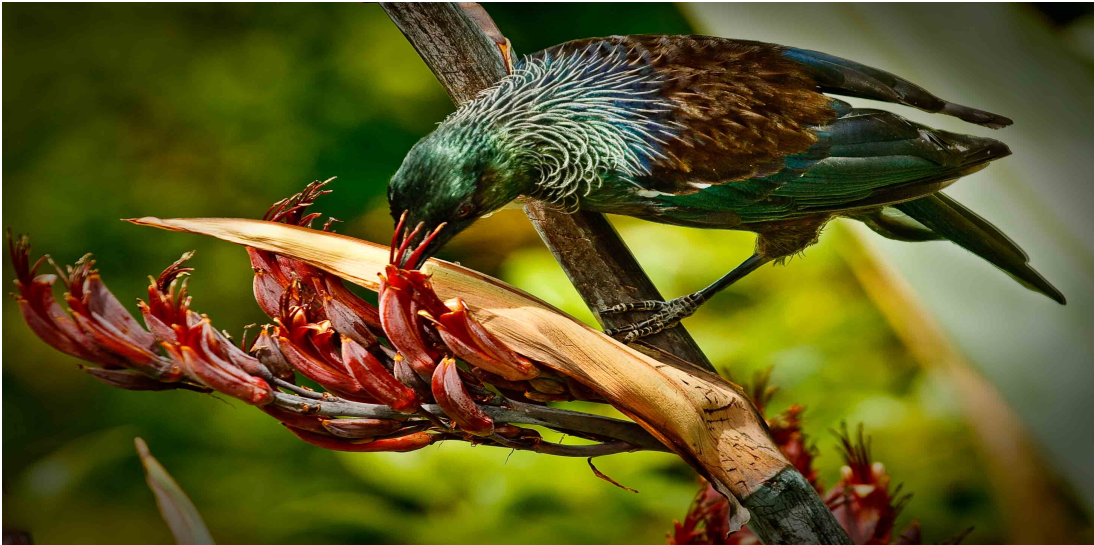


NZ PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND

ITINERARY & TOUR BRIEF



Introduction:

Tiritiri Matangi Island is a world-famous Open Sanctuary administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) with 2 rangers based on the island and supported by volunteers who are members of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc. Only one ferry calls therewith no more than 150 passengers allowed on board.

The island is home to many rare & endangered species of birds & reptiles, some of which are now extinct on mainland NZ. To date, 13 species have been introduced to this predator-free sanctuary, where they breed in safety.

They include kakariki, saddleback, North Island robin, takahe, whitehead, stitchbird, kokako & rifleman.

The tameness of the numerous native birds, coupled with the low height of the immature native forest (planted by volunteers from 1984-1994) allows for unparalleled photographic opportunities at close quarters. You can expect to see most of the rare bird species during your visit.

The historic lighthouse area & stunning coastal views provide more photo ops at lunchtime.

The walking is easy, on well-formed tracks & boardwalks (some hills). Lunch & extra gear can be sent up to the lighthouse by truck, so pack a separate bag.

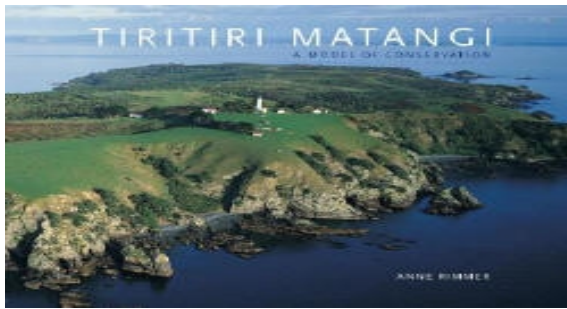
Please read the Biosecurity information below re your bags & footwear.

Your guide:

Simon Fordham is an enthusiastic wildlife photographer and conservationist. He has been a guide on Tiritiri Matangi Island for most of the 17 years he has been involved with the project. He is a past Chairperson of the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi and is currently the editor of the Dawn Chorus, the quarterly magazine of SoTM.

Some of Simon's photography can be seen at www.naturepix.co.nz

There is one thing for certain and that is that you will thoroughly enjoy this trip.



Department of Conservation (DOC) bio security rules

- ✚ You can help keep this island safe from unwanted plants, insects and animals. This is vital for the protection of the unique plants and animals that live on these islands.
- ✚ Before boarding your vessel, take care to check all bags and containers for rodent and insect stowaways.
- ✚ To prevent bringing plant pests to the island please ensure all clothing, footwear and bags are free of soil or vegetation that could contain seeds
- ✚ You need to bring your own lunch (no food available for sale on the island); all food is to be placed inside sealed containers eg Tupperware (no plastic bags) and will be taken by DOC to the Lighthouse, where lunch can be consumed.
- ✚ all bags/packs to be sealable (no open carry bags)

Notes:

- ✚ Cold drinks can be purchased from the shop at the Lighthouse and complimentary tea/coffee is supplied by the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi and Dilmah.
- ✚ Please also remember to bring suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day, togs and towel, sun-block, hat or raincoat.

Totally banned on the island:

- ✚ Dogs, cats and other pets - they are a threat to protected wildlife
- ✚ Fires and barbecues - these could devastate the island's habitats
- ✚ Camping is not permitted anywhere on the island

Please:

- ✚ Take your rubbish off the island with you
- ✚ Keep to the tracks so you don't disturb rare plants and birds, or scientific studies being carried out on the island
- ✚ No smoking apart from at the wharf and the visitors centre
- ✚ No lure tapes/ mechanical callers are to be used to attract wildlife

Finally please go through the Biosecurity checklist (Appendix A) , sign it and bring it along to go through the detail with the tourguide before getting onto Tiritiri.

Cancellations:

- ✚ You can call 0800 FANTAIL after 7am, to check the ferry is sailing.
- ✚ If it rains then we'll email and text you on what we'll do on Saturday at 7am in the morning; we will either move it to Sunday or to the following Saturday
- ✚ If you are not able to make it then either email or call/text Robert on 0274-795887 or Simon on 021-512512

Photography Notes:

- ✚ Bring along any camera
- ✚ You can bring a tripod, but it might take you too long to set it up and the bird might be gone, however there might not be a lot of light in between the trees, which would warrant a tripod; your choice.
- ✚ Make sure all your equipment is in good working order
- ✚ Use Raw, if possible, so photos can be enhanced afterwards
- ✚ Try to use lowest ISO possible to ensure picture sharpness,
- ✚ Bring along sufficient memory cards, however we have a memory bank available to store your pictures if you run out of space.
- ✚ Ensure batteries are fully charged (spares would be good)
- ✚ Note paper and pen
- ✚ Bring along a plastic bag to fit over your camera, in case there is a bit of rain along the way; we'll show you how easy it is to protect your camera against the rain and still be able to take pictures.

Bird specific photography notes

- ✚ Fast-moving birds & shady, dappled light in the forested areas requires your constant attention.
- ✚ Most birds will be seen much closer than expected
- ✚ Make sure your camera settings are pre-set for unexpected opportunities, if at all possible; e.g. white balance and an ISO of say 400 might be predetermined beforehand, depending on the light conditions..
- ✚ If you use an aperture of either f/2.8 or f/4.0 you will get a very nice bouquet with a small depth of field, however you must make sure your target is sharp and with the limited depth of field you might not get the whole bird as sharp as you would have liked.
- ✚ So if this is a problem you could either use f/5.6 or the "AI Servo" option, which is Canon speak for the camera lens continually adjusting the focal point as the subject moves.
- ✚ Make sure main subject doesn't walk/fly out of the picture
- ✚ Try to use rule of thirds; this and everything else can be explained on the day, if required

Don't forget that in the end you just do what you like best, try things out and enjoy

- ✚ **Above all be happy 😊**



Itinerary:

0845: In Auckland, join your guide outside the 360 Discovery ticket office at 08:45, which is the quaint brick building near the entry to Pier 4. (Slightly to the left of the gracious old ferry building.)

0900 Depart Auckland & cruise past the city & the busy container port, with the gracious seaside suburb of Devonport on the North Shore.

We sail north in sheltered waters past the spectacular symmetrical volcano of Rangitoto Island, and the many bays of affluent coastal North Shore.

(Photos: Rangitoto, lighthouses, shipping, yachts, seabirds)

0945 Enter Gulf Harbour Marina on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula to pick up more passengers. (You may choose to board the ferry here, at Pier Z.) Note: please be at the wharf at 0930 at the latest. A 20-minute trip along the peninsula & across the Tiri Channel brings us to Tiri. (Photos: yachts, seabirds, the approach to Tiri)

1030 Arrive at Tiritiri Matangi, off-load lunch etc & listen to the DOC Ranger's welcome. (Photos: wharf & coastal scenery, shorebirds.)

1100 We will stroll up the Wattle Track well behind the other guided groups, with many long pauses for photo opportunity.

Your guide will find & identify the birds, & will explain the ecology & history of the island while you take photos.

1230 Lunch at the Ray & Barbara Walter Visitor Centre near the lighthouse. (Have your camera ready, & beware of Greg the takahe who will steal your food.)

An excellent gift shop helps fund the project & there are fine educational displays.

View the lighthouse (built in 1864 & still operating), the watchtower, & former keepers' houses.

1400 Leaving the lighthouse area in a group, we take a short walk to the steep cliffs on the rugged eastern side. Views of little Barrier/Hauturu & Great Barrier Islands.

After climbing to a high point with 360-degree views of the Hauraki Gulf, we follow the road along the ridge of the island.

Here there is better light for photography. We descend via the Kawerau Track, strolling down a boardwalk through mature forest.

Superb forest scenery, & more birds. We emerge on the cliffs above Hobbs Beach where we can relax (and swim in the clear water, if you wish,) until 1505.

We then make our way back to the wharf along the pebble beaches & coastal track.

1515 Board the ferry

1530 Depart Tiritiri Matangi Island

1545 Return to Gulf Harbour

1700 Return to Auckland

BIOSECURITY CHECKLIST FOR VISITORS TO TIRITIRI MARANGI ISLAND

Please complete prior to arriving at the Ferry and have available should the ranger ask for it.

Items being transported	Required Action	Tick if in compliance	Inspected by DOC
Pest proof containers	Have I inspected and cleaned every container prior to packing for soil residues, bird droppings, insect/spider presence etc. <i>Remember check the base and lip of each container. Dirty containers must be rinsed in water then soaked or wiped with a dilute bleach or similar antiseptic solution.</i>		
Packs	Have I emptied my pack entirely, vacuumed it out and checked to ensure all seams and side pockets are free of seeds and dirt ? <i>The bottoms of packs are notorious for collecting seeds and insects.</i>		
	Is my pack clean, in good condition and free of stowaways e.g. mice?		
Footwear	Have I washed my boots and shoes so no seeds or soil are present ?		
	Have I checked and cleaned the tread thoroughly ?		
	Have I inspected the laces, inner sole, inside folds or flaps in my footwear for soil and seeds ?		
Gaiters	Have I thoroughly cleaned my overtrousers, gaiters, raincoat and other outer garments ?		
Raincoats			
Overtrousers	Have I checked and cleaned all pockets ? <i>Turn pockets out for washing.</i>		
Other outer garments.	Have I checked all Velcro and seams to remove all soil and seeds ? <i>Use a comb to remove seeds from Velcro.</i>		
Clothing	Have I washed and checked all clothing especially fibre pile / wool and all seeds have been removed ? <i>Pay attention to pockets and Velcro - they trap seeds.</i>		
	Have I inspected my socks, hat, raincoat and other high risk items for seeds ? <i>Socks often have many seeds and you may find that buying a new pair is easier than picking the seeds out of your old ones.</i>		
Bedding	Have I shaken my sleeping bag out and checked for stowaways ?		
Food	Have I washed all potatoes and other root vegetables e.g. carrots and kumara so that they are free of soil ? <i>Buy prewashed veges. Once on the island all food must be kept inside containers or within the bunkhouse and regularly inspected.</i>		
	Have I checked the vegetables which have potential hiding places for insects for invertebrate presence e.g. all leafy green vegetables, broccoli, parsley ? <i>Be particularly cautious of home-grown produce or foods from a source where pest treatment is not as effective at removing pests</i>		
Field Equipment	Have I thoroughly cleaned all my equipment so that it is free of any invertebrates, seeds or dirt ? <i>Difficult to clean items such as mist-nets or sensitive electronic equipment need to be carefully inspected for foreign residues and if such items are required, DOC staff must be advised.</i>		
Other	Have I inspected all items that have not been used for some time ?		
Are all items in approved rodent proof containers ?			
Departure Date: / /		Date Inspected: / /	
Visitor Name:		DOC Officer:	
Signature:		Signature:	

N.B. Special precautions must be taken if you or your equipment have come into contact with wildlife within the last six months or you will be handling wildlife on Tiritiri Matangi Island. Contact the Quarantine Officer at DOC for details.