

The Stewart Island Track



An Unspoilt Southern Paradise - Lush rainforests, sweeping bays and amazing flora and fauna

tour highlights

- Lush rainforests
- Sweeping bays
- Amazing flora and fauna
 - Bird sanctuary
 - Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

tours run

Tours run:

Our Stewart Island Track Tours depart several times a month, from late October to April. Please enquire for dates available or view our website

www.tuataratours.co.nz

tour cost

2019/ 2020

Starting in Invercargill:

NZD \$2495

fast facts

Custom Groups: Options are available for this tour*

*Please enquire for further information



the tour

Lush rainforests, sweeping bays and amazing flora and fauna — you'll find all this and more on the **Stewart Island Track**. You'll fly, hike, and water-taxi on this 5-day trip. Highlights include the bird sanctuary at nearby Ulva Island, remote Mason Bay, and the only town — pretty Oban, home to just 400 hardy souls. Join our expert guide for an in-depth hiking tour of this remarkable island.

about your guide

Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history. They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.

at a glance

DAY 1 INVERCARGILL

DAY 2 INVERCARGILL TO MASON BAY, STEWART ISLAND

DAY 3 MASON BAY TO HALFMOON BAY

DAY 4 HALFMOON BAY AND ULVA ISLAND

DAY 5 HALFMOON BAY TO INVERCARGILL

Activities:

Walking
Historic Hotel
Back Country Hut
Holiday Home

Accommodation:

Trip Duration: 5 Days, 4 Nights

Grade: Moderate



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frequently asked questions

What do I carry while on my tour and what happens to the rest of my luggage?

On a walking, cycling or kayak tour your extra luggage will be transported for you each day to your accommodation that night. All you need to have with you is your daypack with your lunch, clothing requirements, camera and incidentals. For cyclists, this can be left in the support vehicle while you are cycling as this is always close by for ready access. Please ensure the luggage you are sending on ahead is limited to one item and is packed in an easily transported overnight bag or suitcase.

On a hiking tour where huts and lodges are less accessible by vehicle, you may be asked to carry your own luggage for some or all of the days of the tour, please refer to your itinerary for details. For this reason we recommend you pack as lightly as possible and carry only the items suggested on your gear check list. For any of our tours, we recommend the use of a waterproof pack liner to keep your personal items as dry as possible.

Do I really need thermals and a fleece, even in summer?

Yes, as some of the areas visited can be exposed, and New Zealand weather can be notoriously changeable, you must be prepared for all weather conditions.

what's included

- Accommodation
 - Based on a twin share
 - Night 1: Historic restored Victorian guest house. 22 rooms with ensuite bathrooms.
 - Night 2: Backcountry Hut Tented campsite, inflatable mattress and sleeping bag, outside toilets, no showers.
 - Night 3 & 4: A large Holiday home in a bush setting, short walk to town. Queen or twin guest rooms with shared bathrooms.
- Food
 - You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and either restaurant meals or wholesome home-cooked fare prepared by your host/hostess in the evenings. If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking. Alcohol is not included in the tour cost, you are welcome to bring a small amount with you for personal consumption if you prefer.
- An experienced guide
- All transport
- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation
- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)
- Safety and Risk Management
 - To ensure maximum safety for all, our guides are certified first aiders and fully qualified drivers. Tuatara Tours operate under a Safety and Risk Management Plan which is regularly audited and approved by a qualified and independent auditor.

This tour is operated in conjunction with another operator.





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frequently asked questions

How many people are in each group?

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

Can I come on my own?

Yes.

How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km, Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road, some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.

itinerary

Day 1 Invercargill

Welcome to Invercargill, New Zealand's southernmost city, and a handy stop-off point as we prepare for tomorrow's journey to Stewart Island (known in Maori as Rakiura). Your accommodation tonight is at the Victorian Railway Hotel. You'll meet your friendly guide for a trip briefing at 6 pm, followed by an evening meal.

Day 2 Invercargill to Mason Bay, Stewart Island

An exciting start to the day. You will fly by light plane from Invercargill Airport, past Codfish Island, an important sanctuary for the rare, flightless kakapo parrot, to Mason Bay. The plane will land on the bay's sweeping crescent-shaped beach (the landing time is therefore tide-dependent). It's an isolated wonderland. Tonight is our night in the wilderness. We'll walk to the Mason Bay Hut and camp alongside. Tonight keep your eyes peeled for tokoeka (Stewart Island kiwi), and your ears open to hear its haunting calls.

Day 3 Mason Bay to Halfmoon Bay

We'll start with an flat, easy walk to Freshwater Landing, on the Freshwater River. You'll see huge sand dunes, towering tussocks, and native manuka trees. The trees are a habitat for native robins, kiwi, and many other endemic birds. We'll take a water taxi from the landing for a half-hour river ride across Paterson Inlet to Halfmoon Bay.

Tonight, we'll have electricity and running water again! We'll stay in a 'crib' — the Southland term for a simple holiday home.





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frequently asked questions

Some tips for training:

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

What will the weather be like?

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

itinerary cont'd

Day 4 Halfmoon Bay and Ulva Island

Today we'll explore Halfmoon Bay, a large bay on the east of Stewart Island. We will also walk out to Ackers Point exploring history and the lighthouse on the point

One of the highlights of the day is a visit to Ulva Island, one of several islands in the inlet. Ulva is an important plant and bird sanctuary, hosting many species that have died out on the mainland. You may see birds including the green kaka parrot and the kakariki (a parakeet); the kukupa (plump native wood pigeon); the small, colourful mohua (yellowhead); the tieke (saddleback) with its brown saddle-like back markings and orange wattles; and the weka, a flightless wood hen with a big attitude.

Tonight we'll stay in the same accommodation.

Day 5 Halfmoon Bay to Invercargill

Today you'll explore Halfmoon Bay. Try one of the many local short walks, visit one of the local craft galleries, or just relax!

At about 1:30 pm, you'll return by air to Invercargill with great memories of the rugged and beautiful southern paradise that is Stewart Island.





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responsible travel

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors. These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The Stewart Island Track is graded Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction



pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

Contact us at

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

what's not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks with meals
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

custom tours

▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add kayaking to your tour!

▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.....Contact us now.



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have you considered?

New Zealand Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
 The Franz Josef Trail
 The Mesopotamia High Country Walk
 The Queen Charlotte Walk
 The West Coast Trail
 The Kaikoura Trail
 The Kenepuru Trail
 The Hump Ridge Track Walk
 The Coromandel Explorer Walk
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk
 The Lake Waikaremoana Walk
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days

New Zealand Hiking Tours

The Heaphy Track
 The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk
 The Stewart Island Track
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk

New Zealand Cycling Tours

The Hanmer Cycle Trail
 The Kaikoura Trail
 The Kenepuru Trail
 The Tekapo Canal Trail
 The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
 The Molesworth Cycle Trail
 The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail
 The Otago Rail Trail

Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at
www.tuataratours.co.nz



pre tour checklist

The following is a list of items that we recommend you bring on your walk:

- Sturdy walking boots or shoes, preferably with ankle support.
- Pair of shorts/ trousers
- Woollen or fleece top
- Thermal long johns and top
- Socks (preferably woollen) underwear and handkerchief
- Warm hat and gloves
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Pair of light shoes or sandals for kayak / evening use
- Pack with waterproof liner
- Small torch,
- Drink bottle
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Insect repellent and sun block
- Camera and spare batteries/ film

The following are highly recommended but not compulsory:

- Walking poles
- Gaiters
- Sun hat and sun glasses
- Swimsuit
- Spare boot laces

You will need to carry your own personal belongings for the first 2 days. Please ensure you have a comfortable pack with a good harness and waist belt. For your own comfort please ensure your full pack weight does not exceed 10kgs. Extra luggage can be left at your hotel in Invercargill and clothes for days 3 & 4 can be sent on to Halfmoon Bay.

We do not recommend you walk in cotton garments, jeans or silk. These fabrics take much longer to dry after perspiration or wet weather and you may feel damp and cold, even inside the best raincoat.





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Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with

our team is here to provide the best experience

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.

subscribe to our newsletter

Our newsletter will be emailed to you monthly on the first working day of every month.

- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the free subscription button.

how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
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Tuatara Conservation

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



country information

Culture

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders.

New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

Environment

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife. New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

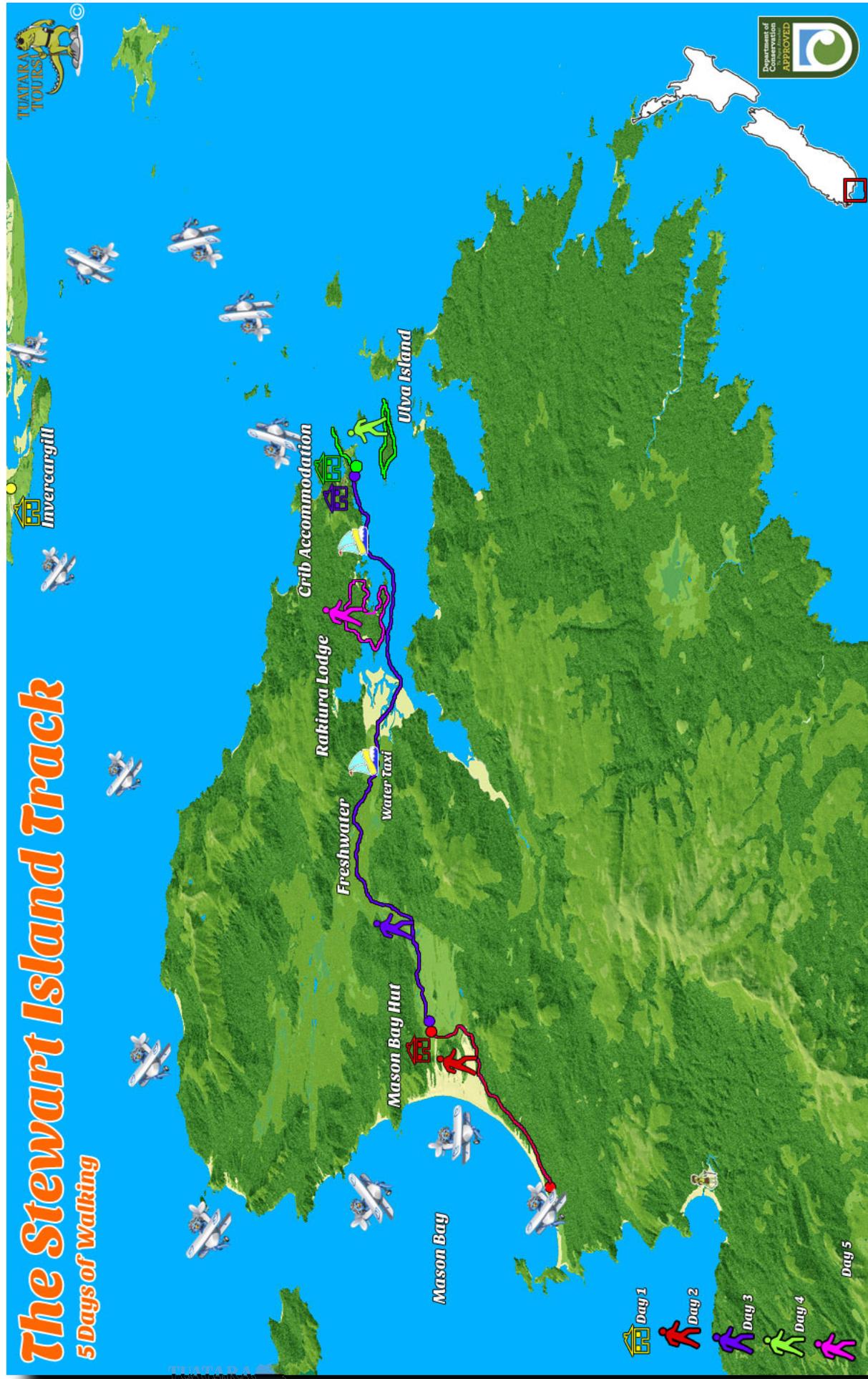
Recreation

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.



The Stewart Island Track

5 Days of Walking



Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Mason Bay

Mason Bay Hut

Freshwater

Rakiura Lodge

Crib Accommodation

Ulva Island

