



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**THE WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS RECOGNIZED WITH
CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER'S 2016 READERS' CHOICE AWARD
"Top 20 Islands in the World"**

THE WORLD'S BEST HOTELS, RESORTS, CITIES, ISLANDS, AIRLINES, AND CRUISE LINES

October 19, 2016 – *Condé Nast Traveler* today announced the results of its 29th annual Readers' Choice Awards with The Whitsundays recognized as fourth in the "Top 20 Islands in the World" category.

With 74 islands in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, The Whitsundays is one of Australia's best-loved holiday destinations, and is renowned for sailing, beautiful beaches, iconic island resorts and exploring the Great Barrier Reef.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO, Craig Turner, believes the fourth-place ranking reflects the pristine natural beauty and diversity of the Whitsunday Islands.

"This part of the world is truly unique and has an incredible diversity of experiences, from diving on the Great Barrier Reef, to sailing around the Whitsunday Islands, to sea kayaking in the footsteps of the Ngaro people, whose history in the area spans over 9000 years," he said.

"Four of the Whitsunday Islands offer a variety of resort accommodation, all with the Great Barrier Reef and fringing coral reefs at their doorstep. Whether it be eco-style, family-friendly, activity-based or pure luxury - there is a Whitsunday Island resort experience to suit everyone."

Over **300,000** dedicated readers – nearly twice as many as last year -- cast votes for **7,394** hotels, **606** cities, **500** cruise ships, and **236** islands, in an average survey time of 8.4 minutes. The result? The **1,402** best travel experiences in the world.

The Whitsundays is home to the renowned island resorts of Hamilton Island, One&Only Hayman Island, Daydream Island Resort and Spa, and Palm Bay Resort on Long Island.

The Whitsunday Islands also boast iconic attractions like the perfectly shaped Heart Reef, which can only be seen by seaplane or helicopter in the Whitsundays, the swirling sands of Hill Inlet and world-famous Whitehaven Beach.

Flaunting seven kilometres of pristine white 98% silica sands and turquoise waters, Whitehaven Beach has been voted Australia's Best Beach for many years and is a bucket-list item for travelers all over the world.

With the majority of the Whitsunday Islands uninhabited National Park islands, all a traveler needs is a boat and sense of adventure to explore the spectacular landscape.

The *Condé Nast Traveler* Readers' Choice Awards are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition of excellence in the travel industry and are commonly known as "the best of the best of travel." Under Editor in Chief Pilar Guzmán, the Readers' Choice Awards have become more selective and specific to the passions that inspire today's travelers.

The Readers' Choice Awards are announced in the November issue of *Condé Nast Traveler*, on newsstands nationwide on October 25, 2016. The full list is published exclusively online, at www.CNTraveler.com/rca.

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About The Whitsundays

At the heart of the Great Barrier Reef on Queensland's coast in Australia, the Whitsundays is made up of 74 island wonders in the tropical waters of the Coral Sea. The Whitsundays is the perfect place to swim and snorkel, or charter a boat and cruise the islands, and witness the diversity of marine life including turtles, dolphins, countless species of fish and thousands of colourful corals. To find out more about the Whitsundays and to book your next escape, visit www.tourismwhitsundays.com.au

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About Condé Nast Traveler

As the most discerning, up-to-the-minute voice in all things travel, Condé Nast Traveler is the global citizen's bible and muse, offering both inspiration and vital intel. Condé Nast Traveler is the most trusted and celebrated name in travel with 6 National Magazine Award wins and 26 nominations in its 28-year history. Advertising

Age named Pilar Guzmán Editor of the Year in 2014 and CNTraveler.com attained 4 Webby Awards since 2015. www.cntraveler.com

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