

2025/26

RĒKOHU WHAREKAURI CHATHAM ISLANDS

Travel Trade Brochure



airchathams.co.nz





"The Chatham Islands... Timeless, Untamed, Unforgettable!"

They have been called beautiful, breathtaking, defiant, and rugged - a place as old as time itself, a sanctuary in the vast ocean for centuries. Celebrated by seafarers and navigators, cherished by adventurers, and sought after by hunters, fishers, and photographers, the islands captivate all who find beauty in nature and embrace the wild.

Some call them a journey back in time, where resilience and ingenuity are a way of life. Others see them as the future - a place with lessons for us all."



Rēkohu Wharekau

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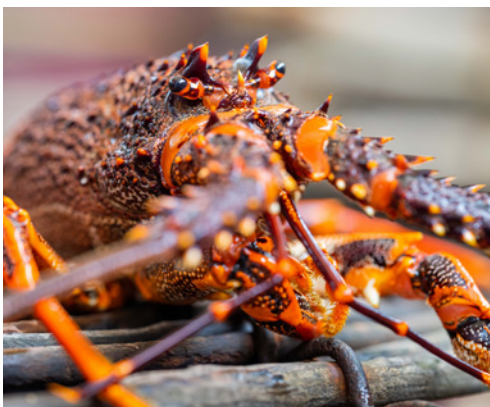


INTRODUCTION:

The magical and unique Chatham Islands sit astride the Roaring Forties, surrounded by the pristine waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean. Bestowed with natural beauty and distinctive spiritual energy the islands are the perfect setting for a holiday full of adventure, discovery, and relaxation.

With nothing but ocean at every point of the compass, the Chatham Islands are rightly famous for fresh seafood, fascinating marine life and a plethora of native land creatures and fauna. It is rugged and unique at earth's edge... like a landscape from the Jurassic age the rugged beauty can be admired from the comfort of tour coaches or stunning panoramic views from a range of accommodation options. It's been called the end of the world, and the place where each new day begins.

Holiday escapes don't get much better than this.



WHY VISIT THE CHATHAMS?

- 1 Stunning Natural Landscapes:** The islands feature breathtaking scenery, including rugged coastlines, sandy beaches, rolling hills, and lush forests. The diverse landscapes provide a picturesque backdrop for outdoor activities and photography.
- 2 Unique Flora and Fauna:** The Chatham Islands are home to many endemic species, and unique plants including the unique Chatham Island 'forget-me-not' - also known as the Chatham Islands lily.
- 3 Rich Cultural Heritage:** The islands have a deep cultural history, particularly linked to the Moriori, the indigenous people of the Chatham Islands. Visitors can learn about their traditions, stories, and customs, gaining insight into a unique aspect of New Zealand's heritage.
- 4 Historical Significance:** The Chatham Islands have a fascinating history, including early European settlement and whaling. Historical sites, such as the remains of old whaling stations and Moriori sacred sites, provide a glimpse into the islands' past.
- 5 Outdoor Activities:** The islands offer a range of outdoor activities, including fishing and hiking. The rugged terrain and coastal waters provide excellent opportunities for adventure and exploration.
- 6 Isolation and Tranquility:** The Chatham Islands are relatively remote and less frequented by tourists, making them an ideal destination for those seeking peace and solitude. The slower pace of life allows for a more intimate experience with nature and local culture.
- 7 Unique Local Cuisine:** The islands offer a chance to taste fresh, locally sourced seafood and other regional specialties. Visitors can enjoy unique culinary experiences that reflect the islands' natural bounty.
- 8 Community and Hospitality:** The local community is known for its warmth and hospitality. Visitors often find that residents are friendly and eager to share their knowledge of the islands, enhancing the overall experience.
- 9 Bird Watching:** Nature enthusiasts with a passion for bird photography will find the islands particularly appealing as they harbour at least 52 native breeding bird species and 18 of these occur nowhere else. Some of the bird species are internationally rare and endangered seabirds.
- 10 At Earth's Edge:** The Chatham Islands are the most eastern part of Zealandia with impressive geological formations and volcanic landscapes including basalt columns, high cliffs, and a large lagoon.

Overall, the Chatham Islands offer a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and outdoor adventure, making them an amazing destination for travellers looking for something different from more traditional tourist spots in New Zealand.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

The Chatham Islands are rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, featuring a variety of landmarks that are an absolute must for any touring itinerary:

Basalt Columns: These impressive geological formations can be found on the coast and are the result of volcanic activity around 80 million years ago. The columns create dramatic landscapes and are a popular spot for photography and exploration. They showcase the unique geological history of the islands and provide a stunning backdrop for nature lovers.

Stone Cottage: This historic stone cottage is one of the oldest buildings on the Chatham Islands, dating back to the 19th century. It represents early European settlement and offers insight into the architectural styles and living conditions of that time. The cottage is a symbol of the island's colonial history and is often visited for its historical significance.

Tommy Solomon Statue: This statue honors Tommy Solomon, recognized as the last full Moriori. The statue serves as a tribute to the Moriori culture and heritage, emphasizing the importance of preserving the history and identity of the indigenous people of the Chatham Islands.

Sunderland Aircraft: The wreck of a WWII Sunderland flying boat is located on the islands and serves as a historical landmark. It is a reminder of the military history associated with the Chatham Islands during the war and provides a point of interest for aviation enthusiasts and history buffs.

The Cave: This cave is significant in both Moriori and Maori mythology. For Moriori it is associated with the legendary figure Nunuku. It is a site of cultural importance and offers visitors a glimpse into the spiritual beliefs of the Moriori people.

Awatotara Reserve: This reserve is a protected area that showcases the natural beauty of the Chatham Islands. It is home to various native plants and wildlife, making it an excellent spot for nature walks and bird-watching.

Admiral Gardens: These gardens are a beautiful example of the island's flora, featuring a variety of native plants and landscaped areas. They provide a peaceful setting for visitors to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings.

Nature Walks: The Chatham Islands offer numerous walking tracks that allow visitors to explore the diverse landscapes, including coastal areas, forests, and wetlands.

Munning Point Seal Colony: This colony is home to a large population of fur seals, making it a fantastic location for wildlife viewing. Visitors can observe the seals in their natural habitat, providing a unique experience for nature lovers.

Rakau Momori: These ancient tree impressions are significant to the Moriori culture and are considered a form of artistic expression. The dendroglyphs provide insight into the spiritual beliefs and traditions of the Moriori people, making them an important cultural landmark.

Taniwha / Splatter Rock: This geological feature is known for its unique formations created by volcanic activity. It is a visually striking site that attracts visitors interested in geology and natural history. It is also a haven for the endemic Chatham Islands Oyster Catchers.

Dark Skies: The Chatham Islands are renowned for their exceptionally dark skies, making them a great location for stargazing and considered a potential “Dark Sky Reserve” due to their remote location and minimal light pollution; this means you can see a vast array of stars clearly at night.

Admiral Gardens: These gardens are a beautiful example of the island’s flora, featuring a variety of native plants and landscaped areas. They provide a peaceful setting for visitors to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings.

Taiko Trust: New Zealand’s most isolated community conservation group. Tours are by arrangement only and your guides are Liz and Bruce Tuanui. Free entry but donations are welcome to the Taiko Trust.

Chatham Islands Co: A guided tour gives guests the chance to learn about Chatham Island Food Co’s story from founder and 7th generation islander Delwyn Tuanui and sample the local sea food bounty.

These landmarks collectively showcase the Chatham Islands’ rich cultural heritage, unique geological features, and stunning natural landscapes. They provide visitors with opportunities to learn about the island’s history, appreciate their natural beauty, and engage with the local culture.



ITINERARY EXAMPLES:

DAY 1

3 DAYS (full touring days by coach group or hired vehicle):

OWENGA

Morning & Afternoon:

Tommy Solomon Statue: This statue honors Tommy Solomon, recognized as the last full Moriori.

Kopinga Marae: The Marae is a base for all Moriori on Rekohu and a welcoming, peaceful place for visitors to experience manawareka.

Tikitiki Scenic Stroll: This short walk leads to a lookout over Petre Bay, towards the Red Bluffs.

Chatham Islands Museum: Here, you can learn about the islands' history, including the Moriori culture, European settlement, and the unique flora and fauna of the region.

Evening:

Dinner at Hotel Chathams: Where you can sample fresh seafood, including local fish and crayfish.

DAY 2

WAITANGI WEST

Morning & Afternoon:

Basalt Columns: These impressive geological formations can be found on the coast and are the result of volcanic activity around 80 million years ago.

Port Hutt: The picturesque bay of Port Hutt is tucked away in a sheltered cove of Whangaroa Harbour.

Northern Volcanics lookout: Northern Volcanics are simply stunning geological works of mother nature.

Maunganui Stone Cottage: This historic stone cottage is one of the oldest buildings on the Chatham Islands, dating back to the 19th century.

Waitangi West Beach: Enjoy a walk along this remote beach and watch out for the endangered Chatham Island oystercatcher.

Evening:

Stargazing: After dinner at Hotel Chathams spend some time outside enjoying the clear night sky. The Chatham Islands have minimal light pollution, making them an excellent spot for stargazing.

DAY 3

KAINGAROA

Morning & Afternoon:

Rakau Momori: These ancient tree impressions are significant to the Moriori culture and are considered a form of artistic expression.

Munning Point Seal Colony: This colony is home to a large population of fur seals, making it a fantastic location for wildlife viewing.

Sunderland Flying Boat: The shell of the 1945 Sunderland float plane is housed for visitors to view.

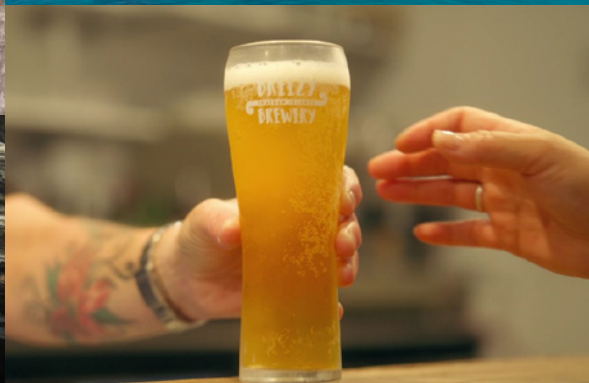
Kaingaroa Township: A small fishing village with a one-teacher school and social clubrooms.

Nestled on a picturesque harbour used in the early days by sealers, whalers and trading ships.

Ocean Mail Scenic Reserve: The Reserve covers 831ha of peat dome and wetland at Te Whanga Lagoon.

Evening:

Dinner at Hotel Chathams: Where you can sample fresh seafood, including local fish and crayfish.



DAY 4

ADDITIONAL 2 DAYS: (5 full touring days by coach group or hired vehicle):

SOUTH COAST

Morning & Afternoon:

Southern Coast Scenic Drive: Explore the Spectacular southern coastlines with a wide range of bird life, and restored conservation areas - this is a 'must-visit' region for bird watchers and photographers alike.

Waitangi township: Explore the local craft shops in the largest settlement of the Chatham Islands.

Evening:

Dinner at Hotel Chathams: Where you can sample fresh seafood, including local fish and crayfish.

DAY 5

CENTRAL CHATHAMS

Morning & Afternoon:

Admiral Garden: These gardens are a beautiful example of the island's flora, featuring a variety of native plants and landscaped areas.

Te Whanga Lagoon: The lagoon dominates the geography of Chatham Island covering 160 square kilometres. It contains many fossilized shark teeth that can be collected from the edges of the lagoon.

Nikau Reserve Walk: A short track follows a loop that takes in some peaceful forest glades in among lush regeneration beneath stately palms.

Taniwha/Splatter Rock This geological feature is known for its unique formations created by volcanic activity. It is a visually striking site that attracts visitors interested in geology and natural history.

Ponga Whare: Ponga whare was built on the Wharekauri Station by Hauhau prisoners in 1867 for the station's owner Edward Chudleigh. It is a Heritage New Zealand Category 1 listed site.

Evening:

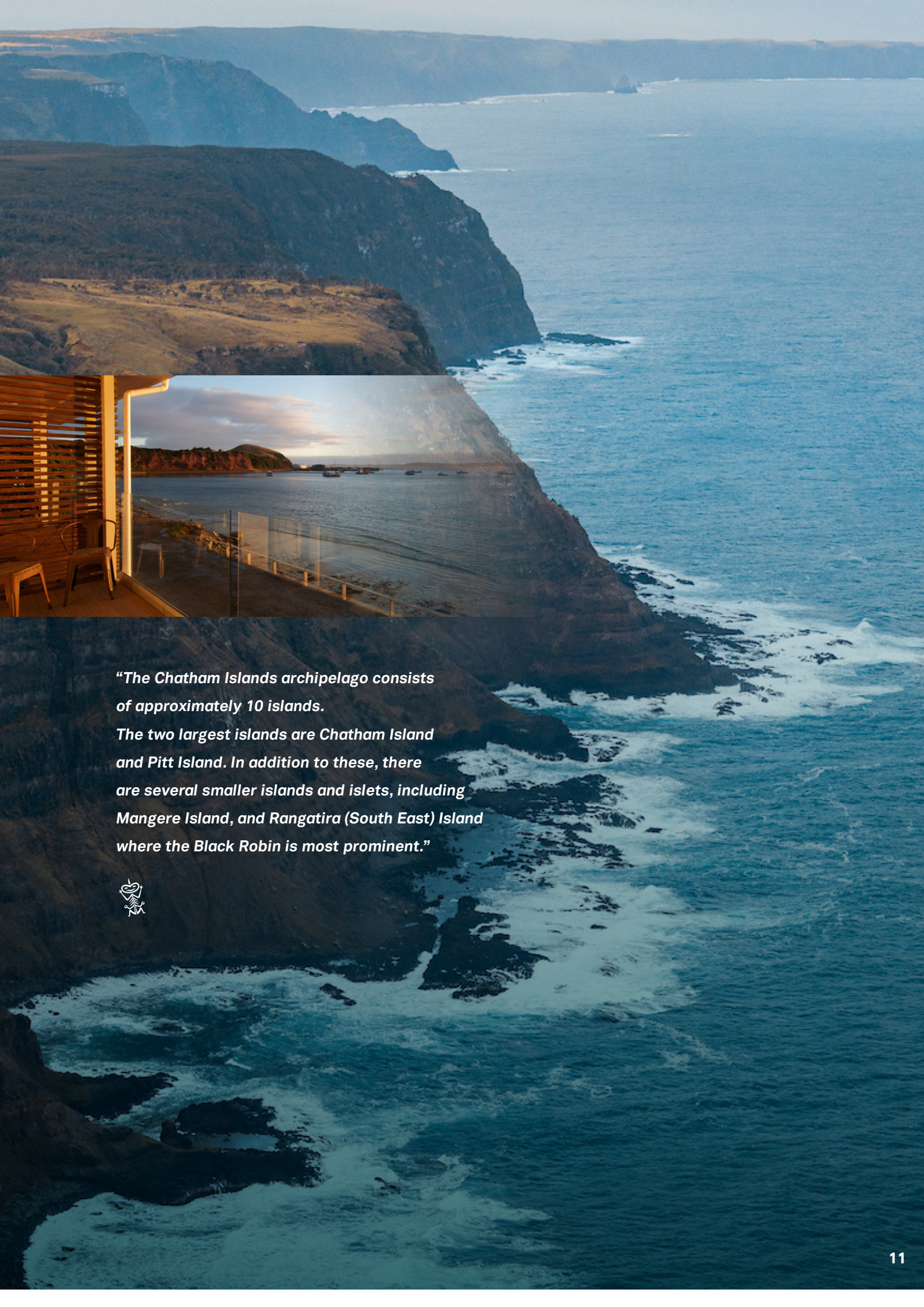
Dinner at Hotel Chathams: Where you can sample fresh seafood, including local fish and crayfish.

ITINERARY ALTERNATIVES:

Pitt Island: If time allows, take a flight on Air Chathams' to Pitt Island. It's less populated and offers stunning landscapes, wildlife, and opportunities for hiking. Access to Pitt Island is by boat or plane for day tours or a longer stay. Pitt Island history, heritage and nature is offered to guests with a day tour by experienced local guide. Enjoy the 25min scenic flight to the Island, full day luxury 4x4 guided tour, wholesome Island style lunch at Flowerpot Bay Lodge and return flight back to the main Island.

Fishing Charters: Book a fishing charter to explore the rich marine life around the islands. The waters are known for their abundance of fish including the mighty bluecod and unique underwater landscapes.

This sample itinerary provides a mix of cultural, cuisine, historical, and outdoor experiences, allowing guests to fully appreciate the unique charm of the Chatham Islands.



“The Chatham Islands archipelago consists of approximately 10 islands. The two largest islands are Chatham Island and Pitt Island. In addition to these, there are several smaller islands and islets, including Mangere Island, and Rangatira (South East) Island where the Black Robin is most prominent.”



GETTING THERE:

There really is only one way for visitors to get to the Chatham Islands, and that's with our very own home-grown airline Air Chathams.

Flights to the Chatham Islands are as follows:

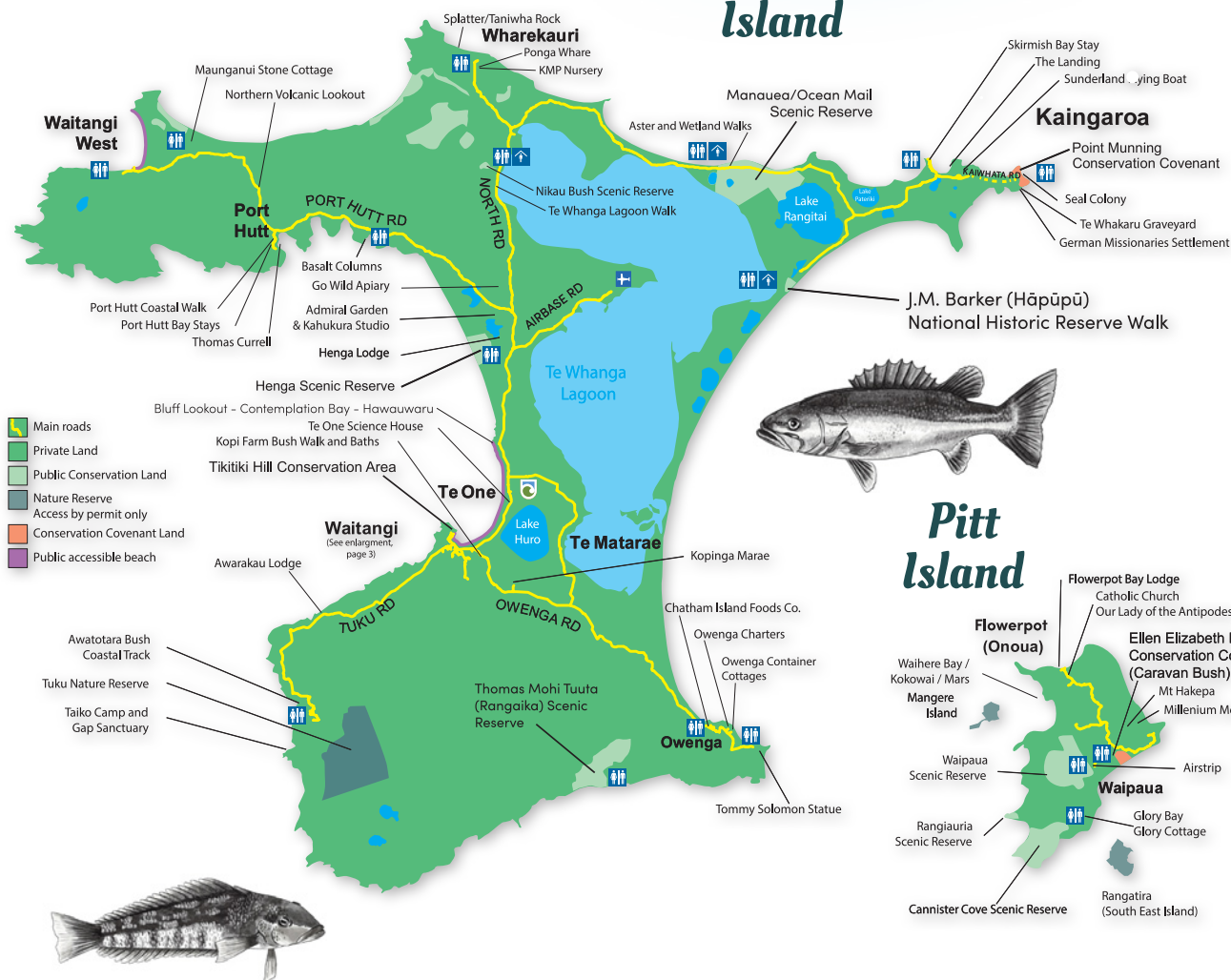
- Wellington to/from Chatham Island:
(Flight time approximately 1hr 45mins)
- Christchurch to/from Chatham Island:
(Flight time approximately 2 hrs)
- Auckland to/from Chatham Island:
(Flight time approximately 2 hrs 30 mins)

For schedules and further information go to:

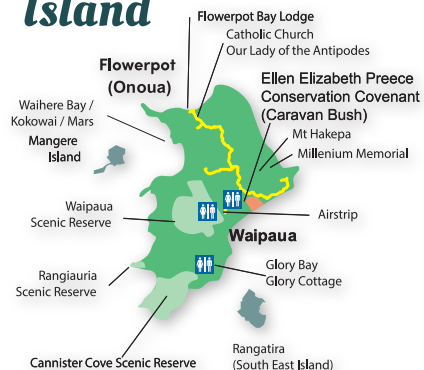
www.airchathams.co.nz



Chatham Island



Pitt Island



ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGES:

Hotel Chatham has the island's widest range of vehicle and accommodation options including renowned restaurant and bar hospitality at the hotel right on Waitangi Beach. Make it simple and coordinate all of your holiday in one place.

INCLUSIONS:

FLIGHTS: Flights with Air Chathams from Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch, returning back to any of these cities.

TRANSFERS: Return airport transfers on Chatham Island.

MEALS: Cooked breakfast & packed lunch daily, dinner nightly including welcome crayfish meal.

ACCOMMODATION: Hotel Chatham property. Double/Twin room. No single supplement charge.

TOUR GUIDE: Local guide daily to show you around the places of interest

ITINERARY: Tailor made itineraries to maximise your time & travel experience

3 nights from:
\$3000
add additional nights for
\$600 pp*

PACKAGE DETAILS:

- * This is a wholesale price for groups of 2-10 people
For groups of 10+ people - prices can be negotiated
- The rate quoted is nett and inclusive of GST.
The 20% commission is included in the price. The hotel takes \$2000 and the commission is \$600
- MLOS is 3 nights and 2 days on island
- The package is unique to the RTO Trade and TRENZ participants for international trade partners
- All concessions, attraction and guiding fees are included in the price above

- Return flights are via Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch.
- For packages with 10 or more people one tour company staff person/guide is accommodated with meals FOC.
Note: Company guides do not guide on the island
- Children are welcome and are the same rate as adults
- Check in requirements are based on plane arrivals.
- The minimum for this package is 2 people.
The maximum is 23 people . This includes a staff member. From groups over 10 people further discounts apply.



"The Chatham Islands' basalt columns at Ohira Bay are special because they showcase exceptionally well-defined, regular geometric patterns formed by lava cooling millions of years ago, making them a stunning geological feature and a popular tourist attraction. The columns are vertical shrinkage structures resulting from the cooling of a basalt lava flow that erupted on land approximately 80 million years ago, during the Cretaceous period."







FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Primary Package Booker: www.hotelchathams.co.nz

Flights with Air Chathams: www.airchathams.co.nz

Everything about the Chatham Islands: www.chathamislands.co.nz



airchathams.co.nz

