

Pukekura Toroa

Objective: To understand how the use of the Taiaroa Head site has changed from fortification to conservation. To observe albatross and other seabirds in their natural habitat and visit the disappearing gun.

Programme Description: From fortification to conservation, students will look at how the use of Taiaroa Head has changed over time. The headland's importance to Kai Tahu stems from its use as a Pa site (~300 years ago). The lighthouse and pilot station (1864) were set up to aid shipping travelling along the coast. In 1886 the focus changed to fortification and a number of gun batteries were installed, including in 1889 the Armstrong disappearing gun. Now Taiaroa Head is home to the only mainland breeding colony for the Royal Albatross in the world (1920). The evolution of the defensive site, the fact that human modification of the environment led to the settlement of the Albatross and the cultural change to a conservation ethic is a fascinating story from the social science perspective.

Time: 2 hours

Age Focus: Years 4-8

Curriculum Area: Science (Level 2-4, LW – Achievement Objectives 1-4)

Cost: \$4/person



Itinerary

0 min

Arrive, meet guide at reception –
please arrive 10 minutes early

Displays (15 min)

- Story of Tarawai
- Pou, Tututuku panels

Educational Room (15 min)

- How different groups use Pukekura

30 min

Observatory (30 min)

- Albatross / Shag Viewing
- Observatory Displays

1 hour

Fort Tour (30 min)

- Disappearing Gun
- Process Drama in Fort Taiaroa

1.5 hours

Education Rm (30 min)

- Maori Game, Timeline Game
- Displays (15 min)
- Treasure Hunt

2.15 hours

Depart