

Friends of Maatsuyker Island Maatsuyker Island - Day Visit Information

Day trip to Maatsuyker Island – 10 or 11 or 24 or 25 April 2010. The trip is weather dependent so you will need to be flexible to go on the day with best conditions. We will call or email you ~2 days prior to the trip's departure to confirm arrangements (or you can call your FOMI guide Marina Campbell 0409 659 202).

We have chartered the boat Velocity, with "Southern Ocean Adventures" operated by Dave Wyatt. This is a comfortable boat with forward bridge. If you think it is required bring your own travel sickness precautions e.g. ginger tablets, Quells, etc.

WHERE: Depart (between 5 and 5.30am) and return Southport (approx 7 – 7.30pm). The boat trip is up to 3.5 to 4 hours each way and a few hours ashore, conditions permitting.

CATERING: Self-catering. Bring your own picnic lunch, snacks and drinks for the day. There is hot water on the boat to make a cuppa. Come along the night before the trip and share dinner with your FOMI guide and fellow travellers (at own cost - place and time to be advised).

COST: \$320.00. Full payment is to be made upon booking (refunded if trip is cancelled).

ACCOMMODATION: Group bookings will be made by FOMI. Please confirm your accommodation requirements when booking the trip. Available in dorms \$30 per person (own bedding) or double rooms \$80 per room (bedding supplied) at Far South Wilderness, Esperance (paid directly to Far South upon your stay). We have yet to confirm accommodation arrangements if required for the 24 April 2010.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We leave the Southport jetty to make our way round the South Coast with views of Precipitous Bluff, Iron Bound Ranges, Louisa Bay, Dewitt and Flat Witch Islands as we near our destination - Maatsuyker Island. The scenery is spectacular, making the boat trip alone fantastic and excellent value. Conditions allowing, we will go ashore by dinghy and have a few hours to visit the caretakers, tour the site and lighthouse, and have a picnic lunch. PLEASE NOTE we have been given conditional approval by the Parks and Wildlife Service. We cannot guarantee the day ashore, as this depends on the weather and seals in the landing area.

If we go ashore you must be reasonably physically fit and have full mobility. Visitors must be able to get into and out of a dinghy (there is no wharf; the landing is in a rocky gulch that can be slippery and with added difficulty if there is a swell coming into the gulch), and walk 6km return from the boat landing site. The first 500m of track is a steep uphill climb (which can also be slippery), followed by a relatively flat walk along a vehicle track to the lightstation. Suitable clothing and supplies for a day trip will be required (daypack, sun-screen, hat, wind and water-proofs, walking boots, camera, binoculars are recommended). Bring along any maps, books or other belongings you may wish to use or share on the day.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Maatsuyker is amazingly pristine. It has few introduced weeds and no feral animals. We must ensure this continues by adhering to strict environmental standards.

Prior to the trip

- SOIL FUNGI (*Phytophthora*). Please ensure all footwear is soaked (for at least 10 minutes in neat bleach) and scrubbed clean (especially the soles) so as not to carry soil fungi. In addition a boot wash will be required prior to going on board the boat.
- PLANT SEEDS. Polar fleece, clothing pockets, daypacks, socks and shoes readily transport seeds. Please check all your clothing for plant seeds. Velcro fastenings on clothes and shoes are notorious seed traps. If possible avoid clothes with Velcro tabs – PLEASE Check for seeds.
- CRITTERS. Daypacks provide the greatest risk for transporting insects or other animals (mice!). Please ensure that your pack is not carrying any unwanted critters! Packs are to be checked prior to going on board the boat.
- Dress in clothes that are not bright and avoid wearing AFTERSHAVER/PERFUME. as it has been demonstrated to disturb seals.

On board the boat

A recheck of all your clothing and gear onboard the boat will be requested.

Onshore

You will be landing in a seal haul-out area (the Gulch). When conditions are suitable for boat landings the majority of seals are typically at sea, but do not linger here once you land. Stay on the tracks/road and **follow the instructions of your FOMI guide and the island's Caretakers**. Your FOMI guide will provide a more detailed briefing the night before the trip, while settling in for a cuppa at Far South Wilderness, on matters related to safety, quarantine and the heritage values to observe while on the trip.

Maatsuyker Island is part of the South West National Park so a valid Parks pass is required for entry.

INSURANCE

As with any activity, insurance issues arise. This trip is an official Wildcare Inc. event and Wildcare has public liability insurance. Dave Wyatt (captain of the *Velocity*) is insured for liability resulting from operator negligence and passenger liability whilst onboard the *Velocity* and during dinghy transfer to/from shore.

INFORMATION: email wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com for more information or if you wish to register a place.