

Ulva Island, Southland, New Zealand

One of the world's few open predator-free sanctuaries, Ulva Island dazzles with ancient podocarp forest and birds so fearless they'll hop onto your boots.

⚓ Tender (expedition Zodiacs or water taxi from Oban)

🕒 Typical call: 5-8 hrs

🇳🇿 NZD

🗣️ English / Te Reo Māori

🦋 Wildlife & nature focus

🍷 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender only — expedition ships anchor in Paterson Inlet; larger ships tender to Oban then water taxi (~7 min) to island

Best For: Birdwatching, untouched native forest, wildlife photography

Walk to Highlights: Tracks start at the wharf; Sydney Cove 5 min, Boulder Beach 1.5 hrs return

Don't Miss: Kākā parrots in the canopy, fearless robins on the trail, historic Post Office Bay letterbox

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ NZD \$32–\$35 return (adult) · 🚗 **Rideshare** ❌ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Guided Birdwatching Walk** — Expert local guides (Ulva's Guided Walks, Ruggedy Range) lead 2.5–3-hr walks, identifying bird calls, mimicking them to...
- **Boulder Beach Loop** — The island's signature self-guided circuit through ancient Rimu and Totara podocarp forest to the rugged southern shore.
- **Post Office Bay to Sydney Cove Stroll** — Short, flat walk from the main landing wharf through forest to a golden-sand beach.
- **Sea Kayaking & Snorkelling** — The Ulva Island–Te Wharawhara Marine Reserve (est.

BEST WALKS

- **Boulder Beach Loop** ~3 km | 1.5 hrs return | Easy — From Post Office Bay wharf, follow the main track south through ancient podocarp forest past West End Beach junction to Boulder Beach...
- **Flagstaff Point Lookout** 20 min return | Easy — Short track from Post Office Bay to a hilltop lookout with panoramic views across Paterson Inlet to Stewart Island.
- **Sydney Cove Beach** 5 min from Post Office Bay | Very easy — Flat path from the main wharf to a sheltered golden-sand beach.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Sandflies are fierce. Bring strong DEET or Picaridin repellent and wear long sleeves. The beaches are the worst spots.
- Layer up. At 47° South the weather can flip from sunny to rainy in minutes. Waterproof jacket is non-negotiable.
- Biosecurity is serious. Clean all footwear and check bags for seeds and rodents before landing. Failure to comply can mean a refusal of entry.

Ulva Island, Southland, New Zealand — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Tequila Fishing and Bird Watching Charters

Book a boat for fishing and bird watching tours.

2 Rakiura Museum

Explore local history and culture at this island museum.

P Cruise port / terminal