



# Fact Sheet

## Magnetic Island

Nestled in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park – and just 8 kilometres from Queensland’s northern capital, Townsville – Magnetic is like no other island getaway. Two-thirds of this World Heritage-listed island is national park, providing a haven for abundant native wildlife, including more than 2,500 free-roaming koalas. Tropical fish thrive in the surrounding coral reefs and tranquil waters while rocky headlands frame secluded beaches, some accessible only by boat or on foot. The list of sporting and leisure activities is almost endless – as are the opportunities for shopping, wining and dining. Catering for a 2,500-strong resident population as well as holidaymakers in search of the good life, tropical style, Magnetic Island offers a wide range of services and facilities. Here is an island that welcomes all comers.

### Activities

Water sports are popular all year round, with the island offering everything from snorkelling, diving, guided sea-kayaking tours and windsurfing to waterskiing, catamarans, canoes and aqua bikes. Plunge into the tranquil waters and discover the wonders of the fringing reef or take a day trip to the outer reef to explore the world-famous S.S. *Yongala* wreck.

Play golf, go fishing, skydive or enjoy an indigenous bush tucker experience. Lose yourself in the serenity as you stroll along a deserted beach or enjoy the exhilaration of a horse ride along Horseshoe Bay.

Exploring the island is easy. Buses run regularly from one part of the island to another, but visitors can also hire bicycles, mopeds, Mini Mokes or, for the ultimate in cool cruising, Harley Davidsons. Get off the beaten track with a 4WD drive tour or take a hike along the 25-kilometre network of national park walking trails. If you’ve got energy to spare, a climb up the iconic Mount Cook rewards with spectacular views – and a refreshing dip in a natural pool.

When it comes to dining, visitors are spoilt for choice: indulge yourself at one of the many waterfront cafes and fine dining venues or pop into one of the taverns for an afternoon drink and some entertainment by the waterfront.

With an average of 320 days of sunshine a year, Magnetic Island offers visitors an experience of laid-back tropical living laced with action-packed adventure.

### Five key selling points

1. Great Barrier Reef location
2. 23 secluded bays and beaches
3. Abundant native flora and fauna, including Northern Australia’s largest population of koalas in the wild
4. Variety of accommodation, ranging from backpacker to luxury resort
5. Huge range of sporting and leisure activities

### Style of accommodation

Magnetic Island offers more accommodation options than any other island in the Great Barrier Reef. The extensive choice of accommodation includes hotels, motels, luxury resorts, serviced self-contained holiday units, bed and breakfasts, holiday flats and apartments, backpacker resorts and camping facilities and even holiday houses for long- or short-term rental.

Whether you are on your own, a couple, a group of friends, a family or a whole tour group – on a budget or looking for luxury – you will find “just the right place”. And all just a short walk from the beach.





## Great Barrier Reef access

- Fringing reef with snorkelling and diving straight off the beach
- Night dives
- Day and live-aboard trips to the outer reef and world-famous *S.S. Yongala* wreck
- Dive tuition
- Glass-bottom boat tours

## Destination highlights

- 23 secluded bays and beaches
- Seaplane flights in the world's only side-by-side Seaplane
- Abundant native flora and fauna, including large population of koalas
- Fishing, diving and snorkelling in marine national park
- Bareback riding along the beach at Horseshoe Bay
- S.S. Yongala wreck dives
- Wide range of water sports
- A perfect destination for affordable island style weddings
- 25-kilometre network of national park walking trails

## Fact Box

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## Access

Direct flights to Townsville are available from Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney on a daily basis as well as from Melbourne three times a week. Sunferries operates up to 15 fast cat services daily (25 minutes) to Magnetic Island, departing from the Breakwater Terminal in Townsville. Riverside Marine also provides frequent services between Townsville and Magnetic Island, offering a drive-on, drive-off facility. Campervans and trailers are welcome. These depart from the Magnetic Island Passenger & Car Ferry Terminal in Ross Street, South Townsville.

