

australia

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white sand beaches curving along the shore. The land is covered in dense, lush green vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The word 'australia' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font in the upper left corner of the image.

The Whitsundays are the jewel in the crown of Australia's holiday destinations with sweeping beaches, mountainous islands, superb coral reefs and many protected bays. A sailing holiday is by far the best way to explore the region as you have the freedom to explore a variety of island resorts or cruise into anchorages where it is still common to be the only yacht.

the whitsundays, australia

The tranquil and turquoise waters surrounding Queensland's Whitsunday Islands and Great Barrier Reef are rated as one of the world's most beautiful cruising destinations.

CRUISING NOTES

The Whitsunday Islands are situated on the north-east coast of Queensland, between latitude 20° and 21° south and longitude 148° 48' and 148° 30' east, and are renowned for their amazing scenery, dazzling deserted beaches and spectacular fringing reefs. Whales, dolphins, turtles and mantarays are a common sight in these sheltered waters, making it a mecca for snorkellers and divers.

Easy line-of-sight navigation ensures a Whitsunday charter holiday is a breeze. The islands are mountainous, so no matter which direction the prevailing winds are blowing, you will always find a comfortable and stunning overnight anchorage.

Inlets like Macona and Nara on Hook Island are often likened to 'lush Norwegian Fjords in the tropics'. Explore the shores of these inlets by dinghy or bushwalks where you will uncover spectacular waterfalls, ancient aboriginal paintings and unique Australian flora and fauna.

Whitehaven Beach, on Whitsunday Island, is year after year voted one of the world's top three beaches. Its incredible six-kilometre stretch of pure white soft, silica sand provides endless enjoyment during any charter holiday and is the ultimate location to soak up the sun and marvel at the spectacular natural surroundings.



Base – Hamilton Island Marina, The Whitsundays

WIND AND SAILING CONDITIONS

Sheltered by the magnificent Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays offer smooth seas for spectacular sailing all year round. Some tropical rainfall can be experienced from January to March.

With line-of-sight navigation, the islands are ideal for novices and experienced sailors alike.

Wind direction from March to September is generally south-east to east trade winds, while October through February brings more north-easterly winds.

YOUR SAILING CHOICES

- Bareboat Charter
- RYA Sailing School
- Skippered Crewed Charter
- Racing Regattas and Social Rallies
- Corporate Sailing
- Meridien Airlie Beach Race Week (August)
- Audi Hamilton Island Race Week (August)

HOW TO GET THERE

Fly direct to Hamilton Island's jet airport.
 Brisbane to Hamilton Island - 1.5 hours.
 Sydney to Hamilton Island - 2.5 hours.
 Melbourne to Hamilton Island - 3.5 hours.
 Cairns to Hamilton Island - 1 hour.

Fly to Proserpine airport.
 Transfer - 30 minutes coach, 30 minutes ferry.

Fly to Mackay airport.
 Transfer - 30 minute light aircraft flight.

Upon arrival at Hamilton Island you will be met by our Guest Relations Team and transferred to our base.

CLIMATE

| Sun hrs | Temp | Sun hrs | Temp |
|-------------|-------------|---------|------|
| JAN 13 30°C | JUL 12 23°C | | |
| FEB 13 30°C | AUG 12 24°C | | |
| MAR 13 29°C | SEP 12 26°C | | |
| APR 12 28°C | OCT 13 27°C | | |
| MAY 12 26°C | NOV 13 29°C | | |
| JUN 12 23°C | DEC 13 30°C | | |

Average daily sunshine hours and maximum temperature



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Sunsail guests have the freedom to explore an extensive cruising area with a variety of resorts and hundreds of islands and inlets scattered at your disposal.

OUR BASE

Hamilton Island benefits from the convenience of being able to fly direct from most Australian capital cities and a short three minute transfer to the base. A free marina berth is also available for your use during your charter.

In the heart of the Whitsundays, Hamilton Island, is the largest resort and is the most popular island holiday destination in Australia. It has a large variety of hotels, villas and apartments, all with breathtaking vistas over the Coral Sea. The island has 10 cosmopolitan restaurants offering a range of international and innovative cuisine, plus many shore-based activities including go-karting, jetboat riding and scuba diving.

OTHER ISLAND RESORTS

There are a variety of romantic, action-packed, family-oriented and eco-friendly island resorts that welcome Sunsail cruising visitors for day trips or short stays. Hayman, Lindeman, Daydream and South Molle are just some of the islands with resorts offering an extensive choice of activities, cuisine and beaches upon which to stretch your sea legs.

Sunsail offers a pre-charter 'start-up kit', which consists of the book '100 Magic Miles', Whitsundays map, fish chart, yacht operation manual, a Sunsail cap and can cooler. This kit is a valuable source of information so ask your Sunsail consultant for costs and further details.

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

The Whitsundays has a great selection of activities to enjoy when you are not sailing. These include snorkelling, bushwalking, whale watching (July to September), fishing, water-skiing, parasailing, shopping, outer Great Barrier Reef tours, eco tours, scenic seaplane or helicopter tours and much more.

Suggested 7-Day Itinerary

- Day 1 Cid Harbour, Whitsunday Island
- Day 2 Nara Inlet, Hook Island
- Day 3 Stonehaven Anchorage, Hook Island
- Day 4 Butterfly Bay via Blue Pearl Bay, Hook Island
- Day 5 Cataran Bay, Border Island
- Day 6 Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet, Whitsunday Island
- Day 7 Turtle Bay, Whitsunday Island



WIND STRENGTH CHART

| KNTS | 0-11 | 11-16 | 17-22 | 22+ |
|------|------|-------|-------|-----|
| JAN | 55% | 29% | 9% | 6% |
| FEB | 42% | 34% | 19% | 6% |
| MAR | 47% | 29% | 16% | 8% |
| APR | 44% | 28% | 20% | 8% |
| MAY | 47% | 33% | 15% | 5% |
| JUN | 64% | 25% | 9% | 1% |
| JUL | 65% | 27% | 6% | 1% |
| AUG | 61% | 26% | 10% | 2% |
| SEP | 63% | 22% | 12% | 3% |
| OCT | 54% | 33% | 11% | 3% |
| NOV | 56% | 28% | 12% | 4% |
| DEC | 54% | 30% | 12% | 5% |

WIND DIRECTION

| MTH | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CALM | 2% | 2% | 1% | 3% | 4% | 3% |
| N | 7% | 5% | 2% | 1% | - | 1% |
| NE | 22% | 11% | 13% | 6% | 4% | 3% |
| E | 31% | 32% | 35% | 30% | 24% | 14% |
| SE | 21% | 33% | 37% | 46% | 46% | 41% |
| S | 2% | 6% | 6% | 7% | 18% | 25% |
| SW | 1% | 1% | 1% | - | 1% | 5% |
| W | 4% | 2% | - | 3% | 2% | 5% |
| NW | 10% | 8% | 5% | 4% | 1% | 4% |

| MTH | JULY | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CALM | 3% | 3% | 2% | - | 1% | - |
| N | 1% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 10% | 10% |
| NE | 6% | 13% | 19% | 20% | 22% | 21% |
| E | 23% | 26% | 33% | 32% | 27% | 29% |
| SE | 40% | 35% | 25% | 21% | 16% | 17% |
| S | 16% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% |
| SW | 5% | 1% | 2% | - | - | - |
| W | 3% | 4% | 5% | 4% | 5% | 5% |
| NW | 3% | 9% | 7% | 14% | 18% | 16% |

Incidence of winds in given range, 1500 hrs, Hayman Island (observation over 15-year period). From 100 Magic Miles with the permission of Windward Publications Pty Ltd. For more information email admin@windward.com.au