

Field Trip - Friday 10th April 2015

Rangitoto Island

Organiser / Trip leader: Chris Green (DOC)

Meet 9am at Auckland Ferry Terminal to catch the Fullers Ferry departing 9.15am. We can depart the island either at 2.30pm or 4pm arriving back to Auckland at around 3pm or 4.30pm.

The trip will be weather dependent so everyone intending to go must contact the trip leader, Chris Green on cgreen@doc.govt.nz or text to 0272364374 before the close of the conference on Thursday 9th April.

The cost of the field trip is NOT included in your conference registration fee. You must purchase your own tickets (\$30), either on-line at the Fullers website at <http://www.fullers.co.nz/destinations-tours/rangitoto-island.php> or on the day at the ferry terminal.

Bring: Boots or good quality walking shoes, hat, coat, sunblock, lunch, water or other drink for the day. Lunch is not provided but can be purchased at various cafes close to and in the ferry terminal at Auckland prior to departure. There is no shop on the island.

Biosecurity: Rangitoto is a pest free island. You must ensure your foot wear is clean and all clothing and daypacks are free of pests including all insects and mammals. Pack luggage and all food in pest-proof containers such as day packs that have good closure. No open bags carry-bags are permitted to be taken to the island.

Itinerary: The plan is to walk to the summit (259m) from Rangitoto Wharf and return via the same track or via McKenzie Bay, depending the collective wishes of the party. There is a map and lots of information about options on the island on the Fullers brochure - visit their website <http://www.fullers.co.nz/destinations-tours/documents/WEBRangitotoandMotutapuBroFeb2015.pdf>

About Rangitoto:

Sitting majestically just off the Auckland coast, this unique volcanic island boasts a fascinating landscape of rugged lava crops, lush native bush and sandy coves. Rangitoto is a public reserve, managed by the Department of Conservation. Visit <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/auckland/places/rangitoto-island-scenic-reserve/tracks/rangitoto-island-summit-walks/?region=Auckland&park=31bfea41-2c20-44a7-b3ee-5c9f1dedbe7b&activity=Walking-tramping&activitypageid=50578#findplaces> for more information.

GEOLOGY: Rangitoto Island erupted from the sea in a series of dramatic explosions around 600 years ago. This makes it the youngest island in the Hauraki Gulf and the last and largest volcano to be formed in the Auckland volcanic field.

FLORA & FAUNA: Famed worldwide as a botanical gem, Rangitoto is home to New Zealand's largest Pohutakawa forest. There are now more than 200 species

of native plants including 40 species of fern. Many of the plants are unusual hybrids and very rare. Because Rangitoto and Motutapu are now both pest-free, native species like kaka, saddleback (tieke), bellbird (korimako), kiwi and takahe have returned naturally or have been reintroduced.