

Tiakina tō tātou taonga Mātiu

Protect our Mātiu / Somes Island treasures

Mātiu / Somes Island is a predator-free sanctuary for rare plants and animals that is owned by Taranaki Whānui and managed by the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai.

Help us to protect this taonga (treasure).

Stop

Check

Go

Before leaving the mainland

- Check your clothing, bags and equipment for pest animals, pest plants, seeds and soil. Pay particular attention to Velcro and pockets.
- Clean your footwear to remove seeds, soil and diseases.
- Keep all food in sealed containers. Open bags of food are not allowed on the island.



If you find a pest

On the mainland before leaving

Get rid of the pest and re-check your gear.

On the boat

Tell the crew immediately.

On the island

Tell your tour guide or the island ranger immediately, or call **0800 DOC HOT**.

A hitchhiker's guide to pests



Rats and mice can squeeze through tiny 7 mm wide gaps, and cats can hide mice in their owners' bags! Mātiu / Somes Island has been rat free since 1990 – one of the reasons birds are thriving here.



Insects like Argentine ants can attack and kill birds and young chicks in the nest. They have not yet been detected on Mātiu / Somes Island.



Weeds can choke forests and kill trees. They are spread by seeds and spores that stick to clothing and hide in soil.



Plague skinks (also known as rainbow skinks) have not yet reached Mātiu / Somes Island and would devastate native skinks here. Look out for their small (10mm), oval, white eggs.



Dogs are not permitted.



Smoking and vaping are only permitted at the island wharf.



Fires of any kind are not permitted, including portable cooking stoves.



Do not drink the water on the island.

Enjoy Mātiu / Somes Island and help us protect it!

- Clean and check your gear before leaving the mainland.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Do not approach animals any closer than 10m – animals may come to you, but do not touch or disturb them and always give them the right of way.
- Keep to formed tracks and mowed areas at all times.
- Use the toilets provided – do not go in the bush.
- Bring sufficient supplies – no food or drinking water is available on the island.
- Pack in / pack out – take all rubbish back to the mainland, including fruit pips, cores and stones. Do not throw rubbish into composting toilets.
- Do not take anything from the island – everything is protected.