

In the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef

Hello valued trade partners,

Sending you some warm sunshine from the Whitsundays, which is currently experiencing 24 degrees Celsius winter days, with clear blue skies and tropical turquoise waters.

Tourism Whitsundays would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support over the past few months. Your commitment and assistance to the Whitsundays is greatly appreciated.

The Whitsundays truly shines in winter, with the region attracting humpback whales, who head north to give birth in the warm tropical waters.

Sighting these majestic mammals and their calves is a memorable, awe-inspiring experience and one that people talk about for many years afterwards.

It is possible to experience a whale encounter in the Whitsundays at any time from July through to September – some come as early as late June – and many passengers on sailing vessels and day trips have this unexpected delight while out on the water.

There is no better place than the Whitsundays to escape the winter blues!

Should you have any questions about the region or if you would like to talk to the team about future trade partnerships, then please reach out to us here at Tourism Whitsundays. We look forward to delivering an unforgettable Whitsundays experience to your clients.

Warm Whitsunday wishes,

Tourism Whitsundays Trade Team

Product Update

New Boutique Hotel + Bar & Grill coming soon to the Whitsundays - Freedom Shores + Northerlies Beach Bar & Grill

Freedom Shores has been designed to capture the natural surrounds of the beach, water and lush Whitsundays tropical forests. Be immersed in a destination like no other.

Freedom Shores® - Boutique Hotel accommodation with a twist, plus Northerlies Beach Bar and Grill® - with a view you won't want to leave.

The destination is designed for relaxed food and beverage hospitality in an amazing environment 10 minutes north

of Airlie Beach in the beautiful Whitsundays. The accommodation has 10 unique styled rooms in the shape of boats docked on a marina, with another 6 rooms within the Freedom Shores® boutique hotel itself. The Beach House provides two bedrooms with ensuite and cooking facilities, and the Jetty House has 3 bedrooms all with ensuites and cooking facilities.

Northerlies Beach Bar and Grill® menu is designed by an experienced chef with individual flair. It is available by table service in a beach front venue with verandas overlooking the water on three sides. There will also be a bar area.

*Further details to come over the next months

[Find out more](#)

New Day Spa for Mirage Whitsundays - Tranquility at Mirage

Tranquility Mirage is the newest luxury day spa in the Whitsundays. From the very moment you step inside, the aura of calmness waves over you. From the architecturally designed interior down to minimal décor, you are immediately immersed into a whole new world of relaxation.

Located in Mirage Whitsundays Resort, in Airlie Beach, Tranquility Mirage will be open on the 1st July 2017.

[Find out more](#)

Whitsunday Island resorts that are OPEN:

- Hamilton Island – OPEN
- Palm Bay Resort, Long Island – OPEN

Camping is available on a select number of islands – visitors can contact Queensland Parks & Wildlife for details and permits, and Scamper for transfers (camping equipment provided) - www.whitsundaycamping.com.au

Hamilton Island Update

Hamilton Island would like to sincerely thank all of our trade partners for their continued support. We are pleased to advise that all our Hotels (excluding qualia) are now back to operating at full capacity. qualia will be welcoming guests back from 1 July, 2017.

Hamilton Island is now focussing on preparations for Audi Hamilton Island Race Week which commences 19 August 2017. For information on all Hamilton Island events please visit: <http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au/events>

[Find out more](#)

Daydream Island increases redevelopment investment to \$65 million

Daydream Island Resort and Spa has announced that it will increase its substantial renovation investment by more than \$15 million to a total of over \$65 million as it begins finalising its refurbishment plans.

The increased investment commitment by the island's owners includes funding for a new marina.

The resort has previously announced that it is bringing forward its refurbishment plans following the closure of the resort due to the substantial damage caused in March by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

[Find out more](#)

One&Only Hayman Island Update - Important Information

Following the damage incurred to One&Only Hayman Island by Cyclone Debbie and subsequent closure of the Resort until mid-2018, One&Only and the owning company of Hayman Island, Mulpha Australia, have agreed to transition the management of the resort as of 5 June 2017. Mulpha Australia will be rebranding the Resort upon re-opening following their extensive reconstruction and redevelopment works.

[Find out more](#)

Cruise Whitsundays - New tour enhancements for Whitehaven Beach cruises

Ultimate Whitehaven now includes a NEW bushwalking tour - Whitehaven Beach Solway Circuit, Chance Bay Hike, Hill Inlet & Lookout

Whitsunday Island is abundant with bush walking trails and the full day Ultimate Whitehaven Beach tour has also been enhanced with a guided bushwalk along the Solway Passage Circuit, Chance Bay Hike, Hill Inlet & Lookout. The name says it all! The 'Ultimate' Whitehaven Day Cruise now has a new stronger focus on a nature experience.

Camira Sailing Adventure to Whitehaven Beach, includes Hill Inlet & Lookout

The Whitehaven Beach Hill Inlet & Lookout is one of the most photographed locations in the Whitsundays, due to the increased demand commencing 19 June Cruise Whitsundays have enhanced their Camira Sailing Adventure to now include this spectacular location.

- At this stage, these tour changes replace the snorkelling component, with Cruise Whitsundays' premier snorkelling experience being its Great Barrier Reef cruise.

The Reef World pontoon reopened at the end of May, following refurbishments, and Reef Sleep, where you sleep overnight on the pontoon, is due to come back online in October (following upgrades).

[Find out more](#)

New Package - Fly to Paradise

Whitsundays Sailing Adventures and Red Cat Adventures are proud to announce our new 'Fly to Paradise' package with Air Whitsundays.

The Scenic Flight includes;

"Fly to Paradise" includes 1 hour scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef, Heart Reef, Hill Inlet & Whitehaven Beach. The Air Whitsundays seaplane will arrive at Paradise Cove resort on the first day of the tour.

The flight includes:

- Seaplane scenic flight over the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Whitehaven Beach and Whitsunday Islands including Hayman Island
- Touch-and-go water landing at the Great Barrier Reef
- Comprehensive in-flight commentary
- Drop off at Paradise Cove Resort on Day 1 – (subject to weather and availability)

Booking process: - RRP - \$260 and is commissionable. All AGENTS MUST CALL Air Whitsundays to book in the flight on Day 1 of the Ride to Paradise tour. Please quote the "Fly to Paradise" package so they are aware that this is in conjunction with Ride to Paradise.

**Please contact Air Whitsundays on (07) 4946 9111 at the time if booking the tour and provide the following details of each passengers: - Contact details, weight and voucher number.

Terms and Conditions:

The Air Whitsundays seaplane will arrive at Paradise Cove resort on the first day of the tour. Please contact Air Whitsundays to book in the flight on Day 1 of the Ride to Paradise tour 07 4946 9111. Passengers will need to reconfirm their flight 48 hours before their departure time. Please quote the "Fly to Paradise" package so they are aware that this is in conjunction with Ride to Paradise. This package is subject to weather and the flight could be moved to Day 3 or alternate day that is suitable.

[Find out more](#)

Whitsundays Sailing Adventures - Sailing with the Hump Back Whales

It's that time of the year again.... Mum whale leaves Dad whale back home in Antarctica to kick back and relax, whilst she heads to the warm waters of the Whitsundays to have her baby.

The best way to see these majestic creatures is on an overnight sailing trip, Kiana is the only 3 day 2 night sailing trip that lets you dive both the Whitsunday Islands and the 'Outer' Great Barrier Reef. In peak whale season you can expect to see up to 100 whales on one of our trips.

Last year a group of lucky divers got to scuba dive with the whales, seeing nature at it's very best.

During whale season all our vessels are fortunate enough to see whales along with dolphins and other great marine creatures.

[Find out more](#)

Airlie Beach Hotel & Capers Restaurant

Airlie Beach Hotel, on the Airlie Esplanade, has been closed for repairs and refurbishments and won't be accommodating guests until after January 31, 2018. Capers on the Esplanade will open the same time as the hotel or earlier if possible. This excludes the 3.5 star motel, which will be open from mid-August 2017.

Mantra Club Croc

"As of mid-July, the newly re-opened Mantra Club Croc will be offering frequent complimentary transfer services in its newly purchased people mover to and from Abel Point Marina, the Main Street of Airlie Beach, as well as Port of Airlie, this is yet another addition to the service, offering and overall Guest Experience Mantra Club Croc is building its reputation on."

[Find out more](#)

Trade Training Tools

The Whitsundays are made up of 74 Island Wonders, on the beautiful tropical coast of Queensland, Australia. Right in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, a visit to the Whitsundays is a feast for the senses. The stunning natural landscapes of coast and islands are dotted with secluded beaches and friendly towns. The region boasts some of the

world's most iconic natural wonders with the Great Barrier Reef, Heart reef and Whitehaven Beach all accessible via a diverse range of products that provide unique ways to experience these bucket list icons.

We understand that planning trips for your clients requires a number of specific resources. Here, you'll find all the inspiration and tools you need to ensure your clients have the best Whitsundays holiday possible, including useful destination information and sample itineraries.

There is no place quite like the Whitsundays!

International Trade Training Presentation

We are pleased to offer a training presentation aimed at assisting you and your teams to increase your knowledge on the Whitsundays and our key international experiences. This presentation includes key selling points, our regions icons, island accommodation, Airlie Beach accommodation as well as sailing information and many other tips and tricks you may need to know.

What's On

The next few months in the Whitsundays will see a raft of local events taking place, from family-friendly festivals to sporting carnivals...

July 1-7 Whitsunday Creative Arts Festival, Airlie Beach

July 16-17 Airlie Beach Running Festival

July 22-23 2017 Bowen Offshore Superboats

August 3-6 Whitsunday Reef Festival

August 10-17 Airlie Beach Race Week

August 19 Great Whitsunday Fun Race

August 19-26 Audi Hamilton Island Race Week

September 2-3 Airlie Beach Triathlon

One of the region's most iconic event is the Airlie Beach Festival of Music. If you have clients interested in attending this event please email either Donna or Emma.

Airlie Beach Festival of Music

10 - 12 November

One of the biggest events in the Whitsundays calendar, the music festival features 74 bands over three days and will take place from 10-12 November 2017. Geared to an over 30s audience, escape for an entertaining weekend of quality live music and glorious days under the sun. Featuring internationally and nationally recognised musicians, headline acts include Leo Sayer (UK) Sex Pistols (UK) Baby Animals, Kate Ceberano, Sneaky Sound System, Shannon Noll, the Chantoozies, Monsters of Rock and Absolutely 80's show. The main stage sits on the magic shores of the Coral Sea and festival goers can see three main concerts and over 200 musicians performing in the many quaint bars and beachside venues around this fun-filled holiday town. Airlie Beach turns on the northern charm for a perfect party weekend in paradise.

[Find out more](#)

ATEC

We will be attending

- ATEC Inbound Up North
- Adventure Queensland Ball - in the Whitsundays
- Australia Market Place & QOT North America
- Australian Tourism Exchange

Whitsundays Tourism Exchange

Registrations are now open for the 2017 Whitsundays Tourism Exchange. Tourism Whitsundays invites product managers from major domestic wholesalers and online travel agents (OTAs) to The Whitsundays for a trade day event and famil designed to:

- Increase awareness of tourism products and experiences available in the Whitsundays;
- Introduce trade directly to suppliers of products and services available on offer in the Whitsundays;
- Grow business opportunities for Whitsunday suppliers with key Product Managers;
- Establish and strengthen travel industry relationships; and
- Increase inclusion of the Whitsundays product in the domestic distribution system.

Express your interest to Donna Thomas, Domestic Marketing Specialist - domestic@tourismwhitsundays.com.au by 9 August 2017 if you would like to participate.

Contacts



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Domestic Marketing Specialist

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What's Happening in the Whitsundays Right Now



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