



ISLANDS
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Fact Sheet

Magnetic Island

Nestled in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – and just 8 kilometres from Queensland's northern capital, Townsville – Magnetic is like no other island getaway. Two-thirds of this World Heritage-listed island is national park, providing a haven for abundant native wildlife, including more than 2,500 free-roaming koalas. Tropical fish thrive in the surrounding coral reefs and tranquil waters while rocky headlands frame secluded beaches, some accessible only by boat or on foot. The list of sporting and leisure activities is almost endless – as are the opportunities for shopping, wining and dining. Catering for a 2,00-strong resident population as well as holidaymakers in search of the good life, Magnetic Island offers a wide range of services and facilities. Here is an island that welcomes all comers.

Activities

Water sports are popular all year round, with the island offering everything from snorkelling, diving, guided sea-kayaking tours and windsurfing to waterskiing, catamarans, canoes and aqua bikes. Plunge into the tranquil waters and discover the wonders of the fringing reefs around the island or take a day trip to the outer Great Barrier Reef or explore the world famous S.S. Yongala shipwreck.

Play golf, go fishing, or join in on a bush tucker experience. Lose yourself in the serenity as you stroll along a deserted beach or enjoy the exhilaration of a horse ride along Horseshoe Bay.

Exploring the island is easy. Buses run regularly from one part of the island to another, but visitors can also hire bicycles, mopeds, Mini Mokes or, for the ultimate in cool cruising, Harley Davidsons. Get off the beaten track in a 4WD drive or take a hike along the 25-kilometre network of national park walking trails. If you've got energy to spare, the iconic Forts Walk rewards with spectacular views and WWII heritage.


When it comes to dining, visitors are spoilt for choice: indulge yourself at one of the many waterfront cafes, fine dining venues or the theatre restaurant or pop into one of the taverns for an afternoon drink and some entertainment by the beach.

With an average of 300 days of sunshine a year, Magnetic Island offers visitors an experience of laid-back tropical living laced with action-packed adventure.

Five key selling points

1. Great Barrier Reef location
2. 23 secluded bays and beaches
3. Abundant native flora and fauna and National Park, including Northern Australia's largest population of koalas in the wild



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- 4. Variety of accommodation, ranging from backpacker to luxury resort
 - 5. Huge range of sporting and leisure activities

Style of accommodation

Magnetic Island offers more accommodation options than any other island in the Great Barrier Reef. The extensive choice of accommodation includes hotels, luxury resorts, serviced self-contained holiday apartments, bed and breakfasts, holiday flats, backpacker resorts and camping facilities and even holiday houses for long- or short-term rental.

Whether you're on your own, a couple, a group of friends, a family or a whole tour group – on a budget or looking for luxury – you will find just the right place on Maggie. And all just a short walk from the beach.

Great Barrier Reef access

- Fringing reef with snorkelling and diving straight off the beach
- Plenty of snorkel, dive and boat hire operators
- Night dives
- Day and live-aboard trips to the outer reef and world-famous S.S. Yongala shipwreck
- Dive tuition – one of the most cost effective open water dive courses on the Great Barrier Reef

Destination highlights

- 23 secluded bays and beaches
- Scenic flights in the Red Baron, Tiger Moth, or Nachang CJ-6A
- Abundant native flora and fauna, including large population of koalas
- Fishing, diving and snorkelling in marine national park
- Bareback horse riding along the beach at Horseshoe Bay
- Pickups for S.S. Yongala shipwreck dives
- Wide range of water sports
- A perfect destination for affordable island style weddings
- 25-kilometre network of national park walking trails

Fact Box

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Access

Direct flights to Townsville are available from Cairns, Canberra, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Sydney on a daily basis. Sunferries operates up to 19 fast cat services daily (20 minutes) to Magnetic Island, departing from the Breakwater Terminal in Townsville. Fantasea Cruising Magnetic also provides frequent services between Townsville and Magnetic Island, offering a drive-on, drive-off facility. Campervans and trailers are welcome. These depart from the terminal in Ross Street, South Townsville.

