

Maatsuyker Island – General Day Trip

29 February or 1 March 2020

Friends of Maatsuyker Island, Wildcare Inc.

Information Sheet #1

**The Friends of Maatsuyker Island (FOMI) runs occasional boat trips to Maatsuyker Island to provide support to the Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) Volunteer Caretakers and the island operations. Boat landings are only planned for late summer/autumn to avoid the key seal breeding period and are permitted by PWS.**

In 2020, FOMI will run one day trip by boat (weather dependent) on either Saturday 29 February or Sunday 1 March.

**WEATHER DEPENDENT:**

The boat trip can only be undertaken if the weather is suitable, therefore you need to be available to go on **both** of the proposed dates **and** attend a briefing and dinner the night before departure. Commitment to the trip begins at approx. 6.00 pm the night before. We will call or email you ~2 days prior to departure to confirm arrangements. If the weather is not suitable on either day, it will be postponed until the following autumn (see Cancellation & Refund, below).

**COST: $650 per person (including fully guided trip, boat charter, accommodation & dinner the night beforehand)**. **The cost includes a $30 non-refundable booking fee.** Full payment is to be made upon booking. The day trip is fully organised and guided by experienced volunteers and costs are kept to a minimum. 100% of funds raised go directly to the care and protection of the cultural, natural and historic values of Maatsuyker Island.

**SIZE OF GROUP:** The day trip group includes one experienced FOMI volunteer guide and 11 trip participants. Onboard, we will have the guidance and assistance of the skipper and his crew. On island, we will also be guided by the two PWS Volunteer Caretakers who are undertaking a 6-month volunteer stint on the island.

**BOAT DEPARTURE:** Depart 5.30 am from Southport jetty and return to Southport approx. 7.00 – 7.30 pm. The boat trip is up to 3.5 - 4 hours each way with a few hours on-island, conditions permitting.

**BOAT CHARTER AND LANDING:** We charter the boat ‘*Velocity’*, with "*Southern Ocean Adventures*" operated by Dave Wyatt. This is a comfortable boat with forward bridge. 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 a fantastic experience and excellent value. Conditions allowing, we will go ashore by dinghy and have a few hours on Maatsuyker Island to visit the PWS volunteer caretakers, tour the historic lightstation and buildings including the lighthouse, and have a picnic lunch.

**CATERING DURING DAY TRIP:** Self-catering during the day of the boat trip (i.e. breakfast, lunch, snacks, drink). Tea & coffee will be provided on the boat and on the island. There is plenty of drinking water available on the island.

**ACCOMMODATION & PRE-TRIP DINNER:** All Day Trip Participants are booked into the Far South Wilderness Lodge (<http://www.farsouthwilderness.com.au/wilderness_lodge>) the night before (cost included) where you will share dinner with your FOMI guide and fellow travellers (one-course dinner cost included - please let us know about any dietary requirements; BYO drinks for dinner). During the evening, there will be important briefings about island biosecurity and safety issues.

**ACCOMMODATION FOLLOWING THE DAY TRIP:** We have made a provisional booking at the Far South Wilderness Lodge for the night the boat returns. A number of participants usually choose to stay or the 2nd night as the day of the boat trip is a long and tiring and the evening is a great way to unwind with the team after the adventurous trip to Maatsuyker. This 2nd night’s accommodation is not included in the cost of the trip. Please indicate on the registration form, below, whether you would like to take up this option. The cost of the 2nd night is $50 per person.

**TRANSPORT TO/FROM ACCOMMODATION & SOUTHPORT JETTY:** Participants are responsible for their own transport to and from the accommodation (Far South Wilderness Lodge), and to and from our boat departure point at Southport jetty. To enable any carpooling arrangements amongst the group, if you are happy for your email address to be shared with other participants, please tick the box on the registration form (see below).

**MAATSUYKER ISLAND BOOKLET:** FOMI has published a full-colour booklet that provides interesting information on the history and natural values of Maatsuyker Island. The booklet is available to purchase for $10 and is a very useful resource to read before going to the island. Please tick the box on the Payment Form if you are interested in purchasing a booklet. The booklet will be mailed to you.

**CANCELLATION & REFUNDS:**

**Payments are processed 7 days prior the trip. The amount of $620 (total cost minus non-refundable booking fee) will only be reimbursed if the day trip is cancelled by FOMI due to a bad weather forecast.** If cancelled by FOMI, the $30 non-refundable booking fee is transferable to a future trip.

The *trip cost is non-refundable once the trip is underway (i.e. once on the boat) even if, for any reason, the group is unable to land on Maatsuyker Island.*

*You will not be reimbursed if you pull out at short notice***.** If you cancel within 7 days of the proposed trip date, you will need to find a replacement person to take your place. FOMI needs to have a full boat-load to make the trip viable. The boat trip is organised by volunteers and we find it difficult to find replacements if people cancel at short notice. If there are compassionate grounds for cancelling, we will do our best to assist in finding a replacement for you.

Maatsuyker Island is part of the South West National Park so each participant needs to have a **valid Tasmanian National Parks Pass** for entry. *You can purchase a one-day PWS pass ($12 per person) from your FOMI guide prior departure.*

FOMI is given conditional approval by the Parks and Wildlife Service to land on Maatsuyker Island. We *cannot guarantee landing on the island* as this depends on weather conditions and seals in the landing area.

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS:**

The boat trip can sometimes be rough so you need to be robust enough to cope with a bumpy ride in waves and swell. You must be physically fit and have full mobility. Participants must be able to clamber into and out of a dinghy and walk 6 km return from the boat landing site. There is no wharf or jetty. ***The landing site is on slippery rocks in a rocky gulch. There is added difficulty if there is a swell coming into the gulch. There will be a guide to assist you with landing. There is a 500 m very steep climb out of the gulch. The first 50 m of the climb is extremely steep – this part of the climb has a chain fitted into the rock to assist with your climb (i.e. to use when going up and down).*** The climbing can be made more difficult and much more slippery with wind and/or rain. Once up the steep 500 m section, there is a relatively flat walk along a vehicle track to the lightstation. FOMI needs to be assured that you are capable of undertaking the day trip before your place on the trip is confirmed.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

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

**Quarantine/Environmental Procedures Prior to Day Trip:**

* SOIL FUNGI (*Phytophthora).* Please ensure all soles of 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 (provided by your FOMI guide) 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 (e.g. mice!). Please ensure that your pack is not carrying any unwanted critters! Packs are to be checked prior to going on board the boat.
* FOOD STORAGE. Make sure your lunch and snacks are in **sealed plastic containers** (e.g. Tupperware) and that, prior to the trip, your food has not been stored in areas that are accessible to rodents and invertebrates. Ensure that any fresh fruit or vegies are clean.
* Dress in clothes that are not bright and avoid wearing AFTERSHAVE/PERFUME as it has been demonstrated to disturb seals.

## **Pre-trip quarantine check:**

The FOMI guide will undertake a quarantine check of all your clothing and gear the night before the trip as well as on board the boat. This is to double check for insects or rodents etc.

**Onshore Maatsuyker Island:**

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. However, do not linger here once you land. Stay on the tracks/road and follow the instructions of your FOMI guide and the island PWS Volunteer Caretakers. Your FOMI guide will provide a more detailed briefing the night before the trip on matters related to safety, quarantine and the heritage values to observe while on the trip.

**POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF DAY TRIP:**

*Sea Sickness:* The sea conditions and the movement of the boat can cause some people sea sickness or mild discomfort. The boat charter operators provide great support to our day trippers to ensure a great boat trip. If you are susceptible to travel sickness, use your normal strategies.

*Boat transfers:*Transfer from the boat to the dinghy and from the dinghy to the rocky landing is potentially hazardous. Risks include spraining/breaking limbs, falling into the cold water, being squashed (e.g. between the dinghy and the rocks). Follow the instruction of the boat operators and your FOMI guide.

*Track/Road:*On Maatsuyker Island, the uneven tracks and the ruts in the road can easily cause twisted/sprained ankles etc. Please be careful and aware of these hazards.

*Cliffs:*Maatsuyker Island is mainly surrounded by steep, coastal cliffs. Keep well away from cliff edges and follow the instructions of your FOMI guide and the PWS Volunteer Caretakers.

### INSURANCE

As with any activity, insurance issues arise. This trip is an official Wildcare Inc. event and Wildcare has public liability insurance. You will need to be registered as a Wildcare member (go to <http://wildcaretas.org.au/>. NB: If you join Wildcare first and then get your Parks Pass, you will get a member’s discount. Dave Wyatt (captain of *Velocity*) is insured for liability resulting from operator negligence and passenger liability whilst onboard *Velocity* and during dinghy transfer to/from shore.

**INFORMATION:** email wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com or phone Fiona Taylor (FOMI Secretary) on 0404 203 298 for more information.

To confirm your booking, please complete the **registration form** below and confirm that you have read and understood the requirements about **fitness level** and **biosecurity** **protocols** while on Maatsuyker Island, and complete the **invoice payment form**. Once bookings are confirmed, additional information on how to prepare for the trip (e.g. what to bring and what to wear) will be provided to participants to ensure all day trippers have the best experience.

**FOMI acknowledges and thanks:**

* All funds raised by the FOMI day trips go directly to the work of FOMI in the care and protection of the cultural, natural and historic values of Maatsuyker Island.
* FOMI acknowledges its partnership with the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) and thank the PWS Volunteer Caretakers for their support and assistance in ensuring a rewarding and successful day trip for visitors to the island.
* FOMI acknowledges the support of Dave Wyatt, *Velocity* for his dedication over the last decade in providing transport and support for the FOMI day trips.
* FOMI acknowledges Far South Wilderness for their ongoing support of the FOMI day trips.



**Maatsuyker Island Day Trip –29 February or 1 March 2020**

**Registration Form**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name: |  | D.O.B.: |
| Address: |  |
| Phone Numbers: | H: | M: |
| Email Address: |  |
| Emergency Contact Person: |  | Relationship to you: |
| Emergency Contact Person Phone Numbers: | H: | M: |
| Emergency Contact Person’s Address: |  |
| Do you have a condition that requires medication and/or may result in an emergency situation? (e.g. asthma, allergy) |  |
| Current Wildcare membership number: |  |
| Briefly outline your relevant experience regarding the required fitness level (see Information Sheet above) e.g. list bush walks undertaken including dates: |
| *I confirm that I have read and understood the:* | *Please circle/delete one:* |
| **Potential hazards** of the Maatsuyker Island day trip | Yes/No |
| **Fitness level** requirements | Yes/No |
| **Biosecurity protocol** requirements | Yes/No  |
| I am happy for my email address to be shared with other boat trip participants (see information re transport and car-pooling) | Yes/No |

Please speak to your FOMI Guider prior to the trip if you have any concerns or if there are any health matters to discuss.

**Return Registration Form and Payment Form to:** **wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com**





**Maatsuyker Island Day Trip (29 February or 1 March 2020) – Payment Form**

**Friends of Maatsuyker Island (Wildcare Inc.)** ABN 80 986 531 989

Name: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….………………………………..

Phone: …………………….………………………… Email:..…………………………………………………………………….…

Postal Address:………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………

Number of people participating:………

 I wish to purchase the Maatsuyker Island Booklet – additional $10

 I wish to book the 2nd night’s accommodation – additional $50 per person

**Account payable:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *$650 per person (including $30 non-refundable booking fee)* | $ |
| *$50 per person for 2nd night accommodation* | $ |
| *$10 for a full-colour Maatsuyker Island booklet* | $ |
| *Additional donation to support the work of FOMI* | $ |
| ***Total amount paid*** | **$ (GST inclusive)** |

Payment by (please circle): Cheque Money Order Credit Card

Credit Card Details (please circle): Visa Mastercard American Express

Card Number: \_ \_ \_ \_ / \_ \_ \_ \_/ \_ \_ \_ \_/ \_ \_ \_ \_

Expiry Date: \_ \_ / \_ \_ Name on Card:……………………………………………..

Signature:………………………………………

Return Payment Form and Registration Form to: wildcaremaatsuyker@gmail.com

**Cheque/Money Order – payable to Wildcare Inc (FOMI)** and posted to: Friends of Maatsuyker Island, c/- Fiona Taylor, 491 Tinderbox Rd, Tinderbox TAS 7054

This order form becomes a Tax Invoice for GST purposes once completed. A receipt for the boat trip registration payment can be provided on request.