

RACEY DAYS CRUISEY NIGHTS

HOLIDAY PLANNER 2012



Visit queenslandholidays.com.au/sailing to check out
your perfect Queensland Season of Sailing Holiday

Congratulations! You're onboard for Queensland's Season of Sailing, so why not grab a crew of family and friends for a fun-filled break in Australia's premier holiday sailing destination.

Fringed by the sparkling azure waters of the Pacific Ocean and peppered with sub-tropical islands, Queensland provides perfect conditions for a sailing adventure. Yachting enthusiasts from around the world flock to Queensland's sunny shores to breathe in the crisp ocean air and explore the pristine waters. And you can join them.

From seasoned sailors to amateur boaties; stretching from the Gold and Sunshine Coast to Townsville, The Whitsundays and Southern Great Barrier Reef, Queensland offers a thrilling line-up of maritime events and activities all year round. See how the professionals do it at one of the many exciting race weeks. And when the sun goes down, join the locals for the race week festivities and enjoy the warm, friendly hospitality Queensland is famous for.

Check out the must do's in these great Queensland sailing destinations.

SEASON OF SAILING EVENTS

Sail Paradise (Gold Coast)

21-25 March 2012

Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race (Gladstone)

6-8 April 2012

Etchells Australasian Winter Championships (Sunshine Coast)

7-10 June 2012

Brisbane to Keppel Tropical Yacht Race (Capricorn)

3-6 August 2012

Airlie Beach Race Week (The Whitsundays)

10-16 August 2012

Hamilton Island Race Week (The Whitsundays)

17-25 August 2012

Magnetic Island Race Week (Townsville)

1-4 September 2012



BRISBANE REGION

It's no secret that Brisbane is alive with excitement. Its flair is for the original, its entertainment is fresh and youthful, it thrives with laneway markets, fine food restaurants and open air cafés. Urban villages populate inner city precincts where you can stroll with the warm breeze on your bare arms. It's a city where the air is filled with optimism and a sense of adventure is heavy on the ground. Discover world-class contemporary art, cultural and sporting highlights. And, of course, it's about a long-standing love affair with the outdoors. From pristine beaches to lush mountain hideaways on the Scenic Rim, from a gently winding river to the aquatic paradise of Moreton Bay, Brisbane truly is a place where feeling alive comes naturally.

Must Do's

- Visit the internationally-renowned Gallery of Modern Art
- Treat your tastebuds to award winning restaurants and stylish cafés in The Gabba District
- Cycle the riverfront paths or kayak the Brisbane River
- Head to James Street, Fortitude Valley, for the city's greatest collection of designer and eclectic boutiques
- Don't miss our famous sand islands – dive the Tangalooma wrecks on Moreton Island, or enjoy a 4WD tour of North Stradbroke Island



SUNSHINE COAST

Experience the Sunshine Coast where you feel like a local from the moment you arrive. Welcome the freshness of a beautiful new day where you can take the kids to the beach before the sun has even had time to warm the sand. Walk straight from the naturally stunning beaches to the laid back atmosphere of open-air cafés and restaurants and dine on the freshest local produce. For a refreshing change of pace explore the rich Hinterland where you can discover pristine waterfalls, beautiful walks and a charm and quaintness that you might not expect. Come to the Sunshine Coast, where refreshing and revitalising holidays come naturally.

Must Do's

- Hire a longboard and surf Noosa's Main Beach
- Spot a koala in the wild in Noosa's National Park
- Take the cable ferry to Noosa's North Shore
- Savour coastal cuisine at an award-winning local restaurant



GLADSTONE REGION

The Gladstone Region is the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef, famous for its untouched, colourful and varied reef ecosystems, and considered to be one of the top dive and snorkelling sites in the world. The region is dotted with impressive coral cays and reefs that are only a stone's throw away from the coast. With two coral cay reef resorts, Heron and Wilson Islands; a day cruise to Lady Musgrave Island; and an organised dive trip or chartered fishing adventure, there are many great ways to explore this most remarkable part of the Great Barrier Reef. The picturesque coastline of the twin seaside communities of Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy create an exciting and appealing multitude of experiences.

Must Do's

- Snorkel and dive the Southern Great Barrier Reef, home to some of the most amazing coral and reef in the world
- Jump aboard the huge pink, eco-friendly LARC and travel over land and sea to Bustard Head and its historic lighthouse
- 'Hang ten' on unbelievable surf breaks in the middle of the Great Barrier Reef or learn the tricks of the trade at the local surf school
- Catch the elusive Barramundi at Lake Awoonga, one of the best impound freshwater fishing spots in the world

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GOLD COAST

Venture into the Gold Coast's endless playground and you're in for some serious fun, no matter if you're a 'big' kid or 'little kid'. Feel the excitement of unlimited things to see and do right on your doorstep! Whether it's an exhilarating swim at one of many golden surf beaches, an energising hike through the Gold Coast Hinterland, an action-packed day at some of the world's best theme parks or simply enjoying the shopping, nightlife and entertainment, the Gold Coast is Australia's fun capital. It's where you can explore your playful side and let loose - with a smile on your face and the warmth of the sun on your skin. The Gold Coast truly offers something for everyone. It is as scenic and peaceful as it is fast paced and active. The Gold Coast is Famous for fun! You'll feel the buzz from the moment you arrive.

Must Do's

- Get your thrills at the world-class theme parks
- Learn to surf with a professional on one of the Gold Coast's many golden beaches
- Rise early for a hot air balloon ride over the Gold Coast Hinterland
- Enjoy the spectacular views from Q1, the world's highest residential tower



CAPRICORN REGION

Experience a unique holiday in Capricorn, the gateway to the Keppel Island Group – with the best of surf, sand and sea, breathtaking national parks, Australian native wildlife and wonders of the Southern Great Barrier Reef. From an action packed group trip, fun and kid friendly family holiday, luxurious romantic getaway or caravan and camping exploration – the Capricorn Region has it all. Enjoy the perfect steak in Australia's Beef Capital – Rockhampton, explore emerald green rainforest and sweeping sandstone cliffs in Carnarvon Gorge, fossick for sparkling jewels at the Sapphire Gemfields, or enjoy the Capricorn Coast's pristine beaches at Yeppoon. Dive, snorkel or sail through the Great Barrier Reef at Great Keppel Island or Pumpkin Island.

Must Do's

- Get caught-up in the thrill of a live rodeo at the iconic Great Western Hotel in Rockhampton
- Visit the Capricorn Caves – an incredible above ground limestone cave system, formed from an ancient coral reef over 400 million years ago
- Fossick for gems at the largest sapphire fields in the Southern Hemisphere
- Discover ancient rock art at Carnarvon National Park



THE WHITSUNDAYS

In the heart of Queensland's Great Barrier Reef, lie The Whitsundays; 74 islands in the tropical warm waters of the Coral Sea. From your very first sunset, you'll lose yourself to its natural beauty. The region offers something for everyone, from a fun-filled, adventure-packed family holiday to a luxurious romantic escape for two. Explore this incredible diversity from the bow of a sailboat... cruise through the islands and drop anchor for a quick snorkel and wake up to a sunrise over world famous Whitehaven Beach. Or simply disembark at the nearest resort with Coral Sea views at Airlie Beach, yet another 74 island wonder.

Must Do's

- Follow in Oprah's footsteps and enjoy champagne on Whitehaven Beach, one of the world's most beautiful beaches
- Book a seaplane or heli flight over the 74 islands and the heart-shaped reef
- Sleep overnight on the Great Barrier Reef, 280km from land
- Wake up to a view of the bright azure waters of the Coral Sea, it will simply take your breath away



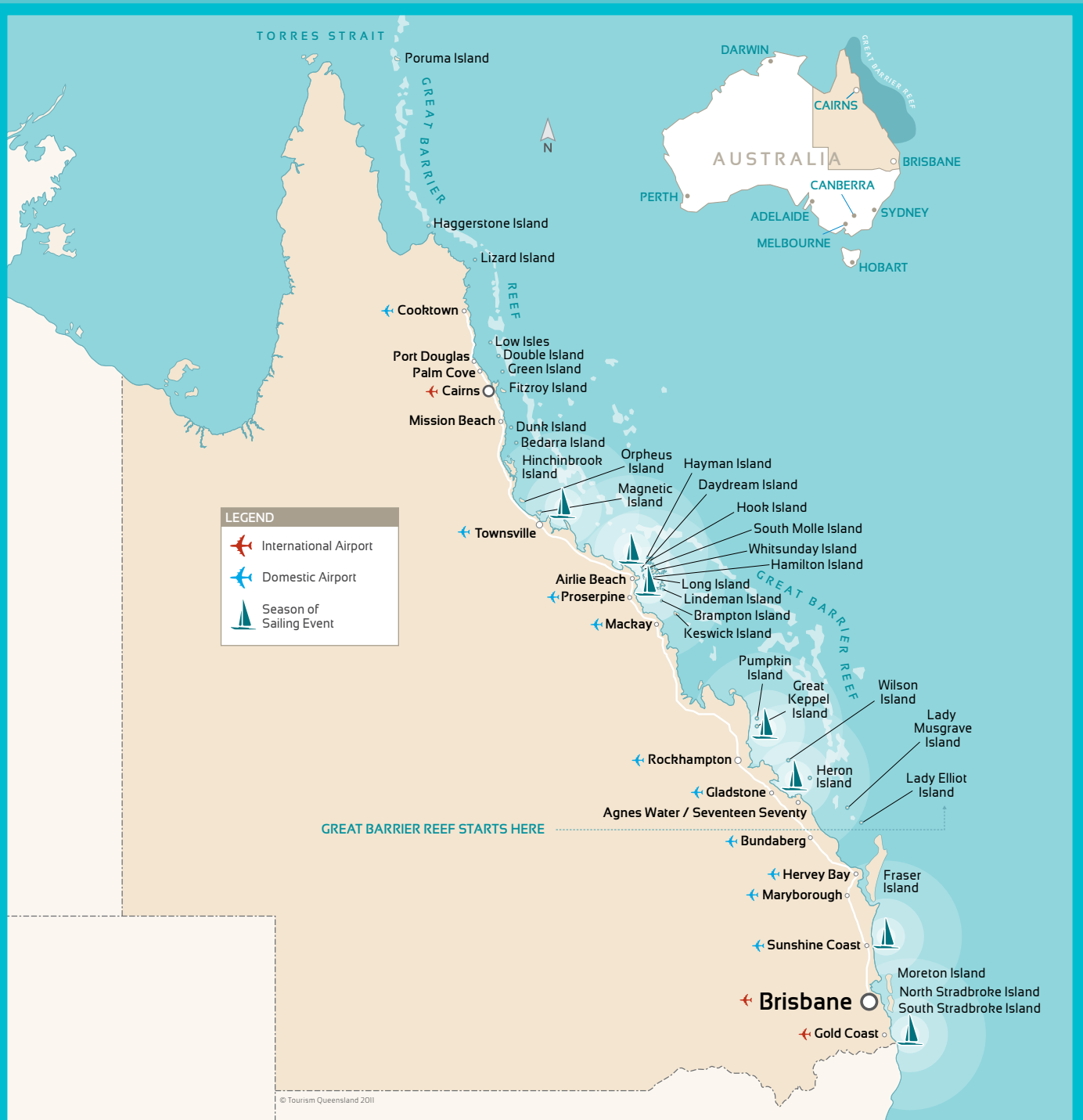
TOWNSVILLE AND MAGNETIC ISLAND

Life in the tropics is brilliant with Townsville as your jumping off point. You could spend days just relaxing here. Save your energy for tomorrow's adventures north to rainforests, out to the Great Barrier Reef or Magnetic Island just 25 minutes away. Many of the 23 beaches and bays are only accessible by water – you can paddle into your own personal beach on a kayak, hire a yacht, or feel the wind in your hair on a jet ski. There are fabulous dive sites just offshore. And on dry land you can explore Charters Towers or Wallaman Falls and return in plenty of time for dinner on The Strand.

Must Do's

- Head to Castle Hill for spectacular views over Townsville and Magnetic Island
- Drive a Mini Moke on nearby Magnetic Island
- Alfresco dining along The Strand overlooking Magnetic Island
- Join a dive tour to the Great Barrier Reef

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