

How Bookings for the traverse work

Once you have made your booking via the website at <https://mountainturk.org.nz/booking/>

You will have a departure window of the day you have booked, plus one or two days until the next party leaves. This gives you some flexibility for weather conditions.

You are expected to collect a Garmin Inreach satellite device from Arrowtown prior to your departure. Aim to do this a few days beforehand. Contact Anton on 027 628 1038 or by email to admin@mountainturk.org.nz. The device can be left out for you to collect. If it's not possible to get it from there, please contact ahead of time to try and arrange an alternative.

These devices are in addition to PLB's and allow us to communicate with groups. This allows the possibility of more people using empty turks without disrupting traverse groups, plus being able to arrange for non-emergency help, for instance if there are moderate injuries or broken gear which means you need assistance but not a full SAR callout.

If you have your own communication device then that is acceptable, however the preference is you use one of the garmins. If using your own device we still need to have contact access.

Itinerary Requirements

Stating your intentions is a requirement of using the turks.

On the day prior to your departure we require either an email to Admin@mountainturk.org.nz, a txt to Anton or a message via the garmin (preference is an email).

1: List which turk you intend to stay in on each night of your journey in the following format:
Date:Location

For example on a 3 night trip: 09/08/22:Polnoon, 10/08 Mt Hyde, 11/08 Vanguard

or perhaps a 2 night destination trip 09/08/22: Mt Hyde. 10/08 Mt Hyde.

2: Indicate if you think you might change itinerary during the trip. You may be thinking of spending more or less time depending on conditions.

Either "fixed itinerary" or "itinerary may change" - if you can offer any further info that will be helpful, ie "we might stay an extra night at Mt Hyde"

If your plans need to change during your journey, we require a message via the garmin to update our systems.

3: If you decide not to go, please let us know!

Having this information makes it possible to offer empty turks to others and therefore maximise their usage.

4. Note that we expect you to have given an overdue time to another individual as per Self Cert checklist #10.

Tracking

The Garmins send tracking information. While we can check the tracking, we do not monitor this for safety purposes.

Don't rely on the tracking signal indicating a problem with your group.

If you want to have someone monitoring your progress and checking your safety, this needs to be organised by you with someone you trust.

Our procedure is not to take action unless we have a positive message of distress - an inactive tracker is not enough indication of something wrong.

What to do when you need help

EMERGENCY

- in any situation where you feel life is in danger or could be in danger if help is not imminent - PRESS THE SOS BUTTON ON YOUR PLB.

Non Emergency

- If you have a problem which is not life threatening but will prevent you completing your trip, say a broken binding or minor injury - assess that you can get to safety ie. a tuk (IF NOT YOU MIGHT NEED TO PRESS THE BUTTON), be prepared to wait (we are volunteers, we may not be able to respond immediately). We can then help organise either a vehicle pickup from Macetown or Skippers/Branches road, or a helicopter pickup. All costs will be the responsibility of the club member needing the pickup of course.

Access using Treble Cone and/or Coronet Peak

Review the backcountry access requirements for the ski areas:

<https://www.treblecone.com/mountain/backcountry-info/>

<https://www.coronetpeak.co.nz/Touring-Backcountry/>

The key requirements for Treble Cone are that you sign in and notify them of any vehicles being left in the carpark. Treble Cone are again offering a backcountry lift pass for \$65 which will get you 3 lift rides. We highly recommend you use this as touring up under the Home basin lift is not much fun.

If you are wanting to leave before 7am you must call ski patrol the day prior on 03 443 7443 to register intentions and check for snow safety. Authorisation is not a right and may be denied when avalanche control or other operational procedures are underway on the mountain.

Heliskiers

The traverse goes thru heliski terrain. Expect to see heliskiers during your trip and perhaps be beaten to some snow by them. Be aware of skiers entering above you and any danger this may cause - it's fair to expect that heli groups will see you before they ski a line, but be wary of this.