KIAMA
CHARTER SERVICE

Kiama Harbour, Terralong Street, Kiama
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Your day aboard Kostalota

Everything you need to know before a Kiama Charter Service trip: what to bring, where to be, how the day runs, and what happens to your fish. Keep it on the fridge.

The day in short

5.45am	Be at the boat in Kiama Harbour. Lines are off at six and the boat does not wait.
6am	Depart. Kiama Harbour opens straight onto the ocean, so you are fishing within minutes.
Morning	Fish. Everyone gets their own rod and reel, and the deckhand shows you how, baits up and sorts tangles. Morning tea is served on board.
1.30 to 2pm	Reef trips are back alongside. Deep sea trips are a longer day, back at about 4.30pm.

Reef trips run seven days a week apart from Christmas Day and New Year's Day, weather permitting. Deep sea runs May to September.

Already on board

Everything to do with the fishing is provided, so you do not need to own or bring any gear.

- Rods, reels and tackle
- Quality bait, plus any bait fish caught on the day
- The fishing licence: the boat is licensed, which covers everyone aboard
- Tuition for anyone who wants it, first timers especially
- Morning tea, with Ann's Anzac biscuits

What to bring

- [ ] Clothes for every kind of weather, whatever the season or the forecast: warm layers, a hat or beanie, and full wet weather gear
- [ ] Sunglasses and sunscreen
- [ ] Old shoes with soft soles and woollen socks, so it does not matter if they get wet. Rubber gumboots are ideal
- [ ] Snacks, sandwiches, water and soft drinks. Beer is fine in moderation. Morning tea is served, but it is a long day on a cuppa and a biscuit
- [ ] An esky to take your fish home in
- [ ] Seasickness tablets if you are unsure how you travel
- [ ] A camera. Someone will hold up a fish

The night before

Get a good night's sleep. Have breakfast before you come, but keep it light: tea or coffee and toast is fine, lots of milk or orange juice is not.

Seasickness. There is usually someone unwell, and it is far easier to prevent than to fix once you are out there. Tablets from the chemist work well: follow the packet, and take a dose 30 to 60 minutes before departure with a little food. If you know you are prone to it, many people also take a first dose the night before, where the packet allows a repeat. Chewing gum helps. Ask the pharmacist if you take other medication.

Getting to the boat

Kostalota is moored in Kiama Harbour, at the south eastern end of Terralong Street, Kiama's main street.

- Head down Terralong Street towards the water, all the way to the south eastern end.
- Follow the road around into the harbour, past the boat ramp.
- Park at ninety degrees to the low stone retaining wall. Kostalota sits alongside it.
- Aim to be there by 5.45am for a 6am departure.

If you are running late, ring rather than guess. The mobile, **0428 621 875**, is on from early.

On the water

Reef fishing is within fifteen kilometres of the harbour in water up to 140 metres deep, for snapper, morwong, leatherjackets, flathead and other bottom dwelling table fish. Where the boat goes depends on the weather, where the fish have been biting and the group aboard. You can see land the whole time.

Deep sea trips run out to the continental shelf, about thirty kilometres offshore in around 400 metres of water, for blue eye trevalla, gemfish, hapuka and other deep water species. It is harder work: anglers pair off on three large reels, take turns dropping and winding, and the catch is shared.

No guarantees on the fish. The skipper takes you where they should be and shows you how; the rest is up to you and them. The more you fish, the more you catch, and following the skipper's instructions helps.

Your fish

Whatever you catch is yours to take home, within NSW bag and size limits. Quality fish are gilled and gutted on the run back in, so they go straight into your esky and then the fridge.

Scaling and filleting are not done aboard. If you want to fillet or scale at home, have a knife and a scaler ready.

Children

Children are welcome, but we do not recommend it for under tens. It is a long day, about eight hours, and the water off Kiama is deep enough that winding lines in is hard work for small arms. If yours is the only group aboard, the skipper may be able to tailor the day. Children pay the same as adults.

Bookings and payment

Bookings are by phone, not online, so the date, the group and the weather can be talked through. Ring **0428 621 875** or **(02) 4236 1716** between 8am and 8pm, or leave a message.

Full payment confirms a booking: within seven days of reserving a date, or immediately if the date is inside four weeks. Pay by internet banking, direct deposit, Mastercard or Visa over the phone (one per cent surcharge), cheque or money order.

Reef fishing is **$225 a person**, minimum four people or the equivalent in dollars, maximum ten. Deep sea is a whole boat booking for up to seven. Gift vouchers are available for reef fishing.

Weather and cancellations

The skipper decides whether conditions are suitable, and that decision is final. If we cancel a trip for weather, a breakdown, skipper illness or anything else at our end, your payment is refunded in full or transferred to another date, whichever you prefer. If a deep sea day is not on, we would rather still go out and fish the reef.

If you cannot make a date you have paid for, for any reason, the payment is forfeited: the boat was held for your group and the places cannot be resold at short notice.

Questions?

Ring between 8am and 8pm and Rodney or Ann will know. **0428 621 875** · **(02) 4236 1716** · info@kiamafishing.com.au

Kiama Charter Service is licensed by NSW Fisheries and Kostalota is surveyed by AMSA to carry passengers. Past winner of five Illawarra Tourism Awards for Excellence.