



INTRODUCTION TO THE WHITSUNDAYS

This unique and inspirational destination is situated in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef and is surrounded by 74 tropical islands in the calm waters of the Coral Sea, midway along Australia's Queensland coast. The region spans from the beautiful beaches of Bowen in the north, to the inland townships of Proserpine and Collinsville, and the coastal town of Airlie Beach - the jumping off point to explore the 74 islands.

Named by Cook in 1770, the Whitsundays is the largest group of offshore islands in Australia. The region's sparkling azure seas, cradled by the Great Barrier Reef, are dotted with an array of national park islands, coral cays, fringing coral reefs and stunning beaches. For a truly memorable holiday, the Whitsundays has it all, a veritable feast of indulgent experiences all within short distance of each other and the Great Barrier Reef.

By far the majority of the Whitsunday islands are designated national park, leaving them uninhabited and in their purest natural state for all to enjoy – with stunning secluded bays, fringing coral reefs teeming with life, gorgeous state forest and hundreds of species of wildlife to discover. Of the 74, we have seven island resorts offering a range of accommodation and attractions. Visitors can stay on the Whitsunday Coast or at the island resorts, both of which provide a perfect base from which to enjoy the region, and there are countless 'must do' experiences in the Whitsundays.

The Whitsundays is the ideal hub from which to enjoy all that the Great Barrier Reef has to offer. From diving and snorkeling, to a scenic flight, to sailing, you can enjoy the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands from above, below and in between. The Whitsundays is quite literally situated in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Heart Reef is a beautiful composition of coral that has naturally formed into the shape of a heart and located within Hardy Reef off the Whitsundays. The region is also home to award winning Whitehaven Beach. Pure, white, silica sand glistens along this 7km stretch of stunning beach, the jewel in the region's crown.

The Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands offer natural protection from the open ocean, making the waters of the Whitsundays some of the best sailing grounds in the world. A sailor's paradise, there are endless secluded coves and anchorages, fringing reefs and isolated beaches to enjoy.

The range of accommodation and food/wine experiences for holidaymakers to enjoy is diverse and suits all budgets. From Airlie Beach's 'eat street' the Esplanade, to five-star dining on Hamilton Island, visitors' taste buds tingle their entire holiday. Luxury resorts, hotels, motels, caravan parks and backpacker accommodation is all on offer to suit all budgets.

Day spas, rainforest walks, sailing trips, swimming, snorkeling, relaxing or exploring – the range of activities is endless and will satisfy even the most active traveler. The hardest part is deciding!

No matter what experience you desire from an island holiday, the Whitsundays has it on offer.

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