

# Enjoy the Great Barrier Reef in Safety

The Great Barrier Reef is home to many unique, colourful and interesting marine creatures. While the majority of all marine life shares its habitat in harmony with human visitors, care needs to be exercised to protect against some forms of marine creatures.

## Marine Stingers

At certain times of the year, jellyfish, commonly called marine stingers, can affect the seas of Northern Australia. Most jellyfish are harmless to man, however certain varieties may cause a serious reaction. Jellyfish of this kind are normally only found in waters close to the mainland and do not usually frequent the outer reef. Incidents involving serious marine stings in this area are not common.

The crew are very conscious of the danger of marine stingers and will take the appropriate steps to ensure your protection if they believe there is a possibility of encountering these creatures. It is important that snorkellers listen to the advice given by safety staff who will advise the degree of risk on any particular day.

## Marine Animals

A number of marine animals, including shells, have defence mechanisms that can sting or even disable a person. It is best to observe marine animals without touching them.

## Corals and Plant Growth

Plants and corals may have stinging mechanisms which can be painful or irritating. It is best not to touch corals and plants to avoid the discomfort of stings and to avoid damaging them.

## Lycra Suits

Lycra suits are available and recommended while snorkelling to protect you from the sun and to reduce the possibility of stings and irritations.

For "Great Barrier Reef Adventure" and "Green Island & Great Barrier Reef Adventure" passengers, the use of lycra suits are included in your cruise.

For Green Island only passengers, lycra suits are available for hire from the Dive Shop on Green Island.



## Safety

- » Your crew will do their utmost to ensure your safety during all of the day's activities, however, all swimming and snorkelling is undertaken at your own risk.
- » Always snorkel and swim between the flags while on Green Island or the buoyed area at the platform (pontoon) where the lifeguards can see you.
- » If you have a medical condition please advise the lifeguard.
- » Do not consume alcohol and eat only in moderation before snorkelling or diving.
- » Always snorkel with a partner. Ask a travel companion to be your "snorkelling buddy". Children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- » If you experience difficulty, signal the lifeguard by waving one or both arms above your head and call out for help.
- » Please always listen carefully to instructions and follow the advice from the lifeguard.
- » Swimming in the boating channel at Green Island is not permitted.
- » Swimming and diving from the Green Island jetty is not permitted.
- » Vessels may use some areas near by you. Please do not snorkel in these areas or under the platform or the vessel.
- » If diving below the surface, look up when ascending and place your hands above your head to protect against collisions.
- » One long blast on the ship's horn is a signal to recall all snorkellers from the water.

## Important Advice

- » The Queensland Government advises that diagnosed or undiagnosed medical conditions pose an increased risk to older age snorkellers and that precautions are recommended.
- » Be aware of your own physical limitations and swimming ability and do not exceed these. Water depth and Marine Park regulations prevent swimmers from resting on the ocean floor or coral reef.
- » Snorkelling can be a strenuous activity and you will be exerting yourself more than usual. If you are older age, or suffer from heart disease, asthma, lung complaints, epilepsy, diabetes, any allergies or any other medical condition which can be made worse by physical exertion, you should take special caution and inform our lifeguards of your situation and snorkel in an area that allows closer supervision.
- » Flotation devices are recommended and should be worn by older age persons and those with medical conditions or poor swimming ability.

## First Aid

To avoid infection or coral poisoning it is essential all scratches or cuts are treated at our first aid station at the designated locations. Please ask any crew member for assistance if you have any injuries.



PLEASE RECYCLE  
THIS BROCHURE

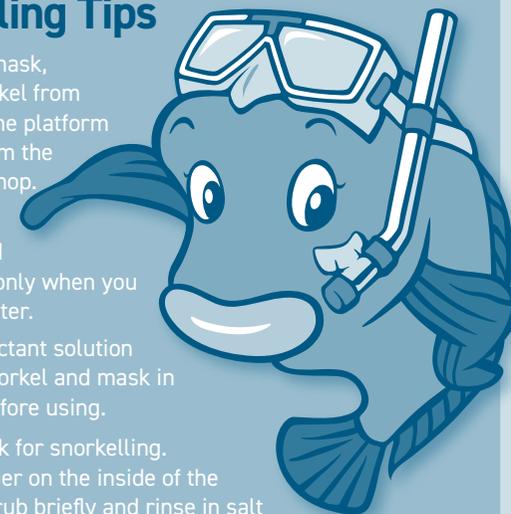


# Enjoy Safe Snorkelling

Please read carefully - ask our lifeguard for any assistance before entering the water, especially if you have never snorkelled before.

## Snorkelling Tips

- » Select your mask, fins and snorkel from the bins on the platform or collect from the island dive shop.
- » For your own safety, fit and remove fins only when you are in the water.
- » Rinse disinfectant solution from your snorkel and mask in salt water before using.
- » Prepare mask for snorkelling. Spray defogger on the inside of the mask glass, rub briefly and rinse in salt water. This procedure reduces fogging.
- » When fitting mask, ensure your hair is clear of mask.
- » Place strap high on the back of your head and your snorkel under the mask strap in front of your ear.
- » Seal lips tightly around snorkel mouth piece and breathe only through your mouth.
- » To clear water from your mask, tilt your head back out of the water and lift the bottom of your mask to let water drain out.
- » Clear water from your snorkel by exhaling through the snorkel.
- » If uncomfortable with your snorkel, please ask a crew member for advice.
- » Always look ahead when snorkelling to avoid collisions.



# About The Great Barrier Reef



## Preserving the Great Barrier Reef

### The Great Barrier Reef

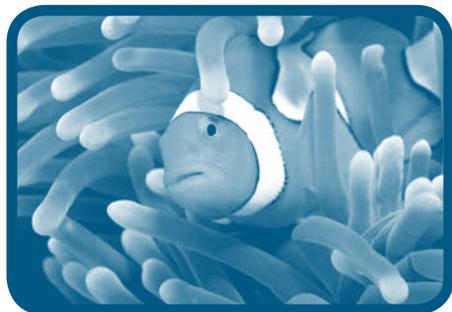
Extending for 2300km along the north-eastern coast of Australia, it is not one large reef but a network of about 2900 individual reefs.

Corals need 3 main things for growth - warm water, sunlight and low nutrients. On this coast there is a shallow continental shelf only 20-30 metres deep, which has given the Great Barrier Reef the chance to form.

The whole Great Barrier Reef is a marine park, but with zones which allow for different uses. Reefs we visit allow for water activities but not fishing or collecting. These activities can be conducted under strict guidelines at other reefs.

### Fish

There are over 1500 different fish out here and each has its own job. The way to see the most while snorkelling or diving is to move slowly. Fish are much better than we are at swimming and will disappear if chased but we can float and watch them for ages if relaxed.



Feel free to ask crew about the interesting sights on the Reef or Island. Have a great day on the reef and please look after the animals, this is their home.



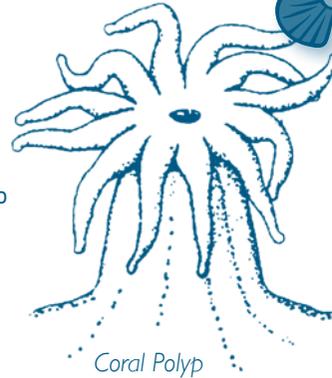
Map courtesy Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

### Corals

Corals are animals in the same family as jellyfish but make a solid skeleton of limestone.

They can pull themselves into the skeleton (most corals do this during the day) when unfortunately they look more like rock. It is important to realise they are alive and sensitive.

Pictured are a few types of the 400 species of coral on the reef, some of which are brightly coloured.



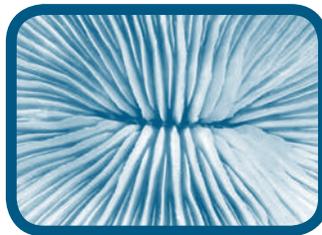
Coral Polyp



Brain Coral



Staghorn Coral



Mushroom Coral

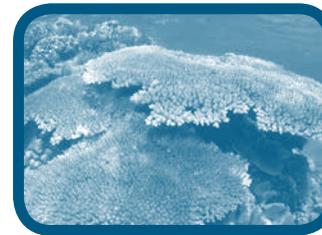


Plate Coral

### Plants

You won't see many plants on the reef but they are still the important base of the food web. Microscopic plants live in the coral's skin and produce sugars by photosynthesis.

The corals absorb much of these sugars for up to 90% of their food while the plants benefit from a safe house and good supply of carbon dioxide. Giant clams live with plants in a similar way and grow to one metre and at least 50 years old.

The coral reef you will visit is a World Heritage site and its preservation is everybody's responsibility. Please help us preserve the reef.

- » Do not stand on the coral. Rest carefully in sandy areas only. Coral is living and easy to damage.
- » Snorkel in deeper water along the edge of shallow reef areas.
- » Only snorkel in shallow areas when you are confident you or your fins will not bump corals.
- » If smoking, please place ash and butts in the trays provided.
- » Don't throw food scraps to fish, birds or any animals.
- » Use clothing to stop sunburn and minimise the use of sunscreen.
- » Don't urinate in the water, there are toilets onboard the vessel and island.
- » Be kind to the reef animals and don't handle or harass them, it may cause problems that are not immediately obvious. Our crew handle a select few animals as examples.

**This is a Marine Park, collecting is not allowed. Take away only photographs and happy memories.**

**Protect our natural heritage for our children - please do not stand on the corals.**



Ecotourism is ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation.