



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SELF-GUIDED TOURS 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 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.***

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 is protected by law. There are several locations on the Island that are particularly sensitive. See "No-go" Areas 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.

Please assist 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.

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. Now and again a tour may be shortened if impending weather requires this action.

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, unless with a Guide for Conservation purposes.***
- ***Off any of the formed trails, or any of the trails marked with a "No Go" sign unless with a Guide.***
- ***The lighthouse structure unless with a Guide.***
- ***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, 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
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