



Abel Tasman National Park islands

What you need to know before you go

Why the islands are important

Tonga, Adele and Fisherman islands, the three largest islands in the Abel Tasman National Park, are home to many New Zealand plant and animal species which are either low in number or are no longer found on the nearby mainland. These include seabirds such as sooty shearwater and little blue penguins, forest birds such as tomtits, Nelson green gecko, and among the plant life, renga lily and milktree.

All non-native mammalian predators have been removed from these islands. This gives native plant and animal species on the islands a chance to recover from predation and increase in number. Other threatened native species also can be moved to these island sanctuaries.

Your help is vital in ensuring pests, such as mice and rats, are not accidentally carried onto these islands so the islands remain safe for the native animals and plants living there.



Nelson green gecko. Photo: Shannel Courtney.

Before going to islands

- Please check boats, kayaks, all bags, containers and gear before going onto islands and ensure there are no mice, rats or other animals inside.
- Ensure that all clothing, footwear and gear are free of soil and plant material, including seeds and foliage.
- Check there are no ants or spiders in food and gear you are taking with you.

Tonga Island, where there is a seal breeding colony, is not suitable for public access. Please keep at least 20 metres from seals and do not disturb them.

Please do not light fires on islands and take away all your rubbish to help protect the natural environment.

The damage pests do

Rats and mice

Rats and mice impact on island ecosystems by eating the seeds and suppressing re-vegetation and through preying on insects, reptiles and birds.

Stoats

Stoats are very aggressive and efficient hunters that prey on birds, reptiles and insects, including animals many times their size.

Weeds

Weeds can alter the forest structure and can out-compete some native plants. In doing so, they also significantly alter the habitat and food availability for some native animals.

Non-native ants

Non-native ant species can have a massive impact on the natural environment because of their sheer numbers, appetite, and aggressiveness. They pose a serious threat to the conservation values of our reserves and natural areas, including:

- eliminating native ants;
- competing with birds for food, such as insects and worms;
- competing with native birds and lizards for nectar;
- displacing and killing native invertebrates.

