

SELF DRIVE ITINERARIES

Short on time? Explore the Whitsundays in three days ... There is so much to see and do in the Whitsundays but with the help of this handy itinerary you can really make the most of this stunning region in just three days. So grab your car keys and go!

Day 1

START IN BEAUTIFUL BOWEN with a drive up to Flagstaff Hill for the most amazing 360 degree views. Then take a self-guided tour of the beaches – no less than eight surround the town, so you'll be spoilt for choice.

Heading south, stop in at the Bowen Information Centre for a delicious mango sorbet – and snap a selfie with the 'Big Mango'. Thirty minutes later you are in Proserpine, a small country town, big on hospitality. Have a counter lunch and a yarn with the locals in a characterful old pub.

Turn off the Bruce Highway and head to the vibrant coastal town of Airlie Beach, just 20 minutes east. Take a dip in the 'famous' Airlie Beach Lagoon before checking into your accommodation!

Day 2

NO TRIP TO THE WHITSUNDAYS is complete without a day out on the water to see the Great Barrier Reef and 74 island wonders, including the iconic natural attractions of Whitehaven Beach and Heart Reef.

For the water lovers – you can sail, snorkel and dive on the Great Barrier Reef, all in one day! You can also enjoy fast-paced watersports such as jet-skiing.

Prefer to keep your feet on the ground? Lounge around luxurious resort pools or hike on the many island walking trails that lead to hidden waterfalls and breathtaking views. On the mainland, you can also see crocodiles in the wild.

In the evening, check out the Airlie Beach dining scene, where you will find all kinds of cuisines on offer. Or grab some fish and chips and sit on the beach!

Day 3

IT'S TIME TO EXPLORE the hinterland, starting with a walk through some of the oldest rainforest in the world, just 30 minutes from Airlie Beach, along Brandy Creek Road.

Further west along Shute Harbour Road turn left into Conway Road and after about 20 minutes you arrive at Conway Beach, a beautiful windswept promontory where birds circle overhead.

Stop for a rest and bite to eat at Conway Beach. It's then time for a dip in a gorgeous, freshwater swimming hole. Cedar Creek Falls is back along the Conway Road (follow the signs) and it really is an insta-moment when you see the cascading waterfall crashing over the rocks into the water below.