



EXCITING NEW TOURISM OFFERINGS LAUNCH ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

~ Queensland, Australia invites travelers to dive deeper on the Reef with underwater attractions, new resorts, memorable experiences and more~



QUEENSLAND (Australia) – October 8, 2019 – The iconic World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef in [Queensland, Australia](#), the world’s largest coral reef system and Australia’s great natural wonder, invites travelers to experience the destination like never before with a range of unique new accommodations and awe-inspiring experiences. One of Australia’s most remarkable natural gifts, the Great Barrier Reef offers a myriad of colorful and exotic marine life, stunning coral cays, picturesque tropical islands and golden beaches, as well as some of the best dive spots in the world. Between new underwater hotels and a world’s first tourism experience to preservation efforts from industry leaders and exciting new attractions, visitors can expect an informative and once-in-a-lifetime experience. Below is a sampling of recent news from the Great Barrier Reef. For additional information, please visit www.queensland.com.

New Accommodations

InterContinental Hayman Island – Whitsundays – July 2019

Surrounded by verdant cliffs, crescent-shaped white beach and celestial-blue sea, the re-imagined InterContinental Hayman Island Resort will immerse guests in five-star luxury in the heart of the Whitsundays. With 166 elegant rooms, suites, and villas, guests will discover an idyllic destination of privacy and pampering, where they can experience diving the Great Barrier Reef, swimming in a private

pool, sailing the Coral Sea, indulging in culinary artistry and personalized spa treatments. The property boasts five new restaurants and bars that feature extraordinary local flavors in unforgettable settings such as a tropical rainforest of the crystal waters of the Coral Sea.

Reefsuites, Cruise Whitsundays – Whitsundays – November 2019

Cruise Whitsundays recently announced the opening of Australia's first underwater accommodations on the Great Barrier Reef, launching November 2019. The two Reefsuites will feature floor-to-ceiling, panoramic views of tropical marine life including tropical fish, turtles and manta rays. The Reefsuites are the centrepiece of the \$8 million sustainable redevelopment of the Reefworld pontoon, which has been meticulously reconstructed after damage sustained in 2017's Cyclone Debbie. Guests can choose between premium king or twin single accommodation below sea level, complete with private glass en suite. The full Reefsuite experience is priced at \$749 per person, based on double occupancy, and includes a return scenic cruise out to the reef, all meals and beverages including a spectacular dining experience under the stars, a selection of marine activities including a private guided snorkeling tour and a semi-submarine tour, and overnight accommodation in one of the two private, underwater suites. Cruise Whitsundays is also revamping their renowned Reefsleeper experience, which will allow up to 28 guests at a time to sleep under the stars on the pontoon's top deck. People can now register their interest in these once-in-a-lifetime experiences at www.cruisewhitsundays.com.

Lady Musgrave Island Underwater Accommodations – Lady Musgrave Island – April 2020

Lady Musgrave Island has recently announced a Great Barrier Reef observatory and underwater accommodations as part of a new, government-funded multi-level pontoon development, which will create a whole new way for visitors to experience the island and the region. The three-level pontoon will provide underwater accommodations for up to 24 people with 360-degree views of the Reef, an underwater observatory with UV lighting so visitors can experience the Reef at night, as well as upper decks for diving, snorkelling and glass bottom boat tours. The pontoon is expected to draw an additional 16,000 visitors to the region every year and drive more than \$1.8 million in visitor expenditure. The all-inclusive two-day, one-night experience is priced at \$550.

New Attractions

Heart Island – Whitsundays – July 2019

In a world-first, guests of Hamilton Island in the Great Barrier Reef's Whitsundays can now experience unprecedented access to the iconic Heart Reef lagoon. After a decade of development and an investment of over \$2 million dollars, this is the very first time visitors will be able to see the iconic coral formation up close, which previously could only be viewed from above via a scenic flight. Exclusive to guests of Hamilton Island, the state-of-the-art split level pontoon, which was developed by Hamilton Island Air, can accommodate just six guests at a time. The journey to Heart Island involves a 30-minute scenic helicopter flight over the Whitsunday Islands and Whitehaven Beach before approaching the Great Barrier Reef. After arriving at Heart Island, guests can expect to board a futuristic glass-bottom boat, exclusively designed and customized for Heart Island, before making the short journey to the Heart Reef itself. Developed in consultation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Heart Island commenced construction following a two-year environmental impact study. The pontoon has been designed to be ecologically sustainable, is moored in sand and is powered by wind and solar. Heart Island does not carry waste and only operates within a designated lagoon where regular reef health monitoring takes place. Hamilton Island's Heart Island experience costs \$999 per person, aged 14 years and above and includes a return scenic helicopter flight, tour of Heart Reef, snorkeling equipment and light catering.

The Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) – Townsville – First artwork launching April 2020

Launching in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) will be the first of its kind in Australia, aiming to increase awareness of the threatened ecosystem and rehabilitate parts of the reef. The underwater museum will comprise of a series of educational sculptures that reflect reef and ocean conservation action, showcase the local indigenous culture and provide positive environmental impacts on the Reef. The art installations will be created by the world's leading underwater sculptor, Jason deCaires Taylor, in collaboration with a series of local and indigenous artists.

The art will be spread across four sites within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, with the first installation set to launch April 2020 on the Strand in Townsville, known as Australia's center for marine science. The artwork, named "Ocean Siren," will be an intertidal, solar-powered sculpture of an indigenous girl that changes color to alert people of critical temperature rises, using data from the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Soon to follow will be the large-scale "Coral Greenhouse" on the John Brewer Reef, which will be installed just before coral spawning to provide coral larvae with a new clean surface to attach to. In August 2020, Palm Island will debut art that shares the stories of the local indigenous community, accessible only with official tour guides and designed to help boost the economy from tourism. The final submerged artwork, a Reef science installation, is expected to open January 2021 at Geoffrey Bay on Magnetic Island.

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About Tourism and Events Queensland

Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) is a statutory body of the Queensland Government and the state's lead marketing, destination and experience development and major events agency.

In partnership with government, regional tourism organizations, industry and commercial stakeholders, we aim to build Queensland's tourism and events industry to foster innovation, drive industry growth and boost visitor expenditure.

TEQ is a consumer-led experienced-focused and destination-delivered organization that connects people and places like never before through innovation and collaboration with the tourism and events industry.