

Kiwi Wilderness Walks

Rakiura Track Stewart Island National Park

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 its lingering sunsets of summer and the Aurora Australis or Southern Lights.



The Rakiura Track is one of New Zealand's Great Walks.

The loop track traverses country with a rich diversity of trees, ferns, and perching orchids. Along the way visit many historical sites with the chance to see a variety of sea and forest birds. The circuit follows the coast, climbs over a 300 metre high forested ridge, and skirts the sheltered shores of Paterson Inlet.

Our four day all inclusive guided walk starts in Invercargill with a short flight to Halfmoon Bay and your first night. Next morning we walk through the "chain" around Lee Bay and Maori Beach to Port William Hut for the night. Climbing across the summit ridge we reach the North Arm Hut sited on the shore of Paterson Inlet.

The last day takes us around the shores of Paterson Inlet emerging at the sheltered bays of Kidney Fern Arm and Kaipipi Bay, following the former Kaipipi Road back to Halfmoon Bay. Return to Invercargill in the evening.



land of the glowing skies

Itinerary

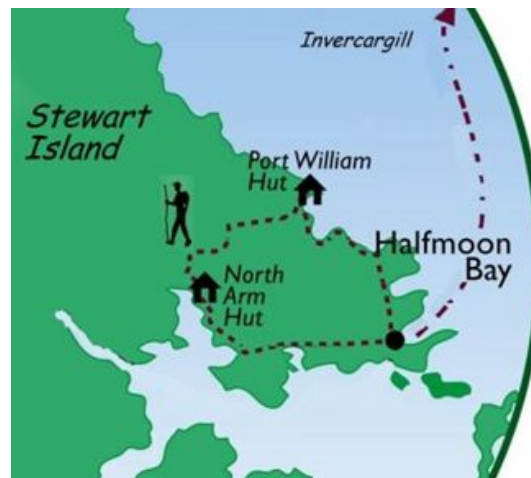
DAY 1: Invercargill, Halfmoon Bay

Fly from Invercargill to Halfmoon Bay at 8am, 1pm or 5pm. Take a short stroll for a splendid array of native bird life then meet the guide for a dinner and guides briefing around 6pm.

DAY 2: Halfmoon Bay, Port William Hut

Pass through the chain link official entrance to Rakiura National Park then walk around Lee Bay and Maori Beach to Port William Hut.

Walk 5 hours / 12 km



DAY 3: Port William Hut, North Arm Hut

Climb to the summit ridge through a sequence of rimu, kamahi and rata forests. The lookout tower provides expansive views of Paterson Inlet and beyond to the Tin Range. Descend to the North Arm hut sited on the shore of the inlet.

Walk 6 hours / 12 km

DAY 4: North Arm Hut, Halfmoon Bay

Walk around the shores of Paterson Inlet emerging at the sheltered bays of Kidney Fern Arm and Kaipipi Bay. Follow the former Kaipipi Road back to Halfmoon Bay. Stay in Halfmoon Bay

Walk 5 hours / 12 km

Fly at 5.30pm to Invercargill.(4.30pm on the weekends)



Accommodation

Accommodation is based on double or share twin. In Halfmoon Bay we stay in either a local “crib” or holiday home or Motel. On the trail we stay in a public DOC huts which are comfortable and clean. Toilets are outside and sorry no showers. Sleep in a bunk room or if you prefer spend a night under the stars in a tent.

Weather

Is unpredictable. Extreme conditions can develop at any time. Be prepared for cold and wet weather and have warm waterproof equipment. It makes it even nicer when it is warm and sunny☺

Equipment

We will provide all camping and cooking equipment and maps. You provide and carry a sleeping bag, backpack, personal and hiking equipment.

What to Bring

A good pair of comfortable walking boots is essential. Some people find walking sticks helpful. The following list provides a guide for your packing;

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

Dates and Prices

The package includes 3 nights accommodation, all meals, flights to and from Stewart Island, hut and guiding fees, all equipment and maps. The price per person is NZ\$1 195 including GST ex Invercargill and is valid to 1 November 2010.

Many people choose the option to stay an extra night at Halfmoon Bay to enjoy some of the short local walks, visit Ulva Island, sea kayak in Paterson Inlet or browse the local craft stores.

Accommodation is based on share twin. At Halfmoon Bay we stay one night in a Southland “crib” or private holiday home. Linen is provided. On the trail we use public huts with mattresses, wood burning stoves for heating, running water and outside toilet facilities. Sleeping bags are provided. Carry only your own personal items.

For more information;

Guaranteed departure dates – Day 1

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2009/2010	
Nov 2009	21
Dec 2009	6, 21
Jan 2010	8, 22
Feb 2010	17, 21
Mar 2010	6, 24
Apr 2010	6