Luxury Charter Itinerary | Australia | 14 Days

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Australia
14 days Luxury Yacht Charter Experience

In partnership with

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CAIRNS TO DOUBLE ISLAND

DAY 1

Dotted along the east coast of Australia are some of the country's most cosmopolitan cities, such as Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns. The latter is an excellent place to embark on a charter to the Great Barrier Reef. If you have time ashore before commencing your trip, we suggest skimming the treetops of the rainforest on the Skyrail Cableway, which crosses a section of the Barron Gorge National Park.
DOUBLE ISLAND TO ESCAPE REEF

DAY 2

The privately owned Double Island is the ultimate hideaway destination and the surrounding waters provide a peaceful anchorage. The pretty village of Palm Cove on the mainland is just ten minutes across the water and is where some of the region's best dining establishments can be found. Cruise on to Escape Reef for some spectacular diving along this barrier reef with distinct 'lagoon' and ocean facing sides.
ESCAPE REEF TO COOKTOWN

DAY 3

One of Australia's most historically significant townships, discover the unique history and Cooktown's colourful past, learning more of Captain James Cook's arrival, on a stroll around the town. A must-do is a visit to Grassy Hill Lookout where you can experience 360-degree views of the countryside and beaches. From here, there is also a gentle hike from the summit to the nearby beach at Cherry Tree Bay.
COOKTOWN TO PRINCESS CHARLOTTE BAY
DAY 4 AND 5

Located at the base of the Cape York Peninsula, Princess Charlotte Bay is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and provides some of the most beautiful dive sites to be found along the coast. Renowned for its marine life, Pixie's Pinnacle in the Great Barrier Reef is another superb anchorage.
PRINCESS CHARLOTTE BAY TO STOKES BAY

DAY 6

Trace the coastline and spend a few days swimming and snorkelling around the brilliant coral waters of the Great Barrier Reef. Stokes Bay is an idyllic anchorage with some of the world’s most spectacular diving, fishing and snorkelling spots.
STOKES BAY TO LIZARD ISLAND
DAY 7 AND 8

Lizard Island is a national park at the northernmost tip of the Great Barrier Reef. The granite island is the largest of four islands that make up the Lizard Island Group which encircle a deep blue lagoon. Step ashore to the exclusive Lizard Island resort and experience the luxurious desert island idyll.
LIZARD ISLAND TO RIBBONS REEFS
DAY 9 AND 10

Spend the afternoon snorkelling and diving the Ribbon Reefs. The string of narrow reefs are an almost unbroken barrier running parallel to the Queensland coastline and offer a huge range of stunning dive and snorkelling sites. Alternatively, make the most of a day on deck, enjoying the yacht’s facilities.
RIBBONS REEFS TO OPAL REEF

DAY 11

The waters off Port Douglas boast just as many wonderful coral walls, fish and pinnacles as those previously visited around Cairns. Spend your days relaxing on board and jumping in to dive amongst the kaleidoscopic marine life.
OPAL REEF TO LOW ISLES

DAY 12

The idyllic, unspoilt coral island is a secluded beach paradise in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. The wide beach and calm waters are ideal for swimming and snorkelling. There are over 150 species of hard corals to be found here, and a large variety of fish live amongst them including colourful blue, green and purple parrotfish, angelfish, damselfish, clownfish, trevally, rabbitfish, moon wrasse and you might run into the resident turtles too.
LOW ISLES TO CAIRNS
DAY 13 AND 14

Cruise back to Cairns and spend a few days ashore discovering the city’s thriving foodie-scene, bustling bars and spectacular nightlife. Just 20 minutes outside of Cairns is the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park and the centre gives guests the opportunity to experience authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, which dates back more than 40,000 years.
Asia Tatler Tip

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Itinerary Highlights

Get out there! Australia is all about living life outdoors. Get out on the water to explore the reefs, head to the hillsides to sample the country’s fine wines and how about a guided trek into Australia’s famous outback? In all instances, make the most of the local knowledge that’s sure to be offered to you.

The Great Barrier Reef runs along Australia’s east coast and stretches for 2,300 kilometres and in the Whitsunday Islands, you’ll find powder-fine white sand beaches, turquoise seas and fantastic sailing conditions.
Coral Sea
Hope Spot

Named for its staggering biomass and diversity of corals, this region encompasses the Great Barrier Reef — the world’s "largest living thing" — and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981. Located off the northeastern coast of Australia, the Coral Sea hosts an exquisite variety of vibrant coral reefs, remote islands, towering underwater mountains and deep-sea canyons. Among the corals, it is home to whales, dolphins, sea turtles, rays, sharks and seabirds, and it’s one of the last known places on Earth where big fish can still be found in healthy numbers. Threats include land-based runoff, overfishing and coastal development, but the Australian government took action in July 2018 to establish part of it as the Coral Sea Marine Park, now known as one of the world’s largest protected areas!
The Core of the South Pacific Gyre is the center of several rotating ocean currents located between Australia and South America. This area, described as one of the planet's 'largest oceanic desert', is the site on Earth that's farthest from any continents or productive ocean regions. Unfortunately, scientists confirmed in 2017 the existence of the South Pacific Garbage Patch, a floating mass of plastic debris – much of it microscopic – that spans about one million square miles (1.5 times the size of Texas). This garbage patch is evidence of widespread plastic pollution, and if this trend continues, scientists predict that plastics may outweigh fish by 2050. Fortunately, organizations like The Ocean Cleanup are currently developing advanced technology to sustainably clean up the debris with the goal of undoing the damage done to the Earth's oceans.
Lord Howe Rise is an exquisitely isolated 1.5 million square kilometer island located 800 kilometers east of Australia that boasts a huge variety of landscapes and marine life. The island is home to hundreds of species including sponges, crabs, sea urchins, sea stars, octopuses and even the world’s rarest insect – a stick bug! – previously believed to be extinct. The area experiences threats from unregulated fishing, pollution, rising water temperatures from climate change and deep water trawling. However, conservation efforts are in the works: in 2018, the Australian government established the Lord Howe Marine Park, a move towards protection of the area’s marine life and ecosystem.
The Tasman Sea is an area of the southern Pacific Ocean between Australia and New Zealand, approximately 2,000 km across and extending 2,800 km from north to south. It has been identified as one of five global ocean warming “hotspots.” Temperatures here have risen by 2°C over the past 60 years — three times the average rate of warming in the world’s oceans. These waters are home to a huge biodiversity of life, including the endangered black cod and the galapagos sharks. Overfishing and trawling has been a problem threatening many species, and only about 1% of the coastal areas are no-take zones. However, the local government has established marine reserves in the area, signalling a potential start to eventual protection of the sea.
Moreton Bay
Hope Spot

A mecca for marine biodiversity, Moreton Bay near Brisbane, Australia, hosts tropical, subtropical and temperate species within its matrix of mangroves, mudflats, seagrass, coral reefs, and sand islands. The subtropical location cultivates a unique year-round habitat for marine life such as dugongs and sea turtles, as well as seasonal aggregations including manta rays, humpback whales and grey nurse sharks. However, Moreton Bay's close proximity to a rapidly growing population also places pressure on this environment, and fishing restrictions that the government once put in place were relaxed in 2014. Luckily, citizen science efforts and community involvement has ignited international support for the official protection of the area, and stakeholders are hopeful that comprehensive conservation plans for Moreton Bay are not too far from being realized.
The Houtman Abrolhos are a group of 122 islands and coral reefs located off Australia’s west coast, and are currently under a comprehensive management plan. The Abrolhos are also part of the area’s most important fishing industry and contains successful rock lobster and pearl aquaculture industries. This, together with a growing tourism industry in the region, highlights the potential of the Abrolhos Islands to be an example of conservation policy with diverse stakeholders working in the favor of nature and the populations (including human!) it supports.
The Sydney region’s coastal waters are our pride and joy, and our greatest asset. More than 13 million visitors come from around Australia and the world each year to visit our world famous harbour, and beaches. We are one of the only big cities in the world to be so connected to the coast, with relatively healthy waters and wild and natural places. Our beaches, bays and waterways are truly iconic - renowned for their beauty both above and below the water. Unfortunately, the area has suffered under mounting pressure from pollution, overdevelopment on the coast, the increasing human population and negative effects of climate change including rising sea temperatures. Plastic pollution is choking the waterways and harming the wildlife. The Sydney Coast Hope Spot is an investment into the future that can ensure we pass a healthy legacy on to the next generation. The solution includes reducing our carbon footprint, rejecting single use plastic and promoting responsible development policy in Sydney.

Protected Species:
Salisbury Island is a remote, rugged island off the southern coast of Western Australia. This landmass of limestone and granite was believed to be the first island created from mainland Australia 13,000 years ago. Salisbury Island was discovered in 2009 to be a gathering area for great white sharks. Untouched by humans, the waters surrounding the island are pristine, and Finding Salisbury, Inc. is determined to keep it as so by promoting the expansion of the existing marine protected area and developing a camera-operated virtual tourism program.