



Thank you for your enquiry about the Coal Island volunteer trips

The following is a brief outline of how the trips are run. Trips are normally from Sun – Friday or Monday – Saturday to suit transport arrangements. Volunteers are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Tuatapere. We usually meet in Tuatapere at the Waiarau Hotel for dinner the night before the trip departs.

General Program

Monday – Helicopter from Clifden to Coal Island (about 25 minutes). Land at helipad on western side of Coal Island. Split into 3 groups of 2 and check traps back to Moonlight Point. There are 3 traplines that will take between 2 ½ and 4 ½ hours to service. For this you will need a daypack with wet weather gear and lunch. Meanwhile the helicopter will continue to Preservation Lodge with rest of gear and then return to Moonlight Point to transfer you to the Lodge later in the day.

Tuesday – Walk from Lodge through to the “Oil Store” servicing mainland traps. This will take around 7 hours but is reasonably easy going. Take overnight gear as you will stay the night at the Oil Store.

Wednesday – Return to Lodge via another route and spend day exploring historic gold mining sites. (There should be time Tuesday night or Wednesday morning to walk to Puysegur Point lighthouse – about 1 ½ hours return from the Oil Store).

Thursday – Spare

Friday – Helicopter to Clifden

Travel Arrangements

You will need to make your own arrangements for travel to and from Clifden. If you are traveling from out of Southland, I suggest that you arrange to arrive in Tuatapere on the Sunday night. (Once the travel details of everyone are known, we can help to arrange transport from Invercargill if required).

Accommodation in Tuatapere includes backpackers (2), motel and hotel. If you are driving to Tuatapere, vehicles can be parked at the hangar at Clifden. The hangar is about 11km north of Tuatapere, just south of the Clifden bridge.

Gear

A recommended list of gear will be provided prior to the trip. A daypack is recommended for the day on Coal Island and any other short walks. The weather in Preservation Inlet can change quickly at any time of the year so it is essential that you have suitable wet weather gear (waterproof and windproof) and thermals.

Any equipment and gear required for the servicing of traps etc will be provided.

Food

Food will be provided from Monday evening until you fly out from the Lodge. You are welcome to bring along snacks and refreshments.

Maps

Maps will be provided to cover the areas you will be working in. If you want to bring your own map, the required map is Topomap, 1: 50,000, sheet B46 & B47, Puysegur.

Communications

The only regular communication with the outside world from Preservation Inlet is via maritime radio. There is no phone service. VHF radios will be provided to enable contact with the Lodge while in Preservation Inlet.

Safety Briefing

A safety briefing will be conducted at Clifden prior to boarding the helicopter.

Background Material

There is a lot of history in Preservation Inlet. Early Maori lived there in pre-European times and the Inlet was the site of a number of gold mining ventures in the late 1800's. Recommended reading include:

- Port Preservation – AC & NC Begg (out of print but available at some libraries)
- Fiordland Explored – John Hall-Jones
- New Zealand's Fiord Heritage – Neville Peat (Published by DOC)

Also check out our website: www.tepukahereka.org.nz for updates.

Preservation Lodge (also known as Kisbee Lodge)

The Lodge is privately owned but not used commercially. There are 7, 2-bedroom accommodation units, kitchen, lounge, dining room and drying room. The owners of the Lodge support the work on Coal Island by making the Lodge available for groups such as this. A generator supplies electricity for a few hours each day.

Tramping Experience and Fitness Level

Preservation Inlet is in one of the remotest parts of mainland New Zealand. While the tracks on Coal Island are well marked and the terrain is relatively easy-going, the Trust will only offer volunteer positions to people who can show that they have a reasonable level of tramping experience and are appropriately equipped. Volunteers should be able to tramp at a comfortable pace for 6 – 8 hours over undulating terrain.

Cost

The cost per person (January 2009) is \$650. This is to cover the costs of helicopter and catering. This cost could change if helicopter costs change.

To Confirm a Place on a Trip....

If you are interested in participating in a trip, email a few details about your tramping experience and dates of the trip you would like to be on. Don't send any money at this stage – we will contact you closer to the trip with further information and to sort out payment.

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