

# Planning your *overnight stay on* Montague Island

**Information  
for Self-Guided  
overnight tour  
participants**



## **THANK YOU FOR YOU BOOKING WITH MONTAGUE ISLAND TOURS!**

This booklet aims to provide you with pre-departure information to help you plan for your overnight experience on Montague Island.

It contains information on:

- Pre-tour and post-tour suggestions
- Transport to Narooma
- Contact on the way to or when you arrive in Narooma
- Departure times
- Finding the wharf
- Car parking
- Luggage and packing
- Loading/unloading
- The accommodation, the kitchen
- What is provided
- What to bring
- Buying supplies in Narooma
- Snorkel/dive with the seals
- Planning for the unexpected



*Montague Island from the north*

This is a general guide only. You may have special needs or your group may require additional information.

For any further details, requests or needs please call **0408 684256**.

Or try our website:

**[www.montagueisland.com.au](http://www.montagueisland.com.au)**



[nswnationalparks.com.au](http://nswnationalparks.com.au)

**WE HOPE YOUR EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING YOU HOPE FOR!**

Photos: [www.geoffcomfort.com](http://www.geoffcomfort.com), A. Vukovic, NPWS Narooma.

## **PRE-TRIP AND POST-TRIP SUGGESTIONS**

Depending upon your location, you may well need to stay in Narooma the night before and perhaps the night after your stay.

A variety of accommodation exists in Narooma which will not only offer rooms for the night, but may well look after your car during your stay on the Island.

We recommend contacting Narooma Visitors Centre (9-5 daily) 1800 240003 and mention that you are heading out to Montague to stay and they will have a list of places which will best suit your needs. Alternatively, use the search facilities on their website:

**[www.eurobodalla.com.au](http://www.eurobodalla.com.au)**



*Narooma Visitors Centre*

## **TRANSPORT TO NAROOMA**

Please check all times as they can change!

### Premier Bus Service:

Between Sydney and Melbourne along the Princes Highway.

From/to Sydney daily.

From/to Melbourne several times a week.

**[www.premierms.com.au](http://www.premierms.com.au)**

### Murrays Bus Service:

Between Canberra and Narooma via Braidwood

Daily

**[www.murrays.com.au](http://www.murrays.com.au)**

### Rex Airlines

From Sydney and Melbourne to Moruya (35mins North of Narooma) daily with car rental available at the airport from Hertz.

**[www.rex.com.au](http://www.rex.com.au)**

## **CONTACT ON THE WAY OR WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

For updates on weather or sea conditions, or with any problems, phone 0408 684256 (at a reasonable time!).

Call into Narooma Visitors Centre 9-5 daily or phone 1800 240003.

## DEPARTURE TIMES

Tours normally depart at 9.30 from Narooma Town Wharf, however departures may be later if the tide and sea conditions require it.

We try to avoid last-minute changes but due to sea, weather and the tide at the entrance, a later departure can mean the difference between getting out or not. We will advise you as soon as we know. This may be the night before or occasionally it can be right at the wharf in the morning.

We ask you to be at the wharf ready by 9.15 at the latest to permit loading of luggage and supplies. Please be on time as you may be sharing the boat with other tours.

Return departures from the Island are usually between 11am and 1pm. This may vary depending on tides and sea conditions.

Boat transport at other times is possible but may incur extra charges.

## WHERE IS NAROOMA TOWN WHARF?



## **CAR PARKING**

Car parking is your responsibility.

Most accommodation places will let you leave your car there while you are on the Island, especially if you are staying there again on your return.

There is a car park at the wharf with ample room.

## **LUGGAGE AND PACKING - LOADING AND UNLOADING**

Some points to consider:

- Loading/unloading the boat at **Narooma** is done by hand, and everyone helps
- Unloading/loading at **Montague Island** is also done by hand, up onto the jetty and then onto a small "Gator" vehicle and trailer which will transport your gear up and down the hill.
- You will most likely want your camera and a warm spray jacket for the boat trip and the walk up the hill
- Snorkelling with the seals will create wet items which may not dry, especially if your snorkelling takes place on the last morning



*Montague Island's jetty*

With these in mind:

- Don't pack any HUGE boxes or coolers. - several smaller ones are preferable and more manageable
- Protect items such as glass by wrapping them or pack them tightly
- Have a day pack or bag with your cameras etc for the boat trip
- Bring warm and sturdy outdoor clothing
- Bring AMPLE food and drink - there's no shop out there!
- Pack your snorkelling gear separately (if you've booked a snorkel with a charter vessel - see page 8)

## **THE ACCOMMODATION & THE KITCHEN**

Your accommodation in the restored Head Keeper's Quarters is a solid, completely-restored and tastefully furnished Victorian-era building.

Bedrooms 1-4 are inside and Room 5 is outside across a small courtyard.

Bedroom 1: Queen bed

Bedroom 2: Queen bed, 1 king single

Bedroom 3: 2 singles

Bedroom 4: 2 king singles

Bedroom 5: 2 king singles

All have duvets, blankets and 2 pillows for each bed.

Communal areas feature a sumptuous lounge, with gas heater, and plenty of inside or outside verandah space, including a separate TV and games space.

There are 2 shower rooms and 2 toilets.

A separate dining room seats 10-12 persons, or dine al-fresco at our outdoor setting which can be moved to suit the day and the wind.

The fully-equipped kitchen features:

- 900mm LPG oven with an electric grill, gas cooktops and rangehood
- Microwave, toaster, large refrigerator with freezer above, hand electric mixer
- All the pots, pans and baking dishes you could need, wok included
- Serving trays and dishes, cooking utensils, plunger coffee makers
- Crockery and cutlery to serve 20 persons, plenty of glasses
- Portable gas barbecue outside, all tools provided
- Plastic containers for leftovers
- A drinks fridge is located in the laundry area



## WHAT IS PROVIDED?

- all bed linen and towels, bathmats etc, and tea-towels
- washing-up gear: gloves, detergent, scourers, cloths
- toilet paper, guest soaps, antiseptic hand-wash creams
- sugar (white and raw), salt & pepper grinders (with salt & pepper),
- a range of spices
- tea bags and jar of coffee
- emergency supplies, and a suggested emergency menu, for your use should your stay be extended due to weather or sea conditions
- garbage liners - we dispose of all garbage ashore
- insect spray
- foil and plastic wrapping for food, serviettes
- full first-aid kits, including oxygen and a defibrillator
- a small reading library
- a variety of self-guided tours to take with full guide notes
- LPG gas for the heater, stove and barbecue



## WHAT TO BRING

### Medications and Safety:

- your **medications**, and some to spare
- sturdy footwear and outdoor clothing
- sun protection
- drink bottle

### For yourself:

- your clothing
- your personal toiletries and any special needs in that line
- your snorkelling gear (see "Snorkelling with the Seals" section, p8)
- your camera, and charger (240 volts is supplied to the houses)
- insect repellent
- drink bottle
- your mobile phone, and charger

### Food and drink for the group:

- Plan your menus and bring the food to serve them
- You can purchase most things in Narooma if you have time (See the section "Buying Supplies in Narooma")
- Alcohol (in moderation) is fine, so plan for that too
- Food for between meals - fruit and snacks

## **BUYING SUPPLIES IN NAROOMA**

Narooma has quite a range of shops for supplies for your trip. If your schedule permits you may purchase most of your needs when you get here.

For speciality deli items or Asian food items you may be better off buying before you come, just in case.....

On "The Flat" in Narooma (along from the bridge over Wagonga Inlet) you can get all your things in a row of shops and they are open from 8am except for Sundays. They supply all our food for our Hosted Conservation Tours.

We've even arranged it so that you can phone your orders ahead and pick them up and pay on the morning of your trip if you mention that you are heading out to Montague Island for an Overnight Stay! Ask them to box them for you - no trouble.

The businesses are:

- Narooma Meats ph 02 44762224 and talk to Dave between 8 and 5.30 weekdays and before lunch on Saturdays.



*The "Flat" Narooma*

- Narooma Fruit and Veg ph 02 44761076 and talk to Kerry or her staff between 8 and 5 weekdays and before lunch on Saturdays.
- Narooma IGA Supermarket ph 02 44762122 and talk to Dean or Michelle or their staff between 8 and 5 Monday to Saturday.

Just along from them is Narooma Bakery but we suggest you call in there personally - they're open from 6am or so every day.

Narooma's Bottle Shops do not open until 9am so we recommend you purchase at home, on your way, or the day before. There is a bottle shop on "The Flat" as well, opposite the Visitor Centre.

At Narooma Plaza on the southern side of town you will also find Woolworths (open from 8-8 most days), and a variety of other shops.

## **SNORKELLING/DIVING WITH THE SEALS**

Please remember that snorkelling, diving and fishing directly from the Island itself are not permitted as mentioned in our Code of Conduct.

However, opportunities exist with local charter operators to be taken over to the seals to enjoy their company underwater for an hour or two.



Weather permitting and the boat being available, you can be picked up from and returned to the Island jetty.

Please arrange this through Narooma Visitors Centre 1800 240003 before your trip.

Snorkelling at Montague is **NOT** for beginners, as this is open water, deep and from the stern of a boat! Wetsuits are recommended but not essential up to April, but definitely essential through to December.

The Ocean Hut (02 44762278 in Narooma will hire wetsuits quite reasonably. In the winter months you will need a headpiece as well.

**Scuba Diving** can be arranged but is a bit more complicated and more expensive as it involves picking-up and returning hired gear, and is only for qualified persons. You must also have a dive buddy.

It would help if you had your own gear and you only had to arrange tanks.



Please ring Narooma Visitors Centre if you wish to try scuba diving.

## ***PLANNING FOR THE UNEXPECTED!***

If your trip to the Island cannot proceed due to sea or weather conditions, and you do not wish to return home immediately, we recommend you develop a plan "B" by utilising the services of Narooma Visitors Centre.

Located on "the Flat", they'll help you with alternatives to make your trip to Narooma worthwhile.

Remember... you will receive a full or partial refund if this happens!

You could also give some thought as to what would happen if your stay is extended on the Island due to sea or weather.

We hope it doesn't happen, but the risk is there.



Plan for things like notifying work and relatives.

If your trip is part of a longer itinerary, have the contact details of your next planned accommodation with you so you can notify them.

## ***A SHORT CHECKLIST FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:***

- All participants have read and agreed to the Code of Conduct
- Booking Declarations are signed and sent to NPWS
- Transport to and from Narooma is organised
- Accommodation for night before/after organised
- Menu planned, food and drink list organised
- If snorkelling/diving, arrangements made through Visitors Centre
- Contacts organised in case of unexpected situations
- Medications** provided for, with some spares
- Clothes, personal gear packed
- Special needs items packed
- Cameras, chargers organised
- Take this booklet with you!