

Planning a visit

Whangarei Museum & KiwiHouse @ Heritage Park is a large site with many facilities. Our range of educational programmes is designed to stimulate and provide a unique learning experience. You can choose to spend a couple of hours or a whole day on site.

Safety

We provide OSH/RAMS guidance so that everyone can be safe when they visit. The Heritage Park is home to a number of engineering and vehicle clubs and it is important that everyone can move around the site in safety. This is especially true when school groups are using the transport facilities and riding on vintage machinery. All visitors including students need to be briefed before their visit as to expectations of behaviour.

Discounts

The \$5 charge per student covers admission to the Whangarei Museum, the KiwiHouse and all the buildings and facilities in Heritage Park which are normally open to the public. Accompanying adults are complimentary in the ratio of 1:6 i.e. 1 accompanying adult 'free' with every 6 children. Additional accompanying adults above and beyond this ratio are charged at the same rate as students (\$5). This represents a 50% discount over normal admission charges and all of these concessions only apply to groups who book through the Education Centre.

Educational Visits are normally available Monday through to Friday during term time. At weekends and holidays there may be other additional workshops and activities suitable for students, though not necessarily schools groups.

Free advice

Certain Educational Programmes are more suitable for primary or secondary schools. Please check with the educator at time of booking as to the suitability of the programme. The educators will be pleased to work with you to ensure that the programme you choose meets your curriculum needs. If you have a topic which does not feature on the current educational offering, please feel free to call to discuss your needs with the educators. It may be feasible to tailor a programme especially for you, subject to availability. Our educators will be pleased to talk with you and make suggestions/amendments to ensure that your visit here is enjoyable and meaningful. There are no additional costs for consultation and planning – it's part of the service we offer to educational users.

Free visits

We offer a free orientation visit to teachers wanting to bring their class to Whangarei Museum & KiwiHouse @ Heritage Park. This must be booked with the Educator in advance.

Support material

We have extensive resources for students to use during their visit to ensure they get the maximum out of their time. We also have a number of lending resources which may be used back in the classroom and which are available free of charge or for a nominal cost.

Group Size

Some of the venues at Whangarei Museum & Kiwihouse @ Heritage Park have a limit as to the maximum number which can be accommodated at any one time. This would usually be 30 children. If you want to bring a larger group on a visit, it may be possible to do this by involving more than one educator and carefully selecting the range of activities which the children can participate in. If you want to bring a large group, please call to discuss your requirements with the educator. We have had groups of over 100 children here quite comfortably!

Access

Whangarei Museum & Kiwihouse @ Heritage Park is an all-weather site. Visitors need to wear suitable footwear and may need to bring rain or sun protection, especially if the visit involves more than venue. Most of the historic buildings are wheelchair-enabled and some have wide-access doors which can be opened if we are advised in advance of a visit. Disabled parking is available immediately next to the Museum for easy access. There are wide footpaths around the site – some have a level surface and some are stone paths. The site itself is quite hilly in places, especially when moving from the heritage buildings to the Museum. However, there are two car parks, so it is possible to move from one area to another by vehicle, although driving through the park itself is not permitted. There are paths through Millington Bush but these are suitable for walking access only as they are on some challenging terrain in places!

Toilet Facilities

There are toilets in the Education Centre which are for the use of school groups only. These facilities include a disable-access toilet. There are visitor toilets (including disable-access toilets) both at the Museum and outside the Kiwi House.

Refreshments

There are water fountains throughout the Heritage Park. There is a vending point in the Museum building selling a range of bottled water and soft drinks, ices, sweets and crisps. School parties are advised to bring their snacks, drinks and lunch with them as there are currently no catering facilities on site. Tea and coffee is provided free of charge in the Education Centre for teachers and accompanying adults of a school party.

Souvenirs

The Kiwi House has a small shop which sells a range of kiwiana-themed items such as pens and key rings many of which cost less than \$5, together with larger gift and educational items such as books, models, stuffed toys, T-shirts and caps.

Clubs and Societies

The Heritage Park is home to many Whangarei and Northland clubs and societies. Some of these independent organisations may actively participate in your educational visit by volunteering additional services, expertise or demonstrating their club speciality to school parties. Any additional activities must be booked in advance, since clubs do not necessarily have a presence on the park every single day of the week. Therefore all are subject to availability. Train rides, demonstrations and access to other areas, such as Bird Recovery, carry additional costs. Please ask for details when you contact the Educator.