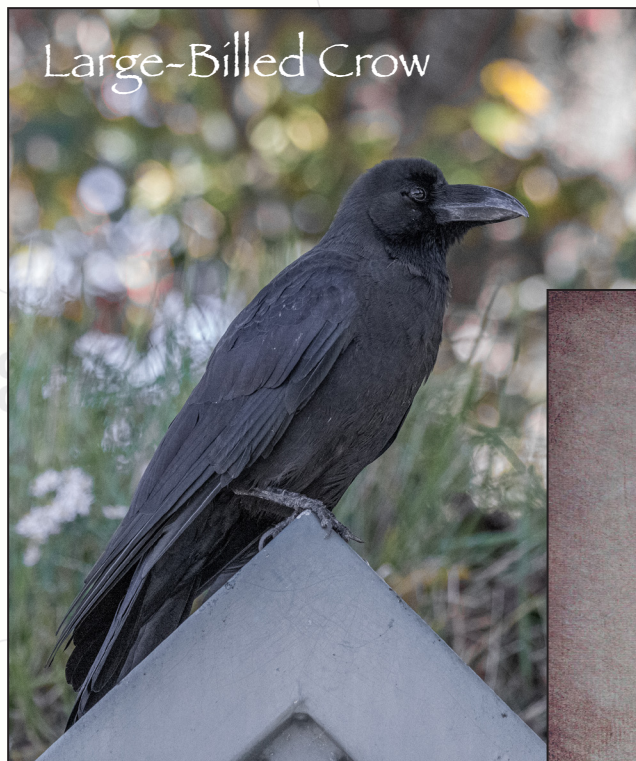
We saw this kind of sign in Naha as well as some other cities in Japan.





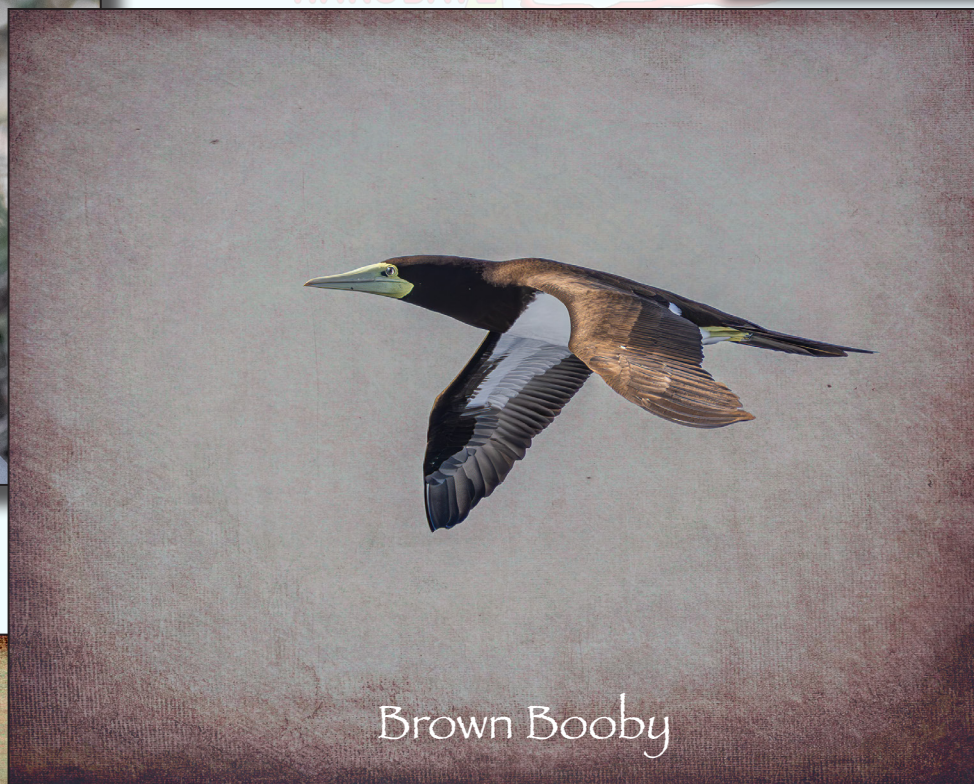
NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN



Large-Billed Crow

Birds seen from Dutch Harbor,
Alaska to Naha, Japan



Brown Booby



Cormorant



NEW ZEALAND 2024 /2025

PART III: JAPAN



Pomarine Jaeger

A note about manhole covers, especially in Japan. I first heard of manhole cover photographs when they were used as the subject matter of a 1970s art slide show another artist had created. Several years later I started photographing ones that were interesting as a kind of found street art, especially when we traveled. After many years of doing that, Wendy and I started including ourselves standing ones that included the location as a sort of photographic memento of our travels. I even started using them in our travelogues as a sort of 'drop cap' for introductory paragraphs of specific locations.

In late 2024 a writer we know, Claire Rogers, contacted me about doing a story for a column she writes for the Tucson, Arizona magazine *Desert Leaf* called "Uncommon Collections". Claire told me that manhole cover photographs were a 'thing', of even cult status for some, especially in Japan. Claire finished the story and published it, highlighting my work. In the meantime, our interest in Japan and what manhole covers we might find was piqued even more and many of what we found is in this travelogue. If you want to read that *Desert Leaf* Uncommon Collections article here is the link (or just click on preceding text):

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/uyvk/yhic/#p=8>

.END



Large-Billed Crow



Black-Tailed Gull