INDIGENOUS CULTURE

The Gunggandji Aboriginal people welcome you to Green Island—Wunyami—and ask that you take care of their special place. The island and reef hold traditional and contemporary cultural significance for the Gunggandji people, who have an active role in looking after these values for future generations. The reef was and still is a significant resource base for the indigenous people of Yarrabah. They share an understanding of their land and sea country including the creation of all things. This knowledge is passed on to younger generations through art, music, dance and stories.

The Gunggandji people today are looking to the future. We recognise the people of the struggle, the Elders (some of whom have passed away) and the Gunggandji Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (PNTBC). Our leaders have travelled a long road so that we can come back to country. Once again, our dance, stories and ceremonies ‘bring alive’ Green Island, as we pass our knowledge, customs and traditions on to our children. Old people, young people, our country.

The Gunggandji people PBC, 2016

EXPLORE GREEN ISLAND

A rainforest cay built entirely by coral, and fringed by sandy white beaches, Green Island combines the World Heritage environments of Green Island National Park and the surrounding Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

EXPLORE BELOW

Get face-to-face with nature. Immerse yourself in the beautiful water wonderland below Green Island’s tropical surface. Snorkel right off the pristine shore and explore the unique differences between the coral reef and seagrass beds which surround the island. Brightly coloured tropical fish surround coral bommies while turtles live and feed in the seagrass beds. The safest place to snorkel is between the red and yellow flags.

From snorkelling, diving, sea floor walking, glass-bottom boat and semi-submarine journeys, Green Island has a variety of ways to explore the Great Barrier Reef.

Welcome to Green Island. This is the Great Barrier Reef at its best—dense tropical rainforest, beautiful white sandy beaches, warm turquoise water and coral reefs a short leisurely swim from the beach. It doesn’t get much better than this.

Ranger Pat

Explore above

Above the water Green Island is just as incredible. Explore its cool rainforest where lizards scamper around the forest while butterflies dance in the tropical air. More than 120 species of plants and around 50 species of birds live on Green Island, so there is plenty to see.

For a birds’ eye view get adventurous and try parasailing or a helicopter ride. Meet Cassius at Marineland Melanesia—at over 100 years old he is the World’s largest crocodile living in captivity.

Welcome to Green Island and the Great Barrier Reef

Enjoy a true tropical island experience in a day full of adventure—in the air, on the island or below the sea. Or simply take a day to completely recharge on ‘island time’.

Dip into the sea for a refreshing swim, go beyond the shoreline on a sea kayak or join a glass-bottom boat tour. Why not stop for a picnic in the rainforest, or make yourself comfortable on a beach lounge? You can do as much or as little as you like.

Explore above

Come face-to-face with turtles and tropical fish while snorkelling around Green Island.

Marineland Melanesia is a unique experience for marine lovers.

Photos: © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises

Photo: © Queensland Government
Green Island became a national park in 1937, a marine park in 1974 and a protected part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area in 1981. The Australian and Queensland governments recognise that Green Island is a very special place and have protected it in several ways:

- The reef and underwater habitats are part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- Both Green Island and its reefs are included in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, which gives it international protection under UNESCO.
- The island is a national park and the surrounding waters are marine park and all commercial activities are regulated by permits.

Green Island Experiences

Come face-to-face with a sea turtle—you can see them from the jetty or shore, or get even closer while snorkelling and diving.

Be surrounded by colourful tropical fish or spot a whale in the distance during their migration season (August–November).

See the sights and hear the sounds of the amazing tropical rainforest as you walk along the boardwalk.

Get adventurous with a reef tour or undersea experience.

Read about the history and natural environment of the island on signs along the boardwalk.

Relax on the white sandy shore while gazing into the turquoise waters of the Coral Sea.

Explore Green Island

**Top 6 Green Island Experiences**

**Explore Green Island by Foot**

Green Island is tropical nature at its best. Explore the

**A Queensland Treasure**

Green Island became a national park in 1937, a marine park in 1974 and a protected part of the Great Barrier Reef

**Legend**

- National park
- Private resort
- Water
- Reef
- Walking track
- Beach walk
- Boardwalk
- Jetty walk

**Fast Facts**

- Island size 12 hectares
- Reef area 710 hectares
- National park area 7.93 hectares

**Photos**

- Photos (1, 3, 6): Maxime Coquard © Queensland Government
- Photos (2, 4): © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises
- Photos (5): © Great Adventures
Getting there

Just 27km offshore from Cairns, Green Island is easily reached by tourist transport and there is a great range of adventurous travel options available including boat or helicopter. Make your journey part of the experience!

Connect with Queensland National Parks

queenslandnationalparks.com.au
facebook.com/qldnationalparks
@QldParks; #QldParks

Photos (above and front cover): © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises.
Photos (right): © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises.

Printed on eco-friendly paper to save energy and resources.

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Green Island is completely equipped with a range of facilities.

- Toilets, showers, telephones, meals and refreshments are available for general use at Green Island Resort, with lockers and snorkelling equipment at the resort Dive Shop.
- Towels, beach umbrellas, sun lounges and non-motorised water sports are available at Beach Hire, located left of the jetty behind the patrolled swimming beach.

Boating and fishing

Safe anchorage is provided for vessels up to 25m by three public moorings near the island. Refer to gbrmpa.gov.au for more information. If unavailable anchor only on sand as anchoring on coral is prohibited. Boats are not permitted in the exclusion zone (refer to map). Fishing and motorised water sports are not allowed in the waters surrounding Green Island.

Safe exploration

Make your visit to Green Island memorable for all the right reasons.

- Get advice and instructions from lifeguards, snorkel guides and dive instructors—especially if it is your first time doing these activities. The safest place to swim or snorkel is between the red and yellow flags.
- Wear a personal flotation device or buoyancy device if you are not a competent snorkeller or swimmer.
- Swim and snorkel in buddy pairs and protect the coral by resting on the sand.
- Hire a stinger suit if you plan to swim or snorkel—a good measure of protection from marine stingers (jellyfish) which occur more frequently in the warmer months.
- Organise your day to snorkel or swim at high tide when it is easiest to enter and leave the water.
- Be sunsafe—wear a hat and sunscreen and drink plenty of water.
- Pay close attention to all safety instructions given by tour guides, life guards, Park Rangers and on information signs.
- Green Island is a ‘no-take’ zone. Never touch, pick up or take natural objects such as sea cucumbers and sea stars—leave them in their place. Fines apply if you do.
- Never feed birds or animals.
- Be pest free! Make sure your clothes, footwear and gear are free from soil, seeds, parts of plants, eggs, insects, spiders, lizards, toads, rats and mice.
- Place all rubbish and litter, including cigarette butts and any plant or grass seeds attached to your clothes, into bins.
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**Explore Green Island by foot**

Green Island is tropical nature at its best. Explore the island at your own pace on these easy walks.

**BEACH WALK**

1.5km circuit | Allow 1 hr
View the island from the outside in as you wander around the perimeter of the island. Beach almonds and casuarina trees thrive in the sandy conditions. Let the waves wash over your feet as you look out onto the reef while ospreys and white-bellied sea-eagles soar above.

**BOARDWALK**

1.3km return | Allow 50 mins
Enjoy a relaxing stroll along the boardwalk and feel the temperature drop as you step into the cool rainforest. Discover cheesefruit trees and strangler figs, and be amused by the buff-banded rails as they scurry around the rainforest floor.

**JETTY WALK**

500m return | Allow 30 mins
For a different perspective of the reef, without having to get into the water, the jetty offers clear views into the sea life below. You’ll be amazed as schools of colourful fish, stingrays and sea turtles swim almost beneath you.

- Photos (1, 3, 6): Maxime Coquard © Queensland Government
- Photos (2, 4): © Big Cat Green Island Reef Cruises
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