

# *Journey to the Heart of K'gari Island (Fraser Island)*

*Largest sand island in the world - World Heritage listed*

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

The earliest known name of the island is 'K'gari' in the **Butchulla** people's language (pronounced 'Gurri'). It means **paradise**. According to Aboriginal legend, when humans were created and needed a place to live, the mighty god Beiral sent his messenger Yendingie with the goddess K'gari down from heaven to create the land and mountains, rivers and sea. K'gari fell in love with the earth's beauty and did not want to leave it. So Yendingie changed her into a heavenly island.

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**Saturday** The group meets at approximately 7am at the Khachodling Dakini Sanctuary (KDS) for morning preparations and instruction. Excitement heightens on departing to River Heads, boarding the barge and arriving at Wanggoolba Creek 35 minutes later. As the tides today are perfect for a long distance run we will drive the 61kms from Eurong to Indian Head and Taylor Bay. Indian Head, known to the traditional owners as Tuckee (stone) is located at the most easterly point and is a well-known lookout that offers spectacular views of the beach to the north and south. Our lunch stop will be at Dundubara, a popular camping area.

**Sunday** At Sunrise every morning Khandro Rinpoche will lead meditation on the beach. Our first stop today is a wonderful place to reflect on the significance of our own existence by wandering quietly under the canopy of the Valley of the Giants. Some of these forest giants of tallow wood, satinay, kauri pine, brush box, are up to 1000 years old and tower to 70m. Our afternoon drive is through very lush rainforest and is one of the hardest inland tracks. We lunch and swim in Lake Garawongera then return to Happy Valley via Lake Allom, 75 Mile Beach, while stopping at the Maheno and Eli Creek.

**Monday** Our lunch destination today is Woralie Creek on the west side of Fraser Island. Our first stop on the way is the Pinnacles. These coloured sand cliffs formed over hundreds of thousands of years ago when minerals leached through the sand exposing 72 colours. Our return journey takes us to the highest perched sand lakes in the world, Boomerang Lakes, and through Yidney Scrub

**Tuesday** Central Station. The pristine Wanggoolba Creek is an important women's place in aboriginal culture. It is also home to the massive Angiopteris ferns with the largest fern fronds in the world. The trees are regarded as one of the Island's biological marvels as the sand they grow in has almost no natural mineral fertility. Lunch at Lake McKenzie. Fraser Island has over 100 freshwater lakes, and has the second highest concentration of lakes in Australia. They are also among the cleanest lakes in the world. If time permits, before boarding for home we will walk in the peaceful surrounds of Kingfisher Bay Resort and join Khandro Rinpoche and Shereene in giving thanks for our time together.

6.15pm Approximate arrival time at Khachodling Dakini Sanctuary – Unpacking duties

## **Your Hosts -**

Khandro Thrinay Chodon - Vajrayana Buddhist Master [www.khachodling.org](http://www.khachodling.org)

Shereene Currie - local Aboriginal Elder of the Butchulla people, traditional owners of K'Gari Island

Hans Oppermann - experienced driver and assistant to groups on K'Gari Island