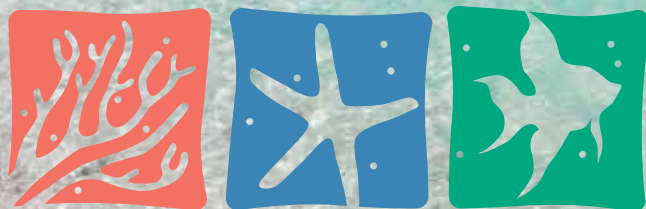


GREAT BARRIER REEF SCHOOL EXCURSIONS

**DISCOVER CRYSTAL BLUE WATERWAYS, UNINHABITED ISLANDS,
CORAL REEFS, SNORKELLING, SAILING, SEA-KAYAKING, MARINE
LIFE, WETLANDS, NATIVE ANIMALS, BUSHWALKING, AND MORE!**

WHITSUNDAY DISCOVERY TOURS



GREAT BARRIER REEF, AUSTRALIA

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF THE WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS



School excursions in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef

Whitsunday Discovery Tours delivers and coordinates school excursions, study tours and other educational programs for Australian and international school groups visiting the beautiful Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and surrounding region. Whitsunday Discovery Tours staff and associates have many years of experience organising school excursions and study tours in areas such as biology, marine studies and environmental science. Facilitators are experienced and highly regarded in their fields of expertise, with a broad knowledge of the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday region.

Discover the Whitsunday Islands

Located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia, the Whitsunday Islands are a remarkable natural wonder with crystal blue waterways, fringing coral reefs, and an abundance of marine animals and bird life. This breathtakingly beautiful environment is the perfect setting for a memorable learning experience.

Flights from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane

School excursions organised by Whitsunday Discovery Tours use direct flights from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Whitsunday Coast Airport, which means that you are just a few hours away from the magic of the Great Barrier Reef and Whitsunday Islands.

All-inclusive school excursions

Our exciting Great Barrier Reef school excursions for Year 5 to Year 10 range from 4 days to 8 days and include airfares, accommodation, field trips, transfers and all meals. Each excursion includes lectures on the reef and rainforest and snorkelling lessons so that students can experience the boat trips with ease.

Quality tour operators

Whitsunday Discovery Tours works closely with a number of quality tour operators and accommodation providers to deliver a first class experience for your school. Find out more in the Activities and Accommodation sections.



EXCURSIONS TO SUIT ALL PREFERENCES

Excursions from 4 to 8 days

Whitsunday Discovery Tours offers 4-day, 5-day, 6-day, 7-day and 8-day excursions to the Great Barrier Reef for schools in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Each excursion combines theory with exciting outdoor educational experiences that complement elements of the ACARA curriculum. Each excursion includes two travel days: an arrival day and a departure day. The arrival day includes introductory tutorials and activities. Days following the arrival day include field trips that expand on the concepts covered. Please refer to the detailed descriptions of our sample excursions for more information.

Excursion group sizes

Whitsunday Discovery Tours endeavours to provide exciting and enriching experiences for Australian school children visiting the Great Barrier Reef. Group sizes are typically between 15 and 45 participants, including both students and teachers. Group sizes within this range permit private charter arrangements with tour operators and flexibility regarding fieldwork activities. Please contact us to discuss your specific requirements.

Excursion inclusions

Each school excursion with Whitsunday Discovery Tours includes:

- Private charter for all field trips (except shared charter for outer Great Barrier Reef Adventure)
- Direct return flights from Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane Airport to Whitsunday Coast Airport (Proserpine)
- All accommodation, meals and transfers whilst in the Whitsundays
- Educational tutorials and materials
- Field trips with local tour operators and a knowledgeable guide at each experience
- Risk assessments for activities and field trips

Excursion prices

Great Barrier Reef school excursion prices for Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane schools start from as little as \$1145 per participant depending on the duration of the excursion and chosen accommodation. Please contact Whitsunday Discovery Tours to discuss your specific requirements or complete the online form on our web site to request a free quote.

EXCURSION DESCRIPTIONS



Choose your excursion duration

Whitsunday Discovery Tours offers 4-day, 5-day, 6-day, 7-day and 8-day school excursions to the Great Barrier Reef. Each excursion combines theory with exciting outdoor educational experiences that complement elements of the ACARA curriculum.

Common arrival day

Each school excursion includes two travel days: an arrival day and a departure day. The arrival day is full of educational tutorials about the Great Barrier Reef and field activities that teach your students about the importance of mangroves and wetlands. During this arrival day participants will also be given a snorkelling lesson so they know how to use the equipment correctly, how to avoid harming coral, and how to get the best experience on their day trips. Days following the arrival day include field trips that expand on the concepts covered.

Example 4-day excursion

The 4-day school excursion begins with the arrival day described earlier. Two full-day field trips are included in this excursion. One day will be a full-day cruise with the Outer Great Barrier Reef Experience. The other day will be spent exploring island habitat and fringing reefs surrounding the Whitsunday Islands, and also visiting world-famous Whitehaven Beach.

Example 5-day excursion

The 5-day school excursion begins with the arrival day described earlier. The following three days will be spent exploring the best of the Whitsundays: a full-day cruise with the Outer Great Barrier Reef Experience, a Fringing Reefs and Island Habitat field activity, and a Wetlands Eco-Tour exploring the Proserpine river system, which is home to many native birds, mammals and reptiles.



Example 6-day excursion

The 6-day school excursion begins with the arrival day described earlier. The following four days will be spent exploring the best of the Whitsundays: a full-day cruise with the Outer Great Barrier Reef Experience, a Fringing Reefs and Island Habitat field activity, a Wetlands Eco-Tour exploring the Proserpine river system, and a day of sailing on a traditional tall ship.

Example 7-day excursion

The 7-day school excursion begins with the arrival day described earlier. The following four days will be spent exploring the best of the Whitsundays: a full-day cruise with the Outer Great Barrier Reef Experience, a Fringing Reefs and Island Habitat field activity, a Wetlands Eco-Tour that explores the Proserpine river system, and a day of sailing on a traditional tall ship. The remaining day of the excursion will be tailored to suit the preferences of your school group.



Example 8-day excursion

The 8-day school excursion begins with the arrival day described earlier. The following four days will be spent exploring the best of the Whitsundays: a full-day cruise with the Outer Great Barrier Reef Experience, a Fringing Reefs and Island Habitat field activity, a Wetlands Eco-Tour that explores the Proserpine river system, and a day of sailing on a traditional tall ship. The remaining two days of the excursion will be tailored to suit the preferences of your school group.



Options for 7-day and 8-day excursions

The 7-day and 8-day school excursions include one or two days that will be tailored to suit the preferences of your school group. Possible activities include: embarking on a fast-paced sailing adventure across the Whitsundays aboard a former racing maxi yacht; scuba diving or snorkelling over fringing coral reefs; joining a guided nature bushwalk through the Whitsunday Island National Park; sea kayaking around tropical islands; learning junior first aid; or feeding and caring for sick and injured turtles at the Eco Barge Turtle Rescue Centre. If there are other specific themes that your school would like to incorporate into the excursion, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate.

Opportunities for 10-day and 12-day camps

Opportunities for 10-day and 12-day camps are available for Senior students (Year level 10 to 12) with a minimum age of 14 years. Whitsunday Islands, Molle Islands group and Conway National Park provide many camping and hiking opportunities for small school groups seeking adventurous journeys. Whitsunday Discovery Tours can assist in sourcing information and activities to ensure a memorable and rewarding experience for individuals seeking to explore their potential. Please contact us if you would like more information about camps that encourage a sense of adventure and discovery.

EXCITING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Choose your excursion activities

The activities that are included in your excursion depend on the excursion duration and the options you have selected. Descriptions of various excursion activities are provided here.

Arrival day tutorials and field activities

Each excursion includes an arrival day that is comprised of educational tutorials and small field activities. The tutorials are interactive classroom experiences that investigate the importance of eco-systems from the Great Barrier Reef to mangroves and fresh water river systems. The field activities can vary, however each will include a mangrove activity and also snorkeling lessons so that students know how to use the equipment correctly, how to avoid harming coral, and how to get the best experience on their day trips.

Fringing reefs and island habitat field activity

The Fringing Reefs and Island Habitat field activity is a full day exploring the best of the Whitsundays while supporting the arrival day's educational tutorials. This exhilarating tour will take guests to the world-famous Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet, prestigious snorkelling locations, and uninhabited islands and beaches! This field trip will be a private charter, and can be amended to suit the needs of the school.

An experienced and knowledgeable guide will be with your school for the full day to answer any questions and to reinforce the information from the educational tutorials. There is an optional additional activity with this tour to collect marine debris from the Whitsunday Islands, which also helps to support the arrival day's educational sessions.



Outer Great Barrier Reef experience

The Outer Great Barrier Reef Experience is a full-day cruise to the outer Great Barrier Reef where guests will have four hours to explore, play and learn on the marine pontoon. At this pontoon, your class will be given a private guided snorkeling tour where they can further identify fish and corals learnt about on the arrival day. Throughout the remainder of the day your students can continue to snorkel and explore or utilise the on-board facilities including the underwater viewing observatory and semi-submersible boat with glass bottom and walls. Because of the size of this cruise, it will not be a private charter. However, a section of the boat will be reserved specifically for your class, and they will be supported by experienced and knowledgeable crew for the day.

Wetlands eco-tour

The wetlands tour is a family-owned, professionally operated, fully-guided and safe day-trip. Guests will enjoy excellent customer service and a memorable nature experience. This tour is a nature excursion exploring the Proserpine wetlands and river systems, which is home to many native birds, mammals and reptiles. This eco-tour takes guests on a river punt cruise to see native animals in their natural habitat.

The second half of this eco tour is spent exploring the wetlands on a tractor-drawn wagon, where guests will see a multitude of native animals including wallabies, native birds, and reptiles. This eco-tour will be a private charter. Throughout the day, this tour is escorted by experienced and knowledgeable tour guides who have worked in the Whitsundays for over a decade and are experts in native Australian animals and natural eco-systems. This tour will also give students a further opportunity to learn about the importance of mangroves, as discussed on the arrival day.



Tall ship sailing adventure

Sailing aboard a tall ship is the opportunity of a lifetime to experience authentic sailing at its best! Throughout the day students can learn how to sail while taking in the serenity of their surroundings and staying on the lookout for wildlife, such as dolphins, turtles and even whales during the winter months. This private charter will take guests to Langford Reef which has beach access and is known locally for its friendly marine life. This tour also participates in the "Eye on the Reef" program, which asks the participants to record the number and species of fish they observe – just another way for students to learn about the importance of eco-systems and the natural environment. Throughout the day, your students will be accompanied by experienced and passionate guides, who not only have extensive knowledge about marine life and its eco-systems, but also the sailing history of the Whitsundays Islands.

Maxi yacht sailing adventure

This sailing excursion aboard a former racing maxi yacht is a fast-paced action tour across the Whitsundays. Guests will experience all that a racing yacht has to offer while visiting snorkeling destinations, Hill Inlet and the famous Whitehaven Beach. This sailing excursion will be a private charter and (if requested in advance) can be altered to suit the school's requirements. Throughout the tour there will be experienced guides and hosts available to answer any questions.

Scuba diving, snorkelling and bushwalking

This unforgettable day of snorkelling and/or scuba diving allows students to experience the colourful corals and diverse marine life that populates the waters of the Whitsunday Islands. Your experienced crew will consider the day's weather conditions and take you to the most ideal snorkelling and diving locations, ensuring that you experience the best fringing reefs the Whitsundays have to offer.

Students will also join a guided nature bushwalk through the Whitsunday Island National Park, and view the magical shifting sands of Whitehaven Beach from scenic Hill Inlet Lookout.

Sea kayaking and junior first aid

This experience combines two different half-day activities: sea kayaking and junior first aid. Sea kayaking is an exciting water sport that can be appreciated by both experienced paddlers and beginners. Departing from our base at Shute Harbour, we kayak over fringing coral reefs and explore nearby tropical islands. These turquoise waters and islands are home to an amazing diversity of marine and birdlife. Students may have the chance to observe giant sea turtles, sting rays, dolphins or sea eagles. The emphasis is on enjoying the natural environment while keeping active and learning through group dynamics.

Lessons include management of food and water, weather and tidal conditions, group strengths and weaknesses and creating good group morale. Our second half-day activity, junior first aid training, teaches students what to do in an emergency. Research has shown that children as young as 5 years old can learn and effectively perform elements of CPR and basic life support. First aid could be one the most important skills your students ever acquire.

Action and volunteer day

The Action and Volunteer day will include various activities on the Whitsundays mainland. Students will: engage with guest speakers from volunteer organisations Eco Barge Clean Seas and Fauna Rescue Whitsundays; count and sort marine debris collected from the full-day Fringing Reefs and Island Habitat experience; and learn more about the care of sick and injured turtles.

If there are other specific themes that your school would like to incorporate into this day, please let the team at Whitsunday Discovery Tours know and we will do our best to accommodate. Other possible activities could include: learning to play the didgeridoo; meeting a local author; meeting a wildlife park carer; training for a career in the Whitsundays; meeting international students learning English at a local college; stand up paddle (SUP) boarding; recyclable art; visiting a golf driving range; feeding rescued turtles at the Eco Barge Turtle Rescue Centre; or other seasonal activities.



ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort

BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort provides a range of accommodation options and facilities that have been purposely built to entertain children and teens. At this resort your students will enjoy quad-share accommodation in Deluxe Studio Cabins (twin-share for teachers) and will have access to: Wi-Fi, use of the resort-style lagoon pool, water slides, jumping pillows, outdoor movie screen, mini-golf, an animal park and much more! At this resort all of your meals will be catered for via an external catering company (excluding while on tours).



Colonial Palms Motor Inn

Colonial Palms Motor Inn provides comfortable rooms in a tropical resort-style atmosphere with expansive views of beautiful Boat Haven Bay and Mandalay Point. Facilities include free Wi-Fi, a choice of two slate-lined tropical pools, spa and small children's wading pool. Students will enjoy twin-share or triple-share accommodation (single accommodation for teachers). The on-site restaurant will cater for breakfast and dinner daily. Lunches are provided while on field trips.

Peppers Airlie Beach

Peppers Airlie Beach provides tranquil hill-side apartments with an on-site infinity pool and amazing views of the Coral Sea, mountains and the Port of Airlie Marina. Accommodation will be quad-share in 2-bedroom apartments (twin-share for teachers). Each bedroom has an ensuite. The apartments are spacious and fully self-contained, including laundry facilities and free Wi-Fi. All students will be accommodated in neighbouring apartments within the same block. The on-site restaurant will cater for breakfast and dinner daily. Lunches are provided while on field trips.

EXPERIENCED FACILITATORS

Our experienced crew

Whitsunday Discovery Tours staff and associates have many years of experience organising school excursions in areas such as biology, marine studies and environmental science.

Kay Kent

Kay Kent established Whitsunday Training in 1995 to deliver and coordinate study tours for groups visiting the beautiful Whitsunday islands and surrounding region. Whitsunday Discovery Tours is the latest addition to her expanding business, focusing on the needs of teachers and students from Year 5 to Year 12. Kay is actively involved in the study tours that she coordinates, providing support to group leaders from arrival to departure, and being available to clients during the whole of their stay in the Whitsundays.

Jacquie Sheils

Jacquie Sheils is a marine biologist who has worked on the Great Barrier Reef since 1993 as a reef interpretive guide. She has extensive knowledge of the Reef, and has worked with snorkelers, divers, teachers, student groups, volunteer organisations, journalists and film crews, helping them to make the most of their Reef experience. Jacquie has managed Seagrass Watch Whitsundays since 2010. She is also actively involved with a number of volunteer organisations, including the OUCH Volunteers (Order of Underwater Coral Heroes), Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee, Ecobarge Clean Seas, and the GBRMPA Eye on the Reef and Sightings Network programs. Jacquie's qualifications include: Master of Applied Science (Marine Biology); Bachelor of Science (Genetics / Plant Biotechnology); and PADI Divemaster.



Tony Fontes

Tony has spent the past 30 years living and working in the Whitsundays. As a dive instructor and underwater explorer, he has spent much of that time under the sea, making him one of the most experienced and knowledgeable divers on the Great Barrier Reef. For the past 15 years, Tony has shared his knowledge with kids aged 8 to 18 through regular work with local and international schools. Tony has designed a variety of programs for youth that give them real hands-on experience in reef understanding and conservation

Alana Trott

Alana was born in Townsville and was brought up in the typical North Queensland style – sailing, diving and hiking. She studied a Bachelor of Science at James Cook University in Townsville and has been fortunate to conduct research in rural Australia, Borneo and Denmark. Alana has educational experience through North Queensland Science Education Centre and Student Ambassador work and has worked as a Conservation Team Leader in Cairns. Alana loves both asking and answering questions about the environment.



CONTACT US

We are ready to help

Whitsunday Discovery Tours is ready to coordinate an unforgettable excursion for your students on the Great Barrier Reef, one of the world's greatest natural wonders. Visit our web site at whitsundaydiscoverytours.com.au to find out more about accommodation, activities and excursion options. To discuss your specific requirements, contact Whitsunday Discovery Tours on 07 4946 5870 or complete the online form on our web site to request a free quote.

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