

# THE SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF

A GUIDE TO SCHOOL CAMP OPTIONS AND STUDY TOURS



**Trailblazer Tours**



BIOLOGY | MARINE | SUSTAINABILITY | TOURISM | SCIENCE | GEOGRAPHY

## EXPERIENCE LEARNING ON THE REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the 7 natural wonders of the world, and is an ecologically, economically & bio-diverse region of importance in Australia. It is the ultimate destination for studies on Biology, diversity, tourism and other science related fields. The Southern Great Barrier Reef is the closest point to Brisbane and a visit to the amazing Lady Musgrave Island & Coral Cay provides students the chance to witness the “great 8” animals (whales, turtles, sharks, clownfish, giant clams, coral, rays and maori wrasse) as well as understand the biological significance of the reef.

Read on to learn about key study areas supported on The Southern Great Barrier Reef, activity options and camp details.

### Why Trailblazer Tours?

- ★ Free door to door service for schools up to 100km from Brisbane
  - ★ Door to door service for schools up to 700km from Brisbane!
  - ★ The ability to cater for large schools 100+
  - ★ Custom built itineraries to suit your learning outcomes
  - ★ Professional & friendly guides
  - ★ Large, comfortable, air-conditioned buses – no shuttling
  - ★ Safe activities provided by trained staff with risk assessments included
  - ★ High level of experience with catering for education groups with special needs
- ✦ A wide range of applicable studies including:

Biology Studies | Marine Studies | Geography Studies | Science |  
Sustainability Studies | Tourism Studies | Physical Education



## AREAS OF STUDY

In the following pages we have summarised the main areas of study and options on our Great Barrier Reef tour. The list is by no means exhaustive and if you have an idea or requirement you would like to discuss with us, please feel free to get in contact—we happily custom build itineraries to suit your needs.

### **Biology & Marine Studies**

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef eco-system, encompassing shallow estuarine areas to deep oceanic waters and presenting a unique biological study area. During the full day Lady Musgrave Island Tour, students will have the chance to experience life on the reef up close, and be educated by a marine biologist during the day. They will have the chance to see the "great 8" animals on the reef including whales (during season), turtles, sharks, clownfish, giant clams, coral, rays and maori wrasse plus a multitude of corals and other marine life.

**Activities that support a biology or marine based camp include:**

- Guided snorkelling
- Glass bottom boat tour
- Coral Cay guided walk
- Marine Biologist commentary
- Visit to Mon Repos Turtle Research Centre
- Australian Boutique Zoo visit
- Optional scuba diving
- Optional eco-kayak tour
- Custom built tours – talk to us about your needs

Read on for more information about these activity options



### USEFUL RESOURCES



[Queensland Museum Biodiversity Resource for Teachers](#)

[Great Barrier Reef: Health of the reef at the crossroads \(ABC News\)](#)

[The Australian Government Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority Resources](#)



## **Geography, Sustainability & Tourism**

Much has been publicised in recent years on the threats & challenges to this unique and iconic destination. Climate change, sedimentation, over-fishing & un-sustainable tourism are all threats to the health and biodiversity of this living organism and students will be able to follow up in-classroom studies with immersion in the reef environment.

**Activities that support geography, sustainability & tourism studies are:**

- Guided snorkelling
- Glass bottom boat tour
- Coral Cay guided walk
- Marine Biologist commentary
- Visit to Mon Repos Turtle Research Centre
- Australian Boutique Zoo visit
- Optional scuba diving
- Optional eco-kayak tour
- Optional surf school/SUP school
- Optional trip to 1770 for Goolimbil Walk About Tour or the LARC! tour
- Custom built tours – talk to us about your needs

Read on for more information about these activity options

## **Physical Education**

Where better to study physical education than a living breathing reef!

**Activities that support physical education include:**

- Guided snorkelling
- Optional scuba diving
- Optional Surfing & SUP lessons
- Optional Guided eco kayak tour

Tours can be tailored to visit any sites of significance to your studies.

Read on for more information about activity options



## **USEFUL RESOURCES**

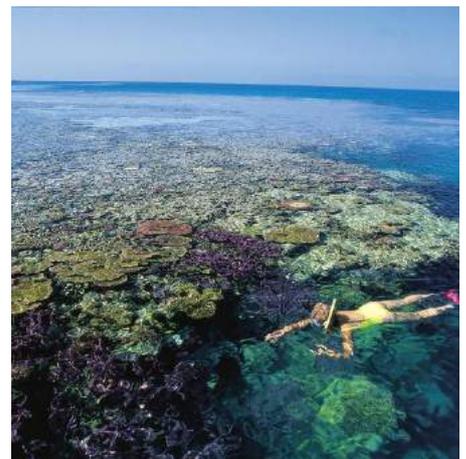
[Coral Bleaching as a threat to the Great Barrier Reef \(ABC Splash\)](#)

[Health of the Great Barrier Reef at a crossroads \(ABC Splash\)](#)

[The Australian Government Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority Resources](#)

[Restore the reef interactive game \(ABC Splash\)](#)

[Great Barrier Reef Video \(ABC Splash\)](#)



## EXPERIENCE OPTIONS

The Southern Great Barrier Reef presents an amazing array of eco-adventure activities which will have your students buzzing from sun up to sun down. With a multitude of amazing natural experiences mixed with a dose of adrenalin-pumping outdoor adventure activities, students are easy to keep entertained and teachers are able to tick off the "curriculum" list. The most popular choices are listed below, but of course, the possibilities are endless depending on your imagination:

### **Snorkel School**

Marine studies | Biology studies | Science studies | Tourism studies | Sustainability studies | Geography studies | Physical education

Enjoy a relaxed learn to snorkel session at the Bargara Basin whilst feeding hundreds of fish by hand in waist deep water. This is a great intro session to get students prepared for their snorkelling adventure on the reef.

### **YOUR DAY ON THE REEF**

Marine studies | Biology studies | Science studies | Tourism studies | Sustainability studies | Geography studies | Physical education

Get ready to experience your ultimate day out on the Southern Great Barrier Reef! Board one of Queensland's most luxurious vessels. Sit back and relax while our friendly and experienced marine biologist educates you on the Great Barrier Reef and Lady Musgrave Island throughout the day.

### **Glass Bottom Boat**

The glass bottom boat tour allows students to have the full reef experience and view the underwater world without getting wet. You will witness different types of corals including hard and soft as well as thousands of tropical fish, some turtles and an abundance of other local marine life. Learn from the expert skipper as he takes you on a journey of discovery through the Coral Lagoon.



## YOUR DAY ON THE REEF



### **Snorkelling Lady Musgrave Reef & Coral Cay**

Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef is something that will stay with your students for a lifetime and is all part of the included experience on the reef. Quality equipment and full safety equipment and supervision is provided including safety vests & pool noodles if required.

Students will snorkel in the Lady Musgrave Island lagoon which is teeming with exotic fish and marine life. They will get up close and personal with a variety of marine life and corals including turtles, starfish, tropical fish – they might even find “Nemo”.



### **Coral Cay Walk**

Explore the uninhabited Lady Musgrave Island with a marine biologist! Learn about the unique and fascinating wildlife, history and natural phenomena of this coral cay.



### **Fish Feeding**

Fish Feeding is a popular activity for schools. Join in the “fish feeding frenzy” as the water boils with fish at the edge of the pontoon. Fish of all colours and sizes come in from everywhere at fish feeding time, including “George,” the giant Potato Cod.



## **Mon Repos Turtle Research Centre & Hatchery**

Marine studies | Biology studies | Science studies | Tourism studies | Sustainability studies | Geography studies

Mon Repos, on the coast of Bundaberg, supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland and has the most significant loggerhead turtle nesting population in the South Pacific Region.

At this globally significant site, you can learn all about these extraordinary animals and the conservation and research programs that are protecting them. Seasonally dependant activities are available as below:

### March to November

Students will visit the Mon Repos Turtle Centre and learn about the special journey turtles and people have taken at Mon Repos, the colourful history of the area and about Mon Repos Regional Park.

### November to March

Join a QPWS Ranger at Mon Repos Turtle Centre on a guided tour to watch nesting and hatching of marine turtles\*. This special ranger led experience has been carefully created to help students understand and appreciate the life cycle of the turtle, to manage turtle watching, and to ensure successful breeding for the survival of this endangered species.

It is an amazing sight to see these huge creatures heaving their way up the beach to find a safe spot to dig a nest and lay their eggs. It's even more amazing to see the little hatchlings scurry out of the sand and down the beach to the water to start their new life in the open oceans. This is the experience of a life time for all who participate.

\*Turtles are wild marine animals and occasionally they do not arrive. While this is unusual, we can't guarantee you will see nesting turtles or hatchlings.

\*Only nesting OR hatching will be witnessed depending on the time of the season



## **Australian Animal Zoo**

Marine studies | Biology studies | Science studies | Tourism studies | Sustainability studies | Geography studies

Visit a boutique Australian zoo where students have the opportunity to cuddle a koala, hand feed kangaroos & emus, hold a live snake and even a baby crocodile. Bring learning to life with a live snake handling and croc feeding demonstration.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

To allow you to tailor make your camp experience, we offer a range of optional activities that can be added on to your tour for an additional charge.

### **1770 Excursion & Goolimbil Walk About Tour**

Join us for an authentic indigenous hunting, gathering and tasting experience of a lifetime! Travel across Round Hill Creek, to the coastline of Eurimbula National Park in the Southern Great Barrier Reef, where you will take a bush walking tour with our skipper and an indigenous guide.

Enjoy a theatrical experience and learn about the wonderful culture that lived here sustainably for tens of thousands of years.

### **Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Board or Surf Lessons**

Join Enviro Reefs Surf School, a locally owned and operated surf school and SUP school that offers inspirational surfing lessons and SUP lessons for every skill level.

### **Scuba Diving**

Scuba Diving is becoming more popular for schools around Australia as part of their subjects. If your school is participating in a Scuba Diving Program why not scuba dive in the ultimate location – the Southern Great Barrier Reef? Only certified Scuba Divers are permitted to undertake this activity for underage people on this camp. Teachers are permitted to enjoy “Intro Dives” while on the reef, and this does not require certification.

### **Bundy Bowl Dodgems & Laser Tag**

Let your students run off some energy with laser tag, dodgem cars, mini golf or ten pin bowling

### **Maminos Home Made Ice Cream**

A lovely (optional) stop along the way to or from Bargara. Stop to buy some home-made ice cream and try farm fresh sugar cane.



## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Hinkler Hall of Aviation

Come and be amazed by the awe inspiring, dynamic and unique structure of soaring glass and steel made in the shape of an aircraft wing. Set in the lush Bundaberg Botanic Gardens, the Hinkler Hall of Aviation brings to life the adventures and achievements of Australia's famous pioneer solo aviator Bert Hinkler.

Become part of the story through interactive displays; fly like Bert on distinctive glider simulators, be enthralled by Bert's life achievements and personal story in the movie theatrettes, sit in the replica Avro Baby aircraft and view the original from his record setting 1921 flight. With numerous full size display aircraft exhibits and unique museum artefacts, including the beautifully restored Hinkler House 'Mon Repos', Bert Hinkler's relocated Southampton home, this memorable and extraordinary experience to in Bundaberg, Queensland is a must do aviation adventure.



Activity booklets available for grades 2, 3 & 6



### Fairymead House & Sugar History Museum

Share in the history of the pioneer sugar families and discover the process of producing sugar, from cane to crystal. Be enchanted by Indian bungalow architecture as you explore this grand plantation house and imagine life on a sugar cane plantation back in the late 1800's.

### Bundaberg Ginger Beer Factory

Discover the secrets of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks with a variety of hands-on activities at the home of ginger beer. Take an amazing journey through the True Brew Experience Tour. Use our interactive touch screens to see what happens to the humble ginger root as it's crushed, brewed and fermented to make the world's finest ginger beer. You can also sit back and enjoy the unique 15 minute 3D hologram adventure, 'Doug's Promised Land' in our theatre.

## OUR ACCOMMODATION

Kelley's Beach Resort is an Eco Certified resort committed to reducing their impact on the environment—you can read more about their sustainability commitment [here](#). It is located by a nature reserve and only 1 block from Kelly's beach – the main swimming beach in Bargara and boasts a games room, spa, sauna, tennis court plus 5.5 acres of cartwheel space!

Groups are catered for in 4-5 person villa's and teachers have access to a WIFI hotspot.

### Activities available around the resort include:

- Tennis
- Pool Table
- Swimming
- Air Hockey
- Beach activities and swimming



## OUR TRANSPORT

We pride ourselves on providing the best transport options available for our school camps, and can move groups of up to 180 all at once in our custom-built 4WD coaches. All vehicles are air conditioned and suitable for on-road and off-road travel.

Unlike other companies, we offer a door to door service which means there is no additional work for you in booking bus companies and sorting out extra invoices. The door to door pick up service is FREE of charge for schools within 100km of Brisbane and we can pick up from anywhere within a 700km radius of Brisbane for a small extra charge (much less than chartering a bus company).



# OUR TEAM



Our guides love their jobs and they love showing you around their amazing workplace! All our guides are:

- DA certified with medicals & police checks
- Snorkel instructors
- Trained in-house to the highest standards
- Subject to your feedback after every trip



# OUR CATERING

All catering is included and we provide fresh & plentiful meals regardless of what accommodation style you have chosen. A sample menu is provided below:

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Breakfast		Continental breakfast	Hot breakfast
Morning Tea		Selection of fresh fruit, baked items with tea and coffee (on snorkel vessel)	Fruit
Lunch	Students BYO	Fresh buffet including salad, seafood, cold meat, fresh fruit & more	Takeaway wraps, assorted salad and cold meat
Afternoon Tea	Muesli bar + popper or fruit	Slice	Muesli bar
Dinner	BBQ night	Buffet dinner at resort	

## SAMPLE ITINERARIES

1 day | 2 day | 3 day | 4 day | 5 day itineraries available.

- All itineraries can be custom built to meet your learning outcomes
- All itineraries can be combined with our other destinations and/or Brisbane stays in our “Discovery Tour” programs. We offer combination tours such as:



Great Barrier Reef + Brisbane

Great Barrier Reef + Fraser Island

Great Barrier Reef + Moreton Island

Combining your trip with a night in Brisbane is perfect for interstate schools who may have a bit more distance to travel on the first and last days of their trip.

Sample itinerary options are available on the following pages

 **Read on for sample itineraries!** 

## GET A QUOTE

Want a quote?

Drop us a line at [info@trailblazertours.com.au](mailto:info@trailblazertours.com.au) and we will send you out our quote request form to fill and return – or fill in your details via our website at [www.trailblazertours.com.au](http://www.trailblazertours.com.au) for a quick quote.

Want a free site visit?

Would you like to be our guest to visit the school camp site and have a personal tour around this magnificent location? We offer a free site visit to eligible staff prior to booking – you can't get a better guarantee of quality than that! Contact us now to register for our next site visit.

 1300 553 606

 [info@trailblazertours.com.au](mailto:info@trailblazertours.com.au)

 [www.trailblazertours.com.au](http://www.trailblazertours.com.au)

**Trailblazer Tours | Ph: 1300 553 606 | E: [info@trailblazertours.com.au](mailto:info@trailblazertours.com.au)**

## Southern Great Barrier Reef 3 Day Tour

Resort 4 share accommodation

3 day | 4 day | 5 day options

### DAY 1

6am pick up from school (depending on school location)

- ★ Stop at Childers to experience Native Australian Boutique Zoo. Get photos with Koalas and Kangaroos, hold a Crocodile and much more.
- ★ Enjoy a relaxing Learn to Snorkel session where students feed hundreds of fish by hand in waist deep water.
- ★ Visit Mon Repos Turtle Hatchery, the world's largest turtle Research Centre. See the life cycle of turtles with an incredible display\* guided by National Park rangers. From November to March Students may have the opportunity to witness turtles laying or hatching on the beach. Please talk to us for more information about this activity. (extra curriculum studies available on request)
- ★ Check into Resort before a group dinner & stargazing beach walk



Snorkelling the coral cay



Mon Repos Research Centre

### DAY 2

- ★ Early light continental breakfast before boarding the most luxurious air conditioned boat on the Great Barrier Reef to Lady Musgrave Island
- ★ Guided walk on Lady Musgrave Island
- ★ Snorkelling the reef & coral cay
- ★ Glass bottom boat tours on the reef & fish feeding



Great Barrier Reef Corals

Continue to next page... \*No turtles seen laying or hatching April–October.

- ★ Picnic Lunch provided
- ★ Arrive back on mainland in the late afternoon for showers or swim in pool before dinner
- ★ Beach walk or night activities organised by teachers

## DAY 3

- ★ Continental/hot breakfast at resort
- ★ At Neilson Park, enjoy a game of Volleyball or explore the esplanade and its history



Australian Boutique Zoo

### Optional Activities (P.O.A.)

#### Hinkler's Aviation Museum

Become part of Bert Hinkler's story through interactive displays; fly like Bert on distinctive glider simulators, be enthralled by Bert's life achievements and personal story in the movie theatrettes, sit in the replica Avro Baby aircraft and also view the original from his record setting 1921 flight.

#### Bundaberg Ginger Beer Factory guided tour

Discover the secrets of Bundaberg Brewed Drinks with a variety of hands-on activities at the home of ginger beer. Take an amazing journey through the True Brew Experience Tour. Use our interactive touch screens to see what happens to the humble ginger root as it's crushed, brewed and fermented to make the world's finest ginger beer. You can also sit back and enjoy the unique 15 minute 3D hologram adventure, 'Doug's Promised Land' in our theatre.

#### The LARC ½ day Aboriginal Goolimbil Tour

The concept of the Goolimbil Walkabout tour is for guests to have the opportunity to accompany a hunter and gatherer on an expedition through coastal bushland, then into mangrove wetland and onto littoral rain-forest where a gathering place is located.

#### Surfing or SUP lessons

Join Enviro Reefs Surf School, a locally owned and operated surf school and SUP school that offers inspirational surfing lessons and SUP lessons for every skill level.

**Combine the Southern Great Barrier Reef with Moreton Island, Fraser Island, Brisbane or the Gold Coast in our Discovery Tours!**