



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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WHITSUNDAYS GEARS UP FOR A BIG 2019

As the 2019 'Places To Visit' lists start to roll in it's clear the Whitsundays is a big winner. Forbes.com published Canada's top online travel agency, Flight Network's '2019 Worlds Best Beaches' list, which listed Whitehaven Beach as the world top 2 beaches to visit. Condo Naste Traveller, the premier luxury traveling website included The Whitsundays Islands in their 19 Places to Visit in 2019. And our friends across the ditch The New Zealand Herald ranked the Whitsundays Island amongst their top 'Five Beautiful Islands To Set Sail To'.

The Whitsundays boasts home to some of the most picturesque world-renowned destinations and landmarks, such as Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet, Heart Reef and of course one of the 7 Wonders of the World, The Great Barrier Reef. This incredible region offers the best tropical holiday experiences from sailing, island hopping, snorkeling the indescribably-beautiful coral reefs, scenic walks with improved lookouts, exploring world celebrated resorts and long walks on the most incredible sandy beaches.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler said "The Whitsundays is looking forward to a very bright future. Our 2019 new product and experience forecasts are some of the most exciting we've had in recent times. It's encouraging to see important publication such as Forbes and Condo Naste including the Whitsundays in their yearly lists."

2019 is set to be a huge year for the Whitsundays, after a trying previous 18 months the Whitsundays is poised for it's big return. The much-anticipated re-opening of two of the Whitsunday Islands Daydream Island and Hayman Island after extensive refurbishments, the opening of boho-chic boutique Elysian Resort on Long Island. Our flagship Hamilton Island continues to upgrade and improve with the works to construct the new Bougainville Marquee, a new meetings and events space set to commence shortly.

Daydream Island's Director of Sales and Marketing Jayson Heron says "Daydream Island is on track and very much looking forward to opening in April 2019 after a two-year redevelopment. Guests will love the new and improved Living Reef with Education Centre and Underwater Observatory plus the expanded food and beverage offering with three new restaurants and three new bars. The revitalized pool landscape and refurbished guests' rooms will also make for the perfect Whitsunday Island holidays."

Mainland beauty Airlie Beach's food scene continues to evolve into a sophisticated dining experience, there are now two chefs' hats on the mainland. The first at Walter's Lounge Port of Airlie and at Hemingway's Restaurant Abell Point Marina. Just a little further inland our mainland diversity continues with our heritage heart of the Whitsundays is Proserpine, just a stroll down the main street will have any art deco enthusiast enthralled. Lake Proserpine is set for a huge infrastructure development in 2019 and Whitsunday Gold – Australia's largest

coffee plantation will be ready to welcome you back in the new year. The always surprising hidden gem of the Whitsundays, Bowen is home to some of the locals favourite secluded beaches and boasts the most breathtaking views of the Whitsundays from Flagstaff Hill.

The opportunities are endless for a truly memorable visit to the Whitsundays, the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. There is no better place to take a well-deserved holiday, whatever you're looking for in a holiday, on whatever budget, you'll find every kind of beauty, adventure and luxury here.

With 2019 fast approaching its clear that the Whitsundays is the place to experience.

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About Tourism Whitsundays: *Tourism Whitsundays (TW) is the organisation responsible for destination marketing and visitor attraction for the Whitsunday region. It is the lead agency recognised by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Whitsunday Regional Council to lead the promotion of the region as a tourism destination. Tourism Whitsundays markets all aspects of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and Coast, accommodation, boating and sailing, fishing, touring, recreational activities, adventure, dining, shopping, weddings and honeymoons, conferencing and business events.*

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