



# **A is for Albatross, B is for Bird**

A Science Programme for  
Primary Students  
at the **Royal Albatross Centre**

Programme Booklet for Teachers  
2020

## Programme Overview

**Objective:** To understand what makes a bird a bird and how the various birds at Taiaroa Head are both similar and different. To observe and identify different parts of the albatross and how these features aid survival. To observe and understand the changes which take place during the life of an albatross.

**Programme Description:** Discover what makes a bird a bird and how the Royal Albatross is adapted for life at sea. Investigate the lifecycle of the albatross and where they go when they leave Taiaroa Head. Find out what other birds live and breed on the headland. Experience how the wildlife rangers look after these birds.

Time: 1.5 hours  
Age Focus: Years 1-3  
Cost: \$4/person  
Curriculum Links: Science ( Level 1-2 - Living World)

## Spend the day on Otago Peninsula

### Trip on the Wild Side

Make the most of your bus trip and journey through time on the Otago Peninsula. Investigate how natural and social events have shaped the Peninsula environment in the past and may shape it in the future.

### New Zealand Marine Studies Centre:

There are a number of connecting programmes available at the NZ Marine Studies Centre. For programme details and bookings check out

[www.marine.ac.nz](http://www.marine.ac.nz)

### Location

Travel Times (one way):

Dunedin to the Royal Albatross Centre, Taiaroa Head 60 min.  
Dunedin to NZ Marine Studies Centre (Aquarium), Portobello 40 min.  
Royal Albatross Centre to NZ Marine Studies Centre 30 min.



## Standard Programme Plan:

Time	Group A
	Arrive, meet guide at reception - <i>please arrive 10 minutes early</i>
0	<b>Introductory Activity - Education Rm (30 min)</b> - "Who Are You" – icebreaker game to look at what Albatross eat (optional) - Review programme plan and specific learning outcomes. - "Albatross Dress Up" – introduce features of birds and albatross. - "Albatross Life Cycle" – review life stages throughout the year.
30 min	<b>Wildlife Refuge – Richdale Observatory (30 min)</b> - Observe birds and note identifying features. - Relate observations to breeding cycles. - Look for Albatross nests - Talk about how the rangers look after the albatross - Observe props (stoat, egg, preserved food etc.) - Count the number of different birds on headland (display board) - Examine weighted Albatross Chicks
1 hr	<b>Education Room / Displays (30 min)</b> - "Display Scavenger Hunt" – scavenger hunt in the interpretive display area to learn more about the birds. - Wildlife of Tairaroa Head Puzzle - Albatross life-size puzzle - Brainstorm - How to make and albatross happy
1.5 hr	<b>Depart</b>

Curriculum Links and Planning Guide - <b>Science Achievement Objectives</b>	<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities at the Royal Albatross Centre</b>
<p><b>Nature of Science</b>  <b>Investigating in science:</b>                      (L1/2) Extend their experiences and personal explanations of the natural world through exploration, play, asking questions, and discussing simple models.</p> <p><b>Living World</b>  <b>Life Processes</b>                      L1/2 Recognise that all living things have certain requirements so they can stay alive.</p> <p><b>Ecology</b>                      L1/2 Recognise that living things are suited to their particular habitat.</p> <p><b>Evolution</b>                      L1/2 Recognise that there are lots of different living things in the world and they can be grouped in different ways.</p>	<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify what makes a bird a bird and not a fish etc.</li> <li>• Identify the differences and similarities between shags and gulls and albatross.</li> <li>• Identify the different parts of a bird</li> <li>• Describe the different parts of an albatross and their function and how these birds are suited for life at sea</li> <li>• Describe the different stages in the life of an albatross.</li> <li>• Describe the lifecycle of an albatross and how the bird and its behaviour changes over time.</li> <li>• Understand why Albatross leave Tairaroa Head at 8 months of age and return at 5 years – migration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education Rm Activity</li> <li>• Observatory Visit</li> <li>• Albatross Dress-up</li> <li>• Albatross dress-up</li> <li>• Lifecycle display</li> <li>• Observatory visit</li> <li>• Lifecycle display</li> <li>• Observatory visit</li> <li>• Weighing of chicks</li> <li>• Lifecycle display</li> <li>• Observatory visit</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies Achievement Objectives</b>	<b>Specific Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities at the Royal Albatross Centre</b>
<p>L1 Understand that people have different roles and responsibilities as part of their participation in groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understand some of the things that the DoC ranges do to look after the albatross.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Observatory visit</li> </ul>

Other Curriculum Areas: English, Arts, Maths, Social Studies

*A is for Albatross, B is for Bird - Teachers Guide*

## **Tour Guidelines**

### **1. Supervisors**

- Ratio of 1 adult to 8 students is required for primary level.
- Role of supervisors is to:
  - ensure that the students act in a responsible manner.
  - assist the students with the activities.
  - keep the noise level down and the group together.

### **2. Dress warmly**

- It is always windy and cold at Taiaroa Head.

### **3. Arrive 10 Minutes Early**

- If you are late, the time of your visit may be cut short as the observatory time is fixed and other tours are scheduled immediately after yours.
- Please allow time for a toilet break before the programme begins.

### **4. Group Size**

- Please note only 25 people are allowed in the observatory at once.
- Please organise your students and adult helpers into groups of 25 or less before arrival.

### **5. Programme Length**

- The programme is 1.5 hours long (includes 15-30 minutes in the Richdale Observatory).
- Please plan to have morning or afternoon tea before or after the programme (not during).

### **6. Lunch Areas**

- Areas suitable for lunch include:
  - Pilots Beach, just below the head land, is a great place to view fur seals but please do not approach or disturb them.
  - grassy area to the east of the Royal Albatross Centre.
  - Education Room maybe available if the weather is wet (please check availability with Royal Albatross Centre staff in advance).

### **7. Shop and Cafeteria**

- Please keep children out of these areas unless they are planning to make a purchase.

### **8. No Smoking**

- To reduce the fire risk to the colony, smoking is not permitted.

## **Pre-trip Preparation**

In order to ensure that students get the most out of the programme we suggest that some pre- and post-trip work is done in the classroom prior to the visit to the Royal Albatross Centre.

### **1. RAMS (Risk Assessment Management)**

Review guidelines on the web site and review with trip supervisors.

<https://albatross.org.nz/education/educational-resources/>

### **2. Pre-trip Activities**

Use the activities on the web site and the resources listed to introduce the students to albatross and the Taiaroa headland.

### **3. Background Information**

Review the information provided in this booklet. Further information about albatross and the Taiaroa Headland site can be found on the web site and in the reference list

### **4. Tour Guidelines**

Please review the Tour Guidelines with your students and adult supervisors prior to the trip to the Royal Albatross Centre.

### **5. Teacher-led activities at Taiaroa Head**

Extend your visit to Taiaroa Head by exploring the headland. Simple identification guides will help you find other species of birds and mammals that use the headland. Laminated copies of activity sheets are available from the Royal Albatross Centre.

### **6. New Zealand Marine Studies Centre**

Combine at the Royal Albatross Centre programme with a visit to the NZ Marine Studies Centre. Spend the morning at the NZMSC and the afternoon with the Albatross or vice versa. The programmes are complementary and together create a unique learning experience for your class.

## Resources

### **Royal Albatross Centre Activity Sheets**

(download from <https://albatross.org.nz/education/educational-resources/>)

#### **PRIMARY**

#### **“Getting to know the Royal Albatross” Pre and Post Trip Activity**

This activity can be done individually, in groups or as a class activity. We suggest you do it prior to the visit and then ask children to use a different colour pen to change or add to their answers after the visit. This could be used for assessment. Please send examples of the students work to the Royal Albatross Centre.

#### **A is for Albatross, B is for Bird Word Puzzle**

Find words related to birds for every letter of the alphabet.

#### **Albatross and Seabird Observation Sheet**

Record your observations and compare Albatross with shags and gulls.

#### **Create your own Albatross Mask**

Colour template to construct an albatross face mask with bill.

#### **Food Chain Card Game - “Gulp and Swallow”**

This card game illustrates local food chains and where albatross fit in. And excellent resource for both the Royal Albatross Programme and the NZ Marine Studies Centre programme.

#### **Albatross Conservation Cartoon Story - “Yawn the Albatross”**

This cartoon has information about the life of an albatross and how our fishing activities are affecting these birds.

#### **Environmental Action Planner - “Tracking our Trash”**

This action planner for Teachers gives an example of how students can make the vision to reduce the amount of rubbish going into the sea a reality.

#### **Marine Rubbish Activity - “Tracking our Trash”**

This activity takes students a few steps beyond just picking up trash from the local beach. By identifying the type of rubbish they can look at the source, harm rating on wildlife and find out how long it will take to break down in the ocean.



**ALL LEVELS**

**Seabird Solutions Facts Sheets and Lesson Plans**

Information about seabirds and conservation issues.

**Wildlife Viewing Guide**

Wildlife viewing activity guide for teachers.

**Wildlife Information Guide**

Species to look for at Taiaroa Head and information.

**English Activity – “Poems about Albatross”**

Encourage students to write about the flight observed in a creative way.

**Problem with Plastic**

Information on how our plastic rubbish is affecting wildlife in dramatic ways.

## **Relevant Web Sites**

[www.albatross.org.nz](http://www.albatross.org.nz)

The Royal Albatross Centre site with background information on the colony and history of Fort Tairaoa.

[www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources](http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-education/resources)

Excellent resources including Experiencing birds in your green space

[www.southernseabirds.org/resources/students-teachers/](http://www.southernseabirds.org/resources/students-teachers/)

Southern Seabird Solutions fact sheets, lesson plans and student activity guides. Also videos and case studies. Excellent resources.

[www.savethealbatross.net](http://www.savethealbatross.net)

Save the Albatross campaign by RSPB and Birdlife International.

[www.forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/marine-and-coastal/save-our-seabirds](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/marine-and-coastal/save-our-seabirds)

Facts about the threatened albatross species and information on the campaign to prevent albatross deaths in the fishing industry.

[www.wwf.org.nz/what we do/species /seabirds/](http://www.wwf.org.nz/what_we_do/species/_seabirds/)

World Wide Fund for Nature site with information on conservation issues surrounding albatross.

[www.albatrossencounter.co.nz/albatross/ocean\\_birds/](http://www.albatrossencounter.co.nz/albatross/ocean_birds/)

A tourism operation in Kaikoura. Has a conservation section and information on what birds (including albatross) can be seen.

[www.kcc.org.nz/help-keep-seabirds-off-the-hook/](http://www.kcc.org.nz/help-keep-seabirds-off-the-hook/)

[www.kcc.org.nz/singing-for-seabirds/](http://www.kcc.org.nz/singing-for-seabirds/)

[www.kcc.org.nz/seabird-smart/](http://www.kcc.org.nz/seabird-smart/)

Kiwi conservation club site. Information on albatross and their threats.

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/conservation/issues/great-pacific-garbage-patch-explained.htm>

[www.science.howstuffworks.com/clean-up-garbage-patch.htm](http://www.science.howstuffworks.com/clean-up-garbage-patch.htm)

How stuff works articles on the problem the Pacific ocean is facing with plastics and how we can 'potentially' clean it up.