

Terms and conditions for visits to Tarfala Research Station (TRS)

About Tarfala

Tarfala is located 26 km from Nikkaluokta and 7 km from the Kebnekaise mountain station in a high alpine environment. All our outdoor activities, including transport to and from the station, are dependent on weather which often changes rapidly. You will live comfortably in rooms with 2 or 4 beds. The station staff is working both in the field and at the station. Most staff members are Swedish or international scientists or university students. We will ask you to help out with kitchen duties and keep the bed- and common rooms tidy. We ask you to respect that you, and your group, are part of others experience of the unique Tarfala environment!

Applications

All visitors to TRS should send in an application before arriving. You will find the link to the application system on <http://www.natgeo.su.se/english/tarfala-research-station/application-for-access>, or directly via <http://www.nordgis.org/sites/application/application.php>

By submitting your application you agree to publication of the application content in the NordGIS data base, and to the terms and conditions in this document.

The deadlines for applications for the winter season (c. 15 March-1 May) is the 1st of January and for the summer season (c. 20 June - 20 September) the 1st of April each year. The review and prioritization is made by the station manager and the advisory group of TRS. Information about the results will be sent to the PI before the end of April. The application is either accepted as is or is accepted with changed dates and/or requirements, or in rare cases rejected. Conditions for field-work, e.g. concerning post-season reports, clean-up and restoration must be adhered to. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Priority will be given to research projects. Late applications will be considered after the regular review process has been finalized.

Price for accommodation and food

The current price per diem in Tarfala is 650 SEK. Price is excluding VAT (exklusive moms). All payment is through invoice only, we do not accept individual payment for accommodation. The principle is "one project/course, one PI, one season, one invoice". This means that the PI of a given research project, or organizer of a course or workshop etc. will receive an invoice covering all the costs pertaining to that "project" in that season. The invoice will be sent out as soon as possible after the project has ended (for the season). We reserve the right to invoice you for up to 50% of the costs associated with the confirmed visit if you cancel your visit, or change dates for arrival/departure at a late stage.

Permits

For snowmobile transport outside the permitted routes and for helicopter landing in national parks you need get a permit from the Norrbotten County Administrative Board. For any snow mobile transport or helicopter landing outside the official routes you also need to

inform the Sámi communities Laevas or Girjas (<http://www.sametinget.se/2370>). This is because activities can disturb the reindeer grazing and herding. You can get advice from TRS staff about this matter. As we like to include the Sámi as much as possible in our activities we recommend that you contact them early in your planning process as they may help refine your study with their knowledge.

For all

You need to inform us about any illnesses, allergies or dietary requirements so that we can secure a pleasant and safe visit. Normally we serve a vegetarian alternative meal, vegans and other visitors with special requirements needs to contact TRS staff for information about possible alternatives.

We have two or four beds in each room, we provide you with bed linen and towels. We will try to accommodate your requests for use of lecture hall, laboratories incl freezers, microscopes, other equipment, workshop etc. Please include your needs for these facilities in your application. Sometimes the station is crowded and we then need to share facilities the most efficient way.

Research projects

Our aim is to produce a useful project database including location of different experiments, mapping exercises etc. so please carefully record the positions of your activities in the NordGIS. Let staff know how you have restored any possible sampling/study site.

If you plan to bring any chemicals to TRS you also need to bring you bring the proper health and safety information sheets, and make sure we can store the chemicals properly during your stay. Toxic chemicals need to be collected and removed after use as there is no chemically cleaning of our waste waters. All chemicals that you bring in have to be removed after your visit if not agreed differently with station staff.

Courses & workshops

When booking a course or a workshop it is sufficient to first only provide the number of people and their sex in the application. If the application is accepted, you will need to send us a list including full names of the participants no later than two weeks before arrival, including information about any illnesses, allergies or dietary requirements that we need to know about to secure a pleasant and safe visit.

Arrival and departure

All visitors must contact TRS staff before arrival; this is partly for safety reasons but it also allows us to synchronize transports to and from Nikkaluokta. Before sending any equipment, instruments etc. to the station, you must contact the station staff to make sure that proper procedures are followed. This is of particular importance if you ship things from abroad.

Transportation

You need to book and pay your transport to Tarfala by yourself. During winter you can order transport with snow mobile through Nikkaluokta Sarri AB (www.nikkaluokta.com; phone: 098055015). During the summer you can transport with helicopter from Nikkaluokta using Kallaxflyg (www.kallaxflyg.se), phone number is 0980-81000.

Shipping

If you need to send things to Nikkaluokta for further transport to Tarfala the delivery addresses are:

Summer: Kallaxflyg, Nikklauokta, 98199 Kiruna, Sweden

Winter: Nikkaluokta Sarri, Nikkaluokta, 98199 Kiruna, Sweden

Safety

Upon arrival in Tarfala you will be asked to read our safety document, provide us with next-of-kin information, and sign a document in which you indicate that you have read and understood our safety regulations. Make sure you have a personal accident insurance. Stockholm University will not cover transport costs associated with illnesses or other unpredictable circumstances. For individuals, small group of researchers and for groups up to 25 persons we are able to provide glacier safety equipment such as crampons and harnesses for field-work and field-trips (not for private trips).

Lecture hall, laboratory and workshop

There is no additional charge for the use of lecture hall, laboratories and workshop. The station technicians are happy to help out if you need to use the workshop, you are not allowed to use the workshops without prior permission.

Storage

If you run a project lasting several seasons/years you can store named tagged equipment at TRS. We do not store frozen samples between seasons.

Services

Limited field support by the station's technical staff can be arranged. Please contact the station manager well in advance.

Internet and phone

Tarfala phone-number is 072-7155039 (via GSM). If you use Telia or associated operators you can use your own phone. We have internet access (slow and weather dependent) and there are two stationary computers and printers available for guests. Tarfala also has a satellite phone for remote fieldwork and emergencies.

Personal equipment

Tarfala will provide you with bed linen and towels. We also provide eco-labelled shower gel and shampoo. We have a sauna and laundry facility. For fieldwork or trips you need to bring: alpine shoes (for work on the glaciers we recommend shoes on which you can attach crampons), water and wind resistant shell jacket and trousers, hat and gloves. For winter you will need a down jacket, warmer hat and gloves and snow goggles. You also need indoor shoes, a thermos flask, water bottle, lunch box for field lunches, small 1st aid kit, sunglasses, sun cream, torch (for dark season). You will need a day-pack sized rucksack for fieldtrips. Bring some cash if you want to buy beer or postcards.

Pack your stuff in a rucksack even if you plan to travel to Tarfala with helicopter, you might have to carry your bags if the weather does not permit helicopter transport (definitively avoid bags on wheels!). If you chose to hike and to send some of your stuff (name and

destination labelled) with the helicopter you need to pack in two bags.

Food

We transport the food to Tarfala using snowmobiles and helicopter. We eat vegetarian food at least twice a week. We eat porridge for breakfast and normally eat lunch in the field, which consists of hot/cold drinks and hard-bread (knäckebröd) sandwiches. Those of you who need special food because of allergies need to inform the kitchen responsible well in advance. Normally we can offer a vegetarian (not vegan) alternative to those who has informed us beforehand. We have a number of gluten and lactose free products but please let us know if you have such requirements. If you want “adult drinks” you need to bring your own. If you have a sweet tooth please bring your candy or snacks- its 7 km to the nearest small shop at the Kebnekaise mountain station.

Outreach

Please help us with the important task providing information to the public and be “science ambassadors” to the local people and tourists visiting the Kebnekaise mountains.

For any questions you may have, contact us via e-mail on tarfala@natgeo.su.se.

Welcome to Tarfala!

