



Great Walk Rakiura Stewart Island

4 day / 3 night Package

From: \$1265pp

Stewart Island is a true nature's paradise and offers a special experience - a glimpse into a simpler, slower lifestyle, in rhythm with the sea and the tides. 85% of the island's 1570 square kilometres is a National Park – Rakiura National Park. Stewart Island also has a Dark Sky Sanctuary accreditation by the International Dark Sky Association. Whether you want to enjoy the land, sea and night-scapes, view the wildlife, walk, boat, fish, dive, kayak, hunt or just relax - a Stewart Island holiday is an experience that you will treasure for ever and a must-do experience.

Day 1 Bluff to Stewart Island

Your journey starts in Bluff where you will board the Ferry to Stewart Island*. Experience Foveaux Strait onboard an express catamaran. During the one-hour crossing on the Stewart Island Ferry between Bluff and Oban keep a lookout for wildlife, especially seabirds. Comprehensive commentaries provide information on the interesting landmarks commonly seen, including Dog Island Lighthouse, Ruapuke Island, the Titi Islands and Mt Anglem - Stewart Island's highest point. After crossing Foveaux Strait and arriving at Oban – the main settlement on Stewart Island you will be transferred to the Bay Motel.

This afternoon explore Oban and the surrounding bays in a mini-bus tour. Experienced guides enjoy sharing their local knowledge of the history and environment of Stewart Island with you. Gain an insight into New Zealand's southernmost community. Stewart Islanders are proud of their island, enjoying its simpler, slower pace. Highlights include Lee Bay, the gateway to Rakiura National Park and stunning views of Paterson Inlet from Observation Rock during this 1 hour tour. On return to the motel you have the afternoon free to relax.

Day 2 Ulva Island Explorer Tour & Wild Kiwi Encounter

Ulva Island (Te Wharawhara), is renowned for its diverse and abundant birdlife with a forest dominated by Rimu, Southern Rata and Kamahi, surrounded by marine reserve. It was visited by Ngai Tahu Maori as part of their food gathering trips and in the 1890s it became one of New Zealand's first reserves. This 267 hectare island is now predator free, allowing the bird and plantlife to thrive. Enjoy a leisurely cruise from Halfmoon Bay viewing hidden coves and unspoilt beaches. Along the way learn about the early Maori history and European settlement including whaling. Your skipper and nature guide provide detailed commentary throughout the cruise and are happy to answer any questions. While on board, keep a lookout for fur seals, penguins and other wildlife, as sightings are common. Then disembark at Ulva Island for a 45-minute guided walk with a specialist nature guide. View rare plants and rich birdlife, including the inquisitive weka, which are often seen on the beach. Returning to the motel in the afternoon.

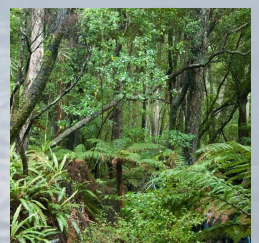
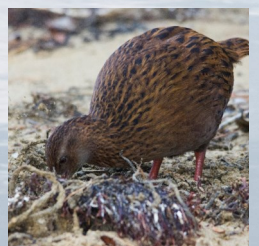
At dusk depart from Stewart Island's Halfmoon Bay in a catamaran for a cruise across Paterson Inlet to Little Glory Cove. During the cruise, pass Ulva Island and learn about Stewart Island's rich history. Once at Little Glory Cove, disembark onto a wharf at the southern part of the peninsula known as The Neck. The walk, led by your nature guide, is on a well-formed track across the peninsula, through spectacular coastal forest to a secluded sandy beach. As dusk sets in and daylight diminishes, venture by torchlight through the native forest with the stars and forest night sounds around you. The walk will take about 45 minutes one-way and the track emerges on to Ocean Beach. This wide sandy beach is where kiwi are often found feeding among the grasses and seaweed. Afterwards retrace your steps through the forest to Little Glory Wharf for your catamaran ride back to Oban township on Stewart Island.

Day 3 Great Walk Rakiura Track - unguided 1/2 day Freedom Walk

Enjoy a walk on one of the most popular coastal and native bush walks on Stewart Island. Water taxi to Port William, site of early Maori settlement, before continuing on to beautiful Maori beach. This was also where early Maori settled and later became a saw milling community in the early 1900s. Then make your way to Lee Bay via Little River, a stunning tidal river mouth, overhanging with Rata trees. Along the coast lookout for a plethora of birdlife, such as, Mutton birds (Sooty Shearwaters), Shags, Buller's Mollymawks, Cape Pigeons, and little Blue Penguins. In the native bush you may see and hear Bellbirds, Tui, Fantails, Parakeets, Shining Cuckoos, Grey Warblers, Kaka and Tomtits and more. Walking time: duration 4-5 hours including Water Taxi.

Day 4 Stewart Island to Bluff

Today it is time to depart this paradise island and return to real life. Board the catamaran and enjoy the cruise across the Strait to Bluff. (*Return flights to Stewart Island are available at a surcharge.)



Bay Motel Stewart Island

With panoramic views of the Tasman Sea, Bay Motel overlooks Halfmoon Bay on Stewart Island. All units have views of Half Moon Bay or the surrounding bush. Enjoy the view from your balcony, listening to the local birdlife.



Stewart Island Lodge

Private and secluded, Stewart Island Lodge is a nice place to relax in comfort while providing a base for your Island exploration. It's just five minutes' walk from the village centre where there are restaurants and a small pub. Set on a hillside overlooking Halfmoon Bay.



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Stewart Island, Ulva Island, Kiwi Spotting, Walk on Rakiura Track, Stewart Island Return Ferry

Three nights accommodation at Bay Motel including Continental Breakfast Daily (B)

Sightseeing includes

- Stewart Island Return Ferry
- Orientation tour
- Guided Ulva Island Visit
- Wild Kiwi Encounter
- Unguided Freedom Walk on Rakiura Track

DOC Concessions where applicable included

TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

Domestic Air Fares, Additional /Optional Tour Costs, Hotel Mini Bar, Sightseeing/Meals not stated in Itinerary

NOTE:

The 1/2 Day Freedom Walk on Rakiura Track is unguided, we recommend a good level of fitness, tramping boots and sensible hiking clothing for all weather conditions.

PAYMENTS:

A non-refundable deposit of \$450 per person is required at the time of booking. The balance of the package price is required 45 days prior to your travel date. If you book inside 45 days, full payment will be required at the time of booking. Payment can be made by bank transfer. If you cancel between 31 and 45 days prior to your travel date 30% of your tour cost will be charged. Cancellations less than 31 days of departure will incur a 100% cancellation charge. Inspired New Zealand Tours recommends purchasing travel insurance, even when travelling within New Zealand.

TOUR PRICE:

\$1265.00 Per Person on a Share Twin Basis.
Single Supplement: Additional \$820.00 per person.

Surcharge for Flights*: \$140.00 per person.

Surcharge for Stewart Island Lodge Upgrade: enquire for pricing.

Valid for departures 01 Oct 2023 until 30 Sep 2024.
Minimum 2 passengers.

At times various operators on Stewart Island will not operate due to not reaching minimum numbers or operational issues. In these cases we will endeavour to find alternative activities which may not match the above itinerary. Surcharges may apply.

See Website for full Terms and Conditions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Full Terms and conditions are listed on the Inspired New Zealand Tours website. When a booking is made it is accepted that these are agreed to. They include the following: Itineraries are correct when initially published, however are subject to change due to circumstances outside our control. Flights are the responsibility of the passenger and Inspired New Zealand Tours takes no responsibility for costs involved for any changes to flights that might be required due to necessary amendments in itineraries.

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