

The Whitsundays



Aerial of Whitehaven Beach

In the heart of the Great Barrier Reef lie the Whitsundays – 74 islands floating like jewels in the warm tropical waters of the Coral Sea. Only eight are home to secluded resorts, the rest are untouched hideaways of white sand and lush greenery.

A region of only 100 miles (160km), the Whitsundays lies midway along the Queensland coast. With the Coral Sea on one side and national parks on the other, the area is part of a picturesque peninsula that reaches out to the Whitsunday passage, renowned for its idyllic sailing conditions.

The region spans from the beautiful beaches of Bowen in the north to the cane fields and sugar mills of inland Proserpine, south to the gorgeous golf greens of Laguna Whitsundays and east to its tropical islands.

Seventy per cent of the Whitsundays is protected as National and Marine Park, making it an ideal destination whether visitors are looking for nature-based adventure or a romantic tropical island getaway.

Where to stay

Accommodation options range from camping in the National Parks to all-inclusive family-friendly options and five-plus star resorts for those seeking the ultimate in luxury. Accommodation

at Airlie Beach caters for all ages and budgets from backpacking facilities, B&Bs to modern hotel suites and deluxe apartments complete with lap pools, spas and panoramic sea views.

Dining out

There's a vast range of dining experiences on offer in the Whitsundays from five star restaurants to fish and chips by the Airlie Beach Lagoon. Savour fresh seafood and local produce. Choose from a relaxed night out overlooking million dollar views of the Coral Sea, a memorable meal on an island resort or onboard a yacht.

Ideas and inspiration Great Barrier Reef

Choose from a variety of ways to experience the Great Barrier Reef including snorkeling, diving, day or overnight cruises to the outer reef or even semi-submersible boats. One of the best ways to view the reef is from the air. Scenic flights offer a birds' eye view of not only the entire Whitsunday coast

and islands, but also one of its most distinctive features, Heart Reef, a popular choice for honeymooners.

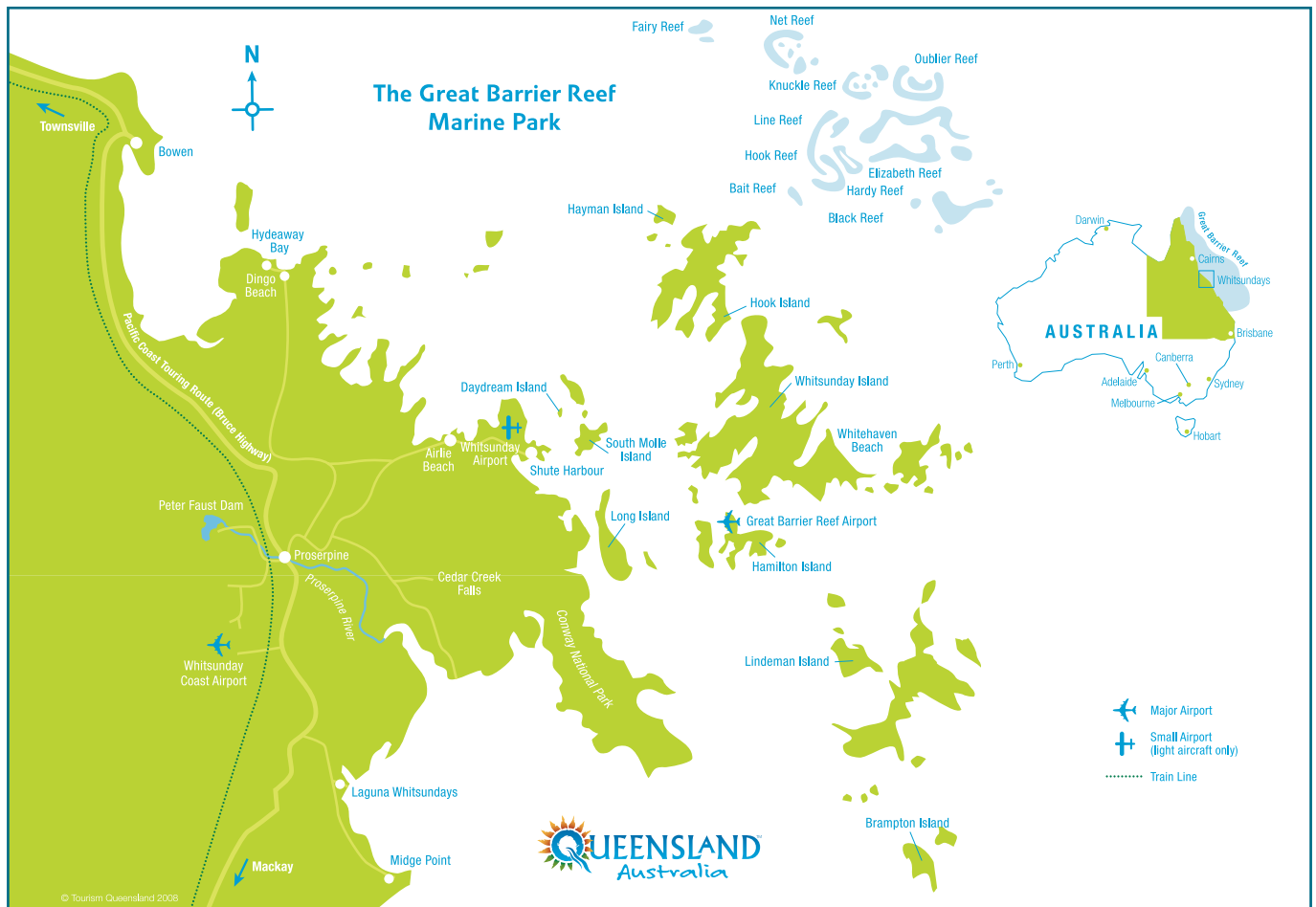
Diving

The Whitsundays offers two types of diving location: inner (fringing) islands or the outer Great Barrier Reef. Inner island diving is ideal for beginner divers because of the sheltered waters. Here visitors will see colourful coral, tropical fish species and quite possibly turtles or reef sharks. Outer reef diving is more varied with both shallow and deeper dive sites. Experienced divers will appreciate the dive conditions and good visibility and the chance to spot more diverse and bigger marine life.

Sailing

The Whitsundays offers numerous sailing options, from a sleek maxi racing yacht or an eco-certified tall ship adventure, a "bareboat" where you can chart your own course or a mini cruise liner. Visitors can choose to experience the thrill of a day tour option or perhaps enjoy a longer stay, spending several

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days onboard a vessel as it sails the picturesque waterways and islands of the Whitsundays.

Whitehaven Beach

Consistently voted one of the best beaches in the world, Whitehaven is a must. This expanse of pure white silica sand stretches 7km. This paradise is visited by day tours and longer sailing tours.

Island Resorts

Eight of the islands in the Whitsundays are resort islands, and all vary in size and style. The island resorts include Brampton, Daydream, Hamilton, Hayman, Hook, Lindeman, Long and South Molle. Each caters to a range of visitor interests from adventure to pure relaxation. The islands are easily accessible by boat or plane from Shute Harbour on the Whitsunday coast or from Hamilton Island.

Airlie Beach

Colourful, cosmopolitan and laidback, the gateway to the Whitsundays is the coastal community of Airlie Beach. With palm-fringed beaches and the popular Airlie Beach Lagoon which allows year-round swimming, the lively town offers

Events!

- Airlie Beach Food & Wine Festival (May)
- Audi Hamilton Island Race Week (Aug)
- Airlie Beach Outrigger Carnival (Aug)
- Whitsunday Reef Festival (Nov)

a diverse range of day tours and cruising options, making it the perfect base for discovering all the Whitsundays has to offer. Nightlife and dining options cater for all ages and budgets, whether it's a cold beer with the locals at a pub or an intimate seafood feast overlooking the Coral Sea.

Outdoor adventures

The range of adventures in and around Airlie Beach is endless with quad biking, jet skiing, parasailing, sky diving, fishing, horse riding, camel safaris and seasonal whale watching to name a few. The Whitsunday Great Walk through Conway National Park allows walkers to discover the lush rainforest and local wildlife.

Star spas

Take time out for pampering in a

Must do!

- Sail around the 74 islands of the Whitsundays
- Sleep under the stars on the Great Barrier Reef
- Sink your feet into the silica sands of Whitehaven Beach
- Enjoy a scenic flight over Heart Reef to a deserted beach for a private picnic
- Relax by Airlie Beach lagoon or dine seaside on the Esplanade
- Head to the beautiful beaches of Bowen or visit the historic town of Proserpine
- Spot an estuarine crocodile in the wild
- Hike through Conway State Forest
- Learn how to scuba dive off an inner fringing island or at the outer Great Barrier Reef
- Indulge in a treatment at a spa
- Island hop in a ferry or on your own charter boat

resort day spa where treatment rooms overlook the azure waters of the Coral Sea. Options include yoga classes, couples rooms and natural therapies.



Airlie Beach Lagoon

How to get here

Airport: Fly into Whitsunday Coast Airport, Proserpine or Great Barrier Reef Airport Hamilton Island (one and a half hours flying time from Brisbane).

Location: Proserpine is 30 minutes drive to Airlie Beach, the mainland gateway to the Whitsundays. Shute Harbour, the departure point for the islands and reef, is 10 minutes drive from Airlie Beach.

Transfer options include:

- Train – Sunlander and Tilt Train link Proserpine to coastal centres including Brisbane and Cairns
- Whitsundays Transit, Whitsundays Shuttle Service, Airlie Beach Limousines, Whitsundays Taxis and Cruise Whitsundays
- Self drive

Travel Time and Distance

Brisbane

1284 km 797 mi	Proserpine
1310 km 814 mi	25 km 16 mi
	Airlie Beach

Flying Times

BRISBANE to Proserpine - 1 hour 30 minutes
BRISBANE to Hamilton Island - 1 hour 30 minutes

Hamilton Island Resort

Perfectly situated in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, nestled among the Whitsunday Islands, Hamilton Island offers an experience like no other: glorious weather, azure waters, brilliant beaches, awe-inspiring coral reefs, fascinating flora and fauna, fine food and wines, and activities almost too numerous to mention.

With a wide range of restaurants, bars, takeaways, boutiques and shops plus a commercial marina, sports complex and chapel (Could there be a more perfect place to say "I do"?) – not to mention 20 kilometres of bushwalking trails – Hamilton has it all. Whether you're

looking for action, relaxation, romance or a fun family getaway, it's all here in abundance, with new experiences and adventures waiting around every corner.

Hayman

Beautifully situated in the magnificent Great Barrier Reef, Hayman is Australia's most celebrated private island destination. The most northerly island of the Whitsundays Group, Hayman invites guests into a world of privacy, luxury, relaxation, fine wines, abundant dining and breathtaking scenery. A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, this idyllic retreat has won a host of prestigious local and international awards.

Hayman Island presents resort living in 228 beautifully appointed rooms, suites, penthouses and a villa, all featuring private terraces or balconies and offering breathtaking views of pools, lagoons, beach, gardens or the Coral Sea.

Long Island Resort, Long Island

Hammocks swinging under palm trees, golden sandy beaches, gentle waves lapping at the shore and 1,012 hectares of tropical rainforest to explore: welcome to Long Island Resort. Nestled in the glorious Whitsundays, in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, Long Island Resort has all the facilities you'd expect from an award-winning three-and-a-half-star resort – including a day spa, 25-metre lap pool and two flood-lit tennis courts – plus a host of activities and entertainment for all ages. It's little wonder that the resort is a favourite for couples, honeymooners, families and friends looking for an idyllic value-for-money island escape.

qualia

An exclusive world-class luxury resort, qualia is nestled into the secluded, northern tip of Hamilton Island, surrounded by the unsurpassed beauty of the Great Barrier Reef. With its own

definitive style of understated elegance and quality and mesmerising calmness, qualia is a place of rare natural beauty. Complementing the established attractions of greater Hamilton Island, this new Whitsundays resort offers outstanding facilities – including a state-of-the-art gym and yoga centre right on the water's edge, two infinity pools and a luxury spa – along with uncompromising five-star service.

Voyages Brampton Island

From the emerald greens of the island's national park to the azure blues of the surrounding waters and its 12 golden beaches, Brampton's style is vibrant and easy-going. It's hard not to be captivated by the beauty of this classic Queensland island, lying at the southern entrance to the world-renowned Whitsunday Passage off Mackay. Brampton is big on fun and activity – and with so much included, it's a perfect haven for couples in search of a romantic hideaway with all the trimmings. (Plus there are no day-trippers to interrupt the peace and solitude!)

Daydream Island Resort

Daydream Island Resort and Spa is a small but dynamic resort located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

Nestled among the Whitsunday Islands, it offers affordable luxury for couples and families alike. Its natural attributes – secluded beaches, azure waters and stunning rainforest – are complimented by a diverse range of fun-filled holiday activities, magical dining experiences and contemporary facilities, including a world-class rejuvenation day spa. Daydream Island Resort and Spa offers a range of 4.5-star accommodation styles to suit family vacations, romantic Whitsunday Island honeymoons, conferences and events.

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