



Stewart island

RAKIURA | NEW ZEALAND

Focus on flora and fauna -

stroll through paradise, watch the seabirds, spot a kiwi!

Stroll through paradise on Ulva Island. This open sanctuary is New Zealand at its most pristine; a place of natural primeval beauty, where the sounds of ancient birdsong can be heard. It is one of the few predator-free open sanctuaries in New Zealand and the well-maintained walking tracks provide easy access to diverse birdlife, lush forest and beautiful beaches. Situated in Paterson Inlet, just a 7-minute water taxi ride away from Golden Bay Wharf, Ulva Island can be enjoyed independently or as part of a guided walk. Please check your footwear, clothing (especially velcro) and bags to ensure you are not unwittingly transporting weeds, seeds and rodents to Ulva Island, and remember to bring all rubbish back with you.

Going it alone? Grab a self guide booklet, pack some lunch, take a water taxi to Ulva Island, and allow at least 3-4 hours to explore this paradise for bird watchers and natural history lovers. Or take a guided walk to learn about the native birds and plants of Ulva Island and its history. Tour group sizes, departure locations and length of excursions vary.

The Ulva Island self-guide booklet is produced by the Ulva Island Charitable Trust and is available from Ulva Island wharf, Department of Conservation and local retailers for a small fee.

*Activities > Ulva Island
Cruises & Fishing
Guided Walks
Tours & Activities
Water Taxi*

Watch the seabirds or enjoy a scenic cruise. Find your sea legs and hop onboard a boat to watch seabirds soar and skim the waves with ease. Regular sightings on pelagic excursions include a number of albatross species as well as petrels and shearwaters. Depending on the time of year, three species of penguin can also be seen. Guided options available. See coastal Stewart Island from the water - view wildlife in Paterson Inlet, take a scenic ride up Freshwater River, view the marine farms, or venture further afield to Port Pegasus. Experience the rich history at Whalers' Base - a protected marine heritage site - which in 2014 was declared an archaeological site by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, making it the first marine heritage site in the country

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Spot a kiwi. The Rakiura (Stewart Island) Tokoeka is one of five species of kiwi in New Zealand and Stewart Island offers one of the best opportunities to see this iconic bird in the wild. Kiwi represent the uniqueness of New Zealand wildlife and are a national icon - we therefore recommend you join an organised evening tour with a knowledgeable guide to look for kiwi so that these birds are not disturbed or viewed under inappropriate conditions.

*Guided Walks
Tours & Activities*