



Stewart Island

Dunedin, Larnach Castle, Nugget Point, The Catlins, Curio Bay, Invercargill, Stewart Island, Ulva Island, Fishing, Marine Farm tour, kiwi bird spotting and more...

Enjoy some southern hospitality as we venture to the very bottom of the South Island. First we visit Dunedin – ‘The Edinburgh of the South’ before we travel to Invercargill via The Catlins. All this before we even start the highlight of the tour and cross Foveaux Strait to Stewart Island. On the island we will immerse ourselves in the scenery, fresh food and wonderful local charm. This is a tour not to miss!

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We are off! After picking you up at your door we board our connector flight from Tauranga to Dunedin. Arriving in this historic city there will be time for a stroll before we get settled in to our accommodation and venture out for a welcome dinner together.

Today our local guide picks us up with a full day of incredible sights to see. Before leaving Dunedin we take a short city tour and then head out onto Otago Peninsula to visit Larnach Castle. This impressive homestead is full of intriguing stories of scandal and tragedy, and is set amongst a garden of international significance. Our guide will show us through this stately home & grounds. It is then time to depart Dunedin and head south to Invercargill – where our Stewart Island adventure will begin in the morning. For the drive to Invercargill we will travel via The Catlins, a remote and intriguing part of the South Island. We will stop at Nugget Point to view the famous lighthouse and hopefully spot some seals on the rocks below. Other highlights in this area include Purakaunui Falls, and the petrified forest in Curio Bay. A resident pod of Hector's Dolphins live in the bay and can often be seen surfing the waves. We arrive in Invercargill in the evening – ready to enjoy a sumptuous dinner and prepare for our trip further south in the morning.

Stewart Island awaits this afternoon, but before we head over we explore New Zealand's most southern city. Invercargill has a warm charm and even warmer hospitality. We also explore the port town of Bluff which commands views out to Stewart Island, before heading back into town to learn about the city's motorsport hero Burt Munro. Then, it is off to the airport for our short flight over Foveaux Strait. The views of the island from the air are stunning and are a great introduction to our next 3 nights that await. Tonight we will enjoy our first dinner on the island at a famous local spot.

Awake to the birdsong as we have our first full day on the island. After breakfast it is time to visit Ulva Island – a bird sanctuary located in Paterson Inlet. Home to many rare and endangered birds, our guide will teach us about the sanctuary and its flora and fauna. En route keep an eye out for seals and penguins which are numerous in the area. Back to the main settlement of Oban you have the choice this afternoon to take a fishing trip (weather permitting). The cool clear waters around Stewart Island teem with fish – in particular Blue Cod which is a delicacy in these parts. For those not fishing you have time to simply unwind and stroll around the town with its scenic beaches and interesting local shops. Another island dinner awaits tonight, as we look forward to our last day on the island tomorrow. Keep your ears open to see if you can hear the resident kiwi birds calling at night. Stewart Island is home to thousands of kiwi.

Our last day on the island dawns and we will take a short tour of Stewart Islands villages and bays. See the famous chain link sculpture at Lee Bay (where the Rakiura walk starts), and visit Observation Rock with stunning views of the area. The local guide will bring stories to life and we will be sure to learn a lot more about the island by the time we are dropped back in Oban. In the afternoon is again your chance to unwind on 'island time'. Perhaps try some fresh seafood, or enjoy talking to the locals in the towns pub. What a beautiful spot to simply chill. One last dinner tonight as a group – and we will be sure to share our favourite memories of this incredible place.

The last day of the tour sees us making the trip home to Tauranga. Starting with the flight across to Invercargill, and then boarding our connecting flights north. The Hinterland team will be there to meet us at Tauranga airport and drop you safely at your door, having enjoyed a special time with new friends. This is a trip of a lifetime and we are sure you will have loved your journey with us.

Whats Included:

- 6 days of touring
- 5 nights quality accommodation
- Door to door service [home pickups]
- Quality Air-conditioned vehicle
- Fully guided with commentary
- All breakfasts and dinners
- AIR NZ flights Tauranga to Dunedin
- Guided tour of Larnach Castle
- Burt Munro Museum
- Flights to and from Stewart Island
- Cruise to Ulva Island bird sanctuary
- Fishing trip - weather permitting
- Plenty of stops along the way

You will see:

- Stunning scenery throughout
- The City of Dunedin and Otago Peninsula
- The Catlins - Nugget Point lighthouse
- Purakaunui Falls & Petrified forest
- Invercargill and Bluff
- Island highlights - Lee Bay sculptures
- Observation Rock

Not included:

- Any lunches unless specified*
- Morning/afternoon tea stops*
- Any alcoholic beverages with meals

* Please note, that unless specified in the itinerary we do not usually include the cost of lunches or morning and afternoon tea stops in the tour cost, but we always make stops where there are a range of options available so you can choose what you want, and have flexibility to do things on your own if you wish.

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