AN IN DEPTH DISCOVERY OF A NATURAL WONDER

GREAT BARRIER REEF

APRIL 2018 > MARCH 2019

GREAT BARRIER REEF
> 3, 4 & 7 NIGHTS
> WEEKLY DEPARTURES YEAR ROUND
VOYAGES WITH CORAL EXPEDITIONS

SPOTLIGHT ON NATURE AND CULTURES
We believe many remarkable parts of the Australasian region are best experienced from sea. Our ships, marine staff and expedition teams are dedicated to getting you up close and personal with nature’s wonders, and the cultural diversity of our world. In contrast to traditional cruising, we avoid long sea days and try to maximise time off the ship. Our ships are owned by us and designed specifically to enhance the expedition experience. We do not charter third-party vessels or outsource any part of our marine operations. Our ships are bespoke and result in unique guest experiences.

AN AUSTRALIAN ETHOS
Coral Expeditions is unique in operating a fleet of Australian-flagged and crewed vessels. We are the longest standing operator of Australia-based passenger ships. Our on-board atmosphere respects our heritage – we are proud of our professional service and produce-driven, modern Australian cuisine. We maintain the highest standards of marine and passenger safety; we follow Australian regulatory requirements in our staffing and operations.

NO QUEUES, NO WAITING
Our ships are small enough to allow us to board and disembark much quicker than larger vessels. There is minimal waiting. Their shallow draughts allow them to get to locations larger ships cannot.

RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
We believe that tourism doesn’t have to come at a cost to the environment. We were one of the early pioneers of environmentally sensitive cruising, starting out on the Great Barrier Reef. We remain firmly committed to promoting sustainability and minimising environmental impact while sharing some of the world’s most incredible places with travellers from around the world.

INCLUSIONS
› Use of Glass Bottom Boat and Zodiac tender vessels
› Daily lectures and briefings
› Snorkelling & introductory scuba session
› All meals, chef-prepared on board
› 24 hour coffee and selection of teas
› Post-cruise transfers to CBD locations or Cairns Airport
› All entrance fees to National Parks and Ports*

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED
› Pre and post flights, accommodation & travel insurance
› Entry visas to Australia
› Alcoholic beverages
› Telephone and internet services*
› Laundry
› Scuba diving
› Stinger suits
› Seasickness medication
› Cooktown Museum entrance fee
› EMC charge (see below**)

* Please note: There is no internet access on board Coral Expeditions II
** Please be advised a Government Environmental Management charge of AUS$19.50 per person will need to be paid by all passengers on our Great Barrier Reef cruise.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
Coral Expeditions welcomes all travellers aboard our voyages. Solo travellers are made especially at home. On our Great Barrier Reef voyages, genuine single travellers can travel at the twin-share rate in a room for their sole use with no single supplement. Genuine single travellers refers to those who, whether by choice or due to circumstance, are travelling alone.
YOUR DESTINATION: THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Over thirty years ago, the founders of Coral Expeditions launched our expedition cruises on the Great Barrier Reef. With a belief in the concept of eco-cruising, and a commitment to providing a first class adventure, we have refined our expedition to highlight the most remarkable places in this World Heritage-listed area.

Sailing from our home-port of Cairns, our small-ship cruises take you to exclusive moorings, deserted coral cays, and rainforest trails. With the assistance of our Marine Biologists and trip leaders, you will gain a new appreciation of this unique ecosystem, where the rainforest meets the reef.

THE REEF: A NATURAL WONDER

The Great Barrier Reef is acknowledged as one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Over 2,900 individual reef systems and 900 islands stretch over 2,300 kilometres to create the largest living thing on earth that is visible from space.

Covering more than 347,800 square kilometres, the reef structure is created by billions of tiny organisms, called coral polyps. It supports a wide variety of life, including rainbows of reef fish, gardens of Alcyonacea, and Giant Clams.

Venturing beyond the reach of day trips, our expeditions travel north to secluded Lizard Island, and exclusive outer reef mooring sites at the Ribbon Reefs and Escape Reef. Snorkelling, diving, and glass bottom boat tours allow you to experience the colours and vibrant life of the reef in all its magnificence.

RAINFORESTED ISLANDS

The North Queensland coastline is scattered with islands, large and small, that provide the perfect compliment to the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef. Many of the islands were part of the mainland thousands of years ago, and are covered with the lush rainforest of the Wet Tropics. This is some of the most diverse rainforest in the world. Mangrove forests, fringing reefs, and wide sandy beaches are a stunning backdrop as you get to know the stories and wildlife of this incredible region.

PRESERVING THE REEF

The vibrant beauty and biodiversity that you can see in the Great Barrier Reef today masks a more sombre truth. Recently the Great Barrier Reef has been exposed to above average sea surface temperatures due to the combined effects of climate change and El Niño. Coral Expeditions launched our Great Barrier Reef expeditions to responsibly share this unique ecosystem to the world, and is committed to preservation efforts. We seek to educate and inform our guests about how best to preserve this unique natural wonder and are involved in academic research and grassroots efforts to minimise our impact as a small-scale tourism operator. As a certified member of Ecotourism Australia, we work closely with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority who have granted us access to exclusive moorings and share insights on industry best practices. While there are hopeful recent signs of coral regeneration, it is our mission to continue the legacy of respectful stewardship of the Great Barrier Reef for decades to come. We encourage you to visit our webpage for more information:


1. Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas), 2. Orange Clownfish (Amphiprion percula) in a Sea Anemone (Heteractis Magnifica), 3. Pale-lined tropical rock crab (Grapsus albolineatus)
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

› Sunset canapes and champagne on the remote beaches of Lizard Island or Sudbury Cay
› Hike up Cook’s Look on Lizard Island and take in the bird’s-eye view over the northern reef
› Snorkelling and diving over the coral gardens of the remote outer Ribbon Reefs
› Visit stunning Fitzroy Island and the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
› Enjoy a glass-bottom boat tour through the mangroves of the Hinchinbrook Channel
› Experience the rainforest ecosystem with a guided walk on Dunk Island
› Learn about the history, culture, and wildlife of the region
› Get up a close up view of marine wildlife with our resident Marine Biologist

SNORKELLING & SCUBA

The opportunity to snorkel and scuba dive over spectacular coral gardens and come face to face with brightly coloured tropical fish is a highlight of our Great Barrier Reef cruises. You will snorkel over magical fringing reefs and discover the rarely visited Ribbon Reefs. Beginners can join guided snorkelling tours or introductory and resort-style dives, while more experienced divers are able to participate in more challenging dives. Our qualified Dive Instructor accompanies you every step of the way. Snorkelling equipment will be assigned to each guest at the commencement of the cruise, and the introductory scuba skills session is complimentary. Scuba diving is subject to medical clearance.

ITINERARY 3 NIGHTS - CAIRNS > HINCHINBROOK > CAIRNS

DAY 1: CAIRNS - SUDBURY CAY
Board at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 10:00am, and cruise Trinity Bay. Visit Sudbury Reef and partake in snorkelling, glass bottom boat tours, and optional Scuba diving. Finish the day with sunset drinks ashore on the sandy cay.

DAY 2: HINCHINBROOK CHANNEL AND DUNK ISLAND
Cruise the majestic Hinchinbrook Channel whilst enjoying a top deck breakfast in the sunshine. Look for saltwater crocodiles and dugongs during a mangrove tour. Stretch your legs on Dunk Island, with a hike up Mt Kootaloo or a beach walk: with the aid of our guides you may spot the electric blue Ulysses butterfly.

DAY 3: NATHAN AND COATES REEF
Discover Nathan Reef on a guided snorkel: this reef is teeming with abundant fish life, including clownfish and Maori Wrasse. Later visit colourful Coates Reef - see plate corals and parrotfish during an optional SCUBA dive, or stay dry and view marine life from the comfort of the Glass Bottom Boat, with expert interpretation by your on board marine biologist.

DAY 4: FITZROY ISLAND - CAIRNS
Enjoy a rainforest walk or a hike to the lighthouse. Snorkel over fringing reef and swim with Green Sea Turtles, before learning all about them during a visit to the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre. Return to Cairns to disembark at 1:30pm.

ITINERARY 4 NIGHTS - CAIRNS > LIZARD ISLAND > CAIRNS

DAY 1: CAIRNS - COASTAL CRUISE
Board at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 4:00pm. Cruise Trinity Bay and take in the views of Double Island and Palm Cove while enjoying welcome drinks and the seafood buffet.

DAY 2: COOKTOWN
Discover historic Cooktown, with buildings dating back to the 1870s. Visit the botanic gardens and the James Cook Museum to see original artefacts from the HMB Endeavour. Enjoy an afternoon snorkel and sunset drinks at Turtle Beach on Lizard Island, and see giant trevally and tawny nurse sharks up close during an after dinner fish feed off the back deck.

DAY 3: LIZARD ISLAND AND RIBBON REEFS
Enjoy the breathtaking natural beauty of Lizard Island. Snorkel from the beach over giant clam gardens. Learn about the tragic fate of Mary Watson and join an optional hike to Cook’s Look to survey the reef. This afternoon visit the pristine Ribbon Reef #9 for snorkelling and diving.

DAY 4: RIBBON REEFS
Spend a day discovering the outer Barrier Reef, with snorkelling, diving, and marine biologist led tours of Ribbon Reef #3 and Escape Reef.

DAY 5: CAIRNS
Disembark in Cairns at 8:00am

ITINERARY 7 NIGHTS - COMBINED 3 & 4 NIGHTS

COMBINE THE 3 & 4 NIGHT CRUISES FOR A 7 NIGHT EXPEDITION

The above itineraries are indicative only - your Expedition team may alter your itinerary to make the most of weather conditions.
FARES & SAILING SCHEDULE

DEPARTURE TIMES
4 NIGHTS: Boarding commences on Monday at 4:00pm. Disembarks on Friday at 8:00am.
3 NIGHTS: Boarding commences on Friday at 10:00am. Disembarks on Monday at 1:30pm.

SOUTHERN REEF - 3 NIGHTS

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NORTHERN REEF - 4 NIGHTS

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COMBINED REEF - 7 NIGHTS

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Prices are per person, in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.
A classic twin-hulled expedition ship accommodating 42 passengers in 21 cabins, *Coral Expeditions II* is purpose built for exploring the reef. Her shallow draught allows snorkelling directly from the ship. Featuring a comfortable lounge and sun deck, spacious cabins, and an open bridge policy, *Coral Expeditions II* has an intimate expedition atmosphere.

**Features & Services**

- Two fully stocked cocktail bars
- Sun deck
- Glass bottom boats & kayaks
- Indoor & outdoor lounge areas
- Reference library
- Small gift shop
- Open Bridge
- All rooms serviced daily

*Coral Expeditions I will substitute during maintenance periods*

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**Food and Wine**

Cuisine is prepared fresh onboard by our chefs, and includes abundant sustainably-farmed and locally-caught seafood, complimented by a superb Australian wine selection. Dine in casual comfort in our open-seat dining room.
CAPE YORK & ARNHEM LAND

ITINERARY 11 NIGHTS BETWEEN CAIRNS & DARWIN

The below itinerary is indicative only - some variation may occur due to weather conditions or local community requirements. Inclusions for Cape York & Arnhem Land departures will vary from regular Great Barrier Reef inclusions, and there are some itinerary variations between the different vessels.

DAY 1: DEPART CAIRNS
DAY 2: LIZARD ISLAND
DAY 3: STANLEY ISLAND AND DAVIE REEF
DAY 4: FORBES AND MAGRA ISLANDS
DAY 5: CAPE YORK & THURSDAY ISLAND
DAY 6: THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA
DAY 7: GUGARI RIP (HOLE IN THE WALL) & WESSEL ISLANDS
DAY 8: ELCHO ISLAND
DAY 9: LIVERPOOL RIVER AND MANINGRIDA
DAY 10: COBOURG PENINSULA
DAY 11: BATHURST & MELVILLE ISLANDS
DAY 12: DARWIN

Prices are per person, in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST.

*Limited sole use occupancy available.

TENDER VESSELS & EXCURSIONS

Guided tours in the Glass Bottom Boat, as well as kayaks ensure an up-close experience of the Great Barrier Reef. Our marine biologists explain and interpret what you see.

With a strong focus on visiting places not often touched by tourists, our excursions are designed to promote understanding and appreciation of the local environment. Our small group size ensures that our excursions are comfortable and enjoyable, but also have minimal impact on the areas that we visit. Most activities are suitable for all fitness levels; when a higher than normal level of fitness is required for an excursion, your Expedition Leader will advise you accordingly.
OTHER EXPEDITIONS:

> THE KIMBERLEY
> TASMANIA
> SYDNEY TO HOBART
> PAPUA NEW GUINEA
> SPICE ISLANDS & RAJA AMPAT
> SEPIK RIVER

Contact us today or speak with your travel agent.

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