on the

ort William Hut and Campsite

**→** 



planning and preparing for Be prepared Stay safe in the outdoors by unpermitted drones allowed.

and take a distress beacon.

your trip. Share your plans

Conservation

Department of

any rules restricting fires, is harmful to them. Follow feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife Keep your distance and don't Protect nature

vehicles or boats. No dogs or



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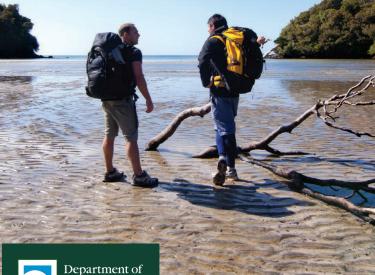
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# Rakiura TRACK GUIDE

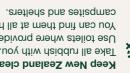
Duration: 3 days
Distance: 32km (loop)

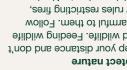


Show respect
Respect others, respect culture

campsites and shelters. You can find them at all huts, Use toilets where provided. Take all rubbish with you. Keep New Zealand clean







## Care for the Rakiura Track

Phone: +64 3 219 0009

For in-depth local knowledge, visit:

Great Walks

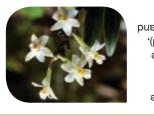




International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

the sky delights star gazers. The island is an outstanding profusion of stars and clarity of australis (southern lights). At other times the time with the streaks and glows of the aurora latitude the night skies light up from time-to-Aurora australis - due to Rakiura's southerly

flowers in late summer and autumn. which has a distinctive strong sweet scent and



banks; and Easter orchid/raupeka (pictured). January and is found popping out along the tutukiwi, which flowers from November to seen along the track, such as greenhood/ Orchids - a variety of native orchids can be



bar-tailed godwits/kuaka. catchers/torea, herons/matuku-moana and birds including dotterels/tūturiwhatu, oyster Whaka a Te Wera hosts a variety of wading Buller's mollymawks/toroa. Paterson Inlet/ shearwaters/tītī, shags/kawau (pictured) and  $\textbf{Coastal birds} - look \ out \ for \ sooty$ 



disturbed, so be sure to keep at least can move surprisingly fast on land when Track and Ulva Island. These large mammals resting on the beaches around the Rakiura the world's rarest seal, can often be found New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka or whakahao,



around Rakiura are important breeding sites. the coast during the summer months. Islands bright white belly. They can be spotted along about 1 kg. Their plumage is slate-blue with a penguin stands at just over 25 cm and weighs Little penguin/kororā - the world's smallest



spotting guidelines in the huts. seen on the track during the day. Check kiwiduring the night, and occasionally they can be birds. Their distinctive calls are often heard kiwi, has an estimated population of 15,000 Kiwi - the Rakiura tokoeka, or Stewart Island

### Plants and wildlife



past and present – Stewart Island/Rakiura is steeped in history. interest and many sea and forest birds. This journey links the Paterson Inlet's sheltered shores. There are sites of historical circuit track along open coastline, through forest and along with the bush, birds and beach at your side. Follow this leisurely Escape on an island adventure and relax in peaceful surroundings

> one of ten unforgettable journeys. Welcome to the Rakiura Track,



# TRACK GUIDE

мопду ок тидау. some sections are steep, and may be is well marked and signposted but hiked in either direction. The track This is a circular track and can be

It will take approximately 1.5 hours to walk the 5km to your fitness, direction of travel and the weather. The times are approximate and will vary according

from Oban to the start of the track at Lee Bay.

# Lee Bay Road to Port William Hut

Lee Bay, the track follows the coast to Little Passing through the chain-link sculpture at

Peters Point and on to Maori Beach. a DOC orange triangle. The track heads around to join the main track; this is clearly marked with to the right where another track heads up the hill the bridge. At low tide you can cross the beach signposted high tide track continues directly off River. Once you have crossed the bridge a well-

Beach can easily be waded at low tide; at The creek at the eastern end of Maori

through the campsite to the beach. to a small footbridge that will lead you back high tide continue along the track until you come

Maori Beach campsite is in a grassy clearing close

### Maori Beach

asted until 1931. remains of the sawmilling enterprises that the campsite you can see and read about the were established. At the historic site behind developed at Maori Beach. By 1920 two sawmills ln 1913 the island's last timber mill was

climbs a small hill and continues on to intersect western end of the beach. From here the track A swing bridge spans the tidal stream at the

harbour was used by sealers, and later Port William/Potirepo

many coastal sites, including Port William/ Māori established hunting camps or kāika at Potirepo. Port William Hut is just 5 min beyond campsite above Magnetic Beach in Port William/ ahead and you will gradually drop down to the

was the site of the early Māori settlement of Potirepo, reached by outrigger canoe. This

Pā Whakataka. During the 1800s its sheltered

with the track to North Arm. Continue straight

bed proved more lucrative. The eucalyptus unsuccessful but the discovery of an oyster as a whaling base. Gold prospecting was

007

(gum trees) are the most notable remains of the

attempted European settlement during the 1870s.

Elevation profile

6 hr/13 km 3-4hr/8.1km 4-4hr 30min/11 km U V **U v ₩** 16 campers Gully car park 54 pnuks SHUNG 57 Main Road/Fern Naon Beach myA dhoM 300

A campsite, with shelter and toilet, is located

previously milled and virgin podocarp forest.

The track undulates through valleys and forested

best examples in New Zealand of machinery of

the tramway to the mill site. These haulers are the

then lowered 'bogies' loaded with the logs down

bush, and the shaft-driven McAllister machine

Topuston hauser was used to pull logs out of the

Two log haulers loom out of the undergrowth: the

incongruous sight reminds us of a time gone by.

usually stay the night at Port William Hut and then

Maori Beach and Port William/Potirepo. Trampers

The track to North Arm starts on the hill between

Port William Hut to North Arm Hut

Around 20 min from the intersection, an

backtrack the 40 min to the turn-off.

Photo: Keri Moyle (signsoflife.co.nz)

you over the hill to Oban.

Additional 2hr return

islands. The last 15 mins by road will take

Paterson Inlet before finishing at the

sheltered waters of Faith, Hope and Charity

coast featuring stunning vistas out across

timber from the mill is evident in the creek.

The track continues to wind around the

Ryans Creek mill. At low tide discarded

road that leads to the site of the historic

Ryans Creek track follows an old logging

track 15 mins before it reaches Main Road,

Ryans Creek track intersects with the main

offering an alternate finish to the hike.

🗚 Side trip – Ryans Creek

ridges. The vegetation is varied, including

above North Arm Hut.

this type that remain in situ.

## The Māori name for the island is Rakiura, commonly Track history

North Arm Hut to Main Road

This section of track provides access to the shores 4-4hr 30 min, 11 km Fern Gully car park

the inlet. The track follows the coast down to kāmahi and rimu trees with stunning vistas across A moderate and undulating hike takes you through of Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera.

along the road to get back to Oban township. the track end it is another 2 km (20-30 min walk) ends at the Main Road/Fern Gully car park. From a view across this sheltered waterway. The track is a small grassy knoll on the water's edge with Kaipipi Bay is a perfect place for a picnic. There great spot to watch wading birds feed at low tide. sites. Sawdust Bay has tidal mudflats, making it a secluded bays, passing a number of historic mill

calls and colourful plumage make for easy

are readily seen on Ulva Island - their noisy

saddlebacks/tīeke. Rare South Island kākā

birds/korimako, riflemen/tītitipounamu, or

as you walk around, and you may spot bellwalking tracks you can explore. Listen out

endangered native birds and there are easy

explore Ulva Island, a predator-free sanctu-

Te Wharawhara

Make the most of your island escape and

Bay. The island is home to many rare and

ary just a short boat ride from Golden

\bnslsi svlU – qirt əbi? (**a**)

in preparation for the Antarctic summer.

Prices Inlet, where chaser boats were serviced

Norwegian whaling company ran a repair base in

of sawmills at Kaipipi. In the 1920s and 1930s, a

was timber, beginning in 1861 with the opening

by whaling boats. The first large-scale industry

a Te Wera were used early in the 19th century

The sheltered waters of Paterson Inlet/Whaka

Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera

on conservation land. place in New Zealand where these animals can be hunted in the wild

If the tide is low and conditions are safe, you can wade through the

main track. The track is clearly marked with a DOC orange triangle.

TIDAL CROSSINGS

STAY ON THE MARKED TRACKS

the beach to the right where another track heads up the hill to join the

The track continues directly off the bridge. The low-tide track is across

The high-tide track is well signposted once you have crossed the bridge.

extra clothing to keep warm and assist rescuers should you hear them

If you become lost, you should stop, find shelter and stay calm. Put on

Off the tracks the valleys are steeply-sided and densely bush-clad.

fishing, aquaculture, tourism and associated services.

residents are today based around conservation,

William/Potirepo and Freshwater River, and were

established at many coastal sites including Port

from the 13th century. Hunting camps or kāika were

of Māori habitation around Stewart Island/Rakiura

Archaeological excavations have shown evidence

at Lee Bay, which marks the entrance to the Rakiura

Rakiura as his anchor stone. The chain link sculpture

waka or canoe, to fish up the North Island while using

the story of Māui, who used the South Island as his

island is Te Puka o Te Waka o Māui. This refers to

australis. One of the earlier Māori names for the

reference to the vibrant sunrise, lingering sunsets

translated as 'land of the glowing skies', possibly in

and occasional night-time glow of the aurora

National Park, is in recognition of this legend.

The livelihoods of the island's 400 permanent

reached by outrigger canoe.

Staying safe on the Rakiura Track

high-tide track that will lead you over a bridge and past a historic site.

Descending to Maori Beach from Peters Point the track splits. Take the

permitted near the track but you may hear guns fired in the distance. hunters with guns as they travel to their hunting blocks. Hunting is not Hunting occurs all year round in Rakiura National Park. You may see

Rakiura has a population of introduced white-tail deer, and is the only Hunting season **BEWEMBER** ➤ Treatment: move to a cool shaded area to rest, remove excess wait until it is safe to cross the bridges. William may become impassable. Trampers are advised to turn back or > Watch for symptoms: headaches, thirst, weakness, dizziness, During periods of heavy rain, two bridges between North Arm and Port > Prevention: carry and drink water regularly throughout your walk. TRACK CLOSURE environment and not drinking enough water. creek right onto the beach. This can be serious and is usually caused by physical activity in a hot

clothing and give water to drink.

sweet drinks, monitor them and seek immediate medical help.

> Treatment: immediately make or find shelter; get the person into

> Watch for symptoms: people may shiver, be clumsy, confused,

➤ Prevention: wear warm and weatherproof gear. Eat and drink

body temperature) can become a serious problem. From initial stages

equipped and prepared for all weather conditions, as extreme weather

Weather can change rapidly on the track. Walkers should come well

During cold, wet and windy conditions, hypothermia (a drop in core

have slurred speech, and deny they have a problem.

to unconsciousness can take as little as 30 minutes.

BE PREPARED FOR ALL CONDITIONS

warm, dry clothing, put them into a sleeping bag, give them warm,

nausea or vomiting.

regularly during your walk.

can occur at any time of the year.