

Mana Island Scientific Reserve



The steep-sided and flat-topped Mana Island is a distinctive feature of Wellington's west coast. The 217 ha island lies only 2.5 km from the mainland at its closest point. Mana Island's name is an abbreviation of Te Mana o Kupe ki Aotearoa. This acknowledges the achievements of Kupe, the legendary 12th century Polynesian navigator who discovered this land - Aotearoa.

Attractions and facilities



Walking tracks lead to spectacular views, a historic lighthouse site, and a colony of concrete gannets that are being used to try and encourage real gannets to start a colony.



Displays featuring the history and natural features of Mana Island are housed in the old woolshed.

Biosecurity

Mana Island has no introduced predators. Ensure ants, mice, rats and other animals and insects do not stow away in your bags. Weeds and soil diseases are also a threat to the island.

Everything on Mana Island is protected and nothing may be removed. Overnight camping, fires and smoking are not permitted. Dogs and other pets are not permitted on the island.



Thoroughly clean your clothing, footwear and bags **before** you leave home.

*To keep the island predator and pest free, visitors must inspect their bags and footwear for ants, rodents, seeds, soil and leaves **before** landing on the island.*

The risk of predator and pest incursion to the island is ever-present. A rat made it to Mana Island in 2011, probably by boat or log. This single rat decimated a population of critically endangered shore plover; Mana no longer has any of these birds.

How to get there

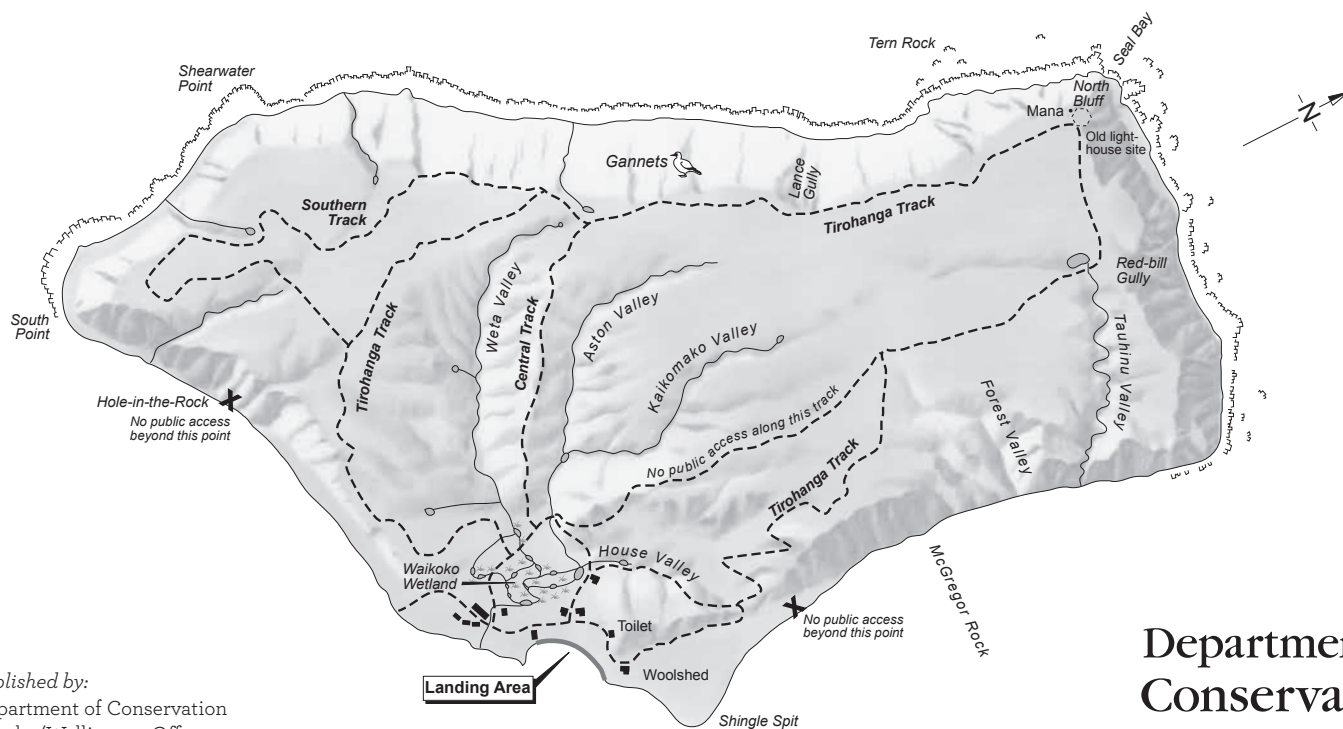
Mana Island is open to visitors, 8 am - 5 pm, all year round. You may only land in the bay between the old woolshed and the wharf. Boats must remain offshore after visitors have landed.

Two moorings, marked by buoys, are available in the bay for daytime use. They are not available for overnight mooring. Dinghies may be pulled up the beach after transporting passengers from their boat.

Contact the DOC Pōneke/Wellington Visitor Centre for information about transport to Mana Island:

Phone: 04 384 7770

Email: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz



Volunteers

Many people volunteer to help with the planting programme organised by the Friends of Mana Island. Planting happens every weekend from May to July.

E-mail Friends of Mana Island for more information: contactus@manaisland.org.nz or visit: www.manaisland.org.nz



History

Artefacts such as fish hooks, spears, and animal remains have been found in middens (domestic rubbish dumps) on Mana Island. These show humans have visited the island since the 1300s.

Mana Island is within view of pā sites at Whitireia Park and Plimmerton that belonged to the Porirua tribes Ngāi Tara and Ngāti Ira.

In the early 1820s, Ngāti Toa people from Waikato, and Ngāti Awa from Taranaki, swept into the region. The Ngāti Toa leader, Te Rauparaha, and his nephew, Te Rangihaeata, both built whare (houses) and developed kumara gardens on Mana Island.

European occupation of the island began in the 1830s when a whaling station was established. Most of the vegetation was cleared to create one of New Zealand's earliest pastoral farms. Wool from Mana Island sheep was among the earliest exported from New Zealand. The woolshed from this era still stands at Shingle Point and now has displays explaining the history and features of the island.

A lighthouse was built at the northern end in 1863, and the island passed into Crown ownership in 1865. Sheep were removed in 1978 after a suspected outbreak of scrapie disease, but grazing continued until the last cattle were taken off in 1986. DOC took over management of the island in 1987 and began to restore Mana to its natural state.

Conservation

With the support of community groups, such as Friends of Mana Island and Forest & Bird, the island's forest canopy is being restored by a massive replanting programme. The only places where regeneration of native shrubs and trees is not actively encouraged are the many historic sites on Mana. These are being maintained as grassland to preserve the historic features and support a significant takahē population.

Mana Island's potential for threatened species conservation was greatly enhanced in 1990 when mice were eradicated – they had been present in plague numbers. Fortunately, rats and other mammalian predators never established on the island.

Mana is a significant location for Cook Strait giant wētā, McGregor's skink and goldstripe gecko. Takahē, toutouwai/ North Island robin, korimako/bellbird, kākārīki/yellow-crowned parakeet, rowi/Okarito brown kiwi, and pōpokotea/whitehead, as well as three lizard species have been introduced. Other threatened species may be introduced to Mana as suitable habitats develop.

As well as revegetation, many other initiatives have enhanced Mana's ecological value. In 1997, a colony of concrete gannet was installed with the aim of attracting real gannets to breed there, and in 1998, the Waikoko wetland

was developed. This will eventually provide habitat suitable for fernbird/mātātā, brown mudfish, and a range of threatened wetland plants from the Cook Strait and Wellington Ecological Districts.

Protect plants and animals

Everything on the island is protected, please do not remove anything. Many species are unique to New Zealand and often rare.

Remove rubbish

Litter is harmful to wildlife and can increase vermin and disease. Plan your visit to reduce rubbish, and take your rubbish away with you.

Keep streams and lakes clean

When cleaning and washing, take the water and wash well away from the water source. Soaps and detergents are harmful to water-life so drain used water into the soil for it to be filtered.

If you suspect water may be contaminated, either boil it for at least 3 minutes, filter it, or chemically treat it.

Keep to the track

Keep to the track to reduce the chance of damaging birds' nests and fragile plants.

Consider others

People visit the natural areas for many reasons. Be considerate of other visitors who also have a right to enjoy the natural environment.

Respect our cultural heritage

Many places in New Zealand have a spiritual and historical significance. Treat these places with consideration and respect.

Enjoy your visit

Enjoy your outdoor experience. Take a last look before leaving an area – will the next visitor know that you have been there?

Protect the environment for your own sake, for the sake of those who come after you, and for the environment itself.

Toitū te whenua (Leave the land undisturbed)

Take care visiting natural areas

New Zealand is renowned for its changeable weather and rugged terrain, be prepared for adverse conditions. Carry food and warm, waterproof clothing, even on short walks. If you think there is a safety hazard in a conservation area, call the DOC HOTline or the nearest DOC office.

DOC HOTline
0800 362 468

Report any safety hazards
or conservation emergencies
For Fire and Search and Rescue Call 111



Further information

DOC Pōneke/Wellington Visitor Centre

18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Phone: 04 384 7770, E-mail: wellingtonvc@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz