

Matakohe Limestone Island Health & Safety

The island is a fantastic place to visit but, as with all outdoor trips, please make sure you are prepared for the weather conditions, are aware of the potential hazards on the island and observe the hazard controls identified below.

Traps and Poison

There are numerous wooden box traps set around the island, many along walking tracks. These contain 'DOC 200' stoat traps and 'Victor rodent snap traps' - see images below- and are set to catch any invading stoats or rats. They are capable of breaking fingers.



The entire island has a grid of bait stations at 25m by 25m intervals, containing a poison (active toxin - bromodiolone) to control rats and mice. This toxin is harmful to humans if ingested. There are two types of baitstation on the island- see images below.



- **Please DO NOT TOUCH trap boxes or bait stations**
- **Supervise children at all times**

Slips, Trips and Falls

Tracks can be slippery when wet.

There are sharp objects such as oyster shells on the beach.

Take care of barbed wire on fences.

Stiles can be slippery if wet.

Climbing on bricks, walls and other ruins structures is not permitted.

Take care or avoid steep areas, particularly quarry edges and faces where the lime rock can be unstable.

- **Suitable closed toe foot-wear is required**
- **Keep to the walking tracks**
- **Supervise children at all times**

Ruins and Historic Structures

One of the unique features of Matakoho-limestone island is the old cement works ruins and associated structures. They can be viewed easily from the cleared tracks but off the tracks these sites contain old concrete blocks and rusty metal and other hazardous items that could potentially cause cuts, falls and crush injuries. For this reason all visitors must remain on the tracks.

- **Do not climb on or around the old cement ruins**
- **Keep to the tracks through these areas**
- **Keep off the derelict wharf beside the island pontoon.**
- **Supervise children at all times**

Toxic Plants

Some plants on the island are very poisonous e.g. ngaio and oleander.

- **Do not chew on, or place vegetation in your mouth**

Society boat - Petrel Tua Toru

If you are travelling (usually a group or school class) in the Society's boat you must take the following precautions:

- **Follow the skippers instructions at all times**
- **Non-swimmers and young children to wear life jackets (provided)**
- **Stay seated while the boat is underway**
- **Remain seated on arrival until the skipper says it is okay to disembark**
- **Keep hands inside the boat coming alongside the pontoons to avoid injury**

Swimming and Wading

Strong currents exist around parts of the island with tidal movement, particularly at the island pontoon.

Oysters encrust rocks at most beaches and can cut unwary swimmers.

There are a number of dams on the island, some of which have slippery and steep sides.

- **Take care when swimming and supervise children at all times.**

Allergies

At certain times of the year, the grass on the island produces a lot of pollen. There are also bees, wasps and nettles present.

- **Bring appropriate medication with you if you suffer allergic reactions to these or other environmental factors**
- **Keep to the tracks**

Emergency contacts

Please note there is no cell phone coverage on the eastern/south-eastern sides of the island (coverage is approximately line of site with the cell tower at the top of Parahaki).

Ranger Phone (09) 436 0923