

The adventure starts here

Cross the Foveaux Strait to Rakiura Stewart Island, keeping an eye out for seabirds like mollymawk and tītī as the mainland falls away. Arrive into Oban, the island's only township, before venturing out across Rakiura to discover rare native wildlife and the stories of the land.



Ferries

Getting to Aotearoa's third island is easy onboard our catamaran ferry. Simply take the short service between Bluff and Oban to access the island's stunning forests and beaches. Coach connections from Invercargill are available.



Allow
1hr



Map of Rakiura Stewart Island



Rakiura in a Day

Spend a full day getting to know Rakiura with a day trip that lets you slow down, look closer, and notice more.

What's included

- Return ferry crossing from Bluff to Oban
- Picnic lunch with harbour views
- Two unique Rakiura experiences

Birds and Bays

Local guides share Oban's history and take you to scenic viewpoints around the township, then step beneath the forest canopy in search of rare native birds on Ulva Island.

This day trip includes:

- Village & Bays Tour
- Ulva Island Explorer



Coast and Culture

Experience everyday island life through the eyes of locals in and around Oban, and learn the story of the land with a guided walk on remote Māori-owned Ōneke.

This day trip includes:

- Village & Bays Tour
- Ōneke by Day - Walk the Story

Allow up to
8 hrs

Departing from
Bluff Ferry Terminal



Transport

Easily travel around the island or enjoy leisurely cycles around peaceful bays, beaches and forests with a rental car or e-bike. Available to hire from the Red Shed, next to Oban Ferry Terminal.



Scan here to find
out more & book!



Get in touch

See our website realnz.com for more info, booking conditions and our cancellation policy. Or call **0800 65 65 01**

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#realnz



Oban, Ōneke
& Ulva Island

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Rakiura Stewart Island



Wild, remote and made for the curious

Discover wild coastlines, extraordinary wildlife and stories found nowhere else, on New Zealand's third-largest island. A natural sanctuary, Rakiura is dominated by a sprawling national park home to rare native birds and marine life. Here you'll find lush forest, golden sand beaches and layers of history waiting to be explored.



Rakiura Kiwi and Wildlife Encounter

Before sunset, a comfortable vessel cruises the coastline and past Rakiura's smaller neighbouring islands, spotting marine wildlife such as tītī, toroa (albatross), kororā (little penguin) and kekeno (fur seal) along the way. An informative presentation covers the behaviour, habitat and conservation of the Rakiura tokoeka, before a guided walk through coastal forest and along a secluded beach searches for kiwi by torchlight.

Allow up to
4.5 hrs

What's included

- Cruise the coastline spotting marine wildlife
- Walk coastal forest and secluded beaches by torchlight
- Search for the wild Rakiura tokoeka (southern brown kiwi)
- Evening guided experience, weather dependent



Ōneke by day - Walk the Story

This journey begins with a formal whakatau (Māori welcome) before a small-group, guided walk through coastal and native bush trails, exclusive to this remote and secluded part of the island. Local guides share stories of Rakiura Māori and European history, early settlement and connection to the land, alongside native wildlife, traditional plant use and ongoing conservation and restoration efforts.

Allow up to
3 hrs 45 mins

What's included

- Cruise the coastline from Oban to remote Ōneke
- Walk coastal and native bush trails with a local guide
- Learn the island's Māori and European history
- 3 hour small-group guided experience



Rakiura Village and Bays Tour

This is a little window into life on Rakiura. Local guides share their in-depth knowledge of the island's environment and heritage on a comfortable minibus journey, with informative and entertaining stories and anecdotes along the way. The route takes in Lee Bay, gateway to Rakiura National Park, and the views from Observation Rock across Golden Bay, Paterson Inlet and Ulva Island.

Allow up to
1.5 hrs

What's included

- Explore Oban township and scenic coastal roads
- Learn local history, culture and island life
- Enjoy photo stops and sweeping harbour views
- 1.5 hour guided experience



Ulva Island Explorer

Travel across Paterson Inlet to Ulva Island, and experience New Zealand's wildlife as it once was. On this guided forest walk through a predator-free natural sanctuary, look out for tīeke (saddleback), mōhua (yellowhead), toutouwai (Stewart Island robin), kākārīki (parakeet), kākā and some of the country's rarest plant species. Your knowledgeable guide points out bird calls and explains their behaviour to help you spot them along the way.

Allow up to
2 hrs 10 mins

What's included

- Return sea transfer to Ulva Island across Paterson Inlet
- Guided walk through native forest and along beaches, spotting rare birds
- Insight on the island's wildlife and unique natural environment
- 2 hour small-group guided experience



Ōneke by night - Walk with Kiwi

This one-of-a-kind evening cruise to Ōneke opens with stories of the land's rich Māori and European history and culture. As the light fades, join a guided walk along the beach and through the forest in search of Rakiura tokoeka (southern brown kiwi) in their natural habitat. Relax in the whare (shelter) with a warming cocoa, tea or coffee before the return cruise to Oban.

Allow up to
4 hrs

What's included

- Cruise to Ōneke as day turns to night
- Walk beaches and forest searching for Rakiura tokoeka (southern brown kiwi)
- Hear stories of Māori and European history and culture
- Evening guided experience, weather dependent



Bluff to Oban

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Rakiura Stewart Island Ferries & Day Trips

