

Totaranui Education Centre Ngarata Homestead

Abel Tasman National Park



Introduction

Totaranui Education Centre is operated by the Department of Conservation for schools, youth and educational groups to enhance learning about the natural environment. The centre is available to other groups when not in use by schools. It is an ideal venue for sports groups, family reunions and celebrations.

How to get there

The centre is located at Totaranui Campground in the heart of the Abel Tasman National Park. Totaranui is a 32 km drive east of Takaka of which 12 km is on unsealed road. There are daily water taxi services from Marahau and Kaiteriteri (approx 1-2 hours) and a bus service operates in summer.

Homestead facilities

The education centre consists of two buildings: an amenities block and the Ngarata Homestead.

The homestead sleeps 40 people in seven bunkrooms of various sizes; mattresses are provided. There is also a workroom, library, lounge and two toilets. Heating is by wood fires, firewood is provided. The homestead is connected to the Totaranui filtered water supply. The homestead has a sprinkler fire alarm system.

The amenities block contains a dining room, toilets and showers, pantry, drying room and kitchen. Heating is provided by a log burner, firewood is provided. The kitchen is well equipped with one domestic stove, a commercial stove, a coal range, microwave, two fridges and a freezer. Cooking utensils are supplied, including pots and pans. A gas barbecue with gas is also available. Crockery and cutlery hire is available to private groups only - school groups are to supply their own.

All rubbish is removed by DOC, rubbish bins are on-site. It is the groups' responsibility to leave the homestead clean and tidy. Please use the rubbish re-cycling bins.

Two public telephones are located at the Totaranui camp office. There is no cell phone coverage.

Making a booking

No booking can be assured until the deposit has been received. Prices are for 1 June 2010 to 31 July 2011

School rates

Bookings for schools are accepted one year in advance.

- Per night rate: \$7.50 per youth/child.
- \$15.00 per teacher/adults.
- Minimum fee: \$260.00 per night.

Private groups

Bookings are only accepted if the homestead is not in use by school groups.

- Per night rate: \$15.00 per youth/child (5 yrs-17 yrs inclusive; pre-schoolers are free)
- \$27.00 per adult.
- Minimum fee: \$360.00 per night.

Please note for the summer peak period, bookings are only accepted before 1 May, and will be balloted. The minimum fee for the summer peak period is \$410.00 per night.

Camping and hut options

If you plan to overnight elsewhere in the park as part of your stay, make your Abel Tasman Coast Track camp or hut booking prior to arriving in Totaranui. To do this contact the Abel Tasman Great Walk booking desk, phone 03 546 8210. Homestead hire charges still apply when groups are staying overnight in the park, but still have booked use of the homestead.

Homestead/Camp rules

Totaranui is in Abel Tasman National Park and is subject to its regulations. In addition specific rules apply to users of the homestead and campground. These are displayed on-site and are available on request.

On arrival and departure all groups will be checked in/checked out by the DOC Ranger. Totaranui Campground is staffed all year round.

Activities

Popular activities include:

- Bush, native birds, estuary and beach studies.
- Glow worms, night walks.
- History study.
- Bush/survival skills.
- Swimming and kayaking - the estuary and beach provide opportunities suitable for all ages.

Tide times

Tide times to help you plan your stay are available at www.doc.govt.nz (see the Abel Tasman Coast Track Great Walk section).

What to bring

- Outdoor clothing for all weather conditions.
- Dish washing liquid. All cleaning agents must be bio-degradable.
- Tea towels.
- Cutlery, plates and cups (cutlery/crockery hire is only available to private groups).
- Bedding - sleeping bags and pillows.
- First aid kit.
- Insect repellent.
- Food - in summer the camp office sells phone-cards, insect repellent, sunscreen, chocolate and gas canisters.

For further information

Contact:

Totaranui Campground
PO Box 166
Takaka 7142

Phone: 03 528 8083

Fax: 03 528 4128

Email: totaranui@doc.govt.nz

