



Luxury Expeditions at home

Queensland's Islands & Reefs

Cairns - Brisbane | Departs 8 December 2021 aboard *Le Lapérouse*
8 days / 7 nights | From \$4,670 per person* in a Deluxe Stateroom

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Enjoy a soft expedition adventure along Australia's East coast on board *Le Lapérouse*. Starting in Cairns, the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, set sail towards Willis Islets in the Coral Sea Territories. Featuring not less than 30 separate reefs along with the spectacular Coral Sea Marine Park, as well as Willis Island where a monitoring station was established in 1921 to provide cyclone early warnings services to Queensland. Continuing on to Hardy Reef, you'll have the chance to explore the underwater environment either by semi-submersive, underwater viewing chambers, snorkelling or diving. On Percy Island, enjoy some relaxation time as your Zodiac® takes you to picturesque West Bay for a swim in the crystal-clear waters or a nature walk alongside your expedition team. Next on your itinerary, experience world-class snorkelling on Lady Musgrave Island and its incredibly diverse and rich marine life including the endangered green turtles and loggerhead turtles, before reaching Brisbane, your disembarkation port.



Expedition Highlights:

- Explore the Coral Sea Marine Park, Australia's largest single marine park and one of the world's largest protected areas.
- View the remote Willis Islets and their associated cays.
- Take a glass bottom boat tour and learn about the diversity of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Experience snorkelling on an outer barrier reef at Hardy Reef.
- Relax on the picture perfect Percy Island.
- Take a guided walk on the spectacular Lady Musgrave Island.
- Gain an insight into the incredible bio diversity and natural heritage of the region from your expert naturalist team.



Queensland's Islands & Reefs - Itinerary

Day 1. Cairns, Queensland. Embarkation.

Washed by the Coral Sea, the harbour town of Cairns is located on Australia's north-east coast. The seafront esplanade is a popular place for locals and visitors to walk, swim and picnic under the shade of swaying palm trees. The hills surrounding Cairns form the gateway to the Queensland Rainforests, proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage site for their fauna and flora from the Gondwana era.

Day 2. Willis Island, Coral Sea Territory.

The Coral Sea Islands Territory is a territory of Australia extending east and south from the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, with 51 islets and cays along with 30 separate reefs and atolls, Willis Island being the only permanently inhabited island. The Willis Island weather monitoring station was established in 1921 to provide a cyclone early warning service for Queensland, and four weather observers usually live on the island. The recently established Coral Sea Marine Park is one of the world's largest marine parks, and protects 16 different seafloor, 15,000 km² of reef systems an abundance of corals, reef fishes, sea stars, clams and sea cucumbers. Whilst landings are prohibited. If time and weather permit, guests will have the opportunity to explore the Willis Islets from our fleet of Zodiacs®.

Day 3. At Sea.

Day 4. Hardy Reef, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system composed of over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,300 kilometres along Australia's tropical East Coast. It supports a wide diversity of marine life and was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981. Hardy reef is home to the innovatively designed Reef world pontoon, ideally situated in shallower waters with protection from the surrounding sea conditions. You will be transferred by Zodiac® to the pontoon which provides easy access to the aquatic realm either by semi-submersible, underwater viewing chamber, snorkelling or diving. There is also undercover seating and tables, sun decks, freshwater showers and change rooms available.

Day 5. Percy Island, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

The explorer Matthew Flinders described the cove at West Bay on Middle Percy Island as "one of the prettiest little places imaginable". The largest of the three islands in the group, Middle Percy, is a favourite stop for cruising yachtsmen on route between the tropical north and southern seas. An A-frame hut on the beach at West Bay is decorated with memorabilia and souvenirs from these yachts. After a short Zodiac® ride to the beach at West Bay you will be able to relax on this picture postcard beach or take a refreshing swim in the clear waters. For the more energetic, there are walking trails where you may catch a glimpse of some of the native and introduced wildlife.

Day 6. Lady Musgrave Island, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland.

Located on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Lady Musgrave Island is the second most southerly cay of the Great Barrier Reef and forms part of the Capricornia Cays National Park. Contained within the cay is a large lagoon supporting a diverse array of fish and corals, providing ideal snorkelling conditions. The island supports a major breeding population of vulnerable green turtles and a minor breeding population of endangered loggerhead turtles. It is also an important site for several species of coastal birds forming part of the Capricornia Cays Important Bird Area. You will have the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the lagoon, take a glass bottom boat tour as well as a guided walk on the Island.

Day 7. At Sea.

Day 8. Brisbane, Queensland. Disembarkation.

As the capital of the Sunshine state, Brisbane enjoys almost 300 days of sunshine per year making it the perfect destination to enjoy a subtropical alfresco lifestyle with a laid-back charm. Major cultural attractions, world class arts and entertainment facilities and impressive natural wonders combine to make Brisbane an exciting destination. *Le Lapérouse* will be alongside the Brisbane's cruise terminal at portside wharf and disembarkation will commence after breakfast.

FlyCruise by Main Beach Travel

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*Advertised price is based on the Ponant Bonus Fare, is per person, in Australian Dollars, based on a double occupancy, including port taxes, yield managed, correct at time of writing - 04/02/2020. Price is subject to availability and can change at any time. Given the ever-changing international sanitary context, this itinerary as well as any land programmes and shore excursions may have to evolve according to port authorisations and governmental regulations in place at the time of the voyage. *30% discount is based on the Ponant Bonus offer. Ponant Bonus is yield managed and may change at any time without notice. #Welcome Offer: AUD\$800 discount is per stateroom based on double occupancy and only valid for guests travelling on their first PONANT cruise. This offer is based on availability, cannot be combined with other special offers unless specified and may be withdrawn at any time, without prior notice. Terms and Conditions apply, refer to au.ponant.com for more information Photographs © PONANT Tamar Sarkissian, Mick Fogg / iStock / Adobe Stock. ABN: 35 166 676 517.