



CENTRE

UNIQUE

Imagine a huge Albatross with a wing span exceeding three metres sharing your space. Witness the fascinating social and family life of the breeding colony, devoted mothers guarding their chicks; adolescents posturing and displaying as only juveniles can; courtship proceedings with mutual preening; nest building and interplay . . . enjoy the privilege of viewing these majestic seabirds in their natural environment.

Recorded life spans exceeding 60 years, flight reaching speeds of over 100kph and young Albatross that stay at sea continuously for up to five years prior to reaching mating maturity are some of the fascinating facts you will find in our literature and informative displays at the Albatross Centre. On-site closed circuit television viewing of the colony puts you 'into the family frame' and adds an intimate dimension.

Taiaroa Head is the world's only mainland breeding colony of the Royal Northern Albatross.



ROYAL ALBATROSS

RAC04-T&D



Dunedin, New Zealand, Phone +64 3 478 0499, Fax +64 3 478 0575
E-mail: reservations@albatross.org.nz Website: www.albatross.org.nz

Photos by: Rod Morris, Andris Apse, George Chance.

The Royal Albatross Centre is a perfect venue for business in-house meetings, seminars or private functions. In this tranquil environment participants are more receptive to new information and the friendly informality identified with the centre encourages greater participation. Featuring prominently is the poutokomanawa (carved pole) which depicts the Maori history of the headland. The centre is open 364 days a year.

The Royal Albatross Colony, a wildlife reserve managed by the Department of Conservation has been the subject of 60 years of continuous research. Tour fees fund the on-going research and the day-to-day bird management programme.

The Royal Albatross Centre is operated by the Otago Peninsula Trust, a charitable organisation committed to the promotion and preservation of the Otago Peninsula. Proceeds from tours contribute to ecology enhancement and protection.

Reservations essential: ph +64 3 478 0499



ROYAL ALBATROSS

Tour duration: 60 minutes

Spectacular Albatross viewing from the Richdale Observatory is further enhanced with superb video footage and is supported by informative commentary during the Albatross Insight programme which completes the tour. Alternative tours are conducted on Tuesday mornings and during the mating and egg laying season.

FORT TAIAROA

Tour duration: 30 minutes

Stand by for a journey into New Zealand's colonial past. Underground fortifications beneath the Albatross colony feature an 1885 6-inch Armstrong disappearing gun maintained in working condition and informative displays that illustrate the history of the headland fort complex. The fort observation post overlooks the Albatross Colony.

UNIQUE TAIAROA

Combines the Royal Albatross and Fort Taiaroa tours. Tour duration: 90 minutes

Doing the double is a rewarding experience. Wildlife and defence installations share the Peninsula headland, each providing unique insights into wildlife conservation programmes and alternatively our colourful colonial past. Follow the headland history from its use by Maori as a defensive retreat long before the European fortifications of 1885.

ALBATROSS INSIGHT

Tour duration: 30 minutes

Fascinating facts and video footage on the Royal Northern Albatross is complemented with an informative talk by one of our guides. This all-year-round, in-house insight showcases unique photographic sequences taken by photographers of international repute. Albatross Insight will capture your interest and stimulate your imagination.

THE CHANGING SEASONS AT TAIAROA: VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES DEPEND ON THE WIND AND WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE TIME OF YEAR

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
CHICKS HATCH		GUARD STAGE		CHICKS NEST – PARENTS FLY IN TO FEED CHICKS						NEW SEASON ADULTS ARRIVE	COURTING AND MATING	EGGS LAID	EGGS INCUBATED



Blue penguins, Fur Seals, Sea Lions, the rare Stewart Island Shag and an amazing array of other birdlife frequent Taiaroa Head's coastal waters and complement the Royal Northern Albatross experience.

Heritage is more than just a word... it's an experience that lies beneath the nature reserve at Taiaroa Head. Salute Fort Taiaroa, Otago's answer to the perceived Russian invasion in the 1880's. Walk through the tunnels, step back in time and contemplate the crisis of a bygone era. Man the six inch Armstrong disappearing gun - the world's first successful breach loader, sited in its original gun pit and maintained in pristine working condition by a dedicated restoration team.



Appetising things happen in our kitchen... we provide home-style meals of exquisite taste and variety and light refreshments. Bon appétit!

