

Explore the *ancient rainforest and still reflections of the Gordon River and Macquarie Harbour.*

TRIP ESSENTIALS

Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River are a complex system of breathtaking rainforests, rugged mountain ranges and utter tranquility. Located within the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park these inland waterways, which also have a rich pinning and convict history, make a majestic paddling destination.

This 7-day expedition includes 5 days of kayaking in Tasmania's world heritage wilderness with the first day a travel day from Hobart, with time to explore Strahan, and the last day sailing and travel back to Hobart.

Transport from Hobart, accommodation in Strahan, yacht journey back to Strahan on last day, quality expedition kayaks, equipment, food and expert guiding required for a multi-day trip to this remote wilderness (with its changeable weather) are provided.

Day One

We will travel by bus from Hobart to Strahan with Hobart pickups between 9am and 9.30am.

It is a 4 to 5 hour drive. It is a good idea to bring a little pocket money for the drive to and from Strahan should you require any last minute items, drinks or souvenirs.

Upon arrival at Strahan Wilderness Lodge you will be supplied with:

- 2 dry bags (1 x 25 litre & 1 x 20 litre)
- Waterproof paddling jacket and waterproof paddling pants
- PFD/Life Jacket
- Sleeping bag and sleeping bag liner
- A 60-litre duffle bag

Your tent and sleeping mat will be packed separately into the kayaks by your guides.

The morning of day 2 there will be time allocated for you to repack your personal luggage into the supplied dry bags and duffle bag. Your guides will go through the gear list to ensure that you have adequate and appropriate clothing and rain jacket.

You will be able to leave your travel luggage and other personal items not needed on the trip with Strahan Wilderness Lodge staff for safekeeping.

St John Falls Camp

The last two nights we plan to spend at St John Falls campsite. This is also where the Franklin River rafters finish their journey. In peak times this campsite can be busy with other adventurers, but it is also a wonderful exciting campsite with many stories exchanged on adventures on the Franklin and Gordon Rivers.

Meals and Food

All meals, snacks and drinks, including cooking equipment and eating utensils, are provided. You must advise us on your medical forms if you have any specific dietary or health needs.

A glass of wine is provided with dinner each evening. If you would like to bring additional alcohol, please do not bring any glass and remember that everything you bring must fit into the 60-litre duffle bag.

Safety and Medications

The remote nature of this trip is part of what makes it a great adventure, but it also means that we need to be very careful that everyone is prepared for the unforeseen. If you are taking any medications please be sure to let your guide know and to include an extra supply, packed separately, just in case. It is also important that you let us know if you have any pre-existing medical conditions or injuries. Our supplies of non-prescription medications are limited so you may wish to bring your own.

All Roaring 40's Kayaking's trip leaders hold sea kayaking and wilderness first aid qualifications. We carry an extensive first aid kit, satellite phone, location beacon, marine radio, flare kits and towing equipment in case of emergencies.

Weather

The dynamic weather is one of the many attractions of this unique World Heritage Area wilderness. Cold and wet weather can occur at anytime, even during summer months. In this moist maritime environment, **quality wet-weather gear and thermal garments are a necessity for your safety and comfort.**

Follow our gear list and you will be comfortable and prepared to enjoy the many variations of weather we may encounter.

Delays

Our exit from this wilderness area is by yacht and we are due back in Hobart at 7pm on the last day of your tour. Whilst it is unusual, in extreme weather delays can occur. **Due to this we highly recommend you do not arrange onward travel for at least 24 hours after our scheduled finish time.**

Roaring 40's Kayaking will not be responsible for any expenses incurred due to delays that are out of our control. We strongly recommend that you purchase travel tickets that can be rebooked and obtain travel insurance to cover any expenses associated with delays.

Kayaking Equipment

We pride ourselves on providing participants with high-quality sea-kayaking equipment. In practical terms it means that you will have a PFD that fits, a quality spray deck, a light paddle, good-quality paddle jacket and pants, pogies (paddling mitts) and a well-maintained sea kayak. You are welcome to bring your favourite paddling accessories, such as split paddle, PFD, dry bags and paddling jackets, but please contact us regarding their suitability.

Camping Equipment

The Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area is a demanding location for outdoor equipment, so as a part of this trip we provide you with good quality camping gear. If you prefer to use your own sleeping bag and/or mat please let us know so that we don't double up.

We provide roomy double tents for couples and one-person tents for singles. Singles will not be expected to share a tent but may be required to share a twin room at the Strahan Wilderness Lodge on the first night.

Camp Setup

The expedition will run more smoothly if everyone pitches in to help. Our guides will show you how to erect your tent and from then on, it's your task to pull down and erect your tent each day. Our guides will also prepare all meals, but we ask if you can take turns to help with the dishes each evening.

Leave No Trace

As tour operators in one of the world's most pristine and beautiful environments — the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area — we are deeply committed to ensuring its values are protected for generations to come. We follow the principles of Leave No Trace to minimize our impact.

- Please keep toiletries to a minimum. Discuss the suitability of any biodegradable products you bring with your guides. We suggest leaving shampoo, soaps and hair products behind. Natural 100% tea tree oil serves as a good antiseptic soap/shampoo alternative.
- Toilet paper is supplied and the disposal of waste as per Leave No Trace principles will be outlined during your tour.
- If possible, organic/natural brands of insect repellent, sunscreen, deodorant and toothpaste are preferred. Small quantities take up less space!
- Sanitising hand gel will be provided at meal times and around camp. Having a small personal quantity is also recommended. Approximately 60ml is sufficient.

Power and phones

There is no mobile coverage and there is no power available after we leave the Strahan Wilderness Lodge. Please ensure all cameras are fully charged and spare batteries packed.

Biosecurity

The greatest threat to some of Tasmania's plants is an introduced plant disease called root rot (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*). Root rot is spread on the muddy boots and camping gear of visitors. Once root rot infects an area, it cannot be removed. Other threats include didymo algae, chytrid frog fungus, myrtle rust and weed seeds.

Before you pack, please CHECK, CLEAN AND DRY all clothing and equipment, paying particular attention to boots and velcro on clothing.

Itinerary

We have a flexible route across Macquarie Harbour to the Gordon River. The number of days paddling and the number of hours in the kayaks on each of those days is highly variable and dependent upon the group and weather conditions. Our guides are highly experienced at optimising each day's plan to make the most of prevailing conditions. On a typical day we aim to paddle for approximately 2-3 hours in the morning and 2-3 hours in the afternoon. Paddling speed is relaxed (i.e. a relaxed walk rather than a sprint). An example itinerary is provided on page 7.

Preparation

The best way to get ready for a kayaking expedition is, you guessed it, go kayaking. We recommend starting off with short distances and building up to a couple of hours. If you are new to kayaking, some lessons prior to the trip will be helpful as well. You can find more tips on preparing for your kayaking expedition here:

<https://roaring40skayaking.com.au/blog/preparing-for-kayaking-expeditions>

COVID-19 Cancellation and Cleaning Policies

To ensure the safety of you and our guides we have introduced a range of COVID-19 safety measures, including extra cleaning and hygiene protocols, and we have a specific COVID-19 cancellation policy. See our website for more details:

<https://roaring40skayaking.com.au/COVID-Policy>

Deposit and Final Payments

Deposit and payment conditions apply as follows:

- For all bookings made more than 60 days prior to the departure date, a deposit of \$400 per person is required to secure the booking. The balance is payable no less than 60 days prior to the departure date.
- Bookings made 60 days or less prior to departure are required to make full payment to secure the booking.
- Payment can be made by direct deposit, cheque or credit card (a credit card surcharge of 1% applies to payments over \$400 per person).
- Children: This kayaking expedition is not recommended for children under 18 unless they have experience kayaking (please contact us to discuss suitability). No child discount applies.

Cancellation Policy and Travel Insurance

The following cancellation policy applies:

- Bookings cancelled more than 60 days prior to departure will be charged a fee of \$400.
- Bookings cancelled between 30 to 60 days prior to departure will be charged 50% of the trip cost.
- Bookings cancelled inside 30 days prior to departure will be charged the full value of the booking. No refund will apply.

Roaring 40's Kayaking reserves the right to cancel any trip due to weather conditions, insufficient numbers or other circumstances outside of its control. In such instances, you will be given a choice of:

- Transferring payments towards another trip date; or
- Receiving a full refund; or
- If insufficient numbers, payment of an additional fee to have the trip run as scheduled.

Roaring 40's Kayaking will not be responsible for reimbursement of cost of flights, accommodation, hire car, meals or any other incidental costs which are or may be incurred in relation to the cancelled trip.

Important: Roaring 40's Kayaking strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance that covers losses due to unforeseen events that result in cancellations.



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GEAR LIST

Due to weight and space limits in our kayaks your entire personal luggage, including sleeping bag and waterproof clothing provided by us, **must fit into the 60-litre (600mm x 400mm x 300mm) duffle bag** that you will be issued in Strahan.

Essential Clothing

- Lightweight thermal long sleeve top for paddling
- Lightweight thermal long johns for paddling
- Medium/heavy weight thermal long sleeve top for night
- Medium/heavy weight thermal long johns or polar fleece pants for night
- Lightweight fleece for paddling
- Nylon quick drying shorts
- Synthetic quick drying long trousers
- 1 or 2 lightweight quick drying t-shirts
- Warm polar fleece or down jacket
- Quality breathable rain jacket with hood
- Waterproof over trousers (for walking and at camp)
- Footwear for paddling that can get wet (*sandals, wet suit booties, Crocs*)
- Trail walking shoes/runners
- Dry footwear for camp (*sneakers or Crocs*)
- Sun hat
- Sun glasses
- Woollen or polar fleece gloves
- 1 or 2 woollen or fleece beanies (1 for paddling, 1 for night)
- 1 pair of warm socks for night
- 1 pair of walking socks
- Underwear for 7 days

Essential Personal Items

- Water bottle / hydration system (*minimum 1 litre capacity*)
- Personal toiletries and medications (note there are no shower facilities and if you bring soap please ensure it is biodegradable)
- 60ml sanitising hand gel
- Pack towel: light and quick dry
- Headlamp with spare batteries
- Sunscreen
- 50+ Lip Balm
- Insect repellent

Optional Items

- Small dry bag for cameras, sunscreen etc
- Short or long-sleeved rash vest
- Long sleeved quick drying shirt for sun protection
- Paddling gloves (Fingerless sailing or cycling gloves work well. Note: We supply paddling mitts or "pogies")
- Bathers
- Camera
- Book
- Small frameless daypack
- Small inflatable camping pillow
- Plastic bags for wet gear
- Extra wine or spirits (we supply a glass of wine with dinner each evening)

What we provide:

- Transport between Hobart City - Strahan – Hobart City
- Scenic yacht journey along the Gordon River to Strahan
- Kayaks and all kayaking equipment including PFD, spray skirts and paddle
- 2 dry bags for your sleeping bag and clothes
- Duffle bag for transport of your gear on the yacht between Gordon River to Strahan and campsites
- Waterproof paddling jacket and pants
- Pogies (paddling mitts)
- One night accommodation at Strahan Wilderness Lodge
- Tent, sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner and sleeping mat (please notify us if you prefer to bring your own)

- All meals, drinks and snacks including a glass of wine each evening
- All cooking equipment including cups, plates and eating utensils
- Toilet paper, toilet kit, antibacterial hand gel
- Comprehensive first aid and emergency safety equipment
- Two professional sea kayaking guides

What's not included:

- Interstate flights to and from Hobart
- Accommodation in Tasmania prior to and after the trip
- Insurance (we strongly recommend you purchase travel insurance)

GEAR NOTES

Below are notes on the gear suggested on the previous page. For further information also check out our Blog "Dressing for Kayaking in Tasmania"

<https://www.roaring40skayaking.com.au/blog/dressing-kayaking-tasmania>

Thermals

Synthetic or wool thermals will ensure your comfort in cooler and wet weather. The synthetic or wool material wicks water away from the skin, keeping the layer closest to you warm and dry. We strongly recommend you bring two sets of thermals, one for paddling and one for camp. Garments that are any type of cotton, cotton blend or silk are not suitable (once these fabrics get wet they will become cold on your skin).

Rain gear

We supply a good-quality waterproof paddling jacket and waterproof pants for kayaking. The jacket has gaskets around the wrist to stop water from running along your arms when kayaking, but this gasket can become uncomfortable and hot when walking. The pants we provide are non-breathable, but great for stopping the wind when you get out of the kayak.

For walking and for wearing around camp, we recommend you bring your own breathable waterproof jacket.

Footwear

Be prepared to get your feet wet! You can either opt for water sandals (like Tevas/Keens), light neoprene booties or Crocs (most of our guides wear Crocs).

Our itinerary may include short walks. Trail walking shoes or runners are ideal. The tracks can be muddy and rutted.

It is also great to have a dry pair of shoes for around camp. Runners or crocs (fashionably worn with socks for warmth) are preferred options.

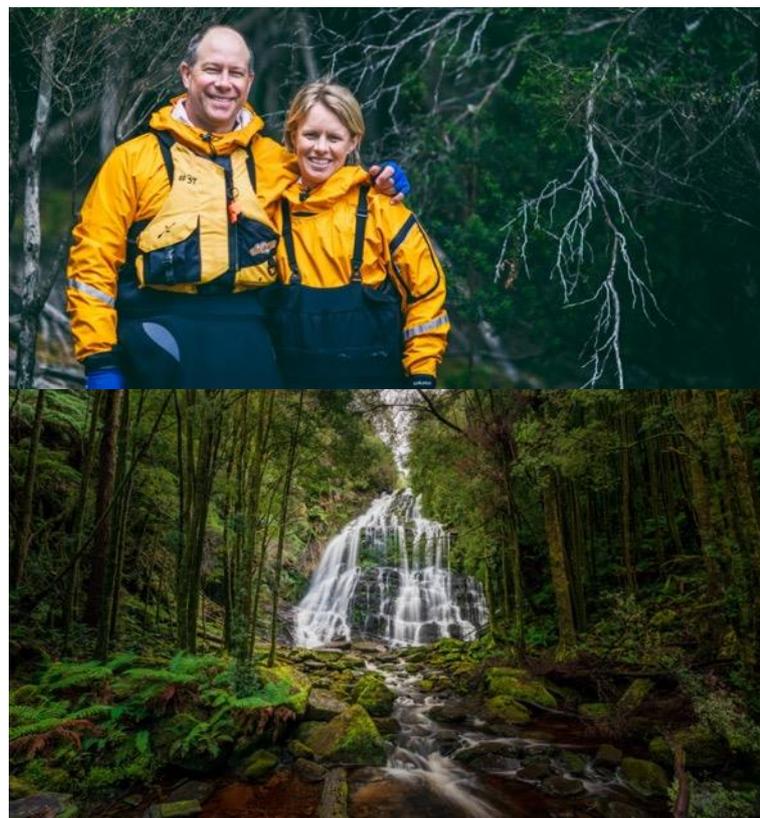
Water bottle/hydration system

You will require at least 1 litre of water carrying capacity. Each morning and at lunch you will be able to re-fill your water bottles. Each kayak will have a deck bag where you can store either your water bottle or hydration pack. Our PFDs also have the ability to zip a hydration pack into the back.

Notes on packing

All your gear will need to fit into the 60-litre duffel bag we supply you with and you will have time at Strahan Wilderness Lodge to repack from your personal bags to the duffel bag. We also supply 2 dry bags for your sleeping bag and clothes. Waterproof clothing and shoes do not need to be packed into dry bags and can be placed in the duffel bag and the kayak hatch individually.

If you follow the gear list on the previous page your gear should fit nicely into the supplied bags.





Gordon River Kayaking Expedition Example Itinerary

This itinerary is an example of our intended itinerary starting from Strahan and finishing at St John Falls on the Gordon River. The actual itinerary will be adapted to suit the weather and the desires of the individual participants to ensure a safe and satisfying experience for everyone.

Day 1

Hobart - Strahan

Hotel pickups start at 9am. It is a 4 to 5 hour drive to the west coast town of Strahan. This will be broken up with a visit and picnic lunch and walk at the Franklin River Nature Trail. This short and easy 1km loop walk through the west coast cool temperate rainforest take us along the banks of the famous Franklin River.

At Strahan

We arrive at Strahan early afternoon with the chance to explore the waterfront and the Morrison Sawmill with a Huon pine demonstration and talk. Strahan has a rich and diverse history of pioneers, convicts and railways. We continue on to our accommodation at Strahan Wilderness Lodge for a BBQ dinner.

During your evening meal the guides will discuss itinerary options for the coming week.

Day 2

Destination: Hells Gates (Macquarie Heads) to Double Cove

Paddle distance: 18kms

Paddling time: 4-5 hours. Paddling across the historic Hells Gates to the western shore of Macquarie Harbour we start our journey into the wilderness.

Day 3

Destination: Double Cove to Birches Inlet

Paddle distance: 21km

Paddling time: 4- 5 hours. Paddling down the western shore checking out the pristine waters Macquarie Harbour along with the aquaculture farms. We will visit Sarah Island, and learn about the brutal past of this island, before making camp at Birches Inlet.

Day 4

Destination: Birches Inlet to Eagle Creek

Paddle distance: 22km

Paddling time: 5 Hours. Our longest day with breath taking reflections of the Gordon River. We make our way upstream like so many of the early pining pioneers of the west coast. Camping on the banks of the river beneath the rainforest canopy.

Day 5

Destination: Eagle Creek to Sir John Falls

Paddle distance: 17km

Paddling time: 4 hours. Continue the journey deeper into the Gordon - Franklin Wild Rivers National park past the proposed site of the infamous Franklin dam and camping at Sir John Falls.

Day 6

Destination: Sir John Falls and return to Sir John Falls

Distance: 12kms

Paddling time: 3 hours. Paddling to the junction of the Franklin and Gordon Rivers before returning on the downstream flow back to Sir John Falls. Time to relax at this beautiful waterfall in the wilderness.

Day 7

Destination: Sir John Falls to Strahan to Hobart

Paddling Distance: 0km

Paddling Time: 0 hours. With our kayaks loaded on to the sailing yacht "Stormbreaker" we have an early start down the Gordon and across Macquarie Harbour. Our skipper Trevor has over 2000 journeys along the Gordon River and has a rich knowledge of the area.

Arriving in Strahan our bus will be waiting for our return to our Hobart accommodation. We are expected back in Hobart at approximately 7pm.

