

AIRLIE BEACH



WHITSUNDAYS



QUEENSLAND

Ocean Rafting™

THE ORIGINAL AND MOST AWARDED TOUR IN THE WHITSUNDAYS!



REEF SEEKER



Become a Marine Biologist for a day with Ocean Rafting's Reef Seeker educational adventure.



INTRODUCTION

Explore the ‘Wild Side’ of the Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef with multi award-winning Ocean Rafting and our Reef Seeker educational package!

Join our Eco Hosts, Master Reef Guides and Marine Biologists on an interpretive and hands-on guide to the Ecological, Biological, Cultural and Geological beauties of this World Heritage Listed paradise.

With personalised guided snorkelling tours, you will have the opportunity to collect valuable data and learn about key species, reef threats and the vast diversity of the Great Barrier Reef, with your findings contributing to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park authority’s monitoring program, ‘Eye on the Reef’.

Enjoy the paradise of Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach with a guided and informative bushwalk from the mangrove shallows, to the iconic look-outs over the famous swirling sands of Hill Inlet.

Rest and relax on the picturesque silica sands of Whitehaven Beach, whilst you enjoy a fresh tropical lunch and engage with our experienced crew during an interactive question and answer session.

With a focus on education and learning, this inspiring and hands-on tour is perfect for any reef enthusiast to get a real taste of being a Marine Biologist and Eco-Warrior for the day!

Ocean Rafting’s exclusive access and permits to Hill Inlet, Whitehaven Beach and top snorkelling spots will give you the ultimate Whitsunday and Great Barrier Reef experience!



EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

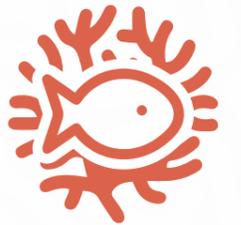
Ocean Rafting's Reef Seeker is an educational tour designed to create meaningful memories whilst connecting you to the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and Whitsunday Islands. This experience includes:

- A fun, high energy day trip including interpretive talks, epic marine life encounters and Ocean Rafting's signature adrenaline fuelled boat ride.
- Small group guided snorkels with tuition and assistance with collecting citizen science data.
- A structured 90 minute snorkel amongst the beautiful fringing reefs of the Whitsunday Islands.
- A comprehensive water safety brief and snorkel tuition, including use of flotation devices.
- An introduction to Eye on the Reef and Rapid Monitoring.
- Educational reef brief on key indicator species and their significance.
- Opportunities to enjoy your own time whilst snorkelling the reef.
- A scenic bush walk to the famous Hill Inlet Lookouts overlooking the swirling white silica sands of Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach.
- A guided beach and mangrove walk exploring the different ecosystems and their inhabitants including stingrays, juvenile lemon sharks and soldier crabs.
- Up to an hour and a half to relax on the tranquil Whitehaven Beach and enjoy a fresh tropical lunch.
- A complimentary shuttle service to and from Coral Sea Marina.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

1-hour workshop with our experienced crew prior to the tour, providing extra insight and background on the Reef Seeker content in order to further enhance your Great Barrier Reef experience.

LEARN ABOUT THE 4 KEY THEMES OF OUR WORLD HERITAGE WONDERLAND



BIODIVERSITY

Explore the incredible diversity of the Great Barrier Reef.



ECOLOGICAL

Gain an understanding of fish identification and ecology.



GEOLOGICAL

Immerse yourself in the geological formation of the Whitsunday Islands.



CULTURAL

Acknowledge the cultural significance of the Whitsundays.



What is Citizen Science?

Citizen Science can best be described as scientific research being conducted by the general public. That's you! In a world that is constantly changing, it has never been more important to monitor places of outstanding natural value. Ocean Rafting's Reef Seeker gives you the chance to connect with the natural wonders of the Whitsundays, whilst contributing significant information directly to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

What is GBRMPA?

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - or GBRMPA - is responsible for the protection and care of the reef. They work with a wide variety of partners, supporters and advisors with the aim of conserving the reef for future generations.

What is Eye on the Reef?

Eye on the Reef is a powerful monitoring program that enables anyone who visits the Great Barrier Reef to collect valuable information on its health and report it directly to GBRMPA.



What is Rapid Monitoring?

Rapid Monitoring is the official Citizen Science method for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority which offers visitors an immersive educational experience where you will learn about the fascinating underwater world. Rapid Monitoring is suitable for anyone! Led by a trained guide, participants will be taken on an underwater safari recording key coral reef health factors as well as several iconic marine species.

RAPID MONITORING



Ocean Rafting's Reef Seeker program will focus on the indicator species, why they are important and how to identify them as the key components during a guided snorkelling tour. A more in-depth version of Rapid Monitoring can be included for more experienced groups. See intermediate and advanced details below.

Phone: _____ Date: _____
 Organisation: _____ Time: _____
 Diver category (tick one): Reef visitor Marine tourism industry Fisher Traditional owner
 Other (please specify) _____
 Site: _____
 E Marine Park Zone: _____
 Tidal Mins Degrees Min Sec _____ Water temperature: _____ °C
 Drawing bucket _____ metres
 Habitat type (circle one): LAGOON FLAT CREST SLOPE _____
 Flower plums (circle one): YES NO _____
 Suspended algal bloom (circle one): YES NO _____
 Tidal flat (circle one): LOW _____

**REEF SEEKER
 BEGINNER
 (RED SECTION)**
 10 MINUTES
 Participants will be able to identify indicator species and understand their importance to the Marine Park.

Timed swim (10 minutes)		TALLY	TOTAL	ANIMALS	SIZE / SEX / TYPE
Sea cucumber (all species)				Coral trout (all species)	<38cm >38cm
Giant clam (larger than size of hand)				Maori wrasse	Male Female
Anemonefish (all species)				Turtle (all species)	Green Turtle* Hawksbill Turtle* Other (please name)
Butterflyfish (all species)				* See images over page	
Grazing herbivores (See definition over page)				Shark (all species)	Whitetip reef shark Blacktip reef shark Other (please name)
Cods and groupers (over 50cm in length)				Crown-of-thorns starfish	≤ Size of hand > Size of hand

360° survey (One 5 metre radius circle) → See over page for information guide and survey methodology

BENTHOS		MACROALGAE		CORAL IMPACTS (Complete 1, 2 and 3 below. Circle Y or N)	
Insert % for each benthos type to total 100%				1 Is any coral white? Y / N	3 Is any rubbish present? Y / N
Macroalgae				Is living coral tissue present? Y / N If yes: BLEACHING	If yes: Number of pieces in survey area: Fishing line _____ Plastic _____ Netting _____ Rope _____ Other (please specify) _____
Live coral				Is coral being eaten? Y / N If yes: PREDATION	
Recently dead coral (white)				If yes, by what? How many seen?	
Live coral rock				Crown-of-thorns starfish	
Coral rubble				Juveniles (size of hand or smaller) _____	
Sand				Adults (larger than size of hand) _____	
Total 100%				Drupella snails (all sizes) _____	
PHOTOS TAKEN (Please provide details e.g. image no./name of it, and a description)				Is coral banded in appearance? Y / N If yes: DISEASE	
				Is coral competing with anything else? Y / N If yes: COMPETITION	
				Is any coral broken or damaged? Y / N	
				If yes: What is the likely main cause? (Circle one)	
				Storm Animal Vessel Anchor Divers Snorkellers	
				Unknown Other: _____	

**DUCK DIVER
 INTERMEDIATE
 (RED + BLUE SECTION)**
 15 MINUTES
 Reef Seeker component plus identifying the different types of habitats found on the GBR.

**DEEP DIVER
 ADVANCED
 (ALL SECTIONS)**
 20 MINUTES
 Reef Seeker and Duck Diver plus discover coral impacts including bleaching, disease and predation, along with human impacts.



The fun side of education - experience the ultimate thrills on the ride of your life!



Experienced and qualified crew. Snorkel close to the boat with access to flotation devices.



Fresh tropical lunch on the picture perfect Whitehaven Beach.



Trained Master Reef Guides, Marine Biologists and Eco Hosts!



Post snorkel Q&A with data entry to GBRMPA's Eye on the Reef program.



Guided snorkel with data collection exercise for GBRMPA. Use of underwater slate for data entry.



Access to Reef Seeker toolkit and educational resources to inspire students.



Guided and interpretive bushwalk to Hill Inlet lookouts and mangrove and shallows ecosystem.



Free time to explore the GBR with guides. Extra time for species and threat identification.

Certificate of completion, prizes and membership to our exclusive Rafting Squad*!

* membership to the Rafting Squad only available for guests 16 years and over.



Multi award-winning Ocean Rafting is proud to offer the Whitsundays' only dedicated education program! Our passionate crew endeavour to pass on our love and knowledge of the local environment. We are an Advanced Ecotourism Accredited operator with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability for over 20 years.

Reef Seeker is a citizen science program designed for almost everyone. Whether you're a student, family, corporate or social group, Reef Seeker is a flexible experience that can be adapted to suit you. It has been broken down into three ability levels; Reef Seeker, Duck Diver and Deep Diver so that whether you're a keen amateur or complete reef enthusiast you can have a fun, educational experience in the Whitsundays!



Want to keep seeking? Our Reef Seeker edutourism experience is also available in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest, with our sister company Ocean Safari. From the rainforest to the outer Great Barrier Reef, discover the World Heritage listed wonders of this ancient paradise.

Eat, stay and play with Ocean Safari, Safari Lodge and Turtle Rock Cafe!

Visit www.oceansafari.com.au/eco for more!

PRICE

Due to the unique nature of this product, price will be determined based on the group size and requirements. We can happily tailor a quote to suit your group's needs.

1-hour workshop additional cost.

ITINERARY

Pick-up/Check-in at Coral Sea Marina - 8:00am

Safety Brief/Departure - 8:30am

Return to Coral Sea Marina - 4:00pm

Itinerary and times are subject to prior consultation, based on the suitability of your group. Please note, tides and weather may impact timings.

WHAT TO BRING

- Swimmers.
- A beach bag with a towel, hat and shoes.
- A jacket during winter to protect you from wind and for warmth after snorkelling.
- Cameras in a waterproof case.
- Notepaper and pen.

Most importantly, a sense of adventure and willingness to learn!



For more information about our Reef Seeker Experience or to book...

✉ tours@oceanrafting.com.au

☎ (07) 4946 6848

🌐 www.oceanrafting.com.au

Terms & Conditions

To confirm Ocean Rafting Reef Seeker charter, a 50% deposit is due at the time of booking. The remaining 50% is due 5 days prior to travel. This payment can be made via Credit Card or Bank Deposit. (A 1.5% credit card surcharge applies).

All fares are inclusive of Marine Park fees, National Park fees & GST. Sites are weather & tide permitting. Ocean Rafting reserves the right to arrange an alternative itinerary when necessary. Liability: Clients should note that adventure travel involves risk. Whilst we make every effort to safeguard our clients, we cannot be held responsible for personal injury or loss due to the actions of the clients which are beyond our control. Tours are not suitable for guests with pre-existing back, neck or hip injuries or who are pregnant. Minimum age 6 months. A signed release will be required from all participants on departure. We recommend you take out travel insurance. Fitness & Health: Although good health and a positive attitude are essential, you do not need any prior experience to partake in any of the activities and tours. Ocean Rafting may use photographs of our clients in promotional material, including but not limited to social media, however if you do not consent please advise Ocean Rafting. Please reconfirm your booking 48 hours prior.

