

discover the chatham islands

Rekohu/Wharekauri
history | heritage | nature



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CHATHAM ISLAND *Rekohu/Wharekauri*



PUBLIC ACCESS WALKING TRACKS



- 1 Nikau Bush Conservation Area Walk**
A bush track that takes you through forest glades and impressive regeneration beneath the towering nikau palms.
1 hour loop walk.
- 2 JM Barker (Hapupu) National Historic Reserve Walk**
One of the only two national historic reserves in New Zealand, Hapupu protects rakau momori (Mori tree carvings). The walk through the bush takes you past some of the unique rakau momori.
20 minute loop walk.

- 3 Henga Scenic Reserve Walk**
This reserve features spectacular regeneration of kopi and mahoe. The walk takes you through the bush out onto coastal dunes for stunning views.
1 hour 30 minute loop walk.

- 4 Ocean Mail Scenic Reserve Walks**
Ocean Mail Scenic Reserve has a variety of walks. The beach is accessible at the shelter and picnic tables.
A 20 minute return walk to see the Chatham Island swamp aster in flower between November and March.
A 15 minute loop walk to view peat lakes and wetland vegetation.
A 2 hour 30 minute lake track takes you through the vast expanse of this valuable wetland.

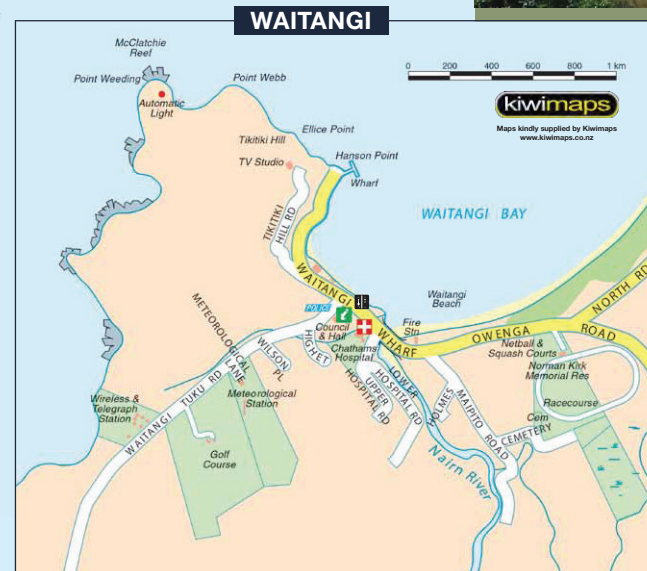
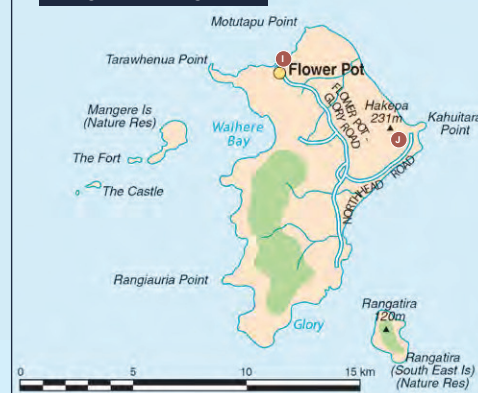
The Department of Conservation provides further information on these walks. Land Information NZ maps are also available to purchase from the DOC office in Te One.

Some other places of Interest:

- Kaingaroa Village
- Blind Jims'
- Chudleigh Conservation Area
- Hapupu Dune Walk
- Museum
- Owenga Village
- Bird life on Waitangi-Tuku Road
- Tommy Solomon Statue*
- TV Studio
- Waitangi Beach Sand Dunes
- Waitangi Township
- Waitangi West Beach
- Stone Cottage*
- Seal Colony*
- Basalt Columns*

*Sites are on private property, and there are many more places of interest to visit - ask your host for more details.

PITT ISLAND *Rangihau/Te Rangihau*



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Your Chatham Islands adventure holiday will be a journey of discovery. You will take a step back in time, to how life used to be. Prepare to be surprised as these mysterious islands yield up their secrets. Landscapes with volcanic peaks thrusting up out of rolling peatland, forest topped towering sea cliffs, the vast expanse of Te Whanga Lagoon, endless kilometres of sandy beaches and the ever present ocean.

Situated in the South Pacific Ocean, about 800km east of Christchurch, the Chatham Islands are New Zealand's most easterly region. An archipelago of 11 islands, only Pitt and Chatham are inhabited, by about 600 people.

Meet the Chatham Islanders; people who remain true to themselves while extending warm hospitality to visitors. Visit heritage sites and learn of our fascinating history shaped by years of isolation; Mori, Maori, sealers, whalers, missionaries, farmers and settlers.

See for yourself the strange and beautiful Chatham Island plants. Although some of our rare birds are protected on island sanctuaries, you can readily find others in bush, on roadsides and beaches. Walk through our forests, expansive wetlands and conservation areas. Venture to Pitt Island, even more remote and surprisingly different from Chatham Island.

Share in the bounty of our oceans; crayfish, paua, kina and blue cod, which also help sustain our economy. Then relax and absorb the peace and tranquility of the Chatham Islands.

Discover the Chatham Islands - history, heritage and nature. Adventure holidays don't get much better than this.

A brief history of the Chatham Islands

The last major Pacific Islands to be settled, the Chatham Islands are thought to have been first occupied by Polynesians about 800 to 1000 years ago. In isolation they developed a unique culture and became a people who call themselves Mori. They named their island home Rekohu, and developed a sacred covenant of peace, which has remained unbroken for 600 years - a world record for peace keeping!

The Chatham Islands were discovered by Europeans in 1791 by the English ship HMS Chatham. European settlement dates from the early 1800's with sealers, then whalers and farmers.

Later Ngati Tama and Ngati Mutunga arrived, and made their home on these islands they called Wharekauri.

Merging their heritage and living together on this remote outpost, these people are the Chatham Islanders.

Chatham Islands Tourism Development Office

For information, trip planning and advice contact the Chatham Islands Tourism Development office. We have local knowledge and information to make your planning easier.

- Itinerary planning and information
- Assistance with accommodation, transport, tours and activities
- Free maps and weather information
- Local information: events, restaurants and more.

For further reading on the Chatham Islands we recommend the following books:

- Chatham Islands Heritage and Conservation. Canterbury University Press. ISBN 9781877257780. This book can be ordered from any good book store.
- Discover the Chatham Islands - First to see the sun. Cherry Lawrie and Jocelyn Powell. ISBN 0975099191. This book can be purchased on the Chatham Islands.

Reasons to visit the Chatham Islands

Home of unique Chatham Islands birds and plants

Visit significant sites of history and heritage

Learn about the ancient Mori covenant of peace

Go fishing and hunting

Enjoy rugged and awe inspiring landscapes

Meet the people of the Chatham Islands

First place in the world to greet the new dawn

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