



Great Walks

Rakiura TRACK GUIDE

Duration: 3 days
Distance: 32 km (loop)

For in-depth local knowledge, visit:
Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre
15 Main Road, Oban, Stewart Island 9818
Phone: +64 3 219 0009
Email: stewartisland@doc.govt.nz
www.doc.govt.nz/great-walks

Share your experience – facebook.com/docgovtnz
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Care for the Rakiura Track

- Protect nature**

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Feeding wildlife is harmful to them. Follow any rules restricting fires, vehicles or boats. No dogs or unpermitted drones allowed.
- Keep New Zealand clean**

Take all rubbish with you. Use toilets where provided. You can find them at all huts, campsites and shelters.
- Show respect**

Stay safe in the outdoors by planning and preparing for your trip. Share your plans and take a distress beacon.

- Great Walk hut
 - Great Walk campsite
 - Visitor Centre
 - Shelter and toilet
 - Toilet
 - Great Walk
 - Walking track
 - Tramping track
 - Roads
- 0 500 m N



Rakiura National Park

- See on the track**
- Lee Bay is a good place for viewing New Zealand sea lions/rāpoka or whakahaio during the summer.
 - In summer, Maori Beach swing bridge is an excellent spot to see the red flowers of southern rata.
 - During the descent to Port William, look for the giant 500-year-old rimu trees that escaped the mill.
 - At Port William and North Arm, take the time to check out the coast and marine life.
 - Visit two log haulers, the best on-site examples of machinery of this type remaining in New Zealand.
 - Gallon's small water-powered sawmill site, which operated from 1861 to 1867.
- Side trips – details overleaf**
- A Ryans Creek
 - B Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara

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

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

New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka or whakahaio, the world's rarest seal, can often be found resting on the beaches around the Rakiura Track and Ulva Island. These large mammals can move surprisingly fast on land when disturbed, so be sure to keep at least 20 metres away.

Coastal birds – look out for sooty shearwaters/titi, shags/kawau (pictured) and Buller's mollymawks/torora. Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera hosts a variety of wading birds including dotterels/tūtūriwhatu, oyster catchers/tōrea, herons/matuku-moana and bar-tailed godwits/kuaka.

Orchids – a variety of native orchids can be seen along the track, such as greenhood/tutukiwi, which flowers from November to January and is found popping out along the banks, and Easter orchid/raupeka (pictured), which has a distinctive strong sweet scent and flowers in late summer and autumn.

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

Plants and wildlife



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

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

Photo: Jennifer Ross

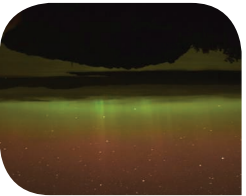


Photo: Dick Veitch



Photo: Leon Berard



Photo: Jake Osbourne



Photo: Leon Berard



Photo: DOC



