

You can help keep the Eastern Bay of Islands (Ipipiri) pest- free and bird- rich

What pests?

Rodents (rats and mice) stow away all the time! There are also much smaller pests such as weed seeds and ants that can hide in packs, pockets, shoe soles and socks and then catch a free ride to the islands without you even knowing.

Pests like these damage the islands' chances of singing again. Keeping them out will help Ipipiri to become the natural haven for New Zealand's endangered plants and birds that it once was.

Please follow these biosecurity measures to stop these pests getting to the islands of the Eastern Bay of Islands. And remember, pets are not permitted on DOC-administered reserves in the Bay of Islands as dogs and cats kill wildlife.

Just before leaving the mainland

- Pack all food into sealed containers. Do not transport it in open boxes or supermarket bags.
- Clean and check all gear as close to departure time as possible to reduce the risk of rodent reinvasion. If unsure, unpack, re-inspect, re-clean if needed, and then re-pack.
- Pack all gear into rodent-proof sealable daypacks, overnight bags or solid boxes with no holes.

- Unroll and inspect any tarpaulins, tents or covers. These are known hiding places for rats, mice, insects and seeds.
- Clean and check all tools and machinery contaminated by soil e.g. spades, shovels. These should be free of all pests, dirt, soil, plant material and seeds.
- All footwear should be clean and free from soil and seeds.
- If you are travelling in your own vessel, check it for rodent sign (e.g. droppings, gnawed food and cables) and insects, particularly ants.

***On
arriving
at the
islands***

***Are you
using your
own
vessel?***

- Once gear and passengers have been landed on the island, all vessels should anchor offshore and away from other boats. Never attach mooring lines directly to the land.
- Try not to land on the islands at night. Landing at night greatly increases the risk of rodent invasion as rodents are much more active during the hours of darkness
- Do not leave any rubbish onboard if you are transporting passengers between the islands and the mainland. Rubbish attracts rodents.
- Check all obvious rodent shelters e.g. fenders, dinghies for rodent stowaways.
- Try to have some form of rodent control onboard e.g. glue boards, traps or bait stations. You can also check whether your marina has rodent control in place to reduce the chances of rodents getting on board.

***And
Remember...***

- Check for any signs of rodents, insects, other animals and plants. Look for droppings, soil, insect eggs or larvae.
- If you think a pest or weed has reached the islands, contact the Department of Conservation (Bay of Islands Area Office, ph. 09-4078474 or Russell Visitor Centre, ph. 09-4039005) immediately.

