

# Toroa at Taiaroa

## Objective:

To understand how the headland at Pukekura has changed from a site of fortification to conservation. Observe seabirds in their natural habitat and walk through the historic tunnels of Fort Taiaroa.

## Programme Description:

Students will look at how the usage of the headland has changed throughout the course of history. Pukekura's importance to Kāi Tahu stems from its cultural usage as a pā site (~300 years ago). Afterwards, the lighthouse and pilot station were set up to aid vessels travelling along the coast (1864). In 1886, the focus changed to fortification and a number of gun batteries were installed on the headland.

Nowadays, Pukekura is the only mainland albatross breeding colony in the Southern Hemisphere. The evolution from defensive site to conservation land, caused by human modification of the environment is a fascinating story from the social science perspective.

**Time:** 2 Hours

**Age Focus:** Year 4 – 8

**Curriculum Area:** Science (Level 2 – 4)

**Cost:** \$4 per person

# Itinerary

0 Minutes

## Arrive, meet guide at reception

Please arrive 15 minutes early

## Education Room (30 Min)

- Albatross dress-up game to learn features of albatross
- Explanation of the Northern Royal Albatross breeding cycle
- Brief overview of the historic timeline of Pukekura

30 Minutes

## Observatory (30 Mins)

- Viewing albatross and other wildlife from the observatory

1 Hour

## Fort Taiaroa (30 Mins)

- Educational walk through the tunnels of Fort Taiaroa
- See the fully-restored 1886 Armstrong Disappearing Gun

1.5 Hours

## Wrap-Up

- Hands-on-Heads wrap up game

2 Hours

## Depart

# Royal Albatross Centre Education



## THINGS TO NOTE:

- We can accommodate a maximum of 25 people (children, adults, and infants) in the albatross observatory at a time. Groups exceeding this size will need to be split into smaller groups and rotate between activities.
- Bookings typically run early in the morning before we open the centre to our other visitors. We get very busy during the tourism season (November – March) and are more likely to decline education bookings during this period.
- Please arrive 15 minutes early to give students enough time to use the bathroom and settle in our education room. Late arrivals will cut into the education programme.

