

JOHN GRAY'S SEACANOE

KAYAK-KINGS OF THE WORLD



With eco-tourism and sustainable travel being the hottest topic on the tourist circuits since someone mentioned backpacks, it's no hard job to find yourself a green getaway. These days however, the colour green comes in many different shades, and unfortunately, not all greens are created equal.

One such company which has stood the test of time, setting standards for eco-tourism across the world and whose green heart has grown from roots set down in a genuine spirit of earth stewardship, is John Gray's SeaCanoe. The long list of eco-tourism awards over the years for the company's efforts to preserve the natural environment and support the local communities began with an EMMY award in 1985 for a production following Gray's 'Natural History by Sea Kayak' tours in Hawaii. The rolls of recognition continued over the years with the National Geographic Adventure Magazine listing SeaCanoe Vietnam in its 'World Top 25 Adventures' as well as receiving six major eco-tourism awards within 5 years for SeaCanoe Thailand.

Founder of SeaCanoe, John 'Caveman' Gray admits that he was given a head start in life when it comes to putting the environment first; "I was brought up on this – my father was an environmentalist and so I was learning about how our actions impact the earth when I was a young boy – and that was a long time ago!"

Having recently celebrated his 60th birthday during a week-long clean-up operation of the local Thai waters with his university students, Gray's passion and drive towards environmental protection grows ever stronger, and his dedication permeates the tours he leads. John Gray's SeaCanoe currently operates in five different countries around the Pacific - Hawaii, Thailand, Vietnam, Fiji and the Philippines - leading tours through the dramatic natural wonders which the area has to offer. Each location offers a unique

When stepping aboard a kayak with John Gray's SeaCanoe, you embark upon a journey into another world, a world of pirate caves and undersea gardens where trees have legs and fish can walk.



experience quite unlike the others; whether it's the dreamlike portraits of Vietnam's Halong Bay, the mysterious sea caves of Thailand's Phang-Nga Bay or the pristine perfection of Puerto Princessa in the Philippines. Each trip will leave you bewitched by the beauty, not just of the location but of the experience on the whole.

CHRISTINA KEAWWANTHA



www.johngray-seacanoes.com

"I've had at least two paddling partners cry while I was paddling them in inflatables," Gray tells us. "The first was a 93-year old lady I took kayak surfing off Waikiki in Hawaii where we rode a six footer wave. When I asked about the tears she said,

"I watch those surfers every day from my top floor condo, and I've always dreamed of riding a wave. I knew it was impossible, but I just did it." The second was a Quadriplegic. I tied him in and we paddled the Windward side. I watched him carefully, and noticed the tears. I asked if he had salt spray in his eyes. "No," he explained, "it's just that I've been in a hospital room the past 12 years and this is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

Central to the philosophy of SeaCanoe is an emphasis on the local environment, culture and community. The limited number of guests on each trip means that there are excellent chances for spotting some of the exotic and tropical wildlife in the area, while keeping the impact as low as possible. All SeaCanoe guides are trained in kayaking skills, first aid, English, geology and ecology to guarantee that they have the information and skills at hand to deliver the high quality of experience which SeaCanoe is so famous for. And by using local guides, SeaCanoe ensures that the local communities receive the incentives and knowledge to actively take steps towards conservation, while at the same time, the local economy directly benefits from the presence of the company.

So whether you want to soar with the white-bellied sea eagles and hornbills of Thailand, coast alongside the volcanic cliffs of Hawaii or immerse yourself in the ecological Eden of Puerto Princessa, the experience which unfolds before you as you follow the gentle wake of John Gray's kayak is an unforgettable experience.

• CHANDRA •



Exotic fashion boutique...

Chaweng Beach Road, Koh Samui McDonalds area, next door to Tropical Murphy's

Tel: +66-77 422 311 +66-84 291 5522

EASY DIVERS
Samui's leading PADI 5 Star IDC Dive Center



Your 5-Star PADI IDC Dive Center
Thailand's most popular dive operator 12 years experience in diver training
European managed dive center



Thailand's best dive destinations

Offices on all major beaches
Tel 0 7723 1190 Fax 0 7723 0486
info@easydivers-thailand.com

www.easydivers-thailand.com