

Friends of Nature Trail - Registration Form

If you have any questions regarding the Friends of Nature Trail or this form please Nature Trail's hotline on 1300 355 133.

Please note that all details shall be held by Nature Trail in strict confidence. [Steve Ridd, Tour Director]



I wish to apply to register as a Friend of Nature Trail. I am completing this application form myself with my details as follows:

1. Name in Full: _____
2. Home Address: _____
3. Email Address: _____
4. Mobile Phone: _____
5. Emergency Contact Person: _____
6. Relationship to Applicant: _____
7. Emergency Contact's Mobile Phone: _____

As applicant, I confirm the following facts about me (tick box if correct):

8. I am fully able-bodied and have excellent health and fitness to undertake hiking tours ☐
9. I have no illness, injury or medical condition that may affect me from hiking ☐
10. I have no known phobias, such as a fear of heights, fear of open spaces, fear of small spaces, fear of insects, or any other fears associated with hiking ☐
11. I have received a tetanus vaccine within the past ten years. Year:
12. If any of the above information changes, I undertake to notify Nature Trail's Tour Director before booking on any Nature Trail tour ☐
13. I understand and accept that hiking tours notified by Nature Trail as graded 'Medium' or 'Difficult' require excellent hiking fitness ☐
14. I agree to wear suitably closed hiking shoes/boots and hiking attire suitable for the notified hiking conditions ☐
15. I confirm that I have recent hiking experience (within the last 3 months) and that I shall always equip myself on any Nature Trail hiking tour with the necessary hiking kit, water and food to enable my self-sufficiency ☐

16. My current age is:

- Under 18 ☐
- 18 – 30 ☐
- 31 – 40 ☐
- 41 – 50 ☐
- 51 – 60 ☐
- 61 – 70 ☐
- 71 – 80 ☐
- Over 80 ☐

17. I have the following special dietary needs/allergies/medical conditions which Nature Trail's Tour Directors should be aware of. If nil, write 'nil'.

18. My hiking background in brief is:

19. My most recent hiking trip and distance covered:

20. I am interested in the following Private Tour types offered by Nature Trail (tick box if interested):

- Short Hiking Tours (2-3 hours) ☐
- Half-Day Hiking Tours ☐
- Full-Day Hiking Tours ☐
- Wilderness Experiences ☐
- Nature Workshops ☐
- Hiking Gear and Skills Training ☐

- Gardens and Nursery Tours ☐
- Blue Mountains Village Tours ☐
- Backroads and Heritage Tours ☐
- Art and Craft Trails ☐
- Country Fairs ☐
- Countryside Two-Day Road Touring ☐
- Countryside Two-Day Road Touring ☐
- Two-Day Remote Trekking ☐
- Multi-Day Remote Trekking ☐

Any comments or questions?

Please read the following terms and conditions.

Terms and Conditions

1. Private Tour Offerings are Non-Commercial

Currently while under development, Steve does not trade as a business, or as a commercial tour operator, or as a club, or as a charity. Instead, Steve is currently just a brand used by a private individual offering selected friends (termed 'Friends') opportunities to join along on private walking and car tours. Each friend of Steve participates on any tour offered on a voluntarily basis. Steven currently charges no tour fees. Invited 'friends' must self-fund their own participation voluntarily, yet are also welcome to contribute donations to cover direct costs of any participation on a tour.

Steve takes safety, welfare and enjoyment of his friends seriously. It is a requirement of Steven that each friend invited to participate on each tour offered by Nature Trail, must read, understand and accept the following terms and conditions.

2. Participant Suitability

In order to ensure tour safety and to comply with our insurance risk management policy, tour participants need to:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be fully able bodied, and have a good level of health and fitness
- Accept self-catering costs responsibility - gear, food, snacks, drinking water
- Wear suitable clothing and carry required items relevant to the intended tour
- Pre-pay specified direct tour costs - fuel share costs, site fees, site guide fees, as advised.

3. Friends of Nature Trail Mandatory Registration

An applicant for a **Friends of Nature Trail Tour** must first register as a Friend of Nature Trail by completing and submitting a Friends of Nature Trail Registration Form. This form requires the applicant to disclose personal information about the applicant's health, fitness, hiking experience and medical conditions and medication. All information obtained is kept in the strictest confidence in line with Nature Trail's Privacy Policy.

4. Trip Versions

In order that Nature Trail ensures the delivery of a high standard of commercial tours, before any tour is offered commercially, Nature Trail embarks upon a series of preparatory trips to fine-tune the tour design to maximise the tour experience value and mitigate potential risks for our guests.

'Research' = This is Nature Trail's preliminary theoretical research survey of a proposed tour. It is usually undertaken at Nature Trail Base using planning tools such as our in-house tour planning forms, maps, Internet and making phone enquiries.

'Scouting' = Nature Trail's initial survey of a proposed tour design - journaling, exploring variations, schedule is flexible. No commentary, no catering, limited transfer/transport. Route is highly exploratory with many stops and starts. Participation is free of charge and available only to registered Friends of Nature Trail.

'Recce' = Nature Trail's first group test of a tour plan with a selected route and draft schedule, with journaling. No commentary, no catering, limited transfer/transport. Participation is free of charge and available only to registered Friends of Nature Trail.

'Practice' = Nature Trail's practice trip is free-of-charge tour delivery to a commercial standard, following a refined tour plan, selected route and tested schedule, with limited commentary and with journaling. There is no catering, limited transfer/transport. Participation is free of charge and available only to registered Friends of Nature Trail.

'Famil' = Nature Trail's free-of-charge tour delivery to a commercial standard, following a refined tour plan, selected route and tested schedule, with limited commentary. Includes transport and guest transfers in the Upper Blue Mountains. No catering. Participation is free of charge and available only to invited members of the local tourism industry and to registered Friends of Nature Trail.

'Pro Bono' = Nature Trail's free-of-charge tour delivery to a commercial standard, following a refined tour plan, selected route and tested schedule, with limited commentary. This is only offered to personal friends of Nature Trail. It is a short term offering limited to the Setup Phase 1 of Nature Trail's business (2017-2019).

'Commercial' = Nature Trail's polished commercial tour delivery, following a refined tour plan, selected route and tested schedule, with full researched interpretative commentary, catering, includes transport and guest transfers in the Upper Blue Mountains. Available only to prepaid guests. These tours are also available for private charter subject to availability.

5. Standard Tour Arrangements

Each tour and its date as listed on Nature Trail's website are presumed to proceed (save unforeseen circumstances – such as bad weather, bushfire risk, tour director illness, etc). In the case of unforeseen such circumstances, the Tour Director will immediately notify tour cancellation to each booked tour participant. Tour Departures are generally from 7am and are full-day duration finishing by about 4pm unless otherwise advised. More accurate return estimates are calculated and published on this website a few days before the tour date.

All tours depart and return from Nature Trail's Base, which is advised to Friends of Nature Trail upon successful registration.

Vehicle transfers to/from Nature Trail base need to be arranged with us well before the tour date ASAP. Nature Trail transfers are complimentary and our pickup/drop-off range extends from Wentworth Falls to Mount Victoria.

Friends of Nature Trail may elect to transport themselves independently by 'tagging-along' in their own vehicles and to after Tour Completion to make their own arrangements - such as local lunch or to drive somewhere else. However, for safety briefing reasons all participants need to first meet up at Nature Trail Base at the Tour Meetup Time, no later than 15 minutes before Scheduled Tour Starting Time.

6. Minors Not Permitted

Participants under the age of 18 years are not permitted to participate on any Steven tour due to unacceptable heightened risks in the outdoors environment in which we operate and due to liability insurance prohibitions. We refer parents to our competition.

7. Other Exclusions on all Tours

The following are not permitted on any Nature Trail Tour:

- Anybody uninvited by the Tour Director
- Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Pets
- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Music
- Firearms or weapons
- Inappropriate footwear such as high heels, ugg boots or thongs

8. Friend Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations

Each friend of Steven participates on any tour offered on the basis that he/she recognised and accepts that such outdoors activity, including the natural bushwalking environment, poses inherent natural hazards, risks and rigors that may cause injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to property.

As a friend joining on a tour, in order to minimise risks I will endeavour to ensure that

1. Each activity is within my capabilities,
2. I shall wear appropriate clothing as advised by the Tour Director
3. I shall carry food, water and equipment and clothing appropriate for the activity.
4. I shall advise the Tour Director if I am taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity.
5. I shall make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity
6. I shall advise the Tour Director of any concerns I am having, and
7. I shall comply with all reasonable instructions of the Tour Director.

9. Failure to Show

It is the responsibility of a booked friend for each given tour to show up at the designated **Tour Start Location** and **Scheduled Meetup Time** – appropriately dressed and equipped as specified by the Tour Director, as well as being fit, well-rested, fresh and sober.

It is the responsibility of a booked friend if for any reason they feel unwell, unfit or in any way unable to participate competently, that they immediately notify the Tour Director by phone on the mobile number at the top of this document.

Please keep the Tour Director informed if you have any changes to your booked friend attendance – number or request to exchange an individual.

Assume that tours publicised on the Nature Trail website under the current seasonal programme are to proceed as described, unless you are informed otherwise by the Tour Director – typically by phone to booked friends in the first instance, with a follow up email explanation. Do not assume that your tour is cancelled because of inclement weather.

10. Friend Numbers

The minimum participant number on any tour is 1, plus our Tour Director. We shall proceed on a hiking tour with a maximum of six participants, plus our Tour Director. This limit is recommended by National Parks Service for ecological and risk management reasons, and we happily comply.

In the case of non-hiking tours, the minimum participant number on any tour is 1, plus our Tour Director, and the maximum number extends to 8 participants.

Please keep us informed of any changes to the numbers in your party. An increase in numbers may not always be possible. To avoid disappointment, notify us of changes as early as possible.

11. Dangerous Weather Policy

Steven will normally operate in all but exceptional weather conditions. Conditions such as fog, mist drizzle, showers, rain, sleet and moderate wind do not affect normal operation of our tours.

Assume that your booked tour shall proceed as scheduled unless you are informed otherwise by the Tour Director by phone. Steven will make every effort to notify booked friends if there are delays, postponement, rescheduling, variations or cancellation well in advance of a given tour. Always check your phone for messages the evening prior and before departing home for the Tour Start on the day of the tour.

The Tour Director reserves the sole right to decide whether weather conditions deem a tour is safe to proceed in less than perfect weather conditions. The Tour Director reserves the sole right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary due to conditions beyond its control such as weather or environmental conditions.

There are 5 specific weather dangers that for safety reasons will likely cause a tour to be cancelled.

1. Bushfire risk rated as 'Extreme' or worse, and/or an active bushfire in the region
2. Forecast/Actual risk of lightning strike
3. Forecast/Actual high winds gusting above 60kph, when clifftop walking is involved
4. Forecast/Actual snow
5. Forecast/Actual maximum temperature above 35 degrees Celsius

12. Conditions of Travel

Individuals who arrive at Tour Start without approval of the Tour Director shall be automatically denied participation on the tour, without exception.

The Tour Director reserves the sole right to cancel any tour for any reason, to alter our tours (including but not limited to starting times, pricing, inclusions or itinerary) at any time for any reason without notice, and deny access to tours for any participant for any reason.

The Tour Director reserves the sole right to refuse any friend applicant for any tour and will advise the individual directly of the reason in strict confidence. The timing of refusal may be upon Steven receiving an intending friend's Friend Tour Agreement application, in which case a notice of refusal by email shall be sent by Steven to the applicant. The timing of refusal may also be at the **Scheduled Meet Time** whereby the Tour Director at his complete discretion considers a friend unwell, unfit, is objectionable or inadequately dressed and equipped to safely and competently undertake a tour.

The Tour Director reserves the sole right to remove a friend from any tour for any reason by the Tour Director.

Justification for rejection/removal includes, but is not limited to, anyone who in the opinion of the Tour Director is considered to ignore/disobey directives of the Tour Director or assistant staff, be affected by alcohol or drugs, is disorderly, poses a hazard to themselves or to others, is abusive, appears not physically able, mentally problematic, or is objectionable in any way.

The Tour Director and Nature Trail shall not be liable for any additional expenses incurred as a result of rejecting a friend applicant, or the removal of a tour friend from a tour.

Any equipment loaned to a friend for a tour must be returned by the friend to the Tour Director at the Tour Finish.

13. Emergencies

Each friend personally acknowledges that they may encounter weather conditions that could lead to hypothermia and being in locations where evacuation for medical treatment may take hours or days.

In the case of medical emergency, I understand every effort will be made to notify the emergency contact named on this form. In the event that the emergency contact cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for the Tour Director to communicate personal information provided by me on this form to the attending medical authorities and for the attending medical authorities to make emergency decisions for me. In the event medication, medical advice, treatment and/or equipment or transportation is required, I agree to accept full financial responsibility.

I accept that adequate health and travel insurance is my responsibility.

14. Ecological Respect on Tour

The Tour Director chooses to conduct most of its walking tours in the Greater Blue Mountain World Heritage Area. This valuable natural environment sustains our tour venture. Many of Nature Trail's tours are conducted in ecologically sensitive sanctuaries that we undertake to safeguard as we pass through. It is a condition of participation that on tour **'we leave no trace'** of us having been there except for incredible photos and magic memories.

Please do not interfere with, pick up, alter or remove any plant, animal or other natural, historical or cultural feature. Please keep to formed tracks, carry all your rubbish out with you and use minimal impact toileting procedures should 'nature call'.

15. Personal Information and Privacy

Consistent with Australia's Privacy Act and Australian Privacy Principles guidelines, all personal information about a friend provided in this form is retained securely by Steven for a period of three years, after which it is securely destroyed.

16. Exclusion of Liability

Whilst Steven and or any of its associated entities will take all reasonable steps to deliver an enjoyable tour as advertised, there is no acceptance of liability for any loss of enjoyment experienced by participating friends due to circumstances beyond Nature Trail's control.

Steven shall not be liable for any additional expenses relating to your tour, including but not limited to: cancellations, missing connecting transport, extra accommodation, or food expenses. All additional expenses incurred remain the sole responsibility of the friend.

Steven will as part of its tour offering from time to time use the services of other operators – caterers, site guides, commentary subject experts, tourism operators, transport operators, etc - and whilst Steven takes all reasonable care in selecting these operators, it cannot accept responsibility for those operators conduct or the conduct of their representative employees or agents or any ramification of that conduct.

Steven makes no representations or warranties in relation to this document, its accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency, that reasonable care has been taken in its preparation, or that third party rights have not been infringed, and expressly disclaim all liability (including but not limited to liability for negligence) for any loss whatsoever, injury or death, arising from or in connection with the use of or reliance on any part of this document.

In consideration of the above tour being provided for no fee, as an invited friend of Nature Trail, as a friend I for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, hereby waive all or any claim, right or cause of action which I or they might otherwise have for or arising out of loss enjoyment, loss of life or injury, damage to or loss of property or of any description whatsoever which I may suffer or sustained on the tour and activities undertaken in connection therewith.

Friends of Nature Trail agree to act in a safe and appropriate manner while using the facilities and services provided, and to abide by all directions given by the Tour Director. I undertake to inform the Tour Director before the Tour Start if I am not in good health and/or fitness. I further acknowledge that I am fully responsible for any non-tour activities I may choose to participate in.

This waiver will operate for Nature Trail, its tour leaders, tour guides, principal, directors and parent company. Friends accept that this waiver cannot cover every circumstance of a tour and cannot be relied upon to reduce or eliminate the risk of loss or injury.

I have read, understood, considered and agree to the terms and conditions herein before choosing to sign this Friend Tour Agreement. I acknowledge the risks and I will take responsibility for my own actions and that signing this form will be deemed as full acceptance and understanding of the above conditions.

17. Statutory Declaration

I have read, understood and accept the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon me during the entire period of participation

Name of Applicant: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Upon receipt of your application, we shall review it and contact you within 48 hours to discuss.

If approved, preliminary registration requires first a registration fee of \$20 to be paid and we shall need to meet up face-to-face in Katoomba. Also you will need to satisfactorily complete two short hiking tours with Nature Trail before registration is finalised and to be eligible to participate on longer hiking tours - Half-Day Hiking Tours and Full-Day Hiking Tours.

Thank you for completing this application form.