GREAT BARRIER REEF
DISCOVER A NATURAL WONDER

APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020

GREAT BARRIER REEF
> 3, 4 & 7 NIGHTS
> WEEKLY DEPARTURES YEAR ROUND
CAPE YORK & ARNHEM LAND
THE WORLD'S LARGEST living STRUCTURE

Explore

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has been home base for Coral Expeditions for 34 years. Stretching an area of 2600km, with over 900 islands, the Great Barrier Reef is the world’s largest living structure and is home to an abundant and thriving array of marine and birdlife species. On our 3, 4 and 7 night voyages, we explore the less visited areas of the reef to showcase this living wonder through an immersive experience that combines knowledge, nature, culture, and history.

Our excursions promote environmental appreciation and learning, and our small group size ensures that your experience is personal, with minimal impact on the environments we visit. Above and below the surface, our marine biologists and dive instructors help you learn about and connect with this special place.
Reef & Rainforest

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Covering more than 347,800 square kilometres, the Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on earth. 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.

Along the Tropical North Queensland coastline, scattered islands covered with lush rainforest provide the perfect compliment to the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef. 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.

MEET SOME OF OUR GUIDES

**John**

*Trip Director*

His love of the environment, qualifications in Marine Science, and over 10 years experience working in World Heritage National Parks including Fraser Island and the Great Barrier Reef, means that John is an expert at sharing his intimate knowledge of the region. John’s favourite time of the year is when the Humpback Whales make their migration up the coast.

**Ben Keating**

*Trip Director*

A lifelong lover of the ocean, Ben has always been drawn to being on the water. Passionate about marine conservation, he has earned degrees in science and environmental management, established a whale-watching business and gained over 7 years experience in reef interpretation and research. He is also a professional photographer who loves travel, camping, mountain biking, and football.

INCLUSIONS

› All excursions and sightseeing
› Use of Glass Bottom Boat and inflatable tender vessels
› Daily lectures and briefings
› Small-batch meals prepared by our chef
› Snorkelling and introductory scuba skills session, with equipment
› Post-cruise transfers to the Airport or CBD
› All coffee and selection of teas
› 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*

* Please note: There is no internet access on board Coral Expeditions II
** Please be advised a Government Environmental Management charge of AU$19.50 per person is to be paid onboard to visit the Great Barrier Reef.
We arrived at Rudder Reef at 2pm. Conditions were perfect, almost glass out and slight breeze, and plenty of sun. During our snorkel session, we saw many white tip reef sharks, giant clams, and two green sea turtles.

Trip Director
Marysia Pawlikowska
on the Great Barrier Reef

GREAT BARRIER REEF

Expedition 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
- Snorkel and dive over the coral gardens of the remote outer Ribbon Reefs
- Visit Fitzroy Island and the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre
- Enjoy a glass-bottom boat tour through the mangroves of the Hinchinbrook Channel
- Experience the rainforest eco-system with a guided walk at the Family Islands
- Get an up-close view of marine life 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. On our cruises we visit exclusive outer reef moorings, as well as providing snorkelling around islands. 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 and medical certificate. See our website for requirements.

“...
DAY 1: DEPART CAIRNS
Board at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 10:00am.

DAYS 1-3:
Our Great Barrier Reef itineraries are flexible, to take advantage of changing weather and reef conditions. Below is a selection of the key destinations we visit.

SUDBURY CAY
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.

HINCHINBROOK CHANNEL & FAMILY ISLANDS
Cruise the majestic Hinchinbrook Channel. Look for crocodiles and birdlife during a mangrove tour. Stretch your legs on one of the Family Islands, with a rainforest hike or a beach walk. You will learn about the rainforest eco-system and might even spot an electric blue Ulysses butterfly.

NATHAN & COATES REEF
Discover Nathan Reef on a guided snorkel: this reef is teeming with abundant fish life, including clownfish and Maori Wrasse. Visit colourful Coates Reef - see plate corals and parrotfish during a Scuba dive, or from the comfort of the glass-bottom boat, with interpretation from your on-board marine biologist.

FITZROY ISLAND
Enjoy a rainforest walk or hike to the lighthouse. Snorkel over fringing reef and swim with Green Sea Turtles, before learning all about them at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre.

DAY 4: ARRIVE CAIRNS
Return to Cairns to disembark at 1:30pm.

SAILING SCHEDULE
Coral Expeditions II
Date: Twice weekly, year-round
Departs: Cairns
Departure Day
Monday: 4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am

FARES - 3 NIGHTS SOUTHERN REEF
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FARES - 7 NIGHTS COMBINED REEF
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Prices are per person, listed in Australian Dollars (AUD) and include GST. *Limited sole use occupancy available.

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

ITINERARY: 4 NIGHTS
DAY 1: CAIRNS - COASTAL CRUISE
Board at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 4:00pm. Cruise north past Palm Cove and Double Island as the sun sets.

DAYS 1-4:
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. See giant trevally and tawny nurse sharks up close during an after-dinner fish feed off the back deck.

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.

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: ARRIVE CAIRNS
Disembark in Cairns at 8:00am.

ITINERARY: 7 NIGHTS
Combine the 3 & 4 night cruises for a complete reef experience.
Features & Services

› Two fully stocked cocktail bars
› Sun deck
› Glass bottom boats & kayaks
› Indoor & outdoor lounge areas
› Reference library
› Open Bridge
› All rooms serviced daily
Expedition Highlights

› Be immersed in the world’s oldest surviving culture in Arnhem Land
› Spend a day exploring historic Cobourg Peninsula
› Experience the history and way of life of the Tiwi people at Bathurst Island
› See Indigenous art being created at the remote art centres along the Arnhem Land coast
› Stand on the very tip of Australia at Cape York for a champagne sunrise or sunset
› Snorkel the clam gardens at Lizard Island, and coral gardens of the northern Great Barrier Reef
› Discover the renowned art, culture, and hospitality of the beautiful Torres Strait Islands

ITINERARY: 11 NIGHTS

DAY 1: DEPARTS CAIRNS OR DARWIN
DAY 2: LIZARD ISLAND
DAY 3: FLINDERS IS & DAVIE REEF
DAY 4: FORBES ISLAND
DAY 5: CAPE YORK & TORRES STRAIT
DAY 6: THE GULF OF CARPENTARIA
DAY 7: WESSEL ISLANDS
DAY 8: MANINGRIDA
DAY 9: TIWI ISLANDS
DAY 10: COBOURG PENINSULA
DAY 11: TIWI ISLANDS
DAY 12: ARRIVE DARWIN OR CAIRNS

2020 SAILING SCHEDULE

Coral Discoverer

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“The food is fabulous, but the main attraction is the itinerary and the amazing crew. Every place we anchored, we were the only ones there. The best part of the trip was the snorkelling and diving. My husband and I have logged more than eighty dives and these were the best. Abundant fish of every variety and colourful coral greet you wherever you look. The snorkelling is effortless and there’s something new in every nook and cranny.”

Guest Testimonial