

Cairns, North Queensland, Australia Fundiving The Great Barrier Reef

The diving

The Great Barrier Reef is a Marine Park and World Heritage area. It is recognized as one of the world's most unique and amazing marine spectacles and extends for 2300 kilometers along the northeastern coast of Australia. It consists of about 2900 individual reefs and covers an area the size of the United Kingdom. Its ecosystem supports the greatest concentration of life on this planet with its resident marine life including 1,500 species of fish, 350 different kinds of coral, 4000 species of mollusks and 10,000 species of sponges. It also provides breeding areas for humpback whales, sea turtles, dugong and seabirds. Hundreds of species of algae, including seaweeds, also live on the reef as a vital part of the reef system.

The best way to explore the diving on the reefs for the certified diver is to jump on a 3 day 2 night trip. The trips depart Cairns 6 times per week, offers up to 11 dives (2 night dives) spread out on a selection of the 16 exclusive sites over the trip duration. These sites have been selected for their extravagance of marine life and excellent visibility. You'll see some of the best the reef has to show.

Area name / Island name
Cairns, North Queensland, Australia

Nearest airport
Cairns International Airport

Season
All year round

Center type
PADI 5 Star Training and Instructor
Development center
Rated as one of the top 3 dive centers
in the world

Experience level
PADI Open Water diver or equivalent
Each dive site will be chosen according to
experience level and weather conditions

Minimum age for participation
12 years

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Location

The Cairns region is a major destination for backpackers from around the world. As the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree rainforest, Cairns is an excellent spot for adventure travellers to base themselves. Cairns is the starting point for extended travel in the region including trips to the Daintree Rainforest and Cape York, the Atherton Tableland and Mission Beach area. As a popular tourism destination, there are a range of accommodation options and backpacker tours available in the region.

Your boat

Is one out of 3 custom built multimillion dollar liveaboard dive vessels providing the ideal way to really experience the Great Barrier Reef. These vessels are the only outer reef liveaboard dive boats in the area that are purpose built for what they do. Onboard you will find spacious dive decks and lounge areas and hearty healthy meals between diving and napping on the sundeck. Different options of Wifi are available for those who can't wait to tell their friends about the great experience. All accommodation on board is twin share.

Your room on the boat

Air-con twin share.

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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. The diving is dictated by the safeness of the environment.

Pellowe Reef

A small isolated reef located close to the edge of the continental shelf. For this reason access to the reef is very weather and tidal dependent. The reef drops away very quickly at places to 30m and stronger currents can be present as well. This site offers divers an exciting wall dive and one great swim through. The majority of the dives will be in depths between 5 to 20m. Being closer to the shelf large pelagic fish can be sighted along with the more regular sightings of schools of chevron barracuda, numerous sea cucumbers and nudibranchs.

Milln Reef

Milln Reef offers a number of exciting dive sites such as Whale Bommie, Petaj Mooring, Swimming Pools I, Swimming Pools II and the Three Sisters to name a few. The dive site at Petaj is home to resident turtles and white tip reef sharks. At the Swimming Pools you can expect to see schools of diagonally banded sweetlips and nudibranchs to name a few. Milln reef offers excellent wall dives and swim-through's and is great for night diving. Some of the walls are full of sleeping parrot fish in their mucus sacks, turtles and barracudas and the occasional bull ray. Whale bommie provides you with a good dive in depths exceeding 20m. A great site to dive at all times.

Thetford Reef

Thetford Reef is made up of numerous coral bommies where you can experience some very exciting wall dives and cool swim-through's. This reef is home to many soft and hard corals like staghorn and plate coral and an incredible abundance of marine life. Look for the giant clams, butterfly fish, damsels and angelfish. Access to the reef is very weather and tidal dependent.

Flynn Reef

Flynn reef is one of the most popular reefs to dive and will offer the novice to the very experienced diver plenty of memorable dives. The boat has moorings at a number of the well known dive sites at Flynn reef such as Tracy's Bommie, Gordon's Mooring, Tennis Court and the Coral Gardens. We could describe them all, but instead we suggest you go check them out yourself, it makes them a lot easier to remember!

Conditions:

Visibility

15m – 30m

Temperature

21 – 29C

Current

Mild to moderate

Surface

28-35C year round

Special marinelif

Minke & Humpback whales from May to August, Turtles, Bull rays and funky little Nudibranchs

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Itinerary

Early morning on the day of departure you will be picked up at your hotel - free pick-ups are available from Cairns City and Northern Beaches only. The boat will set out the first day serving a light breakfast before the first dive. The first dive is followed by lunch and then a second dive. The afternoon calls for snacks, relaxing in the sun or snorkeling on the reef followed by the third dive, a late afternoon dive. A night dive is optional and can be done after dinner as the fourth dive of the day. On day 2 and 3 your schedule won't change much from day 1, only difference is the lack of a night dive on day 3 since this is the time when you will be departing the boat back in the port of Cairns. There will be no refund on dives not used.

DIVE PACKAGE: 3 day outer reef liveaboard

3 days and 2 nights in a twin cabin with air-con. Possibility for up to 11 dives, 2 of these dives are optional night dives. All food and soft drinks included.

Please note

Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

Activity starts

Boat departures Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

Activity starts from

The dive center

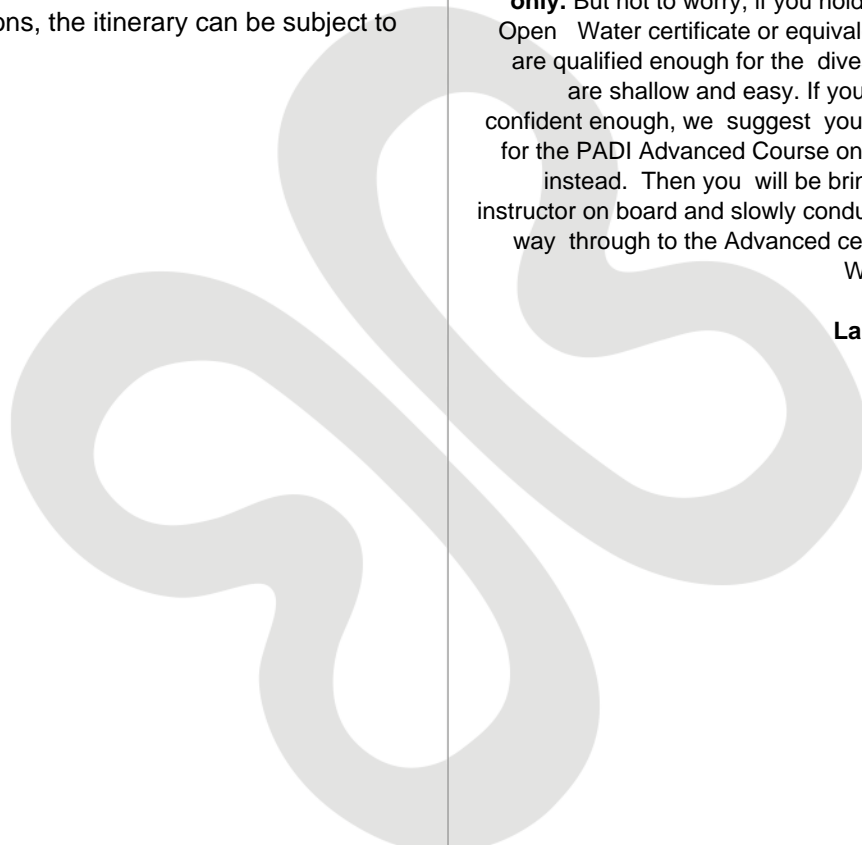
Group Size

Buddy teams up to 4 divers.

The dives are not guided, but are done in buddy teams. All dives are thoroughly briefed by the dive guides. The dive guides will work as surface support only. But not to worry, if you hold a PADI Open Water certificate or equivalent, you are qualified enough for the dives. They are shallow and easy. If you are not confident enough, we suggest you sign up for the PADI Advanced Course on this trip instead. Then you will be bringing an instructor on board and slowly conduct your way through to the Advanced certificate. Win Win!

Language

English



Cairns, North Queensland, Australia
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Transfer information

No accommodation on land is included in this package, and extended transfer info is therefore not available. However, traveling into town from Cairns Airport you will have a couple of options. It will cost you approximately AUD\$15.00 from the Airport to Cairns city by taxi. Depending on the hotel you choose to stay in, it may offer free pickups from the Airport so please ask at the time of making your booking.

Cairns, North Queensland, Australia
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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accommodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying.

Included

11 dives (includes 2 night dives)
*All dive & snorkelling equipment
Accommodation transfers (Cairns city & northern beaches)
All meals, water, coffee and tea onboard & bed linen
Twin share accommodation
Guided orientation and night dives

*Equipment includes:

dive computer
long leg wetsuits
dive torch
Dive Insurance
Prescription lens mask (if required)

Not included

All meals when not on boat
*Alcoholic drinks
Accommodation when not on boat
Wifi on the boat

Pay On Board Fees:

\$80 per person fee consisting of the Government Environmental Management Charge as well as a Port Departure Tax and administration costs

*You are allowed to bring alcoholic drinks on the boat, but it is not advised to drink more than 2 drinks after diving

Also available on site

PADI Advanced Diver Course can be conducted on this trip.
Please ask at location for other continuing education

Continuing education

All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation

Please refer to FAQ & Terms on www.blueventure.net

Dive insurance
Basic dive travel insurance required



General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<http://blueventure.net/files/required/270.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

PADI MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the PADI Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the PADI Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.