

Coral Sea Kayaking



Coralseakayaking.com

General Information

For everyone who is reasonably active and fit, sea kayaking is a fun and easy activity. Our two- person sea kayaks are stable and simple to paddle. Every trip is lead by a skilled sea kayaking instructor/guide, who will help you learn all the basics, teaching you paddling techniques, beach landing, surf entries and kayak rescue techniques. Group sizes are restricted, with a maximum of twelve clients, this insures a personalised service and is ecologically sustainable for the island environment. Our small team of sea kayak guides have many years experience leading outdoor/wilderness expeditions.

Sea kayaks have limited space, so gear needs to be kept to a minimum. On these trips we live simply and travel light only taking what we essentially need, nature provides the rest. We will be carrying all our supplies and equipment on board the kayaks. The sections below will answer any questions you may have regarding what to bring and the equipment provided.

Trip Organisation

Anyone that has been sea kayaking before understands the need to be flexible due to the ever changing nature of the sea. Trip itineraries should be seen as an outline of the trip. The enjoyment and safety of the group is always our main consideration, therefore the guides may choose to alter the itinerary slightly to suit the weather conditions, or particular trip dynamics. Sea kayaking is a weather dependent activity and the sea conditions will be of the utmost importance to the schedule of the trip and the level of adventure and difficulty. Our guides are professionals who deal with the ocean's dynamic weather conditions on a daily bases so please trust that they will make the wisest and safest decision to ensure the safety of the group and an enjoyable trip.

On all our adventures we like to make a relatively early start on the water to take advantage of the cooler part of the day and lighter winds. We therefore plan to do most of our paddling in the mornings arriving at our overnight camp around lunch time or mid afternoon. This leaves the afternoons free to explore or relax. As with any expedition trip sea kayaking journeys rely on teamwork, participating as a group and working together. The more you put in the more you get out, so for a rewarding active holiday your assistance in certain camp activities will be appreciated and you will have certain responsibilities, such as, unpacking your own kayak and setting up your tent on arrival at our beach camps.

Mission Beach and How to get there.

Mission Beach is situated approximately two hours south of Cairns. Cairns is serviced by both national and international flights. Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin and Tiger offer regular flights from major Australian cities. On arrival in Cairns there are several bus companies with regular services to Mission Beach, and airport shuttle services or local taxis which will take you to the bus station. Otherwise there are plenty of hire car companies in Cairns.

A local shuttle bus company Mission Link Coaches offer a door to door service from Cairns Airport to your accommodation in Mission Beach. Mission Link is a great service and we highly recommend it as an alternative to other bus services or hire cars.

<https://www.missionlink.com.au/>

Mission Beach comprises of several beaches each with its own small community. There are various places to stay ranging from resort style to backpackers accommodation. Mission Beach also offers many reef and rainforest activities, including scuba diving, whitewater rafting and skydiving. Many people choose to stay a few days before or after the paddling trip to enjoy relaxing on the 14km of golden sandy beaches that make up this region.

If you are looking for accommodation in Mission Beach then we highly recommend Mission Reef Resort on Holland Street in Wongaling Beach. Mission Reef Resort is mid range self contained accommodation close to the beach. Its also the venue we use for the pre-departure briefing the evening prior to the trip.

<https://missionreefresort.com.au/>

Car Hire

There are many car hire companies in Cairns to choose from. Sugarland car rentals have an office in both Cairns and Mission Beach and offer a one way option which is often cost effective for people travelling in groups.

Sugarlands Car Rentals www.sugarlands.com.au, Phone 07 40688272

Bus Options

Mission Link Coaches: <https://www.missionlink.com.au/>, 0407 337 661. Does two Cairns Airport runs daily.

Greyhound Bus: 1300 473 946, www.greyhound.com.au Cairns Bus terminal - Mission Beach Bus Terminal, approximately 2 hours. Please check timetable for scheduled departures.

Townsville Bus terminal - Mission Beach Bus Terminal

Premier Motor Service: www.premierms.com.au Cairns Premier terminal - Mission Beach Bus Terminal, approximately 2 hours. Please check timetable for scheduled departures.

Townsville Premier terminal - Mission Beach Bus Terminal

Please note the pre-trip meeting starts at 7pm the evening prior to Departure at Mission Reef Resort (or elsewhere by arrangement) The trip will finish at approximately 3.30pm on the last day, so you may connect with any bus after this time. Please also note when booking travel arrangements that the driving time between Mission beach and Cairns is approximately 2 hours.

Climate

Our departure dates range from May through to November, this being the cooler part of the year you can expect day-time temperatures ranging from lows, being between 18 - 24 degrees (July & August), to highs of between 27 - 32 degrees Celsius (Oct & Nov). The south-easterly trade winds move along the coast at this time of year and will often assist our journey. When on the ocean it is advisable to have good protection against all the elements, so please ensure you have good sun protection and a lightweight wind/rainproof jacket.

Photography

Sea kayaking is an ocean sport and often involves an intimate relationship with salt water and sand. These elements do not always mix well with expensive and delicate camera equipment. We would suggest that you keep your camera gear to a minimum. We provide complimentary small dry bags which give good protection and can be used as a day bag whilst paddling although the best alternative is either a waterproof camera or a waterproof case for your camera/ phone.

Personal spending

You are unable to spend any money once we are on the islands. For our Hinchinbrook trips we will stop for a break on our drive south to Lucinda on the first morning of the trip, so you may want some cash for a coffee/tea and snack. Our final lunch will be at a Cafe once landing back from the islands, the lunch is complimentary but if you wish to buy beverages you may require card or cash.

Medical matters

All participants are asked to provide us with a completed medical questionnaire, which is included in the forms we send out to you. Sea Kayaking requires being active for most of the day so all participants must have a level of physical fitness to perform the daily tasks required. All our extended trips go into isolated regions so prior attention to medical matters is important. **Please advise us of any relevant pre existing medical conditions, regular medications or special dietary requirements. Please tell your guide about any allergies you may have. If you suffer from any known anaphylactic allergic reactions especially to allergens that may be present on the trip then we HIGHLY recommend carrying a minimum of two Epi-pens or other adequate forms of administering adrenalin.** Our guides are trained and qualified in Wilderness Medicine and we carry an extremely comprehensive medical kit on our expeditions.

Guides will usually carry sea sickness medications but if you are aware of a pre-disposition to sea sickness we highly recommend you bring a sufficient supply of your own personal sea sickness meds.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to cover you against sickness, accident, cancellation, loss of baggage and the unlikely event that you require emergency evacuation by air due to illness or accident. Please check if your policy covers cancellation as a result of bad weather. Australia offers a comprehensive and free public Medi evac system for Australian residents.

Sea kayak guides

At Coral sea kayaking we believe that the cornerstone to an exceptional trip is having exceptional guides. We pride ourselves on employing the best guides in the business to lead our trips. All our guides are highly qualified with years of sea miles behind them. They trained and qualified in Wilderness Medicine and CPR. They are not only skilled kayakers and gracious hosts but also gourmet chefs who can whip up gastronomic delights on camp stoves. Our guides are nature lovers, these islands are their back yard and they feel a strong connection to them. They take great pride in not only sharing the wonder of this environment but also acting as stewards for its preservation. Ultimately and most importantly our guides are genuine humans, friendly, kind souls who pride themselves on making authentic connections with all who journey with them.

Meals and beverages

Our guides will prepare all meals during the trip offering a varied menu, including plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit, some cooked breakfasts, and wholesome tasty dinners with yummy desserts. We are more than happy to cater to any specific dietary requirements as long we have prior knowledge so please let us know when you make your booking. Our guides are renowned for producing gourmet meals on camp stoves and impressing even the most ardent camp chefs.

Being in the lush tropical wilderness, water is not a concern, we will have plenty of fresh drinking water during our journey. We offer a complimentary alcoholic beverage service which includes red and white wine and port. As we have restricted space in the kayaks and thus must ration our alcohol the complimentary beverage service equates to about one drink per night per person. Often the complimentary beverages are not enough for peoples tastes so we recommend that customers also bring along some of their own alcoholic beverage to enjoy during the evening, however please remember space is limited in the kayaks.

Camping - take only photos and leave only footprints

We provide quality one-person and two-person tents whilst on the islands, if you are travelling alone you will be provided with your own tent otherwise if you choose you can share with another member of the group, this helps to save space and weight in the kayaks. The regions we visit are World Heritage listed and often fragile ecosystems. We therefore have a policy of extremely low environmental impact. All our food waste and general rubbish will be removed from the islands and the use of biodegradable soap is appreciated. Your guide will outline everything we can do to keep our impact to a minimum.

Fitness Level

Our Kayaking trips will be enjoyed by participants who are reasonably active and happy to participate in paddling, swimming/snorkeling and hiking for up to six hours a day. Due to weather conditions some days may include some strenuous activity. As with many outdoor pursuits the fitter you are the more you will enjoy paddling, therefore we would suggest that you participate in a regular exercise program prior to your trip to maintain or improve overall fitness. Obviously we are operating in a sea environment so a basic level of swimming and water confidence is mandatory for all our participants.

Equipment list

On all our trips we are totally self sufficient so space is limited, it is therefore necessary to travel light. We provide a waterproof dry-bag for your personal equipment and clothing, these are not easily accessible whilst paddling so we also provide a smaller dry bag that acts as a day bag and can be accessed whilst on the water.

If you are not going back to your accommodation after the trip we are happy to store your bags whilst you are on the water.

Light coloured clothing is advisable, on some beaches and at certain times of the year sand-flies and mosquitos may be present and they are more attracted to dark colours as they provide them better camouflage.

Standard Guest packing list

*The List below is a basic list of **suggested** item's. Not all items are mandatory and by no means is this an exhaustive list, so common sense with your interpretation is essential. Happy packing ☺*

Lightweight and compact sleeping bag and inner-sheet (Important)

Cotton single bed sheet to go over camping mattress (important)

Small backpacking towel and or sarong.

2 T-shirts/shirts or rash shirt (to wear whilst paddling)

2 pairs of quick-dry shorts and swimwear.

underwear.

sports sandals/ reef shoes or light weight shoes.

lightweight pair of trousers (to wear around camp)

lightweight long-sleeve shirt (to wear around camp)

lightweight fleece or jacket (to wear around camp)

lightweight thermal top (polypro, smart wool or capilene is recommended)

lightweight waterproof rain-jacket.

lightweight socks.

small torch and batteries (a head torch is handy for camping)

minimal toiletries (biodegradable salt water soap/shampoo)

medical needs (see section of medical matters)

Plenty of sun screen and lip balm (waterproof and SPF 30+)

Effective insect repellent (please beware DEET based products can melt plastic, tents and even some drybags)

Sunglasses with retainer

Wide-brim hat for sun protection is essential with a chinstrap to keep it on in a breeze.

Water bottle, at least 1 to 2 Litres is recommended.

Optional extras

- Camera
- Binoculars
- small fishing rod/ handline and tackle
- book or magazine
- cards or small game
- personalized snorkeling gear (Otherwise ask CSK as we have spare dive gear)
- lightweight hammock
- small battery charger (for camera or phone)

- Buff or bandana
- spare sunglasses and hat
- extra sunscreen
- spare batteries

Gear we Provide

- Comfortable high quality tents.
- Comfortable camping mattress
- Camp chair
- Dry bags for personal gear
- All kayaking specific equipment
- All camp kitchen equipment and shelter
- Appropriate toileting facilities including toilet paper

Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions regarding gear or arrangements. We look forward to paddling with you ☺