

# Islands of the Great Barrier Reef



# Islands of the Great Barrier Reef

**Home of the Best Job in the World, few natural wonders command such attention as the Great Barrier Reef, the world's greatest coral reef system. Those who see it never forget it. Here, after all, is a spectacle so vast that it can be seen from the moon.**

What makes the reef so great is not just what's beneath the surface but also what's above it - the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef. On an island, you can literally immerse yourself in one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Time spent on a Great Barrier Reef Island is time out in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Some people merely see the Great Barrier Reef, others get to truly experience it. From the exclusivity and unbridled luxury of five-star resorts to the back-to-nature simplicity of tented accommodation in sublime natural settings, the reef's islands offer a retreat from the demands of everyday life. Whichever you choose, you are guaranteed an experience that will live with you forever.

There are many different islands along the vast stretch of reef to complement your ideal Great Barrier Reef experience: ecological, luxurious, natural, secluded. From these islands you can choose how you connect with the reef. You can dive into it, snorkel through it, sail it, fish it and feel it. You can swim with turtles or watch the whales play.

## Facts

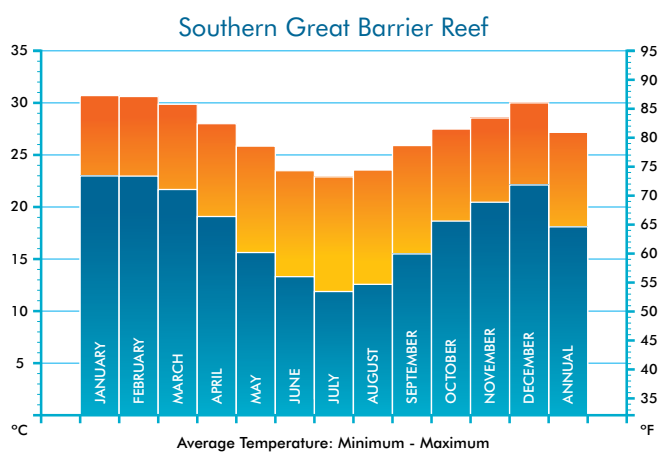
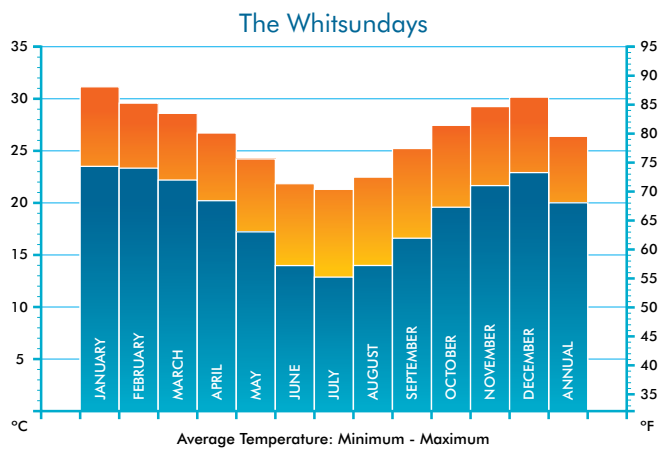
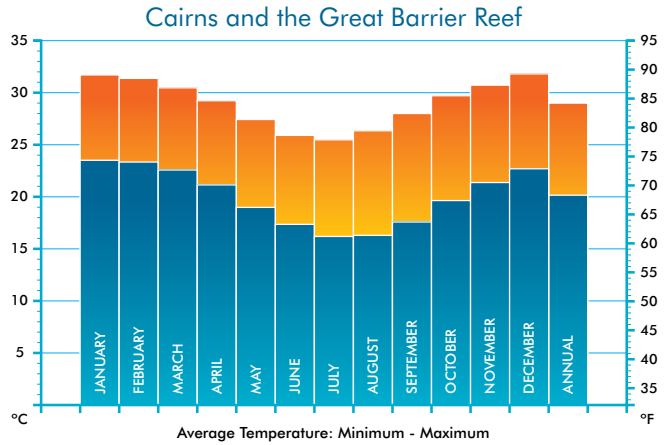
Over 600 islands and 2,500 individual reefs can be found on the Great Barrier Reef, with over 25 island resorts for you to enjoy.

Some other things you should know about the Great Barrier Reef;

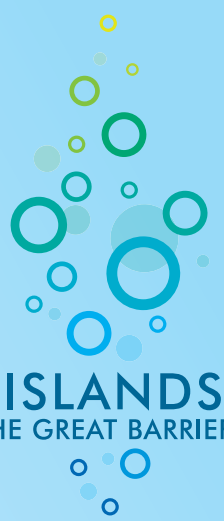
- Largest coral reef in the world
- Approximately 348,700 square kilometres in area
- Stretches for over 2000km along Queensland's coastline
- Around 500,000 years old
- Home to approximately:-
  - 1,500 species of fish
  - 400 species of corals
  - 4,000 species of molluscs
  - 500 species of seaweed
  - 215 species of birds
  - 16 species of sea snake
  - 6 species of sea turtle
  - and some of the largest populations of dugong in the world.

*Tourism Queensland has compiled and produced this guide in the interest of promoting tourism in Queensland. The material contained within this guide has been researched, assembled and included with all due care. Details are accurate at the time of printing. Published December 2009.*

## Temperatures



If you want to be sure you are choosing a genuine green experience, look for the ECO Certified tick logo. These products have been assessed and audited under Ecotourism Australia's world-leading certification program. That means they reach high standards of environmental sustainability, business ethics and cultural sensitivity – and will give you a genuine experience of Australia's wonderful natural environment while leaving no footprints behind.



# ISLANDS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

TORRES STRAIT



- PORUMA ISLAND
- HAGGERSTONE ISLAND
- LIZARD ISLAND
- DOUBLE ISLAND
- GREEN ISLAND
- FITZROY ISLAND
- FRANKLAND ISLANDS
- DUNK ISLAND
- BEDARRA ISLAND
- HINCHINBROOK ISLAND
- ORPHEUS ISLAND
- MAGNETIC ISLAND



- SOUTH MOLLE ISLAND**  
 - Koala Adventure Island Whitsundays
- DAYDREAM ISLAND**
- HAYMAN ISLAND**
- HAMILTON ISLAND**  
 - Hamilton Island Resort  
 - qualia
- LONG ISLAND**  
 - Peppers Palm Bay  
 - Long Island Resort
- LINDEMAN ISLAND**

- BRAMPTON ISLAND
- KESWICK ISLAND
- GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND
- WILSON ISLAND
- HERON ISLAND
- LADY MUSGRAVE ISLAND
- LADY ELLIOT ISLAND

QUEENSLAND  
 AUSTRALIA

- ✈️ Cooktown ●
- Port Douglas ●
- Palm Cove ●
- ✈️ Cairns ●

✈️ Townsville ●

- Airlie Beach ●
- ✈️ Proserpine ●
- ✈️ Mackay ●

- ✈️ Rockhampton ●
- ✈️ Gladstone ●
- ✈️ Bundaberg ●

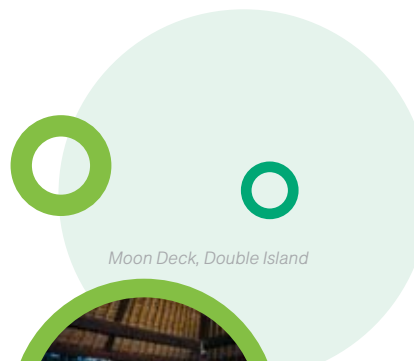
- ✈️ Hervey Bay ●
- ✈️ Maryborough ●
- Fraser Island

- ✈️ Sunshine Coast ●
- Moreton Island
- ✈️ Brisbane ●
- North Stradbroke Island
- South Stradbroke Island
- ✈️ Gold Coast ●





The Pavillion,  
Lizard Island



Moon Deck, Double Island



Double Island



Kayakers,  
Lizard Island

## Lizard Island



Outstanding in every respect, the unique pleasures of Lizard Island have created an idyllic retreat second to none. One of Australia's northernmost resorts, Lizard is located right on the spectacular Great Barrier Reef, fringed with colourful coral reefs and 24 powdery white beaches. It is little wonder that this tranquil escape has won a host of prestigious national and international awards for excellence. Lizard truly is one of a kind.

**Accommodation** Each of the 40 villas on Lizard Island is elegant and spacious, with either ocean or beach views.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Fringing reef and snorkelling straight off the beach · diving and snorkelling trips to the local or outer reef · dive tuition · glass-bottom paddle skis · glass-bottom boat trips · full- and half-day private diving or snorkelling on MV Fascination.

### Destination Highlights

- 24 private beaches
- Cod Hole dive site
- Fishing, diving and snorkelling in marine national park
- Fine food and wine
- Marlin fishing season (September to December)
- Azure Spa

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Lizard Island via Cairns. Hinterland Aviation operates the connecting flight (approx. 60 minutes) between Cairns and Lizard Island up to twice a day. Private charter flights are also available.

For more information [www.lizardisland.com.au](http://www.lizardisland.com.au)

## Double Island

Double Island provides a tantalising blend of privacy, luxury, beauty and exclusivity which combine to create the ideal setting and ambience for those wishing to enjoy the rewards of their efforts, far from life's day-to-day distractions.

Imagine being in a state of total relaxation, surrounded by lush tropical gardens, fringed by a beautiful private beach. Enjoy superb cuisine while dining on a sea deck with the tranquil sounds of the Coral Sea lapping gently against the beach. Majestic views of the coastal ranges provide a breathtaking backdrop that is truly unforgettable.

**Accommodation** Beautiful Villas with either private plunge pool or spa are nestled in tranquil gardens surrounding a stunning 25 metre pool (heated in winter). Each Villa boasts separate lounge, spacious elegantly appointed bedrooms and large marble bathrooms.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Coral cay with snorkelling straight off the beach · introductory and certified scuba diving · P.A.D.I. dive courses · snorkel tours · day trips to outer reef · Seawalker helmet diving · semi-submersible coral viewing · glass-bottom boat tour · underwater observatory · scenic helicopter and seaplane flights

### Destination Highlights

Double Island operates on an exclusive "whole of island" basis only. It is perfect for small incentives, conferences or as the ultimate executive hideaway or romantic wedding venue.

**Access** Daily scheduled private launch transfers to Palm Cove provide an ideal balance for those wanting more than just island seclusion, being only 10 minutes from Palm Cove, Double Island provides the perfect choice of island-based or mainland activities.

For more information [www.doubleisland.com.au](http://www.doubleisland.com.au)



Green Island Rainforest



Green Island



Dunk Island



Outdoor dining, Dunk Island

## Green Island Resort



Situated on one of the seven natural wonders of the world – the Great Barrier Reef – is another of nature’s rare gifts: beautiful Green Island. A small coral cay, Green Island is one of Australia’s premier heritage sites and home to Green Island Resort. Widely regarded as one of the most environmentally sensitive tourist developments in the world, it is also the only luxury resort off the Cairns coastline located on a true coral cay.

**Accommodation** Each of the 46 luxurious suites at Green Island Resort is elegant and spacious, featuring aromatic timbers and private balconies with rainforest or pool views.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Coral cay with snorkelling straight off the beach · introductory and certified scuba diving · P.A.D.I. dive courses · snorkel tours · day trips to outer reef · Seawalker helmet diving · semi-submersible coral viewing · glass-bottom boat tour · underwater observatory · scenic helicopter and seaplane flights

### Destination Highlights

- Great Barrier Reef location – true coral cay
- Abundant and spectacular coral gardens, birdlife and marine life
- Award-winning day spa – Club Spa Massage & Beauty Salon
- Award-winning Emeralds Restaurant
- Private beach dining experience
- Wide variety of aquatic and other leisure experiences
- Rainforest walks

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Cairns. Great Adventures operates high-speed catamaran (45 minutes) transfers between Cairns and Green Island three times a day. These transfers are complimentary for resort guests and are confirmed at the time of booking. Helicopter and seaplane transfers from Cairns or Cairns International Airport are also available.

For more information [www.greenislandresort.com.au](http://www.greenislandresort.com.au)

## Dunk Island

Golden sands, palm-lined beaches, tranquil waters and a thriving rainforest. Dunk Island is Australia’s most spectacular rainforest island. It was known to the first inhabitants as “Coonanglebah”, the isle of peace and plenty. Today, the palm-fringed beaches and lush rainforests of this tropical island are ideal for those who want to enjoy time out or the time of their lives. With a huge variety of activities, facilities and experiences to choose from, you’ll be tempted to extend your stay indefinitely.

Located in a national park, and lying midway between Townsville and Cairns, the resort puts you within easy reach of the Great Barrier Reef.

**Accommodation** Dunk Island offers four grades of accommodation, with each of its 160 well-appointed rooms enjoying beach or tropical garden views.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Snorkelling and diving day trips to outer reef with Quick Cat Scuba Adventures (caters for certified and introductory divers and offers guided snorkelling and glass-bottom boat tours) and Calypso Dive (caters for certified and introductory divers as well as snorkellers – also offers “Lady Bowen” wreck dive) · scenic flights (“reef and islands” – offered by Cardwell Air Charter).

### Destination Highlights

- Resort golf course
- Award-winning Spa of Peace & Plenty
- National park/rainforest walks
- Ulysses butterfly sightings
- Huge array of water and land-based activities
- Farm and facilities for horse-riding
- Diving and snorkelling on nearby Great Barrier Reef

**Access** Regular flights are available from all major Australian capital cities to Cairns and Townsville. Hinterland Aviation operates a connecting flight (45 minutes) between Cairns and Dunk Island three times a day.

Launch transfers are available from Mission Beach, 2 hours south of Cairns.

For more information [www.dunk-island.com](http://www.dunk-island.com)



Cove on Bedarra



Plane on beach, Orpheus Island



Orpheus Island



Bayside dining, Bedarra

## Bedarra

When you simply don't wish to be found, when you need to escape, unwind and experience the finer things in life, there is no better place to disappear to than Bedarra. This is Australia's most exclusive resort, an indulgent tropical private haven, lying off the coast between Townsville and Cairns. At Bedarra, guests can do as they wish, when they wish. And with a maximum of just 32 guests, no-one's going to cramp your style.

**Accommodation** Bedarra's 16 secluded villas are hidden in the rainforest, only minutes from the beach. Superbly appointed, each has a separate living area, spacious bathroom and king-size bed. On the balcony, guests can relax and contemplate the beauty and calm of this elegant retreat.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Scheduled diving and snorkelling day trips to the Great Barrier Reef (via neighbouring Dunk Island).

### Destination Highlights

- Absolute privacy, indulgence and relaxation
- Finest food and wine
- Superbly appointed, luxurious accommodation

**Access** Regular flights are available from all major Australian capital cities, with a light aircraft transfer to Dunk Island via Cairns. It is then a 20 minute launch service between Dunk Island and Bedarra which operates daily and meets all flights into Dunk Island.

For more information [www.bedarra.com.au](http://www.bedarra.com.au)

## Orpheus Island Resort

Imagine waking up in one of the world's most exclusive private island destinations.

Located amidst the Great Barrier Reef and surrounded by 1,300 hectares of pristine national park, Orpheus Island is a nature lover's paradise. Strictly limited to 42 pampered guests and with the exclusion of telephones, televisions, day-trippers or children under 15, Orpheus provides the ultimate hideaway.

The waters off the island are home to a vast array of vibrant, coloured marine life, showcasing 1,100 species of fish and 340 of the 350 known species of reef coral. On Orpheus, the magnificence of an unspoilt island and its pristine beaches, tropical rainforests and fringing reefs are a mere backdrop to an experience in tropical food, wine and privacy like no other.

**Accommodation** The accommodation at Orpheus is sophisticated and inviting. Each of the 21 rooms, featuring an en-suite bathroom with personal spa, is just a stone's throw from the water's edge.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Diving and snorkelling at local reefs · private charter half and full-day trips to the outer reef · dive tuition (limited) · scenic helicopter and seaplane flights.

### Destination Highlights

- Superb snorkelling and diving
- Easy access to the largest known site of giant clams in the Southern Hemisphere
- All-inclusive gourmet cuisine
- Daily fish feeding
- Spectacular butterfly colony
- "Dining with the Tides" seafood experience
- Seven pristine beaches

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities (and Cairns) to Orpheus Island via Townsville. Orpheus Island Resort operates the connecting scenic seaplane flight between Townsville and the island. Private charter flights are also available.

For more information [www.orpheus.com.au](http://www.orpheus.com.au)

South Molle Island



Deedes Point,  
South Molle Island



Mini mokes,  
Magnetic Island



Arthur Bay,  
Magnetic Island

## Magnetic Island

Nestled in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – and just 8 kilometres from Queensland’s northern capital, Townsville – Magnetic is like no other island getaway. Two-thirds of this World Heritage-listed island is national park, providing a haven for abundant native wildlife, including more than 2,500 free-roaming koalas. Tropical fish thrive in the surrounding coral reefs and tranquil waters while rocky headlands frame secluded beaches, some accessible only by boat or on foot. The list of sporting and leisure activities is almost endless – as are the opportunities for shopping, wining and dining. Catering for a 2,500-strong resident population as well as holidaymakers in search of the good life, tropical style, Magnetic Island offers a wide range of services and facilities. Here is an island that welcomes all comers.

**Accommodation** Magnetic Island offers more accommodation options than any other island on the Great Barrier Reef. The extensive choice of accommodation includes hotels, motels, luxury resorts, serviced self-contained holiday units, bed and breakfasts, holiday flats and apartments, backpacker resorts, camping facilities and even holiday houses for long and short-term rental.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Fringing reef with snorkelling and diving straight off the beach · night dives · day and live-aboard trips to the outer reef and world-famous S.S. Yongala wreck · dive tuition · glass-bottom boat tours

### Destination Highlights

- 23 secluded bays and beaches
- Abundant native flora and fauna, including large population of koalas
- Fishing, diving and snorkelling in a marine national park
- Bareback riding along the beach at Horseshoe Bay
- S.S. Yongala wreck dives
- Seaplane flights in the world’s only side by side seaplane
- 25-kilometre network of national park walking trails

**Access** Direct flights to Townsville are available from Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney on a daily basis as well as from Melbourne three times a week. Sunferries operates up to 15 fast cat services daily (25 minutes) to Magnetic Island, departing from the Breakwater Terminal in Townsville. Riverside Marine also provides frequent services between Townsville and Magnetic Island, offering a drive-on, drive-off facility. Campervans and trailers are welcome. These depart from the Magnetic Island Passenger & Car Ferry Terminal in Ross Street, South Townsville.

For more information [www.townsvilleholidays.info](http://www.townsvilleholidays.info)

## Koala Adventure Island Whitsundays

Koala Adventure Island Whitsundays is located on beautiful South Molle Island in the heart of the spectacular Whitsunday Passage. It is the perfect tropical island paradise with palm-fringed beaches stretching into turquoise waters alive with tropical fish, turtles and marine life. Koala Adventure Island Whitsundays is for fun-seeking travellers 18+ where you can share good times with friends new and old. Amazing fringing coral reefs right off the beach offer world-class snorkelling and there are more than a dozen activities to experience from boat trips and watersports to golf. More than 400 hectares of National Park are home to many native animals and birds and 16kms of easy walking tracks lead you to deserted coves and breathtaking views. Mingle with fellow guests around the 25m pool and bar area or enjoy a relaxing massage under a pergola. And at night the island comes alive with games, entertainment, themed parties and dancing into the small hours to resident DJs.

**Accommodation** Koala Adventure Island offers four different styles of relaxed island accommodation at affordable prices with rooms from \$49 per person (4-6 share). Doubles/twins are from \$59 per person, ocean view rooms are from \$75 per person and beachfront bungalows are from \$90 per person. All rooms have private bathrooms, as well as a balcony or verandah.

### Great Barrier Reef Access

- Great snorkelling on the fringing reef straight off the beach
- Boat trips to the Outer Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday hot spots such as near-by Whitehaven Beach

### Destination Highlights

- 400 hectares of National Park with 16 kilometres of easy walking tracks and spectacular 360 views of the Whitsundays from Mount Jeffery
- North-facing beach, perfect for a raft of water sports all year round and a safe haven for turtles and other marine life
- Excellent snorkelling, eight pristine beaches and many on-land and free activities
- Nightly live entertainment, games, themed parties and dancing to resident DJs
- Value plus! Rooms from just \$49 a night 4-6 share accommodation

**Access** Flights arrive every day from capital cities and major towns into either:

- Whitsunday Coast Airport (mainland Proserpine) - guests take a bus or taxi to Abel Point Marina, Airlie Beach (20 minutes) and board a transfer vessel for a short cruise to Koala Adventure Island Whitsundays
- Hamilton Island Airport - guests arriving into Hamilton Island Airport walk two minutes to the ferry terminal for a short boat transfer to Koala Adventure Island Whitsundays

For more information [www.koalaadventureisland.com](http://www.koalaadventureisland.com)



Hayman



Yoga on the beach,  
Daydream Island



Watersports,  
Daydream Island

## Hayman

Beautifully situated in the magnificent Great Barrier Reef, Hayman is Australia's most celebrated private island destination. The most northerly island of the Whitsundays Group, Hayman invites guests into a world of privacy, luxury, relaxation, fine wines, abundant dining and breathtaking scenery. A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, this idyllic retreat has won a host of prestigious local and international awards.

**Accommodation** Hayman presents resort living in 212 beautifully appointed rooms, suites, penthouses and a villa, all featuring private terraces or balconies and offering breathtaking views of pools, lagoons, beach, gardens or the Coral Sea.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Diving and snorkelling trips to local and outer reefs · P.A.D.I. dive courses · escorted day and night dives · private charters (ranging from small speed boats to luxury cruisers) · snorkel safari trips · semi-submersible · private mooring at Bait Reef dive site · sea-kayaking · helicopter and seaplane scenic flights · day cruise (with Cruise Whitsundays) to Knuckle Reef Lagoon pontoon (facility includes underwater viewing chamber, semi-submersible, glass-bottom boat, snorkelling, diving and Seawalker helmet diving) · Cruise Whitsundays fly/cruise charter.

### Destination Highlights

- Hayman Pool – seven times Olympic size
- Beach Villa – one-of-a-kind accommodation
- Fishing, diving, snorkelling, cruising and sailing
- Fine food and wine; international and Australian cuisine
- Beautifully manicured gardens
- The Hayman Collection of contemporary Australian art
- Award-winning Spa Hayman

**Access** Regular flights are available from most Australian capital cities to Hayman Island via the Great Barrier Reef Airport on Hamilton Island. Flights connect with Hayman's luxury launches, seaplanes or helicopters. Alternative access is available via Proserpine Airport, or via boat service from Shute Harbour. Launch or boat transfer time is 55 minutes and seaplane or helicopter is 15 minutes.

For more information [www.hayman.com.au](http://www.hayman.com.au)

## Daydream Island Resort and Spa

Daydream Island Resort and Spa is a small but dynamic resort located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Nestled among the Whitsunday Islands, it offers affordable luxury for couples and families alike. Its natural attributes – secluded beaches, azure waters and stunning rainforest – are complimented by a diverse range of fun-filled holiday activities, magical dining experiences and contemporary facilities, including a world-class rejuvenation day spa.

**Accommodation** Daydream Island Resort and Spa offers a range of 4.5-star accommodation styles to suit family vacations, romantic Whitsunday Island honeymoons, conferences and events. Each of its 296 rooms and suites is luxuriously appointed with modern amenities, and framed by views of secluded beaches or rainforest

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Private fringing reef and snorkelling straight off the beach · diving · dive tuition · day tours · heli flights

### Destination Highlights

- Private fringing coral reef
- World's largest lagoon-style aquarium
- Fishing, diving and snorkelling in marine national park
- Fine food and wine
- World-class Rejuvenation Day Spa
- Open-air cinema
- Australian wildlife

**Access** Regular flights are available from most Australian capital cities to Great Barrier Reef Airport (Hamilton Island) and Whitsunday Coast Airport (Proserpine). Fantasea Cruises and Cruise Whitsundays provide regular transfers from Hamilton Island (35 minutes), Abel Point Marina (20 minutes) and Shute Harbour (15 minutes) to Daydream Island. Shute Harbour is located approx 10 kilometres from Airlie Beach.

For more information [www.daydreamisland.com](http://www.daydreamisland.com)



Hamilton Island beaches

## Hamilton Island Resort

Hamilton Island is perfectly located in the heart of the Whitsundays and at the edge of the Great Barrier Reef. Here you can experience everything that is good about Australia – beautiful natural surrounds, calm waters, warm weather, fascinating coral reefs and diverse flora and fauna.

There are over 40 different activities available; snorkel the Great Barrier Reef, discover 20km of bushwalking trails, take a scenic flight, or speed through the water on a jet ski tour. There is also the option of a wedding in the local Chapel! And when it comes to food and wine, choose from gourmet pizzas by the marina to a long seafood lunch with beachfront views. Hamilton Island has it all, including a range of takeaway outlets and bars for something more casual.

Whether you're looking for action, relaxation, romance or a fun family getaway, it's all here in abundance

**Accommodation** On Hamilton Island you'll find a wide range of accommodation, from island-style bungalows to spacious hotel rooms with breathtaking views or the ultimate indulgence of qualia. If self-catering is more your style, choose from hotel-style holiday apartments or a private holiday home.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Fringing reef and snorkelling straight off the beach · day cruise to Reefworld (the largest offshore facility on the Great Barrier Reef includes underwater viewing chamber, semi-submersible coral viewer, P.A.D.I. introductory and certified dives, plus guided snorkelling tours with a resident marine biologist) · reef-sleeps and nocturnal viewing · full-and half-day luxury boat reef trips · night and day glass-bottomed boat trips of fringing reef · private charter boats · helicopter and seaplane scenic flights.

### Destination Highlights

- Hamilton Island Golf Club
- Hamilton Island Yacht Club
- Easy access to spectacular Whitehaven Beach
- Diving, snorkelling, glass-bottom boat tours of Hardy Reef on the Great Barrier Reef
- Koala gallery wildlife experience and educational tour
- Exploring the island on a golf buggy
- Explore neighbouring islands via motorised dinghy

**Access** Daily direct flights to Hamilton Island (Great Barrier Reef Airport) are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns, with good connections from other Australian capital cities.

For more information [www.hamiltonisland.com.au](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au)



Bath with a view,  
qualia Resort

qualia Resort

## qualia

Surrounded by the unsurpassed beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, qualia sets a new pinnacle for luxury in Australia. Voted one of the best new places to stay in the world by Conde Nast Traveller (UK & USA 'Hot List'), this world-class resort immerses you in a relaxed atmosphere, offering personalised and intuitive service.

In Latin, qualia (pronounced kwah-lee-ah) means a collection of deep sensory experiences, and that's exactly what you'll discover here. Set on the secluded northernmost tip of the Hamilton Island, qualia offers outstanding facilities – including two infinity pools, library, gym that overlooks the water's edge, two exclusive restaurants and for a truly memorable experience, step inside Spa qualia which offers an extensive range of luxurious local and international treatments.

**Accommodation** The 59 one-bedroom Windward (include own private plunge pools) or Leeward pavilions blend harmoniously with the rare, natural beauty of the island and provide an indulgent space to relax and unwind. Then there is the uncompromising luxury and privacy of the one and only two-bedroom Beach House, with its own guest quarters, private lap pool and breathtaking views. All pavilions have been carefully designed by Australian architect Chris Beckingham to create a unique sense of space and harmony.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Fringing reef and snorkelling straight off the beach · day cruise to Reefworld (the largest offshore facility on the Great Barrier Reef includes underwater viewing chamber, semi-submersible coral viewer, P.A.D.I. introductory and certified dives, plus guided snorkelling tours with a resident marine biologist) · reef-sleeps and nocturnal viewing · full- and half-day luxury boat reef trips · night and day glass-bottomed boat trips of fringing reef · private charter boats · helicopter and seaplane scenic flights.

### Destination Highlights

- Hamilton Island Golf Club, located on neighbouring Dent Island
- Hamilton Island Yacht Club
- Indulgent Spa qualia treatments including "Bularri Yarrul", a hot stone massage using 300 million year old stones.
- Take a day trip to the beautiful Whitehaven Beach - six kilometres of dazzling fine white sand that is 98% pure silica
- Easy access to Great Barrier Reef for snorkeling or diving experiences

**Access** Daily direct flights to Hamilton Island (Great Barrier Reef Airport) are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns, with good connections from other major Australian capital cities.

For more information [www.qualia.com.au](http://www.qualia.com.au)

Palm Bay,  
Long Island



Peppers Palm Bay



Long Island Resort



## Peppers Palm Bay, Whitsundays

Peppers Palm Bay is an intimate tropical retreat on a hideaway island in Queensland's dreamy Whitsundays, just 20 minutes by boat from Shute Harbour and an easy transfer from Hamilton Island. The serene seclusion makes the retreat perfect for couples seeking a romantic escape or peaceful getaway and the natural surroundings and pampering by the attentive staff promotes a wonderful sense of wellbeing.

**Accommodation** Surrounded by swaying palms and lush vegetation, the deluxe accommodation is offered in 24 elegant cabins, bures and bungalows most leading directly onto the private beach, and the exclusive Platinum and Hemingway suites, which are elevated on a hillside overlooking Palm Bay with exceptional views of the Whitsunday Islands.

From the hammock on your private balcony, you'll have views across the turquoise waters to other distant Whitsunday Islands. There are no televisions or telephones in any of the cabins, bures or bungalows, leaving you with no other option but to relax, rest up and indulge in the ambience of the lazy tropical Queensland lifestyle.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Full or part-day excursions to the Great Barrier Reef (diving or snorkelling) · private charters (launch, yacht) · scenic seaplane and helicopter flights

**Destination Highlights** This is the place to relax in a hammock, immerse yourself in the stunning pool and enjoy a luxurious massage at Endota spa. Discover the rainforest trails of the island's National Park, speed off in your own boat to snorkel in secluded bays and, at the end of another blissful day, indulge in tantalising cuisine and fine wine at La Riviera restaurant.

- Native wildlife, bird watching, 14 kilometres of walking trails, secluded beaches and bays
- Great Barrier Reef – snorkel, fish, swim, scuba diving, sailing
- Endota Day Spa
- Fine food and wine at La Riviera Restaurant
- Helicopter pad and moorings for boat owners

**Access** Regular flights are available from major Australian capital cities to Peppers Palm Bay located on Long Island via Hamilton Island or Proserpine/Whitsunday Coast. There are a couple of options available to you for getting to Peppers Palm Bay. Please call Peppers Palm Bay on 07 4946 9233 to talk through the best options for you.

Fly into the Great Barrier Reef Airport (Hamilton Island) and transfer by helicopter or seaplane direct to Peppers Palm Bay. Or take the Cruise Whitsundays ferry to Long Island, where Peppers Palm Bay will collect you via the property's own vessel 'Jetstream'.

Alternatively, fly into the Whitsunday Coast Airport (Proserpine) and transfer by helicopter or seaplane direct to Peppers Palm Bay. Or take a bus, taxi, or luxury limousine to Shute Harbour then transfer to Peppers via the Jetstream.

Please note that Jetstream transfers must be booked in advance by calling Peppers Palm Bay on 07 4946 9233

For more information [www.peppers.com.au/palm-bay](http://www.peppers.com.au/palm-bay)

## Long Island Resort

If you are looking for a laid back, casual atmosphere with beautiful, natural surrounds, then you need look no further than Long Island Resort. Long Island is the Whitsunday's natural island resort. It's the perfect place to connect with nature.

There's so much to do at Long Island Resort. For the energetic there's a myriad of watersports, or discover colourful coral and fish and snorkel off the fringing reef, only 150 metres offshore. Enjoy free resort activities including non-motorized water sports, kids club, tennis and mini-golf, and over 20 kilometres of bush walking paths to discover in the surrounding national park. For a slower pace, relax in a hammock in the shade of a palm or take a stroll along the sandy beach.

Sip cocktails and soak up the sun by the pool bar or unwind with a spa treatment at the Club Spa. In the evening the fun doesn't stop with entertainment available nightly – enjoy musicians, beach parties, and karaoke fun night.

Imagine stepping barefoot onto the beach with the sound of water lapping the shore – the perfect backdrop for your Whitsunday's island getaway.

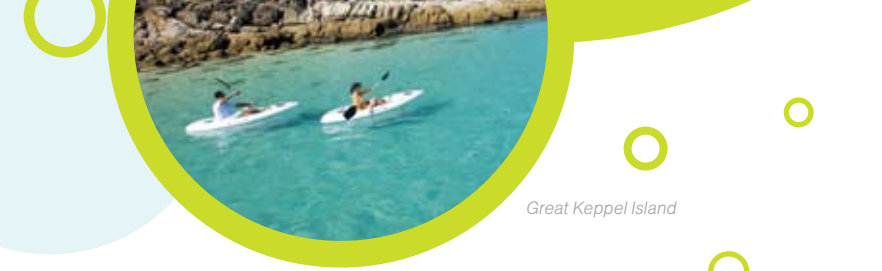
**Accommodation** 3 star, 160 room Long Island Resort offers a selection of accommodation from Barefoot Lodge dorm share rooms hidden at the back of the resort for the budget traveller, to Garden and Beachfront rooms ideal for families and Beach king rooms for couples. Rates for Long Island Resort (excluding Barefoot Lodge) include daily breakfast, lunch and dinner and the first child sleeps and eats for free.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Snorkelling on fringing reef · daily excursions to the outer reef (diving or snorkelling) · scenic helicopter flights

**Access** Direct flights are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns to Long Island Resort via Hamilton Island or Proserpine Whitsunday Coast. From the Great Barrier Reef Airport (Hamilton Island), Cruise Whitsunday's meet flights for a transfer to Long Island Resort.

From Whitsunday Coast Airport (Proserpine), regular Whitsunday Transit Coaches meet all flights for a 30-minute transfer to Shute Harbour where Cruise Whitsunday's provide a regular 15-minute service to Long Island Resort.

For more information [www.oceanhotels.com.au](http://www.oceanhotels.com.au)



Beach barbecue,  
Brampton Island



Poolside,  
Brampton Island

Great Keppel Island

## Brampton Island

From the emerald greens of the island's national park to the azure blues of the surrounding waters and its 12 golden beaches, Brampton's style is vibrant and easy-going. It's hard not to be captivated by the beauty of this classic Queensland island, lying at the southern entrance to the world-renowned Whitsunday Passage off Mackay.

Brampton is big on fun and activity – and with so much included, it's a perfect haven for couples in search of a romantic hideaway with all the trimmings. (Plus there are no day-trippers to interrupt the peace and solitude!)

**Accommodation** Brampton Island offers four grades of accommodation with views of either tropical gardens or the beach and ocean. All 106 rooms are well-appointed with private bathrooms, as well as a patio or verandah.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** The fish bowl is one of Brampton's most impressive attractions; home to turtles, rays and many varieties of fish – so grab your snorkel for some underwater discovery · Kayak or walk across the sand bar to explore the spectacular Melaleuca Forest on Carlisle Island · Learn how to wakeboard or water ski - circumnavigate Brampton on a jet ski, stopping off at secluded beaches to explore and swim · Indulge for an evening at the Sea Salt dining experience - a degustation menu featuring quality food and wine.

### Destination Highlights

- National park, beautiful beaches, snorkelling
- Unique tours: Melaleuca Forest Walk, "Walking on Water" sea kayaking experience, sunset cruises
- The Sea Spa
- Special dining experiences: "Sea Salt", Private dinner cruises
- Small resort without the crowds

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Mackay. Australian Helicopters operates daily connecting flights to the island from Mackay Airport. A launch also runs from Mackay Marina to Brampton Island daily.

**For more information** [www.brampton-island.com](http://www.brampton-island.com)

## Great Keppel Island

Fringed by 28 kilometres of stunning beaches and bays, Great Keppel Island is an island paradise easily accessible from Queensland's Capricorn Coast. Located slightly North of the Tropic of Capricorn, the island enjoys an ideal sub-tropical climate and near constant sea breezes which, combined with the crystal blue clarity of its waters and the beauty of fringing coral reefs, creates a holiday escape unique to the region.

**Accommodation** There are a variety of accommodation options available ranging from the Great Keppel Island Holiday Village, to beach houses, cabins, a bunkhouse and permanent tents located at Keppel Haven. If you really want to get away from it all, the private holiday home Keppel Lodge or tent bungalows at Svendsens beach are a great choice.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Keppel Reef Scuba Adventures operate from Putney beach and explore the great variety of dive sites around the island and the highest density of fish life found on the Great Barrier Reef. Sail Capricornia, Keppel Bay Escapes and Funtastic Cruises also operate daily sails, transfers and cruises amongst the islands that make up the Keppel Bay Group.

### Destination Highlights

- 17 white-sand beaches
- Wide variety of sporting and leisure activities
- Snorkelling and diving
- Camel rides along the beach
- Boom-net cruises
- Abundant native flora and fauna - more than 100 species of birds

**Access** Direct flights into Rockhampton Airport are available from Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney and from other ports via Brisbane. From Rockhampton Airport guests can travel by private transfer to Rosslyn Bay near Yeppoon, a distance of 55km and embark on a high-speed launch for the 30 minute trip to the Island.

**For more information** [www.gkiholidayvillage.com.au](http://www.gkiholidayvillage.com.au)  
[www.svendsensbeach.com](http://www.svendsensbeach.com)  
[www.keppeldive.com](http://www.keppeldive.com)  
[www.freedomfastcats.com](http://www.freedomfastcats.com)  
[www.keppelbayescapes.com.au](http://www.keppelbayescapes.com.au)  
[www.funtasticcruises.com.au](http://www.funtasticcruises.com.au)  
[www.sailcapricornia.com.au](http://www.sailcapricornia.com.au)



Resort pool,  
Heron Island

Tent lounge, Wilson Island



Wilson Island



Nesting turtles



## Heron Island



Heron Island is a true coral cay, located right on the Great Barrier Reef. A place of stunning natural beauty, it has sugar-white sands, crystal clear waters and acres of brilliant coral with colourful marine life. At this World Heritage-listed marine national park, all flora and fauna is protected, so the island is a nature lover's paradise, where the emphasis is on enjoying natural beauty. Stress is replaced by a sense of adventure, and your days are filled with discovery.

**Accommodation** Heron Island has 109 rooms in a range of accommodation styles.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Coray cay with snorkelling straight off the beach · guided reef walks · semi-submersible coral viewing cruises with commentary by reef interpreter · diving · diving charters · night dives · adventure dives · P.A.D.I. dive courses · scenic helicopter flights

### Destination Highlights

- Great Barrier Reef location – true coral cay
- Abundant and spectacular coral gardens, birdlife, turtles, fish and marine life
- World-class diving
- Aqua Soul Spa
- Whale watching (September)
- Scenic helicopter flights

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Gladstone. Australian Helicopters depart Gladstone Airport for Heron daily during daylight hours. A launch service departs Gladstone Marina for the island once a day.

For more information [www.heronisland.com.au](http://www.heronisland.com.au)

## Wilson Island

Wilson Island is a tiny coral cay located just 40 minutes from Heron Island. A divine sweep of castor-sugar sands that is home to turtles and birds, Wilson is both part of the Great Barrier Reef, and surrounded by it. Its pristine waters are host to an unimaginable variety of marine life, including colourful coral and fish, with some of the best snorkelling in the Great Barrier Reef, just off the beach.

Those who are drawn to the Wilson Island experience will see the pristine nature of the island, its seclusion and freedom from modern-day living as part of its appeal. The island provides a maximum of just 12 guests with access to the magnificent reef and beach environments, including rare turtle and bird breeding grounds.

**Accommodation** Wilson Island offers designer-inspired tented accommodation, with six permanent tent sites – all with reef and ocean outlooks – combining simplicity of design with luxurious comfort. Interiors feature natural materials and a modern beachcombing theme and include raised timber floors, king size bed, comfortable deck chairs and hammocks and complete insect screening. Solar power allows for hot showers and other creature comforts to be enjoyed in the central amenities building. Each tent has its own designated private shower and dressing area in the Washhouse. Toilets and vanities are also located in this building.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Coral cay · snorkelling straight off the beach · half-day diving charters are available on board the MV Wahoo, a custom-built 9-metre mono-hull vessel providing a perfect platform for dive expeditions (advance booking is required).

### Destination Highlights

- World-class snorkelling directly off the beach
- Nature and ecology: Watching green and loggerhead turtles laying their eggs or their baby hatchlings emerging from their nests (in season – November to May); whale sightings (June–October)
- Fine food and wine
- Luxury camping
- "Castaway" experience with all the creature comforts

**Access** Access to Wilson Island is via Heron Island. Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Gladstone. Australian Helicopters depart Gladstone Airport for Heron daily during daylight hours. A launch service departs Gladstone Marina for the island once a day. Wilson Island is a 40-minute boat ride from Heron Island.

For more information [www.wilsonisland.com.au](http://www.wilsonisland.com.au)

Lady Elliot



Lady Elliot



## Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort

The southernmost of the Great Barrier Reef Islands, Lady Elliot is a true coral cay and one of the premier eco-tourism experiences in Australia. Situated in a tidal lagoon and surrounded by a vast reef of living corals, the island is a rainbow of colours, from the surrounding turquoise and azure waters to the stunning white-sand beaches and lush green vegetation.

A declared "Marine National Park Zone", Lady Elliot is one of the few islands where you will see live coral and abundant bird and marine life at every level. Popular with visitors of all ages, it's little wonder Lady Elliot is renowned as a nature lover's nirvana.

**Accommodation** Lady Elliot Eco Resort offers a range of comfortable accommodation options, with each suite, unit, room and hut designed to minimise impact on the island while enriching guests' experience of the seasonal wildlife.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Coral cay · snorkelling and diving straight off the beach or via a short boat ride to variety of reef sites · night dives · reef walks · introductory, open water and advanced dive courses · glass-bottom boat tours

### Destination Highlights

- World-class snorkelling and diving (visibility is over 30 metres for much of the year)
- Renowned Severance Wreck dive
- Nature and ecology: in season, watching green and loggerhead turtles laying their eggs or their baby hatchlings emerging from their nests, plus humpback whale encounters
- Beachcombing and other guided eco tours
- Resident population of 40 giant manta rays

**Access** Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort is accessible by scenic flight. Flights are available from the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Maroochydore, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg. Flights can be taken as a day tour or as part of your accommodation package. There are connections to each of these ports via Brisbane.

For more information [www.ladyelliott.com.au](http://www.ladyelliott.com.au)



Lady Musgrave

## Lady Musgrave Island

A true coral cay, Lady Musgrave rests on the edge of a coral-fringed lagoon measuring 8 kilometres in circumference. This aquatic playground boasts a huge variety of colourful marine life, while the cay itself – cloaked in dense pisonia forest and fringed with sheoaks and pandanus palms – is home to rare turtles and birds.

In this World Heritage-listed marine national park, nature prevails. A variety of commercial launches cater for day-trip visitors, but for those seeking the ultimate "castaway" experience, the island offers bush camping for a maximum of just 40 people at any one time. The only facilities are composting toilets, a compressor bunker, and an emergency radio tower; the only duty, to relax and enjoy back-to-basics natural beauty.

**Accommodation** Lady Musgrave Island offers wilderness-style camping for a maximum of 40 people at any one time. Only the most basic facilities – composting toilets, an information shelter, emergency radio, navigation tower, fuel storage and compressor bunker – are provided. The island has no water and campers must be self-sufficient during their stay. Camping is by permit only (available from the Environmental Protection Agency/ Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service website) and bookings can be made up to 11 months in advance.

**Great Barrier Reef Access** Coral cay · snorkelling straight off the beach · diving · glass-bottom boat · semi-submersible · pontoon

### Destination Highlights

- Virgin coral cay
- Nature and ecology – turtles and manta rays all year round
- World-class diving, snorkelling and fishing in marine national park
- Unique, navigable lagoon
- Bush camping – true "castaway" experience

**Access** Lady Musgrave Island is accessible only by private vessel or via Lady Musgrave Barrier Reef Cruises with the closest departure points being Bundaberg, Gladstone and the Town of 1770. Regular flights are available from all Australian capital cities to Gladstone and Bundaberg (via Brisbane).

For more information [www.lmcruises.com.au](http://www.lmcruises.com.au)

## Torres Strait Islands

More than 200 islands make up the Torres Strait Islands - stretching out like stepping stones between the most northerly tip of Australia's Cape York Peninsula and Papua New Guinea. The Torres Strait Islands are home to over 6,000 people, offering a cultural link between the Australian mainland and Pacific Islanders who can trace their origins back to Melanesia and Polynesia.

For the intrepid traveller looking to experience the Torres Strait and its distinct island cultures visit Poruma Island. The Torres Strait Islanders' inimitable dances showcasing magnificent feather head-dresses and traditional costumes mixed with a unique cultural mix of some of the most inspiring coral cays, uninhabited reefs and crystal clear waters provides you with the ingredients for an unforgettable adventure.

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capitals to Cairns. From Cairns, regular Qantas Link flights operate to Horn Island with connecting Charter flights available to other islands throughout the Torres Strait.

For more information [www.porumaesort.com](http://www.porumaesort.com)

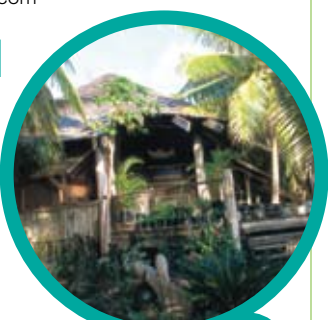


## Haggerstone Island

Haggerstone Island is an exclusive and unique wilderness retreat. Located at the remote northern end of the Great Barrier Reef, this privately owned island is adjacent to the uninhabited Cape York coastline. Guests have a choice of daily adventures, from swimming among pristine coral reefs and cays, surfing sand dunes, fishing and spear fishing aboard the 40 foot jet boat Jo Jo III, exploring the uninhabited islands and mainland beach, bays and rivers - or doing absolutely nothing. All daily excursions involve catching seafood for the superb lunches and evening meals, which features the freshest ingredients from the island gardens. There are four individual handcrafted "houses", ranging in style from the Robinson Crusoe beach house, through the Lagoon and Kwilla huts to the absolute luxury of House Mawu. House Mawu is a three bedroom two bathroom, self contained, free form tropical thatch house with views to the big lagoon. All are uniquely designed and handcrafted by the owners.

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capitals to Cairns. From Cairns, guests transfer to Hicks Island via a private charter plane (approx. 2 hours). From Hicks Island, guests transfer to Haggerstone Island via boat (approx. 20 minutes).

For more information [www.haggerstoneisland.com](http://www.haggerstoneisland.com)



## Fitzroy Island

A densely forested continental island in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, Fitzroy Island is located near Cairns. Almost completely encircled by fringing coral reef, the island's 339 hectares are covered in lush rainforest and granite outcrops that descend right to the water's edge. Home to a wide variety of native species, 94 percent of the island is protected and managed as a national park. Explore the national park walking trails (rising to 269 metres, the island offers grand vistas from almost any vantage point) or swim and snorkel at popular Nudey Beach. Newly upgraded Fitzroy Island Campground has 20 sites available, sleeping up to 5 people per site with comfortable amenities provided. Enjoy activities available from the Beach Hire Hut including Glass Bottom Boat Tours, a floating ocean trampoline, snorkeling, paddle skis and a guided sea kayak tour.

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capitals to Cairns. From Cairns transfer to Fitzroy Island via launch from the Reef Fleet Terminal (approx. 45 mins).

For more information [www.ragingthunder.com.au](http://www.ragingthunder.com.au)



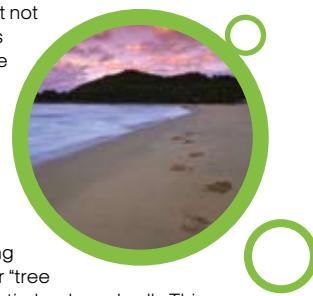
## Hinchinbrook Island

When a place is perfect, sometimes it's best not to touch it. So it is that Hinchinbrook Island is Australia's largest island national park, where vast tracts of tropical rainforest, rugged mountains and glorious beaches remain in pristine condition. Located just a short ferry ride from the mainland, and surrounded by the Great Barrier Reef, Hinchinbrook is the perfect place to restore body, mind and spirit. The award-winning Wilderness Lodge is the island's only settlement, offering splendid isolation in spacious crafted timber "tree houses" that are accessed by a meandering timber boardwalk. This eco-lodge makes a great base from which to explore the many activities on offer on the island, such as bushwalking, fishing, snorkelling, swimming, day cruises, bird watching or just laying around and soaking it all in. The more rugged traveller can opt to explore the island's diversely beautiful wilderness areas on foot, following well-signposted trails, and staying in campsites along the way. Either way, visitors to Hinchinbrook are assured of a wilderness experience they will never forget.

**Access** Regular flights are available from all Australian capitals to Townsville and Cairns. \*Transfers need to be arranged to Cardwell, where ferries regularly depart to the island (approx. 50 minutes). Unscheduled ferry services are available on request - minimum two adult passengers.

\* Hinchinbrook Island Wilderness Lodge will arrange for all guest transfers to and from either Cairns or Townsville airports to the island.

For more information [www.hinchinbrooklodge.com.au](http://www.hinchinbrooklodge.com.au)

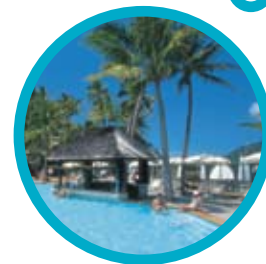


## Lindeman Island

Welcome to the one and only all-inclusive resort in the Whitsundays. Club Med Lindeman Island. Weather it is a relaxing family holiday or a sport and activity filled vacation you are after this resort will satisfy everyone's tastes. From the flying trapeze to the 9 hole golf course overlooking the Whitsundays to all day open bar and snacking and three gourmet buffet meals a day there are a multitude of activities and relaxation to chose from. Lindeman island combines natural beauty with fun and entertainment for a truly memorable holiday experience. Club Med Lindeman Island, a three storey, palm tree filled resort, offers a total of 218 well-appointed rooms, set amphitheatre-style around the main bay, meaning every room shares in the stunning views across the Whitsunday Passage.

**Access** Regular direct flights to Hamilton Island are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns. From Hamilton, guests transfer to Lindeman Island via a 40 minute ferry ride.

For more information [www.clubmed.com.au](http://www.clubmed.com.au)



## Keswick Island

Quiet, peaceful and secluded, Keswick Island is a lush tropical paradise - and Australia's newest community island. The southernmost of the Whitsunday Islands, and still undergoing development, Keswick is currently home to a small number of private residents and visitors, who stay at either the secluded Keswick Island Guesthouse or in one of the many self catered houses on the island. A designated national park with five pristine white-sand beaches and fringing coral reefs, Keswick offers an abundance of outdoor activities such as swimming, snorkeling, diving, fishing, beachcombing and bushwalking. Narrow walking tracks in the national park wind through pockets of tropical rainforest to deserted beaches, offering superb island and water views along the way. Day trips from Mackay are available to Keswick & neighboring Saint Bees Island, which is home to a healthy koala colony. Divers can enjoy not only the superb coral gardens right off the beach, but three wreck sites accessible via a short boat ride.

**Access** Access to Keswick Island is via Mackay with transfers arranged at the time of booking.

For more information [www.keswickislandguesthouse.com.au](http://www.keswickislandguesthouse.com.au)



# More ways to experience the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef

## Sailing

There are endless ways to enjoy the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef, but seeing it all from the deck of a boat is hard to beat. The variety of sailing vessels varies from catamarans and luxury yachts to retired America's Cup maxi yachts and historic square-riggers. You can sail for a day or spend a week or more cruising through the island-studded cobalt-blue waters of the Coral Sea. If your idea of paradise is sailing in search of uninhabited tropical islands and secluded coral reefs and beaches, then bareboat (sail-yourself) chartering is a perfect choice. Drop anchor in deserted island coves, scuba dive and snorkel on vibrant coral reefs, walk through island rainforests and dine on deck under the stars. If you don't feel confident enough to try bare boating, you can book a professional cruise guide to accompany you. Alternatively, you can take part in a multi-day trip on board a crewed luxury yacht or tall ship, where it's all hands on deck, heaving together to unfurl the huge sails. Day-sailing trips are a great option for those on tighter budgets, with many operators offering luxury sailing laced with restaurant-quality food, comfortable decks for sunning, and snorkelling gear for passengers who want to get wet.

If you can't decide between a sailing holiday and a stay at an island resort, then opt to do both with a combined resort/sail package. You'll enjoy several nights of cruising through the Coral Sea followed by several nights on an island, where you can avail yourself of all the pleasures and comforts of tropical resort life. Whatever your preference, be it the slap of sail and creak of timber, the adrenalin surge of an ocean racer, the pleasures of luxury cruising or a resort/sail package, the Great Barrier Reef has a craft for you.

## Diving and islands

The Great Barrier Reef offers divers some of the world's greatest dive experiences. There's nothing like swimming through a school of iridescent fish or observing the beauty of a turtle glide by you 20 metres underwater. With more than 5,000 different dive sites spread across the reef's islands and cays, there's a diving opportunity for every level of experience, from beginner to advanced. Island resorts all provide equipment and lessons for a fee and run daily diving and snorkelling trips to various reef sites. Combination resort/dive packages are also available. Newcomers can try a fully supervised introductory or resort dive. These are designed for beginners with no prior experience who want a taste of diving without committing to the full Open Water Certification course. After "classroom" instruction, it's time to enter the pool, practise your skills and then head offshore with your instructor for a guided tour of the reef.

Not surprisingly, certain islands have become meccas for scuba divers all over the world. Green, Heron and Lady Elliot islands are coral cays with superb diving right straight off the beach. Lizard Island in the far north also offers excellent fringing reef and is close to several top dive sites including the famous Cod Hole, where you can hand feed a 150-kilogram fish. Many Whitsunday islands are within a short boat ride of some of the reef's best dive sites.

For more information [www.divingqueensland.com.au](http://www.divingqueensland.com.au)

## Sleeping on the Reef

Most people experience the Great Barrier Reef by day, but the world's largest coral reef, which stretches more than 2,000 kilometres along the Queensland coast, is a non-stop event. On a coral cay or continental island, you're very close to the nocturnal reef action, but at Reefworld, a purpose-built pontoon anchored at Hardy Reef, in the Whitsundays, you can be right on top of it. By day, the pontoon is a launch pad for guided expeditions of the reef. But by night, it becomes a unique form of accommodation for six guests, known as "Reefsleep". You can view the nocturnal activities of colorful reef fish and corals after canapés and champagne at sunset, and enjoy alfresco dining surrounded only by reef systems and a blanket of stars above. Dedicated divers can immerse themselves more fully and frequently in the reef by taking a live-aboard dive trip. These range from two days to a week or longer and include luxury launches, dive research boats and small, personalised vessels that visit some of the reef's most remote and amazing dive sites.

For more information [www.fantasea.com.au](http://www.fantasea.com.au)

## Camping in national parks on islands of the Great Barrier Reef

Stretching more than 2000 kilometres along the Queensland coastline and covering 35 million hectares, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef. Home to an abundance of marine wildlife – including more than 1500 brilliantly coloured species of tropical fish, 4000 species of molluscs, 400 species of sponge and 300 species of hard corals – it is also the site of hundreds of continental islands, reef islands and cays, small bare sand cays, and permanent vegetated cays – many offering campsites in stunning natural settings. And for visitors wanting to experience the wonders of the reef for very little cost, camping is the way to go. Seasonal closures apply to some islands and some activities are restricted or not allowed. The reef islands are fragile and easily damaged by careless visitors. They are also a refuge for marine wildlife. Be self-sufficient and take everything you need: few islands have water or facilities. It's a small price to pay for getting close to nature – and away from it all – in the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef.

For more information

Postal address:

Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 15155  
City East Queensland 4002, Australia

Telephone: 61 7 3227 8185

Fax: 61 7 3227 8749

Email: [csc@epa.qld.gov.au](mailto:csc@epa.qld.gov.au)

Website: [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)





ISLANDS  
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



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