

Join us to visit Aotearoa's only Kōtuku, White Heron nesting colony within the protected Waitangiroto Nature Reserve.

WHITE HERON SANCTUARY TOUR

Nesting season from September to March

Observe the rare and revered Kōtuku and witness behaviours unique to their ancestral and *only* New Zealand nesting site, with fascinating and varied viewing throughout the breeding season. Learn about the nesting habits, conservation, and cultural significance of this beautiful, sacred bird. View nesting Royal Spoonbill and Little Shag too!

Tour Includes:

- Guaranteed viewing of the Kōtuku, White Herons
- Exclusive access to the protected nesting site
- An informative, scenic minivan ride via private land into the Waitangiroto Nature Reserve
- A short walk through ancient native rainforest
- Fascinating viewing from our purpose-built hide
- Excellent photo opportunities
- Conservation and predator control in action
- Small groups led by experienced local guides
- All-weather activity, wet weather gear provided
- Suitable for all ages and abilities

Duration: 2.5 hours return from Whataroa

Tour Times: 9am, 12pm and 3pm

Location: Our Tour Office in Whataroa – 30kms North of Franz Josef and 100kms South of Hokitika



RAINFOREST NATURE TOUR

Outside of the White Heron nesting season, we continue to visit the tranquil Waitangiroto Nature Reserve to explore the lush, primeval Kahikatea rainforest and its abundant flora, fauna and fungi.



Enjoy A Guided Walk In Ancient Rainforest



Seasonal Wonders Of The Waitangiroto



Observe The Kōtuku & Other Native Birdlife



Stunning Views & South Westland Scenery



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Book Now 0800 523 456

BIRDWATCHING & NATURE TOURS

White Heron
SANCTUARY TOURS
WHATAROA

VISIT NZ'S ONLY KŌTUKU NESTING SITE



A UNIQUE NATURE EXPERIENCE



Book Now 0800 523 456



Remarkably, the rare and majestic Kōtuku, or White Heron, has only one nesting site in all of New Zealand, located deep within the enchanting Waitangirotto Nature Reserve.

With a population of just 150-200 across Aotearoa, encountering a single Kōtuku is a special privilege – but witnessing up to 50 nesting pairs in their full plumage, interacting, raising their young, and displaying behaviours seen only here, at their sacred breeding ground and Sanctuary, is an extraordinary sight and a unique nature experience!



Entry into the protected Waitangirotto Nature Reserve is by Department of Conservation permit and guided tour only.

White Heron Sanctuary Tours, established in 1987, is the original and only tour operator with access to New Zealand's sole Kōtuku, White Heron breeding ground.

For 38 years, we, the Arnold family, owners and operators, have proudly welcomed visitors from around the world to share the White Heron Sanctuary Tour.

We invite you to discover the Magic of the Kōtuku.