

# Great Barrier Reef Cruise

9 days, departs Aug 13



## Tour Highlights

- Beautiful Palm Cove
- Kuranda Rainforest Village
- 7 Nights on board the Coral Expeditions II
- Guided Snorkelling & Glass
- Bottom Boat Tours
- Exclusive private moorings
- Informative Presentations
- Secluded Gourmet Beach BBQ
- Historic Cooktown
- Lizard, Dunk & Fitzroy Islands
- Spectacular Hinchinbrook Channel

Great Barrier Reef Cruise

### Day 1 (L,D) HOME, CAIRNS

On arrival into Cairns we meet our fellow cruisers before taking a short drive through the Northern Beaches to the picturesque seaside village of Palm Cove where we enjoy afternoon tea. Returning to Cairns we arrive at our hotel, the Cairns Harbour Lights. Some time to stroll the waterfront prior to dinner.

### Day 2 (B,L,D) CAIRNS, KURANDA, GREAT BARRIER REEF CRUISE

This morning we make our way up to Kuranda, the “village in the rainforest” where we have time to explore and enjoy a light lunch. Returning to Cairns it is time to join the Coral Expeditions II for our late afternoon departure. We meet our travelling companions on the top deck to enjoy a glass of champagne as we cruise northward, passing Double Island and Palm Cove. Admire a spectacular sunset over the World Heritage-listed rainforest of the Macalister Range before sitting down to a sumptuous dinner.

### Day 3 (B,L,D) COOKTOWN, GREAT BARRIER REEF

We have the morning to discover historic Cooktown. It was here that Captain James Cook took refuge during his voyage of discovery after claiming Australia as a British colony in 1770. Visit Cooktown’s fascinating historical museum, featuring artifacts from the Endeavour and enjoy time to explore at your own pace. This afternoon we visit one of the remote

uninhabited islands of the Great Barrier Reef. Join our marine biologist for a glass bottom boat tour over the colourful coral gardens before our first snorkelling opportunity (if you wish) for up-close views of the hundreds of varieties of coral growing on this section of reef. The experienced crew will be on hand to provide assistance, advice and guided snorkelling tours for less experienced swimmers.

### Day 4 (B,L,D) LIZARD ISLAND

This morning we awaken moored beside beautiful Lizard Island. The energetic may join a guided walk to ‘Cook’s Look’ on the island’s peak. The views from the lookout over the World Heritage-listed reef and surrounding tropical islands are simply magnificent. Lizard Island’s fringing reef, in the shallow waters just metres off the beach, offers some fantastic snorkelling opportunities. Discover giant clams and an abundance of fish. Enjoy the remainder of the morning at your leisure. This afternoon we cruise to Ribbon Reef No. 9, a spectacular and seldom visited part of the reef where our activities will include more snorkelling opportunities and glass bottom boat tours with the Marine Biologist.

### Day 5 (B,L,D) RIBBON REEFS

The Great Barrier Reef is not actually one continuous reef, but a series of thousands of individual coral cays stretching over 3,000 kilometres. We spend today visiting two of the most pristine sections of the reef, Ribbon Reef No. 3 and Rachel Carson Reef. Explore the coral gardens and marine life with guided snorkelling and glass bottom boat tours.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world. Longer than the Great Wall of China and home to the world’s largest collection of corals plus an abundance of marine life. The Coral Princess II catamaran is the ideal vessel to discover the Reef, fully equipped with modern conveniences and able to easily manoeuvre amongst the reefs and coral cays.



Our Marine Biologist will explain the natural history and evolution of the reef and help you discover the local wildlife, which includes sea turtles, giant clams, rays and over 200 different species of native birds.



Under Water, Great Barrier Reef

All meals / most morning and afternoon teas

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Fitzroy Island

### Day 6 (B,L,D) THETFORD REEF, SUDBURY CAY

This morning we return briefly to Cairns then enjoy the afternoon experiencing the reef at our exclusive Thetford Reef and Sudbury Cay moorings. Join the knowledgeable Marine Biologist for a glass bottom boat tour over the colourful coral gardens before gathering on the snorkel deck to participate in a fish feed. Discover some of the 1500 species of fish that live on the reef, including Spangled Emperor, Giant Trevally and the Hump-Headed Maori Wrasse as they are hand fed by the Marine Biologist. The remainder of the afternoon is free for you to snorkel in the shallow waters for up-close views of the hundreds of varieties of colourful corals and tropical fish or simply relax.

### Day 7 (B,L,D) HINCHINBROOK ISLAND

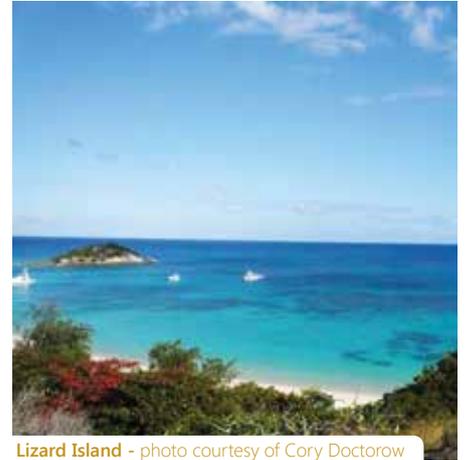
We cruise the spectacular Hinchinbrook Channel, discovering Hinchinbrook Island's towering cliffs and mangrove eco-systems. Subject to tides, we will cruise the length of the channel, separating the Australian mainland and the island, one of the most diverse marine environments on the Australian coast. Keep an eye out for myriad of marine life including crocodiles, dolphins, turtles and dugongs, which can often be seen frolicking in these waters. Join us on the beach for a gourmet BBQ, freshly prepared by the Captain. Then, explore the surrounding rainforest on a guided nature walk or perhaps snorkel the fringing reef, in the shallow waters just metres off the beach.

### Day 8 (B,L,D) DUNK ISLAND, NATHAN REEF

This morning join our naturalist guides on a fascinating rainforest walk discovering Dunk Island's unique flora and fauna. Following lunch, discover Nathan Reef at your own pace. From our exclusive mooring experience some of the most colourful coral gardens that can be found anywhere along the entire length of the reef. View many of the 400 different species of coral living in this World Heritage-listed wonderland. Venture in to the warm tropical waters to explore the corals and marine life on a guided snorkelling tour and join the Marine Biologist for a glass bottom boat tour. Laze away the late afternoon on the sun deck, enjoying the comfortable onboard facilities. Tonight, join us in the dining room for another sumptuous dinner as we settle in for our final night cruising the Great Barrier Reef.

### Day 9 (B,L) FITZROY ISLAND, CAIRNS, HOME

Travel ashore to explore beautiful Fitzroy Island which offers wonderful bush walking opportunities and idyllic white sandy beaches. Savour our final snorkelling opportunity over the island's fringing reefs, just metres from the beach. Following lunch we cruise through Trinity Bay before arriving in Cairns. We transfer to Cairns Airport where home bound flights complete our unforgettable cruising adventure.



Lizard Island - photo courtesy of Cory Doctorow

#### Note:

*Due to weather, tides or mechanical reasons itineraries may be subject to change without notice.*



Palm Cove

**All prices are per person twin share**

Tour Price*	\$6,475
Adelaide	\$7,075
Brisbane	\$6,775
Canberra	\$7,075
Hobart/Launceston	\$7,125
Melbourne	\$6,925
Perth**	\$7,850
Sydney	\$6,875
Single supplement	\$ 95

\*Tour commences and ends in Cairns.

\*\*Pre-tour overnight Melbourne, includes airport transfers, dinner & breakfast.

Deposit of \$700 due within 7 days of booking, plus any additional deposit needed for non-refundable airfares.

Balance due 90 days prior to departure.

Prices from other cities available on application.

**Limited single cabins available.**