

The Whitsundays

THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

tourismwhitsundays.com.au

VISITOR GUIDE
2022

HAMILTON ISLAND

Remember Why



hamiltonisland.com.au

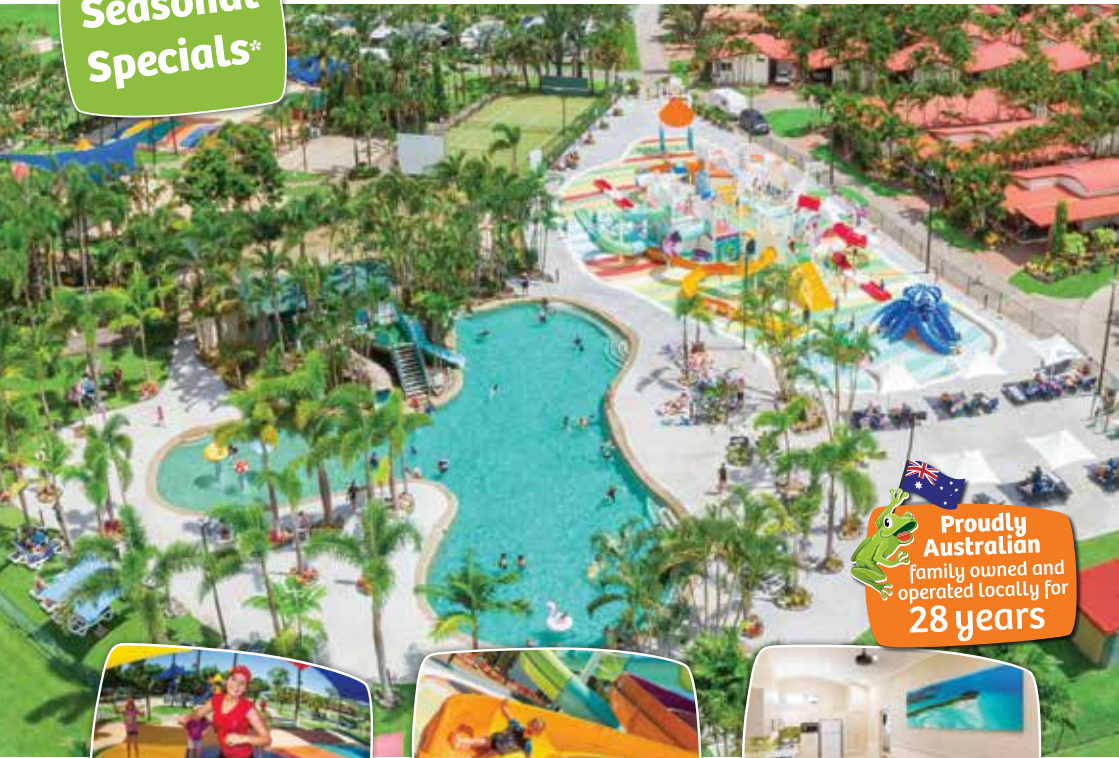


HAMILTON ISLAND
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

Holiday in our paradise



Seasonal Specials*




Proudly Australian
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Whitsunday Family Paradise!

- 32m Lagoon Pool (heated in winter)
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HOLIDAY PARKS
AIRLIE BEACH

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Email: reservations@adventurewhitsunday.com.au

Airlie Beach - Whitsundays - Queensland



adventurewhitsunday.com.au #adventurewhitsunday

*Please visit website for specials and terms & conditions

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As a proud local and Mayor of the wonderful Whitsundays,
Heart of the Great Barrier Reef, I welcome you to our region.

I encourage you to make the most of your stay in our unique part of the world which offers a diverse range of ocean and outback experiences complemented by many amazing local events.

The Whitsundays is the home of 74 tropical islands and Whitehaven Beach, named the best beach in the world in 2021.

The Whitsundays covers four mainland towns - Bowen to the north, Collinsville to the west, coastal Airlie Beach and inland Proserpine - each offering some of the state's most diverse landscapes, yet all within a short drive.

Start in the outback landscapes of historical Collinsville, the Pit Pony Capital of Australia, before travelling towards the beautiful award-winning beaches of Bowen, experience fishing at Lake Proserpine, home of the big barra, and relax at Airlie Beach's lagoon and foreshore overlooking the sun-kissed Whitsunday Islands.

I truly hope you enjoy this Visitor Guide which is designed to showcase all that's

on offer in this spectacular region. The Whitsundays is the heart of adventure, sailing, island escapes, events, agriculture, history, beaches and the Great Barrier Reef.

If you're on the road pop into the accredited Whitsundays Visitor Information Centre at Proserpine or the Bowen Visitor Information Centre for incredible local travel tips.

Whether you are in the middle of planning your holiday or are here visiting us now and creating amazing memories, we hope you enjoy your time in the stunning Whitsundays.

From a passionate local and Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor,



MAYOR ANDREW WILLCOX

The Whitsundays
THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

For the best holiday inspiration and local tips so you can make the most out of your trip, stay connected:



SIGN UP to our e-newsletter and be the first to receive information on deals and all the exciting happenings in The Whitsundays.



@WhitsundaysQLD
@visitairliebeach
@adventureairlie



@whitsundaysqld
@adventureairlie



Visit Whitsundays

We acknowledge that we work, live and play on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

GETTING HERE

The Whitsundays is located along Queensland's central coast in north-eastern Australia, approximately 1,120 km north of Brisbane and 630 km south of Cairns. Getting to The Whitsundays is easy, whether driving from nearby towns or travelling from the other side of the world.



Scan here and listen to how you can travel to The Whitsundays with Karen Jacobsen, the original Aussie voice of Siri and the Whitsundays Destination Ambassador.

AIR

The Whitsundays is home to two airports with flights available from Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Rockhampton and Sydney. Brisbane, the capital city of Queensland, offers the best range of connecting flights into the region from other cities across Australia.

The Whitsunday Coast Airport, Proserpine (PPP) and Great Barrier Reef Airport, Hamilton Island (HTI) offer flights servicing The Whitsundays daily, with a range of transfer options to take you where you need to go.

ROAD

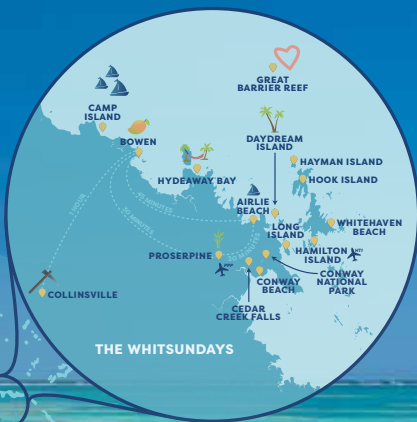
The Bruce Highway is the major road linking Queensland's coastal cities and towns. The Bruce Highway runs through Proserpine and Bowen, with Airlie Beach located approximately 20 minutes' drive off the highway.

Major national coach operators include The Whitsundays in their regular scheduled services into the coastal community of Airlie Beach from all major centres along the east coast of Australia.

RAIL

Queensland Rail services include the Spirit of Queensland, linking Proserpine to all the major destinations from Cairns to Brisbane and beyond to Sydney and Melbourne.





CLIMATE

The weather in The Whitsundays is tropical with a climate of hot summers, warm winters and bright spring and autumn days. The water temperatures remain a welcoming 25°C (77°F) most of the year round.

SUMMER



31°C

25°C

AUTUMN



28°C

22°C

WINTER



24°C

17°C

SPRING



28°C

21°C

WHITSUNDAYS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Whitsundays Visitor Information Centre is situated on the Bruce Highway in Proserpine, located next to Whitsunday Gold Coffee Plantation.



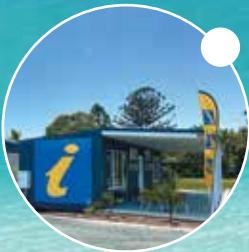
Scan here to listen to an introduction with Karen Jacobsen, the original Aussie voice of Siri and the Whitsundays Destination Ambassador.

The accredited Visitor Information Centre is the perfect stop for travellers, with a large van-friendly car park, delicious café serving fresh coffee and local produce, a small animal farm and bird aviary, as well as an indoor air-conditioned jungle gym for the kids!

The friendly visitor information services team have a wealth of knowledge about this incredible region and can introduce you to the hidden gems of The Whitsundays.

No matter what type of holiday you are searching for, the team will help you every step of the way.

The centre is a not-for-profit organisation that provides genuine, unbiased information services and booking assistance for all travellers. Call into the Whitsundays Visitor Information Centre and chat with our friendly team and volunteers who will ensure you soak up everything the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef has to offer.



**DID YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO
THE WHITSUNDAYS VISITOR
INFORMATION CENTRE?**

Please leave a review on one of our many platforms, such as TripAdvisor, Google and social media. Be sure to tell your friends and family too!



 CONTACT DETAILS

P +61 7 4945 3967

E info@tourismwhitsundays.com.au

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

*Please note the centre is closed Christmas Day,
Boxing Day, New Year's Day and ANZAC Day.*



The Whitsundays

THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



0 20
KILOMETRES

Line Reef
Hook Reef
Bait Reef
GREAT BARRIER REEF

SOUTH PACIFIC
OCEAN



Take a look at the tropical resort town of Airlie Beach.

This vibrant mainland hub is ready to welcome you!



AIRLIE BEACH

The tropical resort town of Airlie Beach,
the mainland hub of The Whitsundays,
is ready to welcome you!

To one side the coastline is bordered by the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands, offering stunning views of the Coral Sea and to the other, the rich, rainforest-clad hills of the Conway National Park.

Airlie Beach offers an abundance of accommodation styles that will suit

whatever holiday or budget you are in search of. The main street is filled with delicious restaurants, bars (many with live music!) and specialty shops. There truly is something for everyone in Airlie Beach, the Heart of Fun in The Whitsundays. Sit back, relax and soak up the blissful holiday vibes this town offers.

BASK in the sun on Boathaven Beach.



HIKE the Honeyeater Lookout Trail or for a more leisurely stroll check out the Bicentennial Boardwalk (refer to page 39).



ENJOY a swim and BBQ at the Airlie Beach Lagoon.



FILL UP on the fresh food and drink and experience the live music along the main street.

AIRLIE BEACH HIGHLIGHTS

BRING your Saturday to life with a stroll through the vibrant Airlie Beach Foreshore Markets.



Take a look at Bowen,
the northern jewel in The
Whitsundays' crown.

*A picturesque seaside
town on the shores of
Edgecumbe Bay.*



BOWEN

Bowen is the northern jewel in The Whitsundays' crown, located on the shores of Edgecumbe Bay, 45 minutes north of Airlie Beach.

This picturesque seaside town is a relaxed beachcomber's paradise with award-winning, palm-fringed beaches, beautiful bays and a warm tropical climate. Largely undiscovered, Bowen offers accommodation ranging from backpackers and caravan parks to 4-star absolute beachfront apartments.

Home to eight incredible beaches surrounding the town, some offering the best walking tracks, and stunning fringing coral reefs, perfect for snorkelling, just a few metres offshore.



SNORKEL straight off the beach at Horseshoe Bay (home to the Underwater Marine Sculpture Bywa) and Rose Bay.



STOP for some mango sorbet, snap a Big Mango selfie and say hello to the team at the Bowen Visitor Information Centre.

BOWEN HIGHLIGHTS

CATCH A FLICK at the historic Summergarden Theatre.



INDULGE in the freshest seafood, straight off the boat at the Bowen Marina.



WITNESS breathtaking views of The Whitsundays at Flagstaff Hill.

Take a look at
Collinsville, the Heart of
the Whitsundays outback.
*Just far enough away
from the tourist hubs to
be a country retreat.*



COLLINSVILLE

The Heart of the Whitsundays Outback,
Collinsville is located only 85 km west of Bowen.

The scenic drive will see you travel through orchards and farmland teeming with wildlife. Far enough away from the tourist hubs to be a country retreat, this close-knit community always offers a friendly and warm welcome to its many visitors.

While in the Whitsundays outback be sure to take a trip to the Bowen River Hotel, legend has it, a ghost or two frequent the halls of this historic location.



POP INTO the Collinsville Visitor Information Centre – located at the free 72-hour RV park. (Virtual Mine Tour COMING SOON!)

HEAD TO the Coalface Experience and take a look at how life used to be underground.



COLLINSVILLE HIGHLIGHTS

HOP TO the Collinsville Historical Society Museum, previously the town hospital!



VISIT Collinsville's No. 1 Mine and take a step back in time to the steam driven days of 1919.



STOP FOR A SELFIE with the Pit Pony statue or any of the various murals throughout the town.

Take a look at Proserpine,
where old-fashioned
courtesies thrive.

*Be sure to have a yarn
with the friendly locals!*



PROSERPINE

Just 20 minutes inland from
Airlie Beach, you will find the
charming town of Proserpine,
the Heart of Country Hospitality.

Named by the explorer George Dalrymple, after Proserpina the goddess of grain and harvest, recognising the fertile qualities in the region. Since the late 1800s, cattle grazing and sugar cane have been the economic mainstays here.



COOL OFF at the Proserpine Waterpark and community pool (both free for you to enjoy).

PROSERPINE HIGHLIGHTS



TAKE A TRIP to Lake Proserpine (Peter Faust Dam) for the day or stay longer at the lakeside camping facilities and try your hand at catching the holy grail of Barramundi!



VISIT the Proserpine Historical Museum.



VENTURE OFF the main street to find some beautiful stores hidden in the art-deco side streets.



SAY HELLO TO the friendly team at the Whitsundays Visitor Information Centre who can assist with all of your booking enquiries.

WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

The Whitsunday Islands were formed when sea levels rose, creating 'drowned' mountains that now protrude from the Coral Sea with their distinctive emerald-green vegetation and rocky outcrops.



Scan here for more information on the Whitsunday Islands accommodation options with Karen Jacobsen, the original Aussie voice of Siri and the Whitsundays Destination Ambassador.

With 74 island wonders, it really is a paradise for sailors, scuba divers, snorkellers and swimmers...not to mention kayakers, paddleboarders, jetskiers and fishing fanatics!

Visit our iconic island resorts for tropical living at its best or mix it with nature and explore the many walking trails and camp overnight at a National Parks camping ground.

CAMP ISLAND LODGE

Located 50 km north of Bowen and 3 km offshore, with four bungalows and a three-bedroom house. Camp Island offers guests a rockstar experience with exclusive use – your own private island escape.

DAYDREAM ISLAND RESORT AND LIVING REEF

Offers a range of refurbished spacious and modern rooms and suites with stunning views overlooking the pool and garden landscapes or with ocean views. There is an expanded food and beverage offering across the island with three restaurants and three bars. The Living Reef is the main centrepiece of the island which is a unique free form coral lagoon wrapping 200m around the central building.

INTERCONTINENTAL HAYMAN ISLAND RESORT

The Whitsundays' most exclusive island resort, here you are welcomed to a secluded paradise of serenity and breathtaking beauty. Immerse yourself in a world of 5-star luxury and island wonders beyond your imagination. From the moment you step off your seaplane, helicopter or luxury boat, you'll discover an idyllic destination of privacy and pampering.

HAMILTON ISLAND

Hamilton Island is the largest inhabited island of the Whitsunday Islands and has its own commercial airport. There's plenty to do with a wide selection of bars and restaurants, year-round sporting events and a great variety of watersports and adrenalin-pumping activities!

Boasting a variety of accommodation options, from family-friendly self-contained apartments and homes, to adults only and opulent luxury, Hamilton Island truly offers something for everyone.

HOOK ISLAND

Coming soon to The Whitsundays will be an eco-style resort on one of The Whitsundays' most loved islands. Stay tuned for more details!

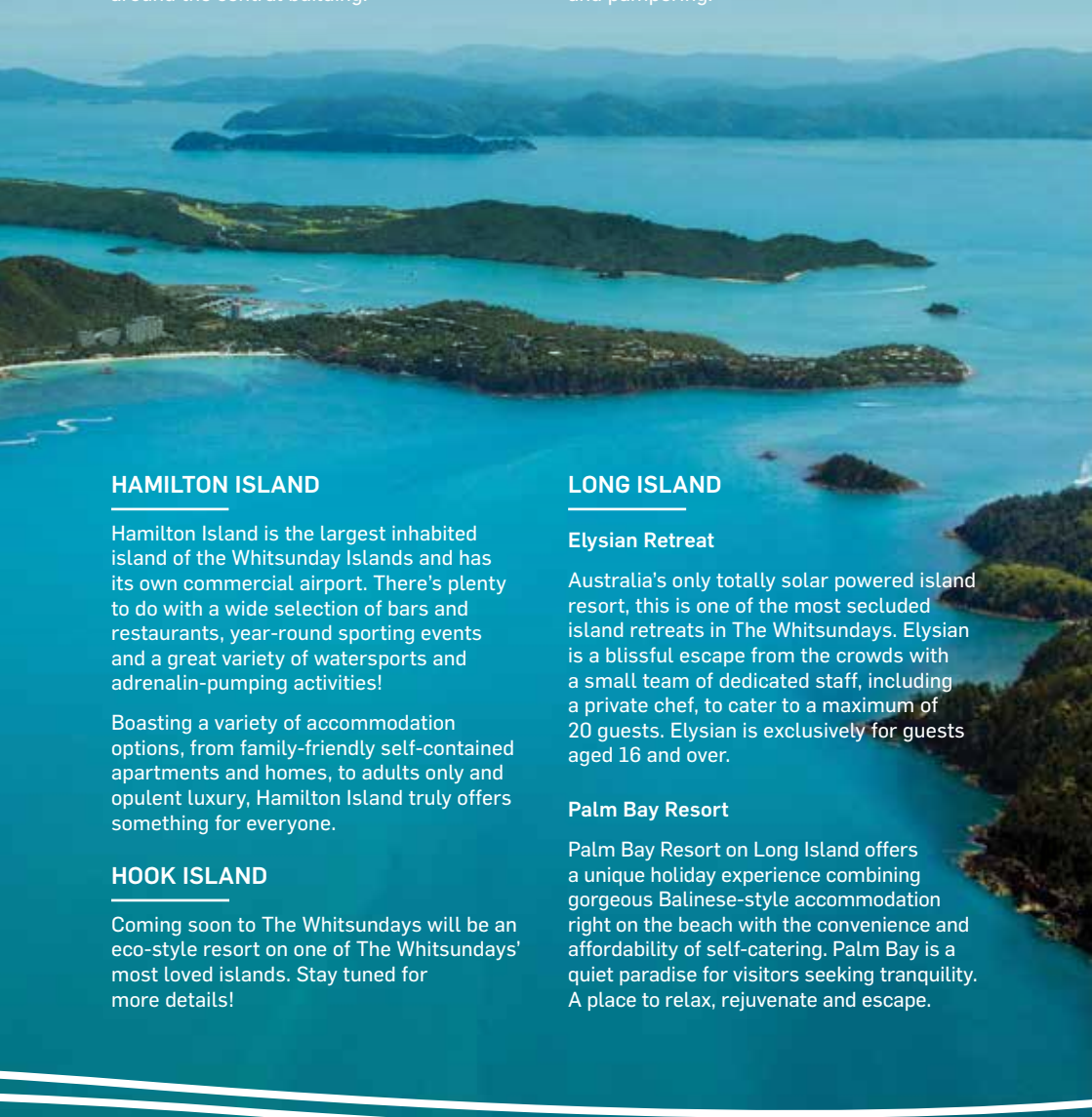
LONG ISLAND

Elysian Retreat

Australia's only totally solar powered island resort, this is one of the most secluded island retreats in The Whitsundays. Elysian is a blissful escape from the crowds with a small team of dedicated staff, including a private chef, to cater to a maximum of 20 guests. Elysian is exclusively for guests aged 16 and over.

Palm Bay Resort

Palm Bay Resort on Long Island offers a unique holiday experience combining gorgeous Balinese-style accommodation right on the beach with the convenience and affordability of self-catering. Palm Bay is a quiet paradise for visitors seeking tranquility. A place to relax, rejuvenate and escape.



EVENTS

DREAM MACHINE WHITSUNDAYS

2022 | 26 – 29 January

PARTY BANDS IN PARADISE

2022 | 1 – 3 April

COLORBOND® STEEL AIRLIE BEACH TRIATHLON

2022 | 23 – 24 April

HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

2022 | 1 May

GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

2022 | 19 June

AIRLIE BEACH MARATHON FESTIVAL

2022 | 16 – 17 July

GREAT BARRIER REEF FESTIVAL

2022 | 4 – 7 August

WALK TO THE LIGHTHOUSE, BOWEN

2022 | 12 August TBC

AIRLIE BEACH RACE WEEK FESTIVAL OF SAILING

2022 | 11 – 18 August

HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

2022 | 20 – 28 August

DON RIVER DASH

2022 | 9 – 11 September

WHITE ON WHITEHAVEN LONG LUNCH BY FISH D'VINE

2022 | 9 – 12 September

WHITSUNDAY TRAIL FEST

2022 | 11 September

WHITSUNDAYS ARTS FESTIVAL

2022 | 23 – 25 September

AIRLIE BEACH FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

2022 | 4 – 6 November

HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

2022 | 19 November

HAMILTON ISLAND OCEAN SWIM

2022 | 20 November



THE HEART OF EVENTS



Scan here to discover more events.



GREAT BARRIER REEF

The World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and the largest living structure. It is visible from outer space and stretches over 2000 km in length along the Queensland coast of Australia.

The Whitsundays is located in the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef and is the perfect base to explore this aquatic wonderland. Visitors to the Great Barrier Reef can enjoy this bucket-list experience in many different ways. You can choose to swim, snorkel, dive, sail and fly over this natural wonder; you can even sleep there, either under the stars or in the only underwater hotel on the Great Barrier Reef!

You can choose from a myriad of vessels to transport you to the reef, from romantic old

timber sailing boats to fast and sleek motor cruisers and everything in between. Or for a totally different perspective you can fly over the reef, including the most photographed reef in the world, Heart Reef, a natural heart-shaped formation that can only be seen from The Whitsundays! This incredible formation has been the site of many proposals and declarations of love over the years.

With so many ways to have your Great Barrier Reef experience – you might have to choose more than one!

SLEEP on the outer Great Barrier Reef, either under the stars or under the water, on the floating Reefworld pontoon.



THINGS TO SEE AND DO



TAKE TO THE AIR and see this stunning natural wonder from above on a scenic flight, guaranteed to be awe inspiring.



SNORKEL OR DIVE the reef on a day trip, with many boats and experiences to suit any travel style.



SNORKELLING & DIVING

The Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef are known for having some of the best diving and snorkelling locations worldwide, and visitors flock to the region to experience the stunning coral gardens.

In The Whitsundays, you can snorkel with an abundance of marine life, including green turtles and manta rays and many different colourful fish species (more than 1,500 different kinds!), including parrot fish, sweet lip and red emperor.

Keep your eyes peeled for a glimpse of Whitsundays celebrity, George – a Maori wrasse who loves a good photo opp! – and of course the shy clownfish or 'Nemo', who hides in sea anemones.

DIVING

Scuba diving is a must-do experience in The Whitsundays, whether you are a complete novice or have some time under your weight-belt. There are several diving options, so you can choose a Whitsundays diving adventure to best suit your experience.

SNORKELLING

Many tours offer snorkelling as part of their itineraries with all equipment provided (be sure to check with your operator when booking). The local knowledge shown by operators is excellent and they will take you to the best spots, given the weather and tides on the day – don't be afraid to ask questions! There are also some incredible fringing reefs accessible from the mainland, so close to the beach you can walk to them!



UNDERWATER SIGHTS

NGARO UNDERWATER MARINE SCULPTURE TRAIL

Avid snorkellers and divers can discover an underwater wonderland with the installation of underwater art in the Whitsundays Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The underwater sculptures provide a new experience for travellers and marine enthusiasts. These unique artworks have been installed at various popular sites around The Whitsundays:

*Blue Pearl Bay,
Hayman Island*

Maori Wrasse
by local artist
Adriaan Vanderlugt

*Horseshoe Bay,
Bowen*

Bywa
by artist Brian Robinson

Langford Reef

Anthozoa
by local artist Jessa Lloyd

Turtle Dream
by artist Col Henry

*Manta Ray Bay,
Hook Island*

Manta Ray
by local artist
Adriaan Vanderlugt

Migration of the Manta
by artist Brian Robinson

These incredible sculptures not only provide amazing scenery for guests to enjoy, they also act as a new base for coral growth and animal shelter. Since their inception the sculptures have recruited substantial hard and soft corals and invertebrates such as sponges and ascidians (sea squirts). Fish species such as coral trout, surgeonfish and rabbitfish are regular inhabitants of these sites.

WHITEHAVEN BEACH & HILL INLET

These are two bucket-list items to tick off during your Whitsundays holiday!

Indulge in the crystal-clear water and pristine untouched coastline of Whitehaven Beach and take the short walk up to the lookout to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Hill Inlet.

Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed to bring home memories that will last a lifetime.



HILL INLET

At the northern end of Whitehaven Beach is Hill Inlet. As the tide shifts, the silica white sand of Whitehaven Beach combined with the blue-green hues of the inlet blends seamlessly to create a swirling fusion of turquoise colours. Hill Inlet is best viewed from up high, whether it be from the lookout at Tongue Point or on a scenic flight.



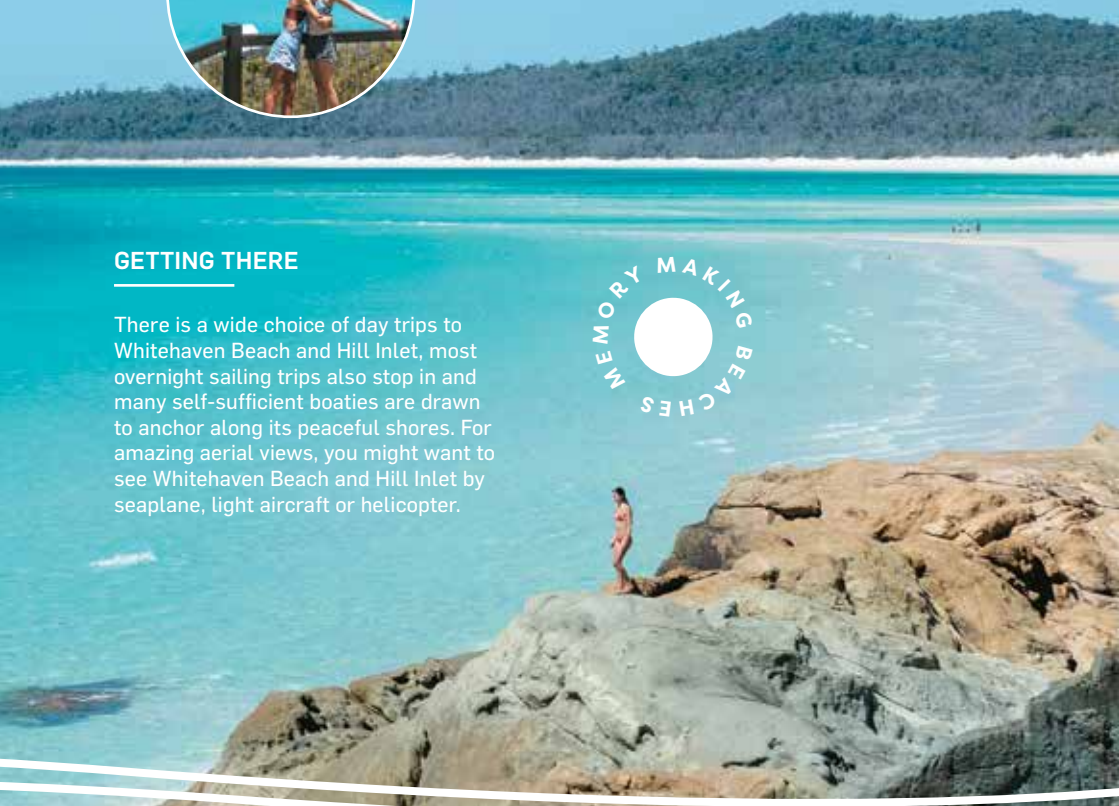
WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Sink your toes into the white silica sands of the renowned and award-winning Whitehaven Beach, one of the many jewels in The Whitsundays' crown.

World-famous Whitehaven Beach stretches over 7 km along Whitsunday Island, the largest of the 74 islands in the Whitsunday group. It defines nature at its best, so it's no surprise it often tops the best beaches list worldwide. Experiencing Whitehaven Beach provides an amazing sense of relaxation and escape, and the sand contains 98% silica, meaning it is extremely fine and soft, with some comparing the consistency to that of baby powder! Be sure to check out the lookout at the southern end of the beach; the walking track takes you through Australian native bush and local rainforest. When you get to the top of the short 1 km walk, the Whitsundays Islands National Park opens up before your eyes, and it is every bit as unbelievable as the famous Hill Inlet.

GETTING THERE

There is a wide choice of day trips to Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet, most overnight sailing trips also stop in and many self-sufficient boaties are drawn to anchor along its peaceful shores. For amazing aerial views, you might want to see Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet by seaplane, light aircraft or helicopter.



OVERNIGHT SAILING

The Whitsundays is the Heart of Sailing,
offering some of the world's best
sailing and cruising holidays.

With the largest fleet of crewed sailing vessels in the Southern Hemisphere, there is a holiday adventure for everyone! There are dozens of different boats to choose from, all fully equipped with everything at your fingertips, including freshly prepared meals and knowledgeable, fun crews keen to share their local knowledge with you. There are plenty of on-water activities to choose from, with snorkelling being the most popular; some tours also offer scuba diving and kayaking.

Ahoy there, get ready for the experience of a lifetime!

Take a peek at what an overnight sailing adventure in The Whitsundays looks like.



YOU CAN DO AS MUCH or as little as you like while exploring the waterways of The Whitsundays. Join other travellers on an overnight crewed sailing adventure and make new friends, as well as long-lasting memories.



SET SAIL ON ADVENTURE

THE COMBINATION of a warm climate, steady breezes, clear turquoise waters, secluded coves, fringing reefs and isolated beaches is irresistible. Step onboard a yacht or catamaran and set sail for an incredible Whitsundays adventure.

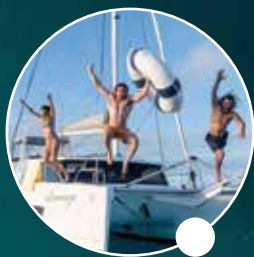
YOU ARE GUARANTEED fun, excitement, relaxation, exploration and an experience you will treasure forever and sunsets you will never forget.

BAREBOATING

Bareboating (skipper yourself) sailing is the kind of holiday that gets addictive and many travellers come back year after year, hire the same boat again and visit the 74 islands of The Whitsundays.

Firstly, bareboats really aren't bare at all – it's like hiring a houseboat. You can hire a fully equipped, and generally rather luxurious, vessel for a week or so of sailing around The Whitsundays, where you get to 'skipper yourself' and choose your own course for the duration of your holiday. Discover cascading waterfalls hidden amongst the rockfaces of the islands; be the first to leave footprints on untouched beaches each morning and enjoy paddleboards, snorkelling and fishing at your leisure.

The bareboating teams will help you plan an itinerary perfectly tailored to your needs as you carve out your own adventure amongst the islands (mostly uninhabited National Parks). With more than 40 anchorages, there is always a tranquil spot to lose yourself at night under the endless expanse of the starlit sky. You can opt for a sailing yacht or a power cruiser and you will receive a detailed and comprehensive briefing before you start.



ANYONE CAN hire a bareboat!
There is no experience or
licence required.



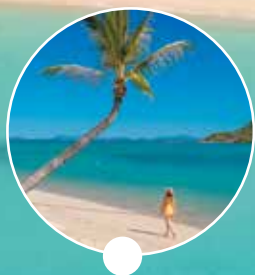
HYDEAWAY BAY, DINGO BEACH & CAPE GLOUCESTER

One of the locals' best kept secrets, Hydeaway Bay and its sister town Dingo Beach are situated at the top end of The Whitsundays, accessible by road 45 minutes north of Airlie Beach.

Quiet and secluded, these little hamlets are perfect for those seeking rest and relaxation on long, sandy beaches with hardly another soul in sight. Comprising just a handful of houses, resorts, a caravan park and pub, this is the perfect spot for getting away from it all. Pack a picnic, do a little beachcombing, and maybe cast a line off the beautiful, almost-empty beaches. Just a few kilometres on you will come to Cape Gloucester, overlooking Shag Islet and Gloucester Island. With its palm tree-lined

beaches and sparkling turquoise waters it is an idyllic tropical escape.

With endless horizons and picturesque water views dotted with islands, Hydeaway Bay and Dingo Beach are perfect for long lazy days spent wandering and exploring the calm bays by kayak or stand-up-paddle board. A well-known fishing destination, Dingo Beach boasts a tidal boat ramp and extensive parklands, as well as barbecue facilities along the beach, the perfect spot for a family get together!

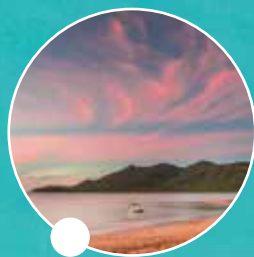


TAKE A PHOTO with the insta-famous Cape Gloucester palm tree.



THE ROAD to the tiny township of Hydeaway Bay takes you through cattle country and some of the most spectacular coastal scenery on the mainland.

SEEK
REST & RELAXATION



TIP: The sunsets from Cape Gloucester and Hydeaway Bay are epic!



CONWAY NATIONAL PARK, CEDAR CREEK FALLS & CONWAY BEACH

Take it back to basics and hike through Conway National Park, with trails to suit all fitness levels.

Some hikes within Conway National Park will take you to secluded hidden beaches, with others leading to the most beautiful ocean views, the perfect reward for putting in the hard yards. Accessible from many points on the mainland, check out our trails menu for details!

A haven of natural beauty and tranquility, Cedar Creek Falls is the perfect place for a dip in clear, fresh water. Like a well-kept secret, this spot is hidden away behind trees and rocks. Walking through the path, the trees and bushes give way to a gem of a location that now has a loyal following. Surrounded by cedar trees, a rocky wall, a cascading waterfall,

complete with sparkling water, Cedar Creek Falls is rightly named. Although this spot is beautiful all year round, it is especially vibrant after a downpour. This picturesque beauty is located 30 km from Airlie Beach or 20 km from Proserpine.

Conway Beach is located on the southern Whitsunday Coast, approximately 30 minutes' drive from Airlie Beach and Proserpine. A small hamlet, along with Wilsons Beach, Conway Beach is a popular spot for fishing and wind-powered sports such as kite surfing and land kiting. The 2 km sandy stretch of beach is situated at the mouth of the Proserpine River, an excellent location for fishing and crabbing.



WALKS

There are many beautiful places to walk in The Whitsundays with ancient flora and fauna and some unique Indigenous wildlife. Most walks are self-guided. These are just some of the many and varied walks on offer.



View the Whitsunday National Parks guide.



AIRLIE BEACH

AIRLIE CREEK TRACK | The track winds you through tranquil forest, which is home to magnificent fig trees, sub-tropical plants, beautiful native birds and ends up at scenic natural rock pools. The walk back offers views of the Coral Sea and Whitsunday Islands with leafy frames.

 1.7 km return  1 hour

BICENTENNIAL BOARDWALK | The walk stretches from Airlie Beach's lagoon through to the sands of Cannonvale Beach. It is a great choice for photographers or travellers wanting to capture some top travel snaps – particularly at sunset.

 4 km one way  1 hour

MT ROOPER CIRCUIT | Take a challenging uphill walk through woodland plant communities. Soak up the panoramic vista of the Whitsunday Passage and islands. Head downhill to join the Swamp Bay track, then turn left to return to the car park.

 5.4 km return  2.5 hours

CORAL BEACH | Enjoy a fantastic walk to Coral Beach, with glorious views across the Whitsunday Passage.

 2.2 km return  1.5 hours

HONEYEATER LOOKOUT | This rugged track is a favourite for those up for a fitness challenge, but the views out over the Coral Sea are worth every step.

 8.2 km return  3 hours

CONWAY CIRCUIT (The Great Whitsunday Walk) | This is a serious hike, and it is recommended you take 3 days and 2 nights to complete the track! Don't let this scare you though, there are plenty of short tracks deviating from the main circuit.

 27.1 km one way  8 hours  4 hours

BOWEN

CAPE EDGECUMBE TRAIL | The walking trail starts at Horseshoe Bay and includes stops at the Rotary Lookout, World War II

Radar Site Lookout, Murray's Bay, Mother Beddock Lookout and Rose Bay.

 2.5 km one way  1.5 hours

ISLANDS

HILL INLET LOOKOUT TRACK | Take an uphill wander to multiple lookouts for stunning vistas over Hill Inlet's turquoise waters and white, sweeping sands. Access the track from Hill Inlet or Tongue Bay.

 1.4 km return  40 minutes

SOUTH WHITEHAVEN BEACH LOOKOUT | This is a premier walk. You'll see Whitehaven Beach's 7 km shoreline with uninterrupted views. There's fascinating rock formations and wonderful views of the Whitsunday Island peaks and the islands dotted in a sparkling sea.

 1.4 km return (Including Headland Track)  1 hour

PASSAGE PEAK – Hamilton Island | This is a spectacular but challenging walk. Once you have negotiated the final steep section of this trail you will be rewarded with breathtaking views of The Whitsundays from the highest point on Hamilton Island, Passage Peak.

 2.7 km one way  1 hour

HASLEWOOD ISLAND | Leave Chalkies Beach behind as you walk uphill to the island's rocky headland. Passing through a natural gully of shady eucalypts and grasses, you are rewarded with spectacular island and sea views from the lookout.

 600 m return  40 minutes

SOUTH MOLLE ISLAND | Head over to this bushwalkers' paradise with superb views over picturesque island landscapes. Pull on your boots and wander through South Molle's grassy-studded grasslands or past ancient Ngāro stone quarry relics up to Spion Kop. Start a mountain-bike adventure on 14 km of tracks catering for beginners and intermediate riders.

CARAVAN & CAMPING

Whether you're seeking a completely back to nature camping experience, a beachfront caravan park or lakeside living in the Proserpine hinterland, The Whitsundays has a range of camping and caravanning options.





MAINLAND

If you're travelling in your van, or simply just want to stay on the mainland, there are plenty of caravan parks equipped with powered, unpowered sites and all the facilities you could dream of!

Experience beachfront camping in Bowen, the Heart of Secluded Beaches, or experience the serenity of Lake Proserpine (aka Peter Faust Dam); watch the sunset over the lake and listen to the mountains come alive, observe the cattle grazing and cast a line to try your hand at landing the metre Barra! If you would like to extend your stay and relax lakeside, take advantage of the upgraded recreational facilities, including toilet blocks and shower amenities. Visitors can stay for up to seven nights, a small camping fee will apply.

ISLANDS

Camping in The Whitsundays is a very special back-to-nature experience. With rugged natural beauty, stunning views at every turn and an abundance of wildlife, you will feel rejuvenated, relaxed and at one with your surroundings. You can snorkel and swim from the beach at the campsites and also explore the many trails that zig-zag across the islands.

The island campgrounds are accessible from Airlie Beach, Shute Harbour and Hamilton Island, some transfer companies can even drop you off and hire out all of your camping equipment! Facilities vary and are limited to toilets and/or picnic tables. Campers must be self-sufficient. Remember to take fresh water, a fuel stove for cooking and insect repellent. Open fires and generators are not permitted and please remember to take your rubbish home with you. Visitor numbers are limited to ensure a quality experience. Be sure to book your campsite and purchase your camping permit in advance of travel and display your camping permit tag prominently on your tent!

Some popular campsites around The Whitsundays include Whitehaven Beach, Cairn Beach, Joe's Beach and Nari's Beach on Whitsunday Island, as well as Paddle Bay and Sandy Bay on South Molle Island.

Plus, from June to September, The Whitsundays are an important calving ground for migrating humpback whales, resulting in regular sightings, so keep your eyes peeled!



BEACHES

SYMBOLS



BBQ



PLAYGROUND



BEACH
ACTIVITIES



SWIMMING
ENCLOSURE



BOAT RAMP*



TOILET
FACILITIES



DOG FRIENDLY

***Some boat ramps are tidal,
be sure to do your research
before launching your vessel**

AIRLIE BEACH

AIRLIE BEACH
(Airlie foreshore)



BOATHAVEN BEACH



CANNONVALE BEACH



SHINGLEY BEACH

**CONWAY**

CONWAY BEACH



WILSON BEACH

**HYDEAWAY BAY**

DINGO BEACH



HYDEAWAY BAY



CAPE GLOUCESTER

**BOWEN**

GREYS BAY



HORSESHOE BAY



KINGS BEACH



MURRAY'S BAY



QUEENS BEACH



ROSE BAY



FORESHORE BEACH



CORAL BAY

(aka Bowen's Nude Beach!)

No facilities here! Just the perfect place to be one with nature.

ISLANDS

**CATSEYE BEACH,
HAMILTON ISLAND**



**HAYMAN BEACH,
HAYMAN ISLAND**



WEDDINGS

The Whitsundays is
the Heart of Romance!

With 74 tropical islands set amongst the turquoise waters of the Coral Sea, a reef shaped like a heart and a beach as white as any wedding dress, The Whitsundays is truly the Wedding Heart of Australia.

Couples from around the world descend on The Whitsundays for their special day. With about 1,500 weddings taking place in the region annually, The Whitsundays has an excellent choice of ceremony and reception venues in addition to professional wedding suppliers. However, the fun doesn't stop at the reception; The Whitsundays also offers a variety of options for hens and bucks nights, pre and post-wedding celebrations and honeymoons. Imagine chartering your own boat, just the two of you sailing around the pristine 74 island wonders or lounging poolside at an incredible adults only resort basking in the sun celebrating the beginning of your life together.

SO MUCH CHOICE

The Whitsundays offers every kind of wedding, from 'barefoot on the beach', to timeless and magical in the outback or incredible, opulent luxury. Whether it

is just you and your betrothed eloping or an event with all your family and friends, The Whitsundays can offer the right venue and accommodation.

Catering is also taken care of with wedding venues and caterers making the most of the fresh local produce and wild-caught seafood in which the region abounds. And while you might think that getting married away from home could be a chore, think again! The Whitsundays has dozens of professional wedding suppliers, including celebrants, cake-makers, photographers and chauffeurs ready to make your dream wedding come true.

From the incredible backdrop of the Great Barrier Reef with views stretching out to the horizon, a rural wedding with rustic charm, or heading out to the Whitsunday Coast hinterland where the flowering cane paddocks set the scene as the sun sets.

Whatever your wedding theme, your guests will be elated in all that The Whitsundays has to offer, with most guests staying longer to enjoy the beaches, islands, bush and so much more!





LUXURY

The Whitsundays has welcomed a boom in luxurious accommodations, experiences and restaurants, making The Whitsundays the Heart of Luxury.



The luxury accommodation offering in The Whitsundays has never been better, with so many new and improved resorts opening their doors. The Whitsundays is home to a number of high-end luxurious resorts, to name a few, Elysian Retreat, qualia on Hamilton Island and InterContinental Hayman Island Resort. The mainland also offers a number of 5-star accommodations, including full-service hotels, luxury holiday homes and self-catering resorts, and you also have the option of having your whole holiday catered for with your own private chef.

In The Whitsundays, luxury is not limited to dry land, here you can charter award-winning opulent power cruisers, offering the ultimate in comfort, design and performance. Whatever experience

you desire, you won't be able to fault The Whitsundays, which time and time again delivers first-class luxury to all visitors.

A holiday in The Whitsundays is more than just a place to stay. It will leave you feeling refreshed and offers exceptional service, extra touches and amenities, incredible views and once in a lifetime experiences.



For more information on luxury options in The Whitsundays scan here.

DINING

The Whitsundays is a hub for the freshest produce and seafood in Queensland. Chefs all over the region are making the most of this through innovative menus designed to suit the tropical lifestyle.



The dining in Airlie Beach has exploded in recent years, with a variety of restaurants, bars, cafés and grills providing innovative menus designed to suit the tropical lifestyle, offering up delicious cuisine to satisfy the most sophisticated (or fussy) tastebuds, including divine seafood and cosmopolitan dinners.

The Whitsundays grows enough fruit and vegetables to feed Queensland, with a lot of its produce gracing plates across the globe, then there is the fresh-caught local seafood from the Coral Sea, right on our doorstep and the cattle reared across our inland farms. The quaint town of Bowen is famously known as the 'Food Bowl' of North Queensland thanks to the area's array of fresh produce grown locally. From melons to capsicums, beans and tomatoes, and of course the renowned Bowen Mango, grown right here in The Whitsundays!

When it comes to satisfying those hunger pains, The Whitsundays has something for everyone. Every kind of cuisine is on offer with many eateries choosing to blend cultures and tastes together in one menu. From simple fish and chips on the beach, to a delectable 'degustation' tasting menu or a

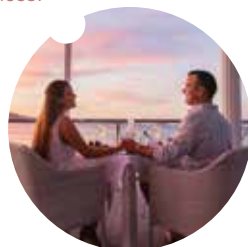
counter meal at one of the friendly pubs in Collinsville or Proserpine, The Whitsundays has every kind of dining experience on offer, including plenty of children's options.

Can't decide where to eat and want to fully experience the Airlie Beach atmosphere? Indulge in a mouth-watering progressive dinner on the back of your very own Tuk Tuk, with every stop a surprise!



For a list of restaurants and cafés and their phone numbers, please see page 82 in the Directory at the rear of the Visitor Guide, or head to our website.

Don't forget to hashtag **#lovewhitsundays** and **#restaurantaustralia** to share your Whitsundays food experiences!



ENJOY LOCAL NIGHTLIFE

NIGHTLIFE

When the sun goes down, this is when Airlie Beach really comes to life. Enjoy counter meals and great deals at the main street restaurants and bars. Sing and dance to live music and party the night away on Airlie's famous nightclub strip.

Airlie Beach is the heart of live music; musos travel from far and wide to play in the main street's iconic venues.



SHOPPING

The Whitsundays has a great variety of interesting shops on offer, with many individually owned stores having their own distinct style, as well as colourful markets around the region.

Jewellery, homewares, artworks and Indigenous artifacts are all to be found by the curious shopper, as well as fashions, food and fun things for the kids. Not surprisingly, the main street of Airlie Beach is dotted with souvenir shops with colourful

swimwear, sarongs, sandals and sunhats swinging from rails on the footpath. For a unique experience, check out Proserpine's lanes and alleyways with their striking 'Art Deco' shopfronts. Don't forget to check out the great boutique offerings in Bowen too.

Some of the island resorts also offer retail therapy with leisurewear, bags, shoes and swimmers on offer to give your holiday some zing!



MARKETS

Markets are a highlight of holidaying in The Whitsundays with brightly coloured clothing, jewellery, bags and sarongs glinting in the sunshine. The smell of fresh produce mingles with the aroma of coffee, as locals and holidaymakers ponder over bric-a-brac, books, paintings and homemade crafts.



MARKETS IN THE WHITSUNDAYS



SATURDAY MORNING
Airlie Beach Foreshore



SUNDAY MORNING
Hansen Park, Bowen

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability and environmental education is very important to The Whitsundays. There are a number of initiatives in place throughout The Whitsundays with a focus on the protection of our beautiful surrounds. Tourism operators here are leaders in the field and are always striving to improve their practices. They offer various ways for their guests to ensure their tours are low impact and in the best interests of our local environment.

THE WHITSUNDAY CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATION HUB

The Whitsunday Climate Change Innovation Hub is an initiative of the Whitsunday Regional Council and is the only one of its kind in the country. The main focus is to develop innovative, practical solutions to help the Whitsunday region manage the impacts of climate change, both present and future. In doing so, the Hub acts as a 'Think Tank' to gather and share knowledge with the community to build resilience in our region, throughout Australia and across the globe. The Climate Hub is leading climate change mitigation in The Whitsundays including working with our tourism sector to decarbonise and make The Whitsundays the 'Healthy Heart of the Reef'.



Scan here to learn more about The Climate Hub.

WHITSUNDAYS REEF RESTORATION

Since its inception in 2018, the Whitsundays Reef Restoration Project has undertaken the planting of coral fragments around the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park at popular dive and snorkel sights, Blue Pearl Bay, Hayman Island and Manta Ray Bay, Hook Island. As part of the project, coral fragments have been propagated in coral nurseries before being transplanted onto the reef.

The project has seen 2,443 corals propagated, a 68.3% survival rate after six months on the reef, an increase in abundance of fish by 20% and 123 citizen scientists trained in reef restoration techniques.

The Whitsundays is also proud to have a number of Master Reef Guides in the region and is home to Eco Barge Clean Seas, which since its establishment in 2009 has removed 232,555 kilograms of marine debris/litter from the Whitsunday region.



For more information on sustainability initiatives in The Whitsundays scan here.



FISHING

With its 74 tropical islands, saltwater creeks and estuaries, rivers and a freshwater lake at Proserpine, The Whitsundays really is a versatile fishing destination and is well known among top anglers.

The quality fishing and stunning scenery combine to create a truly special experience. The varied habitats are home to so many species of fish, from big bream in the estuaries to giant trevally in the deep blue.

The sports fishing on offer rivals anywhere in Australia. The reef fishing is also first class, and you'll often catch an assortment of species including coral trout, grassy sweet lip emperor and tusk fish. There are many reputable fishing charter companies in The Whitsundays and they will be able to take you to the best spots given the weather and

tides on the day. If going it alone, make sure you get a GBRMPA zoning map to check where you can and can't fish; receiving a fine would really dampen the holiday spirits! You can also download the Eye on the Reef app, so you always have the zoning map with you.

Lake Proserpine (also known as Peter Faust Dam), 20 km north-west of Proserpine, is well known for its impoundment barramundi, a style of fishing that has become very popular in recent years. But be patient as the iconic barramundi can prove elusive but very worthwhile when you catch one!



GOLF

With a variety of courses, all offering very different experiences and stunning scenery, The Whitsundays is a golfer's paradise!



AIRLIE BEACH/CANNONVALE

When holidaying in Airlie Beach or Cannonvale and you feel like brushing up on your golf skills, make sure to check out the region's newest golf course and driving range. Whitsunday Green is an enjoyable par 3, 18-hole course. Par 3 courses are perfect for first-time golfers, birthday parties, kids or even seasoned golfers looking to improve their short game. With the longest hole measuring 90 metres, anyone can enjoy a round at Whitsunday Green and finish with a meal at the nearby clubhouse.

BOWEN

At the northern end of The Whitsundays is the beachside Bowen Golf Club. This par 70, 9-hole, 18 tee, links style course makes full use of its prime real estate and offers an equally accessible yet challenging test for all levels of golfer.

HAMILTON ISLAND

The par 71 Hamilton Island Golf Course is the only 18-hole course in Australia on its own island! Designed by five-time British Open winner Peter Thomson, the course is strung along the spectacular ridges and steep valleys of Dent Island. It boasts a variety of obstacles for those willing to take on the challenge. The course is a 'must-do' for both novice and professional golfers and offers spectacular views of the surrounding Whitsunday Islands and Coral Sea.

PROSERPINE AND COLLINSVILLE

Moving away from the coast, golfers are treated to great country style courses at Proserpine and Collinsville. Proserpine Golf Club is a picturesque 18-hole course, nestled between the town and the surrounding sugar cane fields. Further west is the outback oasis of the Collinsville Golf Club. This 9-hole course is volunteer run and set amongst a friendly, bush setting.



HISTORY & HERITAGE

The Whitsundays has a rich history dating back millions of years, with the 74 islands formed when rising sea levels drowned a mainland mountain range.

The Ngaro Aboriginal people, also known as the 'Canoe People' or 'Island People', are one of the earliest recorded Indigenous groups in Australia and were seen by Captain James Cook while exploring the Whitsunday Passage. The Ngaro people lived throughout the island chain with the neighbouring tribe Gia inhabiting the coastal mainland and Juru towards Bowen. Rock art and middens at Hook Island's Nara Inlet provide a record of their special way of life and there is also an ancient Ngaro stone quarry on South Molle Island where tools were made.

Named after the goddess of fertility, 'Proserpina' the Latin name for the Greek goddess Persephone, is the township of Proserpine, which sits on Gia country. Proserpine dates back to 1861 when land was taken up at Proserpine Station by the first settler, Daniel Emmerson. In 1872-73 work-hungry people from all over the world arrived to set up cattle stations. In the 1880s, more settlers arrived to grow and harvest sugar cane in the naturally fertile basin. Proserpine Central Mill opened the present Sugar Mill in 1897 which stands in the middle of town and processes about 1.5 million tonnes of sugar cane each year.

Established in 1861, Bowen is North Queensland's oldest town and was even earmarked to be the 'capital of the north' in the 1860s. Bowen's traditional owners are the Juru tribe. Salt, beef and coal were all

exported from the Bowen Jetty, on Front Beach, which turned 150 years old in 2017. The rich culture and history of the town are evident at every turn in Bowen, which is famous for its historic murals on the walls of shops and pubs, and also its Catalina museum celebrating the brave pilots who used Bowen as a base in World War II. The Summergarden Theatre, dating back to 1948, is also worth a visit.

Collinsville and its surrounds are rich in mining history and home to many charismatic old pubs, including the heritage-listed Bowen River Hotel; these establishments are great for getting to know the locals and having a few yarns over a counter lunch. In 1912 the Bowen River Coal Prospecting Syndicate was formed to mine coal in the area. In 1917 construction of a railway from the coast to the coalfields began. By 1919 coal was being extracted from an area which, at the time, was known as 'Moongunya' – thought to be the local Aboriginal word for coal. The underground mine was operational from 1919 until the 1960s; this mine is now known as Collinsville's No. 1 Mine and is available for tours.

MUSEUMS IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

BOWEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

22 Gordon Street, Bowen

P 07 4786 2035

COLLINSVILLE, SCOTTVILLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Other times can be arranged
if volunteers are available*

Collinsville Community Hub
81 Garrick Street, Collinsville

PROSERPINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

OPEN MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Other times available for groups
of 10 or more by appointment*

198 Main Street, Proserpine

P 07 4945 3969



THE COALFACE EXPERIENCE, COLLINSVILLE

OPEN EVERY DAY

7:00 am – 7:00 pm

*Tickets can be purchased
from the Workers Club Bar*

Situated above the Collinsville Workers Club
17-19 Railway Street, Collinsville

P 07 4785 5452

DRIVE ITINERARIES

BEHIND THE WHEEL OF DISCOVERY

Our curated selection of drive itineraries
definitely won't give you car cabin fever!

Here you are guaranteed an unforgettable Whitsundays holiday experience. Whether you're looking to travel from one of the east coast capital cities or would like a little more inspiration on short drives within The Whitsundays we've got you covered!

A mosaic of blue water stretches from the coast, punctuated by beautiful islands. Inland you will find a tapestry of landscapes from the fields of sugar cane and ancient volcanic mountains to lush rainforests and cascading waterfalls – nature lovers will find an endless source of beauty at their disposal.

You'll find quintessential small towns full of character and charm, where you will feel the genuine warm smiles from locals. Start your adventure in the outback landscapes of Collinsville before travelling toward the produce-rich farmlands of Bowen, experience the beauty of endless cane fields in Proserpine and end your time exploring the tropical hills of Airlie Beach and the sun-kissed shores of the islands.

With fertile soils, passionate artisans and gifted chefs, there is no way that you'll go hungry on this trip. Markets are full of local produce nurtured by the Whitsunday sun and unique cafés and restaurants offer menus that pay homage to seasonal goodies taken from pasture to plate.

Let's hit the road.



Scan here for
drive itineraries.



MACKAY

Located just south of The Whitsundays, the Mackay Region is home to a variety of different tourism offerings.

From Rainforest to Reef and to kangaroos on the beach, the Mackay Region offers unique experiences that will help you make unforgettable memories.

You will find yourself amazed as you see nature come alive; with trees so old, they make houses of their own in the Eungella Rainforest and the reclusive but regal platypus swimming in the Broken River, you'll have so many places to enjoy nature at its best. You can even cool off in the majestic cascading waterfalls of the Finch Hatton Gorge.

Watch the sunrise over the beautiful beach at Cape Hillsborough and make once in a lifetime memories as you see kangaroos and wallabies head to the beach early in the morning. Follow this iconic moment up by walking to Wedge Island off the coast. Follow

the ancient volcanic peaks from Wedge Island all the way through to the heart of the Isaac Region, home to the breathtaking Lord's Table Mountain and the rest of the Gemini Peaks.

On your way back, relax and unwind at one of the 31 beaches on the Mackay Region coastline, if you're lucky, you might even see a whale or two migrating. You could also relax by enjoying Australia's premier fishing destination and target a wide range of species. From freshwater impoundments to offshore reefs and one of only three net-free fish zones in Queensland, the Mackay Region has everything to satisfy the angler in you.

So, what are you waiting for? Escape the crowds, experience nature at its finest and make unforgettable memories in the Mackay Region.





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Guide to Symbols

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Sailing Whitsundays

Leading local travel agency that offers luxury catamarans, overnight sails, day tours and unforgettable moments. Exploring the Whitsunday Islands has never been so seamless and simple!



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Skydive Airlie Beach

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Hamilton Island Air

We offer guests an exciting and unique way to experience the beauty of The Whitsundays, including the islands, the Great Barrier Reef and Whitehaven Beach by aeroplane, helicopter or seaplane.

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Take a fun and fascinating tour around Airlie Beach – we will show you the Secrets of Airlie. Half hour or hour tours available. Or book a Progressive Dinner that takes you to 3 of Airlie's best restaurants so you can enjoy the local cuisine and entertainment.

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Whitsunday Crocodile Safari

See crocodiles in the wild in The Whitsundays. Expert guides take you on a nature daytrip into local wetlands and estuaries to experience native Australian wildlife. Calm water cruise, wetland tour and BBQ lunch.



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Whitsunday Segway Tours

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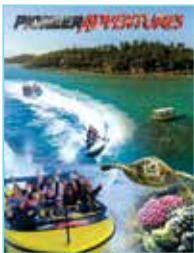


Thundercat

Thundercat offers an exhilarating ride around the Whitsunday Islands all in one day. The 2017 & 2018 national multi award winning tour visits the world-famous Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet lookout and offers 2 snorkelling opportunities on the fringing Great Barrier Reef. Thundercat is one of the fastest catamarans in The Whitsundays and has been designed for stability and speed so it's perfect for passengers who are concerned about seasickness.

The all-inclusive package departs from Airlie Beach and is suitable for families, couples and groups wanting to experience once in a lifetime moments.

350 Shute Harbour Road, Airlie Beach
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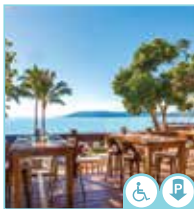
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