



SMALL SHIP CRUISE

## GREAT BARRIER REEF DISCOVERY

2025

XPCCDC8



8 days / 7 nights Small Ship Cruise



Cairns to Cairns

### ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



### CAIRNS TO CAIRNS

8 days / 8 nights Small Ship Cruise

DAY 1

#### Arrive Cairns, Embark Ship, Double Island

Arrive in Cairns and be transferred to the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal where you will embark on the Coral Discoverer for your 7-night journey to the remote and untouched Northern reefs. Settle in on board as we anchor off Double Island, explore the ship's facilities before joining the Captain for welcome drinks on the Sun Deck.



**Stay:** Seven nights, Coral Discoverer

**Daily:** • Dinner

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#### DAY 2

### Cooktown, Lizard Island

Step ashore in historic Cooktown and delve into the rich heritage of the Guugu Yimithirr, the traditional custodians of the land. Explore a chapter of European history at the site where lieutenant James Cook grounded the HMB Endeavour for repairs in 1770. Stroll through the beautiful flora and the Botanic Gardens, and Visit the James Cook Museum, where you'll learn about Cook's landing from an Aboriginal viewpoint, complemented by fascinating artefacts. Later, relax on board or enjoy the ship's amenities as we cruise toward Lizard Island.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 3

### Lizard Island

Immerse yourself in the beauty of Lizard Island with a day of exploration. Hike to the summit of Cook's Look for breathtaking panoramic views, or dive into the vibrant underwater world as you snorkel through the giant clam gardens at Watson's Bay. If you prefer to unwind, stretch out on the soft white sands beneath the shade of she-oak trees and simply enjoy the island's tranquil charm.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 4

### Ribbon Reef

Today, seize the rare opportunity to snorkel and dive in the stunning Ribbon Reefs. Stretching 50 to 100 km from the mainland and spanning 200 km from Cooktown to Lizard Island, this chain of narrow reefs—numbered from #1 to #10—marks the dramatic meeting point between the expansive coral ribbons and the deep, mysterious waters of the open ocean as the continental shelf falls away. Join a guided snorkel tour with our expert Expedition Team, and immerse yourself in the vibrant underwater world teeming with marine life.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 5

### Ribbon Reef

Today, we continue our in-depth exploration of the Ribbon Reefs, delving further into this extraordinary underwater paradise. Each dive site offers its own unique features, from intricate coral gardens and impressive drop-offs to bustling schools of fish and the chance to spot larger marine creatures like manta rays and reef sharks.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 6

### Escape Reef, Mackay Reef and Cay

Visit Escape Reef for an unforgettable snorkelling experience where you'll find an underwater world that boasts an array of flourishing coral and wildlife. Then, it's on to MacKay Reef, where its northern side benefits from extra protection provided by the nearby cay, creating a haven for turtles. This area is also home to giant sea clams, some growing as large as 1.2 metres, each showcasing their own unique colours and patterns.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 7

### Fitzroy Island, Sudbury Cay

Today, enjoy the serenity of Fitzroy Island. Wander through the enchanting Secret Garden rainforest, or for something more adventurous, you might choose to head to the de-commissioned lighthouse where you'll find unparalleled views of Coral Sea, islands and the mainland mountain ranges. Snorkel the fringing reef, bathe in the sun on the beach, and experience the unique opportunity to assist the volunteers at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, where they care for sick and/or injured turtles for releasing them back into their natural habitat.

In the afternoon, arrive at Sunbury Cay, a secluded and tiny sand cay slightly emerged from the Coral Sea. Take off your shoes and feel the sand granules under your feet while gentle tropical waves caress the shore. Relax with sundowner drinks with your fellow adventurers as you watch the glorious sunset.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 8

### Disembark Ship, Depart Cairns



Your journey concludes upon arrival in Cairns. After enjoying a final breakfast on board, you'll disembark and bid your fellow travellers farewell.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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