



OUR STORY

The Mackerel Islands are a collection of ten islands and atolls, located off the mid-coast of Western Australia, in the spectacular Pilbara region. Two of the islands welcome guests – Thevenard and Direction – with accommodation, facilities, activities and tours.

Our story originates in the mid 1960's with a "bunch of farming folk" who had a dream for tourism. Over many years of manual toiling and communing with their respective families, the Mackerel Islands dream has been realised and offers a unique, safe, educational and adventurous location for school camps.

Within the fabric of our history lies a classic Western Australian evolution timeline, incorporating its beginnings as a humble family holiday retreat shared between friends, to the dizzying heights of the mining boom in the 1980's and early 2000's, to now – an incredible Pilbara secret and coveted destination with world-class marine life and stunning untouched terrain.

ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

Created for groups of **10-50 people**, our dedicated **school camp village**, Club Thev, features 34 modern, clean rooms with a single or double bed, private ensuite bathroom, TV, air conditioning, bed linen and towels. Located adjacent to the outdoor swimming pool, BBQ area, games room, function centre, restaurant and communal kitchen, giving you the choice of chef prepared meals or self-catered meals.

Island facilities include a general store, activity hire centre, gym, guest laundry, airstrip, boat moorings, state-of-the-art solar power and desalination plant providing fresh water.

Sustainability: The solar farm was one of the first to use lithium battery technology at this scale and comprises of 1200 solar panels delivering 325 KVA of power, 650 KW hours of lithium ion battery storage, plus 4x 110 KVA generator backups. The desalination plant utilises reverse osmosis to produce up to 70,000L of crystal clear water per day and runs entirely from the power of the sun, while the waste water recycling plant collects and treats all waste water for use in landscaping. These sustainable solutions offer an interesting aspect for students to learn about and we can include guided tours in your excursion planning.

EDUCATIONAL TOURS & ACTIVITIES

The Mackerel Islands are ideal for students and teachers of Science, Technologies, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, providing many elements to suit these curriculum areas. The outdoor and ocean based environment encourages skills development and problem solving with a healthy dose of fun, keeping learning opportunities interesting, exciting and relevant.

Tours include:

- 17-seat 4WD bus for island transport
- Low tide reef exploration
- Snorkel trail
- Island nature walk
- Beachcombing
- Stargazing
- Guided tour of solar & desalination plant
- Fishing, diving & whale watching charters

Activity hire:

- 4-person plaka boats (ideal for skippers ticket training, or exploring the waters & spotting marine life)
- Single & double kayaks
- SUP/stand up paddle boards
- Snorkel sets
- Fishing rods
- Beach cricket & volleyball



OUR TEAM: Our specialised team of full-time staff are required to have Working With Children and National Police Checks, along with Senior First Aid or equivalent.



WILDLIFE & ECOTOURISM

The Mackerel Islands are a gazetted nature reserve. The ever-changing nature of the shore reveals shells and rock formations during a walk along the beautiful natural beaches. A colourful variety of sea life is to be discovered in these tropical waters and the islands are home to many bird species.

Sea Turtles

Sea turtles nest on Thevenard Island between December and March and you can observe the females digging in the sand dunes to lay their eggs and later, the baby hatchlings scurrying to the water's edge, during these months. Flatback, hawksbill, loggerhead and green turtles abound at the Mackerel Islands' renowned "turtle highway".

Dolphins

Several species of dolphins inhabit the waters surrounding the Mackerel Islands including the bottlenose, spinner, striped, common and humpback dolphins. It is rare to have a day out on the water without seeing dolphins close up and friendly.

Whales

Whales that have been observed in the area include the pilot whale, false killer whale, sei whale, bryde's whale and humpback whales. Humpbacks migrate south from June to October, with calving taking place in August. It is common for visitors to the islands to have continuous whale sightings.

Dugongs (Sea Cows)

Dugongs are also found in waters around the islands and can be observed feeding and calving in waters less than 5 metres deep. Dugong breeding occurs between September and April. Sightings are often reported by people using small boats in the shallow waters within 1km of the islands.

Birds

Twenty-four species of land birds have been recorded on Thevenard Island. In addition, there are up to 31 species of migratory birds occurring in the Mackerel Islands area, including kestrels, quails, godwits, plovers, sandpipers and harriers. Some birds migrate from remote northern hemisphere locations as far as Siberia, and are protected by international treaties. Seabirds, such as terns and shearwaters, nest from October to January.

Mammals & Reptiles

The only native land mammal on the island is the forrest mouse. The domestic mouse also inhabits the island and is most likely to have been introduced. A total of nine reptile species have been recorded on the island including goannas, dragons, skinks, geckos and our friendly little ta-ta lizards. No snakes or rare or endangered reptiles have been recorded.

PLANNING AN EXCURSION

Easy to get to, the Mackerel Islands can be reached via a 2-hour flight from Perth on Virgin Australia, or a road trip of about 14 ½ hours. We operate a ferry transfer service from the Onslow mainland to the islands.

Approximate distances & driving times:

Geraldton to Onslow: 965km / 9 hours & 45 minutes

Carnarvon to Onslow: 495km / 5 hours

Exmouth to Onslow: 400km / 4 hours

Karratha to Onslow: 300km / 3 hours & 15 minutes

Port Hedland to Onslow: 540km / 5 hours & 30 minutes

Broome to Onslow: 1130km / 11 hours & 20 minutes



SCHOOL PACKAGES: All-inclusive from \$120 per person per day including boat transfers

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS: 0417 971 283 or admin@mackerelislands.com.au

*Prices subject to change, valid until 31/12/18