

Are you ready?

Planning

A school trip involves a great deal of responsibility and planning, with the first step being to establish the educational aims of your trip and how best to achieve these.

As part of the planning process, it is also recommended you make a preliminary visit to the island in order to assess suitability for the work you intend to do, as well as any potential hazards.

It is also necessary to ensure students and accompanying adults have been thoroughly briefed on your expectations regarding good environmental behaviour. Do not expect your Tiritiri Matangi guide to control your students' behaviour. That is not their job!

Check out the following websites for further information for your trip:

www.doc.govt.nz/tiritirischoolvisit

www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz, using the school visits pages



Getting there

Tiritiri Matangi is an open sanctuary that the public are free to visit. However, there are limits on the number of visitors who can arrive by ferry in any one day. If you are planning a school visit you will need to obtain detailed information from island staff and book the trip and guides in advance:

phone 09 476 0010 or email: manager@tiritirimatangi.org.nz

The maximum in any one school group visiting the island is 85 per day. Guiding is carried out by the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi, with a fee of \$2 per student (note this fee may be subject to change).

The main ferry service to the island is provided by '360 Discovery' (phone 0800 360 3472 or www.360discovery.co.nz). Ferries leave from Downtown Auckland and Gulf Harbour Wednesday to Sunday inclusive, with extra days in January (note that in the summer peak season the ferry can get booked out early).

Landing is sometimes not possible in stormy weather. Make sure you phone 0800FANTAIL after 7am on the day of your trip to check if the boat is going.

Facilities on the island

There are toilets and a small sheltered area near the wharf. Additional toilets, water and shelter are found in the Visitors Centre near the lighthouse.

You need to bring your own food to the island, however complimentary tea and coffee are available for adults in the visitors centre and cold drinks are for sale in the shop. The gift shop is run by the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi

and all profits go directly back into funding the island. There are souvenirs for sale from 50c and a large range of gifts for \$5 or less – a good maths lesson for the children when working out how best to spend their \$2 pocket money. The books are a great resource for the teachers to purchase for their schools.

Looking after the island



The island is free of introduced predators and many hours and dollars have been spent getting rid of weeds – please help keep it that way.

This ‘biosecurity’ topic would be good to discuss with your students prior to the visit.

Q: How could predators, unwanted insects and weeds invade the island?

A: *With the help of people, they could hitch a ride in bags (mice & insects), on soles of shoes, in pockets and in velcro on clothing (weed seeds).*

So please:

Before you board the ferry, check bags for stowaway rodents and insects.

To prevent bringing plant pests (weeds) to the island please ensure all clothing, footwear and bags are free of soil or vegetation that could contain seeds.

Please do not bring tarpaulins for the students to sit on as they could contain weed seeds and be a refuge for stowaway insects and rodents.

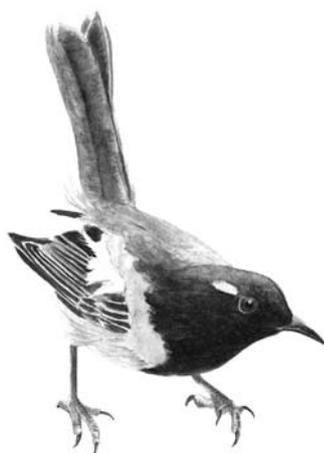
Also:

Take your rubbish off the island with you.

No smoking apart from at the wharf and the visitors centre.



Checklist leading up to the visit



- Have you confirmed class levels and numbers with the staff on Tiritiri Matangi and the ferry service?
- Have you at least skim-read this education kit, and prepared an activity to 'hook in' your students?
- Have you organised some activities for the children to do after their guided walk and lunch and before the ferry leaves eg. work sheets from this kit, a walk to Hobbs beach for a look in the rock pools – tide dependent or a bird observation time? If it is a rainy day you will need something to occupy the students inside.
- Has the suitability of participants' clothing and footwear been checked several days PRIOR to the trip? Also remind them to pack their food in a lunchbox (no plastic bags).
- Are all accompanying adults aware of any specific health needs among the students in their care and how to deal with these? Are any necessary medications being carried?
- Do you have comprehensive first aid kits and adults who are able to administer first aid? (NOTE: Tiritiri Matangi guides do carry a basic first aid kit and have a system for calling for additional help, but it is best practice for each school group to also be prepared).
- Do accompanying adults have appropriate skills for the venture? If not, arrange suitable training and/or a briefing to clarify your expectations.
- Have you advised students well in advance of what your expectations are for their behaviour on the island?
- Have you identified and agreed on the sanctions to be used to curb unacceptable behaviour? Are these clear to all students, teachers, and accompanying adults?
- Has a session been held for accompanying staff and parents about safety considerations and behavioural expectations?
- Have students been thoroughly briefed in relation to the purpose of the visit, background work to be covered, method of supervision, conduct and expectations?
- Have you arranged a clear recall signal for groups (please do NOT use whistles) and ensured that all recognise it and can respond appropriately?
- Have you written a risk management plan and had it approved by senior staff and Board of Trustees (BOT)?

The adult/ student ratios below are suggestions only. It is the responsibility of each school to determine levels of appropriate adult supervision as part of their risk management plan.

Primary school age = 1:6 (minimum)

Intermediate = 1:8

College = 1:10

Checklist: day of the visit

- Check first aid kit(s) including any individual medication if necessary.
- Adult/student ratio correct?
- Provide accompanying adults with a list of their group members and a copy of the risk management plan.
- Take a master copy of group lists and phone numbers.
- Check numbers boarding transport, re-check at the end of day.
- Take any clip boards, worksheets, etc you plan to use.
- Have an adult responsible for checking bags for rodents/insects and shoes for soil and seeds.
- Ensure students are aware of what 'pack in, pack out' means, and that each is reminded of this rule and abides by it.

OR

- Take a group litter bag and ensure all left over lunches, wrappers, etc are taken off the island by a designated adult.

Student environmental behaviour guide

Behave responsibly

A visit to an open sanctuary such as Tiritiri Matangi is a privilege. Hundreds of people over many years have worked hard to make this island as beautiful as it now is.

Stay on the tracks

Ground nesting birds live in such places as the long grass, the wire vine, and the flax bushes, so that if you go off track you may disturb them or even unknowingly crush their nests.

Remove all your rubbish

Tiritiri Matangi Island has only enough rubbish bins for the few people who live there.





Stay with your group

The island is small but has hidden dangers, especially around the cliffs. Also, the ferry waits for no one, should you get lost.

Keep voices quiet

For two reasons: (1) If there is too much noise the wildlife will remain hidden from you, making for a somewhat boring day; and (2) Noisy people spoil the experience for other visitors. No running or ball games at the lighthouse area or down on the beaches!

Don't feed the birds

There is plenty of good healthy natural food for all the birds on the island. Food such as bread will endanger their health. Also, takahe in particular, will come to expect food from people and may become aggressive.

Show respect

The island of Tiritiri Matangi is a place of great value to tangata whenua and Pakeha alike, as well as being a unique banner of hope for the natural world.

Some potential hazards on Tiritiri Matangi

Ferry to wharf

Listen for instructions from the ferry crew members to find out which level of the ferry you will be disembarking from. This is influenced by the tide. Stand well back from areas where crew members are working. Make sure your students know where to wait until all members of the group have disembarked. Get at least two adults to disembark first.

Cliffs

Tiritiri Matangi Island is surrounded by steep cliffs, and there are no safety barriers. Make sure students keep well back from the edge. This is particularly important when students are freely exploring the lighthouse area at lunchtime.

Dams

There are several dams on the island. Students usually only see the one above the wharf, which is not particularly deep, but should still be kept well back from it.

Rocks

The track leading along the west coast towards Hobbs Beach and the Kawerau Track has many large rocks embedded in it. They could cause people to trip.

NOTE: These hazards are a starting point, and will not cover every possibility! You still need to check the area yourself with the needs of your particular group in mind.

Also, on the Wattle Track there is a very large rock to the side, just after the lighthouse becomes visible. Students sometimes try and climb it. There is quite a big drop down into a valley from there. Be very careful.

Wharf

There is railing only along the left side (as you disembark) of the Tiritiri Matangi wharf. Instruct your students to walk on that side. Also, there are railway tracks embedded in the wharf on which it is easy to trip.

Boardwalks

In many places on both main tracks the boardwalks are placed well above the surrounding ground and bush. Many have guard rails, but not all do, so students need to be warned of the dangers of trying to push past each other in such places. Many parts of the boardwalks also have steps, which can be stumbled upon if walking while looking up into the trees.

Takahe

Takahe are large birds with very strong beaks, and some are particularly attracted to the lunches people bring to the island. They can be quite aggressive and determined when trying to steal food during lunchtime either in the visitor centre area or on Hobbs Beach.

