

# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OVERNIGHT VISITORS TO MONTAGUE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE



## Introduction

We hope your time on Montague Island Nature Reserve is rewarding, safe and rich in experiences. We ask for your cooperation in a number of ways including adherence to this code to ensure that you have minimal impact while staying here and that your activities are in keeping with the principles associated with the management and conservation of this internationally important Island Nature Reserve.

## Respect for others

The Island hosts guided morning and evening tours, which places Montague very much in the public spotlight. Groups of up to 40 people of all ages will tour and have their break in and around the middle quarters and the museum, and will also use the main tracks for their tour.

***We ask that you are as unobtrusive as possible during your time on the Island, respect the privacy of staff and other visitors by refraining from entering other accommodation areas.***

## Respect for Aboriginal culture

Montague Island (Barunguba) has great spiritual and cultural significance to the local Aboriginal people. Dreaming stories and song lines link the Island to Gulaga (Mt. Dromedary), and Najanuga (Little Dromedary).

Barunguba is a men's teaching place, and the Island is the location of important men's ceremonies. The local Elders acknowledge that the Island is used for important scientific research, management and public education and accept that people will be involved in these pursuits on the Island.

Everything on Montague Island is protected by law. There are several locations on the Island that are particularly sensitive. Some areas are out of bounds to all visitors (see below).

***The Elders and members of the local Aboriginal community ask that all visitors, especially women, acknowledge and respect the significance of the Island.***

***All stones, rocks, European artifacts, no matter how small, must NOT be moved or touched.***

## Your safety

Montague Island is a remote location. This can be compounded by adverse weather and rough seas. During rough conditions it may not be possible to get any assistance (medical or otherwise) to the Island by vessel. Helicopter access may take hours to arrive.

***You must inform the duty NPWS officer by marking your intentions on a whiteboard/map before going "exploring" away from your accommodation and please follow the access guidelines within this code.***

***All injuries (minor or otherwise) must be reported immediately to the NPWS duty officer on the Island.***

## Respect for the environment

It is our goal for all visitors to have minimal environmental impact during their stay. Our power generation, water collection and waste management systems are designed with this in mind.

During much of the time, Montague is home to over 30,000 seabirds and is a crucial breeding site that is recognized in international migratory bird conservation agreements

Tracks (some of which are more than 120 years old) criss-cross the Island and are used as much by humans as little penguins to access their nests off the tracks.

- ***Everything (except rubbish) you bring to the Island must be taken off when you leave, including unused foodstuffs.***
- ***The feeding, close approach and handling of any wildlife on the Island is not permitted.***
- ***Please stay on the formed trails and not enter the restricted areas.***

## **Power and water**

Domestic water and power on the Island is limited, especially when multiple activities are being conducted, so it is essential that power usage and shower times are kept to an absolute minimum.

***Visitors will usually not be permitted to wash clothes during their stay.***

***Showering times must be kept to a minimum and all lights and appliances are to be turned off when not required.***

## **The weather**

Access to and from Montague is subject to weather and sea conditions. Once on the Island all overnight visitors must understand and accept that departure from the Island may be delayed, sometimes by days, with the arrival of adverse weather.

***Your booking will only be approved once you have read, agreed to and signed the booking agreement and this code of conduct.***

***Please read the booking terms and conditions carefully.***

***The booking terms and conditions and this code applies to all persons staying in the Head Keepers accommodation***

## **The NPWS Duty Officer and the law**

This officer is directly responsible for the day to day management, supervision and operation of the Island. This includes the safety and conduct of all persons visiting the Island. The Island is gazetted as a Nature Reserve under the NPWS Act and Regulations and is a public place subject to all New South Wales and Australian laws.

***Persons who behave inappropriately or fail to comply with this code or are suspected to be in breach of the law, will be removed from the Island.***

## **Alcohol**

The consumption of alcohol is permitted on the Island in moderation.

***Alcohol may only be consumed within the Head Keepers building and attached court yards where you are staying.***

***It must be consumed in moderation.***

## **No-go, out of bounds areas**

The following areas, building and structures are out of bounds to all visitors:

- ***The entire northern end of Montague Island Nature Reserve.***
- ***The southern end of the Island, south of an imaginary east/west line that runs through the European graves.***
- ***Off any of the formed trails, or any of the trails marked with a "No Go" sign.***
- ***The lighthouse structure (unless accompanied by an accredited guide or NPWS staff member).***
- ***The battery, inverter and generator rooms.***
- ***The workshop.***
- ***The boat shed.***
- ***Any part of the jetty crane structures.***
- ***Any of the rock foreshore areas around the Island other than Old Jetty Bay.***

## Communication

The Island has email, internet, fax, phone and voice mail facilities and any incoming messages will be passed on to visitors by the duty NPWS officer on the Island.

***The communication facilities on Montague Island will not be available to visitors except for emergency reasons.***

## Children

Montague Island's Nature Reserve status, rugged landscape and deep-water surrounds necessitate close supervision of children. Therefore it is a condition of booking that **all children under 15 must be in the immediate company of an adult at all times when outside the accommodation**. This will be monitored by our staff on the Island.

## Summarising what will be expected of you on the Island

- We ask that you conduct yourself in a spirit of conservation and consideration for the unique environment and culture that exists on Montague Island.
- We encourage you to get involved with the organized conservation work.
- We ask that you observe the no-go/out-of-bounds areas listed above
- We ask that you assist us to preserve the unique and historic buildings you will stay in by respecting their historic importance to present and future generations.
- We ask that all foodstuffs be properly stored, particularly last thing at night, to prevent pest animals and insects having access and for obvious health reasons.
- The privacy of others is respected at all times.
- We ask that alcohol is consumed in moderation and personal behavior remains appropriate.
- We ask that you be safety conscious and comply with your booking terms and conditions, this code and any briefings given by the duty officer.
- Indicate on the whiteboard/map your movements away from the accommodation at all times.

We hope you will enjoy your stay

Preston Cope  
Area Manager  
Far South Coast Region  
2008

**Please read on for our full booking terms and conditions....**

**Bookings are only completed when you have agreed to these terms.**

MONTAGUE ISLAND SELF GUIDED EXPERIENCES**BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

A visit to Montague Island Nature Reserve is a unique and exclusive offshore adventure.

NPWS cannot accept your booking unless it is accompanied by the form at the end of this document which has been signed and dated.

Montague Island is an offshore island. It can be cut off from the mainland vessel access due to sea and swell conditions thus delaying access to and from the Island. In some instances delays may involve several days.

- The NPWS (Department of Environment and Climate Change – DECC) reserves the right to delay, cancel, change or extend a program itinerary prior to or during the program.
  1. In the event of a program being extended on Montague Island beyond what participants have booked due to inclement weather/sea conditions or other unforeseen events the self guided experience will be extended. As a consequence there will be a nominal additional program fee charged of \$30 per person per night until such time as participants can safely leave the Island. The fee is subsidised and helps defray the costs of hosting visitors on the Island. To account for an extended stay on the Island, it is recommended that participants allow some time at the end of the program before scheduling onward travel. In this event extra catering will be provided by NPWS.
  2. In the event of a program cancellation prior to departure participants will be given a full refund.
  3. Any cancellation by participants will be considered effective from the date the NPWS receives formal notification and is subject to a cancellation fee as follows: The minimum fee for any cancellation is \$500. If cancellation takes place 30-15 days before start date, 50% of the cost of the program will be forfeited. If cancellation takes place 14 days or less before the start date 100% of the program costs will be forfeited.
  4. NPWS reserves the right to cancel any program in the event of bad weather conditions making boat travel to the Island unsafe. In these instances your full program payment will be refunded.
  5. In the event of a program being shortened by one or more nights a part refund will be made available. This amount is subject to the duration the program has been shortened by and is determined on a pro-rata basis by NPWS.
- NPWS will not be responsible or held liable for any costs resulting from such cancellation or program alteration.
- NPWS cannot guarantee arrival or departure times, and are not liable for passengers failing to connect with other services in the event of late arrival.
- Every reasonable effort has been made to describe the program accurately. NPWS will not be held responsible for any changes that occur after the program material was produced, nor will NPWS accept liability for happenings outside our reasonable control.
- Travel insurance is not included. We strongly recommend that participants take out comprehensive travel insurance against illness, injury, emergency medical evacuation, loss and damage to personal belongings, or not be able to travel on a confirmed date of departure.
- For your safety it is recommended that participants inform NPWS of any relevant medical condition or pre-existing injury or allergies prior to departure. NPWS reserves the right to decline any person as a member of the program. Medication and medical insurance is the responsibility of participants. Given the nature of the program participants should have sufficient supplies of medications to cover an extended stay on the Island.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is limited to the guest house accommodation. Smoking on the Island is limited to the areas immediately outside the accommodation facilities.
- Animals mentioned in the program itinerary are native and wild. While it is likely wildlife will be seen we cannot guarantee the appearance of wildlife. In the event these native animals are not seen as planned there are no refunds available.
- NPWS reserves the right to take photographs or videos of participants during a program, and to use the resulting images for promotional purposes. By booking a program participants agree to allow the images to be used for such purposes. Any participant not wishing this to happen should identify themselves to the guide at the commencement of the program.
- Participants should note that travel involves risk. Whilst we make every effort to safeguard participants and their belongings NPWS are not responsible or liable for any damage, loss, or theft to luggage or personal belongings or for personal injury, illness or death, however caused, arising either during or from the program.
- Participants will be required to read and agree to the Island's code of conduct.
- Parking of vehicles prior to departure is the responsibility of participants. NPWS are not responsible or liable for any damage to or theft of vehicles of participants.

**MONTAGUE ISLAND SELF GUIDED EXPERIENCES**

DATE OF TRIP: \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE NAME OF:

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOKING DECLARATION BY TRIP ORGANISER(S):**

We declare that I have read and understand the terms and conditions that will apply to my booking particularly the Island’s Code of Conduct and the terms for extended and shortened stays and cancellations.

- I/We acknowledge that we are responsible for providing our own travel to Narooma and any insurance(s) covering the activities and duration of this program.
- I/We have declared any pre-existing conditions and allergies to NPWS prior to the program departure.
- I/We agree to abide by the requirements or requests made by NPWS employees while on Montague Island. NPWS requires all participants to act responsibly for their own safety and that of others, and to respect the cultural and natural values of Montague Island Nature Reserve.
- I/We understand that in the event we wish to leave the Island prior to the completion of a program or during an extended stay that we will be responsible for meeting all costs associated with leaving the Island and that the mode of transport will need to be approved by NPWS. We acknowledge that the NPWS reserves the right unconditionally to either approve or decline any request made.

**ORGANISER AGREEMENT:**

**Please note that prior to departure we will require a full list of participants, with some basic details concerning medical conditions etc. This will be requested nearer to the departure date.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
I/We agree to comply unconditionally with NPWS terms and conditions.

**AND**

I/We have read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and will ensure each of our trip’s participants reads and agrees to it.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return THIS PAGE ONLY to:

The Area Manager

Central Area - NPWS Narooma

Phone: (02) 4476 0888

PO Box 282

NAROOMA NSW 2546

Fax: (02) 4476 0833

Or EMAIL this page only (preferably) to [bookings@montagueisland.com.au](mailto:bookings@montagueisland.com.au)

**Summary of Cancellation Policy / Terms & Conditions**

NPWS reserves the right to cancel any stay in the event of bad sea/weather conditions deeming boat travel to be unsafe. In such instances a refund or an option to transfer will be provided.

If your stay is shortened due to prevailing conditions a partial refund will be made available on a pro rata basis. NPWS will not be held responsible for any costs resulting from any cancellation or program alteration.

If your stay is extended beyond scheduled duration due to prevailing conditions an additional fee of \$30 per person per night will be levied.

NPWS cannot guarantee arrival or departure times and are not liable for passengers failing to connect with other services in the event of a late return.