

ADVENTURE TRAVEL ♦ SPECIAL FEATURE

WA'S BEST KEPT SECRET



Snorkelling is a popular activity at the Mackerel Islands.



Beachfront cabins include an alfresco area with a barbecue.

Lying just off the coast of Onslow in Western Australia's North West region between Exmouth and Karratha, the Mackerel Islands are a collection of 10 almost untouched islands and atolls.

Thevenard Island and Direction Island are two spectacular islands in the vicinity, which can be visited by guests, offering accommodation, facilities, activities and tours.

Thevenard Island consists of 12 beachfront cabins, an activity centre, a general store, four-wheel-drive bus tours and more. While, Direction Island is a private stay island, with a beach shack boasting a secluded experience.

"Guests can take their own boats over and hire a mooring or take the island transfer service, which is a 45-minute crossing operating several times per week," Mackerel Islands Marketing and Sales Manager Kate McCann said.

"If you're after adventure, the snorkelling and fishing is famous for those in the know."

The marine life includes sea turtles, dolphins, dugongs, stingrays, wobbegongs, gropers, colourful tropical fish and beautiful coral formations.

"The fishing is where it gets really interesting, with the waters teeming with reef fish and pelagics," Ms McCann said.

"You can target red emperor, rankin cod, gold band, coral trout, wahoo, yellowfin tuna, amberjack, jobfish, pearl perch, giant trevally, queenfish, ruby snapper, marlin, sailfish, mahi mahi, squid, tropical crayfish, and of course, what the islands are named after – Spanish mackerel."

The Thevenard Island activity centre hires out snorkelling and fishing gear, along with kayaks, stand up paddleboards, bodyboards and hire boats. Or go on one of the fishing charters, operating from a new 11m LeisureCat

with 300-horsepower Yamaha outboards and an experienced skipper and guide. Tours include a sunset four-wheel-drive tour available year-round, or a turtle tour available over the summer months.

If you're after relaxation, you'll enjoy the beachfront cabins overlooking the ocean with a shaded front verandah and hammocks. Lazy beach walks, ocean swims and stargazing at night time are a must.

The cabins come in two, three or five-bedroom layouts and have a kitchen, lounge and dining areas, a private bathroom and an alfresco area with a barbecue.

There's a general store on Thevenard Island stocked with all the essentials, including a variety of groceries, snacks, bait, fishing tackle, ice, soft drinks, a good range of alcoholic beverages and Mackerel Islands merchandise.

Back on the mainland, Mackerel Islands' sister property the Onslow Beach Resort is a 4.5-star gem. Located on Beadon Bay in the heart of the town, the resort boasts spectacular ocean views along a red sand beach.

Each of the 86 rooms is an apartment-style suite featuring a fully equipped kitchen, laundry and individual verandah or balcony. The Ocean View Suites have a special surprise – guests are treated to a sunrise over the water due to the way the bay curves around, a sight not usually seen in the west.

An outdoor swimming pool, gym, free wi-fi and a stylish waterfront restaurant and bar round out the facilities.

Onslow Beach Resort staff can help you with your Mackerel Islands booking and other things to see and do in the area.

Now that's an island and outback escape you'll cherish forever.

See www.mackerelislands.com.au or www.onslowbeachresort.com.au for more.

Adventure Awaits....

Adventure Wild Kimberley Tours

12 Day Kimberley Adventurer \$4150

- All inclusive, no single supplement
- Small groups (max 16), two guides
- Permanent campsites 10/11 nights
- Exclusive campsite final night
- Relaxed itinerary – 4 x 2 night stays

Book Now
1800 359 008

adventurewild.com.au

Hire fishing gear at the Thevenard Island activity centre for a spot of beach fishing.

A giant trevally caught at Mackerel Islands.

GETAWAY - ON AN - AUSSIE OUTBACK ADVENTURE

(08) 9184 6586
[ONSLOWBEACHRESORT.COM.AU](http://onslowbeachresort.com.au)

Discover WA's coastal outback at the Onslow Beach Resort, the gateway to the Mackerel Islands. This absolute beachfront resort offers relaxed, civilised sophistication – a refreshing welcome when travelling through the remote, rugged beauty of the Pilbara region.

Stay in stylish, modern self-contained apartments with ocean or pool views. Enjoy a bite to eat at the stunning Beach Club restaurant and bar overlooking the unique red sand bay.

Onslow BEACH CLUB

ISLAND ESCAPE

3 NIGHTS + BOAT TRANSFERS
\$420 PER PERSON*

Escape to the Mackerel Islands for a holiday full of adventure and relaxation.

Located a short hop off the coast of Onslow, a 2-hour flight north of Perth or a 1,400km road trip – where warm sunny days, waking up to the sound of the ocean, barbecues at your beachfront cabin, snorkelling with turtles and amazing marine life, and world-class fishing awaits!

Deal includes • 3 night's accommodation for 4 people staying in a 2 Bedroom Beachfront Cabin • Return island transfers from Onslow

*Price based on 4-share, valid for stays Tuesday-Friday until 31/10/20, subject to availability.

(08) 9184 6444
MACKERELISLANDS.COM.AU

Claire Sutherland

My wife and I spent during the dry three weeks. We independently operators. You tour operators greatly appreciate

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We, two Aussie...passports, boo...Celebrity cruisi...Australia. Celeb...need to have at...passports at the...Unfortunately...information ta...