Q&A: Tourism and the Cocos

Cocos appeals to country tickers, adventure brides, bird watchers, kite surfers and those who come to unwind.

Where is the Cocos Keeling Islands?

The Cocos Keeling Islands are a group of 27 coral islands with a highest elevation of five metres. They are thickly covered with coconut palms and other vegetation and found 2950kms northwest of Perth and 3700kms west of Darwin.

Describe the weather?

The Islands are warm and balmy with year round temperatures at a comfortable 24 – 30C. Humidity averages 75% and rain mainly falls at night. The trade wind season runs from April/May through to September/October.

What can travellers do?

Around 2000 people visit the Islands each year for leisure and the chance to:

- Relax and refresh amid pristine palms, clear blue lagoons and tropical beaches.
- Learn about the Sydney-Emden battle which was Australia’s first victory at sea.
- Discover the rich culture and traditions of the 500-strong Cocos Malay community on Home Island who have developed a unique history and language over eight generations.
- Wind or kite surf in one of the world’s best spots for these sports.
- See amazingly rich bird life such as rare migratory birds and around 60 different recorded species.
- Explore the sparkling, crystal clear Cocos waters by kayak, canoe or paddleboard or join a motorised canoe safari to island hop, snorkel and fish.

How do you get to the Islands and where can you stay?

The Islands offer a range of accommodation options and tourism providers are ready to help plan your visit. There are regular air services from Perth and flying time is around five hours.
About Sydney-Emden Project Team
Funding Sydney-Emden 100 has received funding through the Indian Ocean Territory Community Development Grants Program 2014 and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Support has also come from the Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Emden Families, Shire of Cocos, Cocos Keeling Islands Tourism Association and the Cocos Community. Memorials and exhibitions The Department of Veterans' Affairs provided funds under the Anzac Centenary Grants Scheme to conceptualise and erect the Friendship Mast, which will be officially dedicated on 9 Nov 2014. The Museum of Western Australia has also provide support including developing a special exhibition for the Cocos called 'The Day The Emden Came'. Services The Royal Australian Navy is supporting the Centennial by hosting a special commemorative service on the Islands.

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