

## CAMPBELL ISLAND

Owing to its position in the Southern Ocean, Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku is subject to persistent high winds and heavy rain/hail throughout the year. Daytime temperatures hover around 7C, with highs reaching 11C. The terrain at the campsites is a mix of tall tussock and *Dracophyllum* forest, and it is uneven, boggy and slippery underfoot. Dense tussock can obscure one's view of 450kg bull sea lions; thus, team members must be comfortable and confident working around large territorial animals.

Accommodation at Campbell Island is basic backcountry tent camping (each team member will be provided with their own tent). Tarps are strung up to provide windbreaks and shelter for drying clothes. A large communal Shiftpod tent is used as the main cooking/living area. Cooking, cleaning and camp duties are shared by all members of the team. Field camps are located in close proximity to noisy sea lion colonies, and it is not uncommon to have sub-adult males passing through camp at night.

Gas stoves are provided for cooking and a generator is available for charging essential electronics. All food, supplies and drinking water for the duration of the field season are carried by the teams over uneven terrain to the campsites at the beginning of the trip. Resupplies are strictly dependent on vessel movements and weather conditions.

Teams communicate via VHF radio, with daily satellite phone check-ins to the mainland. A limited number of minutes are allocated to each team member for outgoing calls of a personal nature.

Two field camps are set up annually on either side of Perseverance Harbour. Drop off (for gear and personnel) to the campsites is via zodiac. Campsites are 9 -12 hrs hiking apart. Located between the two field camps, at the head of the inlet is Beeman Base. Beeman Base is a well-equipped backcountry hut. Throughout the field season, teams will undertake the backcountry hike (3 – 8hrs depending on campsite origin) to the base to rest for a day, hand-wash clothes and discuss fieldwork. There is no power at the base, however water can be heated via a stove for washing, bunks provide a reprieve from tent camping and the hut provides a welcome opportunity to dry clothes under permanent shelter.

During the breeding season sea lion work can be intensive, with long hours of fieldwork and data entry. Field teams will be expected to work 10 days in a row and fieldwork will commence in all weather conditions (wet/muddy conditions are the norm).

As this is a World Heritage site, opportunities to explore other parts of the island are limited and are strictly subject to the approval of DOC Southland, agreed prior to departure.

The most southerly of New Zealand's subantarctic islands, Campbell is a rugged and stunningly beautiful isle. This remote uninhabited island is home to a range of unique flora and fauna, including the New Zealand sea lion. This field work offers a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a highly motivated, skilled candidate to work in a truly spectacular location on the conservation of an important taonga species.

## Conditions

- During Campbell and Auckland Islands deployments, all food, accommodation (tents) and personal protective equipment (knee pads, overalls, work gloves) are provided. Field teams will be required to supply their own sleeping bags/bedrolls, clothing and footwear adequate for the work conditions.
- All accommodation (during training and pre- and post-deployment) is covered.
- Agreed travel between home and training facilities/departure port are covered.
- Due to the critical importance of team dynamics for these positions, final decisions on field personnel and team assignments will be made following the September training week.
- All candidates must complete a detailed medical in order to be allowed to work on the subantarctic islands and any employment offer will be dependent on successfully passing the medical checks.
- Travel to the Auckland Island is by boat and is approximately a 36-hour passage from the port of Bluff, often on the expedition yacht Evohe (<http://www.expedition-sailing-vessel.com/>); Campbell Island is an additional 12-30 hours passage. Rough sea conditions will be encountered.
- Due to the remoteness of the field sites, team departure and pickup dates from the Islands are strictly dependent on favourable weather conditions. Whilst all endeavours to adhere to set field season dates will be made, flexibility is required and team members must understand that delays (of up to two weeks) due to weather are not uncommon.

## Skills

- Experience working on remote islands for extended periods (or equivalent remote wilderness camping)
- Physically fit and confident carrying out fieldwork in inclement weather conditions on remote, challenging terrain
- Ability to get along well with others and be comfortable living and working in close quarters with people from a diverse range of backgrounds, as a member of a small team for a prolonged period
- Previous experience working in close proximity to large aggressive animals and appropriate animal handling skills
- Ability to adhere to health and safety policies and procedures at all times, and be responsible for your own safety and that of your team members
- Experience with small boats and backcountry shore transfers
- Experience following scientific methodology in the field
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to record detailed data in adverse weather conditions
- Experience entering data into excel spreadsheets and checking for accuracy and completeness
- Flexibility to changing work plans and vessel schedules
- Ability to interact professionally with tourists
- Self-motivated with attention to detail and the ability to learn quickly
- Practical/technical skills (e.g. mechanical, construction etc.) are desirable