



ISLANDS
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Media Release

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Best Job in the World Island Caretaker arrives in Tropical North Queensland

Tourism Queensland's Best Job in the World Island Caretaker Ben Southall arrived in Tropical North Queensland today to start exploring some of the northern Islands of the Great Barrier Reef.

Tourism Queensland CEO Anthony Hayes said Ben would spend a week in Tropical North Queensland, showcasing the beauty of the region and a sample of the fantastic experiences available to visitors of the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef.

"When Ben arrives in Cairns, he'll be treated to an Indigenous experience by the Tjapukai Dancers before being whisked off to Lizard Island where he'll spend the next few days meeting the locals," Mr Hayes said.

"Lizard Island is one of the most northerly islands that Ben will visit and it's also where he'll have his first opportunity to dive on the Great Barrier Reef.

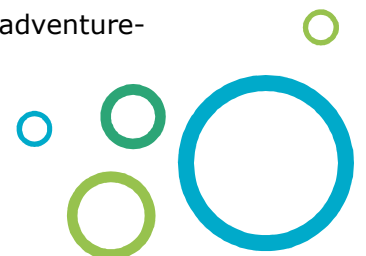
"While on Lizard Island, Ben will be treated to a gourmet picnic on one of the islands 24 powdery-white beaches, fit in an early morning walk to Cooks Look-Out to see the sunrise, dive at the famous Cod Hole and take a boat out to explore Lizard Island by sea.

"Ben will also visit the sights of Cairns, snorkel around Green Island and indulge in some rest and recreation in Palm Cove, where he'll sea kayak around Double Island, one of the closest Islands of the Great Barrier Reef to the mainland and a popular recreation spot for Cairns locals.

"Tropical North Queensland is the perfect place to show Ben the diversity of the Queensland experience from an indulgent break to a life-changing adventure.

"Ben has also never been to Tropical North Queensland before, so it will be a great chance for him to see where the rainforest meets the reef and experience how easy it is to access to the best reef experiences from Cairns, such as diving and fishing.

"Ben will spend the week exploring, testing out the fantastic natural adventure-based activities on offer and blogging about his experiences.





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"After visiting Lizard Island he'll head back into Cairns to check out the markets and the esplanade before catching a seaplane to Green Island.

Mr Hayes said, while based on Green Island, Ben would spend a morning with an Australian Lifeguard and participate in an array of adventure-based activities including windsurfing, snorkelling and visit an underwater observatory.

"One of the highlights of the week for Ben will also be having lunch with the Pangaea Expedition on a sandbank on the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"The Pangaea Expedition was launched in Monaco in 2008 by renowned extreme adventurer Mike Horn and includes a series of seven dinners held in unique and stunning locations that celebrate the beauty of the natural world."

Mr Hayes said Ben's visit to Tropical North Queensland would be a busy week thanks to the wonderful local tourism operators and Tourism Tropical North Queensland who had supported his visit.

"Ben is a very down-to-earth, engaging character with a real passion for Queensland and I can't wait to see the unique perspective Ben will bring to what is one of the most beautiful parts of the world," he said.

"His visit will give people from around the world an insight into the region and raise awareness for Tropical North Queensland as a destination that offers adventurous travellers the ultimate adventure experience within some of the greatest natural wonders of the world.

"This won't be Ben's last visit to Tropical North Queensland either. He will be back again to explore other parts of the region later in his stay."

Ben Southall, a charity events organiser from Petersfield in the UK, was named Caretaker of the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef, the Best Job in the World on May 6.

Ben's six-month \$AUD150,000 contract requires him to explore the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef and report back on his adventures via a blog, video diary and media interviews.

For more information about Ben's TNQ adventures, sign up for Ben's Blog at - www.islandreefjob.com

