

Māori settlement

X marks the spot

You can visit the fortified pā site at Huriawa, which is jointly managed by Kāti Huirapa Rūnanga ki Puketeraki and the Department of Conservation under a protected private land agreement. Access is from the Karitane wharf or by means of a sealed road from the beach.

Inspired!

Nga Waka Tupuna o te Tai-o-Araiteuru, the contemporary gateway in the Otago Museum's *Tangata Whenua*, represents the ancestral canoes of the Otago coast. It was designed by Cliff Whiting and carved by Otago Kāi Tahu.

Local lingo

You may notice the distinctive pronunciation of the southern Māori dialect of te reo. One example is the frequent use of a 'k' here where people further north would use 'ng'. This means that Ngāi Tahu is pronounced Kāi Tahu.

Who's who

Tamatea, after whom the meeting house at Ōtakōu was named, was the captain of the waka Takitimu, which came on an exploration voyage down the southern coast.

The Māori ancestral canoes of the Otago coast are Uruao, Araiteuru and Takitimu. The Uruao was captured by Rākaihautū, who figuratively carved out the southern lakes with his digging stick, or kō. The Araiteuru's cargo of kūmara and taro was washed overboard and became the Moeraki boulders, while the waka was wrecked at Shag Point (Matakaea), where it became a reef.

Most of the bays around the Otago coastline have archaeological sites associated with them; sites further inland relate primarily to various seasonal activities. Although it was too cold for the first Polynesian settlers of Otago to grow their traditional crops here, they found seals, moa and smaller birds to hunt. They fished for cod and barracouta, and collected shellfish. Stone sources from the interior, such as pounamu, silcrete and porcellanite, were quickly identified and techniques of working them developed. The properties of the plants of their new country were learned and how to best use them for clothing, food, and medicinal purposes.

Kāi Tahu whānui in the 21st century comprise the people descended from Kāi Tahu, and the earlier iwi in this area with whom they intermarried: Ngāti Mamoe and Waitaha. Two papatipu rūnaka are located within the Dunedin City Council boundaries: Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki at Karitane, and Te Runanga o Ōtakōu, close to Taiaroa Head at the eastern tip of the Otago Peninsula. The other two in Otago are Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and Hokonui Rūnanga Inc. Dunedin was also home to the first urban marae in New Zealand, Araiteuru Marae in Kaikorai Valley, which was first opened in 1980.



Huriawa pā site, Karitane



Māori cultural group performing at the Otago Museum

