

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

GORDON RIVER TRIP ESSENTIALS

Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River - rainforests, rugged mountain ranges and tranquil waterways. West Coast wilderness at its best. Located within the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park these inland waterways have a rich mining and convict history ensuring a fascinating 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.

The trip includes return 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).

Day One

Travel by bus from Hobart to Strahan with Hobart pickups between 9am and 9.30am. Or you can meet us in Strahan at approximately 4pm.

It is a 5 hour drive to Strahan. We recommend bring a little pocket money for the drive 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 sheet
- A 60-litre duffle bag

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

On 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.

Sir John Falls Camp

The last two nights we plan to spend at Sir 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.

Roaring 40's Kayaking 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. You can expect cold and wet weather at anytime, even during summer. In this rainforest environment, expect rain on more than one day of the expedition. **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 all weather.

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 very unusual, in extreme weather delays may occur. **For this reason 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.

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>

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>

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

Space is a premium in our kayaks! If you have previously paddled with us in Southwest Tasmania, note the storage space in the kayaks we use on the Gordon River is smaller in size.

Please read the packing list carefully. Do not pack unnecessary items. High value or irreplaceable items, aerosol cans, glass containers of any kind and/or excessive amounts of soap should be avoided.

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
- Footwear for paddling that can get wet (sandals, wet suit booties, Crocs)
- 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 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:

- Return transport between Hobart City and Strahan
- 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
- Waterproof paddling jacket and pants
- Pogies (paddling mitts)
- Deck bag to store personal items for easy access while kayaking (non-waterproof)
- 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)
- Ground chair for use when camping

- 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
- Entry to the play 'The Ship That Never Was'

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 will be paddling in beautiful rainforest, however this means that we also need to expect rain!

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 Texas/Keens), light neoprene booties or Crocs (most of our guides wear Crocs).

Our itinerary may include some short walks (up to 2kms). Trail walking shoes or runners are ideal. The tracks can be muddy and rutted.

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.

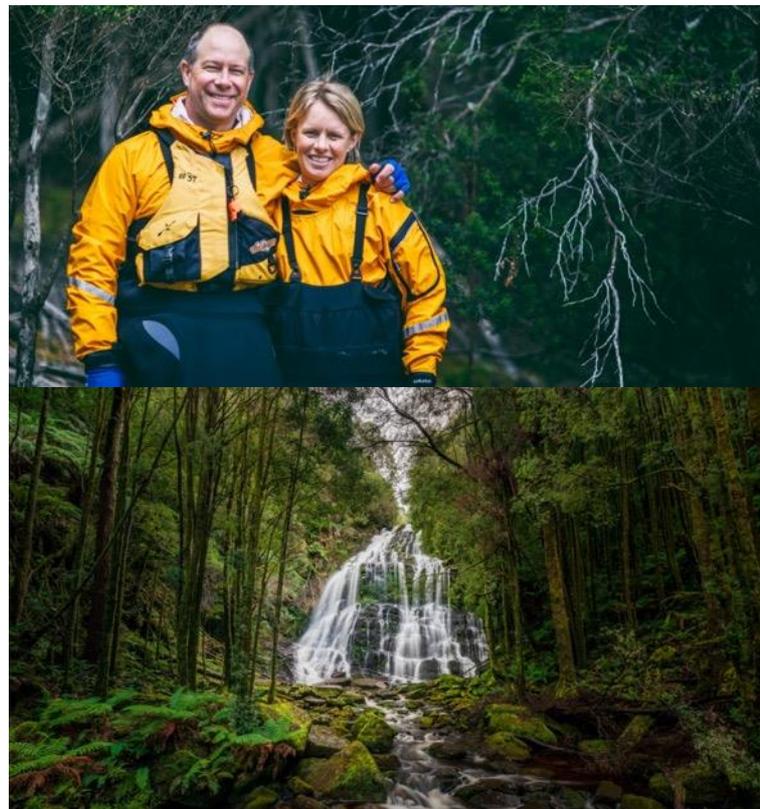
Gear we supply

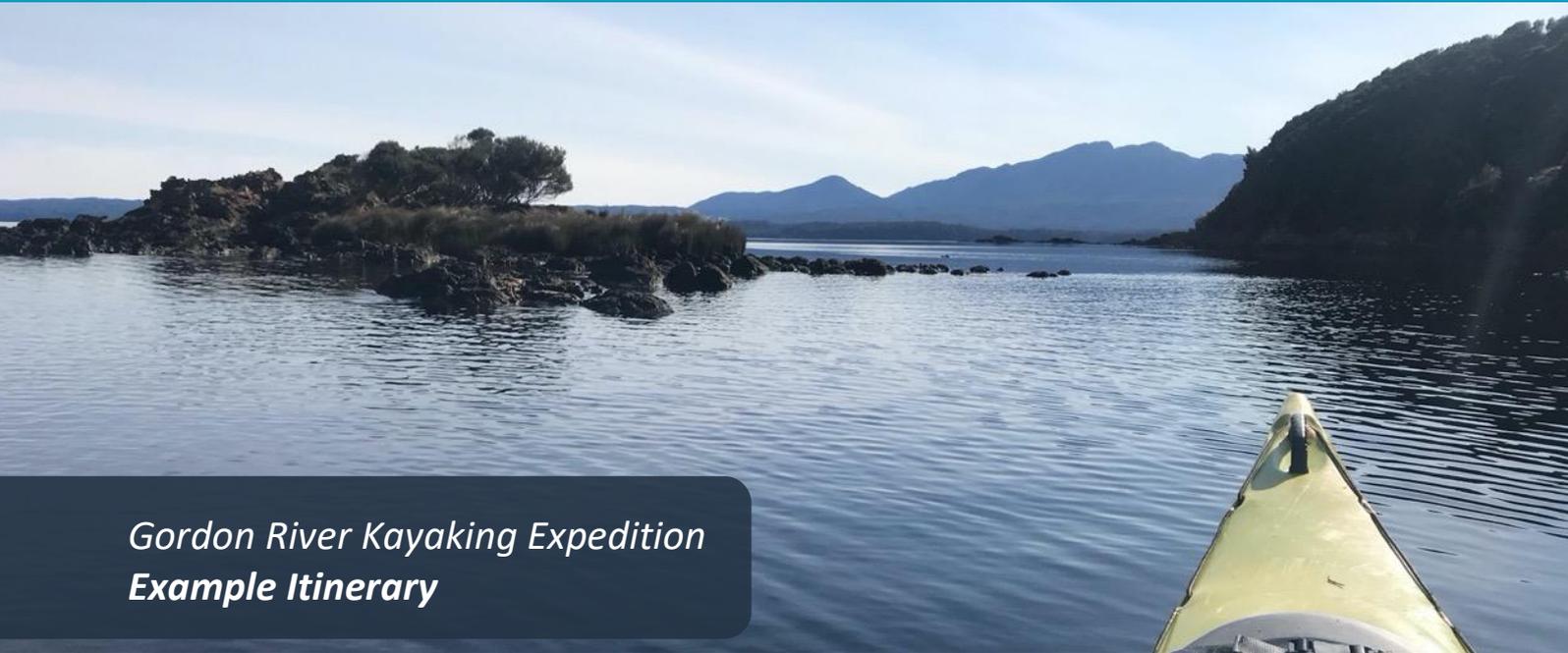
- Kayaks – Mission ECO NIIZH 565
- Paddles – Galasport Seawolf touring
- Sleeping Bags – One Planet synthetic bags rated to one degree for comfort
- Sleeping Mats – Exped Synmat 9
- Tents – One Planet and Wilderness Equipment
- Paddle Jackets – Kokatat and Palm

Notes on packing

All your gear will need to fit into the 60-litre duffle bag we supply you with. You will have time at Strahan Wilderness Lodge to repack from your personal bags to the duffle 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 duffle bag and the kayak hatch individually.

Please follow the gear list on the previous page and avoid unnecessary items. Space is at a premium!





Gordon River Kayaking Expedition Example Itinerary

This itinerary is an example of our intended itinerary starting from Strahan and finishing at Sir 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 follows the banks of the famous Franklin River.

At Strahan

We arrive at Strahan mid afternoon and check in to our accommodation at the Strahan Wilderness Lodge. Strahan has a rich and diverse history of pioneers, convicts and railways. There will be a chance to explore the waterfront and attend the play 'The Ship That Never Was'.

'The Ship That Never Was' tells the dramatic and hilarious true story about the last Great Escape from Sarah Island on Macquarie Harbour.

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 of Macquarie Harbour along including seeing the aquaculture farms. We will visit Sarah Island, and learn about the extraordinary, yet brutal history of this island, before making camp at Birchs Inlet.

Day 4

Destination: Birchs Inlet to Eagle Creek

Paddle distance: 22km

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

Day 5

Destination: Eagle Creek to Sir John Falls

Paddle distance: 17km

Paddling time: 4 hours. Continue the journey deeper into the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park past the proposed site of the infamous Franklin dam. Camp 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. With over 2000 journeys completed along the Gordon River our skipper Trevor 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.

