



Great Barrier Reef Frequently Asked Questions

General

Does Coral Princess Cruises offer transfers?

Answer: Pre and Post cruise transfers are not included in the price of your Great Barrier Reef cruise. There are however a number of options available for transportation to and from the Wharf.

How do I get from the airport/hotel to the ship?

Answer: If you do not have a transfer arranged, you would need to take a taxi or if your hotel offers a courtesy transfer, please arrange with hotel reception to transfer you to the vessel.

How much will the taxi cost?

Answer: A Taxi from the Townsville Airport to Coral Princess is approximately AUD15.00. A Taxi from the Cairns Wharf to the Airport will be approx AUD16.00

Meals

Are all meals provided onboard and what style of dining is available?

Answer: Throughout your Coral Princess Great Barrier Reef cruise you will savour three delicious, healthy meals per day as well as tempting morning and afternoon teas. Lunches are buffet style and dinner alternates between buffet and table d'hote. A complimentary tea and coffee station is open 24 hours. A selection of Australian and New Zealand wines, beers and spirits are available at additional expense.

*The galley will attempt to meet special dietary requirements, however a minimum of three weeks notice must be provided prior to departure to allow us to provide this service.

Onboard Accommodations

What facilities do the cabins and staterooms provide?

Answer: All rooms are air conditioned, and equipped with ensuite, wardrobe, suitcase cupboard, speaker, large windows (some cabin categories have port holes), desk and hairdryer. Power points onboard are 240 volt for Australian plugs. There is a shaving outlet in each bathroom. All rooms are serviced daily.

Can we fit three adults into a cabin?

Answer: Cabins will only accommodate two adults maximum. Cabins are twin bedded or bunk bedded only. However, a child can be accommodated on a Pullman Bunk or Divan in a Stateroom only.

Can we push two twin beds together to make a double?

Answer: Beds are fixed. If a double bed is required please ensure that you book a Stateroom, Upper-Deck Stateroom or Deluxe Stateroom when making your reservation.

What size is the bed in a double stateroom?

Answer: Coral Princess cabins feature a choice of twin beds or double beds.

Inclusions

Do we need to bring our own snorkelling or dive equipment?

Answer: If you wish, you may bring your own equipment with you, however included in the cost of your cruise is the use of full snorkelling and dive equipment. Please remember if you are a certified diver to bring your certification card and logbook with you. Snorkelling is free of charge. An introductory SCUBA experience is complimentary for first time divers. Additional expense is associated with SCUBA Diving.

Do we need to pre book activities or dives prior to boarding?

Answer: All activities while on your cruise can be arranged on board for your convenience.

What extras will we be paying for onboard?

Answer: All bar and shop charges, SCUBA diving and ship to shore phone/fax calls. EMC is also payable onboard; this is a Government Environmental Management Charge.

Packages

Cairns to Cairns 3 Night Package (CC3) (including flight)

Can we book the CC3 flight for travel the day before the cruise, not on the day of the cruise?

Answer: Yes you can. You may allow up to 1 week either side of the cruise to take advantage of the flight should you wish to stay a few days before or after the cruise.

Is just the passengers surname enough to book flights?

Answer: Our reservations department will require the surname and given name of every passenger who requires a flight. No flight booking can be made without preferred first names. The age of children travelling also needs to be advised.

Which airline do you use for these flights?

Answer: Qantaslink is the airline used for our CC3 package flights.

Children

Do you cater for children?

Answer: Yes. We cater for children of all ages. We can also supply cots and highchairs, please note however, 2 weeks notice prior to travel will be required.

Can we put two adults and two children in one room?

Answer: Should you have a family of four travelling they will need to take separate rooms; two adults in one room and the two children in another. Please ask for the same grades of accommodation to ensure that rooms are located together on the same deck.

Can we put two adults and one child in one room?

Answer: Yes you can. The third person (child) will be accommodated on a Pullman bunk or foldaway bed. This is applicable in a Stateroom or Upper Deck Stateroom only.

Diving

How many dive opportunities do we get?

Answer: On our 3 night itinerary, you will have the opportunity to dive approximately 3 – 5 times, and on our 4 night program, you will have the opportunity to dive approximately 4 – 6 times. This is dependant on number of divers wishing to SCUBA dive, their experience and also weather conditions.

What is the cost for SCUBA diving?

Answer: A free introductory SCUBA experience is offered for first time divers. First and second dives for uncertified divers are at a cost of AUD\$75.00 per dive, third and subsequent dives are at a cost of AUD\$60.00 per dive. The cost of diving for Certified Divers who require all equipment is AUD\$60.00 per dive and the cost of dives for Certified Divers who require weight belt & tank only is AUD\$50.00 per dive.

Miscellaneous

What do we pack?

Answer: You will need to ensure you have your swimwear, hat, sunscreen and smart cool casual clothing for the evening. A light jacket is handy for cooler nights at sea. You will not require any formal attire onboard. A pair of hiking shoes/boots for the Cook's Look walk on the Cairns – Lizard Island – Cairns and Cairns - Lizard Island - Townsville v.v. cruises is also recommend.

Do you supply beach towels?

Answer: Yes, towels are provided as there are many opportunities for swimming, snorkelling, SCUBA diving or relaxing in the spa during the cruise.

Are there laundry facilities onboard?

Answer: Drip dry, wash and wear clothing is recommended for the Great Barrie Reef cruises.

Do we need spending money onboard?

Answer: All purchases onboard will be charged to your room account, which must be settled with the purser prior to disembarking. Payment of your onboard account may be made by Cash, Credit Card or Australian Dollars Travellers Cheque. Any shop or bar purchases made at the Dunk Island Resort must be settled with cash or credit card.

Will my mobile telephone work? What communications are available?

Answer: Due to the remote locations visited, mobile telephone service may not be available. Should the need arise to contact family and friends, guests may utilise the ship's satellite communications equipment (telephone and fax) at a set per minute rate.

Where will the vessel depart from?

Answer: Townsville departures are from the Townsville Breakwater Terminal, Sir Leslie Thies Drive. Cairns departures are from the Cairns Trinity Wharf.

What time can we board the vessel?

Answer: Townsville departures board at 1230 for a 1300 departure. Cairns departures board at 1030 for an 1100 departure and at 1600 for a 1700 departure.

What can we do with our luggage prior to boarding?

Answer: For our Townsville departures you may check in anytime from 8.00am. Your luggage will be placed in your cabin prior to you boarding. For our Cairns departures; on a Tuesday you may drop your luggage off from 8.00am at the ship/wharf, on Fridays from 2.00pm and on Saturday from 8.00am.

Do we need to take out Travel Insurance?

Answer: It is highly recommended that all passengers purchase appropriate travel insurance prior to departure.

What if we have a special occasion whilst onboard?

Answer: On booking, please let us know should you be celebrating any special occasion during your cruise.

When is stinger season and will we be affected?

Answer: Stinger season is traditionally during our summer months from November to May. As our cruises mostly operate on the outer Barrier Reef, stingers rarely create a problem for our guests. As a preventative measure, we do have stinger suits available for purchase onboard the ship at an approximate cost of AUD25.00 per suit.