

# Stewart Island Experience



Prices from  
**574** GBP (2 nights) per person

## Highlights

Discover the remote and rugged Stewart Island at the southern tip of New Zealand. Enjoy lovely accommodation and a private nature tour of nearby Ulva; an uninhabited island.

New Zealand; the land of the long white cloud. Famous for sophisticated Auckland and the Bay of Islands in the North, not to mention the geo-thermal activity of Rotorua and the bleak and wild Tongaruru volcano. In the south, there are vineyards producing crisp sauvignon blancs, magnificent views from Mount Cook, the romantic Milford Sound and, of course, the exhilaration capital of the world at Queenstown.

Hidden away from the usual tourist drags, however, lies the remote and rugged Stewart Island, New Zealand's southern most populated island. Named by the Maori 'The Land of Glowing Skies', on account of the Aurora Australis, (the Southern Lights) and the amazing sunsets, this is romance and tranquillity at their best. The untouched forest and deserted beaches play host to a plethora of birds wildlife and what's more, it's said to be the best place in the country for spotting the elusive kiwi in the wild.

Sails Ashore, your home on Stewart Island, is a four minute walk from Oban, the island's main village and is the place to be if you want to live in luxury, whilst enjoying the unique plant and wildlife of the island. With 85% of the island belonging to the Rakiura National Park and 254km of walking tracks to explore, there is a wildlife and hiking paradise at your disposal! The highlight of your stay (other than the boutique accommodation and fantastic views that is) will be the guided tour of Ulva Island by your host, Peter. As the former forest ranger of this uninhabited island, Peter knows it like the back of his hand. Walking for the most part under the heavy forest canopy, he will be able to point out the indigenous plant and bird life, which have been able to flourish in the absence of any introduced predators.

## Is it for me?

If you like getting away from it all and being close to nature, without compromising on quality, this is definitely for you. By day, you'll enjoy the unique and vibrant wildlife inhabiting the Island. By night, you can relax in a modern and stylish environment with all the facilities you'd expect from Qualmark enviro gold rated accommodation.

To make the most of your visit, you should enjoy walking and leaving the bustle of everyday life behind.

If you're staying for more than a few nights, don't expect a different restaurant each night, but do enjoy a small community atmosphere and sense that you're experiencing New Zealand, and life, in its most pure form.

Although most forms of card payment are accepted, there are no ATMs on Stewart Island so remember to take cash with you.

## Accommodation

The accommodation is close to the village of Oban and enjoys beautiful views across Half Moon Bay and the Foveaux Straits. Set in gardens, brimming with flowers and vegetables, the house is home to the owners as well as two separate guest suites, each with its own private entrance. They both have luxury en suite bathrooms and come equipped with amenities such as a fridge, internet access and a TV.

Your stay is on a bed and breakfast basis - Iris's continental breakfast is served in the sun room, where you can enjoy views over the village and wharf, whilst planning your day ahead. Your hosts will be more than happy to

## Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ The Best Local Operators  
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ Local Price Guarantee  
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ Secure Online Payments  
Safe and easy online booking
- ✓ ABTA Bonding for your protection  
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover



give you pointers!

The house is just a short walk from the village, so is perfectly situated for an evening stroll down to one of the local restaurants. Your hosts will book an evening meal at a local restaurant for the first night of your stay. If you want to dine in, evening meals can be prepared at the property, but do need agreeing in advance. (Due to the island's remoteness, it would be wise to mention any special dietary requirements in advance) As far as lunch is concerned, you'll probably want to pick up a picnic in the village to enjoy on one of your hikes!

## Itinerary

You will be met on arrival by your hosts and taken to your accommodation and given a mini orientation tour by your hosts. You can then spend time researching the maps and Department of Conservation (DoC) pamphlets provided, and start to get a feel for the island. Take a gentle stroll into Oban village and you'll visit the Museum and DoC Centre to get more acquainted.

Back in your room you can learn about the area by watching local interest videos provided. Or relax and watch the sunset from the sun room overlooking Halfmoon Bay.

Your two night stay includes a guided Ulva Island Exploration Walk and you'll schedule this during early morning or late afternoon so you can see and hear the birds at their best. Your hosts will take you to Ulva Island on a private boat and arrange your trip so that it has the least impact on the environment, whilst ensuring you have the most pleasurable time. On Ulva Island you'll learn about local flora and fauna and the projects completed over the years, to preserve and restore the area to its natural state. Ulva Island has been a reserve for the "Preservation of Nature, Game and Flora" since 1899. You'll look for rare birds, including the Kiwi, and have ample opportunity to take photographs. The tour lasts around four hours, the walking isn't difficult and disabled guests can be easily accommodated. At the end of the tour, you'll return to Stewart Island by boat and may get a glimpse of the island's abundant sea life - if you want to spend longer on the island this can be arranged.

Depending on the duration of your stay, you'll plan another trip to Ulva Island, explore the 245km of walking tracks around the Island, arrange diving, a boat trip or driving tour. There'll always be something to fill you time – even if it's just relaxing in a comfortable setting, breathing in spectacular views.

## Details

### Getting there

The ferry crossing from Bluff to Oban takes one hour, and plane from Invercargill 20 minutes.

### Price includes

There is a 2 night minimum stay. Price quoted is per person based on 2 people sharing.

Each extra night is .....\$ 435

Transfer from arrival point to \ from accommodation, breakfast, home-baked cookies, tea and coffee making facilities, local calls and internet access, burning images to CD, Ulva Island Exploration Walk (four hours).

### Available

Jan—Dec

### Typical Duration

2 days - 6 days

### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

### Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed

### Travellers should bring

Enthusiasm and a love of the natural world. Casual, comfortable wear for walking and the outdoors. Stewart Island doesn't "Do" fancy. Walking footwear and rain wear for our sometimes boisterous climate.