

# terrano<sup>va</sup>tours

## 4 days Explore Stewart Island

January – September 2022



Stewart Island is a true nature's paradise and offers a special experience - a glimpse into a simpler, slower lifestyle, in rhythm with the sea and the tides. 85% of the island's 1570 square kilometres is a National Park – Rakiura National Park. Stewart Island also has a Dark Sky Sanctuary accreditation by the International Dark Sky Association. Whether you want to enjoy the land, sea and night-scapes, view the wildlife, walk, boat, fish, dive, kayak, hunt or just relax - a Stewart Island holiday is an experience that you will treasure for ever and a must-do experience.

## Day 1 Bluff to Stewart Island

Your journey starts in Bluff where you will board the Ferry to Stewart Island\*. Experience Foveaux Strait onboard an express catamaran. During the one-hour crossing on the Stewart Island Ferry between Bluff and Oban keep a lookout for wildlife, especially seabirds. Comprehensive commentaries provide information on the interesting landmarks commonly seen, including Dog Island Lighthouse, Ruapuke Island, the Titi Islands and Mt Anglem - Stewart Island's highest point. After crossing Foveaux Strait and arriving at Oban – the main settlement on Stewart Island you will be transferred to the Bay Motel.



This afternoon explore Oban and the surrounding bays in a modern mini-bus tour. Experienced guides enjoy sharing their local knowledge of the history and environment of Stewart Island with you. Gain an entertaining insight into New Zealand's southernmost community. Stewart Islanders are proud of their island, enjoying its simpler, slower pace. During your tour, there is plenty of time available for photo stops and short walks. Highlights

include Lee Bay, the gateway to Rakiura National Park and stunning views of Paterson Inlet from Observation Rock during this 1 hour 30 minute tour. On return to the motel you have the afternoon free to relax.

## Day 2 Ulva Island Tour & Night time Kiwi Spotting Tour

Ulva Island (Te Wharawhara), is renowned for its diverse and abundant birdlife with a forest dominated by Rimu, Southern Rata and Kamahi, surrounded by marine reserve. It was visited by Ngai Tahu Maori as part of their food gathering trips and in the 1890s it became one of New Zealand's first reserves. This 267 hectare island is now predator free, allowing the bird and plantlife to thrive. Enjoy a leisurely cruise from Halfmoon Bay viewing hidden coves and unspoilt beaches. Along the way learn about the early Maori history and European settlement including whaling. Your skipper and nature guide provide detailed commentary throughout the cruise and are happy to answer any questions. While on board, keep a lookout for fur seals, penguins and other wildlife, as sightings are common. Then disembark at Ulva Island for a 45-minute guided walk with a specialist nature guide. View rare plants and rich birdlife, including the inquisitive weka, which are often seen on the beach. Returning to the motel in the afternoon.

At dusk depart from Stewart Island's Halfmoon Bay in a catamaran for a cruise across Paterson Inlet to Little Glory Cove. During the cruise, pass Ulva Island and learn about Stewart Island's rich history. Once at Little Glory Cove, disembark onto a wharf at the southern part of the peninsula known as The Neck. The walk, led by your nature guide, is on a well-formed track across the peninsula,

**B**



through spectacular coastal forest to a secluded sandy beach. As dusk sets in and daylight diminishes, venture by torchlight through the native forest with the stars and forest night sounds around you. The walk will take about 45 minutes one-way and the track emerges on to Ocean Beach. This wide sandy beach is where kiwi are often found feeding among the grasses and seaweed. Afterwards retrace your steps through the forest to Little Glory Wharf for your catamaran ride back to Oban township on Stewart Island.



### **Day 3 Paterson Inlet Cruise**

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Today depart on a cruise from Golden Bay. Between 1923 and 1933 the Ross Sea Whaling Company of Norway made 9 expeditions to Antarctica while using a base in Paterson Inlet. 'The Whaler's Base' was used to repair the whale chasers in between whaling seasons. Enjoy your skipper's commentary and explore the relics still to be seen at the base: the old rusty workshop boiler on the beach and the foundations of the slipway. There is also an optional walk through to the beautiful Millar's Beach, time permitting.

Arrive back at Golden Bay where you have the afternoon free to relax.

### **Day 4 Stewart Island to Bluff**

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Today it is time to depart this paradise island and return to real life. Board the catamaran and enjoy the cruise across the Strait to Bluff.

### **Bay Motel Stewart Island**

All large units have views of Half Moon Bay or the surrounding bush. Enjoy the view from your balcony, listening to the local birdlife.



### **Stewart Island Lodge**

Private and secluded, Stewart Island Lodge is a nice place to relax in comfort while providing a base for your Island exploration. It's just five minutes' walk from the village centre where there are restaurants and a small pub. Set on a hillside overlooking Halfmoon Bay.



**TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- 3 nights accommodation at Bay Motel including Continental Breakfast Daily (B)
- Stewart Island Return Ferry
- Orientation tour
- Ulva Island Guided Tour incl Water Taxi
- Night time Kiwi Spotting
- Paterson Inlet Cruise

**TOUR EXCLUSIONS:**

Domestic Air Fares, Additional /Optional Tour Costs, Sightseeing/Meals not stated in Itinerary

**TOUR PRICE:**

\$1,135.00 Per Person on a Share Twin Basis

Surcharge for Flights\*: \$120.00 per person.

Surcharge for Stewart Island Lodge Upgrade: enquire for pricing.

Minimum 2 passengers.

Valid for departures 01 January 2022 until 30 September 2022.

\*Return flights to Stewart Island are available at a surcharge.

Please contact us for pricing for single traveller.

At times various operators on Stewart Island will not operate due to not reaching minimum numbers or operational issues. In these cases we will endeavour to find alternative activities which may not match the above itinerary. Surcharges may apply.

**BOOKINGS: Email: [info@TerraNovaTours.co.nz](mailto:info@TerraNovaTours.co.nz)**

**Phone: 03 379 9126**

**PAYMENTS:**

A non-refundable deposit of \$450 per person is required at the time of booking.

The balance of the package price is required 45 days prior to your travel date. If you book inside 45 days, full payment will be required at the time of booking. Payment can be made by bank transfer.

If you cancel between 21 and 45 days 30% of your tour cost will be charged. If you cancel between 8 and 20 days prior to your tour departure you will be charged 50% of your tour cost. Cancellations within 7 days of departures will incur a 100% cancellation charge.

Terra Nova Tours recommends purchasing travel insurance, even when travelling within New Zealand.

When a booking is made it is accepted that these are agreed to. They include the following: Itineraries are correct when initially published, however are subject to change due to circumstances outside our control. Flights are the responsibility of the passenger and Terra Nova Tours takes no responsibility for costs involved for any changes to flights that might be required due to necessary amendments in itineraries.