

# Working on the Chatham Islands

This factsheet is designed to give DOC staff some background information on the Chatham Islands and the expected working conditions.

Working on the Chatham Islands offers a unique opportunity to contribute to some of Aotearoa's most important conservation outcomes.

The islands are home to species and ecosystems found nowhere else in the world. Our work here makes a real and visible difference — protecting threatened species, maintaining predator-free island sanctuaries, and supporting long-term restoration across the islands.

This is a role for people who enjoy:

- Hands-on conservation work with real impact
- Being part of a small, supportive team
- Living and working in a remote but close-knit community

While the work can be physically demanding at times, it is also rewarding, varied, and strongly connected to place and purpose.

## Travel to the Chathams

Air Chathams flies to the Chatham Islands from Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland. The flight takes around 2.5 hours, depending on the weather.

Frequent flight delays are caused due to weather conditions. Air Chathams will contact you via text on the number you provided when you booked tickets if there are delays. We recommend booking flexible airfares in the event that your flight date and time changes.

Air Chatham's has a luggage limit of 1 checked item weighing up to 23kg, so pack carefully or be prepared to pay for your excess baggage. Extra bags are \$70-90 depending on pre-booking online. Extra weight above 23kgs is charged at \$4.15/ kg. Chathams Wairarapa District will not pay for excess baggage unless arranged prior.

## Useful info to know about main Chathams

The local time on the Chathams is 45 minutes ahead of New Zealand.

The main centre on the island is Waitangi which has an ANZ bank, medical centre, hotel/pub, police station, Waitangi café, bottle shop and a range of accommodation. The bank is open between 10am-2pm on Tuesdays however the hotel also has an ATM. There are two general stores in Waitangi, the Waitangi Store (aka top shop) which sells groceries, has an ATM and is also the post office. The Dough and Go sells groceries and is also the fuel station.

## Tips for main Chathams

- The price of groceries is high, especially perishable items such as fruit and vegetables. Groceries are purchased on-line and shipped to Chathams either with Chathams Air or Chathams Islands Shipping.
- Public conservation land makes up less than 5% of the Chatham Island, check land ownership and gain permission before visiting any sites of interest
- The speed limit on Chatham Island is 80k on the open road. The roads are a mix of seal and gravel. Take care as dust, children, stock and motor bikes are common. 70km is recommended on gravel roads and when towing a trailer. Please be courteous when passing oncoming traffic, slow down to avoid stones flicking up and hitting windscreens.

## The outer island nature reserves

Pitt Island is also known as Rangihau by Moriori and Rangiauria by Māori. Rangatira is also known as Hokoreoro (enlivened through the sound of flight) by Moriori and South East Island by locals. Mangere (as it is called by locals and iwi) is also known as Maung'Re (sun mountain) by Moriori.

Rangatira and Mangere are both predator free and have full nature reserve status. It is a privilege to visit these islands and mainly limited to those people engage in conservation management. It is illegal for any native plants or animals to be deliberately damaged / injured / killed or taken from the islands unless in accordance with approved conservation management programmes.

On Rangatira which is dense with seabird burrows, people are required to wear petrel boards (a roughly A3 sized piece of ply strapped to your boots with snowboard bindings) over much of the island to minimise our impact on the habitat. If you are going to Rangatira please bring sturdy boots and be aware that some damage can occur due to the rubbing of the bindings.

## Accommodation

Accommodation is available for non-island residents and is subject to a standard tenancy agreement and market rent.

## Communications

There is generally cell phone coverage in the populated areas.