coralexpeditions
AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE

AUSTRALIA'S COASTAL WILDERNESS SERIES

GREAT BARRIER REEF

2026 - 2027 VOYAGES



AUSTRALIAN OWNED AND FLAGGED

UNRIVALLED LOCAL EXPERTISE

A TRUE EXPEDITION ETHOS

PURPOSE BUILT SHIPS

WARM AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALITY

UNIQUELY DEEP CONNECTIONS



REMOTE REACHES OF THE REEF
FOR TRUE EXPLORERS

Covering an area of over 2,600km and encompassing over 900 islands, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure and home to an abundant and thriving array of marine and bird species. It holds pride of place as one of the seven natural wonders of the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage area.

Coral Expeditions pioneered expedition cruises on the outer reaches of the Great Barrier Reef four decades ago and have forged a reputation for excellence and expertise. Aboard the yacht-like *Coral Discoverer,* enjoy an immersive 4- or 7-night adventure to the remote northern reefs. These expedition voyages will explore hidden corners, uninhabited sand cays, small islands and pristine reef systems. Along the way, find freedom and solitude amidst this iconic seascape.

Voyages

- **Outerknown Adventures on the Great Barrier Reef**
  7 Nights | Departs Oct & Nov 2026
- **Coastal Adventures: Great Barrier Reef**
  4 Nights | Departs Nov 2026
- **Science & Conservation on the Great Barrier Reef**
  11 Nights | Departs Mar 2027

Expedition Note

These are expedition itineraries covering remote regions. Your Captain and Expedition Team will make changes to the daily schedule when necessary to maximise your experience. These itineraries are indicative - some variation may occur due to weather conditions, safety or local community requirements.

We recommend that you arrive to the embarkation port on the day prior to departure and schedule your own travel arrangements post disembarkation due to unexpected changes that may occur in scheduling.

IMAGES Front Cover: Guests snorkelling over coral reef | Inside Cover: Fitzroy Island



WHY CHOOSE CORAL EXPEDITIONS

Our fleet of three specialised expedition ships and tenders take guests to some of the most beautiful, yet undiscovered islands and coastal regions of the world. Our guests are attracted by our relaxed small ship atmosphere and itineraries larger ships cannot replicate.

At a time when the cruise industry is moving to larger and less personal ships with mostly onboard attractions, we have purposefully limited the size of our ships to maximise the expedition experience. Our cuisine is prepared in small batches from our onboard galley using quality Australian produce and wine. We operate to high Australian standards of safety with qualified Australian crew wherever we go. We were the first to offer interpretive programs reflective of the destinations we visit and to employ Expedition Leaders, Guest Lecturers, Marine Biologists, and SCUBA Instructors – a tradition that continues today.

- **We focus on the destinations.** Connecting guests with nature, culture, and heritage with more time ashore in remote natural areas away from the crowds.
- **A true expedition ethos.** Small ships mean fewer guests and more intimate and personal encounters along the way. We have deep respect and strong connections with the places we visit and maintain flexibility in our planning to make impromptu stops if extraordinary opportunities in nature present.
- **Warm Australian hospitality.** Our all-Australian crew are passionate and proud to share the adventure with you. Always attentive and caring with a friendly and approachable style in keeping with our Australian values.
- **Purpose-built ships.** Designed for tropical expedition access, our fleet is comfortable, safe, and maneuverable enabling you to get in shallow and close to nature with ease where other operators cannot. Plenty of wide-open public spaces and all outward facing staterooms connect you with the destination.
- **Our unique Xplorer tenders.** The safari jeeps of the sea; our Xplorers enable guests safe and easy access onto excursions into remote rivers, reef systems and isolated beaches. All guests get out on excursion at once with no queues or waiting. Shade canopy to protect from the tropical sun, comfortable seats, open sides and audio systems enhance the journey. These are supported by Zodiacs along the way.
- **Local expertise that is unrivalled.** Our expert guides and local crew have decades of experience to draw on regarding the tides, the charts, and the seasons. We get you to the right place at the right time and always explore in a respectful and caring manner.
- **All inclusive.** Your cruise fare covers everything that matters most including excursions, activities, meals and drinks, expert guides, taxes, and fees. Unpack once and then simply relax and enjoy the experience.
- **Our service and care.** Our friendly staff and crew have one focus – to help you enjoy the trip of a lifetime. We will always be willing to assist and with a genuine care that is part of our culture.

This is true expedition cruising. At Coral Expeditions, we have built our reputation on offering a truly immersive and authentic expedition cruise experience. It is more relevant today than ever and sets us apart from the pack.

OUTERKNOWN ADVENTURES ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

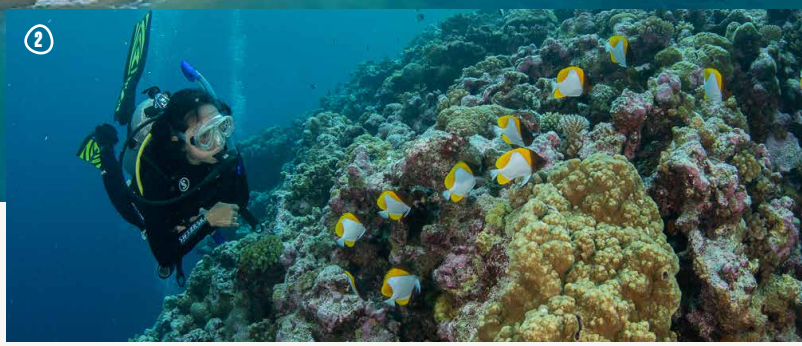
CAIRNS TO CAIRNS | 7 NIGHTS
OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2026



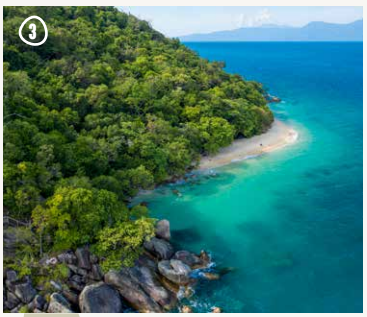
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Expedition Highlights

- Immerse yourself in one of the world's great seascapes with the Great Barrier Reef experts
- Visit the turtle rehabilitation centre at Fitzroy Island and support the crucial conservation work being done to protect endangered species of turtle.
- Learn about the *Endeavour*'s arrival, and first interactions between europeans and indigenous peoples
- Swim, snorkel and dive among the iconic marine species of the Great Barrier Reef
- Enjoy solitude and seven magical Queensland sunsets
- Sip sundowners and feel the sand beneath your feet on isolated sand cays and uninhabited islands



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ITINERARY: 7 NIGHTS > CAIRNS TO CAIRNS

Our Great Barrier Reef itineraries are flexible, to take advantage of changing weather and reef conditions. Below is a selection of the key destinations we visit

DAY 1: DEPART CAIRNS
Arrive at Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 4:00pm, where there is time to settle into your stateroom before our 5:00pm departure. Take the time to become acquainted with all the facilities onboard before joining your fellow explorers on the Sun Deck for Captain's Welcome Drinks..

FITZROY ISLAND
At Fitzroy Island enjoy a walk through the Secret Garden rainforest or a hike to the lighthouse to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding islands and mainland mountain ranges.

Snorkel over the fringing reef, relax on the beach and learn about the life cycle of turtles at the Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre where sick and injured turtles are cared for before being returned to the wild.

SUDBURY CAY
Arrive at Sudbury Cay, a tiny sand cay that barely rises above the Coral Sea. Far removed from civilisation, we enjoy sunset drinks and the company of like-minded explorers as we relax and watch the sun gently sink below the horizon.

MACKAY REEF & CAY
Relax on picturesque Mackay Cay and enjoy snorkelling the pristine reef that surrounds it. Mackay Reef is a mid-shelf platform reef, with vibrant hard and soft corals abound. The northern side enjoys additional protection from the cay, making it the perfect playground for turtles. A giant clam garden also resides in the area, with some clams growing as big as 1.2m, all with their own unique colours and patterns.

COOKTOWN | GUNGARDIE
In historic Cooktown, learn the history of the *Guugu Yimithirr*, the first people of this ancient country. Visit the site where Lt. James Cook beached *HMB Endeavour* to effect repairs in 1770. Wander through the rare flora collection at the Botanic Gardens and visit Cooktown Museum, where the story of Cook's landing is told from an Indigenous perspective and where artefacts are on display.

LIZARD ISLAND | JIIGURRU
We spend a whole day at Lizard Island where we offer a selection of walks available according to ability. There is time to hike to the summit of Cook's Look and enjoy the same view Lt. James Cook did when searching for safe passage through the maze of coral reefs. Snorkel over giant clam gardens from the beach at Watson's Bay, relax on the white-sand beach beneath shady she oak trees and learn about the tragic story surrounding Mary Watson.

OSPREY REEF
One of the world's best dive sites, Osprey Reef is a submerged atoll in the Coral Sea. The top of a mountain which rises from the seafloor, surrounded by a vast ocean, it draws many beautiful and rare marine creatures to its plummeting walls. Osprey Reef is a highly prized tropical dive location amongst scuba divers, called an 'oasis for living creatures of all kinds' by Sir David Attenborough. The vibrant corals and crystal-clear waters make it an unforgettable place to discover. Here we will spend time in the water exploring the 30m deep lagoon and drift diving the walls, where you may see large pelagic fish, rays, and sharks drawn in from the surrounding deep blue to enjoy the richness of this ocean oasis. *This reef is for certified divers and confident snorkellers only.*

RIBBON REEFS
The Ribbon Reefs are a narrow line of outer coral reefs on the edge of the continental shelf and are renowned for their prolific marine life and extensive coral species. Enjoy the rare opportunity to snorkel and dive on the Ribbon Reefs which sit on the edge of the continental shelf.

Due to their location far offshore from the Australian coast, the Ribbon Reefs offer excellent diving and snorkelling opportunities with a wide range of marine life and pinnacles cloaked in coral. Join a guided snorkel tour led by our expert Expedition Team and witness this extraordinary ecosystem up close. These northern reefs are renowned for spotting iconic marine species such as potato cod, wrasse, sharks, and turtles.

DAY 8: ARRIVE CAIRNS
Our Great Barrier Reef adventure concludes in Cairns this morning as we bid farewell to new-found friends, the Master and crew, disembarking at 8:00am.

A complimentary transfer is provided to CBD hotels or the airport. Transfers to the Northern Beaches or Port Douglas can be arranged on board with the Purser (at cost), if not already arranged prior to embarkation.


Ocellaris clownfish in anemone, Fitzroy Island


Coral gardens of the Ribbon Reefs

IMAGES 1 Enjoy sunset drinks on remote Sudbury Cay | 2 Snorkelling over Osprey Reef | 3 Fitzroy Island | 4 Spotted grouper, Lizard Island

COASTAL ADVENTURES: GREAT BARRIER REEF

CAIRNS TO CAIRNS | 4 NIGHTS

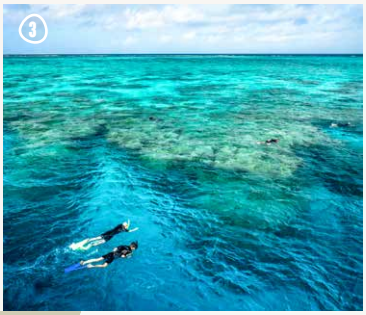
NOVEMBER 2026



Expedition Highlights

- Discover mangroves, beaches and rainforest on guided walks or relaxed beachcombing, with opportunities to spot dolphins, turtles and dugongs.
- Explore pristine, rarely visited reefs alive with coral grouper, emperor red snapper, turtles, manta rays and reef sharks.
- Choose from guided island walks, kayaking, swimming and paddleboarding, or explore Mission Beach's local artists, cafés and village atmosphere.
- Enjoying locally crafted tapas, sunset views and stargazing from the Skydeck.









IMAGES 1 Take a walk through rainforest trails | 2 Kayak and SUP stunning coastlines | 3 Snorkel pristine reefs | 4 Stay alert for turtle and other wildlife encounters

ITINERARY: 4 NIGHTS > CAIRNS TO CAIRNS

Our Great Barrier Reef itineraries are flexible, to take advantage of changing weather and reef conditions. Below is a selection of the key destinations we visit.

DAY 1: DEPART CAIRNS
Join us as our adventure starts at 12:00pm for a 1:00pm departure from Cairns Trinity Wharf, when we set off for Sudbury Cay. Savour locally crafted tapas, enjoy the stunning view and meet your fellow passengers as the sun sets over the water. Afterwards, join in for some stargazing on the Skydeck.

SUDBURY CAY
Arrive at Sudbury Cay, a tiny sand cay that barely rises above the Coral Sea. Far removed from civilisation, we enjoy sunset drinks and the company of like-minded explorers as we relax and watch the sun gently sink below the horizon.

DAY 2 & 3: DUNK ISLAND & MISSION BEACH
Today, enjoy flexibility as you explore Dunk Island and Mission Beach, with our Xplorer running to and from both locations throughout the day. On Dunk Island, you can take guided walks to Mt Koolatoo, Muggy Muggy Beach, or Coconut Beach, or simply relax with beachcombing, kayaking, swimming, or stand-up paddle boarding. For those seeking relaxation and free time, explore the village of Mission Beach and visit some of the local artists and cafes.

DAY 4: GERANIUM PASSAGE REEFS | YAMACUTTA
Geranium Passage boasts some of the most pristine reefs in the region, making it an ideal destination for snorkelling and diving. Explore the vibrant underwater world of Yamacutta Reef, thriving with leopard coral grouper, emperor red snapper, turtles, manta rays and occasionally reef sharks. Very few people get the opportunity to visit here, providing you with ample space to explore

DAY 5: ARRIVE IN CAIRNS
Arrive back at Cairns Trinity Wharf in time for breakfast and final farewells. Disembarkation at 8:00am.



IMAGE Enjoy a leisurely stroll while beachcombing on Dunk Island

SCIENCE & CONSERVATION ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

CAIRNS TO CAIRNS | 11 NIGHTS



Expedition Highlights

- Discover turtle conservation and coral restoration projects in Mon Repos.
- Join manta ray research and reef monitoring at Lady Elliot Island.
- Explore remote reefs, tropical islands and underwater art across the Great Barrier Reef.
- Share meaningful cultural encounters with Taribelang Bunda Elders at Mon Repos and Wulgurukaba Elders on Magnetic Island.
- Visit the world's first living coral biobank at the Forever Reef Project.







HOW TO GET TO BUNDABERG

Fly or drive in

Fly direct from Brisbane to Bundaberg with QantasLink, with around five daily flights between 8:00am and 8:00pm.

Bundaberg is approximately a six-hour drive north of Brisbane via the Bruce Highway.



ITINERARY: 11 NIGHTS > BUNDABERG TO CAIRNS

Our Great Barrier Reef itineraries are flexible, to take advantage of changing weather and reef conditions. Below is a selection of the key destinations we visit.

DAY 1: BUNDABERG | TURTLE SANDS RESORT
Meet your Expedition team at Bundaberg Airport at 4:00pm for a group transfer to Turtle Sands. Independent arrivals may make their own way to Turtle Sands to check in from 2pm onwards.

Settle in and enjoy a two-night, all-inclusive pre-cruise stay. Be welcomed by Taribelang Bunda Elders in a special Welcome to Country ceremony, offering a rare insight into their enduring connection to Country and cultural heritage. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner among fellow guests and celebrate the start of your adventure. Your stay includes daily breakfast, lunches and dinners.

DAY 2: BUNDABERG | MON REPOS
Enjoy a breakfast featuring locally sourced regional produce ahead of a day of education and conservation. Meet with local rangers at Mon Repos Turtle Centre, which supports the largest concentration of nesting marine turtles on the eastern Australian mainland. Learn about the challenges and successes faced in protecting these critically engaged species. After a hearty lunch, we head to Monsoon Aquatics, for a behind-the-scenes experience of coral propagation that goes towards restoring the reef.

LADY ELLIOT ISLAND
Transfer to *Coral Discoverer* for an 8:30am embarkation, followed by the program orientation. Your expedition team will introduce the voyage's citizen science activities and distribute the required equipment. After lunch, arrive at Lady Elliot Island with time to explore its remarkable reef environment and discover the monitoring projects that will shape the days ahead.

LADY ELLIOT ISLAND
Today we go behind the scenes of Project Manta and meet the researchers at the forefront of manta ray research and conservation. Gain insight into manta behaviours and identification strategies which will be put into practice later today. We will snorkel and dive the biodiverse waters surrounding Lady Elliot, including the renowned manta cleaning stations. This will be our first opportunity to deploy monitoring tools and refine our techniques in the field.

WISTARI REEF
Set within the remote Capricorn Bunker Group, Wistari Reef offers a more adventurous reef experience. Located offshore from the Gladstone region, this reef is known for its expansive coral bommies and thriving hard coral species. Guests enter the water directly from the vessel, creating a more dynamic, open-water snorkeling experience best suited to confident swimmers. With a focus here on maximising time in the water, the experience is all about exploration and discovery. For those wanting to go further, optional scuba diving offers the opportunity to experience Wistari Reef from an even deeper perspective.

CUMBERLAND ISLAND GROUP
Arriving at the Cumberland Island Group, your onboard team will choose the location of the day's activities according to weather and tide conditions from a selection of islands including Scawfell and Brampton. These volcanic islands have a remarkable range of flora and fauna, where reefs and seagrass meadows meet eucalypt woodland and lush rainforest. Here guests can enjoy kayaking sheltered waters, snorkel off a secluded beach and enjoy gentle guided beachcombs and walks documenting any unique wildlife and marine mammals we may encounter. Weather permitting, enjoy a glass bottom boat tour from the surface.

LANGFORD ISLAND & THE NORTHERN WHITSUNDAYS
Visit Langford Island, where the castaway-style setting provides calm waters, creating ideal conditions for snorkelling Black Island Reef, Blue Pearl Bay and Langford-Bird Reef (pending conditions). Participate in coral monitoring initiatives with Eye on the Reef to support coral health through surveys. Langford Island is also home to the rare Whitsunday Bottle Tree which we will spend some time identifying and surveying. For those seeking land-based activities, sign-up for a moderate 1.5km hike up to Langford Island Lookout for stunning views accoss the Whitsundays.

MAGNETIC ISLAND
Magnetic Island (Yunbenun), is part of the traditional land and sea Country of the Wulgurukaba (canoe) People, whose connection to the island spans thousands of years. An exclusive day developed in partnership with Canoe Projects inc, Wulgurukaba Elders and local conservation groups, guests will be welcomed to Country through a special cultural experience. We will spend the day working on a selection of hands-on citizen science programs designed to reduce human impacts on the reef; as well as supporting the island's fragile ecosystem.

JOHN BREWER REEF
Located offshore from Magnetic Island, John Brewer Reef opens into the central Great Barrier Reef, offering a more exposed, open-ocean setting. Here, visit the Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA) via snorkel or dive. Experience a unique underwater gallery where sculptures are designed to evolve into living reef. Later today join your onboard experts to discuss and analyse results obtained during the Eye on the Reef and Coral Watch monitoring programs.

YAMACUTTA REEF
Yamacutta Reef is a remote outer-shelf reef system where steady currents support a unique diversity when compared to inshore locations; creating ideal conditions for our continued monitoring programs. On previous visits, guests identified a new manta ray individual in the area. You may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of 'Discoveray' during snorkels and dives. Due to the exposed location, glass bottom boat tours are subject to conditions.

DUNK ISLAND
Just offshore from Mission Beach, Dunk Island is part of the traditional Country of the Bandjin and Djiru peoples. Fringed by seagrass meadows that support sea turtles and dugongs, the island rises into lush, national park-protected rainforest. Spend time swimming in calm tropical waters, walking shaded forest trails or relaxing along quiet beaches. With refreshments served ashore, this is an easygoing day shaped by nature, stillness and the beauty of the Cassowary Coast.

PORT DOUGLAS
Today we head ashore to visit the Forever Reef Project, the world's first living coral biobank. Established by Dr Dean Miller and Great Barrier Reef Legacy, the project is dedicated to preserving the biodiversity of Great Barrier Reef corals and safeguarding them for future research, restoration and conservation. Discover the science behind coral biobanking and view remarkable coral specimens collected from across the Great Barrier Reef, including corals gathered during previous Coral Expeditions voyages. Later today we wrap up our findings and observations on the monitoring programs and discuss impacts, challenges and where our data will be deployed to.

DAY 12: ARRIVE CAIRNS
Arrive at Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal at 8:00 am. Disembark and say farewell to your fellow guests and crew. Enjoy complimentary transfers to Cairns CBD or airport; transfers to Northern Beaches or Port Douglas can be arranged onboard prior to disemarkment.

IMAGES 1 Master Reef Guides and guests snorkelling shallow coral reef | 2 Hands on citizen science program and cultural experience with Canoe Projects Inc., Magnetic Island | 3 Reef monitoring with Coral Watch | 4 Explore the Museum of Underwater Art, John Brewer Reef.



CORAL DISCOVERER

Our expedition vessel *Coral Discoverer* will be your home for these voyages. *Coral Discoverer* accommodates 72 guests in 36 spacious staterooms with all Bridge Deck Balcony Staterooms offering private balconies.

With over 1000sqm of open deck space including a wrap-around Promenade deck with panoramic views, *Coral Discoverer* features spacious living spaces. She is exceptionally nimble and maneuverable, with a shallow draught to get up close to destinations featuring ocean views from all public spaces and all outside facing staterooms. Multiple indoor and outdoor bars, including our Explorer Bar on the Sun Deck, a well-appointed communal lounge and dining spaces create an environment designed for guest comfort. A floor-to-ceiling refurbishment in 2026 meant she was updated to perfectly accommodate Coral Expeditions' style of expedition cruising.

Coral Discoverer is a purpose-built for comfortable ocean voyages and for exploring remote areas inaccessible to larger cruise ships. The ship's lightweight Xplorer expedition tender extends the capabilities of the ship by allowing deeper exploration on shore excursions and an easy, step-on embarkation from the ship's main deck. *Coral Discoverer* also features active stabilisers for ocean cruising alongside advanced navigation and propulsion systems.

As an Australian flagged and crewed vessel, you can expect the highest standard of service, environmental responsibility and the intimate and personal experience of small-ship cruising on *Coral Discoverer.*

Features

- One Xplorer tender, 3 Zodiacs
- Open Bridge
- Single seat dining
- Three cocktail bars
- Panoramic Sun Deck
- Spacious lounge and deck areas

Stateroom Categories

Bridge Deck Balcony Staterooms	*20sqm · Private Balcony*
Promenade Deck Cat A Staterooms	*18sqm · Picture Window*
Promenade Deck Cat B Staterooms	*15sqm · Picture Window*
Main Deck Cat A Staterooms	*18sqm · Porthole Windows*
Main Deck Cat B Staterooms	*15sqm · Porthole Windows*













IMAGES 1 *Coral Discoverer* | 2 Bridge Deck Stateroom | 3 Lecture Lounge 4 Vista Deck | 5 Explorer Deck bar | 6 Sunset drinks | 7 Dining Room



XPLORERS

The Xplorer tenders are Coral Expeditions' signature vessels for shore excursions, purpose built to deliver guests comfortably and safely to remote beaches, islands, and riverbanks. Permanently housed on board and boarded from a hydraulic platform, Xplorers provide stable and easy access for all guests, regardless of conditions. With covered seating, onboard facilities, and excellent manoeuvrability, they offer a dry and comfortable ride while enabling seamless exploration. Coral Discoverer carries one Xplorer, while Coral Adventurer and Coral Geographer each operate two, allowing for efficient, small group adventures with minimal wait times.



Features

Xplorers on all ships are boarded directly from the ship's deck, before the hydraulic platform gently lowers into the water, making it easily accessible for all guests.
· Comfortable seating · Onboard toilet · Roof for shade · Front ramp for easy walk-on/off · Side gate for transfers to Zodiacs, snorkelling & scuba · Open sides for fresh air & expansive views · Clear awnings for water & wind protection · Sound system for interpretation while on expedition · Onboard storage to supply shore events & activities · Drop-down life-jacket storage · Two high-speed, long range 300HP outboard engines.



ZODIACS

Zodiacs offer a flexible and adventurous alternative for exploring narrow waterways, shallow lagoons, and hard to reach coastal areas. These lightweight inflatable vessels are designed for agility and can navigate environments that even the Xplorers cannot access. They are ideal for wildlife spotting, snorkelling transfers, and beach landings where conditions are more variable. Zodiacs also play an important operational role, supporting scouting and coordination with local communities. Coral Discoverer carries three Zodiacs, while Coral Adventurer and Coral Geographer are each equipped with six, ensuring swift deployment and broad expedition reach.

Features

Inflatable Zodiacs provide another exciting and flexible option for shore excursions and navigating narrow inlets and waterways.









IMAGES 1 *Coral Discoverer* at anchor on the Reef | 2 Mon Repo Turtle Centre | 3 Pink Anemonefish (Amphiprion perideraion) | 4 Lookout from Grassy Hill, Cooktown

SMALL SHIPS FEWER THAN 120 GUESTS

PURPOSE-BUILT SHIPS & UNIQUE TENDERS

REMOTE NATURE-BASED EXPEDITIONS

WARM AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALITY

UNRIVALLED LOCAL EXPERTISE

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AUSTRALIA'S PIONEERING CRUISE LINE

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