

In the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef

Spring is one of the best seasons to visit the Whitsundays. Picture clear blue skies, tropical turquoise water and a temperature in the high 20's. School holidays are also just around the corner!

It's a great time to get out on the water with family and friends, you may even be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the whales that are now starting to migrate south.

Airlie Beach Hotel reopened their doors on June 1st, after undergoing a major refurbishment guests are now enjoying new modern styled rooms with brand new furniture and facilities. Denman Cellars are excited to announce that construction is almost completed on Airlie Beach's first brewery. The 1200-litre brewhouse provides eight of the 10 taps on-site with fresh, locally inspired brews. Watch this space for updates, this will be an exciting addition to the Whitsundays.

Tourism Whitsundays, along with the Australian and Queensland Governments, have joined together to create the Tourism Recovery Fund Project, a \$7M initiative to facilitate recovery, rebuild and/or create new tourism experiences and infrastructure. That will drive demand, improve quality, and increase tourism expenditure, with flow-on economic benefits across the tourism supply chain. The project has now commenced and work has started in the Whitsundays.

Product Update



Cruise Whitsundays

New product videos have now been released and can be found here.

[Find out more](#)



Discovery Parks Airlie Beach

Discovery Parks are excited to announce a committed investment into five new two bedroom superior cabins, due to be completed by December 2018.

[Find out more](#)



Hamilton Island

Hamilton Island are always innovating and making improvements to keep up with the ever growing demand, with more tourists making the way to this tropical oasis destination. Check out the recent updates below:

Conference Centre

Construction has now completed on the \$2.5 million refurbishment of the Conference Centre and is available for hire. With all new interiors as well as a new state of the art air conditioning system, we are sure conference and events guests will appreciate these improvements. Hamilton Island's Conference Centre is the largest event venue on Hamilton Island, with space for up to 700 delegates and is suitable for a wide range of business events such as large meetings, banquets, presentations, tradeshow, product launches or smaller boardroom meetings.

New Baggage Carousel

Hamilton Island are delighted to announce the reopening of their new and improved arrivals hall and baggage collection area at Hamilton Island Airport. The multi-million dollar works undertaken included the installation of two automated baggage carousels and automatic check-in counters for Holiday Homes and Reef View Hotel guests. The new layout of the arrivals hall provides a more streamline baggage collection process with greater space and flow for guest comfort.

Sport Club Renovation

After extensive renovations undertaken earlier this year to allow better movement throughout the gym, the Sports Club has recently re-opened and is looking better than ever. With a dedicated group fitness room, revamped bathroom facilities and improved weights, cycle and stretch room, both guests and residents are enjoying the upgraded facilities.

[Find out more](#)



BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort

The owners of BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort are continuing to reinvest in their multi award winning resort, with the construction of two new two bedroom premium cottages due in September and another five be completed by the end of the year, bringing the accommodation inventory to sixty self contained cabins. The demand for increased room availability follows the opening of the resort's big, huge mega waterslide park, which opened late last year to much delight of guests, both young and old. In addition to the other onsite facilities including a huge lagoon-style pool, outdoor cinema, jumping pillows, mini golf, Kid's Club and much more, BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort truly offers the ultimate Whitsunday family holiday.

[Find out more](#)



GSL Aviation & Explore Whitsundays

GSL Aviation are proud to announce the launch of their new Fly & Cruise Express package.

Fly & Cruise Express is the new 8 hour day product, a combination of a 60 minute Reef & Island Scenic Flight packaged with Sea Sprint's Express Day Trip. See the Whitsundays from above with guaranteed window seat for each passenger and then cruise the Whitsundays on board Sea Sprint's modern and comfortable vessel, Game Changer.

Fly & Cruise Premium is a continuation of the existing Fly & Cruise package with Whitsunday Bullet. Re-branding with the new Sea Sprint, Whitsunday Bullet will continue to operate their comprehensive itinerary of the Whitsundays including snorkelling, guided walk to Hill Inlet Lookout, Whitehaven Beach and stand-up paddle boarding.

Sea Spirit Premium Tour get the most out of your time in the Whitsundays on board this premium day tour. Fly, ride, beach, snorkel, paddle board and bushwalk... all in one day! If you seriously want to see all the highlights of the Whitsundays and the Great Barrier Reef, this is the way to do it.

Sea Spirit Express Tour explore the Whitsunday Islands, snorkel and visit Whitehaven Beach, all in just 6 hours! Travelling on board this comfortable and modern vessel, you'll weave through the scenic Whitsundays Islands, before stopping to snorkel amongst the fringing reef.

[Find out more](#)



Ocean Rafting

Ocean Rafting have recently added an exciting new package, Fly and Raft, where guests can experience a 60 minute scenic flight over the islands and the Great Barrier Reef, including famous Heart Reef and Whitehaven Beach, then ride and snorkel in the tropical waters on Ocean Rafting's Southern Lights or Northern Exposure tour, as well as visiting Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet.

[Find out more](#)



Queensland Rail Travel

Queensland Rail Travel will make minor changes to the Spirit of Queensland timetables in October. These changes will impact the departure and arrival times into Proserpine Railway Station as well as RailBus coach connections to Airlie Beach by 30 minutes. For travel after 15 October 2018, the updated Spirit of Queensland timetable can be viewed on Queensland Rail Travel's trade toolbox. Keep updated with the latest onboard menu and entertainment as well as showcasing some of the experiences you can enjoy with a rail holiday in Queensland. Spring Embark out now!

[Find out more](#)



Red Cat Adventures

Red Cat Adventures recently opened their new booking and reservations office in mid April in the heart of Airlie Beach. The office is best utilized by passengers to book tours, check in prior to their day tour and offers same day or overnight luggage storage.

[Find out more](#)



Whitsunday Fishing Charters

Whitsunday Fishing Charters have introduced a new vessel to their fleet, Moonshine. This boat is acclaimed as the premier game boat of its size, providing a perfect blend of sea keeping, creature comforts and fishing ability. Allow Whitsunday Fishing Charters to entertain you aboard style and luxury. Relax on tailored lounges, enjoy the timber finishes she exudes, have meals prepared for you in the galley and sit back and watch the world go by.

[Find out more](#)



Cumberland Yacht Charters

In as little as 12 months, Cumberland Charter Yachts have welcomed their second Aquila 44 power catamaran into their fleet, making them the only bareboat company in the country that holidaymakers can charter one through. This vessel features three large cabins all with ensuites, alfresco dining and flybridge provides a great entertaining area. It is certainly the next level in luxury bareboat accommodation.

[Find out more](#)



Elysian Retreat

Elysian Retreat is the newest resort due to open in mid December 2018, offering one of the most secluded island retreats in the Whitsundays. Elysian promises a blissful escape from the crowds with a small team of dedicated staff, including a private chef, to cater to a maximum of 20 guests. Allow time to slow down and immerse your senses in nature and island life. Elysian is exclusively for guests aged 16 or over.

[Find out more](#)



Ocean Dynamics

Ocean Dynamics have been awarded an exclusive contract with InterContinental Hayman Island Resort, to provide dive and motorised water sport services to the island. While guests enjoy lavish surrounds at InterContinental Hayman Island Resort, they will have the opportunity to experience the beauty and grandeur of the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands from above and below the water. Ocean Dynamics will provide an extensive selection of dive options to delight all ability levels, from introductory to advanced. Dive training courses will be available with expert instructors to bring the kaleidoscopic beauty of the Great Barrier Reef to those who have never dived before. Other tours providing unforgettable signature experiences will also be on offer, including daily tours to the turquoise swirls of Hill Inlet and the world-famous white silica sand of Whitehaven Beach. Seabob will also be available bringing a new level of fun to snorkelling; while for the adventurous; daily jet ski hire, exhilarating tube rides and thrilling water ski tours will also be on offer.

[Find out more](#)



Whitsunday Apartments Hamilton Island

Whitsunday Apartments Hamilton Island have now completed the refurbishment on all of their apartments, with new kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, light fittings and soft furnishings. As a result they are now officially rated 4 Star by Star Ratings Australia. The exterior of the resort also underwent a refurbishment with the pool area getting a complete redesign.

[Find out more](#)



Whitsunday Escape

Whitsunday Escape has some exciting new updates that they have introduced:

- The introduction of a new vessel which joined the fleet for charters from July 2018, the Leopard 40 three cabin 2018 model. The vessel can accommodate up to eight passengers, with two bathrooms, three double cabins and one forward single bunk and a saloon table which can also convert to a double bed, along with a generous amount of space for dining and entertaining.
- Fish food is now available to passengers on board all charters, one bottle will be provided complimentary to each charter boat by Whitsunday Escape and additional bottles can be purchased for a donation to the Eco Barge. This product has been recommended by the GBRMPA and allows passengers to feed marine life and interact with them safely for an incredible one on one wildlife experience.

Whitsunday Escape are excited to announce that they have joined the Last Straw Whitsundays campaign to encourage the businesses of the Whitsundays to go straw-free.

[Find out more](#)

Hemingway's Airlie Beach

Hemingway's

Hemingway's Airlie Beach have recently launched a new product in June, The Garden Bar, to complement their chef hatted restaurant experience. It encourages visitors, locals and marina guests to relax and enjoy the waterfront surroundings, and is the perfect extension of a premium Whitsunday dining experience. The Garden Bar at Hemingway's offers a range of cocktails, boutique wines and ice-cold beers alongside a new light bar menu, in a relaxed waterfront setting.

[Find out more](#)

Incase you missed it

Media Releases:

- [13th August - Bowen welcomes thousands on annual Walk to the Lighthouse](#)
- [8th August - Whitsundays Kitchen Rules! MKR stars join Airlie Beach duo to put Whitsundays food scene on the map](#)
- [6th August - Underwater artworks to become new Whitsundays tourism attraction](#)
- [27th July - Whitehaven Beach Nominated in National Search for '7 Wonders of Australia - Vote Now!](#)
- [13th July - Extra Virgin flights add 54,000 new seats from Brisbane to Whitsunday Coast \(Proserpine\) Airport](#)

What's On

Events in the Whitsundays:

- 23 September - A Night for Nate
- 20 October - 2018 Whitsunday Tourism Awards
- 9 - 11 November - Airlie Beach Festival of Music
- 10 November - Airlie Beach Festival of Music - Kasey and the Kids
- 17 November - Hamilton Island Endurance Series - Hamilton Island Triathlon

[Find out more](#)

Farewell Message from Emma Whitney

Dear Industry friends,

I would like to take the time to formally advise you that after 3 years driving the growth of the international leisure visitor for the Whitsundays region I have decided it is time to take on a new challenge. I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support, partnerships and commitment to selling the Whitsundays region. With 3 strong years of international travel trade and media activity the Whitsundays is seeing great growth across all international markets. This activity and growth wouldn't be possible without the help of you the travel trade partners and our industry stakeholders Tourism Australia and Tourism and Events Queensland. It has been a pleasure working with you all to increase the awareness and sales of the Whitsundays across the world.

My last day with Tourism Whitsundays will be on Friday the 28th September. If you would like to keep in contact you can connect with me via LinkedIn join my network.

I hope to take up an opportunity in the future that will allow me to work with you all again.

I wish you and your business all the very best for your ongoing success in the tourism industry.

Warm Whitsundays Wishes

Emma Whitney

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What's Happening in the Whitsundays Right Now



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