

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 extremely rare.

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 (a maintenance and cleaning charge will apply).

Crew will take orders for the hire of lycra suits during the forward journey to the outer reef. Lycra suits are also available from the Dive Shop on Green Island. Please return your lycra suits before you reboard.



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.
- » Do not consume alcohol and eat only in moderation before snorkelling or diving.
- » Always snorkel (off the beach or) in front of the swimming platform where our lifeguard can see you.
- » A lookout will be in position at all times snorkellers are in the water.
- » Always snorkel with a partner. Ask a travel companion to be your "snorkelling buddy".
- » If you experience difficulty, signal the lookout by waving one or both arms above your head. Please listen carefully to instructions from the lifeguard if you are being rescued.
- » 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.

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.

Important Medical 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 try to 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, even in calm conditions. If you are older age, or suffer from heart disease, asthma, lung complaints, epilepsy, diabetes, allergies to stings and bites, 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.



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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 vessel, platform or 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. Spit on inside of glass or ask crew for defog spray, 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.

