

NATIONAL PARK · AUSTRALIA · QUEENSLAND

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

at a glance

Not a park with gates but a sea: 2,300 km (1,429 mi) of coast, about 3,000 reefs – and zones that set out what is allowed where.

344,400 km²

AREA

about 2,300 km

LENGTH OF COAST
(1,429 mi)

60–250 km

WIDTH
(37–155 mi)

about 3,000

REEFS

BEFORE YOU GO



344,400 square kilometres

That is the size of the Marine Park according to the Reef Authority – it would cover 98.6 per cent of Germany.



About 3,000 reefs

On top of that come 600 continental islands, 300 coral cays and about 150 mangrove islands.



Cairns

Cairns has an airport with domestic and international terminals.



Stinger season November to May

Box jellyfish and Irukandji occur in Queensland's tropical waters all year round; according to the Queensland Government the risk is higher ...



Green zones: no take

In Marine National Park Zones (green) you may not take anything – no fishing, no collecting.



Pink zones: no entry

No one may enter Preservation Zones (pink) without written permission.



Fees and opening hours, up to date

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date:
nationalparksatlas.com/en/australia/great-barrier-reef



- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Agincourt Reef | 5 Flynn Reef |
| 2 Low Isles Light | 6 Heart Reef |
| 3 Hastings Reef | 7 Hill Inlet |
| 4 Upolu Cay | 8 Whitehaven Beach |

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



WHITSUNDAYS



REEFS OFF CAIRNS AND PORT DOUGLAS



THINGS TO DO

Snorkelling and diving

Most day tours go to the outer reef, to pontoons or to coral cays.

Sailing and bareboats

In the Whitsundays you can skipper uncrewed boats over 6 m (20 ft) yourself (bareboats) or join crewed ...

Bleaching in summer 2025–26

In its Reef snapshot of 5 May 2026 the Reef Authority reported a regional bleaching event in the Northern ...

Start of recovery

AIMS sees this as the start of recovery after the 2024 mass bleaching.

[More on the park page](#)

Scenic flights

By plane or helicopter over the reefs; some tours land on the water or at pontoons.

Master Reef Guides

The Reef Authority trains Master Reef Guides, currently 82 along the reef; it recommends operators with the ...

Coral cover 2026

According to the AIMS annual report of 11 August 2026, coral cover rose in the north from 30.0 to 35.1 per ...

Bleaching is not death

Bleached corals can recover if conditions improve in time, the Reef Authority stresses.

TOURS AND GETTING THERE • AD



DAY TOUR FROM CAIRNS •
9 HOURS • FROM REEF
FLEET TERMINAL IN
CAIRNS

**From Cairns: Great Barrier
Reef Cruise by Premium
Catamaran**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



SNORKELLING TOUR FROM
PORT DOUGLAS • 8 HOURS
**Port Douglas: Outer Great
Barrier Reef Snorkeling
Cruise**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



AFTERNOON AND SUNSET •
5.5 HOURS • FROM
SAILAWAY BOATHOUSE

**Port Douglas: Low Isles in
the afternoon, back at
sunset**

ON VIATOR ➤



SCENIC FLIGHT FROM
CAIRNS • 30 OR 40
MINUTES • FROM
DEPENDING ON THE OPTION
**Cairns: Outer Edges of the
Great Barrier Reef Scenic
Flight**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



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