

DID YOU KNOW?

- Captain Cook first sailed through the Whitsundays on the 4th of June 1770. Cook named the area after the day he sailed through, Whitsunday, the second Sunday of Easter.
- There are 74 Islands in the Whitsundays. Of the 74, only 8 are inhabited with resorts. The remaining 66 are completely deserted.
- The Whitsundays is the largest group of offshore islands in Australia.
- The Whitsundays is 70% National Park.
- Even Geologists cannot be sure where the Silica sand on Whitehaven Beach comes from although there are several unproven theories. One theory even includes a sunken volcano.
- Whitehaven Beach is classed as one of the top five beaches in the world. The fine sand particles are also great for polishing jewellery (not so great for cameras though!)
- Heart Reef off the Whitsunday coast in the Great Barrier Reef is a natural formation of coral.
- The Whitsundays are situated on the same latitude as Rio de Janeiro and Tahiti, and therefore the Whitsundays enjoys a tropical climate with daily temperatures varying little from month to month. The days are warm year round and evenings are sultry in summer but cooler in the winter, requiring only a light jacket or sweater.
- The average water temperature in the Whitsundays is 26°C.
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is the largest coral reef system in the world, covering 344,000 km² in area, is approx. 2,300 km in length and varies from 60km to 230km wide;
 - There are 2,900 reefs, 600 continental islands and 300 coral cays;
 - Only 6% of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park consists of coral reefs – the rest is made up of sea grass, mangroves, sand, algal and sponge gardens, inter-reefal communities and other habitats;
 - It is home to approx. 1,500 species of fish, 360 species of hard coral, one third of the world's soft corals, 5,000 – 8,000 species of molluscs, 400-500 species of marine algae, 600 species of echinoderm (eg. Starfish), 17 species of sea snakes, 22 species of sea birds, 13,000 dugong, 6 species of marine turtles (all listed as threatened), 30 species of cetaceans (eg. Whales and dolphins)