



# STEWART ISLAND TRACK

## ITINERARY



The best chance most people will ever have to see New Zealand's national bird, the kiwi, in its natural environment. Breathe fresh sea air, hear rare bird calls and enjoy the solitude of Stewart Island.

Many centuries ago Maori came by canoe to the island to harvest shellfish and mutton birds, traditions still carried out today by local iwi. They named the island Rakiura - 'Land of the Glowing Skies' as it is renowned for lingering summer sunsets and the Aurora Australis or Southern Lights. Rakiura National Park covers much of Stewart Island, and is New Zealand's 14th National Park.

The 4.5 day guided walk takes a nice loop across Stewart Island. Starting in the southern town of Invercargill you travel by light plane to Mason Bay on the West Coast of Stewart Island. Then walk and water taxi your way across the island to Halfmoon Bay. A visit to the stunning open sanctuary Ulva Island is followed by some time to explore Halfmoon Bay before flying back to the mainland at Invercargill.

<b>LENGTH</b>	4.5 days
<b>GRADE</b>	B (Average of 4-5 hrs physical activity per day)
<b>START</b>	Hotel/Motel in Invercargill at 6:00pm (You will be advised at the time of booking)
<b>FINISH</b>	Invercargill Airport, approximately 2:00pm
<b>DEPARTURES</b>	October 2023: 31 November 2023: 30 December 2023: 15 January 2024: 14, 28 February 2024: 12, 27 March 2024: 13, 28 April 2024: 12
<b>PRICE</b>	<b>1 June 2023 - 31 May 2024</b> NZD \$2,995 Adult (1 person) NZD \$2,795 Adult (2 + people) NZD \$2,595 Adult (4 + people) Single Supplement NZD\$300.00

### "WONDERFUL CARE AND GUIDANCE"

*We appreciated Dylan's manner and careful support of our needs whilst tramping and at the accommodation and being careful to be inclusive and respectful of our uniqueness and special interests. He worked with us organising the extra just right challenges and planning for transport, logistics, taxis, flights, food, including special tastes and experiences. We have had a very memorable and perfect Stewart island experiences, speculator scenery, great weather and a just-right challenge for us all. I would recommend Dylan and the whole package to others.*

~ Kim and Chris Mitchell - NZ, January 2021

### "WE SAW KIWIS ON STEWART ISLAND!"

*the prime reason for the trip was to do the Kiwi Hiking and we both thoroughly enjoyed it. The guides were all excellent, and great fun, and the accommodation/food lived well up to expectations. Thank you. AND we saw the Kiwis on Stewart Island!!*

~ Gordan and Tricia - UK

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## DAY 1 ARRIVE IN INVERCARGILL

Upon your arrival into Invercargill, you will check in at the hotel/motel which the details will be provided upon booking. At 6:00 pm, there will be a pre-track briefing by your guide followed by a delightful evening meal. You can conveniently leave any rental cars or excess luggage at the hotel. Invercargill is positioned 170 km from Queenstown and 190 km from Te Anau, with shuttle services available from both locations for your convenience.

## DAY 2 INVERCARGILL - MASON BAY

### 10 km/4 hours hiking

Departure time changes with the tide (literally)! Fly by light plane from Invercargill airport to Mason Bay passing Codfish Island, an important Kakapo sanctuary.

Landing on Mason Bay beach we take some time to explore this isolated wonderland walking to the Mason Bay Hut, the one night where we “rough it”, camping alongside the Mason Bay Hut.

This evening we will see if we can spot one of the local residents, a kiwi. Stewart Island Kiwi, or Tokoeka in Maori, are unique in that they are sometimes seen during the day. It is estimated that about a third of New Zealand’s Kiwi live on Stewart Island so this is one of the best places to see one in the wild.

## DAY 3 MASON BAY - HALFMOON BAY

### 14km/4 hours hiking

An easy (flat) walk across the island to Freshwater. Massive sand dunes, head high tussock and manuka trees house many native birds, including kiwis and robins. At Freshwater Landing meet the water taxi for a half-hour ride down Freshwater River and across Paterson Inlet to Halfmoon Bay. Tonight stay in a classic Southland “crib” or holiday home with power and a shower! Dinner is generally fresh Salmon caught that day.

## DAY 4 PATERSON INLET - ULVA ISLAND

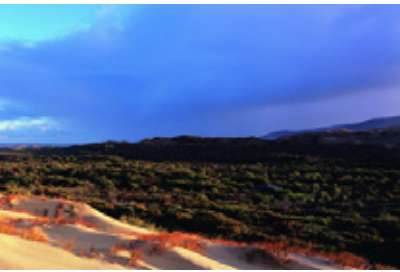
### 3-5 hours hiking

Today we explore Oban and Paterson Inlet by foot and water taxi. In the morning (this can alter depending on the weather) we take a walk to Ackers Point exploring historic buildings on our way to the lighthouse.

Then we visit Ulva Island, an open sanctuary playing an important role in the conservation of threatened species. Birds we may see include the weka, kaka, kakariki, kukupa, mohua and tieke. This is our second night in Halfmoon Bay.

## DAY 5 HALFMOON BAY - INVERCARGILL

Time to explore Halfmoon Bay. Try one of the many short walks, visit a local craft gallery, or just soak up the island ambience. In the afternoon (generally the 1:30pm flight) fly to Invercargill for the completion of your journey. You can choose to stay an extra night or two on Stewart Island or back at the Hotel in Invercargill (own cost).



# LIFE ON THE TRAIL

## GRADE B

- Average of 4-5 hours physical activity per day.
- At times carrying medium sized backpack of 6-10kgs.
- Tracks generally in good condition.
- Altitude gains of up to 600m on harder days.
- No hiking experience necessary.
- Reasonable standard of fitness required

A medium level of fitness is required for Stewart Island. The walking is generally flat. The tracks can be muddy and wet at times.

## GUIDES AND SAFETY

Your guides are dedicated to your safety and satisfaction. They each have a special knowledge of Stewart Island and receive additional training on the local flora, fauna and history.

## FOOD

All meals are included in the price for this hike including dinner on day 1.

## TRANSPORT

Feel free to contact us to help arrange transfers from other locations. Invercargill is 170km from Queenstown, and 190km from Te Anau. Shuttles from Queenstown depart at 7.30am. While on the guided walk, your transport from the South Island to Stewart Island will be by light plane.

## ACCOMMODATION

In Invercargill we stay at a Hotel/Motel and this will be advised at the time of booking. At Mason Bay we stay in a public DOC hut which is comfortable and clean. Toilets are outside and no showers. Sleep in a bunk room or if you prefer spend a night under the stars in a tent (yes we have air mattresses and warm sleeping bags).

In Halfmoon Bay we normally stay at the Rakiura Lodge. Accommodation is based on double or share twin. Linen is provided. Carry only your own personal items.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS

There are no additional costs except personal and souvenir items.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

The operators reserve the right to alter, amend or cancel any tour, should weather or any other situation demand.

## Payment

For bookings 4 or more months in advance of the departure a 25% deposit can be paid with the remainder due 95 days prior to your trip. For bookings within 4 months of the departure, full payment is required.

## Cancellations

15 days or more before trip departure: 75% refund of trip cost

14 days or less before trip departure: No refund

No refund on any portion can be made after departure of the trip.

## Travel Insurance

It is suggested that clients take out comprehensive travel insurance.

This trip is run in conjunction with another operator.

# PACKING LIST

A good pair of comfortable walking boots or shoes is essential. Some people find walking sticks helpful.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Pair of shorts or trousers
- Thick woollen or fleece top
- Thermal long johns and shirt
- Socks, underwear and handkerchief
- Small towel or flannel
- Warm hat and light gloves
- Waterproof coat with hood
- Favourite boots or walking shoes
- Pair of light shoes or sandals
- Pack with waterproof liner
- Small personal torch
- Water bottle
- Personal medicine
- Toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Camera and film/memory cards

We will provide all camping and cooking equipment, sleeping bags and maps. You provide and carry a pack, personal and hiking equipment. We have packs and wet weather gear available if required but please advise in advance.