

Eco School Cruises 1-Day Trip Whale of a Tale

We steam down Tory Channel checking out the Salmon Farms en route and discuss the pros and cons of the aquaculture industry and its effects on our community and environment.

Throughout the day, Matua Pete will relay to you his lifetime's worth of knowledge of the **Oral Histories of New Zealand and the Sounds** with a few philosophies thrown in. Pete has been an environmental advocate for over 30 years, so he understands the system very well.

We visit **Te Awaiti** – the first shore-based whaling station and first settlement in the South Island.

This is a bay full of history where you'll learn about **Jackie Guard** the first whaler, **Dieffenback**, (NZ's first conservationist) New Zealand Company, **Story of the Wairau Affray**. Effects on Maori and settlers following the **signing of the Treaty of Waitangi**.

Go for a guided walk with Matua Pete who will show and explain about the **large Urupa of the early whalers** and their families, this knowledge helps tamariki to know, understand and respect Urupa and Wahitapu sites. He will also tell of **Te Rauparaha and his Allies Te Atiawa** who invaded the sounds and conquered the Kuruhaupo people who had lived here for hundreds of years.

Learn about the whalers and sealers, many of who intermarried Te Ati awa women and had large families who still live in Marlborough today.

See and touch whale bone that can still be found on the beach after a storm, and whale oil in the banks. See the old trypots used for rendering down the whale oil so it could be poured into wooden barrels made from the surrounding trees. Learn about and discuss what whale oil was used for and what led to the demise of the industry.

See the tombstones of New Zealand's first settlers. After lunch, we then head around to explore the old whaling factory and learn all about the rise and fall of the whale industry and the lessons we can learn from it.

We check out **Wheke Rock** that Maori say is the remains of the wheke that Kupe chased fought and killed in Kura Te Au.

We look at the clean bare hills of the last remaining pastoral farm in Totaranui, belonging to the Heberly whanau who are farmers and fishermen, 8th generation Soundies descended from old **Worser Heberly** who was a shipmate of **John 'Jacky' Guard**. Their farm is an amazing contrast to the regenerating hills of the rest of the Sounds and is what the whole Sounds was like 60 years ago.



Next, we steam out to the entrance to see the large Cook Strait swells, then cruise past the site where the whalers look out was sitting on the ridgetop overlooking the Straits and see where the chasers were moored in readiness of the chase. The crews would spot the whales run down the hill, row out to their chasers and roar out into the straits to harpoon the whales. The mother ship would then tow them into the station to be processed.

As we learn more about the ecology, old Maori mythology makes more sense. They called the Sounds their Mother and the channel, the Mother's Womb. Matua Pete will explain, and you will understand why Kura Te Au was so important to Maori and should be to future generations as well.

COST: \$50 +GST for each person (child or adult)

CAPACITY: max of 40 paxs.

DURATION: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (approximately)

