

STROLL, CRUISE, INTO THE NIGHT!

Stroll through paradise at 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. Going it alone? Grab a self guide booklet, pack some lunch, book 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. 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.

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

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Hop onto 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 may also be seen. Or discover the exquisite scenery and wildlife of Paterson Inlet on a coastal Stewart Island cruise. Take a scenic trip up Freshwater River or experience the rich history at Whaling Base in Prices Inlet which in 2014 was declared an archaeological site by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Venture further afield for a day trip to the spectacularly rugged Port Pegasus.

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Search for 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.

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