

CORAL SEA KAYAKING

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3 days, Moderate level, ex- Mission Beach, Qld.

Cost: \$1300.00 AUD (\$300 deposit when booking)

TRIP NOTES

Off the tropical coast of North Queensland between Ingham and Etty Bay lie 24 continental islands, 21 of which are National Parks surrounded by the waters and fringing reefs of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. They range from Hinchinbrook Island, 39,000 ha, the largest National Park Island in Australia to tiny Purtaboi Island situated just off the coast of renowned Dunk Island. These islands present a magnificent landscape of unspoilt sandy beaches, precipitous headlands, rugged mountains, waterfalls and dense rainforest, all of which offer the most spectacular backdrop for our sea kayaking adventures.

We spend three days exploring these tropical islands enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the secluded beaches. Our small group will travel approximately 12 to 15 kilometres a day in our two-person sea kayaks, over fringing reefs and amongst stunning islands and coastline. Marine life abounds in these waters with dolphins, sea turtles, rays and many tropical fish. The rarely seen dugongs also inhabit the waters off the nearby islands and coast. During late July, August & early September we are sometimes lucky enough to encounter the superb humpback whales that immigrate annually to these northern waters. Your time on the islands can be spent relaxing in our hammocks, taking lazy beach walks or you can explore the dense rainforest, and the pristine blue waters and fringing reefs. The bird life is plentiful, with white-breasted sea eagles soaring above and many birds sighted along the beaches and rocky headlands.

TRIP ITINERARY

This moderate level trip will be most enjoyed by participants who are reasonably active and happy to participate in paddling, swimming/snorkelling and walking for up to six hours a day. Due to weather conditions some days may include some strenuous activity and our itinerary may alter to offer you the best remote island experience we can. In windy conditions we may decide to visit the Barnard Islands a rarely visited group of eight islands, which lay to the north of Mission Beach. These small islands have stunning coral beaches and rainforest clad hillsides and are a bird watchers delight.

PRE TRIP MEETING

The pre-trip meeting will be held at 7.00pm the evening prior to your trip at Mission Reef Resort, Wongaling Beach (unless otherwise stated). Our guides will introduce themselves and discuss the planned itinerary and answer any questions you may have regarding your trip. They will also issue you with dry bags for your personal belongings, these should be packed and ready when you are collected the following morning. Any belongings not being taken, may be stored at our office.

Day 1

After your pick up at 8.00am, from your accommodation, we arrive at the beach to pack our kayaks. Your trip leader will give a safety briefing and paddling instruction. We then set off for our first day on the water, paddling through the beautiful Family Islands, passing tiny Timana Island and paddling the coastline of Bedarra Island to our destination of Wheeler Island. This lush verdant island will be our tropical beach camp for the next two nights. After a yummy fresh lunch, we set up our camp. The rest of the day can be spent exploring the beach and island, snorkelling or just relaxing and enjoying the peace and tranquillity of an uninhabited tropical island. During the evening watch a canopy of stars overhead whilst we tuck into a scrumptious dinner provided by our friendly guides.

Day 2

We spend the day exploring the outer islands of this group, after breakfast we paddle along the coast of Coombe Island over the fringing reef to visit the further islands of Hudson, Bowden and Smith. These three, known as the triplets are the southernmost islands of the group giving a spectacular view of the peaks of Hinchinbrook Island. Here, we can snorkel off the beach to view the fringing reef and colourful fish. After a luscious picnic lunch we can spend more time exploring these gem like islands and their stunning granite boulder coastlines before getting back in our kayaks. Back at our beach camp Wheeler Island we can watch the sunset over the mainland whilst sipping a glass of wine and nibbling some pre-dinner snacks.

Day 3

A hearty breakfast is served, and the morning is spent at a leisurely pace. There is time for yet another swim before we begin to pack up camp and load the kayaks for our final day on the islands. Today we head northwards towards picturesque Dunk Island, for a delicious lunch and a snorkel or a bit of beachcombing on the islands less visited beaches, then we paddle to our final destination of Mission Beach.

For more information or booking forms please contact our office ☺