

Mana Island, Mana Island Scientific Reserve

WILD FILE

Access Private boat or charter boat, Friends of Mana Island runs occasional trips and can provide guides for groups who wish to charter a boat.

Grade Easy

Distance 6.92km

Total ascent 251m

Time 2-3hr

Map BP31

Further information Mana Island is a DOC scientific reserve open to the public from 8am to 5pm. Friends of Mana Island co-ordinate volunteer trips which often include staying overnight on the island

www.manaisland.org.nz

DESCRIPTION

A 20-minute boat ride from the marina at Paremata is all it took to reach Mana Island.

From the stony beach, crunch up past the historic woolshed, a reminder that the island was farmed up until the 1980s. Near the landing area, a flat section of the island includes the ranger's house and other buildings that occasionally house volunteers and scientists. You can stroll along the mown pathways reading the information panels learning about volunteer plantings and how to tell the difference between takahe and pukeko.

Climb the Tirohanga Track towards the south end of the island. Walking through the bush, you'll likely see and hear yellow-crowned kakariki chattered and swooping, bellbirds and the odd robin.

A steep incline leads to a viewpoint which looks back towards Titahi Bay. Then, with a little more climbing (20-30min from the lower area) the 'table top' of the island is reached.

Once called Table Island by Captain Cook, a more imaginative Maori legend tells the story of a taniwha, te Awarua o Porirua, crashing into the island and flattening the top. This flat top makes the island ideal for a walk to take in the sweeping views in all directions.

A diversion from the Tirohanga Track leads to the southern end of the island. Here, the wind turbines of Makara, the Kaikoura Ranges, and other parts of the South Island can be seen.

Back on the Tirohanga Track head north towards the historic lighthouse site. Bushes, vines, speargrass and flax grow lushly along the sides of the path.

At the site of the old lighthouse, now a trig, you can enjoy the view north to Kapiti Island. On the northern end of the island is a concrete gannet colony set up to try to draw in real gannets.

The Tirohanga Track then heads towards the beach. On the grassy paths, skinks dart and in places sheets of corrugated onduline provide a warm hiding place for nocturnal geckos.

Back down in the lower area, there is areclaimed wetland to explore.

Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route. Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

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