

Rakiura Track

The Rakiura Track can be comfortably tramped in three days.

The circuit follows the open coast, climbs over a 300 metre high forested ridge, and traverses the sheltered shores of Paterson Inlet. It passes sites of historical interest and introduces many of the common sea and forest birds of the island. Parts of it cross Maori land and access is courtesy of the owners.

The track is suitable for walking in either direction.

Halfmoon Bay to Port William Hut, 12 km, 4 hr - 5 hr

From the DOC Visitor Centre turn right towards the waterfront and follow the road over a series of hills to Horseshoe Bay, then on to Lee Bay, the official entrance to Rakiura National Park.

Passing through the chain link sculpture at Lee Bay, the track follows the coast to Little River, which is crossed by a bridge. At low tide it is possible to walk around the beach and pick up the track at the point. From there the track heads around Peter's Point and on to Maori Beach. Peter's Point, also known as Cultivation Point, was named after an early settler, Peter Garrotty, who planned to cultivate the whole area in strawberries. He discovered that the land was too peaty and so headed down to Port Adventure to burn the oyster shell found there to make the lime he needed to sweeten the soil. The excess lime produced he sold off to others and even exported to the South Island of New Zealand.



Kitchen facilities in the Port William hut. Photo: DOC

This track was a well worn route when Maori Beach supported two sawmills and a school, around 1920. The creek at the southern end of Maori Beach can easily be waded at low tide, however at high tide, continue along the track until you come to a small foot bridge. A track leading to a rusting steam boiler, a relic from the sawmilling days, can be found just few minutes on from the turn-off to this bridge. Maori Beach campsite is situated in a grassy clearing close to the beach. A larger bridge spans the tidal stream at the northern end of the beach and from here the track climbs a small hill and continues on to the intersection with the track to North Arm. Turn right and you will gradually drop down to the campsite above Magnetic Beach in Port William/Potirepo. Port William Hut is just a few minutes beyond the campsite.

Port William Hut to North Arm Hut, 12 km, 6 hr

This section of track starts on the hill between Maori Beach and Port William. Trampers usually stay the night at Port William hut and then backtrack the 45 minutes to the turn-off.

The climb to the summit ridge passes through an interesting sequence of vegetation: previously-milled and virgin podocarp forest to rata and inaka dominated subalpine scrub. A lookout tower on the summit ridge provides great views of Paterson Inlet and beyond to the Tin Range. The track descends to the North Arm hut sited on the shore of the inlet.

North Arm Hut to Halfmoon Bay, 12 km, 4 hr - 5 hr

This section of track provides trampers access to the shores of Paterson Inlet.

A campsite, shelter and toilet is sited at Sawdust Bay, a sawmill site between 1914 and 1918. The track continues through rimu and kamahi dominated forest emerging at the sheltered bays of Kidney Fern Arm and Kaipipi Bay. At Kaipipi Bay two sawmills employed more than 100 people in the 1860s.

The track between Kaipipi and Halfmoon Bays follows the former Kaipipi Road, in its heyday the most used and best maintained on the island.

Huts and Campsites

Port William hut has sleeping spaces for 20 people and North Arm hut for 24. Bunks are claimed on a first come, first served basis, with a limit of two consecutive nights in any hut.



Trampers relaxing at Kaipipi Bay. Photo: Greg Lind

Huts are supplied with mattresses, a wood burning stove for heating, running water and toilets. **Cookers and cooking utensils are not supplied – it is essential to carry your own portable stove, fuel and utensils.** Camping is permitted only at the designated campsites at Maori Beach, Port William and Sawdust Bay. A cooking shelter, water supply and toilet have been provided at each site. Please leave all huts and campsites clean and tidy and carry out all rubbish.

Great Walks Pass

The Rakiura Track is one of New Zealand's Great Walks. Trampers are required to purchase a date-stamped Great Walks Rakiura Hut or Camp Pass before their journey. This applies all year round. Hut fees are \$10 per night per adult and \$5 per night per child (5 – 17 years). Nightly campsite fees are \$2.50 per adult and \$1.25 per child. A 10% discount on hut and camp fees is available to Federated Mountain Club, NZ Deer Stalkers Association and NZ Alpine Club members on presentation of their membership card and a current Backcountry Hut Pass.

Trampers walking the North West Circuit may also use the Great Walk facilities provided they have purchased a North West Circuit Pass or a Great Walks pass.

Conservation staff may be on the track and will impose a surcharge on trampers using accommodation facilities who are unable to produce a Rakiura Hut or Camp Pass.

Passes may only be purchased from the Department of Conservation's Stewart Island Visitor Centre, in Halfmoon Bay, or Invercargill Conservancy office, situated on the 7th floor of the State Insurance Building, 33 Don Street.



NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CODE

- Protect plants and animals
- Remove rubbish
- Bury toilet waste
- Keep streams and lakes clean
- Take care with fires
- Camp carefully
- Keep to the track
- Consider others
- Respect our cultural heritage
- Enjoy your visit
- Toitu te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468
 Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies
 For fire and search and rescue call 111

