

Stewart Island/Rakiura hunting information

Stewart Island/Rakiura provides excellent deer-hunting opportunities. White-tailed deer are all over Stewart Island but favour coastal areas; red deer inhabit the island's north-west, from Mason Bay to Smoky Beach, and occasionally elsewhere.

Permits and hunting blocks

Permits are needed to hunt on Stewart Island; you must apply in advance to the Department of Conservation (DOC) or the Rakiura Maori Lands Trust. Please note the following information is for DOC:

- Permits are issued for up to 10 days for specific hunting blocks. Open Zone permits (for up to four months) are available from www.doc.govt.nz.
- Most blocks are suitable for six hunters. Only one hunting party is permitted per block, each party may book only one block per hunting trip. Parties are limited to 12 people and 10 rifles.
- Bookings for blocks can be made up to 12 months in advance. A non-refundable administration fee of \$30 applies. This payment must be received by DOC (Stewart Island office only) within three weeks of the booking.
- A form is sent to you when you pay the administration fee, requesting further details and any hut fees due. Make sure you return the form (and any payment) 60 days before arriving on the island, or your booking may be cancelled.
- Hunting permits will be issued about a month before the start of your trip. Permits can be sent by email or post or collected from the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre in Oban prior to your trip. Each hunting party must take a copy of the signed permit onto the block. It is the hunter's responsibility to be up to date on any pesticide summary for the area.

Please complete hunter returns at
www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/hunter-returns.

More information and block availability is available from the Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, or online at www.doc.govt.nz/stewartislandhunting

Permits for hunting on Māori land are available from:

Rakiura Maori Lands Trust
PO Box 155, Stewart Island
Richard Manning: 021 382 590
Email: rtm@visitrakiura.co.nz
www.huntrakiura.co.nz

Transport methods to the Island and hunting blocks

Hunting blocks can be accessed by sea or air.

For up to date information about ferries, charter boat or water taxi options visit www.stewartisland.co.nz

Fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters may land on beaches below the mean high-tide mark. Additionally, helicopters who are permitted, may land at Long Harry, East Ruggedy, Mason Homestead and Hellfire Pass hut sites. An internet search will provide you with up to date information about current operators in the lower South Island area.

Hunt responsibly

Please respect Stewart Island's special natural character. Take care not to damage wildlife or vegetation when gathering fallen or dead firewood or marking trails.

- Chainsaws, low-calibre rifles, shotguns and dogs are not permitted.
- Please leave huts and campsites clean and tidy and take **all** rubbish off the island with you.
- Bury all animal carcasses.
- Be considerate to other recreational users. No hunting 100 m either side of the Rakiura Track.
- Fires are not permitted, other than in the potbelly stoves at the hut.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Personal safety

Mountain radios are available for hire. Contact Allister Babington, Ph 03 931 1471, or email allister@mountainradio.co.nz

Personal locator beacons can be hired from Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre, 10 Main Road, Stewart Island.

Ph 03 219 0009 Email stewartisland@doc.govt.nz

Mobile phone reception is unreliable outside the Oban/Halfmoon Bay area.

Survival tips

Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.

Take a compass and GPS, a minimum first aid kit, emergency blanket, and a cigarette lighter.

Remember the weather can change rapidly.

Observe the firearms safety code.

Huts and hut tickets

Some hunting blocks have specific hunters' huts. These huts are marked with an asterisk on the map key below.

A fee of \$30 per person per hunting trip, regardless of whether you use the hut or not, is payable when a booking is confirmed. This fee is retained by the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust, which maintains these huts in conjunction with DOC.

All other backcountry huts on Stewart Island are on tramping circuits, for which you need to purchase backcountry hut tickets (\$5 per night). **The exceptions** are the huts and campsites on the Rakiura Track (blocks 1 and 35):

The Rakiura Track Huts, Port William and North Arm huts cost \$24 per night, 2 night maximum.

The campsites at Maori Beach, Port William and North Arm cost \$6 per night, 2 night maximum.

The Rakiura Track Huts and Campsites must be booked ahead of time at www.doc.govt.nz/great-walks

