



The Whitsundays

THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

In the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef lies The Whitsundays, 74 island wonders in the warm tropical waters of the Coral Sea. Swim with thousands of brightly coloured fish and brilliant corals while snorkelling or scuba diving, and witness diverse marine life including humpback whales, dolphins, turtles and dugongs.

The Whitsundays offers some of the world's best sailing, charter a boat and sail yourself or board a tallship and cruise the islands, all the while enjoying the beautiful sunsets and relaxing waters of the Whitsunday Islands. Or if you prefer something more adventurous, join a jet ski or boat tour and skim across the water in style, or soar above and experience the magic of The Whitsundays from up high.

Sink your toes into the white silica sands of famous Whitehaven Beach, regularly voted one of the world's best beaches. Spend the day on the beach or explore the breathtaking beauty of Hill Inlet, a stunning cove where the tide shifts the sand and water to create a swirling fusion of turquoise colours.

Soak up the tropical, laid-back lifestyle, laze on one of the many uncrowded beaches, relax with a sunset cocktail and let your everyday stresses melt away. Explore the endless natural landscapes, soak up the sun and after a great day, indulge in fresh local seafood at one of the many al-fresco restaurants.

You'll find every kind of beauty, adventure and luxury here in The Whitsundays, the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

WELCOME TO THE WHITSUNDAYS



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We invite you to share your Whitsundays experiences on social media:

Twitter: @WhitsundaysQLD

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WhitsundaysQLD

Instagram: @WhitsundaysQLD

Official Whitsundays hashtag #lovewhitsundays

Official Queensland hashtag #thisisqueensland

Tourism Australia's official hashtag #seeaustralia

Hashtag for amazing foodie experiences #restaurationaustralia

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

Morning	Arrive into Hamilton Island Airport (HTI) Transfer to an island resort by either ferry services or a short scenic flight on a seaplane or helicopter.
Island Resort Accommodation	Choose between one of our diverse island paradise resorts. Each island offers an experience for everyone from a fun -filled, adventure-packed family holiday to a luxurious romantic escape for two. The resort islands to choose from are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Daydream Island Resort and Living Reef✓ Hamilton Island✓ Intercontinental Hayman Island Resort✓ Palm Bay Resort, Long Island✓ Elysian Retreat, Long Island✓ Whitsunday Apartments Hamilton Island✓ Camp Island Lodge <p>Check into your accommodation and spend the afternoon exploring the island and all it has to offer.</p>
Overnight Accommodation	Island Resort

DAY 2

Experience the Great Barrier Reef	The world's largest living structure and the only living structure visible from outer space. Stretching over 2,300km, The Whitsundays lies in the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef with easy access from anywhere within the region. The Great Barrier Reef can be experienced from every angle - underwater, above water and in the air. <p>Popular ways to experience the Great Barrier Reef:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Day Cruise - snorkelling & scuba diving✓ Overnight sailing tour - sailing, snorkelling and diving (Airlie Beach departures only)✓ Sleep under the stars on a pontoon deck or Australia's first underwater accommodation✓ Skipper yourself on a bareboat✓ Scenic flight and tour in a helicopter, light aircraft or seaplane. <p>Bookable from anywhere within the region.</p>
Overnight Accommodation	Island Resort

DAY 3

Morning	Depart island resort and transfer to Airlie Beach. Ferry Transfer or by air – Helicopter, light aircraft or seaplane.
Half Day & Full Day Trip	Sink your toes into the white silica sands of famous Whitehaven Beach, regularly voted one of the world’s best beaches. There are two different locations that are featured in tour inclusions and it’s important to note that not all tours go to both locations. The 7kms stretch of beach is referred to as Whitehaven Beach and the lookout with the tidal swirling sands is referred to as Hill Inlet Lookout.
Whitehaven Beach & Hill Inlet Lookout	Popular ways to experience Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Day cruise/sailing tours✓ Helicopter & Seaplane Tours✓ Overnight sailing trips
Dining options	Airlie Beach is a resort town in its own right, head to the main strip to enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants, a sunset cocktail or live music at one of the bars or restaurants. If you want to party the night away, head to one of the nightclubs.
Overnight Accommodation	Airlie Beach, Whitsunday Coast *Airlie Beach is the launchpad to the Whitsunday Islands and Great Barrier Reef, it offers a diverse range of accommodation. From youth and adventure, family and luxury accommodation to suit any budget.



DAY 4

Experience Heart Reef

*Weather dependent

Heart Reef is one of the jewels in The Whitsundays crown, it is a coral structure in a perfect heart shape located at Hardy Reef in the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy a scenic fly over of this incredible natural wonder, some scenic flights even include the opportunity to fly over Whitehaven Beach/Hill Inlet where you can land on the beach in style!

You can experience Heart reef by:

- ✓ Helicopter Tour
- ✓ Seaplane Tour
- ✓ Fixed wing aircraft - scenic flight
- ✓ Journey to the Heart Tour - Relax in style on the spectacular Heart Island Pontoon and a once in a lifetime boat ride around the famous Heart Reef

Experience the adventurous side of Airlie Beach

Soak up the vibrant and social atmosphere of Airlie Beach with a diverse range of activities to bring a little adventure to your trip.

Experiences from Airlie Beach:

- ✓ Explore the estuaries and wetlands in Proserpine River – discover crocodiles in their natural habitat through a very unique Australian nature experience.
- ✓ Take a bushwalk through the spectacular Conway National Park rainforest along the Whitsunday Great Walk. Guided tours and Segway tours are also available.
- ✓ Spend an action-packed day going on a jetski adventure or a jetboat ride to explore the waters of Airlie Beach.
- ✓ Take a scenic drive to Bowen & create your own tropical foodie experience. Whether you are after the famous Bowen Mangos, fresh seafood just off the trawlers or locally grown coffee to keep you buzzing for all of the activities ahead.
- ✓ Airlie Beach is the launchpad to the Whitsunday Islands and Great Barrier Reef there are a variety of tours on offer to suit any traveller.

Overnight Accommodation

Airlie Beach, Whitsunday Coast



DAY 5 - 7

Sail around the Whitsunday Islands

Set off on a sailing adventure around the 74 Whitsunday Islands discovering the hidden secrets of one island paradise to the next with secluded coves and anchorages, fringing coral reefs and an abundance of marine life.

Choose to experience a unique opportunity to combine your accommodation with your sightseeing and sleep out in the calm and protected waters of The Whitsundays.

Sail The Whitsundays either by bareboat (skipper yourself) or one of the many crewed charter options. Departures from 3 different Airlie Beach Marinas – Coral Sea Marina, Port of Airlie & Shute Harbour and Hamilton Island Marina.

Bareboat Experiences: - skipper yourself or hire a skipper for a private tour

- ✓ Catamarans – sail and power
- ✓ Monohull – sail and power

Crewed Sailing Experiences – Day tours and overnight tours (Airlie Beach departures only)

- ✓ Catamaran/Trimaran (sail and/or power)
- ✓ Maxi Sailing Yacht
- ✓ Tall Ship Sailing

Activities to enjoy from the sailing tours

- ✓ Snorkel off many of the islands colourful fringing reef
- ✓ Anchor at one of the secluded islands to relax on a private beach
- ✓ Get active and take one of the many bush walking tracks to be rewarded with breathtaking views of turquoise waters and majestic islands.
- ✓ Visit Nara Inlet to explore the Ngaro cultural site with the indigenous cave paintings.
- ✓ Many of the tours stop in at the world famous Hill Inlet, Whitehaven Beach to take that jaw dropping photo that looks even better in real life. You even get the chance to sink your toes into the pure white silica sand.

Each vessel provides a different experience catering for all market segments - youth & adventure, families, couples and luxury. It is important to understand the demographic of each of the vessel.
