

**Title:** *Gone for Shore*

**Subtitle:** *a sea-kayaking guide to northern queensland*

**Author:** Tim Trehearn

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**Website:** [www.GoneforShore.com](http://www.GoneforShore.com)

**Contents:** 104pp, colour photos throughout, index

**Cover:** softcover

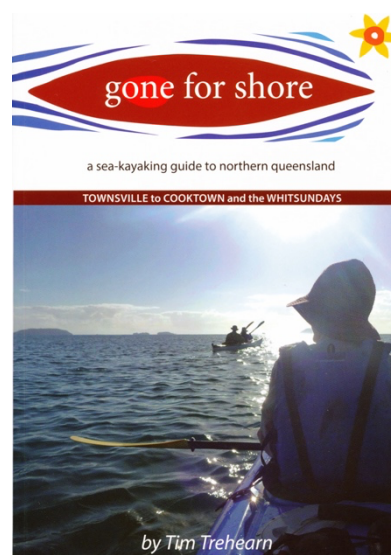
**Size:** 148 x 210 mm

**Price:** NZ\$ 25

**ISBN:** 978-0-646-94252-0

**Availability:** author's website

**Review:** Paul Caffyn



This slim 104 page paddling guide covers the North Queensland coast from Townsville to Cooktown and also the Whitsunday Islands. The combination of double column text, with full page-width maps and single column thumbnail photos works well.

The map work is good, with regional maps showing position of the larger scale maps. The detail maps show basic topographic features, with symbols showing camping island maps, sites, tap water, mobile phone reception etc. The symbol key is on the last page of the book along with a list of emergency contacts for - marine rescue and reef marine park authorities (including one for croc sightings).

An introductory 10 page section covers the most important considerations for paddling north of the Tropic of Capricorn; the sun, marine stingers, tides, weather and climate, fishing, being croc-wise, the stinging tree, food and water, whales and lastly sandflies. But I was disappointed to see 'flooding with vinegar' recommended for jellyfish stings when a product known as Stingose has a proven track record for relieving pain and minimizing allergic reactions to stings and bites (see [Stingose.co.nz](http://Stingose.co.nz)). However, the important crocwise suggestions are comprehensive, topped off with a side bar story of a crab fisherman plucked from a riverbank at the Endeavour River campsite in Cooktown. A snapped rope, jandal, watch and new video recorder were all that were found by police.

The bulk of the guide then covers the coast between Townsville and Cooktown, followed by a slimmer section on the Whitsunday Islands. The text descriptions are well written, and always accompanied by relevant thumbnail photos, large-scale maps with side-bars of ancient and more recent history. Tim writes in a side bar of the Cedar Bay Invasion on 29 August 1976 by police and customs agents landing via helicopter to raid a small 'alternative lifestyle' community for marijuana. The 30 uniforms, backed up by a light aircraft, customs launch and navy patrol boat, burnt down the commune's shelters, destroyed food and handcuffed the commune dwellers to coconut palm trunks. Talk about overkill!

Paddling routes are only suggested and not marked on the maps, although many of the island to island crossings have approximate paddling times.

The Whitsunday section is introduced with good sections on logistics, kayak tours, kayak transport by barge, when to visit in terms of wind and weather, and tidal movement.

A nicely colour coded comprehensive index to places and maps rounds out the guide.

All in all a nice slim, lightweight guide to carry in a kayak for paddling the coast of North Queensland, however I do have three minor niggles; the first two relate to the cover. The title and cover photo (an up-sun photo of paddlers) have no relevance to the guide. A cover

photograph should entice paddlers into visiting an area. The title is from a song title *Gone for Sure*, written by a paddling mate of Tim's.

However, what niggled me most was a reference on page 7 to Roland McKie's book *The Heroes* on 'Operation Jaywick', the 1943 raid by foldboats on shipping in Japanese occupied Singapore Harbour. Tim claims the *Krait*, the fishing boat that carried the Jaywick team from Exmouth in WA to the Riau Archipelago, now 'resides in the war museum in Canberra.' Bollocks! *Krait* remains moored in Sydney's Darling Harbour, at the Australian National Maritime Museum. The Australian War Memorial does own *MV Krait*, which is on permanent loan to the National Maritime Museum, but plans are afoot for this unassuming vessel to displayed in a custom-built expansion to the Maritime Museum's Wharf 7 building – in Sydney. A simple Google search should have checked this.

So apart from my minor niggles, this guide is a well illustrated guide. Well worth sourcing if you are planning a trip to the magic tropical coast of Queensland.