



Sea for Yourself®

Snorkeling Safaris

Australia's Great Barrier Reef

October 30 - November 9, 2013



Sea for Yourself®

Snorkeling Safaris

Dear Friends and Snorkeling Enthusiasts,


For our visit to the Great Barrier Reef, Sea for Yourself is proposing a unique collaboration combining the luxury, comfort, excellent food, and hot showers of the Heron Island Resort with a rich educational program utilizing the science and research staff and infrastructure of the Heron Island Marine Station.

Great Barrier Reef is appropriately described by superlatives. It's the largest organic structure ever created on the planet. At 1250 miles long, it's easily viewed from outer space, and its broad frontiers encompass one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems. Roughly 400 species of coral provide habitat for over 1500 varieties of fish and several thousand invertebrate species.

As you doubtless realize, Australia is huge, about the same size as our continental United States, and filled with a rich melange of natural and cultural wonders. This brings up another question we had to answer: how much of Australia should we include in our program? After much thought, our conclusion was to focus on what we do best: offer great snorkeling opportunities supported by access and exposure to educational resources focused on the marine environment.

Our dates offer ample opportunities independent activities either before or after our program.

Joel Simon

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- ✓ \$6,690 per person
 - ✓ 11 days / Oct. 30 - Nov. 9, 2013
 - ✓ privately chartered snorkel boat
 - ✓ barrier reef snorkels
 - ✓ local experts and guest speakers, including a scientist-led tour
 - ✓ snorkeling instruction from novice to expert
 - ✓ private naturalist-led tour to observe turtle nesting behavior

Trip Overview

For our explorations of the Great Barrier Reef, we have chosen Heron Island as our base featuring a modest, but well-established infrastructure. Located approximately 45 miles offshore, Heron Island is part of the Great Barrier Reef, and a classic example of a true coral cay. The island is surrounded by white sand beaches, a broad reef terrace, and excellent shallow gardens of hard coral. Along the reef slope, extensive "groves" of hard branching corals harbor many fish and invertebrates, and start just a few inches beneath the water's surface. Using our private boat, we will be able to take full advantage of the many rich snorkeling environments this reef system has to offer.

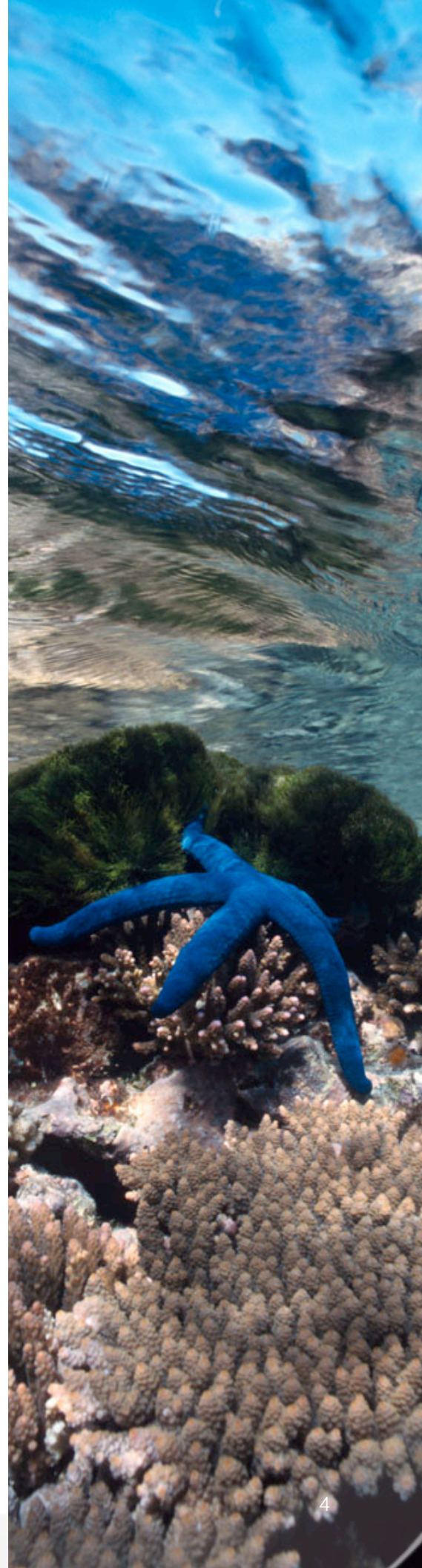
Our time on Heron Island is distinctive in its educational content. Combining the resources of the resort and the research station, we envision a "soft" academic environment utilizing microscopes, high-tech video equipment, and touch tanks for our first-hand investigations of marine creatures.

While our program centers on Heron Island, we begin our journey in Sydney. For our time in Sydney, we've worked diligently to organize activities relevant to our interests in the marine environment.

Species great and small!

Whenever possible, we plan to coordinate our snorkeling activities with the tides, allowing us calm, protected conditions and the chance to observe and compare fish behavior at different times of day. We also considered nature's chronology of animal behavior. We hope that a highlight of this program will be the opportunity to snorkel with massive green turtles, and to reserve one evening to witness their nesting behavior on a nearby beach.

In addition to the robust fish and coral life, Heron Island is also home to many species of birds. We expect active populations of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Black Noddies. It's important to know in advance that the "songs" of these birds add to the ambience of the island.





Itinerary

Day 1

Our program begins in the early afternoon when we join fellow participants at the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney, our hotel for the next two nights. Lunch is on our own. In the afternoon, we plan a cruise of the Sydney Harbor, which is one of the world's largest natural harbors. During the cruise we will enjoy afternoon tea/coffee, biscuits and the famous Sydney skyline. At night, we will have a program orientation, followed by dinner. Plan to arrive at the Four Seasons Hotel no later than 1:45pm for the group departure to the Sydney Harbor. D

Day 2

After breakfast, we transfer to the Sydney Aquarium where we've arranged to have a special guided tour of the exhibits, featuring an extensive Great Barrier Reef display. After the tour and delectable lunch at the Sydney Fish Market, we encourage individual explorations of Sydney's cultural and culinary attractions. We have scheduled free time for the afternoon and evening. B, L

Day 3

After breakfast, we transfer to the Sydney airport for our 3-hour flight to Gladstone. Upon arrival, we drive to the nearby dock for our highspeed catamaran shuttle to Heron Island (approximately 2 hours). After checking into the resort, we will continue with an orientation of Heron Island and an overview of responsible snorkeling practices, including special concerns relevant to the Great Barrier Reef. B, L, D

Day 4-9

Typically mornings and early afternoons are devoted to snorkeling the various reef environments around Heron Island. From our private boat we will visit protected shallow reefs where gardens of hard coral harbor numerous species of colorful reef fish. The early evenings are spent enjoying slide and video lectures, and interpretive sessions by resident researchers. B, L, D

Day 10

After a morning at leisure, our high-speed catamaran departs the island and returns us to Gladstone where we overnight. This evening we celebrate with farewell drinks and dinner. B, L, D

Day 11

After breakfast, we transfer to the Gladstone airport for our return flights. B



Trip Details & Prices

Trip limit

This trip is limited to 20 participants, with a minimum of 10. Due to the limited space available for this tour, reservations will be accepted in the order deposits are received. You will be notified when your space is confirmed.

Program Costs

The costs for this travel experience are \$6690 per person, based on double occupancy. For those requesting a single room an additional supplement of \$1990 will be added to the tour cost. Please be advised that single space is limited and subject to availability. If you wish to share a room, we will do our best to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of your final payment, a share cannot be found and space is available, you will be charged a single supplement.

Deposits & payments

A deposit of \$850, plus a signed, completed reservation form confirms your registration for the trip. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment, plus single supplement, if applicable, are due 120 days prior to departure.

The tour fee includes

All group bus and boat transfers, most meals as indicated in the itinerary, accommodations in resorts and hotels as specified, all snorkeling activities, cultural and natural history excursions, local taxes, group gratuities to resort/hotel staff, services of the trip leader including any needed snorkeling lessons and biology lectures.

The tour fee does not include

International and domestic flights, air transfers in Australia, increases in international airfare rates and departure taxes, SCUBA activities, rental gear, medical immunizations, passport fees, accident/baggage/cancellation insurance, individual transfers, excess baggage charges, medical expenses, meals not specified in the itinerary, dishes and beverages not part of included meals, laundry, telephone, internet or fax charges, room service, and other items of a purely personal nature.



Airfare

Sea for Yourself does not issue airline tickets. Trip participants are responsible for making their own air travel arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until your reservation for the program has been confirmed and you have reviewed your travel schedule with our office. Tour fee is based on land package only.

Accommodation

The Heron Island Resort, has been awarded a four star designation. The resort provides roomy and tasteful accommodations, excellent management, and delicious food. For our group, we've elected rooms in a garden or balcony setting, which feature private baths, tea/coffee making facilities, refrigerators, ceiling fans, and daily maid service. Near the lobby, there are internet kiosks and telephones that can be used for domestic and international calls.

For our time in Sydney we plan to stay at the 5-star Four Seasons Hotel, located in the historic Rocks district. Both of Sydney's most famous architectural icons, the Harbor Bridge and the Opera House, (in addition to a host of shops, cafes, and the Circular Quay ferry terminal), are just short walks from the hotel.

Trip Preparation

Skill level

This program will be enjoyed by all snorkelers from novice to expert. Our trip leaders will gladly provide any needed snorkeling instruction, from floating to free-diving. Whenever possible, we will seek out protected waters for our snorkeling excursions, but at times the surface may be choppy due to wind.

Climate and weather

Daytime temperatures in the areas we're visiting during the month of November range from the low 70's to the low 90's. Although we have selected this month because of low rainfall, in the tropics, there is always a chance of rain. Water temperature during this period ranges from the low 70's to the low 80's.

Please remember that some kind of covering (such as a Lycra suit or even pajamas!) when in the water is highly recommended as protection from sun, occasional stinging zooplankton, and to prevent coral abrasions. We strongly recommend that you consider wearing a wet suit.

Departure information

After you have reserved space on a trip and the program is confirmed, you will receive information to help you prepare for departure, including an air information form with more details on international and/or domestic flights, optional supplemental travel insurance information, a complete packing and a reading list and other useful information about our destination.

Insurance

Sea for Yourself provides participants who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with limited medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group travel insurance policy. We highly recommend the purchase of optional baggage and trip cancellation insurance; information will be sent to registrants. Exclusions for pre-existing conditions may be waived with the prompt purchase of travel insurance.

References

Many of our participants are repeat travelers with Sea for Yourself. We would be pleased to introduce you to someone who has traveled on one of our programs.

Reservation Form

Australia's Great Barrier Reef 2013

I/We wish to hold _____ spaces on the Australia's Great Barrier Reef, October 30 - November 9, 2013.

Enclosed please find my/our deposit check of US\$ _____ (\$850 per person, made payable to Sea for Yourself)

Name 1 _____
(as it appears on passport)

Birth Date _____

Name 2 _____
(as it appears on passport)

Birth Date _____

Address _____

(If using a P.O. Box, please also include a street address)

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Accommodations:

- ☐ Twin, sharing with (List name of accompanying person if not shown above.)
- ☐ Single (not guaranteed) with single supplement of \$1990
- ☐ Share (to be assigned; not guaranteed; if share is unavailable, single supplement will apply)

Waiver of Liability: I have read the schedule of activities and other information in the Sea for Yourself: Australia's Great Barrier Reef tour materials and recognize and accept all risks thereof. I understand and agree on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, administrators, and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under "Liability/Responsibility" and to release and hold harmless Sea for Yourself and any of its officers, employees, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of or damage to property, however occurring, in relation to this Sea for Yourself program scheduled for October 30 - November 9, 2013. By signing this, I also certify that I do not have any mental or physical condition that would create a hazard for myself or other passengers.

Signature _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Date _____

NOTE: Each participant must sign this waiver.

Please send your completed reservation form and deposit to Sea For Yourself, 729 College Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Fax: (650) 323-1201 Phone: (650) 322-1494 Email: info@seaforyourself.com

Terms & Conditions

A deposit, plus a signed, completed reservation form will confirm your registration for one of our programs. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment will be due 120 days before departure.

Cancellations & refunds

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your trip, notice of cancellation must be received in writing at Sea For Yourself, by email, fax or postal mail. At the time Sea For Yourself receives your written cancellation, the following per-person penalties will apply: Full refund less a per person handling fee of \$250 if cancellation is made 120 days or more prior to trip departure. No refunds will be granted for cancellation less than 120 days prior to trip departure, unless the trip departs full and your space is resold. Once the trip has departed, there will be no refunds for any unused portions of the trip. Cancellation could cost you as much as 100% of the tour cost. In the event the tour is undersubscribed or sold out, you will be notified and receive a full refund of any payments you have made. No refunds will be given for unused portions of the trip.

Single supplements & shares

Please be advised that single space is limited and subject to availability. If you wish to share a room, we will do our best to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of your final payment, a share cannot be found, you will be charged a single supplement.

Possible land & fuel cost increases

Our prices are based upon the prevailing rates made far in advance of the trip's departure. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if land or fuel costs increase significantly prior to departure, it may be necessary to increase these costs. While we reserve the right to institute such an increase, to date it has never been necessary to do so on any of our programs.

Limitation of Liability for Sea for Yourself Tours

While Sea for Yourself, Inc. endeavors to choose the best suppliers available, we do not have the right to control their operations and they are subject to the laws of the state or country where the service is provided. As such we make the travel arrangements described via Sea for Yourself Services upon the express condition that Sea for Yourself, Inc., and its own agents and employees, shall not be liable for any damage, delay, loss, accident, bodily injury or death, or other irregularity that may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved in Sea for Yourself tours. Nor does Sea For Yourself, Inc. accept responsibility for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars, or other such causes. Any such losses or expenses must be borne by the participant.

Most travel, including international travel, is completed without incident. Still, prior to booking travel, Sea for Yourself, Inc. urges passengers to review travel prohibitions, warnings, announcements and advisories for its destinations. Information from the U.S. Government may be found at <http://www.state.gov>, <http://www.tsa.gov>, <http://www.cdc.gov>, <http://www.customs.gov> and similar sites. Sea for Yourself, Inc. does not represent or warrant that travel to its destinations is advisable or without risk and Sea for Yourself, Inc. disclaims liability for damages or losses that may result from travel to such destinations.

Sea For Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary or trip leaders whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, or if it deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Sea For Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw without penalty any tour announced. Sea For Yourself, Inc. also reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour, at any time, if such action is determined by the appropriate staff member to be in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refund will be given. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner at all times.

Dates, schedules, program details, and costs, given in good faith, based on information available and in force at the time of publication. Sea for Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to make photographs and video of any of its trips, and may use any such materials for promotional and commercial purposes.

Trip participant responsibility

As a condition to acceptance of enrollment, participants must read, agree to, and sign, the Waiver of Liability statement provided as part of the trip reservation. Participants have the responsibility to sign up for a trip appropriate to their abilities and interests. Our program materials provide information on skill level, local conditions and other information that will help you make an informed choice. We would be happy to discuss any of our trips with you to assist you in making a decision. Participants should be in good health and able to participate in the activities described in the program itinerary and are responsible for being familiar with the pre-trip information provided by Sea for Yourself, including equipment and clothing appropriate for the trip.

In 1995, the California legislature enacted the Seller of Travel Law creating the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) for the benefit of consumers located in California who suffer losses as a result of the bankruptcy, cessation of operations, insolvency, or the failure to provide travel services as contracted. This law applies only to California residents, but it does not cover foreign travel for California residents where the foreign providers are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (those registered in the State of California as a Seller of Travel and a participant in the TCRF). Sea for Yourself is required by law to advise you that this tour is not covered by the TCRF. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. Sea for Yourself has a trust account.

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