



Stewart island

RAKIURA | NEW ZEALAND

Past and present –

explore our heritage, take a road tour, watch the night sky

Explore our heritage. Rakiura Museum boasts a nationally significant collection and showcases the development of industries based on Stewart Island's rich natural resources which first attracted the Maori followed by a cosmopolitan mix of settlers - sealers, prospectors, timber millers, ship builders, whalers, fisherman and tourism providers.

*Our Heritage
Tours & Activities*

Take a scenic road tour. If you don't fancy the challenge of 280 kilometres of Stewart Island walking tracks, how about a road tour instead? With just 28 kilometres of road to explore, why not book a guided tour and listen to tales of island history, explore the beach and Anchor Chain at Lee Bay, where the road ends and the Rakiura "great walk" begins, and perhaps even try making a phone call from the iconic 'telephone tree'. Various modes of transport are available for road tours, catering for single travellers to large groups.

Tours & Activities

Stargazing. With minimal light pollution, Stewart Island is one of the best places in New Zealand to marvel at the night sky, although it has surprised many Northern hemisphere visitors that the moon and northern constellations appear upside down! We have superb views of large and small Magellanic clouds, two galaxies visible to the naked eye at 170,000 light years away. Orion's Belt (also known as The Pot) is easily recognisable by the three brightest stars in a line when facing north. Apps that map the night sky and show passing satellites are available to download on smartphones and tablets.

Aurora Australis or Southern Lights. If the evening is clear and conditions are right, look up, look south and hope for a light show. Stewart Island is a great place to watch this natural phenomenon. Observation Rock is a popular site with local Aurora watchers. Apps that indicate the likelihood of visible Aurora Australis are available to download on smartphones and tablets or join the Aurora Australis Facebook page.

Simply incredible