

## A pristine environment

The subantarctic islands of Aotearoa New Zealand are wild and beautiful places. They are home to abundant and unique wildlife – many of the birds, plants and invertebrates are found nowhere else in the world. The subantarctic islands are particularly renowned for the large number and diversity of penguins and other seabirds that nest there.

The subantarctic islands are located between 47 and 52 degrees latitude, occupying the stormy seas of the Roaring Forties and the Furious Fifties. The island groups include Snares Islands/ Tini Heke, Auckland Islands/ Maungahuka, Campbell Island/ Motu Ihupuku, Bounty Islands/ Hauriri and Antipodes Islands/ Moutere Māhūe.



Each of the subantarctic islands is a national nature reserve, which ensures it has the highest level of protection. In 1998, the islands were listed as a World Heritage Area due to their unique and diverse nature.

### Further information:

DOC Customer Service Centre

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[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

**0800 DOC HOT**  
**362 468**

For safety hazards and  
conservation emergencies

**0800 ASK DOC**  
**275 362**

For general enquiries

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This information was accurate at the time of printing. For the latest information on DOC's policies and facilities, visit [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz).

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## Minimum impact code for the subantarctic islands





## Help us protect these islands

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to visit the subantarctic islands. A single seed, insect or rodent could lead to the establishment of a new pest species, which could alter these islands forever.

Follow these guidelines and those of the Expedition Leader and guides to minimise the impact of your visit on this precious environment. A Government Observer from the Department of Conservation (DOC) may be on board to share their knowledge and enhance your trip.

### Tread lightly

- ▶ **Keep to the formed tracks and boardwalks** where possible to minimise damage to fragile soils and plants.
- ▶ **Use the toilets on your vessel** before disembarking.
- ▶ **No smoking or vaping** – all the islands are smoke free.
- ▶ **No plants, animals or soil material are to be taken onto the islands.**
- ▶ **No natural or cultural items are to be removed** from the islands.

### Check for unwanted stowaways

*Please discuss any questions or concerns regarding quarantine with the Expedition Leader.*

- ▶ **Thoroughly clean** all clothing, equipment and accessories before each landing.
- ▶ **Remove any seeds and dirt** from your pockets, bags, Velcro and footwear.
- ▶ **Scrub your footwear** before and after each landing and go through the footwear biocide wash that is provided on board.
- ▶ **Alert the Expedition Leader** to the presence of any insects or rodents on board.

### Show respect for wildlife

- ▶ **Give all wildlife the right of way** – think about where the animal wants to go and move to the side.
- ▶ **Give wildlife space** – 50 metres for hoiho/yellow-eyed penguins, 20 metres for rāpoka/New Zealand sea lions and 5 metres for any other wildlife where possible (for nesting birds, this may still be too close).
- ▶ **Keep noise to a minimum.**
- ▶ **Look for signs of wildlife in distress and move away** – these include birds clacking bills or swivelling heads, or animals sitting upright and alert and staring at you.
- ▶ **Follow your guides** who will provide direction on how to cause the least disturbance to wildlife.
- ▶ **Do not encircle any wildlife** – ensure they always have an escape route and the right of way.

### Turn down the lights

Any lights on the ship at night (including cabin lights) attract seabirds, which can crash into vessels, often with fatal consequences.

**Please keep your cabin curtains closed at night** to prevent this from happening and use lights only when they are needed for navigation or safety.