



Snapper Island

I should throw in at least a brief mention of Snapper Island. Snapper lies off the coast of Cape Kimberley, near the Daintree River mouth. It is a medium-sized continental island national park of about 56 hectares and camping is permissible. Access requires your own boat (or access to someone who has one). Or, you can do as I did recently and hire a sea kayak from the likes of Adventure Equipment in Cairns and launch from Cape Kimberley or Pinnacle Village near Wonga Beach and save the ferry fare.

Get your camping permit on-line or over the phone, pack your boat carefully and 40 minutes of paddling should see you there. You can walk around and over most of the island and water for boiling is often available on the southern side. Campsites are on the south-west point though you can put ashore on the north-west tip if a strong southerly is blowing and follow the track over the headland. Strong winds can make this a difficult crossing if you are unsure of your seamanship. However good weather can also give you access to some remote sections of mainland coastline. You can easily spend 3 or 4 days walking and canoeing around the island and exploring the reef flats and bays. Don't underestimate this island due to its small size – it's a real gem. QPWS has a fair amount of info available on-line at: http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/find_a_park_or_forest/snapper_island_hope_islands_national_park/ . Bring drinking water and emergency supplies and mobile phone in addition to the usual beach camping stuff.

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