

# Subantarctic Islands

MINIMUM IMPACT CODE

SOUTHLAND/MURIHIKU



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## A pristine environment

**N**EW ZEALAND'S subantarctic islands are wild and beautiful places. They are home to some of the most abundant and unique wildlife on earth; many 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. New Zealand's subantarctic islands include Snares / Tini Heke, Auckland / Motu Maha / Maungahuka, Campbell / Motu Ihupuku, Bounty and Antipodes Island groups.

Each of the islands has been given the highest level of protection: 'National Nature Reserve'. In addition, in 1998, due to their unique and diverse nature, they were each listed as a World Heritage Area.



Hoiho/yellow-eyed penguins.  
Photo: Stephen Jaquierey

# Help us protect these islands

*It is both a privilege and a responsibility to visit the subantarctic islands.*

*A single seed or insect could lead to the establishment of a new pest species that can alter the islands forever.*

**Follow these guidelines to minimise the impact of your visit on this outstanding environment.**

A Department of Conservation representative may be on board to share their knowledge and enhance your trip. In addition they will assist the Expedition Leader to ensure all permit requirements are undertaken.

By following these guidelines and those of the Expedition Leader and DOC representative, you will be contributing to the conservation of these unique areas.

## Tread lightly

*'Take only photos; leave only footprints'*

- ▶ **Keep to formed tracks and boardwalks** to minimise damage to fragile soils and plants.
- ▶ Please **use the toilets on your vessel** prior to disembarking.
- ▶ **Smoking is not allowed.** All of the islands are smoke free.
- ▶ **No plants or animals 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 DOC representative.*

- ▶ **Thoroughly clean** all clothing, equipment and accessories before each landing.
- ▶ **Remove any seeds and dirt** in pockets, Velcro and bags.
- ▶ **Scrub your footwear before and after** each landing (facilities provided on board).
- ▶ **Alert the Expedition Leader** to the presence of any insects or rodents on board.

## Show respect for wildlife

*New Zealand's subantarctic islands have internationally significant populations of many species. Please be responsible by following these guidelines.*

- ▶ **Give all wildlife the right of way** – think about where the animal wants to go and move to the side.
- ▶ **Do not go any closer than 5 metres to wildlife** – this may be too close at times for some species, e.g. penguins, fur seals.
- ▶ **Keep noise to a minimum.**
- ▶ **Do not encircle any wildlife** – always give them room to move.
- ▶ **Look for and respond to signs of wildlife in distress:** clacking of bills, swivelling of heads, upright, alert and staring at you – if this is occurring please move away promptly.
- ▶ Your guides will direct your actions to cause the least disturbance to wildlife.

## Turn down the lights...

Any lights on board ship at night, (including cabin lights) can attract seabirds, which crash into vessels – often with fatal consequences. Only the minimum lighting required for navigation and safety should be used. Please keep your cabin curtains closed at night to minimise this happening.

**For further information please  
contact:**

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Front cover: Visitors on Enderby Island.

This page: Sea lion, Campbell Island.

Photos: D. Wierenga

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