

# Prince Harry's First New Zealand Visit

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Prince Harry's first visit to New Zealand, (May 9th-16th) will see the flame haired prince visiting several cities, learning more about the country's history, meeting local communities that highlight New Zealand's diversity and being introduced to Kiwi culture.



Prince Harry takes a guided walk with ranger Brent Beaven through the rainforest on Ulva Island open sanctuary near Stewart Island, New Zealand; Credit: Chris Jackson/GETTY Images



His itinerary will begin in Wellington and continue to Stewart Island, Christchurch, Linton Military Camp and Whanganui, before finally ending in Auckland.

According to schedule, Prince Harry spent the second day of his trip (Sunday, May 10th) on Stewart Island, New Zealand's third and southernmost island community with a population of around 400 residents and a laid-back charming atmosphere.

Due to its small size, the island is known as a hiker's dream destination, with over 300km of walking tracks – varying from short day walks, the three-day Rakiura Track (one of New Zealand's nine 'Great Walks') to eight to ten day walking tracks for serious hikers.

The prince, like the locals do, explored the island on foot before catching a water taxi to nearby Ulva Island.

One of the few pest-free open bird sanctuaries in New Zealand, Ulva Island's temperate rainforest offers close encounters with rare birds and plants that can't be found anywhere else in the world.

Accompanied by Brent Beaven from the Department of Conservation, Prince Harry enjoyed a walk through the rainforest and got to see a variety of the island's famous bird species –

Stewart robins, kaka (forest parrot) and kakariki (a smaller, brightly colored parrot).

The prince also impressed his guide with his knowledge of and interest in the island's conservation efforts.

"We talked about Ulva Island as an example of one of New Zealand's early conservation projects, and how what has been achieved here has been the result of a mix of community effort to protect its own heritage and the work of the conservation department," says Breaven. "It was also a chance to talk about how important conservation is to tourism in New Zealand – three-quarters of the 40,000 visitors who come to Stewart Island each year, will visit Ulva Island".