

# THE DEEP

# GREEN BLUE

## 藍 綠 奧 秘

EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA'S STUNNING  
GREAT BARRIER REEF – WHILE ALSO  
HELPING TO PROTECT ITS FUTURE  
BY **FIONA HARPER**

探索澳洲美不勝收的大堡礁，  
並為保護其未來生態盡一分力  
撰文 **FIONA HARPER**



Opening spread: beneath the waves around Lizard Island. This spread: the Great Barrier Reef's colourful underwater world is brought to life on a boat tour (Coral Expeditions vessel pictured left)

開版跨頁：蜥蜴島的美麗水世界。本跨頁：乘船遊覽，觀賞大堡礁色彩繽紛的海底景觀（左圖為 Coral Expeditions 遊覽船）

**BENEATH** the surface of the Coral Sea, plant life sways in the currents. Turtles forage in seagrass and clacking crustaceans search for prey. During migration season, the ocean floor is bathed with the resonance of humpback whale song. Light refracts, making everything seem larger.

This is the Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Queensland, Australia – the world's largest reef ecosystem, spanning 2,300km north to south and covering an area the size of Japan. A system of 3,000 individual reefs, it's home to countless kinds of creatures, including 1,450 coral species, dolphins and a colossal spectrum of fish. From the tropical city of Cairns and neighbouring Port Douglas, you'll be able to head into the great blue beyond on everything from day cruises and snorkelling trips to week-long live-aboard dive safaris.

However, it's not just a matter of grabbing an air tank and diving deep. Threats to the reef are well-documented: climate change, coral bleaching, erosion, coastal development, overfishing and pollution have all taken their toll on this spectacular world. Those who work closest to this fragile ecosystem are some of its staunchest protectors. By choosing operators, services and accommodation and even joining scientific excursions which support conservation, you can contribute to the reef's preservation while visiting. ©



**珊瑚海** 的水面下，植物隨著水流搖曳生姿。海龜在海草間覓食，甲殼類動物伺機尋找獵物。每逢遷徙季節，海底迴盪著座頭鯨的歌聲。通過光線折射，眼前一切景象更顯寬廣。

位於澳洲昆士蘭海岸的大堡礁是全球最大的珊瑚礁生態系統，南北縱貫2,300公里，面積與日本相若。這片水域涵蓋了3,000個珊瑚礁，是無數生物的居所，包括1,450種珊瑚、海豚及大量魚類。你可從熱帶城市開恩茲及鄰近的道格拉斯港出發，前往蔚藍的海洋，來趟一日遊、浮潛探索或長達七日的船宿潛水之旅。

但你不用揹起氧氣瓶潛入海底深處，也會發現珊瑚礁面臨許多威脅：氣候變遷、珊瑚白化、侵蝕、沿海開發、過度捕撈及污染等，全部嚴重傷害了這片壯觀的自然奇景。然而最接近這個脆弱生態系統的人，亦是最堅定的保護者。透過選擇支持環保的旅行社、服務供應商、酒店，甚至參加科學考察，你既可欣賞美不勝收的珊瑚礁景色，同時也能為保護珊瑚礁略盡綿力。©

Photos: Opening and this spread: Courtesy images



### TAKE THE PLUNGE

Passions of Paradise's 25m sailing catamarans depart from Cairns on a range of days-out for all ages and abilities. On its Be a Marine Biologist experience, you'll contribute directly to reef conservation by surveying reef locations, monitoring reef health and submitting your findings to scientific programmes. Passions of Paradise is part of the Coral Nurturing Program, a partnership between tourism operators and the University of Technology Sydney to install coral nurseries in the reef, supporting its resilience.

Although Passions of Paradise has employed scientists to lead its tours since 1997, its marine biologist experience was introduced in response to rising conservation awareness, says CEO Scotty Garden. "Our passengers choose to visit the Great Barrier Reef with Passions of Paradise so they can indirectly support our reef stewardship activities, and many have been wanting to go that step further and actively participate in an activity to help the reef's health."

Sailaway, another operator participating in the coral programme, offers reef monitoring and coral planting expeditions powered by renewable energy, while Quicksilver Cruises, North Queensland's largest day trip operator, runs tours to more remote locations, such as the Agincourt Reefs. Far from the usual tourist beat, marine life thrives here, from colourful coral gardens to giant Māori wrasse. You can choose snorkel tours led by marine biologists, view shallow reefs from a semi-submersible boat and an underwater observatory, or take an introductory scuba dive.

passions.com.au  
sailawayportdouglas.com  
quicksilver-cruises.com

### 坐言起行

任何年齡和能力的旅客均可登上Passions of Paradise的25米雙體帆船，從開恩茲出發，進行一系列短途行程。在「Be a Marine Biologist」的全日體驗中，你可透過調查珊瑚礁地點及監測珊瑚礁健康狀況，並將調查結果提供給科學項目，為珊瑚礁保育做出實質貢獻。Passions of Paradise是旅行社以及悉尼科技大學攜手合作的珊瑚培育計劃其中一個項目，旨在珊瑚礁中建立珊瑚苗圃，協助珊瑚礁復育工作並從旁監測其生態多樣性。

Passions of Paradise總裁Scotty Garden表示，雖然他們從1997年起已聘請科學家帶領行程，而引進海洋生物學家體驗，旨在響應日益提高的環保意識，他說：「遊客選擇參加Passions of Paradise的行程前往大堡礁，從而間接支援我們的珊瑚礁管理活動。但有不少人更想積極參與促進珊瑚礁健康的活動，希望進一步作出貢獻。」

另一個參與珊瑚計劃的旅行社Sailaway，提供採用再生能源進行的珊瑚礁監測及珊瑚種植等體驗。北昆士蘭規模最大的一日遊旅行社Quicksilver Cruises，則提供前往阿金考特礁 (Agincourt Reefs) 等較為偏遠的探索行程。這些水域遠離旅遊熱點，色彩絢爛的珊瑚花園及體型巨大的蘇眉等海洋生物皆可繁衍生息。你可體驗由海洋生物學家帶領的浮潛行程、透過半潛水船及水底觀景台觀看淺礁，或參加水肺潛水入門課程，領略這一帶的魅力。

passions.com.au  
sailawayportdouglas.com  
quicksilver-cruises.com

Photos: Coral Biobank; Great Barrier Reef Legacy; Others: Courtesy/images

“IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE OUR NATURAL ASSETS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



From left: snorkellers on a Quicksilver Cruises excursion spot a sea turtle; a coral nursery at Moore Reef; Great Barrier Reef Legacy's Coral Biobank in Port Douglas

左圖起：Quicksilver Cruises 的浮潛行程可近距離觀察海龜；Moore Reef 的珊瑚苗圃；Great Barrier Reef Legacy 於道格拉斯港的珊瑚生物庫



GO FURTHER  
盡情體驗

More incredible Australia  
線上更多澳洲精彩資訊

### REEF RELIEF

Vast swathes of the reef have been impacted by bleaching, a phenomenon whereby the coral sheds its symbiotic algae and loses its pigment, in response to stressors including rising sea temperatures. This puts the coral at risk of starvation and disease, and recovery can take decades.

The governmental Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority monitors reef health, manages permits for operators and runs Eye on the Reef, a citizen science project to gather information on the reef and any incidents. In 2022, Citizens of the Reef, an alliance of First Nations sea rangers, tourism operators and scientists, launched The Reef Cooperative: a conservation project and training programme that aims to deliver large-scale restoration.

Meanwhile, Great Barrier Reef Legacy, a nonprofit social enterprise, has established its Coral Biobank, housing 415 hard coral species at a new facility at Crystalbrook Marina in Port Douglas. In 2021, it partnered with Cairns-based Coral Expeditions, allowing passengers to witness the collection of 50 coral species to be added to the Coral Biobank on its first Citizen Science Expedition.

As much of the damage to the reef is caused by human activity – whether by individuals, such as littering or breaking off pieces of coral, or industrial, such as agricultural run-off and sedimentation from logging – education is a vital component of tourism in the Great Barrier Reef.

"It's vitally important to preserve our natural assets for future generations and encourage environmental ambassadors," says Sailaway owner Steve Edmondson. "Our goal is for around two million annual visitors to the Great Barrier Reef to take up their own climate change action."

The only aspect of the reef you should take home is the determination to protect it for the future. O

### 拯救珊瑚礁

珊瑚礁大部分區域出現白化現象，這是由於海水溫度上升等環境壓力，令珊瑚將共生藻排出體外而失去色素。珊瑚可能因缺少食物及疾病而死亡，動輒數十年才有望復原。

澳洲政府的大堡礁海洋公園管理局負責監測珊瑚礁的健康狀況，管理旅行社的許可證，並營運收集珊瑚礁及相關資訊的公民科學項目「Eye on the Reef」。2022年，由原住民海洋保育員、旅遊業者及科學家組成的聯盟 Citizens of the Reef，成立了旨在實現大規模復原的保育及培訓計劃「The Reef Cooperative」。

此外，非牟利社會企業Great Barrier Reef Legacy亦於道格拉斯港Crystalbrook碼頭興建一所珊瑚生物庫的新設施，現已收集了415種硬珊瑚。2021年，他們與開恩茲的Coral Expeditions合作舉行首次公民科學探索，讓遊客見證珊瑚生物庫收集到的50種珊瑚物種。

由於珊瑚礁所受到的破壞大部分來自人類活動，包括亂丟垃圾或折斷珊瑚枝等個人行為，以及農業逕流或伐木造成泥沙堆積等工業活動，因此，教育是大堡礁旅遊業不可或缺的重要元素。

經營Sailaway的Steve Edmondson說：「為下一代的生態環境著想，保護我們的自然資產並鼓勵更多人擔任環保大使至關重要。我們的目標是讓每年約200萬名造訪大堡礁的遊客坐言起行，採取應對氣候變遷行動。」

假期結束後，你唯一應該帶回家的紀念品，就是保護珊瑚礁未來的決心。O

coralexpeditions.com  
foreverreef.org

“

為下一代的生態環境  
著想，保護我們的自然  
資產至關重要

**TURTALLY AWESOME**  
海龜安樂窩

Sea legs a little shaky? Spend a day on land at the Cairns Aquarium. It's home to the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre, where you can witness the recovery and rehabilitation of sick and injured rescued sea turtles: both at the aquarium and at Fitzroy Island's additional rehab facility.

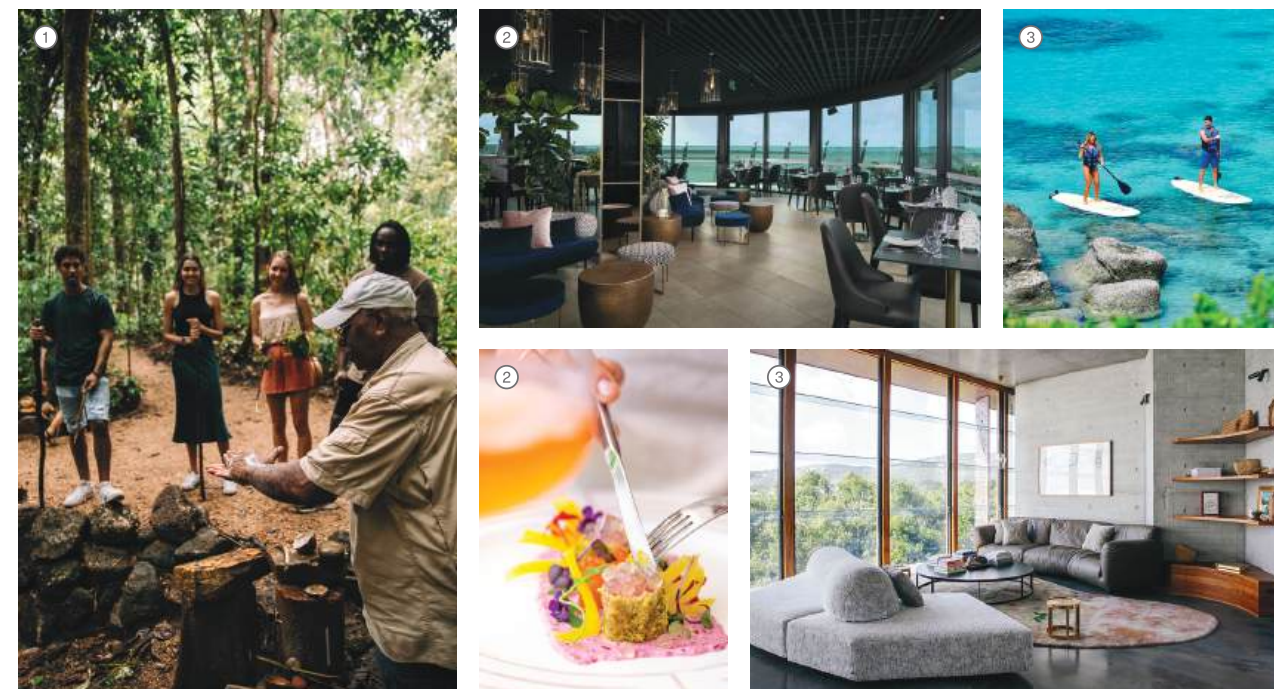
長時間待在船上覺得難以適應？不妨找天前往陸上的開恩茲水族館參觀。這裡及翡翠島均設有海龜康復中心，讓你親身了解獲救的受傷或生病海龜的復元過程。

[cairnsturtlerehab.org.au](http://cairnsturtlerehab.org.au)

**WHERE TO STAY**  
住宿推介

AFTER A DAY EXPLORING THE REEF, RETREAT TO SUMPTUOUS, SUSTAINABLY RUN LODGINGS

穿梭於珊瑚礁之間一整天後，不妨找家可持續發展的酒店下榻，放鬆身心



**1. SILKY OAKS LODGE**

This luxurious eco-lodge sits on the Mossman River just outside Port Douglas. The open-sided Treehouse Restaurant is in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest, where the vegetation is home to some of Australia's rarest wildlife, including southern cassowaries, tree kangaroos and Boyd's forest dragons; and whose modern Australian menu highlights organic and free-range produce.

[silkyoakslodge.com.au](http://silkyoakslodge.com.au)

**2. CRYSTALBROOK HOTELS**

With three properties in Cairns alone, Crystalbrook is at the forefront of sustainable hospitality in Queensland. Its responsible luxury pledge is certified by sustainable tourism advisor EarthCheck and includes everything from partnering with local fashion hire companies to encouraging rental of holiday wardrobes to using a sustainability rating system for the dishes served in its restaurants.

[crystalbrookcollection.com](http://crystalbrookcollection.com)

**3. LIZARD ISLAND**

For a real adventure, depart from Cairns on a one-hour charter flight – an incredible way to take in the scale of the Great Barrier Reef. On arrival at Lizard Island, you'll enter a world of eco-conscious luxury and seclusion within a 1,013-hectare national park. Join turtle tours, go glass-bottom sea kayaking, and visit the Lizard Island Research Station, a coral research facility run by the Australian Museum.

[lizardisland.com.au](http://lizardisland.com.au)

**1. SILKY OAKS LODGE**

這間豪華的生態旅館坐落在道格拉斯港郊外的莫斯曼河畔，由於地處戴恩樹雨林中央，這裡的茂盛植被是澳洲一些最稀有野生動物的棲息地，當中包括南方鶴駝、樹袋鼠及博伊德森林龍蜥蜴。旅館的餐廳Treehouse Restaurant採用半開放式，供應以有機和放養農產品入饌的現代澳洲美饌。

[silkyoakslodge.com.au](http://silkyoakslodge.com.au)

**2. CRYSTALBROOK HOTELS**

作為昆士蘭的可持續酒店業先鋒，Crystalbrook集團僅在開恩茲已擁有三間豪華酒店。集團在保護環境方面不遺餘力，其負責任豪華住宿理念已獲得EarthCheck的可持續旅遊認證，包括與當地時裝租賃公司合作，鼓勵住客租用度假服裝，以及對餐廳供應的菜餚採用可持續發展評級系統。

[crystalbrookcollection.com](http://crystalbrookcollection.com)

**3. 蜥蜴島度假村**

要體驗真正的探險樂趣，可從開恩茲乘坐1小時包機，俯瞰壯麗的大堡礁。面積1,013公頃的蜥蜴島是一座國家公園，是倡導生態意識的世外桃源。你可參與各種活動，如海龜生態之旅、乘坐玻璃底划艇，或參觀澳洲博物館營運的珊瑚研究設施Lizard Island Research Station。

[lizardisland.com.au](http://lizardisland.com.au)

Photos: Courtesy images