

FISH, BIKE, HIKE!

Catch a fish! The crystal clear waters surrounding Stewart Island offer exceptional fishing opportunities, whether it's teaching the kids to fish for spotties off the wharf or an organised fishing excursion. Use a rod or traditional hand line to catch your own dinner! Blue Cod is the usual target and the catch is shared between those on board. Recreational Fishing Rules and regulations for coastal Stewart Island, Marine Reserve and Matakaitai areas in Paterson Inlet are available from the Department of Conservation.

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Hop on a bike! Rent a bike for a few hours and you'll be surprised where 28 kilometres of Stewart Island roads can lead you. Take your time, stop and enjoy the stunning scenery, lush rain forest, flora and fauna and sandy beaches. Enjoy a picnic at Moturau Moana Native Gardens or family friendly Butterfield Beach has a shelter, childrens' play area and pay-as-you-cook-BBQ. Try calling home from the iconic "telephone tree" near Horseshoe Bay, and visit the anchor chain and Matariki sculptures at Lee Bay, where the road ends and the walking track begins. Bike hire options include electric bikes, mountain bikes, and motor scooters - safety equipment is provided. New Zealand Code for Cyclists applies to Stewart Island.

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The anchor chain symbolises the connection between Rakiura (Stewart Island) and Te Wai Pounamu (the South Island). It is said that demigod Māui, fished up Te Ika-a-Māui (the North Island) from his canoe (the South Island) which was anchored to Stewart Island. The late Russell Beck created the Lee Bay anchor chain sculpture in 2002 and its twin at Stirling Point was installed in 2009 at Bluff on the South Island.

The Tupuārangi pou (post/column) at Rakiura (Stewart Island) represents one of nine stars in the Matariki cluster. Matariki is the Māori name for the star cluster also known as Pleiades and marks the start of the Māori New Year, heralding a time of remembrance, joy and peace. The Tupuārangi pou was created by James York and Keri Whaitiri and is part of the Matariki wayfinding pou project connecting locations throughout the Southland region of New Zealand.

Take a hike! Stewart Island caters for walkers and hikers of all ages and abilities, from 10 minute strolls to multi-day hikes, with a variety of scenery and terrain. Depending on tide and weather conditions it may be possible to combine fly/walk/boat activities and compare the diverse east and west coasts of Stewart Island in a day. Guided options are available for many Stewart Island walks. Observation Rock provides a panoramic view across Paterson Inlet. Enjoy the sunset or if conditions are right, Aurora Australis. The rich natural forest of Fuchsia Walk offers a short bush walk for those wishing to avoid the road when heading towards Golden Bay. It links with Raroa Reserve Track to the peaceful Thule Bay and quaint boat sheds. Bathing Beach track rewards walkers with golden sands and the option of a swim in sheltered clear waters - at low tide remnants of timber are visible from early milling days at Mill Creek. Further out of the Oban township walkers can explore the island's oldest structure, Acker's Cottage at Harrold's Bay. On the way back take a detour to Ringaringa Point and discover the history of missionaries at Wohlers Monument. Or purchase the Rakiura Heritage Walk brochure for a small fee at Rakiura Museum / Te Puka O Te Waka, which plots a fascinating perambulation to ten historical sites, including the peaceful haven that is Moturau Moana Native Gardens.

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