



PROJECT
ISLAND
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Island Wildlife Experiences

Discover some of Aotearoa's rarest native birdlife with your expert guide on an interactive private tour of Moturua Island. Experience the beauty of Ipipiri / the eastern Bay of Islands, learn about its rich history and cultural significance, and enjoy a hike through beautiful regenerating bush, all while supporting Project Island Song's work to protect and restore these unique local ecosystems.

About the experience:

The second largest of the islands of Ipipiri, Moturua provides fantastic opportunities to experience rare birds in the wild, and offers a peaceful and exclusive-feeling experience of the islands, away from the large tour groups.

Moturua is home to many of the treasured native species that Project Island Song has reintroduced to the bay, including tīeke (North Island saddleback), kākārīki (red-crowned parakeet), pōpokotea (whitehead), toutouwai (North Island robin), and wētāpunga (giant wētā), as well as thriving populations of the iconic North Island brown kiwi and tūturiwhatu (New Zealand dotterel).

Our private tours are for your group only, and limited to a maximum of 6 guests, ensuring that you get the best possible wildlife discovery experience, and plenty of opportunity to ask questions of our knowledgeable guides.

Your expert guide from Project Island Song will meet you at either Russell or Paihia Wharf, where your experience will begin with a half-hour cruise out to the island, and an introduction to the rich history and culture of the bay, with the chance of spotting dolphins, penguins, and other seabirds on the way.

Over the course of the tour, your guide will lead your group along the 4.6km track that loops around the island, spotting wildlife, enjoying spectacular island views, and visiting Moturua's four main beaches along the way.

As well as the special wildlife, Moturua is also rich in history. Mangahāwea Bay is believed to be one of the first known sites of human occupation in Aotearoa, with archaeological finds dating inhabitation at the site back to around 1250AD.

Moturua's story continued as the site of significant contact with early European explorers and more recently hosted Navy coastal defences during World War II.



Things to know:

- Please wear practical walking shoes or boots, and be prepared to take these off and get your feet wet - we will be making a beach landing to access the island
- While the track is mainly well-formed, the hike does require a good level of fitness and does include hills — there is a total elevation gain of around 240 metres.
- You will be travelling on our small 6-metre workboat. Depending on sea conditions, there is a chance of getting wet from spray on the way

Details:

- \$950 (incl. GST)
- For groups of up to 6 people
- 4 hrs 30 mins total duration (approx. 3 hrs 30 mins on the island)
- Typical timing 8.30am - 1pm
- Pick up and return to Paihia or Russell wharf

All proceeds from our guided tours go directly to support Project Island Song's mission to protect and restore the unique ecosystems and heritage of the Bay of Islands so that it is here for everyone, forever.

Find out more at projectislandsong.co.nz



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