

The **Whitsundays**

VISITOR GUIDE 2018/19

74 ISLAND WONDERS IN THE HEART
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



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WISHLIST WHITSUNDAYS

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE-PERFECT BEAUTY OF THE WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

From secret beaches to sleeping under the stars, a once in a lifetime adventure awaits in Australia's great tropical wilderness, with the region's premier day cruise operator. Choose from a range of tailored coastal experiences: Great Barrier Reef Adventures, Reefsleeper, Camira Sailing Adventure, Whitehaven Beach Cruises, Island Escapes, and Resort Connections.



REEFSLEEPER PONTON



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CAMIRA SAILING ADVENTURE

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WHITEHAVEN BEACH, QLD

Where in the world would you rather be?

There's plenty to do during your Hamilton Island holiday, in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy a wide selection of bars and restaurants, year-round cultural and sporting events, an 18-hole championship golf course and an abundance of water sports and activities - and that's just the start. To find out more, visit hamiltonisland.com.au

Welcome TO THE WHITSUNDAYS

The wonderful Whitsundays, a place like no other...The Whitsundays is right in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef - a World Heritage-listed natural wonder that stretches 2,300 kilometres along Queensland's coast. The Whitsundays offers the best Great Barrier Reef experience you can find, with limitless options including diving, snorkelling, sailing and flying over the reef.

WHITSUNDAY INFORMATION SERVICE

07 4945 3967

info@tourismwhitsundays.com.au

www.tourismwhitsundays.com.au

Tourism Whitsundays acknowledge the traditional owners of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and Elders from other communities living in the Whitsundays today.

Tourism Whitsundays would like to thank Andrew Caitens on behalf of Hamilton Island, Cover Image - Hill Inlet, Whitsunday Island, Tourism and Events Queensland, 8 Seconds, Cherene Poidevin, Gareth McGuigan, @levicaleballan, @johmy_gaskell, @photobohemian, @jasoncharleshill, @julesingall, @caitensphoto, @nics_mindset, @_samfrith, Explore Whitsundays, Whitsunday Escape, @_markfitz, @thesailingyogi, Gabby Ritter, @alivialatimer, Salty Wings, Hamilton Island, Cumberland Yacht Charters, Alani, Derwent Hunter, @reedplummerimages, Ocean Rafting, Weddings Whitsundays, Whitsunday Jetski Tours, Hemingways Airlie Beach, Shirley Wodson and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for providing images for this production

THE WHITSUNDAYS is in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, an amazing living structure that protects the Coral Sea. The reef surrounds the 74 Whitsunday islands and mainland, creating a safe and calm aquatic playground in which visitors can swim, snorkel, dive and sail.

In addition to all this, we also have two of the most stunningly beautiful natural attractions in Australia, with Heart Reef - a natural coral reef in the shape of a heart that is only visible from the air in the Whitsundays - and world famous Whitehaven Beach, with its 7kms of dazzling white, silica sand, disappearing into the swirling turquoise waters of Hill Inlet.

The Whitsundays offers a great diversity of attractions, activities and experiences. We truly hope you enjoy this Visitor

Guide which is designed to showcase all that's on offer in this spectacular region.

We encourage you to also check out our website for more information, as well as the websites of individual tour and accommodation options.

Whether you are in the middle of planning your holiday or are here visiting us now, we hope you enjoy your time in our slice of paradise.

Natassia Wheeler

Natassia Wheeler

Chief Executive Officer | Tourism Whitsundays
Destination Marketing & Visitor Attraction



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GETTING HERE

The Whitsundays is located along Queensland's central coast in north-eastern Australia, approximately 1120kms north of Brisbane and 630kms south of Cairns. Getting here is easy, whether driving from nearby towns or travelling from the other side of the world.

BY AIR

The Whitsundays is serviced by two airports:

WHITSUNDAY COAST AIRPORT (PROSERPINE)

Approximately 30 minutes to Airlie Beach. Shuttle buses meet all flights.

GREAT BARRIER REEF AIRPORT (HAMILTON ISLAND)

If you are not staying on the island, you can take a ferry with Cruise Whitsundays to Airlie Beach and beyond or to other island resorts.

BY RAIL

Queensland Rail services link Proserpine to all the major destinations from Cairns to Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and beyond.

BY ROAD

The Bruce Highway is the major highway linking Queensland's coastal cities and towns. Major national coach operators include the Whitsundays in their regular scheduled services into the coastal communities of Airlie Beach and Bowen from all major centres along the east coast of Australia.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PROSERPINE HOSPITAL

26 – 32 Taylor St, Proserpine
T 07 4813 9400

POLICE

Bowen Police Station
25 Powell St, Bowen | T 07 4720 4555

Collinsville Police Station
Sonoma St, Collinsville | T 07 4785 5377

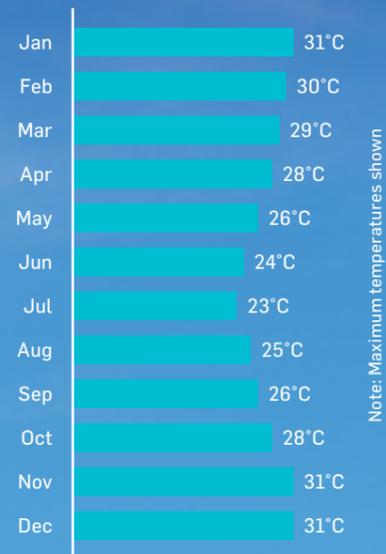
Proserpine Police Station
18 Mill St, Proserpine | T 07 4945 9666

Whitsunday Police Station
2 Altmann Ave, Cannonvale
T 07 4948 8888

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
www.tourismwhitsundays.com.au/useful-information

WEATHER

The Whitsundays enjoys a tropical climate of hot summers, warm winters and bright spring and autumn days. Water temperatures remain a welcoming 25°C most of the year.



Note: Maximum temperatures shown

DAYDREAM ISLAND



Breathe

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Following an extensive \$100 million redevelopment, the new premium resort will become a tropical haven for romantics, families and groups.

There will be an expanded food and beverage offering with three restaurants and five bars across the island, giving guests a plethora of options catering to every need. An exciting Asian Fusion restaurant will be added to the collection of dining venues to sit alongside the Buffet and Modern Australian Restaurants.

The Living Reef, will also be making its return to the island in an even bigger and better capacity than before, further developing its education and eco-friendly focus. Guests will be able to join the team of marine biologists who live on the island and feed baby stingrays who live amongst over 100 species of marine fish, coral and invertebrates such as starfish, sea cucumbers and crabs.

RESERVATIONS TOLL FREE 1800 075 040 | EMAIL reservations@daydreamisland.com

DAYDREAMISLAND.COM

GREAT BARRIER REEF

More people visit the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park from the Whitsundays than from any other destination and it's not hard to see why! You can swim, snorkel, dive, sail and fly over this natural wonder in the Whitsundays, the heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

THE WHITSUNDAYS is the ideal place to explore this World Heritage-listed attraction that is the envy of the world. It is hard not to be mesmerised by the dazzling array of corals and brightly coloured fish as you swim and snorkel on this amazing living structure.

You can choose from any number of vessels to transport you there, from romantic old timber sailing boats to fast and sleek motor cruisers and everything in between.

Or you can fly over the reef for a totally different perspective, including the most photographed reef in the world, Heart Reef, a natural heart-shaped formation that can only be seen in the Whitsundays and has stirred many a declaration of love!

However you choose to have your Great Barrier Reef experience – and you might choose more than one! – you will certainly fall in love with the heart of the reef, the Whitsundays.

Did You Know?

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK IS HOME TO:

- 1,625 species of fish
- 133 species of sharks and rays
- 3,000 species of molluscs (shells)
- 30 species of dolphins and whales
- 630 species of starfish and sea urchins
- six of the world's seven species of marine turtle
- one of the world's most important dugong populations
- one third of the world's coral species (including giant clams).



SNORKELLING & DIVING

Visitors flock to the Whitsundays to experience diving and snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef.

BE DAZZLED by the many different corals – the reef is home to one third of all known species – as you swim with a multitude of colourful fish (more than 1,500 different kinds!) and rub shoulders with green turtles and manta rays. Look out for stunning Humphead Maori Wrasse and the shy clown fish or 'Nemo', who hides in sea anemones.

Snorkelling

MOST TOURS and trips out on the water include snorkelling but check with the operator when booking as this is a 'must-do' for visitors to the Whitsundays!

The local knowledge shown by operators is excellent (don't be afraid to ask questions) and they will take you to the best spots, given the weather and tides.

Remember to wear sunscreen – even in winter – and bring a towel and a warm top for the boat ride home.

There are also many spots on the mainland with excellent fringing coral reefs, some of which are so close to the beach you can walk to them!

Diving

DIVING IN THE Whitsundays is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, whether you are a complete novice or have some time under your weight-belt.

There are several diving options, so you can choose your Whitsundays diving adventure to best suit your experience and timings.

For those serious about taking their diving further, there are certified courses available in the Whitsundays including Open Water and Advanced Open Water courses.

Underwater Sculptures

In 2019, avid snorkellers and divers will be treated to an underwater wonderland with the introduction of Queensland's first underwater art in the Whitsundays Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The underwater sculptures will provide a new experience for travellers and marine enthusiasts who will be amazed by the unique sculptures, designed by a range of renowned artists. The sculptures are the first underwater sculptures to be placed in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and are bound to be a major drawcard for tourists and locals alike.



WHITEHAVEN BEACH & HILL INLET

There are two bucket list items to tick off in the Whitsundays! Sink your toes into the white, silica sands of Whitehaven Beach and take the short walk up to the lookout and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of Hill Inlet.

Whitehaven Beach

THE SPARKLING, PRISTINE WHITEHAVEN BEACH is often voted one of the top beaches in Australia and the world.

The 7kms of pure white, silica sand stretching into the distance will take your breath away!

Whether you want to lay on the beach and soak up the stunning scenery, swim in the crystal clear water, or venture deeper into the bushland bordering the beach for a walk, Whitehaven Beach is a must-see when you are visiting the Whitsundays.

Hill Inlet

AT THE NORTHERN END of Whitehaven Beach is Hill Inlet, a stunning, swirling fusion of colours created by the sand meeting the sea as the tide comes in and out of the inlet.

Best seen from the viewing platform where the swirling pattern can be seen in its entirety, most tours to Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet also incorporate a walk along the bush trail that leads to the lookout.

Getting There

THERE IS A WIDE CHOICE of day trips to Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet including by private vessel, power boat, sailing yacht or super-fast inflatable!

Most overnight sailing trips also stop in and many self-sufficient boats are drawn to anchor along its peaceful shores.

For amazing aerial views, you might want to see Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet by seaplane, light aircraft or helicopter. Whatever you choose, you're guaranteed to bring home memories that will last a lifetime.





CREWED SAILING

Sailing in the Whitsundays is an adventure in paradise that will give you a lifetime of memories and so many insta-moments! Experience pristine islands and be invigorated by the sea air as you sail, swim, snorkel and dive in this amazing aquatic playground.



WHITSUNDAY SAILING holidays come in all shapes and sizes and you can choose between modern and sleek or the charm and grace of an old timber vessel.

Spend one, two or three nights sailing among the islands and fringing reefs with 'your tribe' or just a few people if you are seeking solitude.

There are dozens of different boats to choose from, all fully equipped with everything at your fingertips for a comfortable and relaxing holiday, including freshly prepared meals and knowledgeable, fun crews keen to share their local knowledge with you.

There are plenty of on-water activities to choose from with snorkelling being the most popular and some tours also offer scuba diving and kayaking.

BAREBOATING

There is no better way to experience the beauty of the Whitsunday Islands than onboard a boat. Why not set your own course around the stunning waters of the islands by chartering your own 'bareboat' (without a crew) – meaning you, your family and friends are the crew!

ENJOY THE FREEDOM of choosing your own route and going at your own pace as you discover cascading waterfalls on the islands and are the first to leave footprints on untouched beaches each morning. Have fun paddleboarding, scuba diving, snorkelling and fishing, all at your leisure.

The bareboat team will help you plan an itinerary perfectly tailored to your needs as you carve out your own adventure amongst the islands, mostly uninhabited National Parks. With more than 40 anchorages, there is always a tranquil spot to lose yourself at night under the endless expanse of starlit sky.

You can opt for a sailing yacht or a power cruiser and you will receive a detailed and comprehensive briefing before you start. Vessels are equipped with all the necessities for a comfortable stay. Make sure to slip, slop, slap and bring along your sense of wonderment.



THE WHITSUNDAY MAINLAND

The Whitsunday mainland is the 'stepping-off' point for the 74 Whitsunday Islands and Great Barrier Reef. It is also a holiday destination in itself with vibrant townships, stunning scenery, beautiful waterfalls and walking tracks through ancient rainforest.

Airlie Beach

WITH THE STUNNING mountainous backdrop of Conway National Park, the coastal town of Airlie Beach is vibrant and cosmopolitan with a variety of shops, cafés, bars and restaurants.

You can chill out at the renowned Airlie Beach Lagoon during the day and enjoy the famed nightlife when the sun goes down. Make sure you also sample the excellent dining options available.

Bowen

BOWEN, IN THE NORTH OF the Whitsundays, delights visitors with its gentle charm. There are eight beautiful beaches surrounding the town where you can walk, fossick, swim and snorkel, with some fringing coral reefs just metres from the beach.

The region is also known for its abundant fruit and vegetables and produce mangoes, tomatoes, corn, capsicum, melons, beans, pumpkin and limes. There is also a plentiful supply of fresh, wild-caught seafood at the marina.

Don't forget to check out the Big Mango!

Collinsville

COLLINSVILLE IS A SMALL outback town that offers a huge country welcome! Built on mining, the town celebrates this with its Coalface Experience, a fascinating look at life underground for the many miners who worked there.

Stop by the Pit Pony monument for a photo. The area is also home to heritage-listed architecture, making the beautiful history perfect for a photo opportunity.

Dingo Beach and Cape Gloucester

COMPRISING JUST A handful of houses, resort, caravan park and pub, this is the perfect spot for getting away from it all and maybe casting a line off the beautiful, almost-empty beaches.

Just a few kilometres further on you will come to Gloucester Point, overlooking Shag Islet and Green Island. With its palm tree-lined beaches and sparkling water it is an idyllic tropical escape.

Proserpine

SURROUNDED BY swaying cane fields, Proserpine is a charming town with Art Deco architecture, friendly, laid-back hospitality and an eclectic mix of original shops, each with its own look and feel.

Enjoy a counter meal with the locals at one of the characterful pubs on the main street. If you're lucky, they might take you fishing on Lake Proserpine in search of the elusive barramundi or head to the Proserpine River to see crocodiles in the wild.

The Hinterland

DELVE DEEPER into the Whitsundays and you will discover lush rainforests, walking trails, waterfalls and windswept promontories, such as the one at Conway Beach, a stunning and solitary stretch of sand where kites fly overhead.

Stop at Cedar Creek Falls, where a beautiful natural amphitheatre of bushland surrounds the crashing falls as they tumble into the pool below, providing a year-round swimming hole. You can also walk the Conway Circuit, through the Conway National Park, from Brandy Creek to Airlie Beach.





WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS

The Whitsunday Islands were formed when sea levels rose, creating 'drowned' mountains that now protrude from the Coral Sea with their distinctive emerald green vegetation and rocky outcrops.

WITH 74 'ISLAND WONDERS', it really is a paradise for sailors, scuba divers, snorkellers and swimmers...not to mention kayakers, paddleboarders, jetskiers and fishing fanatics!

Visit an island resort for some relaxing indulgence or mix it with nature and explore the many walking trails and camp overnight at a National Parks camping ground.

Hamilton Island

HAMILTON ISLAND is the largest inhabited island of the Whitsunday Islands and has its own commercial airport. There's plenty to do with a wide selection of bars and restaurants, year-round sporting events and a great variety of watersports and adrenalin activities! Most of the car-free island is covered in bushland, and the coast is fringed by coral reefs.

With six different levels of accommodation to choose from – ranging from 5-star couples' pavilions to family-friendly apartments and holiday homes – a stay on Hamilton Island offers something for everyone.

Long Island

LONG ISLAND is the closest island to the mainland, and as suggested by the name, is 9kms long while only being 400m wide at its widest point. It is mostly national park and has 13kms of walking trails to explore, with plentiful native flora and fauna.

Palm Bay Resort offers a unique holiday experience combining gorgeous balinese-style accommodation right on the beach with the convenience and affordability of self-catering. Palm Bay is a quiet paradise for visitors seeking tranquility. A place to relax, rejuvenate and escape.

Elysian Retreat – the newest resort opening in 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.

Camp Island

LOCATED 50KMS NORTH OF BOWEN and 3kms offshore, Camp Island is the Makepeace Island of the Whitsundays. With 4 bungalows and a 3 bedroom house, it offers guests a rockstar experience with exclusive use – your own private island escape.

Daydream Island

FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE \$100 million redevelopment, Daydream Island Resort is set to reopen in Autumn 2019. The island will offer 3 restaurants and 5 bars, an absolute beachfront pool, adjacent infinity pool and central lagoon-style pool with an attached kids area. The Living Reef will be bigger and better than ever before with an eco-friendly focus allowing you to get up close and personal to the inhabitants of the Great Barrier Reef.

Hayman Island

Welcome to a secluded paradise of serenity and breathtaking beauty. Surrounded by verdant cliffs, a crescent-shaped white beach and celestial-blue sea, the re-imagined InterContinental Hayman Island Resort will immerse you in a world of five-star luxury and island wonders beyond your imagination. From the moment you step off your seaplane, helicopter or luxury boat, you'll discover an idyllic destination of privacy and pampering. Diving the Great Barrier Reef, swimming in your private pool, sailing the Coral Sea, indulging in culinary artistry and personalised spa treatments are just a few of the many experiences waiting for you.

Prepare to redefine the art of luxury travel with InterContinental Hayman Island Resort. Opening mid-2019.

Camping on the islands

WITH SECLUDED BEACHES, fringing coral reefs and distinctive hoop pines and 'dry' rainforest, the Whitsunday Islands are a spectacular camping ground.

Whitsunday Island, the largest island in the group, has many great camping spots including Dugong Beach, which is suitable for larger groups (up to 36 people allowed) and has a good sandy beach backed by rainforest. Or Nari's Beach is more private (maximum six people) and the camping area is under the rainforest canopy, tucked against a steep hill with outstanding views of Cid Island.



LUXURY IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

New developments on the mainland and islands have taken the Whitsundays to a new and welcome direction with numerous luxurious resorts, hotels and vessels now on offer. Swanky restaurants are also pushing the boundaries with their culinary skills and use of local produce. If your ideal holiday involves world-class service and premium experiences in an idyllic tropical paradise, then look no further than the Whitsundays.

THE WHITSUNDAYS has an elegant fine dining scene that has grown significantly in recent years, especially on the mainland. Home to award-winning chefs, the Airlie Beach dining scene is awash with exquisite cuisine bound to tantalise the tastebuds.

Airlie Beach's two marinas – Port of Airlie and Abell Point Marina – continue to expand and evolve, offering visitors smart and chic precincts for shopping and dining.

Luxury offerings on the mainland aren't confined to food. There is a range of premium accommodation available, including full service hotels, holiday homes and self-catering resorts. On the islands, the yacht club and qualia on **Hamilton Island** are proving to be a big hit with travellers, while the 18-hole world championship golf course on neighbouring Dent Island ensures both professional and

leisure golfers are put through their paces. The only course on its own island, it has a sophisticated clubhouse to help you enjoy the spectacular views after your round of golf.

Both **Hayman Island** and **Daydream Island** are undergoing major multi-million dollar refurbishments to ensure they continue to deliver a first class experience for their guests and are due to open in 2019.

And luxury is not limited to dry land, with the Whitsundays being the only destination in Australia where you can charter award-winning opulent power cruisers, offering the ultimate in comfort, design and performance.

Whatever luxury experience you desire, you won't be able to fault the Whitsundays, which time and time again delivers first-class luxury to all visitors.



ADVENTURE

If you like some action with your holiday, the Whitsundays can certainly dish up plenty of adventure and adrenalin sports.

YOU CAN DIVE, SNORKEL AND SAIL in the Whitsundays – with the Great Barrier Reef providing natural protection that ensures calm waters – and there is a wide choice of watersports on offer including jetskiing and jetboating for the speed-freaks, and parasailing if you want to get high over the islands. And there are also go-karts on Hamilton Island for some cracking fun!

For the ultimate adrenaline rush, skydive from a plane 15000 feet above sea level and enjoy the best view of the Whitsundays you will ever encounter.

There is also excellent fishing, including rivers, lakes, estuaries and ocean fishing. Chasing giant trevally on the outer reef is an adrenalin-packed pastime.

Or put on a backpack and walking shoes and explore the many tracks criss-crossing the islands and mainland, leading to secluded beaches and bays...and stunning views. Remember to tell someone where you're going and always take water with you. You can also camp overnight in designated National Park sites for a very special back-to-nature experience.





FAMILY

There are plenty of family-friendly activities on offer in the Whitsundays, starting with the famous Airlie Beach Lagoon, in the centre of Airlie Beach, and the fabulous waterparks along Bowen's main beachfront and in Proserpine. These facilities are all free.

THERE ARE swimming pools at Proserpine, Bowen and Collinsville and many resorts and van parks have pools and waterparks. If the ocean is more your thing, there are plenty of family-friendly watersports available including kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), and, of course, snorkelling.

Horseshoe Bay and Rose Bay in Bowen are very family-friendly as the fringing reef is close to the beach – at low tide you can walk out to it, or snorkel straight from the beach – and it is very protected.

There are literally dozens of beaches across the Whitsunday region and most of the main beaches also have free BBQ facilities.

Plenty of fish abound the Whitsundays, so it's no surprise that angling is a family favourite. Choose from the open sea, or head inland for some fishing on Lake Proserpine in search of the prized barramundi.

Family-friendly activities include segway tours – either through the rainforest or along the boardwalk from Airlie to Cannonvale Beach – and the fascinating crocodile safari on Proserpine River, complete with educational tour of the adjoining wetlands. Many day tours cater to families where you can visit Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet and also include a spot of snorkelling. The Great Barrier Reef is also a fantastic option or if you prefer solid ground under your feet, enjoy a day trip out to one of the island resorts.

Or how about some strawberry picking at Mount Danger, just outside Bowen, when in season!

If you're a family that loves getting amongst nature, there are countless trails and tracks across the Whitsundays, many leading to secluded beaches, so pack a picnic and don't forget to take water, sunscreen and a hat.

In winter, you might spot a passing whale on her way to give birth to her calf in the warm Whitsunday waters.

SHOPPING

The Whitsundays has a great variety of interesting shops on offer, with many individually- owned stores having their own distinct style, as well as colourful markets around the region.

JEWELLERY, homewares, artworks and indigenous artefacts are all to be found by the curious shopper, as well as fashions, food and fun things for the kids.

Not surprisingly, the main street of Airlie Beach – the stepping off point for the Whitsunday Islands – is also dotted with souvenir shops with colourful swimwear, sarongs, sandals and sunhats swinging from rails on the footpath.

For a unique experience check out Proserpine's lanes and alleyways with their striking 'Art Deco' shopfronts. Wander through the narrow lanes crammed with clothing and delve into a cornucopia of homewares, jewellery and gemstones. Don't forget to check out the great boutique offerings in Bowen too.

Some of the island resorts also offer retail therapy with leisurewear, bags, shoes and swimmers on offer to give your holiday some zing! And if you're looking for something uniquely Australian, there are shops offering didgeridoos, boomerangs and Australian opals.

Markets

MARKETS ARE A HIGHLIGHT of holidaying in the Whitsundays with brightly coloured clothing, jewellery, bags and sarongs glinting in the sunshine.

The smell of fresh produce mingles with the aroma of coffee, as locals and holidaymakers pore over bric-a-brac, books, paintings and homemade crafts.

Markets in the Whitsundays

SATURDAY MORNING Airlie Beach Foreshore

SUNDAY MORNING Hansen Park, Bowen

MONTHLY Collinsville



WEDDINGS

The Whitsundays is the wedding 'heart' of Australia due to its stunning natural beauty, year-round warm weather, sublime locations and swaying palm trees evoking the tropics.

COUPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD descend on the Wedding Heart of Australia for their special day. With about 1,000 weddings taking place in the region annually, the Whitsundays has an excellent choice of ceremony and reception venues in addition to professional wedding suppliers.

So much choice

THE WHITSUNDAYS OFFERS every kind of wedding, from 'barefoot on the beach' to opulent luxury. Whether you are eloping with just you and your betrothed or you have all your family and friends with you, the Whitsundays can offer the right venue and accommodation.

Catering is also taken care of with wedding venues making the most of the fresh local produce and wild-caught seafood the region abounds in.

And while you might think that getting married away from home could be a chore, think again!

The Whitsundays has dozens of professional wedding suppliers including celebrants, cake-makers, photographers and chauffeurs ready to make your dream wedding come true.

There is also a good choice of day spas, for pre-wedding pampering and hairdressers and make-up artists for your Big Day.

You might also want to think about hiring a local wedding planner to assist with 'on the ground' details and some resorts have their own wedding co-ordinators.

A wedding with a difference!

THE WHITSUNDAYS is in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef and you can be married on this unique living structure, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. You and your wedding party can cruise to the reef and say 'I Do' with the incredible backdrop of colourful corals and the ocean stretching into the horizon.

Or why not have a rural wedding and invoke some rustic charm? Weather-beaten barns and old tractors against a backdrop of sugarcane create striking wedding photos and you can enjoy good old-fashioned hospitality in a farm stay, bed and breakfast or country pub.

An incredibly romantic spot for a Whitsundays wedding is the beautiful Cedar Creek Falls, just 40 minutes from Airlie Beach. Equally pretty in the summer or winter, Cedar Creek Falls is a tranquil and serene spot to say 'I Do'.

Or make a splash and get married on the water. Couples have dived, snorkelled and sailed into married life together in the Whitsundays!

And for those who feel more at home in the sky, you can charter your own seaplane or helicopter for an intimate ceremony with just you and your closest family and friends on a deserted beach.

You can also opt for any of the array of wedding venues in-between offering tropical, lush, luxurious, intimate, laid back or DIY wedding opportunities.

Whatever your wedding theme, your guests will be elated in all that the Whitsundays has to offer, with most guests staying longer to enjoy the beaches, islands, bush and so much more!



The Whitsundays



media
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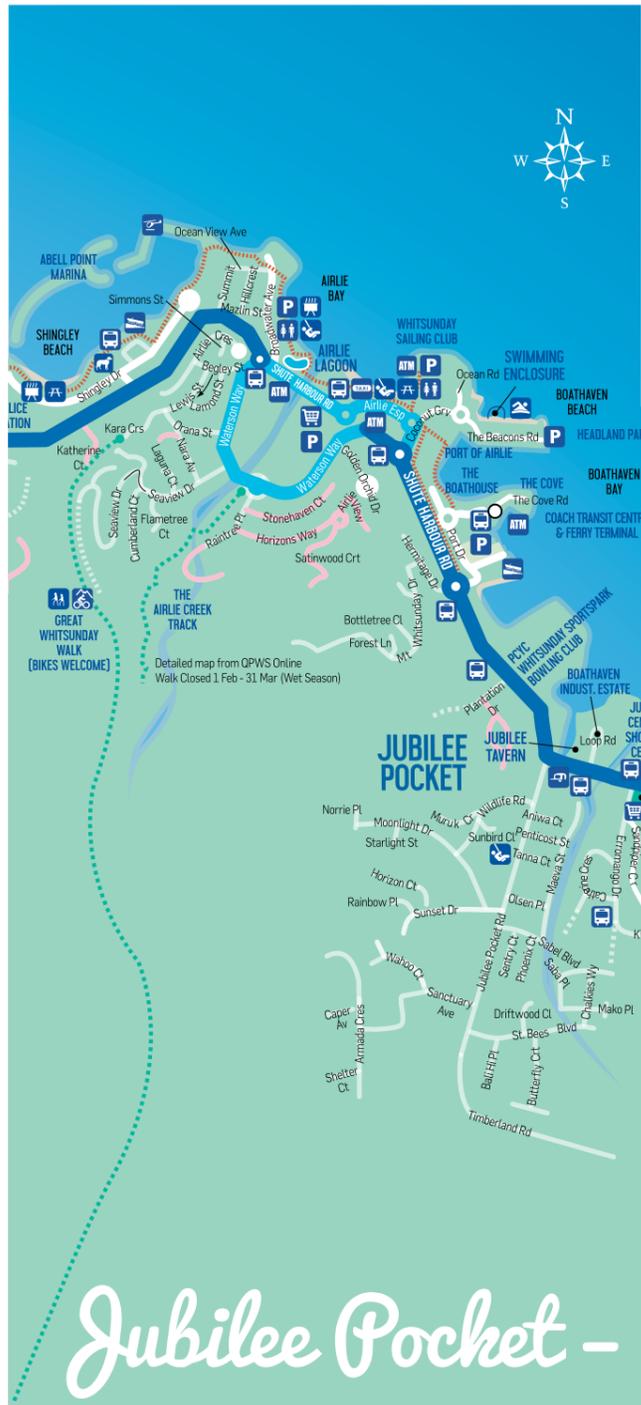
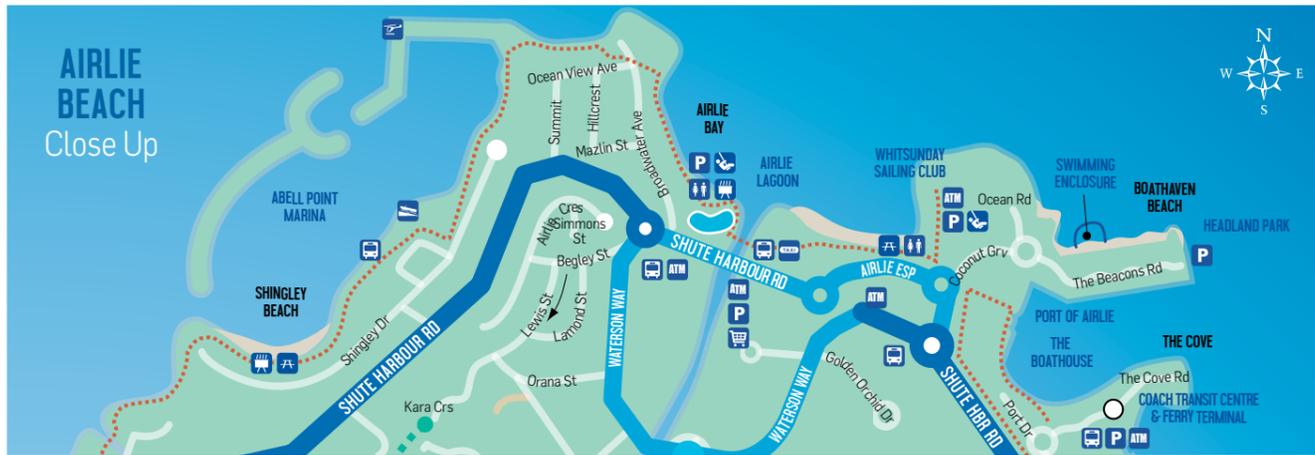


media
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KEY					
	Accommodation		Dogs Off Leash		Public Toilets
	Airport		Fire Station		Shopping/Groceries
	Ambulance		Food		Swimming
	ATM		Golf		Taxi Rank
	BBQ Area		Helicopter Pad		Walking Trails
	Boat Ramp		Hospital		Highway or Main Rd
	Bowling Green		Information		Secondary Road
	Bus Stop		Museum		Unsealed Roads
	Camping		Parking		Private Road
	Caravan Park		Picnic Area		Proposed road
	Caravan Dumping		Places of Interest		Bicentennial Walkway
	Church		Playground		National Parks
	Cinema		Post Office		
	Cultural Attraction		Public Phone/WiFi		

Cannonvale - Airlie Beach -



Jubilee Pocket - Shute Harbour



Bowen

Collinsville



EVENTS IN THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Come one, come all! The Whitsundays plays host to a myriad of events over the year that will help make your holiday to the Whitsundays even more special. Don't forget to bring your family and friends so they don't miss out on all the fun.

THE WHITSUNDAYS is renowned for its crystal blue waters, crisp white sand and sprawling lush rainforests, making it the perfect location for a range of events, whether that be sailing or athletic adventures. When it comes to what's on in the Whitsundays, you will be spoilt for choice with an extensive list of big-ticket events to suit families and adventure-lovers as well as leisure travellers.

It's no secret the Whitsundays is a sailing mecca. With 74 tropical islands, the region is every sailor's dream. With the Whitsundays home to two world-renowned sailing race events, participants and keen spectators continue to flock to the beautiful town to get front seat views of the thrilling races undertaken by the sailing elite. For the triathlon enthusiasts, you can't go past the COLORBOND® steel Airlie Beach Triathlon Festival.

From big ticket music events, to ocean swims, and everything in between, the Whitsundays is the perfect place to explore and get involved in an event, enabling you to tick off your bucket list destination while doing so. Every event in the Whitsundays is truly a memorable one. For example, endurance runners can also lap up the beautiful world-famous Whitehaven Beach, with

the entire course of the Great Whitehaven Beach Run set on the shores of this iconic beach.

A few times a year, Bowen's daytime tides are low enough for visitors to walk to North Head Island, Queensland's third oldest lighthouse. Known as the Walk to the Lighthouse, thousands of people gather for this unique event which takes walkers on a beautiful journey that not only celebrates the history of Bowen, but also the wonderful array of sea life that inhabits the shores of the bay. Bowen's Walk to the Lighthouse draws the biggest crowds when the winter low tide connects North Head Island to the mainland via a sand spit dotted with Bowen's giant red starfish. The Walk to the Lighthouse is an exciting adventure for all ages, with the once low-key tradition now emerging as a must-do for many travellers along the Queensland Coast.

The Airlie Beach Festival of Music is fast becoming the biggest event in the region's lively music scene. Headline musicians and avid music goers from all over the world descend on our pristine shores for three big days of song and dance.

The Whitsundays certainly doesn't disappoint when it comes to the events calendar. We hope you enjoy the diverse and unique range of events this great region has to offer.



Calendar of Events

There's always something happening in the Whitsundays! Here's our 'at a glance' summary of the region's biggest events, from family-friendly celebrations to music and sport – it's all here.

For a complete guide to what's on in the Whitsundays please go to: www.tourismwhitsundays.com.au/whats-on/events



HAMILTON ISLAND ENDURANCE SERIES

17 – 18 November

HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

Set in one of Australia's most beautiful locations, the Hamilton Island Triathlon provides the ultimate test of endurance.

WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM

What better location for an ocean swim event than at one of Australia's most pristine and iconic beaches, Whitehaven Beach. This annual 2km and 750m ocean swim meet, plus a fun 350m junior swim is sure to become as iconic and famous as its location.

SCHOOLIES WEEK

17 November – 1 December



2019 COLORBOND® STEEL AIRLIE BEACH TRIATHLON FESTIVAL

23 – 25 August

For the ultimate test of strength and endurance, the triathlon puts the fittest through their paces as they swim through the crystal clear waters of the Coral Sea, ride through the scenic mainland and hit the pavement while soaking up the tropical scenery.

HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

17 – 24 August

Every year, spectators and avid yachties sail to Hamilton Island for this not-to-be-missed sailing spectacular. Situated in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia's favourite yachting event draws big crowds from all over the world as people flock to our tropical paradise for the on-water and off-water sailing carnival.



RUN THE GREAT WHITSUNDAY TRAIL

15 September

AIRLIE BEACH RACE WEEK

8 – 15 August

Known as one of the largest yacht racing regattas in Australia, Airlie Beach Race Week is a seven day event that attracts entrants from across the country as well as overseas. The racing regatta boasts a variety of challenging courses and tactical races and a fun filled off-water program.

HAMILTON ISLAND ENDURANCE SERIES GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

23 June

BOWEN RIVER RODEO

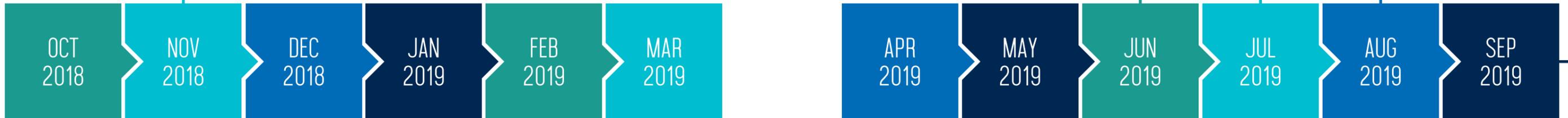
7 – 9 June

PIT PONY FESTIVAL

20 July

WHITSUNDAY REEF FESTIVAL

1 – 4 August



AIRLIE BEACH FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

9 – 11 November

This hugely popular boutique music festival draws big-name artists from around the world. With a great range of live music to suit all interests and age groups, the Whitsundays comes alive during the biggest music festival on the calendar.



HAMILTON ISLAND ENDURANCE SERIES STAMFORD FINANCIAL HILLY MARATHON

5 May

You can enter this iconic marathon as part of a team or as an individual. There's also a kids fun run, making it a great event for the entire family.

WHITSUNDAYS FESTIVAL OF MOTORING

3 – 5 May

This family-friendly event is a treat for motoring enthusiasts! Round 5 of the Queensland Rally Championships will also include car parades with cool classics and custom hot rods on display. Featuring a range of fun activities for the young and old, make sure to fasten your seat belt as you gear up for a fun day out with family and friends.

BRAVE HAMILTON ISLAND

21 – 24 June

This exciting weekend workshop features prominent Australian talent and is designed to motivate and encourage participants to achieve something they may have never imagined was possible. Do you dare to be Brave?



AIRLIE BEACH RUNNING FESTIVAL

21 July

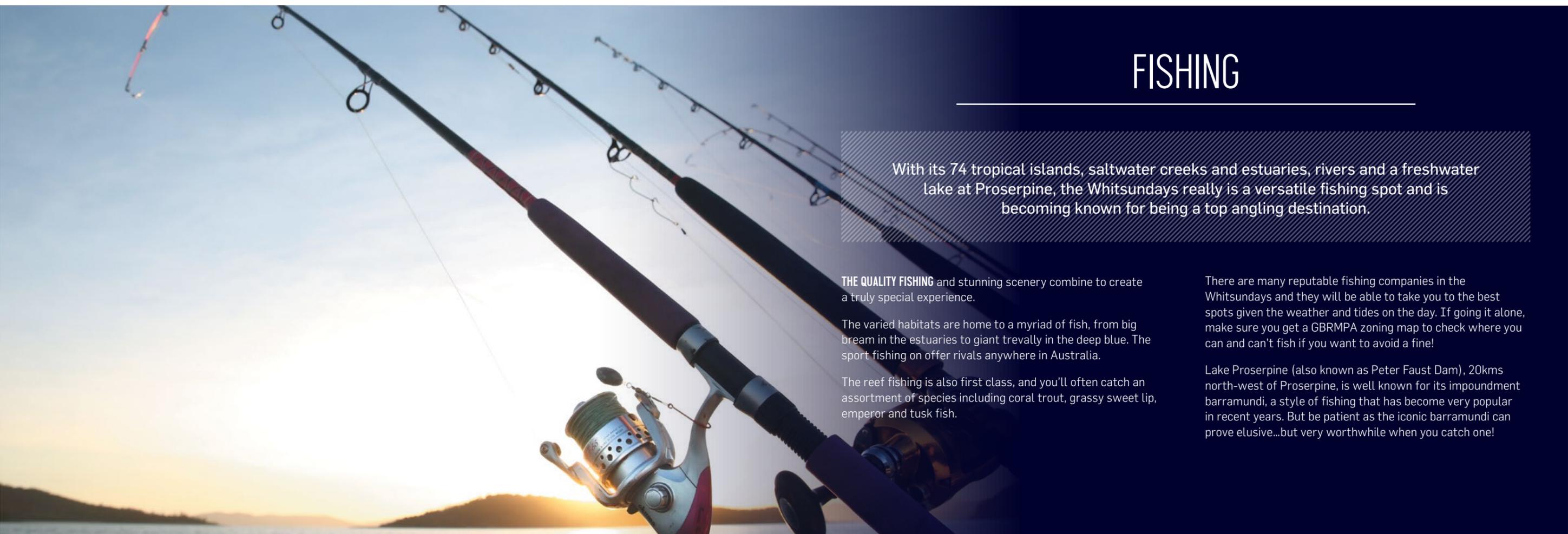
Get your heart rate up at one of the most popular running events in the Whitsundays. The unique four lap off road marathon is sure to put you through your paces.



WALK TO THE LIGHTHOUSE, BOWEN

31 August

Bowen's Walk to the Lighthouse is an exciting adventure for all ages that occurs when the winter low tide connects North Head Island to the mainland via a sand spit.



FISHING

With its 74 tropical islands, saltwater creeks and estuaries, rivers and a freshwater lake at Proserpine, the Whitsundays really is a versatile fishing spot and is becoming known for being a top angling destination.

THE QUALITY FISHING and stunning scenery combine to create a truly special experience.

The varied habitats are home to a myriad of fish, from big bream in the estuaries to giant trevally in the deep blue. The sport fishing on offer rivals anywhere in Australia.

The reef fishing is also first class, and you'll often catch an assortment of species including coral trout, grassy sweet lip, emperor and tusk fish.

There are many reputable fishing companies in the Whitsundays and they will be able to take you to the best spots given the weather and tides on the day. If going it alone, make sure you get a GBRMPA zoning map to check where you can and can't fish if you want to avoid a fine!

Lake Proserpine (also known as Peter Faust Dam), 20kms north-west of Proserpine, is well known for its impoundment barramundi, a style of fishing that has become very popular in recent years. But be patient as the iconic barramundi can prove elusive...but very worthwhile when you catch one!

Proserpine

THE PROSERPINE GOLF CLUB is a friendly club that welcomes visitors to the only 18-hole golf course on the mainland. Just 20kms from Airlie Beach, the course features a picturesque waterway, challenging par 3's, wonderful bird life and a backdrop of beautiful cane fields.

Bowen

BOWEN GOLF CLUB was established in 1928 and, over the years, the course has earned the reputation of being a 'hidden gem' – a fantastic 9-hole, 18 tee, links-style course right on the oceanfront, that is both rewarding and challenging to golfers of all levels. The reward is just walking around this beautiful course, the challenges come with Mother Nature and the strong coastal winds she whips up. There is also a 9-hole golf course at Collinsville, inland from Bowen.

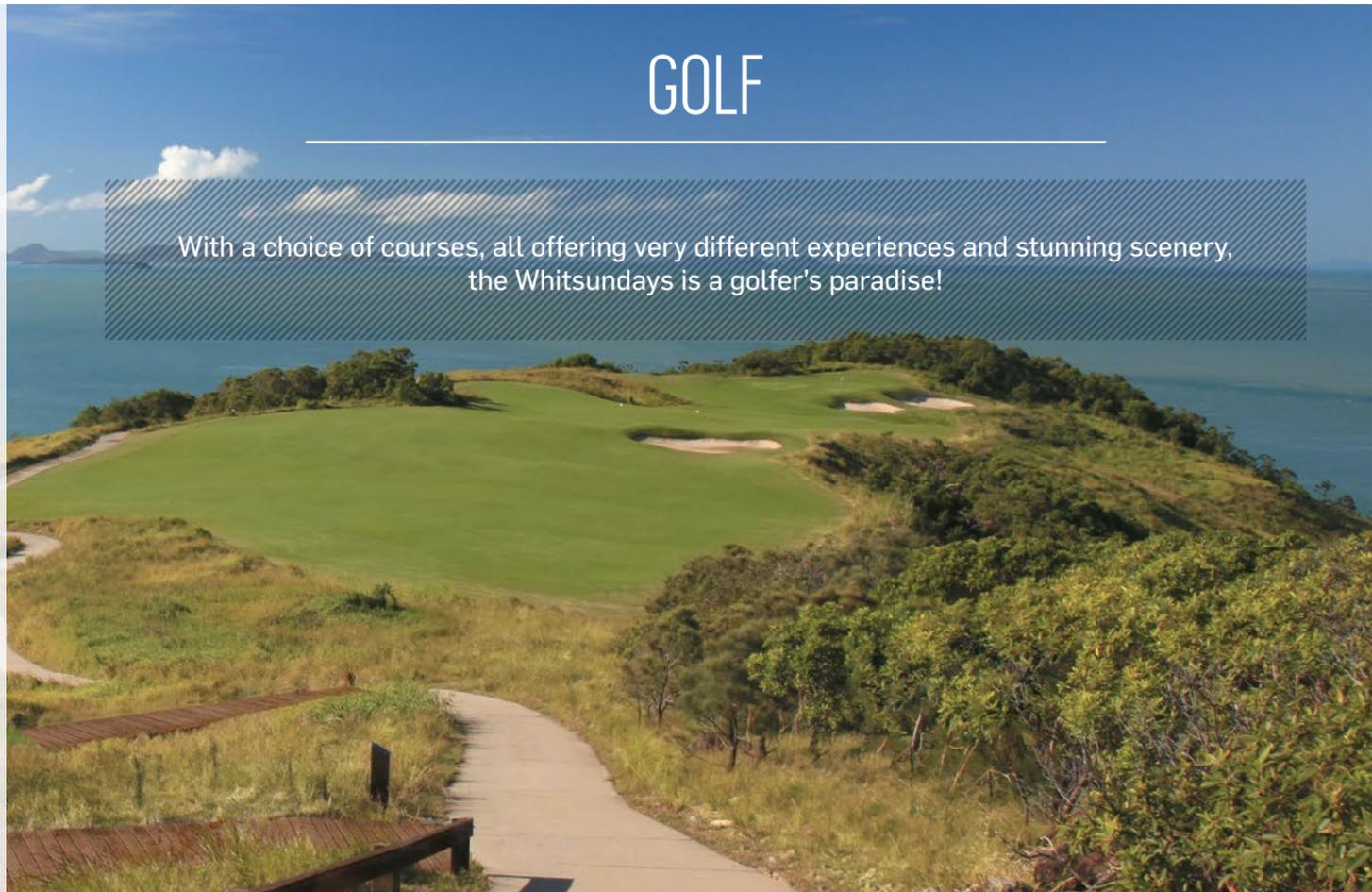
Hamilton Island

THE PAR 71 HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF COURSE is the only 18-hole course in Australia on its own island! Designed by five-time British Open winner Peter Thomson, the course is strung along the spectacular ridges and steep valleys of Dent Island and boasts a variety of obstacles for those willing to take on the challenge. The course is a 'must-do' for both novice and professional golfers and offers spectacular views of the surrounding Whitsunday Islands and Coral Sea.

Airlie Beach/Cannonvale

GOLF DRIVING RANGE - NOW OPEN

When holidaying in Airlie Beach or Cannonvale and you feel like brushing up on your golf skills, make sure to check out the driving range located on Shute Harbour Road. With a self-service machine available to assist you tee off, you can set your own pace to ensure you focus your energy on getting your swing right!



GOLF

With a choice of courses, all offering very different experiences and stunning scenery, the Whitsundays is a golfer's paradise!

NATIONAL PARKS & CAMPING

Camping in the Whitsundays is a very special back-to-nature experience. With rugged natural beauty, stunning views at every turn and an abundance of wildlife, you will feel rejuvenated, relaxed and at one.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS BEAUTIFUL SPOTS to camp in the Whitsundays. Whitsunday Island, the largest of the group, supports a population of rock-wallabies and from June to September, the Whitsundays are an important calving ground for migrating humpback whales, resulting in regular sightings.

You can fish, snorkel and swim from the beach of many campsites and also explore the trails that zig-zag across the islands. Keep your eyes peeled for white-brown scrub wren, kookaburras, yellow-faced honey eaters, ospreys, herons and egrets.

The Whitsunday Islands National Park protects 32 islands including Whitsunday Island with its world-renowned Whitehaven Beach, as well as Black, Hook and Langford Islands.

The park is readily accessible by private or commercial boat from Airlie Beach or Shute Harbour and some commercial transfer companies drop off and collect campers. If travelling by private vessel, always take the weather and tidal influences into account.

Facilities vary and are limited to toilets and/or picnic tables. Campers must be self-sufficient. Remember to take fresh water, a fuel stove for cooking and insect repellent. Open fires and generators are not permitted and please remember to take your rubbish home with you.

Visitor numbers are limited to ensure a quality experience. You will need to book your site and purchase your permit in advance and display your camping permit tag prominently on your tent!



Some Suggested Camping Spots...

- Camp at sheltered sites in Cid Harbour: Dugong, Nari's Beach and Joe's Beach
- Other sites on Whitsunday Island include the popular Whitehaven Beach and Cairn Beach
- Small camping areas on Hook Island including Maureen's Cove, Crayfish, Steens and Curlew beaches; all offering snorkelling from shore
- You can also catch your own dinner with some campsites allowing you to fish right off the beach

HISTORY & HERITAGE

The Whitsundays has a rich history dating back millions of years, with the hilly islands formed when rising sea levels drowned a mainland mountain range.

THE NGARO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, one of the earliest recorded Indigenous groups in Australia, were seen by Captain James Cook while exploring the Whitsunday Passage. The Ngaro people lived throughout the island chain and the nearby mainland for thousands of years. Rock art and middens at Hook Island's Nara Inlet provide a record of their special way of life and there is an ancient Ngaro stone quarry on South Molle Island where tools were made.

Named after the Greek goddess of fertility 'Proserpinia', the township of Proserpine dates back to 1861 when land was taken up at Proserpine station by the first settler, Daniel Emmerson. In 1872–73 work-hungry people from all over the world arrived to set up cattle stations. In the 1880s more settlers arrived to grow and harvest sugar cane in the naturally fertile basin. The first Sugar Mill at Glen Isla failed, but Proserpine Central Mill opened the present Sugar Mill in 1897 which stands in the middle of town and processes about 1.5 million tonnes of cane each year. Around this time Proserpine Police Station was also established which was just a couple of tents!

Established in 1861, Bowen is North Queensland's oldest town and was even earmarked to be the 'capital of the north' in the 1860s. Salt, beef and coal were all exported from the Bowen Jetty, on Front Beach, which turned 150 years old in 2017.

The rich culture and history is evident at every turn in Bowen, which is famous for its historic murals on the walls

of shops and pubs, and also its Catalina museum celebrating the brave pilots who used Bowen as a base in World War II. The Summergarden Theatre, dating back to 1948, is also worth a visit.

Collinsville and surrounds, meanwhile, are home to a number of characterful old pubs including the heritage-listed Bowen River Hotel, which are great for getting to know the locals and hearing a few yarns over a counter lunch.

Museums in the Whitsundays

PROSERPINE MUSEUM

198 Main Street, Proserpine Ph. 07 4945 3969
Open Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm and open on weekends for groups over 10

BOWEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

22 Gordon Street, Bowen Ph. 07 4786 2034
Open Monday - Friday 9:00am - 3:30pm

COALFACE EXPERIENCE, COLLINSVILLE

Located on Railway Road, at the Collinsville Workers Club, the Coalface Experience tells the story of coal miners and their struggles, strife and mateship.
Open Daily 7:00am - 7:00pm



ROAD TRIP EXPLORE COLLINSVILLE IN A WEEKEND – AN OUTBACK HISTORICAL ADVENTURE

Situated at the foothills of the Clarke Range, the historic mining town of Collinsville is about a 45-minute drive inland from Bowen through fields of colourful fruit and vegetables and cattle stations. It is a small outback town that makes up for its size with its huge country welcome!

Here's our Top 8 Things to Do:

- Drop into the Collinsville Information Centre at the RV-friendly showgrounds and chat to the friendly staff for the latest information and tips. There is room to leave your caravan here while you explore the town.
- Whether you're hankering for a hot pie or a hearty big breakfast, Collinsville has an array of breakfast options on offer.
- Stop at the park on Sonoma Street to take in the Pit Pony Experience. Centred around a life-size bronze sculpture, the project celebrates the lives of Australia's last working mine pit ponies.
- Head to the Coalface Experience, on Railway Road, a celebration of the town's mining history and a fascinating look at life underground for the many miners who worked there. With interactive displays, historical records, audio-visual exhibits and theatrettes, allow 1–2 hours.
- While in town, look for the various 'selfie walls' where you can photograph yourself alongside paintings of the much-loved pit ponies.
- Explore Stanley Street and Scottville Road for shopping and places to eat.
- Before leaving Collinsville, take the Mt Coolon Road heading out of town and check out the scale of the coal mines beside the road before arriving at the Bowen River – once you cross the river you can turn to the left and follow a dirt road 10kms to the Bowen River Weir – great for fishing!
- After seeing the Bowen River, head back through Collinsville and turn left onto Strathmore Road. Thirty minutes along this unsealed road is the historic Bowen River Hotel. Originally built as a homestead in 1862, the hotel is steeped in history and has a couple of spooky stories to tell.

PROSERPINE MUSEUM

SELF DRIVE ITINERARIES

Short on time? Explore the Whitsundays in three days ... There is so much to see and do in the Whitsundays but with the help of this handy itinerary you can really make the most of this stunning region in just three days. So grab your car keys and go!

Day 1

START IN BEAUTIFUL BOWEN with a drive up to Flagstaff Hill for the most amazing 360 degree views. Then take a self-guided tour of the beaches – no less than eight surround the town, so you'll be spoilt for choice.

Heading south, stop in at the Bowen Information Centre for a delicious mango sorbet – and snap a selfie with the 'Big Mango'. Thirty minutes later you are in Proserpine, a small country town, big on hospitality. Have a counter lunch and a yarn with the locals in a characterful old pub.

Turn off the Bruce Highway and head to the vibrant coastal town of Airlie Beach, just 20 minutes east. Take a dip in the 'famous' Airlie Beach Lagoon before checking into your accommodation!

Day 2

NO TRIP TO THE WHITSUNDAYS is complete without a day out on the water to see the Great Barrier Reef and 74 island wonders, including the iconic natural attractions of Whitehaven Beach and Heart Reef.

For the water lovers – you can sail, snorkel and dive on the Great Barrier Reef, all in one day! You can also enjoy fast-paced watersports such as jet-skiing.

Prefer to keep your feet on the ground? Lounge around luxurious resort pools or hike on the many island walking trails that lead to hidden waterfalls and breathtaking views. On the mainland, you can also see crocodiles in the wild.

In the evening, check out the Airlie Beach dining scene, where you will find all kinds of cuisines on offer. Or grab some fish and chips and sit on the beach!

Day 3

IT'S TIME TO EXPLORE the hinterland, starting with a walk through some of the oldest rainforest in the world, just 30 minutes from Airlie Beach, along Brandy Creek Road.

Further west along Shute Harbour Road turn left into Conway Road and after about 20 minutes you arrive at Conway Beach, a beautiful windswept promontory where birds circle overhead.

Stop for a rest and bite to eat at Conway Beach. It's then time for a dip in a gorgeous, freshwater swimming hole. Cedar Creek Falls is back along the Conway Road (follow the signs) and it really is an insta-moment when you see the cascading waterfall crashing over the rocks into the water below.

Explore Bowen in one day!

BOWEN IS A SURPRISING TOWN WITH SO MUCH TO DO...BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK! EXPLORE ONE OF NORTH QUEENSLAND'S MOST CHARMING HIDDEN GEMS WITH THIS ONE-DAY ITINERARY.

BREAKFAST: Start the morning off with the most important meal of the day. A scrumptious breakfast at one of the many cafés in the area will satisfy the appetite while you soak up the great surrounding ambience.

HIT THE BEACH TRAIL: Bowen sits on a square peninsula and is surrounded by eight beautiful beaches to the north, east and south. Walk and fossick along the endless sands of Kings Beach or Queens Beach; or swim and snorkel in picturesque bays flanked by granite boulders. Some fringing coral reefs are just metres from the beach. Horseshoe Bay and Rose Bay are top spots for snorkelling and are also great for the whole family.

TURTLE TIME: Bowen's Jetty, off Front Beach, was built in 1867 and stretches 750 metres into the Coral Sea. You can take a stroll along this piece of living history, which has seen cargo loaded on and off ships for many years but is now used mainly for fishing. And if you're lucky, turtles will pop up to say hello!

ICONIC: Go back in time during lunch by stopping in to the great historic pub in Bowen which featured prominently in the movie *Australia*, starring Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman.

HISTORY TOUR: Bowen was established in 1861 and the still-operating salt

works attests to its being at the centre of Queensland's salt industry in the 20th century. Be sure to visit Bowen Historical Society & Museum, on Gordon Street, and also the Catalina museum and memorial, which celebrates the brave pilots who used Bowen as a base in World War II.

INSTA-MOMENT: Head up to Flagstaff Hill for absolutely spectacular views of Cape Edgecumbe Bay, the North Island Lighthouse and Whitsunday Islands. Then turn around in the opposite direction and the whole of Bowen and its surrounds are spread out before you, as far as the eye can see. This is one spot you won't want to be without a camera!

QUIET TIME: Relax at Muller's Lagoon – 23 hectares of pretty parkland with a superb botanical garden and wetland habitat. Take a well-earned break in the shady picnic area – there are free BBQs and a playground – and use the helpful display boards to help you spot some of the 170 bird species that call the lagoon home.

DINNER: By now you will have worked up an appetite so why not head to the marina where there is an array of delicious seafood on offer. Eat your fish and chip supper while looking out at the tinkling boats moored up for the evening.

BREAKFAST: Stop at one of the enticing cafés along the main street of Proserpine, which is characterised by beautiful Art Deco and heritage buildings (Tip: look up!). Or grab a snack from one of the bakeries and enjoy the tranquillity of Pioneer Park at the end of the main street where the world is blotted out by the bird noises.

THERAPY: It's time to hit the shops and one of the great things about Proserpine is its range of quirky and eclectic shops selling all manner of things. Peruse the tiny back streets as well as Main Street for a colourful array of jewellery, clothing, shoes, handbags, babywear, homewares, garden items and cookware, amongst other things.

HISTORICAL: Dating back to the 1870s, Proserpine is a history buff's dream-come-true and a visit to the Proserpine Museum is a must. The museum houses fascinating displays about the town's heritage – its people and industries over the years. As well as a thriving cane industry, Proserpine also experienced its very own 'Gold Rush'!

LUNCH: Wow what a morning! After all that, it's time for some tucker. Why not take in a counter lunch with the locals at one of the many pubs lining the main street, all with their own distinct feel and character. Enjoy great food while you listen to the locals spin a yarn or two, and experience old-fashioned country hospitality.

AFTER LUNCH: Head to Lake Proserpine, 26kms inland from Proserpine (also known as Peter Faust Dam). Passing fields of cane and other crops you arrive at the massive dam, which was built in 1990 to provide the town's water needs. It also offers excellent recreational fishing – it is considered one of Australia's premier barramundi impoundments – and has shaded barbecue facilities. Whether it's food or fishing you're after, it's a beautiful spot to spend the afternoon.

AS YOU DRIVE BACK: As you drive back towards Proserpine, savour the stunning views as the sun spreads its golden glow over the valley, and you understand why this little town is called Proserpine, after the goddess of fertility.



Prosperous Proserpine packs a punch!

EXPLORE PROSERPINE IN A DAY WITH THIS HANDY ITINERARY AND REALLY MAKE THE MOST OF THIS PRETTY COUNTRY TOWN NAMED AFTER 'PROSERPINIA', THE GREEK GODDESS OF FERTILITY.

PHOTO OPP: Proserpine sits in a fertile basin dominated by swaying sugar cane fields and the sugar mill still looms over the town. Swing by the mill on your way into Proserpine for a great photo opportunity with the 62 metre high towers behind you, spewing out their steam as they process about 1.5 million tonnes of cane each year.

WALKS MENU

There are many beautiful places to walk in the Whitsundays with ancient flora and fauna and some unique indigenous wildlife, such as the Proserpine Rock Wallaby. Most walks are self-guided. These are just some of the many and varied walks on offer.

HONEYEATER LOOKOUT

The entrance to the Honeyeater Lookout is in Kara Crescent, just behind Airlie Beach Main Street. Follow the trail up – it is quite steep to start – but you will be rewarded with some stunning views of the mainland and out to the islands. Especially rewarding in the cool of the morning when the air is crisp and the views are clear.

CONWAY CIRCUIT

Conway National Park packs a rainforest punch on the hills of Airlie Beach and you can either lace up your boots or jump on your bike to discover the natural beauty. If you're planning to hike there are plenty of tracks, from a short walk to suit beginners, right through to a three-day, two-night overland adventure called the Conway Circuit (formerly known as The Great Walk).

NORTH HEAD LIGHTHOUSE, BOWEN

There is a restored, 150-year-old lighthouse off the coast of Bowen and it is possible to walk out to the lighthouse with the year's lowest daytime tides, a fantastic opportunity to spot beautiful sea life in the shallows.

WHITEHAVEN BEACH, WHITSUNDAY ISLAND

There are two walks on Whitehaven – one at the southern end, and one to the lookout over Hill Inlet at the northern end. One or both of these can be accessed by a number of tours to Whitehaven Beach.

PASSAGE PEAK, HAMILTON ISLAND

Hamilton Island is accessible to day visitors – with transfers by Cruise Whitsundays – where you can walk to Passage Peak, self-guided. The walk is best done early morning or late afternoon and promises glimpses of some of the island's varied wildlife.

THE NGARO SEA TRAIL

The Whitsundays has been home to the Ngaro people for more than 9,000 years and many sites throughout the islands hold special meaning for Ngaro descendants.

You can experience the Whitsundays Ngaro Sea Trail, a unique blend of seaways and picturesque walks, across Whitsunday, South Molle and Hook Islands. Walk through open forests, grasslands and rainforest, climb rugged peaks and stroll along winding trails.

LANGFORD ISLAND

Stroll the mangrove lined shore before gently walking uphill through mixed tall trees, small ferns and orchids. Marvel at the remarkable Whitsunday Bottle Trees and enjoy views along the island's spit to nearby Black and Hook Islands. 300m one way, allow 20 mins.

CAPE EDGECUMBE, BOWEN

Enjoy stunning views of the Whitsunday Islands. This walk begins at Horseshoe Bay with a short climb to Horseshoe Bay lookout and a bird's eye view of the famous beach. The trail then winds around the Cape to Murrays Bay, a secluded beach with fantastic snorkelling and granite boulders perfect for sunbaking. Next, follow the path up a steep incline to Mother Beddock and views across to Gloucester Island and down to Rose Bay. Descend the stairs and enjoy the gentle waters of Rose Bay before making your way back to Horseshoe Bay via the wetland habitat filled with birds. This walk is suitable for experienced bush walkers and takes approximately 1 hour to complete.

JUMP ONTO THE QUEENSLAND PARKS & WILDLIFE WEBSITE FOR MORE WALKS AND MAPS: WWW.NPSR.QLD.GOV.AU

New walks due for completion in late 2018

WHITEHAVEN BEACH LOOKOUT AND HEADLAND TRACK

Here you will see Whitehaven's 7km shoreline with uninterrupted views and get a closer look at the enthralling Solway Passage. There are fascinating rock formations and wonderful views of the Whitsunday Island peaks and the islands dotted in sparkling seas. 2km return including headland walk.

BORDER ISLAND

Explore Cateran Bay from above on this short walk. After an initial steep ascent, meander along the island's saddle of native grassland and enjoy views from two diverse lookouts. 1.2km return, allow 1 hr.

HASLEWOOD ISLAND

Leave Chalkie's Beach behind as you walk uphill to the island's rocky headland. Passing through shady eucalypts and grasstrees, you are rewarded with spectacular island and sea views from the lookout. 300m one way, allow 20 mins.

Guide to Symbols



HAMILTON ISLAND AIR

Fly to the Heart, Hamilton Island Air offers guests an exciting and unique way to experience the beauty of the Whitsundays, including the islands, the Great Barrier Reef and Whitehaven Beach by aeroplane, helicopter or seaplane. See it from above.

Great Barrier Reef Airport, Hamilton Island QLD 4803
P: 07 4969 9599 E: fly@hamiltonislandair.com
www.hamiltonislandair.com

GSL AVIATION



Fly with the #1 operator in Airlie Beach!

GSL Aviation operate a range of flight products and packages including the Whitsunday Islands and Great Barrier Reef. Fly by helicopter or aeroplane, with guaranteed window seats, and complimentary bus transfers.

GSL Aviation also operate Fly & Cruise packages, offering the ultimate Whitsundays experience from above and below.

Our signature products include:

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- Whitehaven Beach Heli Tours
- Fly & Cruise Packages



Whitsunday Airport, Shute Harbour Road, Flametree QLD 4802
P: 1300 475 247 E: info@gslaviation.com.au
www.gslaviation.com.au



AIRLIE BEACH SKYDIVERS

Airlie Beach Skydivers offers hands down the best service, value and fun while you are in Airlie Beach. Our 1/2 day skydive tours offer beach landings at the stunning Queens Beach as well as our Bowen landing site. Stunning views of the Whitsundays.



Departure Lounge: Shop 2/273 Shute Harbour Road, Airlie Beach QLD 4802
P: 1300 SKYDIVE (1300 759 348) or 07 4838 4040 #1300SKYDIVE
www.airliebeachskydivers.com.au



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AIR WHITSUNDAY SEAPLANES



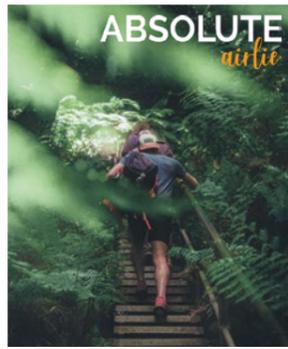
Want to go on a trip of a lifetime? Fly over the beautiful Whitsunday islands and Great Barrier Reef, capture the famous Heart Reef, get a rush of adrenaline when landing and taking off on water, snorkel in a private lagoon where there is only a few people around you, travel in style to Whitehaven Beach to relax on the silica sands of Australia's number 1 beach. What a fantastic way to see the best of the Whitsundays.

Air Whitsunday has proudly been providing an unsurpassed tour and transport service in the Whitsundays for 44 years. Their tours showcase a panoramic perspective of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park including the iconic Heart Reef; a pristine private snorkelling location amidst the coral suspended Hardy Lagoon; ambient stops at the stunning Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsunday Islands National Park; and day trips to tropical Palm Bay Resort on Long Island.



Terminal One, Whitsunday Airport, Flametree QLD 4802
P: 07 4946 9111 E: fly@airwhitsunday.com.au
www.airwhitsunday.com.au





ABSOLUTE Airlie

ABSOLUTE AIRLIE

Absolute Airlie offer a range of guided walking tours (half and full day) that explore the beautiful national parks surrounding Airlie Beach. Walks range in difficulty and include scenic lookouts, rainforests, beaches, mountains, waterfalls and more!



Airlie Beach QLD 4802
P: +61 (0) 481 820 444 E: info@absoluteairlie.com.au
www.absoluteairlie.com.au



AIRLIE BEACH TRANSFERS & TOURS

Airlie Beach Transfers & Tours offer shuttle and private transfers to and from Whitsunday Coast Airport, Professional Drivers, Lunch and Sunset Tours to Hydeaway Bay, Bowen Tours and Speciality Tours with Chinese Tour Guides and Drivers.



Shingley Drive, Airlie Beach QLD 4802
P: 0438 089 682 E: info@abtt.com.au
www.abtt.com.au



JUST TUK'N AROUND

Take a fun and fascinating tour around Airlie Beach – we will show you the Secrets of Airlie. Half hour or hour tours available. Or book a Progressive Dinner that takes you to 3 of Airlie's best restaurants so you can enjoy the local cuisine and entertainment (takes 3 hours).
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Airlie Beach QLD 4802
P: 0421 513 033 E: info@justtuknaround.com.au
www.justtuknaround.com.au



WHITSUNDAY SEGWAY TOURS

Explore the Whitsundays riding a Segway!
Two amazing guided Segway tours; Segway rainforest discovery tour in the beautiful rainforest national park and Segway sunset and boardwalk tour with dinner included, along the Airlie Beach foreshore.



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www.whitsundaysegwaytours.com.au



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RED CAT ADVENTURES

Red Cat Adventures is an Australian owned charter boat company providing exceptional trips around the Whitsunday Islands.



Our Tours:

Thundercat Whitsundays is an exhilarating day boat that suits a wide range of travellers, including singles, couples, groups and families.

Tongarra Whitsundays Sailing Adventures is a two-day, two-night sailing experience aimed at fun-loving backpackers travelling on a budget.

Ride to Paradise is an all-inclusive two-day, two-night resort stay package showing travellers the best of the Whitsundays. Ride to Paradise offers serenity and stars by night and once in a lifetime experiences during the day.



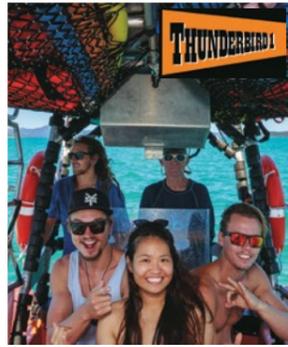
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www.crocodilesafari.com.au



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www.charteryachtsaustralia.com.au



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P: 07 4946 4999 E: bookings@explorewhitsundays.com
www.explorewhitsundays.com

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www.ladyenid.com.au

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www.hayman.com.au

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Long Island QLD 4802
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www.elysianretreat.com.au

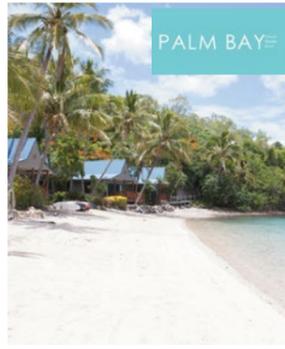
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Palm Bay, Long Island, Whitsundays QLD 4802
P: 1300 655 126 E: reception@palmbayresort.com.au
www.palmbayresort.com.au



WHITSUNDAY SANDS RESORT

Whitsunday Sands Resort offers self-contained and motel units, set amongst beautiful landscaped gardens, with direct beach access to Horseshoe and Gray's Bays. It's like an Island on the Mainland.



2A Horseshoe Bay Road, Bowen QLD 4805
P: 07 4786 3333 E: enquiries@whitsundaysandsresort.com.au
www.whitsundaysandsresort.com

AIRLIE BEACH HOTEL



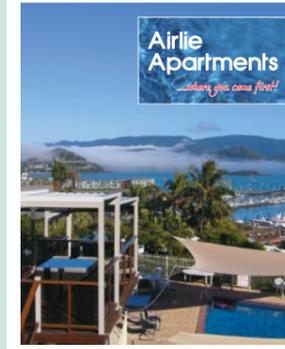
"When location is everything, the Airlie Beach Hotel has everything."

The Airlie Beach Hotel is located on the Esplanade and boasts ocean views, a village atmosphere, onsite restaurant and a convenient landmark location. Discover the Great Barrier Reef and 74 Whitsunday Islands with daily tours.

Rated as 4 stars, the hotel has 60 rooms, including self-contained suites with balconies.



Cnr The Esplanade & Coconut Grove, Airlie Beach QLD 4802
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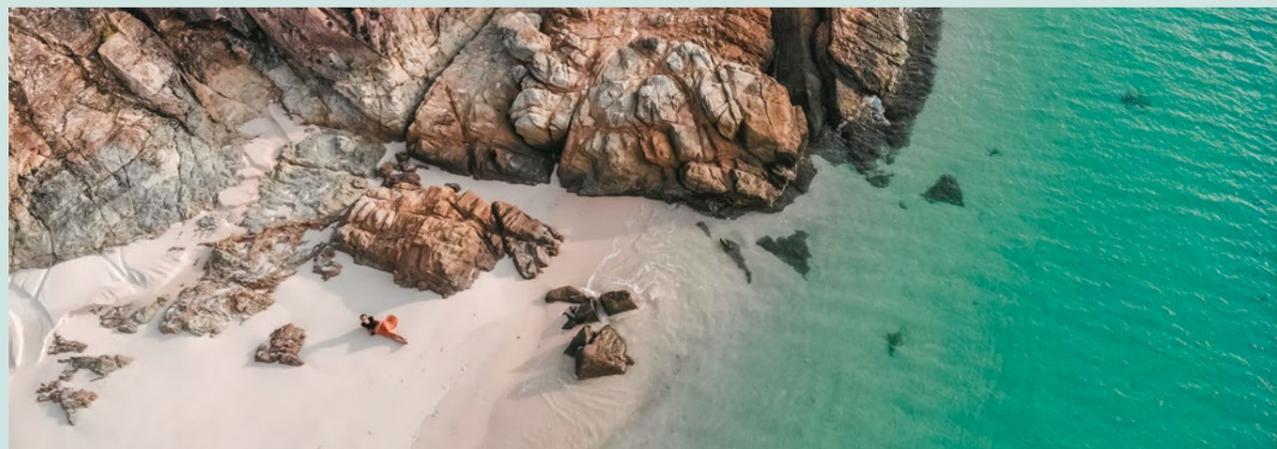


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MIRAGE WHITSUNDAYS



The combination of absolute waterfront luxury suites and the highest standard of indulgence makes Mirage Whitsundays a hidden gem in the Whitsundays. Mirage Whitsundays provides sumptuously appointed apartments, villas and penthouses all endowed with epicurean kitchens, indulgent bathrooms and spacious terraces with breathtaking island-dotted ocean views. Private plunge pools, outdoor showers, ocean view spa baths and rooftop balconies count as some of the luxurious pleasures on offer. Mirage Whitsundays' contemporary living also extends to its 2 magnificent pools, an adult only and kids' zone, outdoor spa and secured gated undercover car park. Relax in our Satori Day Spa, enjoy a Cocktail in Ambrosia Restaurant or indulge for breakfast at Café Mira or if so desired, keep up your fitness regime in our fully equipped Gymnasium. For our current specials please view our website.



11 Altmann Avenue, Cannonvale QLD 4802
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2 Hermitage Drive, Airlie Beach QLD 4802
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Email: stay@coralsearesort.com | Website: www.coralsearesort.com



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Seabreeze Tourist Park is ideally located – a leisurely stroll along the Bicentennial Walkway (along the water) and you are in the heart of Airlie Beach, passing shops and restaurants on the way.

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- Pet friendly (conditions apply)
- Closest tourist park on arrival to Airlie Beach



234 Shute Harbour Road, Airlie Beach QLD 4802
P: 07 4946 6379 E: admin@seabreezepark.com.au
www.seabreezepark.com.au



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Luxury 1, 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained apartments all with magnificent Coral Sea views, king size bed and internal spa tub or balcony jacuzzi. Onsite facilities include a 20m heated ozone swimming pool, gym, sauna and tour desk.



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P: 07 4948 4800 E: reservations@pinnaclesresort.com
www.pinnaclesresort.com.au



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Sea Star Apartments offers 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom self-contained apartments offering stunning island and ocean views from every terraced apartment. Infinity solar powered pool, Foxtel and free WiFi.



2 Nara Avenue, Airlie Beach QLD 4802
P: 07 4948 1188 E: bookings@seastarapartments.com.au
www.seastarapartments.com.au

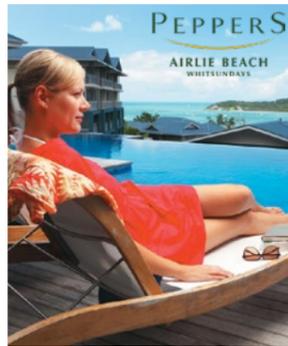


TOSCANA VILLAGE RESORT

Looking for good value, great location and amazing views? Toscana Village Resort features spacious ocean view apartments in a Tuscan inspired setting, located just 200 metres to the foreshore and village centre. We would love to help you plan your next great fun family get together in the magical Whitsundays!



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www.toscanaresort.com

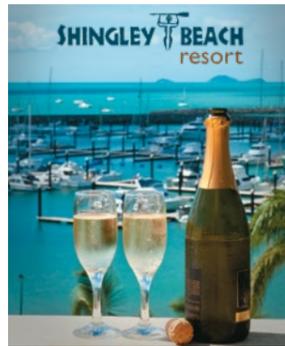


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www.shingleybeachresort.com

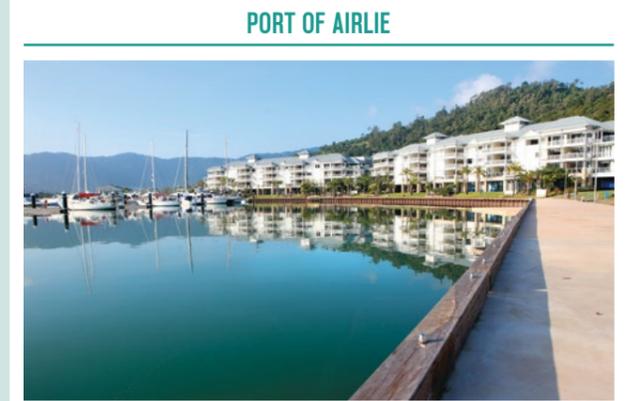


WHITSUNDAYS RAINFOREST RETREAT

Whitsundays Rainforest Retreat is perfectly positioned. Nestled within the Hillside Rainforest but only a 5 minute drive to Airlie Beach and Abell Point Marina (7 minutes' walk to all facilities including shops, restaurants, cafes and transport). Our suites have a/c, fridge, tea/coffee making and private ensuites.



13 Border Drive, Cannonvale QLD 4802 (above Whitsundays Cayman Estate)
P: 0414 869 289 E: caymanresorts@bigpond.com
www.whitsundaysrainforestretreat.com



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* Call park direct regarding your pet friendly options
T&Cs apply: 10% discount off site or cabin bookings at Discovery Parks Airlie Beach. Subject to availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. General accommodation booking T&Cs also apply, visit the website for details.
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WHITSUNDAY FISHING CHARTERS

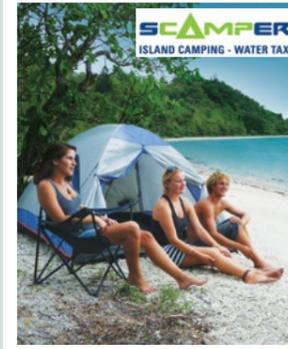


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 P: 0457 822 553 E: wfc@live.com.au
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www.northerlies.com.au | FB: facebook/NortherliesBeachBarandGrill



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For all your general enquiries, please call the Whitsunday Information Service on **07 4945 3967** or email info@tourismwhitsundays.com.au

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Airlie Beach Online
07 4948 1934 | www.airliebeachonline.com.au

Airlie Beach Tourism
07 4948 2888

Bowen Tourism & Business
07 4786 4222 | www.tourismbowen.com.au

DAY TOURS - IN THE AIR

Air Whitsunday Seaplanes
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Airlie Beach Skydivers
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GSL Aviation
1300 475 247 | www.gslaviation.com.au

Hamilton Island Air
07 4969 9599 | www.hamiltonislandair.com

Helireef Whitsundays
07 4946 9102 | www.helireef.com.au

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Absolute Airlie
0481 820 444 | www.absoluteairlie.com.au

Just Tuk'n Around
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Whitsunday Crocodile Safari
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Big Fury
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Cruise Whitsundays
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Whitsundays Sailing Adventures
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Cumberland Charter Yachts
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Queensland Yacht Charters
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Whitsunday Escape
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Hamilton Island
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InterContinental Hayman Island Resort
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Palm Bay Resort
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Reefsleeper
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at Boathaven Spa Resort
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at Marina Shores
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at Waterfront Whitsunday Retreat
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Mantra Boathouse Apartments
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Proserpine Tourist Park
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Reef Gateway Hotel
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Rose Bay Resort
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Shirtfront Solutions 07 4948 3533 www.shirtfront.com.au
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Telstra Store Whitsunday 07 4948 3773 www.telstra.com.au
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Birds Fish Bar 07 4786 4631 www.facebook.com/bowenfishermans.seafood.9
Boathouse Fishbar 07 4911 4187 www.boathousefishbar.com
Bommie Restaurant on Hamilton Island 07 4946 9999 www.hamiltonisland.com.au/restaurants/bommie
Bright Eyes Airlie Beach 07 4946 6944 www.brighteyes.com.au/profile/website/view/accountId/15798
CC's Bistro at Mantra Club Croc 07 4940 2300 www.clubcroc.com.au/dining
Clipper Restaurant and Bar at Coral Sea Resort 07 4964 1300 www.coralsearesort.com/dining
Clubhouse Restaurant on Dent Island (Hamilton Island) 07 4946 9999 www.hamiltonisland.com.au/bars-and-clubs/clubhouse-restaurant
coca chu on Hamilton Island 07 4946 9999 www.hamiltonisland.com.au/restaurants/coca-chu
Cruise Café & Bar 1800 426 403
Denmans Beer Café 07 4990 6701 www.denmans.com.au
Dingo Beach Hotel 07 4945 7153 www.dingobeachhotel.com.au
Epicure Homewares 07 4945 1594 www.epicurehomewares.com.au
Fat Frog Beach Café 0417 979 960 www.facebook.com/fatfrogbeachcafe
Fish D'vine 07 4948 0088 www.fishdvine.com.au
fishi 07 4946 5809 www.fishi.com.au
Grand View Hotel 07 4786 4022 www.grandviewhotelbowen.com
Hemingway's 07 4946 4277 www.hemingwaysairliebeach.com
Hotel Metropole Proserpine 07 4945 1167 www.facebook.com/hotelmetropoleproserpine
La Marina Restaurant 07 4948 0052 www.lamarina.com.au
Le Sorelle The Sisters Coffee House & Florist 07 4786 1206 www.lesorellecoffeehouse.com.au
Long Pavilion on Hamilton Island 07 4946 9999 www.hamiltonisland.com.au/restaurants/long-pavilion
LUXE Fashion House 0401 322 336 www.luxefashions.com
Mangrove Jacks 07 4964 1999 www.airliebeachhotel.com.au/restaurants/mangroves
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Northerlies Beach Bar and Grill 1800 682 277 www.northerlies.com.au

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The Deck Airlie Beach 07 4948 2721 www.facebook.com/thedeckairliebeach
Walter's Lounge 07 4948 2537 www.walterslounge.com.au
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Heart of Reef Shuttles 07 4948 2385 www.heartofreefshuttles.com.au

Island Transfers 0488 022 868 www.islandtransfers.com
Port of Airlie 1800 676 526 www.portofairlie.com.au
Queensland Rail Travel 1300 131 722 www.queenslandrailtravel.com.au
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