

Post conference tour, Rakiura - Stewart Island

Monday 20th April

8.15 Depart for Invercargill I-Site, visitor information centre, from here we catch the 8.45 bus to Bluff

9.45 Depart on ferry to Stewart Island, Morning tea & approx. 60 min ferry crossing

Experience Foveaux Strait, during the one-hour crossing between Bluff and Stewart Island keep a lookout for wildlife, especially seabirds.

11.00 Settle into accommodation, Stewart Island Back Packers, conveniently situated in the heart of Halfmoon Bay

12.00 Lunch at South Seas Hotel

1.30pm Minibus Tour around Oban & surroundings with informative commentary.

Explore Oban and the surrounding bays. Guides will enjoy sharing their local knowledge of the history and environment of Stewart Island. Gain an entertaining insight into New Zealand's southernmost community.

3.00pm Return to Oban for afternoon tea & visit local museum, hire an e-bike, gift shops

5.30pm Walk to Observation Rock and watch the sunset (15 min steep walk, 6.00pm sunset)

6.30pm Dinner at South Seas Hotel

After dinner take a walk with your torch and see if you can spot any Kiwi.

Tuesday 21st April

8.40 Depart for Ulva Island ferry

9.00 Depart to Ulva Island, 6 min ferry crossing

9.15 Guided walk on Ulva Island Bird Sanctuary, half day guided tour and spend the rest of the day discovering Ulva island. There is a small area of modified forest, otherwise there is 266h of primeval forest that has never been milled. Packed lunches, morning & afternoon teas.

4.00pm Return to Oban, there are options to return earlier at 2pm

4.30pm Depart for Botanic gardens

Moturau Moana translates as "islands of bush above the sea" and is an area of botanic gardens. They are a great walk through with a beautiful history of New Zealand's native plants. The gardens have an interesting history of being filled by the Noeline Baker, who collected the native plants and bushes from across New

Zealand. The gardens have a peaceful setting with stunning views over Halfmoon Bay.

5.30pm Return to accommodation

6.30pm Dinner at South Seas Hotel

After dinner take a walk with your torch and see if you can spot any Kiwi

Wednesday 22nd April

Last day of tour, early rise for those who wish to take early ferry at 8.00am.

Otherwise leisurely morning rise & pack up for those who are departing island in the afternoon. Packed lunches, morning & afternoon teas provided.

10.00am

Depart for Patterson Inlet cruise – aqua farm & pelagic/ seabird trip. Stewart Island from the water is spectacular, and your cruise around Paterson Inlet will give you the best vantage point to see the amazing scenery of hidden coves and pristine beaches. With full commentary, you will learn about the fascinating early history of the area, including information about the local Māori population, European settlement and the whaling that took place.

During your cruise, be sure to keep an eye out for some of the local wildlife, including fur seals, penguins, dolphins and mollymawks, as well as a variety of other bird and sea life.

Or

Carving workshop make your very own Jade pendant with master carver & sculptor, Dave Goodwin.

Or

Fishing, half day fishing trip.

Note : You will need to indicate which option above you would like to take.

3.00pm meet at Oban ferry terminal

3.30pm Return ferry to Bluff

4.30pm Bus return trip to Invercargill I-Site. & Back to hotels.